



THE STAR

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SERVING GOD
AND NEIGHBOR...

COMPASSIONATE

TRANSFORMING

EMPOWERING

REACHING OUT

COMMUNITY

June 2009

The Rev. James R. Murguia, Rector
revmurguia@sbcglobal.net

The Rev. Kristine Graunke
Assistant Rector
khg.3@juno.com

Donald Sebesta
Director of Music

Ashley Miles, Head of School
amiles@saintdavidschool.net

Jerry Kirkpatrick
Parish Secretary
jerry-kirkpatrick@sbcglobal.net

Erin Koehler
Director of Youth
Ministries
eekoehler@gmail.com

Beth Murguia
Director of Children's
Ministries
murguia.beth@sbcglobal.net

Susan Willcox
Parish Administrator
willcox.susan@sbcglobal.net

In Memory of
Andrew Brian Gordon
February 10, 1977-May 8, 2009

(Andrew Gordon was killed walking across I35 on his way home from work. Rudy Aguilar, who has been Andrew's roommate for four years, asked Father James to do a memorial service at Earl Abel's Restaurant where both Andrew and Rudy work. The service was at 8:00 pm when everyone's work shift was finished. Rudy Aguilar gave this interview for Andrew's obituary.)

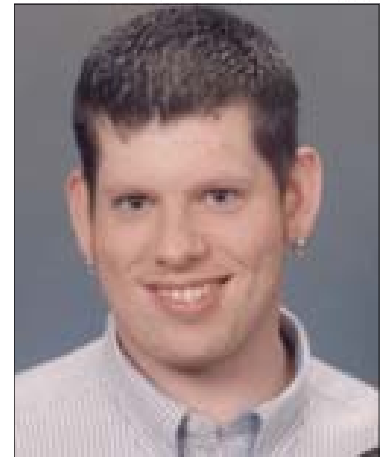
Andrew helped everybody and anybody. One of the waitresses got stuck here at Earl Abel's and was going to stay over night in the restaurant. He got her a blanket. She decided not to stay, and in the middle of the night, he walked her home three miles.

There was a little store where he helped the man stock drinks for two years straight. He walked miles just to help the man out. He had a job here at Earl Abel's, and he didn't have to go over there. He just did stuff for everybody. He was so kind.

I was taking care of him and me. I was trying to pay bills and rent by myself and feed a great big dog. The last two weeks I have been getting up about 6:00 in the morning and just praying. I haven't prayed like that in years. I think the Lord was already warming me up. He was letting me talk to Him, and He was with me.

Andrew was always waiting for me when I got off the bus from work. The night he was killed, he didn't call me, and he didn't show up, so I already knew something was wrong. It turned out one of the policemen who was on the scene knew Andrew and knew where we lived. Andrew didn't have an ID on him. We would have never known what happened to him. The policeman came and told the apartment manager, and she was waiting for me when I got home. It was so hard to hear like that, but it was so coincidental. God arranged for that policeman to be there. It could have been a hundred other policemen in the city.

(Continued on next page.)



Andrew Brian Gordon

(Continued from previous page.)

I am so glad I got to meet Andrew. He was a blessing in my life. I didn't want to see him after he died. I wanted to remember him with his eyes open and with his smile.

At the memorial service, Father James got up and prayed right away. We had those bulletins, and everybody read the scripture together. James made everybody laugh at the memorial service. It helped everybody out. It helped Andrew's mother. She

needed it. I think the biggest thing was that my mom didn't really like Andrew much, but after the service, my parents and his parents hugged in the parking lot. It made me feel good that she forgave. She realized that Andrew was somebody else's son, too.



Rudy Aguilar

The memorial service just blessed everybody. Some of the waitresses haven't been to church in 10 years, but at the service they felt the Presence. They felt God. I hadn't been to church in a year because I work every Sunday. The church came to me.



Steve Herlich

God Loves Through Caring Friends

Do you have an unchurched friend?

Invite them June 7th

Our *Invite a Friend Sunday* is coming in just a few weeks. It's a special day when all members of our church invite their friends who don't have a church connection to join us for worship and fellowship.

