

St. David's Episcopal Church
3916 SW 17th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66604

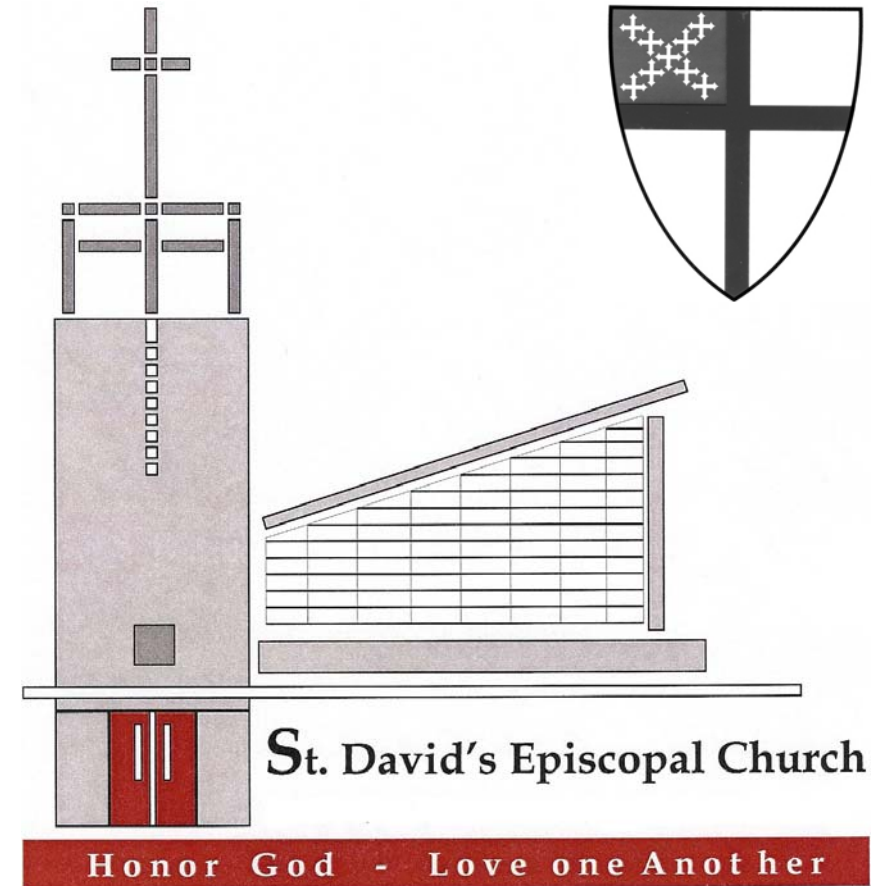
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THE MESSENGER

JUNE 2010

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YOUTH SUNDAY

JUNE 13th 10:45 A.M.

*The youth of St. David's RULE!
They will take over the 10:45 service
(with a little help from Fr. Don) on June 13th.
Sidney Webb will be the preacher
with youth filling all the positions
(with one exception -see above)*

Financials through April 30, 2010
These figures DO NOT include any fire
related monies

Income:

Pledged:	\$129,613.74
Non-Pledged:	\$3,521.00
All Others:	\$43,888.36
Total Income:	\$177,023.10

Expenses:

Operations:	\$95,320.56
Salaries & Benefits:	\$71,161.32
Programs & Ministries:	\$8,943.62
Total Expenses:	\$175,425.50

Publication Deadlines

"ATT" & Bulletin
Wednesday Noon of each
week

"Messenger"
the 20th of each month

On-Line:
Information can be placed on
the web anytime!

**Financial
note:**

Please remember to
make out a separate
check for your
capital campaign
contribution.
Thank you-
Christy

A Celebrity in Our Midst

Did you know that we have a celebrity here at St. David's? Her name is Alice Soper who has been an active member since 1966 - serving as a greeter, bread maker, working for Let's Help and a member of Daughters of the King.

On April 30th, 2010, she was given an award at the International House at Washburn University where she has been very busy, not only as an English tutor but also as Bazaar Chairperson and Board Member. She even has her picture hanging at the International House. She has tutored for many years, currently with a couple from Macedonia. She has also done English tutoring for people from Jordan, Korea, Vietnam, China and numerous Mexicans.

