

Glad Tidings!



Saint David's

...a community of disciples passing on God's love to all.

Volume IX, Issue 11
December 2011

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Christmas

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PREPARE YE THE WAY!

Aside from cooking, cleaning, and buying everything that isn't nailed down at the store, there are many opportunities here at St. David's to prepare for Christmas. Take a look at everything planned to help welcome the Christ Child into our hearts:

❖ **Adopt-A-Family Wrapping Event**

Members of the Outreach Committee (along with any helpers who would care to join them) will be wrapping the many gifts donated by members of St. David's. This event will take place on Tuesday, December 6th at 5:30 pm. Bring scissors and tape!

❖ **Taizé Services in Advent**

Wednesdays, December 7, 14, and 21 at 7:00 pm.

❖ **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule**

Sunday, December 4th After church: Music Rehearsal!
Initial run-through without music.

Sunday, December 11th After church: Music Rehearsal!
Run-through. Costume assignment.

Sunday, December 18th After church: Full run-through
with costumes and music.

Saturday, December 24th Pageant participants should plan to arrive at church by 3:30 pm for costume check and quick run-through.

❖ **The Hanging of the Greens**

Sunday, December 18th, following the 10:15 service.

Look for more details inside this edition!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. DAVID'S

CHRISTMAS EVE

Family Candlelight Service
with Holy Eucharist
5 pm

Festival Candlelight Service
with Holy Eucharist
Pre-service Music at 10:00 pm
Service at 10:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

One service at 9 am

NEW YEAR'S DAY

One service at 9 am



TAIZÉ WORSHIP IN ADVENT REMINDER

Preparation...that's what it takes. Christmas is coming! We plan, we purchase, we bake, we clean, we rush, we shop, we worry, we hurry, we prepare. For those who are tired of the stress and the mess, we offer another way to prepare for Christmas...the coming of Christ.

On Wednesday evenings during Advent, join us for a style of meditative worship made popular in Taizé, France. We will sit (in chairs or on kneelers—your choice) and sing meditative songs in a chant fashion and we will pray (both aloud and silently). We will dwell in our candle-filled worship space and make space in our hearts for Christ. Come...join us...Prepare.

To learn more about Taizé worship, please visit their website:

<http://www.taize.fr/en>



ADOPT-A-FOSTER FAMILY DUE DATE REMINDER

- 📌 Pick off a post-it note for the gift you would like to buy.
- 📌 Write your name and phone number on the tag under the post-it.
- 📌 Return your gift labeled with the post-it,
- 📌 and place it in the collection boxes in the narthex.

Just a reminder that all gifts are due back (UNWRAPPED) by **December 4th**.

Wrapping will be done on **Tuesday, December 6 at 5:30 pm**. Come one and all to help! Please note the CHANGE OF DATE for this wrapping event.

For those who would rather not shop, we will gladly accept money to purchase gift certificates for boots, shoes and items that were not chosen from the list. Please make checks out to St. David's Church and write "Foster Kids" in the memo. Place this in the Adopt a Foster Child envelope and put the envelope in the collection basket.

We also need the following items to help make these children's Christmas a memorable one: general hygiene supplies (shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, etc.), school supplies, stocking stuffers, Christmas gift wrap, and Scotch tape.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS DINNER

The St. David's Youth Group will gather for their December event on Sunday, the 11th...A Christmas Dinner! They will share their culinary talents with each other, eat some good food, and enjoy each other's company in the setting of our Great Hall. We thank the adult sponsors who continue to provide activities for our youth...even in these busy holiday times!



SAVE THE DATE

BISHOP'S ANNUAL VISITATION FEBRUARY 4TH

The Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright, the Bishop of Delaware, will make his annual visitation to the parish on Sunday, February 4th at the 10:15 service to preach and to celebrate the Eucharist.



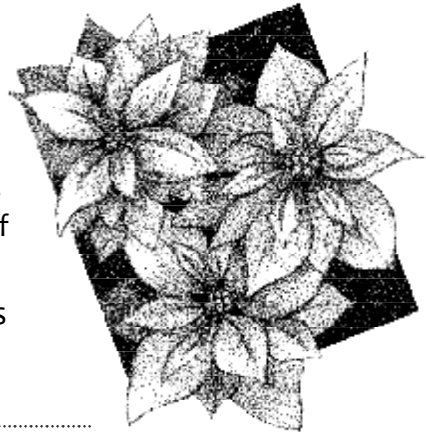
CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION

Following the 5 pm Christmas Eve Service, St. David's hosts a reception...a chance to spend some time with our church community and share holiday some joy. Many thanks to Andrea Kane who spearheads what has become an annual event here at St. David's. If you would like to bring a savory or a sweet treat to share, just give Andrea a call at 610-485-1261 or email her at 3kane3@comcast.net

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS/DEDICATIONS

Monetary donations for Christmas flowers and greens may be placed in the envelopes found in the hallways and dropped in the offering plate. Personal dedications may be made to loved ones still with us or in memory of those who have crossed over to that brighter shore.