Who will you ask? Have you talked to this person recently? Have you invited him or her to your home for a visit? Plan to get together with your friend this week, maybe for a meal together, a cup of coffee or a shared activity.

Continue praying for our *Invite A Friend Sunday*. And pray that God will speak to your friend's heart. You may help your friend make the decision of a lifetime. *A friend loves at all times. . . . Proverbs 17:17*



FROM THE

Assistant Rector



The Rev. Kris Graunke

Community of Hope: A Passion for Pastoral Care

Back in January, people who were interested in taking "The Basic Course in Pastoral Care" for Community of Hope were interviewed. One after another, they came before the "interview committee" (Judy Riddle, Barbara Stone and myself.) One after another, they shared about their passion for pastoral care, and the visiting ministries in which they were already involved. I was amazed and humbled. There was already in place the witness of people who had a heart to reach out and be present to others who were in need, whether that be with people who were in a nursing home, shut-ins, or someone in the hospital. What the Basic Course did was to make some of those people more visible and to better equip them for the ministries in which they are already involved and give them an intentional group for support and on-going education. But let them speak for themselves. The following are short responses from them concerning their experience of the Basic Course.

++++



Dee Dee Clark visits at The Forum. She is also an active member of The Daughters of the King, and an usher at the 10:30 A.M. service: "What surprised me most during our Community of Hope training was the similarity between The Daughters of the King and the Rule of St. Benedict. Both orders are based upon prayer and service. They are a great source for Spiritual growth through daily prayer, meditation, and service to others. As Lay Pastoral Caregivers in the Community of Hope, we are active listeners while the care receiver sets the agenda." (Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

The "Rule of St. Benedict" is used as the Spiritual backbone of Community of Hope. A section from the rule is read by each member on a daily basis.



Dottie Jordan was part of a healing ministry group at a former church which she attended: "First, I want to thank Kris, Judy Riddle and Barbara Stone for guiding us through the course in the Community of Hope. All of us,

during the course of our lives, become caregivers and this course was immensely helpful for me to learn how to listen with the 'ear of our hearts.' Each week of the course opened new avenues to walk on and learn how God empowers us to use the gifts of loving and caring for our fellow humans. We all need to have that special someone who stops and takes the time to listen to what we're 'going thru.' This course opens up the doors for the caregivers and the care receivers. I would encourage my St. David's family to consider taking this course to enhance your life and others."



Jay Buzzini takes the initiative to visit people he knows who are hospitalized. He also is a Lay Eucharistic Minister who performs Sunday Services at Parklane Nursing Facility:

"As one who has long involved himself in pastoral matters independent of any real, formal instruction, I have found Community of Hope to be an excellent program for any Christian who seeks to extend the healing power of Christ to those who are most in need.

The over-arching theme of Benedict's Rule and Benedictine Spirituality convey a discipline and sense of purpose to those involved in Community of Hope as well as to provide a governing principal on which one may model his or her daily life."



Joan Forrest is a member of The Daughters of the King and visits at the Forum, Brighten Gardens, Parklane, and wherever else someone may be shut in or have a need.

(Continued in next column.)

(Continued from previous column.)

She writes:

"Community of Hope has given me more insight and confidence toward pastoral visits, learning to be a better listener, being more observant of the person I'm visiting and better realizing the boundaries of the person I'm visiting as well as my own boundaries. One can never forget the importance of confidentiality as well. I believe Community of Hope will make me a more effective Meals on Wheels deliverer to seniors, as well as make my flower delivery visits not only more enjoyable but of more importance. I also feel I have greater insight into those who have recently lost a loved one and hopefully can relate better to their needs whatever they might be. My life has been greatly enriched by taking this course which has allowed me to better know myself as well as others in the group."



Charlotte Phillips visits at the health-care unit of "ARC" (Army Residence Community.) She writes:

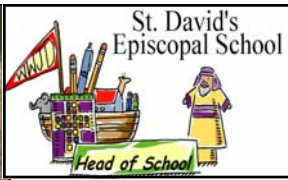
"I have spent over 20 years serving as a volunteer chaplain. I was instrumental in the early 90's in getting the chaplain program established in my home town.