It is no wonder that Alice Soper has won this great award. She is a very busy woman throughout Topeka. Do take time to greet her with Congratulations.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's Summer Sunday School time again! As you likely know, but in case you don't, St. David's Sunday School program loosely follows the school year schedule. The school year sessions start the second Sunday in September and end the weekend before Pentecost. During the school year we use a variety of Episcopal based curriculums. Classes are divided by grade levels: Pre-K/K; 1st through 3rd grades ; 4th and 5th grades; Middle School and High School.

In the summer time, classes are a little lighter in recognition that it's vacation time. This year we are having two classes. Kids who are Pre-K or have just completed Kindergarten will meet in the Pre-K/K classroom just like they have all

year. Connie Wold will be teaching the summer session. All of our grade school kids (1st through 5th grades) will be meeting in the room used by the 4th and 5th graders this year. Kathy Duncan will be the lead teacher for the Grade School class. Middle School and High School students who are interested in helping with these classes are welcome to attend and help with the projects and lessons. We hope that all of our kids can join the fun for our summer session classes when they are in town!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Connie Wold at 785-806-4618 or Connie.Wold@cox.net.

NEWS FROM THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

At the May meeting of the Daughters of the King, George Wong from the Topeka Youth Project talked to us about the various programs the project sponsors, the Jobs for Young Adults program and the Youth Court. The information was highly interesting and elicited many questions from those present. At our June meeting Diana Allen will speak to us about the Altar Guild ministry.

The class for new members of the Daughters of the King will finish on May 29th and the new Daughters will be presented on June 20th at the 10:45 service for admission into the order. □

SERVANTS' SHOP NEWS

Mark your calendars for June 5th and 6th to sign up for HyVee and Dillon's shopping/gift cards. We will be taking orders, and collecting money, on the 5th and 6th and will have the cards the following weekend.



Kirsten Goodman, Youth Coordinator
271-5144 or 271-4483
kirsten@stdavidschurch.com

Safeguarding God's Children workshop scheduled. A diocesan training session is scheduled for June 2nd beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall for all adults who want to work with St. David's youth.

Trip to Omaha

The Acolyte/Youth Group trip to the Omaha zoo is June 7th. We'll leave the church parking lot at 6:00 a.m., so plan to be there a little early so you can be on the bus and ready to leave. If you are planning on going on the trip, and you haven't done so, please contact Glen or Kirsten.

Youth Center Hours

The youth center will be closed May 30th, Memorial Day, June 13th, Youth Sunday, and July 4th, Independence Day.



VBS June 8-11
6:30-8:30 P.M.
St. David's....

Director Ronda Hoss is still looking for adults who are interested in helping our children of St. David's learn about God while surrounded by a rain forest. The dates for VBS are June 7th-11th in the evening. If this is something you would like to do please call me at 220-0501, email me at rl_hoss@yahoo.com. Applications are available on-line and at the church office.

CRUSADERS ON THE MARCH AGAINST CANCER

The St. David's Crusaders are on the march against cancer again! The 2010 Relay for Life will be held at Hayden High School on June 4th and 5th from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am. Members of the Crusader team will be accepting contributions for the American Cancer Society. Team members are: Diana Allen, Terri Hodge, Deb McGlohon, Louise Marvin, and team captain Connie Wold, along with Greg. Our team this year is small but our sights are set high! Please help the

THE EARLY MEN OF ST. DAVID'S

We are eleven men of St. David's who would really appreciate the blessing of your company and comradeship. We meet each Thursday at the conference room in the church at 7:00 am. We begin with a prayer and end with a prayer at 8:00 am. Come and join us - - as an added support and strength to each of us.

"Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with cane in hand because of his age. The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there...I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God."
Zechariah 8:4-8

Israel. The desire of God's heart, His own personal real estate, hated, loved and contested by the nations. Our tour group flew out of KCI April 10 and arrived in Tel Aviv the next day to explore the length and breadth of the land. And in so doing, we captured some of its depth as well. Sitting here at my computer, I am once again overwhelmed by it all. There were so many places, usually seven or eight in one day. The days themselves began at about 8 a.m. when all 17 of us piled onto our bus, most still yawning and trying to remember what time it really was and where exactly we were. We returned to the hotel, usually a different one from that we'd started in that morning, at around 6 p.m., absolutely satisfied and exhausted. The days were fast, full and incredible. Rabbi Jerry Feldman, the group leader, shared vast amounts of information. He is a gifted teacher and shared with us from both his intellect and his heart. I also had an amazing friend, Leah, who was buddied up with me to be my guide and help with whatever else needed doing, for instance, piloting me and my plate through hectic, noisy lunch lines.