The deadline for these donations and dedications is Sunday, December 18th.



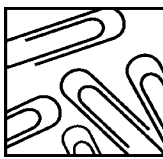
HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday, December 18th following the 10:15 service.

All are invited to help!!

Thank you

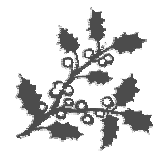
-Marcia, St. David's Flower Fund



FROM THE
CHURCH
OFFICE

The Church Office and Day School will be closed Monday, December 26th (The day after Christmas...known as Boxing Day in England. Go, Anglican Communion!)

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Articles to Glad Tidings! may be submitted via email to stdavidschurchoffice@verizon.net. The deadline is the 15th of the month. Editor reserves the right to edit for content/space.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2011: Prepare the Way of the Lord!

The theme of this year's Advent observance can be seen quite clearly on the covers of our Sunday bulletins: "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3). That is all well and good, but it will mean very little if we do not at least deal with the issue of how. How does one prepare the way for such a mighty guest?

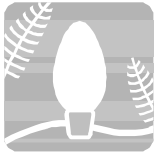
My instincts tell me that the pathway and the destination need to be cleared and cleaned so that Jesus can find a mansion within each and every person. In short, I suspect that God may be saying "Clean up your act if you want me to abide with you." But that first instinct may not represent the only path for Christ to enter in.

If we look back at the first Christmas we note well just how messy everything was: the nation itself was in turmoil under a new taxation scheme from the occupying government; there were so many people in Bethlehem trying to comply with this draconian measure that the only place for Mary and Joseph to have their first-born was in the area where the animals were housed. Add to this the personal challenges that this pregnancy was causing for both parents (Joseph was struggling with his doubts and Mary was trying to figure out what all of this meant) and a picture emerges that everything wasn't neatly in place

This muddled beginning of God's grand experiment would be a sort of predictor of all that would follow. Jesus' ministry would not necessarily be very effective for those whose lives were "put neatly together." Rather, his ministry and that of his apostles would be at their most effective in the lives of those individuals who somehow weren't able to get everything in order and who were willing to throw themselves at Jesus' feet hoping that his grace and mercy would overcome their situations. As they realized the mess of their own lives they had no choice but to cry out in humility, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me!"

This is not meant to suggest that Christ will not enter more fully into your life if things seem to be going well. I am confident that Christ will. I'm merely reminding you that if you can't seem to get it all together, Christ will still be able to find room in you if you will but humbly and simply ask him in.

Brad +



“SHARE A NIGHT”

Once again this year, we will be collecting spare change to benefit the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House provides a “home-away-from-home” for families so they can stay close by their hospitalized child at little or no cost. The Houses are built on the simple idea that nothing else should matter when a family is focused on healing their child – not where they can afford to stay, where they will get their next meal or where they will lay their head at night to rest.

There will be a collection box near the Day School entrance and a box in the narthex for the “Share A Night” spare change. The box will be available from December 1st through December 12th. This is our 9th Annual collection.

All are invited to “Light the Night” at the Ronald McDonald House on Thursday, December 15th at 6pm. Every \$15 collected lights one light and pays for one night’s stay for a family.



PLEDGE CAMPAIGN THANKS

This year’s pledge campaign has officially ended and the faithful response of the members and friends of the parish have allowed us to look optimistically toward 2012. This is no small grace considering the state of the economy generally and the fact that several households within our parish are feeling the effects in very real ways!

The aggregated pledges will allow us to add at least \$5,000 of pledge income to the budget than we have seen in recent years and for this we are grateful. Our hope is to put these gifts “to work” on some of our identified needs (buildings and grounds issues, computer and software upgrades, website revamp, increased funding for children and youth programs). We are well aware that there are more identified needs than funds available, but that is part of the challenge of a growing parish.

May God, who inspired such generosity, guide us in the wise allocation of all that we have been given.

