

St. David's Page

"We Are One in the Spirit"

421 S. Lake Powell Boulevard, P.O. Box 125, Page, AZ. 86040

office - 928 - 645- 4965

fax: - 928-645-9533

email: admin@stdavidspage.org

WEBSITE - www.stdavidspage.org

Circle of Page Social Ministry - 928-645-9533

October 2011

The View from St. David's office,

Several years ago, I spent a week cooking for a field school in the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument. Once my work in the kitchen was done, I was free to join in the lectures, hikes and discussions. It was a fascinating experience: bird walks at sunrise, geology and archeology hikes during the day. After dinner, there were slide shows on human history, geology, astronomy, and finally bedtime stories - river tales, pioneer stories or jokes, accompanied by hot tea, cocoa and other libations. One night, the discussion was on the origin of the universe. The leader worked backward starting with Present Day through the geology of earth formation, all the way to the very beginning - the Big Bang, or what? How did the universe start? No one really knew. But I found myself thinking "It was God." And being surprised that that particular answer came to me.

Many in my generation have found ourselves at one time or another responding to the question about church that we are "spiritual but not religious." So the idea of acknowledging God by name was a bit of a shock. For a long time, I had marveled at the beauty and power of creation, especially the lands around us in Page. Some kind of Spirit or Power had to have a hand in this, and when I was out in it, I felt connected to that Spirit. But it was a nebulous kind of Spirit. "Spiritual but not religious." How did I get to that place where I could name that spirit as God?

Well, you know the answer has to be St. David's! We are about to enter into our Creation Season, turning the last two months of Pentecost into a time to celebrate of

all of God's creation. We at St. David's are especially blessed to live in what my uncle Paul referred to as God's country. Astounding geology, breath-taking vistas, the power of both water and wind, and the most amazing creatures living and being dug out of the earth – it's all here. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab reminds us by example to care for God's creatures no matter how damaged or strange they might be. At St. David's, we carry this over to care for all of God's people, too, however damaged or whole we may be.

We began celebrating Creation Season in 2002; often with outdoor services in Marble Canyon and at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. St. David's was on the forefront of what has now become an approved season within the Episcopal Church, adopted at General Convention in 2009. As much as we celebrate God's creation, St. David's also understands that we are all stewards of this planet earth. It is our responsibility to use it gently, and to leave it in better shape than how we found it. We planned our new sanctuary and landscaping with these goals in mind. Not only that, but we can open up the doors to bring the outdoors into our worship. St. David's has fostered recycling since the days when it was difficult in Page (not that long ago). We applaud the Diocese's move to webcasting to reduce our carbon footprint on the earth. Our Mission Statement even acknowledges that "We are the caretakers of the earth and all of God's creation."

To me, a church that could see and move beyond its walls both physically and spiritually was a gift at a time when I was looking for a deeper connection. The people of St. David's embraced a love of and respect for Creation, as they embraced everyone who walked through the doors. We still do. St. David's commitment to all of creation encourages all of us to grow spiritually, bringing God deeper into our lives. God is in everything we see and feel around us. May everyone who walks through our doors find God's presence in their lives and in their surroundings.

Blessings be with you this October,
Your Parish Administrator,

Jody Gebhardt



Celebration of Life for Tom Layton

On September 19, Tom Layton passed away after a long illness. Tom has been a great gift to St. David's, using his talents as an artist to create displays for us, and his thirst for knowledge to enliven our book studies. We will miss his presence greatly. Our hearts go out to his wife Gerry Layton and all of their family.

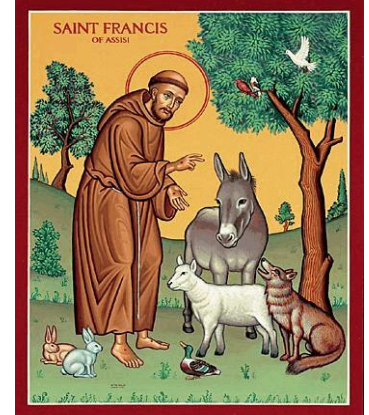
*There will be a celebration of his life here at St. David's on **Saturday October 1 beginning at 11 am.** The Revs. Lee Montgomery and Susan Wiltsey-Smith will preside at the service. Please join us as we remember Tom Layton. Light refreshments will be served following the service.*

Fall Work Day

The grounds at St. David's have been well taken care of by Clare Pierce and John Crowther this summer, but we need to do a little sprucing up. There will be a short work day **Saturday October 1** beginning at **7:30 am.** We'll work until 9 am to prepare for the all the events taking place this weekend.

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. Last year, we wowed Father Lee+ with a Madagascar cockroach. Not much petting there.



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 **Saturday, October 1st.** 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 and outdoor service.



Food Pantry Sunday

The need for food continues to grow as people struggle for jobs and enough money to cover expenses.

