



# St. David's Page

"We Are One in the Spirit"

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421 S. Lake Powell Boulevard, P.O. Box 125, Page, AZ. 86040  
office - 928 - 645- 4965      Rector: The Rev. Steve Keplinger  
fax: - 928-645-9533

WEBSITE - [www.stdavidspage.org](http://www.stdavidspage.org)

Circle of Page Social Ministry - 928-645-9533

email: [stdavids@cableone.net](mailto:stdavids@cableone.net)

## November 2008

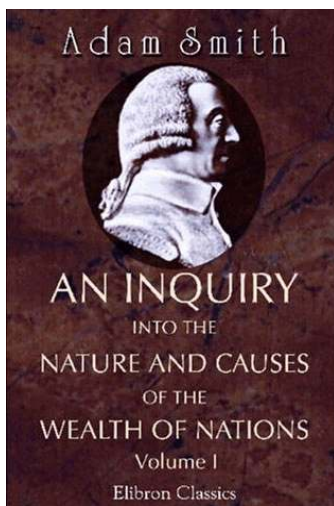
"Every individual...generally, indeed, neither intends to promote the public interest, nor knows how much he is promoting it. By preferring the support of domestic to that of foreign industry *he intends only his own security*; and by directing that industry in such a manner as its produce may be of the greatest value, *he intends only his own gain*, and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an *invisible hand* to promote an end which was no part of his intention."

Adam Smith

The Wealth of Nations, Book IV Chapter II

In 1776, Adam Smith of Scotland wrote a book called the Wealth of Nations. Smith's book has remained the most influential writing on free market capitalism. It has been consistently quoted by economists down through the years to this day.

Perhaps Adam Smith's most famous concept is the one quoted above.



Smith was a deeply religious man. His notion of the "invisible hand" suggests that even though each individual works in a free market system only for their own benefit, "something" takes all those self-interested motives of each individual and turns them into a greater good for all of us. Smith saw the free market system and this invisible hand as God's mechanism to maximize human happiness. In other words, Smith suggests that humans selfish individual desires serve a positive purpose for all. When individuals work to pursue their own wealth, society is best

served. Through the invisible hand, which I believe Smith understood as God's hand, wealth arises not only for the person seeking it, but unintentionally benefits all others in the system.

Today, Smith's theories exist all over the place in American capitalism. But the theory of the invisible hand may be most obvious in what has pejoratively come to be called "trickle down economics." The theory, very much rooted in Smith's, suggests that when wealthy people continue to get more wealthy, that helps everyone, because

the invisible hand of free market capitalism creates means more money for all of us.

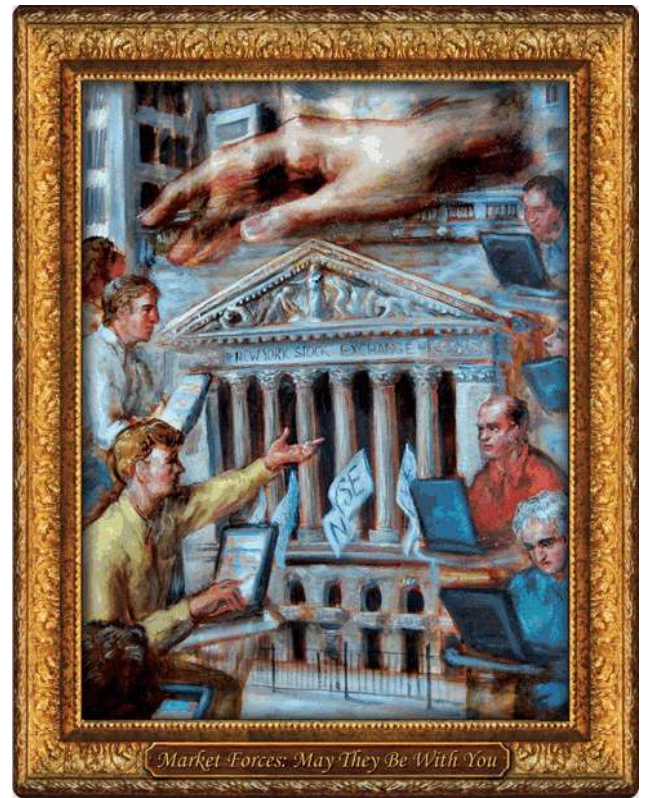
Why am I talking economic theory in a church newsletter? Yes, you got me. It is that time of year again. It is time when your Rector and Vestry ask you to prayerfully consider giving your church some of your hard earned money, as well as volunteering your time and talents to help us operate this church and care for you and others.