DAY SCHOOL NEWS - DECEMBER 2011

On the December Calendar:

- 1 Chapel, 9:05 followed by PTPA Meeting
- 7 St. Nicholas Chapel, 9:05
- 5 Prospective Parent Tour, 9:30
- 15 Chapel, 9:05
- 19 Board Meeting, 7:00
- 20 Christmas Chapel, 9:15
- 21 Christmas Chapel, 9:15
- 22-30 Christmas Vacation – Preschool & Extended Care Closed



Happy Birthday to
Anne Hope &
Marcie Jorgensen



On behalf of
Della Schweiger,
our Board President,
the members of the
Board, and the Staff
of our school,
Merry Christmas
to all and to all
a good night!

Registration for the 2012 – 2013 school year begins after our Christmas vacation. The waiting list continues to grow, especially for the classes for 3 year olds.

Tell your friends and neighbors to call our office today to schedule a visit and/or reserve a place on the waiting list.

preschool registration



We recently earned a score of 4.87 out of a possible 7 on a classroom assessment. This was a practice for the “real” Environmental Rating Scale assessment coming soon in two classrooms. When this is complete, we will receive our third Delaware Star!!

Thank you for your gifts to the Scholarship Fund on Day School Sunday. Envelopes are in the narthex if you missed them last month.

WE WELCOME...

...CAROL VAN ZOEREN!

All our lives, we are in transition. But sometimes the transitions seem more like climbing Mt. Everest, and it's clear that we could use some help. And Carol Van Zoeren (formerly Carol Casarino) knew just where to look! She had worshipped at St. David's a couple of times: on Christmas Eve and Easter morning. She knew a few people there; and Saint David's was even within walking distance.

What she discovered that Sunday in February was "a warm and welcoming congregation; worship that was actually fun – not heavy-handed or dogmatic; and sermons that spoke directly to her." And now, she's worshipping regularly, singing in the choir, and helping at the Craft Fair!

Singing is a joyful part of Carol's life. In addition to St. David's Choir, she sings in a women's a cappella group, "Nothing But Treble". (You can hear them at the Branmar Plaza Brew-Ha-Ha on Friday, December 2 at 6 p.m.) Carol has also been involved in local theater groups for the last ten years – acting, directing, building sets, and serving as a board member. Or, you may find her walking boisterous Bob, her 'puggle' (pug and beagle dog) who recently ate the prescription she was about to take to the drug store to get filled. Oops.



Carol was born in Michigan and went to Carlton College. After graduate school at M.I.T., Carol joined DuPont as a research scientist. Over the last 23 years, Carol has worked at the Experimental Station and Chestnut Run, and currently works in technical management at Barley Mill.

Welcome to St. David's, Carol! Welcome home! And thanks for sharing your great smile and your joy of singing!

Carol has really enjoyed singing in the Choir with other new members who joined this last Fall.

Perhaps the New Year is the time for you to join the Choir, the Pastoral Care Committee, the Outreach Committee, or any of the other exciting opportunities here at St. David's!

WE WELCOME THE... ... MORSE FAMILY!

When talking to Dan and Julia Morse, it soon becomes apparent that “family” is important to both of them. Perhaps that’s why when they decided to look for a new church, they tried out St. David’s where Julia’s aunt and uncle, Andrea and Kevin Kane, worship. They were impressed that St. David’s has “lot of kids - of all different ages” because that is the kind of church community they want for their son, Danny (8 months old). As we learned in a “Welcome” article last month, the importance of family is also one of the reasons that Dan’s mother, Linda Adams, decided to join St. David’s with them.

In addition to “lots of kids,” Julia and Dan were also impressed with Fr. Brad’s sermons; the choir, “especially”, as Dan comments, “when they take on songs outside the box;” and the children’s sermon. Although Danny’s still too young to understand the story, Julia enjoys taking him upfront where he “looks at all the lights.”

Julia has a job that most new mothers would envy – she works in the infant room at Astra Zeneca, where Danny attends day care. There are two infant rooms so they are not in the same room, but “I do get to see him during the day,” she says.



Dan is a precious metals trader, trading in gold, silver, platinum and palladium (a less expensive silver-white metal). In his job, he “keeps an eye on prices and on changes in the markets.”

Before Danny was born, the couple were members of a running (and socializing) club, and also enjoyed going out to the movies. Now they are easily entertained watching their son explore his surroundings. Like many children his age, Danny enjoys “banging on things.” Like his parents, he’s already a “Phillies, Eagles and Penn State fan!” His dad explains that Danny likes to follow the action on the TV screen.

It’s wonderful that Dan and Julia Morse, who value family so much, can worship with their extended family, old friends, and new friends at St. David’s, their new church home. Welcome!

WE WELCOME THE... ... GLAVIN'S!