So trying to pull my thoughts together to write this letter has been tough. Consolidating them into a simple "thank you" just isn't enough. But of course, my space is limited and so is your time. So I thought it would be best to

record some highlights and random memories here, knowing that for each one printed, there are 20 more that will never be forgotten.

The soot and dust, blown in by a south wind from the Negev on the memorial day of the Holocaust. It turned all of Jerusalem hazy and hot, a reminder of the ashes out of which the nation of Israel rose in 1948, just three years after six million Jews were slaughtered in Europe.

Freshness and cooing doves the next morning, getting up early on the kibbutz where we stayed. We wound through the Judean mountains through the area called the West Bank, and they were all green, streaked with brown, and flocks of sheep and goats moved slowly along the road, bells ringing in the morning air. We stood where the tabernacle itself had once stood at Shiloh, in the heart of those hills. All that's there now is a grassy field embraced by big rocks. There was power and peace in that place where God had once dwelt among men.

We sat in the Roman theatre at Caesarea, an impressive harbor which Herod the Great built out of bare coastline to win the favor of the emperor. Being a classic Roman city, Caesarea had not only a well-attended theatre but a hippodrome and bath house besides. Its pagan luxuries were scandalous to the Jews of the first century.

There was rain in Jerusalem, a great blessing this late in the year. Our group fled from the sudden downpour, our tour guide shouting that it wasn't fair, and took refuge in a museum, smiling and shivering and content to wait it out.

Continued on next page

Israel continued...

There were hours and hours in the tour bus, in which we literally rode from Dan to Beersheva, and from the coast to the Jordan. Leah and I sat up front where I had a ringside seat to some of the colorful arguments between Rabbi Jerry, the tour guide and the disgruntled driver. You know that old saying about "two Jews, three opinions?" All I can say is that it's absolute truth, and I enjoyed every second of it.

My face wet with spray, standing beside the Sea of Galilee which an afternoon wind had lashed into fury. The Kinneret, as Israelis call it, is usually calmer than most lakes, like a barely crinkled sheet of glass. But on this night, it crashed and roared, frothy white waves rising five and six feet high, hurling themselves against the pilings and soaking the boardwalk 10 feet above.

Endless, pushing, haggling crowds in the Arab marketplace of Old Jerusalem.

The smell of Turkish coffee and Turkish tobacco.

Sunset on Friday night in Tiberias, ushering in Shabbat. Snatches of singing through every doorway, the laughter around festive tables, all kinds of food.

Windy Megiddo, where you can stand and look for miles over the fertile plains of Jezreel in north central Israel. The barley harvest was ripening in the fields. The wind blew from the west, as it usually does there, straight off the Mediterranean.

The icy cold water of Hezekiah's water tunnel. Hezekiah, king of ancient Judah, was bracing Jerusalem of an Assyrian siege, and so this tunnel was cut under the mountain to bring the waters of the Gihon Spring into the city.

Then there was the scorching day, 100 degrees, when we struggled and gasped up to En Gedi, an oasis in the desert where David fled from King Saul. We were tired, cranky, discouraged and steaming with sweat and dust. We scrambled up a rocky path, half of its steps gouged out of the mountain side, and arrived at a wide, natural pool, a waterfall gushing into it, all clean, clear, cool water. Words can't describe what it was like plunging and playing in that pool.

We ate falafel and schwarma on many street corners. We saw the Jewish communities interlaced with the Arab villages, felt the tension, tasted the bitterness, saw the realities. We stood at the monument to the 6,500 Israeli soldiers who have fallen in seven wars wage since 1948. I ran my hands over the plaques, row after row, column after column, and I cried. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." (Psalm 122:6-7)

And I could go on and on. That's the thing about Israel: it never comes to an end. This land is where the purposes of God are realized. He has never stopped loving these people, and as one coming up from the nations, I was incredibly privileged to walk the land and mingle with the people and catch a glimpse of the redemption which God is bringing to both. To all of you who helped me get there, thank you, with all my heart. May God always bless you and keep you.