Therefore, when I learned about the Community of Hope, I had some reservations about how it would enrich my life and my Spiritual journey. However, the course, with its emphasis on "The Rule of Benedict" has certainly expanded my understanding of how Spiritual life is lived in a community. This understanding has helped me to realize that things are different when your Spiritual life is grounded in a community.

"The course updated my thinking about families and how they influence my Spiritual walk and the walk of those I am visiting and sharing with. It was also important to me to review many of the subjects I had been introduced to in chaplain training. Attending the Community of Hope classes helped me to find a place to use my training as a chaplain in a different setting. Also, the class refreshed how I live out and express my Spiritual being. Thanks for conducting the course."

++++

It has been a privilege to be with this group, four of whom will be commissioned as Lay Pastoral Caregivers on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. Others have shown interest in taking the Basic Course. If you have an interest in doing the 14 week course in Pastoral Care, please let Fr. James Murguia or Judy Riddle know. There are monthly meetings called "Circle of Care" which provides on-going support and education for the Lay Pastoral Care Givers.



Ashley Miles

The 2009 School Year Draws to A Close

It is hard to believe that the 2008-2009 school year is drawing to a close. The students of St. David's Episcopal School will soon be enjoying summer days full of sunshine, fun outings, and time spent with families. I know that each child will take with them the learning, love, and nurturing they experienced with their teachers and friends this year. Most importantly, they take with them the knowledge that Jesus loves them no matter what-knowledge they were taught every day they attended St. David's School. Thank you for your generous support of our school. You have helped make my first year as Head of School a wonderful one! God bless you!



St. David's School dancers rehearse for the Dance Recital held on Saturday, May 16.



Susan Willcox



May These Be Unanxious Times

Today many of us are experiencing anxious economic times and I pray that we, as individuals and as a community, may be as unanxious as possible. As Christians we are taught that Jesus Christ has embodied all things necessary for our well being in spite of life's uncertainties.

We are approaching the time of year when travel plans and summer activities take us in different directions and we may not be able to attend church as regularly as we like. Expenses for the church continue as usual over the summer and in some cases increase. I would like to encourage all who have made a financial pledge to St. David's operating budget to continue to be current in those commitments.

For those who are experiencing great difficulty we pray for comfort, resiliency, and reprieve and by God's grace, opportunity will lead to resolve. The ministry and mission of Jesus Christ through St. David's continue to thrive and grow. We as a community of faith are certainly blessed by God.