People in Delaware are used to exclaiming “It’s such a small world!” when they find out they have mutual friends with common connections. But they don’t often have occasion to comment on a connection between Delaware and Alabama. But that’s what Peggy Glavin recently said about Fr. Brad. She was born and raised in Talladega, Alabama, and Brad has friends from her hometown. In fact, one of his friends was taught by Peggy’s mother when she was a teacher at the local high school.

That connection is not what initially brought Peggy and her husband, Bernie, to St. David’s, though it’s one of many reasons that they’ve stayed. They first visited when they attended a funeral for one of their neighbors. They were impressed with the way it was handled and decided to try attending a Sunday service. They felt welcomed and they liked the “liberalness” of the congregation. “We are impressed with all the Outreach activities and we feel the values match ours, both in our work world and in our lives,” said Bernie.

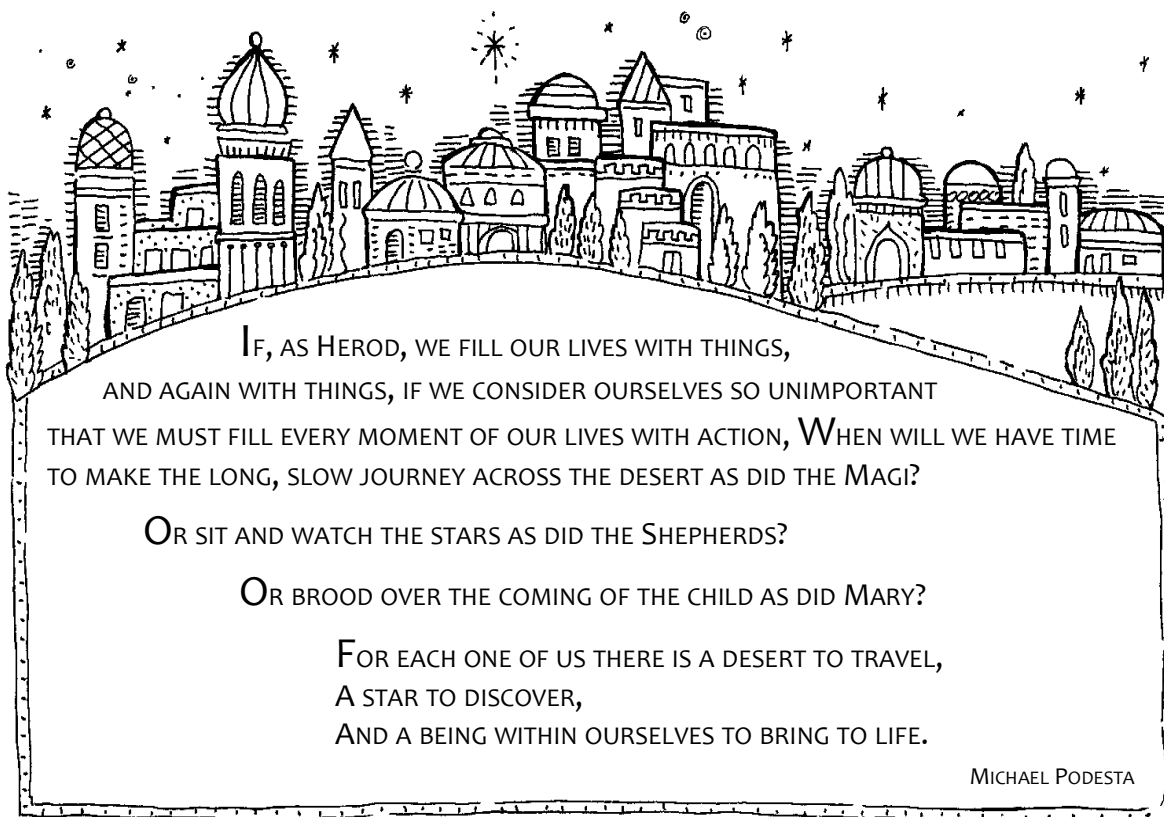
They said, “Brad is a big draw, also.” They particularly enjoy his “sense of humor, his graciousness, and his individual style of welcoming.” Peggy, who has a Southern drawl, enjoys Brad’s references to Alabama, and that he turns on his accent when talking with her.



Bernie, who hails from the Philadelphia area, and Peggy both work for Resources for Human Development, a large non-profit concerned with mental health issues. Bernie often travels as he oversees programs focusing on mental health, homelessness, and substance abuse. Peggy stays local as she directs programs for the intellectually challenged, helping clients to be as independent as possible.

The Glavins have two sons – Dan, 24, who lives at home, works and attends Wilmington University, and Patrick, 19, who is a freshman at Hofstra, NY. All four Glavins are big soccer fans, and have season tickets to the Philadelphia Union. As Bernie says, “Part of the reason we got season tickets is because our adult children were willing to go with us, and we like going as a family.”

