



St. David's Page

"We Are One in the Spirit"

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October is always an exciting time at St. David's. For us, October marks the beginning of the Season of Creation. During this time, we have a special opportunity to celebrate the beauty and wonder of all of God's creation, as well as participate in liturgies that remind us of our interconnectedness with all of that creation. Our special Creation Eucharists also offer us the chance to explore the theology of humanity's relatedness to all of the cosmos and our sacred duty as Christians to protect God's world. It is a message that all of you have been embracing for years. It is part of our mission statement and a part of how each of you lives your daily lives. Creation season comes to remind us of our call and offer us specific ways that we can take part in caring for God's world.

I am also excited to report that this emphasis has also recently become a priority in our diocese. A couple weeks ago, we received a packet of materials from The Liturgy and Music committee, offering suggestions as to how individuals churches in our diocese might go about implementing Creation services. The material inside included potential music and resources for a proposed Season of Creation. Though the time



recommended in that packet is for a four week liturgical season as opposed to our eight week season here, it is a much welcomed step. In addition, those of you who attended Spring Weekend know that the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori also eloquently and passionately expressed her desire to bring this issue to the forefront of our church.

The time seems ripe therefore, to begin to evangelize to others the kinship we all feel for God's creation and the special part that humanity plays in caring for that creation. That is why your Vestry has decided to sponsor our own resolution at Diocesan Convention on October 24 and 25. You can see the body of that resolution in this newsletter. It suggests to all of the churches within our diocese that they too adopt our season of creation, beginning with the Sunday following the feast day of Francis of Assisi and finishing on the Sunday before the beginning of Advent. All of you know that I feel this is as important a thing as we have to do as the church in today's world.



Our own season of Creation will begin this year in an outdoor Eucharist at



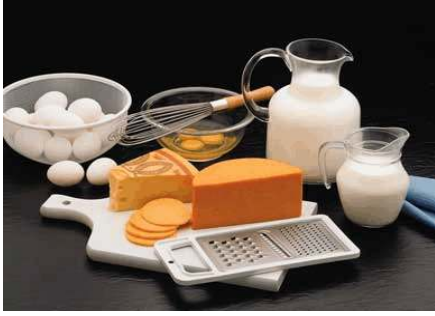
beautiful Marble Canyon on October 5. Some of our female parishioners will already be there for the annual women's retreat. The rest of us will gather at the church at 9:30 AM on Sunday and carpool down to the Canyon. In addition to an outdoor service that is just going to blow you away, we have some special music planned with Mary, Virgil and The Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler. If that is not enough, following the service will be our Annual Picnic. So come one, come all to this wonderful day as we kick off the

season of Creation in grand style in one of the greatest desert settings.

A special challenge has also been extended to the male members of the congregation. Some of the women gathering for their retreat have suggested that we are not up to preparing fantastic potluck dishes for this event. They think all we are going to have is potato chips if we are in charge. I hear that as a challenge so let's show off our culinary abilities, shall we?

May the God experienced throughout Creation be with all of you,

Steve +



Food Pantry Sunday

While our Food pantry Sunday is generally the first Sunday of the month, we will be in Marble Canyon for our Eucharist for the Earth on October 5th. It doesn't make sense to bring donations down there and then back up again. Instead, we'll celebrate our belief in abundance for all on Sunday, October 12th, by bringing food to share with those in need. Again, dairy products such as cheese, eggs and milk are very welcome, as is fresh produce. We always need protein such as tuna, Spam and Treet, and easy to prepare meals such as tuna helper or macaroni and cheese. Please bring any food item you would like to donate and place in the basket at the front of the church.



Women's Retreat Returns

St. David's women's group, the Ya-Ya's, got their start after the first women's retreat in 2002. It's been a favorite tradition since then. Part relaxation, part spiritual, our women's retreat draws members from far and near. This year, we've asked the Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler to lead our retreat starting Friday October 3 and finishing on Sunday with everyone assembled for Creation Sunday.

The weekend begins with a gathering on

Friday evening for snacks and drinks as a turning away from our daily lives. We will have an overview of the retreat format, brief instruction, followed by evening prayers. Saturday morning will be spent in instruction and prayer. We break for lunch, traditionally a trip to Vermilion Cliffs, and then have the afternoon free. Following dinner at Marble Canyon Lodge, we'll have an evening session, followed again by evening prayer or compline.

The cost for the retreat is \$100 for a shared cabin and breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday morning. Scholarships are available. We'll bring snacks and food to share and munch on all weekend. If you'd like to go, please let Jean or Jody know. We'd love to have you.



"Show Your True Colors"

At the same time the women are retreating, our youth will be heading to Camp Tuttle for their fall retreat. The theme is "Show Your True Colors" exploring our unique personalities through the color code. This is a perfect time to be in the mountains, where creation will be showing its true colors as well. All Junior and Senior High youth are eligible to go to this retreat. See Greg or Mary if you want to attend.



Creation Liturgy

On October 5th, the community of St David's will move to a liturgy celebrating all of creation. Here at St. David's, concern for all of God's creation is a central part of who we are. Our mission statement articulates this by saying that "We are caretakers of the Earth and all of God's creation." Each year, during the fall, we do a liturgy entitled A Eucharist for the Earth. This year, taking advantage of someone else's planning, we'll move the congregation down to Marble Canyon on Sunday, October 5th and join the women still in retreat. It's not quite that simple, but combining events does help. Marble Canyon has a special draw for St. Davidites, and other than Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, it seems like a perfect spot to celebrate the gift of all Creation.