Dear St. David's,

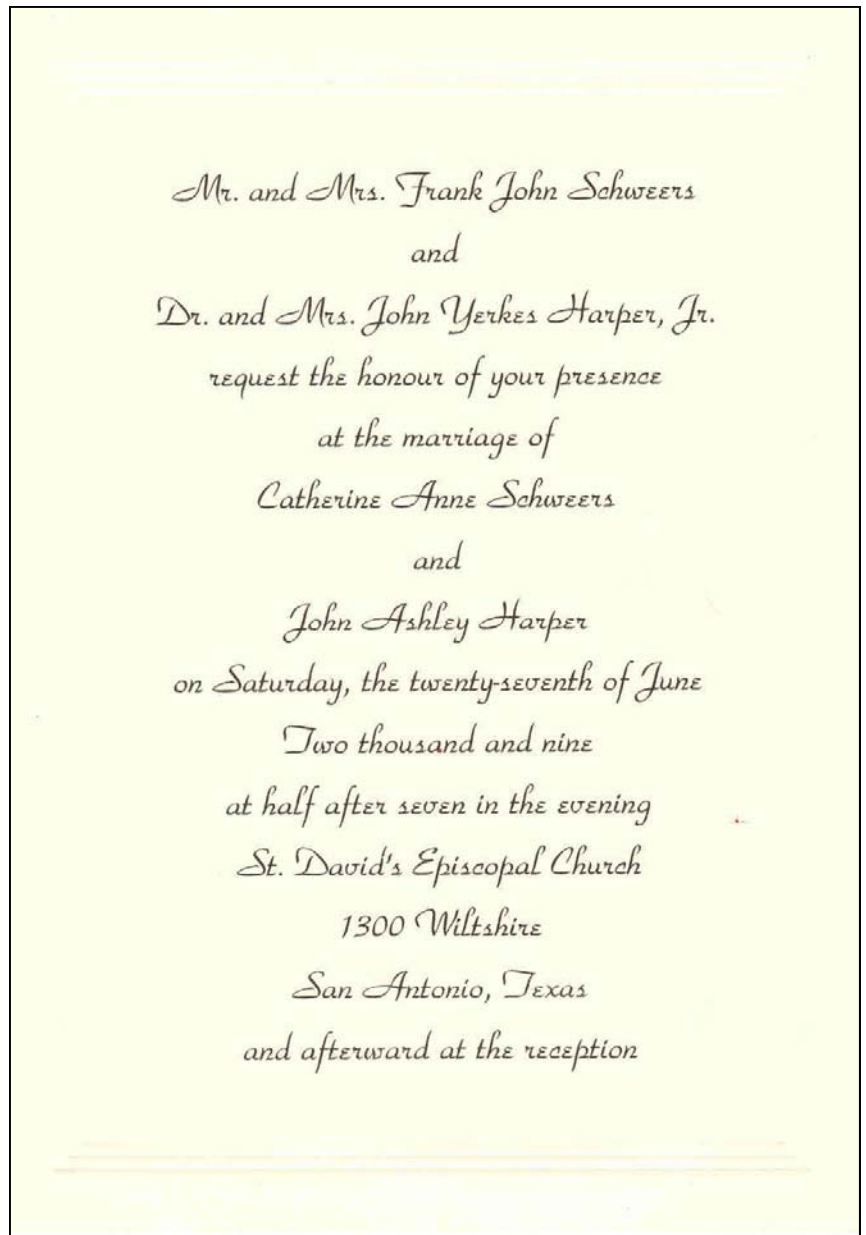
Thank you all for the celebration of our ministries on Sunday, May 3rd. The food was fabulous (we saw one person go back for 3rds on the meat!), the skit by the children was very touching, the gift of the picture of our lovely building is a great keepsake and your kind words made the day one to remember. We will miss you and will always thank God for our time on the St. David's staff.

God's Peace,
Catherine Lillibridge and Erin Koehler

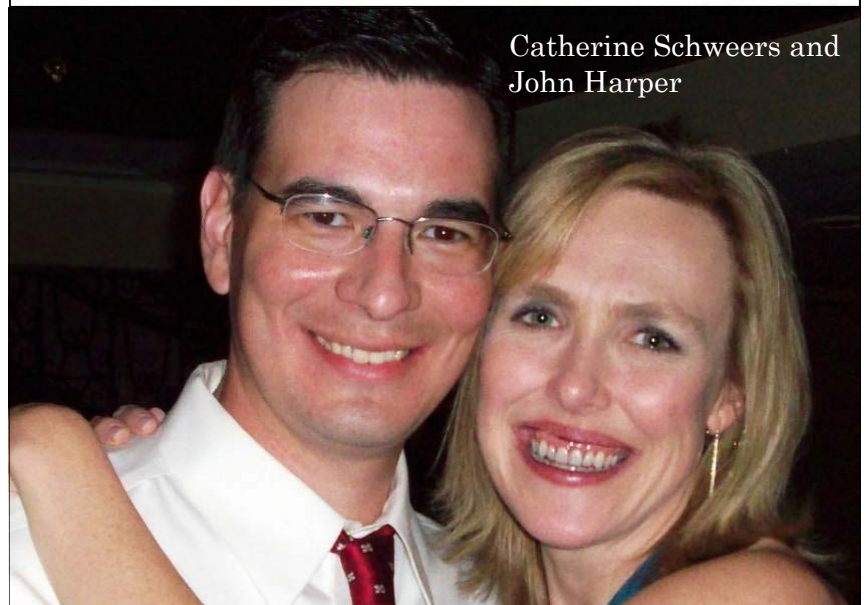


**Welcome
Robert Kenneth Sopko Koehler**

Kenny was born on Monday, May 18 at 3:57 pm weighing 7 pounds and measuring 19.75 inches.