We in the St. David’s congregation are glad the Delaware – Alabama connection was made. Welcome!



VISITING MUSICIAN FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Joe Anderson, a University of Delaware music student, will be joining us for both Christmas Eve services this year. We hope that this will add even more sparkle to the 5 pm Family Service that is so energetic. Together with the Choir of St. David's, we will present music prior to the beginning of the 10:30 pm service. As in past years, we invite members of the congregation to gather at 10 pm for quiet meditation while listening to the music. We hope this is a blessing to all who come to celebrate the Birth of the King of Kings.



BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY INFORMATION

Please provide the parish office with your birthday and anniversary information so that we can give God thanks for you in the Prayers of the People.

While you are at it, be sure to update your email and telephone information.

Many thanks!





THE REVEREND CANON JIM VON DREELE

40 YEARS OF MISSION AND MINISTRY



It all began at St. David's

In the early 1950's, Bishop McKinstry made church planting a priority. He asked a dozen families from St. Andrew's Church, in downtown Wilmington, to be the "seed" for a new church. They began to meet in homes in Arden. Little Jimmy Von Dreele was 8 years old when the first building for St. David's Church was consecrated. Built in the middle of farmland, none of the surrounding housing developments existed – just a couple of farmhouses (and Stanley's Tavern.)

From its earliest beginning, Jim says, "St. David's was absolutely accepting of children." As a young teenager, Jim's Sunday School teacher often invited his class to "wrestle with deep theological questions."

In the 60's, people from St. David's – including the Youth Group – supported the Civil Rights movement. The leader of their group, Owen Ringwald, encouraged the teens' discussions about non-violent protest and led their picketing of the segregated Rialto Theater downtown – the "Church in action." A couple of years later Jim Von Dreele, a college freshman was on a bus headed for Montgomery, Alabama to help with voter registration, meeting with students at Tuskegee. Their bus needed a police escort for safety. This was just after Sheriff "Bull" Connor attacked civil rights protestors with police dogs and fire hoses.

A Move to Ordained Ministry

At St. David's, the possibility of becoming a priest had entered Jim's thoughts. After completing his undergraduate work at Drew University, Jim headed for Yale's seminary. As a young priest, he was an assistant at Trinity Cathedral, Newark, NJ, and then as the rector at St. John, the Divine, Hasbrouck, NJ.

In 1976, Jim's world experienced a major shift: he was called to St. Matthew's, a parish in poverty in the rust belt surrounding Pittsburgh. By the early 80's, U. S. Steel had unwisely sold its technology and provided training to companies in Asia and South America, resulting in new competitors that flooded the American steel market. The CEO had planned to move the steel mills from Pittsburgh to Erie. He never invested in modernizing the Pittsburgh mills. Suddenly, Mellon Bank and other local banks called in the loans of a major steel machinery maker. The company was required to pay off the Mellon loans immediately, which would leave the steel workers without pensions, without health insurance, without jobs and often with a bank mortgage to be paid.

Speaking Truth to Power

Jim, with about 15 other members of the Pittsburgh clergy (*mostly Episcopalians and Lutherans*), spoke in public against what the Bank was doing. In 1983, the clergy joined with the Steelworkers

Continued on next page



THE REVEREND CANON JIM VON DREELE

40 YEARS OF MISSION AND MINISTRY



Union to organize “Disinvestment Day” from Mellon Bank, focusing on a branch near Jim’s church. His parish was divided. Some parishioners employed by U.S. Steel were supportive, but the vestry included some with key management and political interests did not approve. And this was only the beginning.

Next was the “Penny Action”. Steelworkers and clergy stood in lines at the Homestead Mellon branch requesting \$5 – all in pennies – asking that the pennies be counted in front of them (*which the teller was required to do at a customer’s request.*) One man was bloodied by a policeman’s Billy club – and his photo appeared on the front page of the New York Times.

Something’s Fishy

A month later, there was the famous “Fish Deposit” when steelworkers took the non-violent protest to a very creative level. On a Friday afternoon, during a bank shut down, workers placed something unusual in their safe deposit boxes in the bank’s vault – a large fish, fresh from the local fish market. When the bank vault was opened Monday morning, the fish was ... no longer fresh. Unable to determine which box in the vault was the source of the overwhelming smell, all of the branches customers had to be called to come to the bank and use their keys to open each box. This was replicated in dozens of branches. Jim made his own “deposit”.

On national TV police stormed one Lutheran church and the church council members were arrested for contempt of a court order to vacate the church and the judge sentenced them to 6 months in jail. Each person’s bail was set at \$50,000 – cash only. The local jail had to release them because of a federal court order of overcrowding. During this time Jim went to New York to appear on the Today show, and the situation received worldwide publicity.