If you are a proponent of Adam Smith and trickle down economics, you should, by all rights, tell me at this juncture to go jump off a cliff. Because if Adam Smith was right, you should never give away any of your money and you should never volunteer any of your time to assist others. If Adam Smith was right, what you should be doing is spending ALL your time making all the money

you can and keeping it all for yourself and your family. Then, God's invisible hand, through the magic mechanism of free market economy, will reward not only you personally, but also your church.

I am not smart enough to argue Smith's theory as an economist. But as a theologian, I see a fatal flaw in the theory of the invisible hand. It suggests a worldview where people have no role to play in God's world. It suggests that God has created a world where we are to just be bystanders and wait for God's invisible hand to help us. Such a worldview, in my mind, is a total contradiction of the Jesus of the Gospels. This Jesus told us over and over again that we to be God's hands and feet in the world. This Jesus told us that it is only through our actions that the kingdom of God can be realized. Smith's theory flies in the face of a theology that sees humans as images of God and co-creators with God.

My fellow St. Davidite's, we did not build one of the most loving and caring communities in the nation by waiting for an invisible hand to come do it for us. We did it by living the Gospel, by reaching OUR HANDS out to all those in need, by moving beyond self interest to caring for and loving each other. We did not wait for God's hand to fix the mess that humanity created by despoiling God's earth. We did it with our own hands, as Jesus taught us. Invisible hand theology is what created status quo churches that are dying. Invisible hand economics is what has created hardship and suffering for so many people in this country. No, we are called to be God's hands, to immerse ourselves and our money, totally and completely into bringing about God's



kingdom.

With the present state of the world economy, it is much easier to choose Adam Smith economics. All of us are nervous and scared about what might happen in the future and it only makes sense to protect ourselves economically from the dangers that may lie ahead. But such a reaction is exactly what creates the economy of scarcity that St. David's was forced to live with for so many years.

Adam Smith was right about one thing. We need to stop seeing money as a limited good and realize that it is the opposite that is true. Scarcity creates more scarcity and abundance creates more abundance.

All of you are living examples of the truth of this statement. St. David's grew one of the most vital, healthy churches in this nation from seemingly nothing. And it all happened when we believed in our heart of hearts that we could create abundance not just for ourselves, but for all.

Forget the invisible hand. It is all of our hands together that brings about God's abundance. Let us live boldly into our future, putting our hearts and souls and yes, our money into the place that has changed all of us forever. After all, how could we ever be sorry that we put our money where our hearts live?



The world may be telling us that the only prudent thing is to put our money in our pockets. But we all know first hand that when we put it on our table, on God's table, it always creates more for us and everyone we serve. Thank you all for continuing to be examples of abundant living to all, despite what happens around us. May each of us have the courage to continue to change the world with our own hands, and not wait around for an invisible one. Now there is change we can ALL believe in.



Shalom,

Steve +



### Food Pantry Sunday

The first Sunday of the month is the day when we bring food to share with those in need. In November, Food Pantry Sunday falls on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are fortunate to have a good supply of staples, such as beans and rice, but can always use fresh produce and dairy products.

As the holidays approach, think about the foods we all like, stuffing, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, potatoes, and turkey, too! It's not too early to think about the holiday food boxes we'll be giving out. This is one of our biggest demand periods and last year emptied the food pantry several times over. Given the state of the



economy and its impact on those at the lower end, we can expect more people to be seeking food

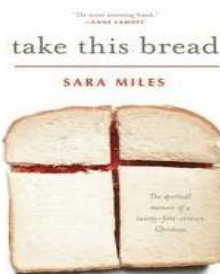
this winter. The food bank will be happy to take any and all of those items and more to help put together holiday food boxes to give away.

