

St. David's Page

"We Are One in the Spirit"

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September 2011

The View from St. David's office,

There's a scene in the movie *Jurassic Park* after the power goes out and the T-Rex first appears. The boy Tim, trapped in one of the tour cars, has been thrown into a tree by the T-Rex. Sam Neill's character Alan rescues him from the car and they begin to climb down the tree while the car begins to fall right after them. Finally they reach the ground safe and sound, whereupon the car falls directly on top of them. Tim looks up and says, "Well . . . here we are . . . back in the car. "

Does it feel like we are right back where we started, only less so? Here we are a year later, still with no permanent Rector, looking forward once again to supply clergy. Not that we don't love having Father Lee+ come and preach. We have struggled to keep our Wardens in place and gone for months without a Junior Warden. Our numbers have dwindled with long distance moves by Mary and Ray Stevens, Tom and Gerry Layton, Larry Allen and the retirement of Mary McDonald and Virgil Barstad. We have seen conflict in our own congregation, something unknown to most of us. In July, we grieved the death of Adrienne Gossard, taken far too soon from us. In August our first interim, Pastor Jeff Loudon, left to take a more permanent call closer to home. It seems that every time we think we've been through enough, something more happens. And yet, we are still here.

Actually, much has changed since a year ago. With almost a complete turnover in our congregation, we have found ways to regroup, get to know each other and move forward. Our Search Committee, held back and then urged forward, has worked hard to discern who we are as a congregation and community. And that we want someone

pretty close to Jesus Christ as our next Rector. (Mary June+ says Jesus is not available. But we can dream, right?) We have experienced a variety of liturgies, learned some new hymns and rejoiced at the return of some old ones, even ones long banished. In the face of conflict, we have also seen intense commitment to the body of St. David's.

For me, one very revealing moment came as we prepared to celebrate the life of Adrienne Gossard. Many of the "exiles" (as Garrison Keillor would say) came home for Adrienne's service, traveling from Oregon, Tucson/Japan, New Mexico and Colorado. As we all pulled together that week to make everything perfect, catching up on our lives, laughing and weeping, I realized how much I missed this family, my first St. David's family. Not just Steve and Jean, but all the others too. They welcomed me in when I felt lost and alone, sent their kids to buy ice cream and apply for jobs, shared meals, adventures, and a love of God. Together we experienced the growth of St. David's, the building of a new sanctuary, the development of the Circle of Page and the incredible social ministry program we lead. We grieved together in the passing of even older members of the family. But that family has moved on. That family will not come back to live here; instead we remain in each other's hearts.

We are a different family now, learning anew how to be there for each other, to laugh together, and to care deeply for each other. We have not yet found a unifying project such as the new sanctuary, or the Food Bank to draw us together as one, but we will. We stumble sometimes, not quite sure how much of ourselves to commit, wondering if the announcement meant for "me" to show up, too. Yes, it means you too. As we say each Sunday, "all are welcome to our table, no matter who you are." As we move forward, slowly the family of St. David's is reshaping, growing in love and commitment to one another and to God. The Holy Spirit is always among us, challenging us, guiding us, and most of all loving us all.

Blessings be with you this September,
Your Parish Administrator,

Jody Gebhardt

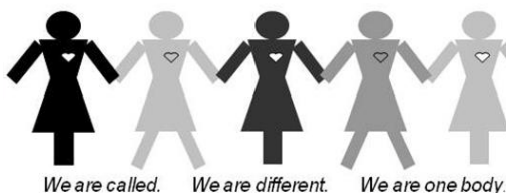


Food Pantry Sunday

The first Sunday of the month, **September 4**, is the day when we bring food to share with those in need. Please bring any food items you would like to donate and place in the basket at the altar.

We need the usual list of food: cereal, canned vegetables and easy to prepare meals such as tuna helper or macaroni and cheese. While it might be a little tough to put in the basket, the Food Bank welcomes fresh veggies and fruit. If your garden is most bounteous, think about sharing. The Food Bank also needs **plastic bags** and **empty egg cartons**. Walmart is donating eggs, among other items, through the "Feeding America" program, which Food Bank volunteers break down into smaller quantities.

Speaking of volunteers, we could use a few new faces. If you have some free time, or know someone who is trying to fill up some time, let Ruth Solomon know. We also badly need a volunteer to two for the Salvation Army desk. Training is a little more involved, but this year we have had to close the help desk a few times when we had no volunteers to run it.



St. David's Women's Group

St. David's women's group, the Ya-Ya's, grew out of our first retreat back in 2002.