The Tides Turned

Over the next few years, as Jim and the others continued to protest, there were many risks, and a heavy price was paid. When a new, very conservative Bishop was elected in Pittsburgh, Jim knew it was time to leave the parish he had served for twenty years. He was invited by the Seamen’s Church Institute SCI to come for an all day interview in Philadelphia – including an interview with the local Bishop. In 1996 Jim received the call to serve as Executive Director/Chaplain to the Port of Philadelphia. Years later, he asked one of SCI’s board members why they had chosen him (*the rector of a small, poor parish in Pittsburgh*) to be responsible for such a large, complex ministry, managing a huge budget and serving thousands. The answer was simple; the board member said, “We knew you wouldn’t have any trouble saying ‘No!’ to any Ship’s Captain in port.” And they were right!

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THE REVEREND CANON JIM VON DREELE

40 YEARS OF MISSION AND MINISTRY



A Voice Cries in the Wilderness Harbor

Now his prophetic ministry would serve those without voice in the maritime industry, combining a unique form of pastoral care with righteous justice. For fifteen years, Jim has served as “the honest broker” in the Port, an advocate for seafarers and owners alike. His ministry is valued and taken very seriously by everyone who comes through the Port.

In the two years that followed 9/11, security people used their new power to prevent anyone from leaving their ship – after long months at sea. Finally, a Swedish Captain wrote a letter to Jim explaining the situation. Jim visited the ship the next day. The Captain explained the ship had 24 tanks that had to be maintained at a different temperatures – a potentially explosive situation in a ship full of desperate seafarers. Jim soon returned to the ship to offer a worship service onboard – bringing a photographer.

Two days later, the Business Section masthead on the *Philadelphia Inquirer* said, “Who is Going Ashore – Not Seafarers” with comments on homeland security, and photos of Jim and the seafaring worshippers. That morning the local Coast Guard called and said that the regional district admiral wanted to meet him. Subsequently, the Captain of the Port appointed Jim to the Area Maritime Security Committee, where he continues to serve.

Jim says, “That’s the Church in action – a powerful witness to the community.” He describes the maritime ministry as “caring for all; enabling them to take on a role they thought they couldn’t do – the ability to push back (having seen it modeled); offering a pathway to get in touch with their own humanity.” Faced with new challenges every year, Jim is grateful to have had the freedom to develop this special ministry.

Uniting Maritime Ministries

Jim serves as Vice President of the North American Ministry Association with 100+ different port ministries (including Canada and the Caribbean). Being a Port Chaplain is an isolated ministry; their annual conference brings chaplains together to share their challenges and successes. Jim also serves on the board of the North American Marine Environment Association (affiliated with the United Nations) which allows the maritime industry to be proactive about issues like smokestack emissions and oily water (while D.C. is still in denial).

Thinking about his 15 years as Executive Director of SCI, his 20 years of ministry in the rust belt, a total of 40 years of prophetic ministry, Jim says, “It all began at St. David’s, a church that has always understood the importance of children and teenagers and their formation in the faith. A church that teaches what it means to be “the Church in Action.”



The Rector, Vestry and Congregation
of Saint David's Parish, Brandywine Hundred

Request your prayers and presence
for the

**40th Anniversary Celebration of
the Reverend Canon James Davison Von Dreele**

Sunday, December 18th, 2011
10:15 in the morning

Reception to follow in the Great Hall



STEWARDSHIP STARTS AT HOME

*"They are to do good, to be rich in good works,
generous, and ready to share"*

~1 Titus 6:18



According to those who keep such figures, all of us, but especially our young people, are bombarded with anywhere between 300 and 3,000 messages a day in television, radio, print, and internet advertising. The vast majority of these ads urge us to acquire, to 'lay up earthly treasures for ourselves!' During the ever-present holiday commercial season, the message

is unequivocal – to buy more so we can have more. Under these pressures, families are hard put to instill ideas of giving and sharing, of being rich in good works rather than material goods. Yet research also indicates that the values caught and reinforced early in life are the ones most likely to endure. Strong stewardship starts at home!!!

Ministry of the Month ● Ministry of the Month ● Ministry of the Month

PASTORAL CARE
What is Pastoral Care?

It is about our relationship with God and each other. God leads us to respond to the needs of our church family and our community. Through God's love we support each other during times of crisis. How do we do this? In today's world if you are anything like me finding time to donate isn't easy. However it is easier when you share the time with a team. There is something that fits into everyone's schedule. This is one of many reasons I joined pastoral care, besides the fact that it is one of the talents God gave me is to share my life and to help others.