### Come to the Banquet

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, our Sunday School will host a feast for everyone at St. David's and beyond. Inspired by the story of the feeding of the



5000, they want to share the gift of abundance with all of us. There may not be too much fish on the menu, but expect some old favorites and new inspirations. Plan to stay after church and share the gifts of the harvest.



Speaking of which, our discussion on "take this bread" continues into November. Reading Sarah Miles' work has inspired some creative discussions - we may see their results here at

St. David's in the near future. There will be at least one session more, probably on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, so everyone who wants to can watch the election results on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

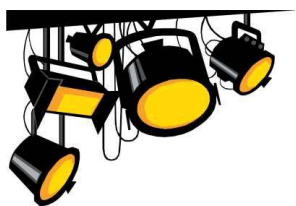


### Ya-Ya's in November

On Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Ya-Ya's will meet at Jody Gebhardt's home at 218 N Navajo. There's a new movie out, an update of the 1939 film "The Women." So far, reviews indicate the old one was better - so Episcopalian! It's also one Jody's favorite films, so she will have it on hand in case we want to watch it. Or we can just talk.

Since it's a Friday, plan to meet at 7 pm at Jody's home. Bring your favorite fall or

Thanksgiving dish to share. We're hoping Mary McDonald can make it a long weekend and come join us.



### St. David's On Broadway

Some of you may have seen our kids perform in

Page High's School's Broadway Review in September. It was a memorable performance in a number of ways, and the stories have inspired Mary McDonald to rewrite the lyrics and produce our own Broadway Review. Those of us who heard samples of the unpublished songs know it's going to be an event to remember. Save the date, Saturday, November 15 at 7 pm here at St. David's. Not only will you be entertained, you 'll leave humming a few tunes. Here's a sample from " My Favorite Things" ;

"Hymnal or Prayer Book, you don't really need it,  
Everything's printed inside of the leaflet,  
Give us a chance, you have nothing to fear,  
If you are shy, you can sit in the rear."

Don't miss it if you can!



Pre Turkey Day Hike

Normally, we have a hike to work off all our

eating after Thanksgiving. This year, we're moving it to Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, so we can all go to Mary June Nestler's+ class at Grace Church the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Anna Atkinson has asked to go back to Trip Point on the North Rim. Another option might be to do Snake Gulch, just west of Jacob Lake, and a little closer. Since it runs east to west, it's always too hot there in late spring or early fall. The hike is easy and there are lots of petroglyphs, pictographs and ruins in there, the first set about 2 miles in. Other options include Lick Wash, a slot canyon off the Skutumpah Road, or revisiting a local hike. Much depends on chances of early snow and hikers' interest.

Meet at St. David's at 8 am to carpool out. Bring a sack lunch, plenty to drink, camera and binoculars. Layered clothing is probably a good idea. This should be a good hike.



Thanksgiving Dinner

Six years ago, Bob and Susan Maxwell unwittingly started a St. David's tradition. Without family nearby, they invited all of us in similar straits to share Thanksgiving dinner together at their home. About 20 people brought their favorite Turkey day dishes, Steve+ brought the newsletter to assemble,

and we all got to take home leftovers.

Steve+ and Jean have continued this tradition, opening their home to all of us each year. There's usually a fun movie to watch, more food than we can cope with, games, and convivial conversation over turkey, ham and sauerkraut. Everyone brings their favorite food from their own Thanksgiving tradition, even if that tradition is just showing up. If you'd like to come, let Jean or Jody know. There will be a sign up sheet. Dinner begins about 2 pm at 200 N. Navajo.