We have continued our annual retreats and kept the group going as women moved in and out of the Parish, grew older and even lost interest. One constant has remained: The women of St. David's, as in most churches, carry St. David's. We are the ones who make sure there's food for every event, who teach the kids, take care of the altar and do so much more that goes unrecognized.

We have a small group who meet on the second Friday of each month at Frances Cline's home. This month we are meeting on **September 9 at 6:30 pm**. Generally we bring a dish to share, talk over what's going on in our lives and enjoy a glass of wine or other beverage.

But we are flexible too. We can do other things. Should we be doing different kinds of get togethers? What would help you connect better with other women here at St. David's? As we continue to look for new ways to define ourselves, St. David's needs us to work together, to care for each other and to pray for each other. Please let Jody or Connie know what you would like to see here at St. David's.

Supply Clergy

In the wake of Pastor Jeff's departure, our first question was "Will we get a new interim?" For good or bad, we are close enough in our Search process to go with visiting clergy for the time remaining. This means we will welcome back the Rev. Lee Montgomery as our presider through September and October. Lee+ will be here on September 11, 18 and 25, and October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.



Father Lee+ is the Vicar at Spirit in the Desert in Ivins, and Associate Dean for Education at Southern Utah University in Cedar City. He is a great preacher and we look forward to having him here so much!

Training Opportunities

During Mary June's+ last visit here on August 28, Vestry members found themselves talking about who could do Morning prayer services, particularly the one on September 4. Mary June reminded all that ultimately, lay leaders would need to be trained and licensed by the Bishop in order to serve. As a result of this discussion, the Vestry is asking for anyone interesting in learning to lead Morning Prayer, become a Lay Eucharistic Minister (chalice bearer), Lay Eucharistic Visitor (provide home communion to the sick). If you would like to step up your role, or learn how to do it better, please let Connie Tkalcevic or Jody Gebhardt know. We can get someone from the Diocese to come train us, or do some of it via webcast. It's always good to have a few people to call upon when the need is there.



10th Anniversary - September 11 Attack

Ten years ago, we all watched in horror as our country was attacked. In the years since 2001, we have marked this anniversary with grief, solemnity, and community events. This year, the Page LDS Church is hosting a day of community projects and education on preparedness. Projects include a food drive,

quilting, building teddy bears, and safety inspections for bicycle helmets, baby seats and fire extinguishers. The primary service project will be painting house numbers on street curbs. There will be sample Disaster Preparedness kits and information on keeping an emergency water and food supply. They will also be collecting hard candy, disposable cameras and greeting cards for troops serving overseas.

All events take place or begin at the LDS Church at 1301 N Navajo. The date is Saturday, September 10 from 9 am to 12 pm. St. David's and the LDS Church have worked together on a number of events and community services, the most notable of which is our Food Bank. So don't stay glued to the TV on Saturday the 10th. Get out and do some good for our community. You'll feel much better for it.

Pre Convention Meeting

The Diocesan Convention looms on the horizon, and the churches of the Southern Region will hold a pre-convention meeting for briefing and discussion on voting. Clergy, wardens, deputies and alternates from St. Jude's, Grace, Spirit of the Desert and St. David's will meet to review convention material. These include resolutions, candidates' statements and various proposals. Connie Tkalcevic, our regional representative to Diocesan Council will lead the meeting, which will be held **right here at St. David's**.

If you have agreed to serve as a deputy or alternate, you should plan to attend this meeting, especially if this is your first time at Convention. If you are interested in what happens at



Convention, which will be held at St. James-Midvale October 15 and 16, this is a great time to see what it's all about. Clergy and Wardens,



of course, are expected to attend. The meeting will take place on September 17, beginning at 8 am MST. Via the webcast, we will be able to see and talk to Episcopalians from across the Diocese. Following the Diocesan wide-meeting, Connie will hold a regional meeting to consider how we want to vote as a group. Snacks and lunch will be provided.



FALL EQUINOX AND LABYRINTH WALK ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, ST. DAVID'S WILL MARK THE END OF SUMMER WITH A WALK ON THE LABYRINTH. AS THE SEASONS HAVE CHANGED, WE RECOGNIZE EACH EVENT WITH A SHORT SERVICE AND WALK. OUR WINTER SOLSTICE BEGAN IN DARKNESS AND COLD, MOVING INTO THE SPRING EQUINOX, WITH HOPE OF NEW BEGINNINGS. IN JUNE WE CELEBRATED THE SUMMER SOLSTICE, THE GIFT OF LIGHT AND EARLY FRUITS. ON **SEPTEMBER 23**, WE WILL OBSERVE THE WANING OF LIGHT AND FALL HARVEST AT 6

PM ON FRIDAY. COME JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION!