*Mr. and Mrs. Frank John Schweers
and
Dr. and Mrs. John Yerkes Harper, Jr.
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of
Catherine Anne Schweers
and
John Ashley Harper
on Saturday, the twenty-seventh of June
Two thousand and nine
at half after seven in the evening
St. David's Episcopal Church
1300 Wiltshire
San Antonio, Texas
and afterward at the reception*



Catherine Schweers and
John Harper

Youth Ministry

Erin Koehler
eekoehler@gmail.com



Reflections

By Kaitlin Reed:



I became involved in the Bishop's Happening Movement in the spring of my sophomore year, and since then this event has been one of the firmest foundations upon which I've built my faith.

It's where I learned the strength it takes to put God's will into action and carry out my faith with an open heart and mind. My life as a Christian would not be as steadfast and dedicated if it weren't for my Happening experiences. Happening has given me the confidence to practice my faith outside of the church and the confidence to lead and guide others in their walk with Christ.

These past three years that I've been involved in this event I have finally realized: it's called the Happening "movement" not the Happening "moment." We should be Christians on the move, confident that God is in control of our lives and that we are living for Him and through Him. I am sure of myself and of my faith, and because of that, I can say that I am ready to transition comfortably into my new home at Southwestern University bringing with me the beauty of God's love and grace. Thank you, St. David's, for supporting me these past three years!



By Mandy Martinez

Being a part of St. David's youth group has left me with the best memories. I have memories from my first Happening which was here at St. David's. Happening was the most amazing church event I've done, and I have become very involved with the Happening movement.

My other special memory that will stay with me is the New Orleans Mission trip. Memories of painting the church and memories of looking at a town that was almost gone. I loved helping out the church and getting to know the culture of the city.

It was my freshmen year that I got to see snow for the first time! I also skied for the first time, and I have never been so sore in my life!

I cherish my memories from St. David's because I've done things that I never thought I would be able to do.



By Philip Cromack:

Anytime I think about how I found and understood God's guidance and love, one thing always comes to my mind—Happening. Happening is a life-altering weekend that anyone can partake in whether they are confused when it comes to God or whether they know what God has planned for them.

Happening changed my life. Before that weekend, I just went along with the flow at church saying what I was supposed to and doing what everyone else did. Participants in Happening are immersed in God and His teaching; phones are taken; and any watch or clock is taken or covered up. It is a scary thought at first, but it is very liberating. That weekend showed me that God has a plan for me and that at times I may not see it, but he will guide me through those times. People told stories about how God had impacted their lives, and how they followed His path. Also, people told how they put their faith in Him even though they were, at times, unclear about what God had planned for them, and He had not failed them. One person told the Happeners how he had torn his ACL which prevented him from playing football that season, but the tear allowed him to explore some of his other interests. It led him to find his calling in engineering.

My Happening was a great experience which allowed me to see the effect and impact of God's plans for each one of us. That weekend changed the way I look at church and also God. I encourage any who hasn't happened yet to sign up for the next one in August.

St. David's Graduating Seniors Receive Prayer Shawls



(Left to right) Kaitlin Reed, Mandy Martinez, Philip Cromack, Jeff King, Sara Goebel and Daniel Willcox

Recipients of the Ashley Biechlin Acolyte Scholarship: Mandy Martinez, Philip Cromack and Jeff King



Murray & Victor Mux

A LITTLE NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Thank you for your response to our request for baby blankets and baby clothes. We now have 15 baby blankets, 26 baby outfits and 20 baby hats. Our goal is 50 Mommy Kits for the new Birthing Center in Siguatepeque, Honduras! (Some items we are purchasing in-country.) So, we are close already!

Also, we've received 8 pairs of reading glasses for people in Guatemala! Thank you to whomever donated those!

We always receive generous support from the St. David's community, and we are very grateful.



New Directory Has Arrived!

Come by the church office to pick up your new 2009 St. David's directory.