### New Directory Underway

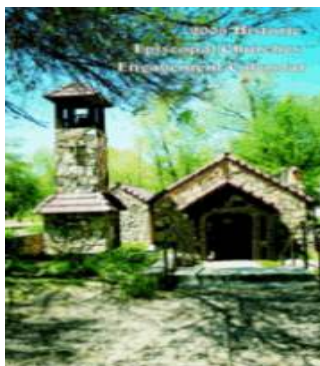


Have you looked at our directory lately and thought "Who are these people?" or "Where's so

and so?" Our directory may seem like an historic document, and it is. Thanks to the efforts of Mary and Ray Stevens several years ago, St. David's got it's first photo directory ever! They have turned the project over to Stan Burman, avid photographer and computer whiz to update. Stan will be setting up his portrait studio after church for the next few Sundays, so come looking your most photogenic, at least once. Then fill out the sheet at the back of this newsletter with as much information as you can. If there's some you'd rather not share, let us know - we keep an office directory as well as a public directory.

### 2009 Historic Church Engagement Calendar

Last April, Steve+ received a call asking if we wanted to be listed in 2009's Historic Episcopal Churches Engagement Calendar. He said yes, but Jody made the



mistake of opening the packet with all the forms.

Lo and behold, we are there indeed! with a photo of our new church and Labyrinth. We are ordering a bunch for anyone to purchase - check out the office copy in the Narthex. Cost should be about \$12.00 each. Three guesses which day St. David's is on.



### Affirmations Class At Grace Church

Advent begins on Sunday, November 30. To help us get a good start, the Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler will be leading a class on "The Infancy Narratives of Jesus: Exploring the Texts and the Traditions." What does the Bible really say about the birth and infancy of Jesus? Why do Luke and Matthew have such differing narratives, while Mark and John have none at all? How has Christian history shaped the tradition, particularly Christian art? Is he really blond and blue eyed? Mary June+ will explore these ideas and more.

The class take place on Saturday, November 29 at 10 am. Fortunately, we'll all be on the same time zone then, meaning we can make it a one day trip. If you'd like to go, let Jody know so we can get you registered. Cost is \$15.00, but

don't let that stop you from going. St. David's road trips are for everyone!



### Giving and Receiving

At the end of this newsletter, there's a two-sided sheet asking you to think about ways in which you can give time and skill to St. David's. Much of our programming runs on volunteer help, from Sunday School to changing light bulbs. If you have a question on an activity that you would like to do, ask Jody, or even better, someone who's already doing it. If there's something you think we ought to do, but don't, please let us know. Some of our best programs come from someone who said "Why aren't we doing ...?" You'll also see a request for money, because yes, we need that too. You may give to both Operations (keeping the lights on) and our Capital Fund (getting a new roof), but if you have to choose, please choose to keep the lights on.

Just as much as we hope you will give, we also want to know what you need from St. David's. It's often much harder to ask for something than to give, and sometimes we fail to listen. What could we do better? What could we start doing or stop doing? What can we do for you? After all, we're not the government, but we are here to help you.

Let us know what you can give, and what you would like to receive, by the end of the year, maybe?



### Painless Giving

If thinking about how to donate to St. David's is hard, try some passive giving. We all buy groceries, and Safeway has teamed up with eScrip, the electronic giving program to share with St.

David's. Just use your Safeway card every time you shop and through the magic of computers, a small percentage of your purchase will find its way to St. David's. Last year we received over \$500. It's small, but it helps, and you can practically do it in your sleep. Just ask Jody to sign you up, or if you want to do it yourself, go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to register. You'll need our Group ID #, but everything else should be pretty clear. Again, you can always ask Jody if you need help.

### *Coming in December*

#### iGod Youth Retreat

Advent is about being still, quiet and patient. But between school, multi media, texting and cell phones, it's hard to tune out all the noise. There's a retreat planned for high school youth at the Episcopal Church Center in Salt Lake December 5-7. If you'd like to go, talk to Mary or Greg, our Youth Group leaders.



### Advent is Coming

On November 30, we begin the season of Advent, waiting patiently for the gift of the Christ Child. This year, we look forward also to waiting, sharing and celebrating in our new Sanctuary and Parish Hall. Last year, out of adversity, we created new traditions - one shared "Lessons and Carols" which went so well that we did it again for Good Friday. This year, St. David's will host. Will St. Nick come back, how will we green the church, and what will our sanctuary look like in candlelight? Tune in next month for a few answers, and more news!