In October, Food Pantry Sunday falls on **Sunday, October 2nd**. **Protein** is high up on the list of items needed, including peanut butter, canned meats and beans. We never seem to have enough cereal or easy to prepare meals such as tuna helper or macaroni and cheese. Don't forget to bring your empty egg cartons to the Food bank or church - we need them for the bulk eggs we get. Please bring any food item you would like to donate and place in the basket at the front of the church. You can also donate during the week by coming to the office between 9 am and 1 pm Monday through Thursday.



Creation Sunday

On **October 2nd**, 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, close to

the Feast of St. Francis, we offer a liturgy entitled *A Eucharist for the Earth*. Our sanctuary was designed to let us connect with the outdoors, so we'll move in and out to unite our liturgy with as much of God's Creation as we can find here. Here in Page, we are blessed with an abundance of beauty around us, and much of it will be on display in some form or another. Come join us for this moving service as we worship this Sunday.

And if you miss this Sunday, we will continue with **Creation Season** until the end of the liturgical year, which is the Sunday before Thanksgiving

Ya-Ya's in October

October finds the St. David's women gathering at Frances Cline's home for an evening of stories and food. It's time to bring out the comfort food, stews and apple crisp as we look toward cooler weather and the end of the year. We'll spend the evening talking about where we are and what we look forward to as the year winds down.

*We'll meet on **Friday October 7** at Frances' home at 49 Cheryl Ct off Village Dr, which is off Oak St. near St. David's. Plan to meet any time after 6:30 pm and bring a dish to share if you can.*

Otherwise just bring yourself - we'd love to have you.





Diocesan Convention

Our annual Convention this year will take place on October 14 and 15 at St. James in Midvale, UT. It's a great time for all of us outliers to mingle with fellow Episcopalians in the greater Salt Lake area. This year, Convention is split over two days with a number of workshops along with the regular business of the Diocese. Our delegation which includes Wardens Connie Tkalcevic and Kathalin Walker, Clare and John Pierce, delegates and Carol Parry and John Tkalcevic as alternates, will manage to cover most of the workshops. Topics cover a wide area - from spiritual life to making staff connections to youth ministry to the 2012 budget. In between workshops, they'll vote on proposals to change the way assessments are determined, to allow for electronic meetings (webcasting) and to make sure that our rules conform to those of the larger Episcopal Church. The Bishop will address Convention attendees and all will share communion on Saturday.

Search Committee News

The Search Committee has completed our Parish Profile, which is now posted on our website at www.stdavidspage.org. If you

haven't looked at it yet, please do. They did a wonderful job, assimilating a lot of history, information, hopes and dreams into a concise picture of who we are at this point in time. From this point, a modified version of the profile will be posted on the Episcopal Church's deployment office website. From there, interested candidates for Rector may contact the Diocesan office which will review all applicants before sending names on to our Search Committee. Members of the Search



Committee will screen the applicants, both by reviewing their applications and by questioning them. Eventually, the Search Committee will refer several candidates to the Vestry for their final selection.



A great tradition here at St. David's is our Annual Fall Picnic. We have roamed far and near, and find with our new facilities that we like our picnics here at St. David's. On Sunday, October 30, stay after church – it is potluck Sunday after all – for some great

food and fellowship. Maybe even some fun, too. St. David's will provide meats, non-meats, drinks and plates and utensils. You bring a side dish, dessert or salad or just yourself.

Does the picnic have a Halloween theme? Some decisions still need to be worked out. Let your vestry members know what you'd like to see at your Picnic. Better yet, offer to help out.



“Office hours”

Father Lee Montgomery has offered to be available for conversation and consultation while we are without onsite clergy. He has set aside **the second and fourth Saturday afternoons** to meet with parishioners or anyone else who might want to talk to someone. You may give him a call at 435-592-0034 to set up an appointment. Or speak to Jody and she will set one up.



Lay Ministry

As our congregation shrinks and grows, we are running short-handed on several key players in worship. At her last visit to St. David's, the Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler reminded us that some of these roles need proper training, even

licenses. These include those of us who lead Morning Prayer on Sundays, help with communion both in worship and in taking it to those who are sick, and those of us who read the lessons. Each of these ministries has a formal, maybe even scary, title, but really, St. David's is the most forgiving place to learn and do each ministry. If you want more information, talk to any one of us who do these ministries now. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are interested in learning more or being trained.

Lay Ministries:

A **Worship or Lay Reader** is a lay person who regularly leads public worship such as Morning and Evening Prayer under the direction of a leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

A **Preacher** is a lay person authorized to preach a sermon that he or she has written themselves.

A **Eucharistic Minister** is a lay person trained and authorized to administer the Consecrated bread and wine at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. At St. David's, these are the people who are our chalice bearers during communion. In larger churches, Eucharistic Ministers may distribute bread as well.

A **Eucharistic Visitor** is a lay person authorized to take consecrated bread and wine to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at worship.

A **Lay Lector** is a person authorized to read the lessons for worship.

We will be setting up a training session or two, once we have a group ready. Don't miss out on the chance to grow into new roles. You will be helping St. David's and yourself – participating worship brings new meaning to those of us who do it.