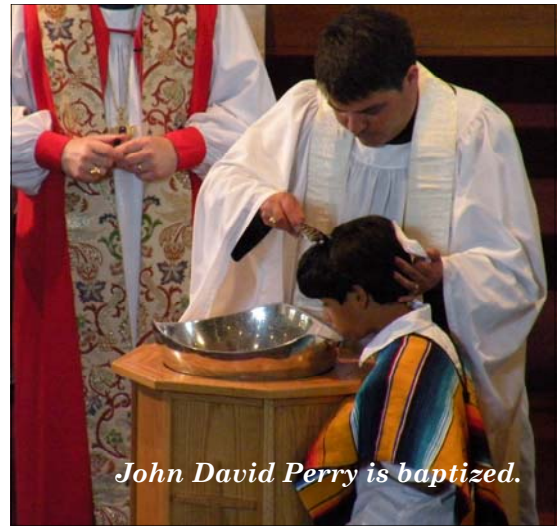
Thanks to the many people who worked hard to make this happen.

Star Guild Members faithfully send *The Star* to friends and family: Dorothy Brown, Peggy Henry, Willie Lawley, Amory Oliver, Betty & Ray Foster, and Jean Bevans. Thanks to our volunteer photographer, Will Kirkpatrick. Thank you for your faithful ministry. Jerry Kirkpatrick, editor.

Star articles and photos will be due Wednesday, June 10. This issue will go in the mail on Tuesday, June 23, and will cover news during the month of July. It is not too early to think about summer news that you want people to know. This is your chance to publicize your program or share a photo! Bring your articles or photos to the church office or email to: jerry-kirkpatrick@sbcglobal.net. Remember that the Star is now a monthly publication.



Marissa Schaefer is confirmed as her family stands with her.



John David Perry is baptized.



Leslie Mixson is reaffirmed as her husband, Eli Flores, stands with her.

St. David's Confirmation Sunday 2009

Baptisms

David John Perry
Dennis Roy Sweezea

Confirmations

Carl Joseph Bates
Drew Hilton Bauml
Jacob Steven Bissell
Eli Rocha Floes
Nathan Dyer Howell
Luke Francis Kershaw
Hunter Cameron Martin
Connor Patrick McInerney
Theodore Stahl Schaeffer

Reaffirmation

Leslie Clarice Mixson
Marissa Elizabeth Schaeffer



Jacob Bissell is confirmed by The Rt. Rev. Reed.



Dennis Sweezea is baptized.



Hunter Martin is confirmed as his family stands by him.

Photos by Will Kirkpatrick

SIX WEEKS UNTIL . . .

St. David's Vacation Bible School (VBS)
June 22-26, 2009

All kinds of volunteers needed before, during and after

"BEFORE" VOLUNTEERS:

- *Meet weekly to make, design and create props
- *Organize stations and supplies
- *Organize registration/name tags/station leaders

"DURING" VOLUNTEERS:

- *Crew leaders (currently going into 6th grade thru high school)
 - *Station leaders (lead a rotation station)
 - Arts and crafts
 - Games
 - Bible Adventures
 - Snacks/DVD
 - Music
 - Pre-Kindergarten Group

"AFTER" VOLUNTEERS:

- *Organize volunteer thank you gifts
 - *Organize closing luncheon for children and their parents
 - *Clean-up after closing
 - *Organize follow-up party for volunteers

Vacation Bible School is not only for the children - come be a part of this awesome summer event!!!

Call Beth Murguia for more details
824-2481

Below is a list of items needed that will help us transform our church into a

MISTY BAYOU

ALL ITEMS WILL BE RETURNED!!!

(PLEASE write your name on items)

Small boats/canoes

Fishing gear

Fishing vest Fishing nets

Lanterns

Fog machine

Inflatable alligators

Straw hats

Barrels

Rocking chairs

Wicker fishing creel

Cheese cloth

Greenery

We also need old brown/tan carpet that can be cut into strips to make a dock and bluish/greenish fabric to give a water effect. These two items will not be returned.

We are open to creative ideas so please contact Beth Murguia 824-2481 with suggestions or questions.