Plan to come to church early, by 9:30 am on Sunday to carpool down to Marble Canyon. If you haven't been to a Creation Sunday service, you won't want to miss this. We are blessed with an abundance of beauty around us, and much of it will be on display as we worship this Sunday.

Annual Picnic

Following the service, St. David's will hold its Annual Picnic on the Marble Canyon Lodge grounds. Our picnics are always a great time, especially when we

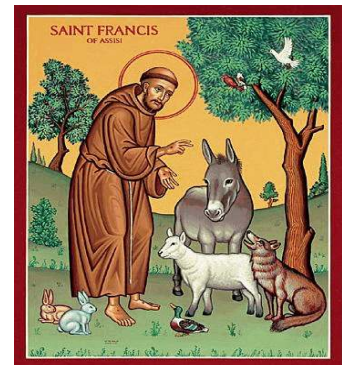
move them to a great location. The Lodge is a perfect place for a picnic, with both indoor and outdoor eating and serving. You can hike to the rim of Marble Canyon, swing on the swing, and look for condors on the old bridge.

This year, we are presented with a minor challenge in that the women will be on retreat up until the service begins (give or take an hour). While they can bring non perishable food, there's been some suggestion that it might all get consumed before Sunday. So it's up to the men to bring sustenance. We're not sure we'll have a way to cook things other than with crock pots, or electric griddles, although John Crowther will bring his grill. Despite all these concerns, this should be yet another outstanding St. David's event. Don't miss it if you can.



Blessing of the Animals

Each year it is the tradition at St. David's and many Episcopal churches to celebrate the feast of Francis of Assisi with a blessing



of animals. Over the years, in addition to the dogs, cats, gerbils, and other cool pets, we have blessed two horses, a snake, a turkey, and a duck.

The feast of Francis of Assisi, the thirteenth century monk who reminded Christianity of its link with all animals and creation, is on October 4th. We'll celebrate with a blessing of all animals on Sunday, October 12th. Bring your favorite dog, cat, snake or bird, or photos if they find public appearances difficult. The brief service will begin at 6 pm on the patio by the Sanctuary. It will be an indoor/outdoor service.

Diocesan Convention

Our annual Convention this year will take place on October 24th and 25th at the Cathedral of St. Mark in Salt Lake City. The meeting begins on Friday evening with a Eucharist at 5 pm.



The Most Rev. Carlos Touche´-Porter, Bishop of Mexico, will be the guest preacher. The remainder of the meeting will address elections, resolutions and committee reports.

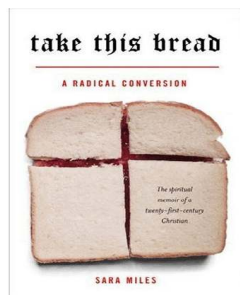
One of the highlights of this year's convention will be the presentation of our resolution to establish a Creation season. We have been celebrating this season for a number of years now. This year, the Diocese is giving support to the idea.

Another highlight will be the recognition of Connie Tkalcevic as the Southwest Region's representative to Diocesan Council, and the possible election of our own Rector as an at large member.

Please see Jody if you are interested in attending convention as a guest observer. If you think you might want to be a delegate in the future, it's good to go and get a sense of how it all works.

"take this bread" - Fall Book Study

Sara Miles, a life long atheist, walked into St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco one day. She was handed a piece of bread, and her life changed. Here at St. David's we understand that the bread we share on Sundays is for all the world, not just us, and that part of our mission is to feed people physically as well as



spiritual group kids and leaders. It's not too late to The group is meeting Tuesday the ubiquity sign up sheet to provide dessert through October sheet to provide class will run through October.



Fame and Fortune

Well, maybe not fortune so much, but St. David's continues to be recognized on a national level. On October 20, Steve+ will be in New Orleans to share the story of St. David's with a group of people looking at innovative ministry and the emerging church. Both he and Jean will be there until they head to Convention that Thursday.

If that's not enough, we got a call one day from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) asking about an article Steve+ had written on stewardship. Sure enough, our campaign of a few years ago "Tithe or Be Damned" was what they were seeking. No word at this point on how they will use it, but in 2005, it was a hit at Convention. The Diocese picked it up and published it in the Dialogue. When Steve+ and Jean arrived, they noticed people laughing as they read it. If you'd like to see a copy, let Jody know and she'll print one up for you.

Speaking of which, It's almost time to be thinking about how you can share your time, talent and treasure with your fellow St. David's people. This has been a



tough year and the future does not look promising. In making our new buildings user friendly, comfortable and inspiring, we have depleted our building fund and then some. Maybe St. David's could apply for a bail-out, too.

But seriously, we all know how the people of St. David's always pull through, not stopping there, but exceeding our goals. It's why this community matters so much to so many of us. As we celebrate the harvest season, and our joy in all of creation, consider sharing your gifts with St. David's.



THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

This past September, we at St. David's have served as host for two Celebrations of Life, and the receptions following them. We comforted the Weeks and Davenport families as they dealt with their grief at Ryan Weeks's death, and sat with Louise Hurst as she journeyed to peace and reunion with Jim. It was particularly gratifying to see the Weeks family linger comfortably in our parish hall well into the afternoon. So many of you helped in all kinds of ways, from setting up the sanctuary and parish hall, to cooking and baking, serving and cleaning up after each reception. It would be dangerous to list everyone, for fear of leaving someone out, but THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all who gave of their time and talents.