Anne

Anne Osborne is the daughter of Donna and Bill Osborne. Donna serves as the Director of Music for St. David's. Anne has earned degrees from UMKC and Washburn University. She is currently working as a massage therapist with Dr. Marc Tennant.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Margaret Telthorst,
Marcia Kemper and
Louise Marvin.

Received their certificate of completion after four-years of Education for Ministry

Education for Ministry is a four year journey that helps participants to dig deeper into the Christian faith. The program studies the bible, church history and great theological ideas all while connecting faith with life experiences.

A new class starts in September. Please join us! If you would like more information concerning EFM or if you are ready to join, see Dave Jenkins or Rob Telthorst.

Healing comes in many ways!

Ever since Fr. Bob Layne resigned as rector of St. David's, I have been the principal Officiant at the Wednesday Night Healing Service. Over the years, we have seen God work in often quiet but interesting ways.

Several times, we have had people who were not members of St. David's, "just show up" on a Wednesday evening. We found out later that it was a sort of "last try" at a church for them, and they were accepted and eventually sought the ministry of prayer and anointing. God has brought about healing for them.

Others were parishioners not normally turning to the church for healing, but it was a personal

or family crisis which brought them out on a Wednesday night. All are accepted without question. Several of our regular attendees, members of the Order of St. Luke, have been trained to pray with people, then the priest present would anoint them with oil for healing.

For some, coming from a stricter church structure, seemed to think of God as primarily present to play "gotcha" with them for every sin they ever did. It is sad when people are taught to see the loving God whom Jesus represented, only as one ready to judge and condemn. To us, that is not who God is! God is the God of the prodigal son, the penitent thief, the woman taken in adultery, and many other times when Jesus forgave and healed. We can believe that the only "unforgivable sin" is one that is not confessed and repented of.

Over the years, it has been a privilege to see God at work in this kind of healing.

Not all prayers for physical healing are answered, though it is amazing how many are! It is good for people facing illness or trouble to know and experience that God is there for them, and it is amazing to see the changes in these people who God loves.

The healing service is open to any who desire God's touch in their lives in some personal or family matter. It is a privilege to see many people thus healed, turn about and learn to and be encouraged to join in healing ministry to others. You (or anyone else reading this) are most welcome to join us on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm.

Fr. Herman Page, Pastoral Associate

HOW DO WE DO WHAT WE DO?

From the Rector

Is it June already? Next month will begin the process of building the 2011 budget. I know, not the most exciting thing in the world to many and yet it answers the question above. At St. David's we do what we do because we have been blessed by God with one of the most amazing congregations anywhere. We are blessed with great leaders that make our parish hum with activity, and we are blessed by those who make a pledge every year.

In July I will go about asking our various ministry leaders about 2011. I will ask them about their dreams and hopes for their part of our combined ministry in Christ. Their input then goes into the first draft of the 2011 budget which I submit to the Vestry Finance Committee on August 1st.

About 80% of our budget is fixed, expenses that we cannot do much or anything about. Expenses such as our utilities, salaries and payment we make to the diocese and wider church.

Our parish Treasurer has noted that our work begins with the people of the parish. About 53% of our active families make pledges every year. He noted recently that if every family were at poverty level income and tithed our total parish income would increase about \$200,000.00 over what it is this year.

The Vestry will have its first look at the 2011 draft budget in August too.

The Vestry Stewardship Committee chaired by our Senior Warden Alan Johnson will

hatch our 2011 pledge campaign in September and October. The Finance Committee will then balance the needs and dreams of the draft budget with the reality of the pledges received propose a balanced budget for 2011 to the Vestry in December.

The Vestry must then adopt the new 2011 budget by December 31, 2010. Anyone is welcome to attend Vestry Meetings, so you are welcome to watch this process each step along the way.

We did quite well for 2010, our pledges were good and although we had fewer families pledge, we had a higher amount in total pledges. However, sadly, a number of our folks are behind on their pledge right now, and a few more have not made a payment thus far. As I noted above, our budget is based on your promise to give the amount you pledged. This newsletter does not have any pictures in it and is being printed more inexpensively to save dollars. We may have to make a number of cuts if the pledged dollars do not materialize.

So, that is how we do what we do. Not exactly rocket science and yet we should never forget how very fortunate we are. I truly appreciate every one of you and your willingness to be a part of this wonderful parish.

May God continue to bless us!

Yours in Christ,

Don+

Check out our Website!
It is updated almost daily with new
information about YOUR church!
www.stdavidschurch.com