A letter from Kathalin Walker

My dear sisters and brothers,

The peace of Christ Jesus be with you. I wish to convey to you my gratitude for all of the support you have given me throughout the years of my discernment and postulancy as I sought to follow my calling to serve you and God. I could not have traveled this road without you.



It is, therefore, with deep sadness that I must inform you that this part of my journey has come to an end. Upon the advice of the Standing Committee and the Commission on Ministry, Bishop Hayashi has ended my postulancy for ordination to the priesthood. My sojourn in the land of ecclesial limbo (neither lay nor clergy) has ended and I am, once again, in the glorious company of the priesthood of all believers, otherwise known as the order of laity.

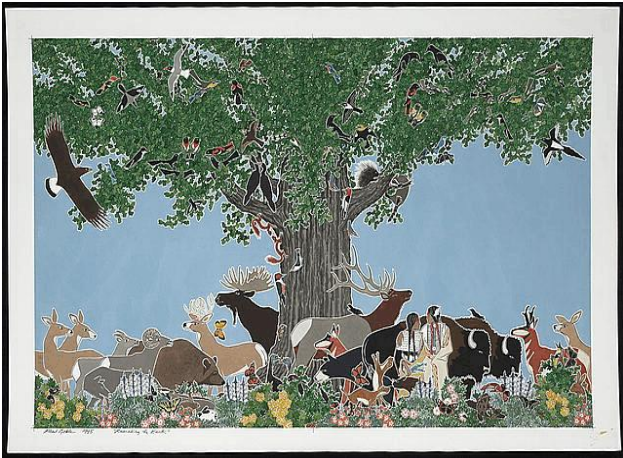
Upon completion of my course of Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Mark's Hospital, I will begin the final year of the Utah Ministry Formation Program. This program is open to all for continuing education and preparation for lay ministry, as well as ordained ministry.

After a short vacation with Bernadette, I will be available to serve you in whatever capacity is allowed by canon, and is agreeable to the vestry. I ask for your continued prayers for myself, and Bernadette, as we continue to discern where and how God is calling us to serve in the world.

Your servant in Christ,
Kathalin Walker



Coming in October



Creation Sunday

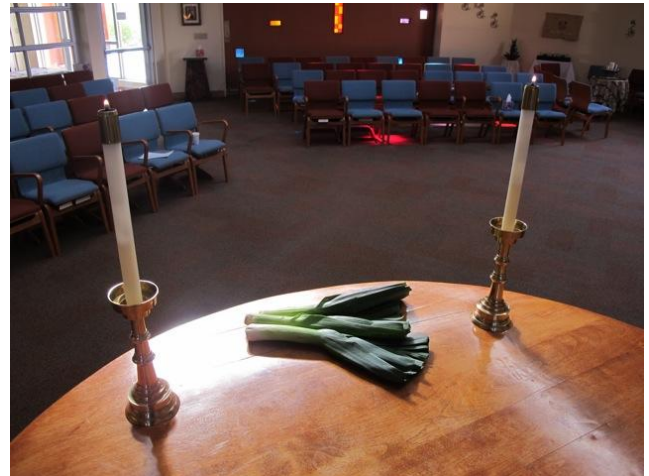
Here at St. David's, concern for all of God's creation is a central part of who we are. Our mission statement articulates this by saying that "We are caretakers of the Earth and all of God's creation." Each year we do a liturgy entitled *A Eucharist for the Earth* as part of our Creation Season.

This year, we'll keep things close to home on and celebrate here. When we designed our new sanctuary, a primary element was being able to move fluidly between the indoors and outside. A date has not been determined, but it's always close to the Feast of St. Francis on October 4. Watch for details as they emerge.

Following the service, St. David's will hold its Annual Picnic, again close to home. We've had great picnics here on the grounds. If you have other ideas, please let us know. Our Annual Picnic is not to be missed, so put it on your calendar, as soon as we have a date.

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. The Feast of St. Francis falls on Tuesday October 4th, and we will have our blessing on or about that day. The ceremony will begin at 6 pm - the barn door will be open, weather permitting. All pets are welcome to bring their owners with them.



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St. David's Search Committee

The Search Committee met with Rev. Canon Mary June Nestler during her visit on August 27-28. They presented the first draft of the Parish Profile, a key piece in moving forward in the search process. Once the Profile is completed, it can be posted to the Episcopal Church website for those looking for a new call. We are in good hands!