What does Pastoral Care Do?

Pastoral care does many things starting w/ our prayer chain, if you are in need for special prayer for you, family or even a friend you can contact Sandy Frazer (302-475-9311) or email her at (Sandyif@aol.com) and many people will pray for you. There is nothing like the power of prayer. We send cards out,

make phone calls, make visit to our shut-ins or those who are in the hospital or nursing homes. We also deliver flowers at Easter and Christmas to them. We prepare meals for people in our church family as the need arises. Pastoral care can be as simple as mailing bulletins to our shut-ins, giving someone a ride to church, a doctor appointment, or taking someone grocery shopping. We crochet or knit prayer shawls and baby afghans. I crochet while I'm relaxing in front of the TV in the evenings. We also offer our assistance to families during bereavement in whatever way is needed.

Come share God's Love

So as you can see it takes many people with different talents to help spread God's love. So, if you would like to be fulfilled with the blessings of helping others and sharing the talents God gave you, please contact Linda Bradford at (302-478-4148) or email (Lybradford@aol.com).

God's Blessings,
April Starkey

Ministry of the Month ● Ministry of the Month ● Ministry of the Month


PASTORAL CARE MEALS

The St. David's Pastoral Care Team offers meals to members of our church family during times of need. If you are going into the hospital, or have just had a baby, our team would be happy to provide some meals for you according to your situation. Please let us know how we can help you. You can contact the office or Linda Bradford.

Holy Women, Holy Men



John of the Cross *Mystic, 1591*

December 14

John of the Cross was unknown outside the Discalced Carmelites for nearly 300 years after his death. More recently, scholars of

Christian spirituality have found in him a hidden treasure. Once described by Thomas Merton as "the church's safest mystical theologian," John has been called the "the poet's poet," "spirit of flame," "celestial & divine."

John was born in 1542 at Fontiveros, near Avila, Spain. After his third birthday, his father died leaving his mother and her children reduced to poverty. John received elementary education in an orphanage in Medina. By the age of seventeen he had learned carpentry, tailoring, sculpturing, and painting through apprenticeships to local craftsmen.

After university studies with the Jesuits, John entered the Carmelite Order in Medina del Campo and completed his theological studies in Salamanca. He was ordained to the priesthood and recruited by Teresa of Avila for the reformation of the Carmelite Order.

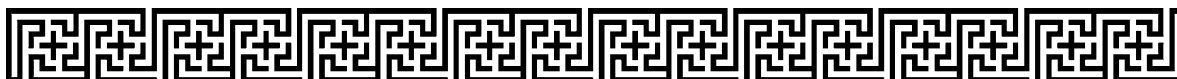
By the age of thirty-five he had studied extensively, had been spiritual director to many, and yet devoted himself to the search for God so fully that he reached the peak of the mystical experience: a complete transformation in God.

John became disillusioned with what he considered the laxity of the Carmelites and in 1568 he opened a monastery of "Discalced" (strict observance) Carmelites, an act that met with sharp resistance from the General Chapter of the Calced Carmelites. John was seized, taken to Toledo, and imprisoned in the monastery.

During nine months of great hardship, he comforted himself by writing poetry. It was while he was imprisoned that he composed the greater part of his luminous masterpiece, *The Spiritual Canticle*, as well as a number of shorter poems. Other major works are, *The Ascent of Mount Carmel*, *The Living Flame of Love* and *The Dark Night*. It is this latter work, *Noche obscura del alma*, that gave the English language the phrase *dark night of the soul*.

After a severe illness, John died on December 14, 1591, in Ubeda, in southern Spain.

~Excerpted from
Holy Women Holy Men



WORDS WE USE

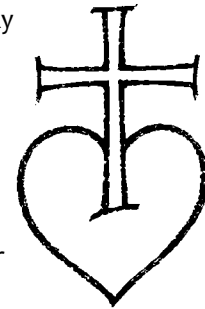
Lord's Supper

A traditional term for the Eucharist synonymous with "Eucharist" or "Holy Communion" or "the Mass."



...IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Grace Ellen Clark	Nico Clothier	Renee Tilley	Ozzie Peffley
Steve White	Keith Powell	Myron Hastings	Mary Rhodunda
John Van-Catledge	Olivia Kirby Thomas	Josh Reynolds	The Halley Family
Nicholas Brady	Chase Greer	Vivianne Meffen	Tommy Zapotocky
Steven Greer Jr.	Jack Gebhart	Susan Marengo	Joseph Feeley
Ed Smentkowski	Richard Osman, Sr.	Morgan Brown	Larry Fetes
Stewart Taub	Jane Gibson	Iris Walsh	Grace Thompson
Karin Fang	Rhoda Biedemann	Linda Owens	John Steiner
Sam Bell	Declan Roberts	David Walsh	
Nicholas Macedo	Millard Wells	Carol Clark	<i>Deceased:</i>
Clark Family	Tom Yohe	Nancy Yoder	Rose Marie Breier
Dick Wittmeyer	Bibby Goeller	Bob Girard	Nicole Marzano
Karen Bayless	Anita Whiffen	Cindy Gatta	Tim Ross
Helen Bleakeney	Curt Bowen	Jim Brittingham	
Tom Juranich	Merritt Tilley	Victor Costa	



Please call the Church Office to put someone on the Prayer List or to remove a name from the list. Each person on the list remains there for one month unless the office is notified that an additional month is desired. The name is read during Intercessory Prayers in worship the first week of the listing. We remember these people in our prayers and in our hearts.

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	
1	Jamie Shehan	26	Elizabeth Goeller
	Richard Wittmeyer	27	Will Goeller
3	Nicholas Ramos-Chase		Timothy Humphreys
5	Thomas Byrne		Billie Meisel
8	Gracie Shehan		Tyler Wilson
	Olivia Kirby Thomas	29	Patricia Elliott
12	Grace Burrus		Alexander Williams
13	Anna Mullan	31	Cathy Holland
17	Luke Byrne		Alexa Rhodunda
18	Liz Porter		
21	Linda Adams		
	Barbara Anderson		
	Richard Anderson		



IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS

It would be easy to dwell in anxiety this Christmas with the economy being what it is. As people of faith, let's use this season to rebuild and refocus on true life wealth. Here are some ideas for Christmas activities and gifts to do and make together with your family. Enjoy!

Build a snowman.

If not enough snow, one can always make snow-angels!

Make Christmas Cookies together.

When making cookies, make extra of all kinds and put together a plate for someone who might be alone or far from their family this season and deliver it to them. Festive tins or plates to put cookie on/in are available for little money at craft and fabric stores.

Make presents together.

Crafts, handmade cards and foods... www.allfreecrafts.com offers a myriad of free craft ideas to make and give for this holiday season. Especially check out the recycled Christmas card section.

Make handmade decorations.

DIY your Christmas tree decorations or home decor: Paper chains, stringing popcorn and cranberries... If you make a few extra strings of popcorn and cranberries and hang them on trees outdoors, they are gifts for the birds to munch.

Go ice skating!

Read Christmas stories aloud to the family. One favorite is "The Gift of the Magi" by O'Henry, but any librarian will be able to help you choose other favorites. And remember the Nativity as found in Luke, the second chapter.

Go look at the lights!

Gas prices have gone down (for the moment). Gather everyone in the car and go look at various Christmas decorations and lighting displays in the area. (Especially that crazy place south of the city).

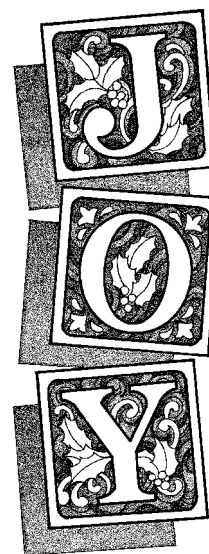
Make your own wrapping paper.

Plain white or brown craft paper can be painted or stamped with various inks. Craft stores have many pre-made stamps, or you can carve your own festive shapes out of potatoes, yams, or any root vegetable.

Help wrap presents.

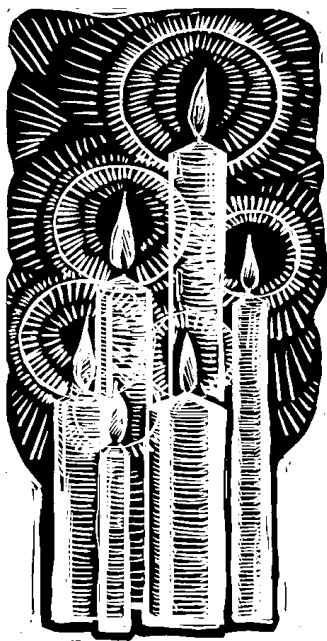
Once boxes are safely taped shut, children can help wrap packages. Everyone needs to learn how to cut paper, make a bow or zip the curly ribbon.

Be creative.
Be joyful...together.



Saint David's Episcopal Parish
2320 Grubb Road
Wilmington, DE 19810

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The Rector,
Staff and Vestry
wish you a
blessed Christmas
and a joyous New Year