



THE STAR

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SERVING GOD
AND NEIGHBOR...

COMPASSIONATE

TRANSFORMING

EMPOWERING

REACHING OUT

COMMUNITY

November 2009

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

The Rev. Lisa Mason
Assistant Rector
masonlisap@sbcglobal.net

Donald Sebesta
Director of Music

Ashley Miles, Head of School
amiles@saintdavidschool.net

Jerry Kirkpatrick
Director of
Communications
jerry-kirkpatrick@
sbcglobal.net

Sarah Cozad
Director of Children and
Youth
Ministries
sarah.cozad@sbcglobal.net

Susan Willcox
Parish Administrator
willcox.susan@sbcglobal.net

Alfred Evans attended the 90th anniversary of the Armistice of WWI in Ypres, Belgium and has shared his experience.

The Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate

Ypres, Belgium: November 11, 2008 was the largest gathering in Western Europe for the 90th Anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I. Located in western Belgium, the small town of Ypres was the farthest point where the German Army advanced westward in World War I.



Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium

For four years during World War I, the British, Canadian, Australian, Indian, New Zealand and South African armies battled the Germans. When U. S. forces arrived, the 27th Infantry Division and the 30th Infantry Division entered into battle.

A Canadian doctor named John McCrae lost a close friend in one of the many shellings. In his grief, Dr. McCrae wrote a poem which he named "*In Flanders Fields*." *Punch Magazine* published "*In Flanders Fields*" in 1915. A Canadian hospital was established in a farm house which was somewhat protected by a ridge. It was given the name Essex Farm. In the nearby German units, there was a small dour Austrian soldier who held the rank of corporal serving in the German Army who had dreams of being a water color artist after the war ended. Instead, he became involved in street politics.

Winston Churchill proposed leaving the area totally destroyed as a monument to the folly of war. The Belgian people disagreed, and survivors returned after the Armistice to clean up the destruction wrought by four years of artillery barrages and the digging of extensive trenches. Shell holes were filled and drainage ditches were rebuilt to drain the farm fields.

In 1926 a group of veterans and families gathered at the town gate named Menin Gate, which was located along one of the canals. A memorial service named The Last Post was conducted for a different fallen soldier of the Great War each night at 7:30 pm.

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Also, each Armistice Day the veterans, widows, children and friends gathered on the town square with poppy wreaths and marched to the Menin Gate Arch for The Last Post. Each marcher received some poppy petals which were deposited in a container near Menin gate as the marchers passed by. A memorial service was conducted and donated poppy leaves were taken to the top of the Menin Gate Arch and dropped through a large opening in the arch. After World War II ended and the Last Post resumed, a new group of veterans joined the marchers. As the World War I veterans began to get too old to conduct the nightly Last Post, the local fire and rescue companies took over the service.

For the 90th Anniversary of the World War I Armistice, ten thousand people were in Ypres for the Poppy Parade, Remembrance, and The Last Post. Numerous fire brigade bands from Great Britain marched in the parade. This year's Poppy Parade was six-to-eight people wide at the beginning. As the band and the marchers moved forward, the average width was six people wide. Many were in wheel chairs, pushed by a friend or relative. Each band was trying to out-play its neighbor.

The formation for the Poppy Parade was nearly a mile long. The marchers moved forward toward the Menin Gate for The Last Post. Along the parade route behind the barricades, it was not unusual to see the bystanders ten people deep.

At 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month, the Last Post was conducted at Menin Gate with red poppy petals dropping through the top of the Menin Gate Arch and drifting like butterflies in the wet drizzle. At the conclusion of the Last Post and the laying of the poppy wreaths, the marchers walked back through Menin Gate and past the thousands of people who had gathered for the 90th Anniversary of Armistice to attend the Last Post and the annual Poppy Parade.

One solitary American veteran marched along side a British Army veteran who was wearing the
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red beret. The American was retracing the march to the Menin Gate that he had taken ten years earlier when he had walked with three British World War II veterans, one of whom was a British paratrooper and had landed in a glider near Pegasus Bridge during the wee hours of June 6, 1944 for the Normandy Invasion.

To hear the bugle calls from The Last Post ceremony, go to:
<http://www.greatwar.co.uk/events/menin-gate-last-post-ceremony.htm>



All Saints Day?

What's That??

Sunday, November 1, is All Saints Day, a Sunday that unfortunately is observed in the most cursory way, and usually at the insistence of liturgists and musicians fastidious in following the Church Year, and usually in competition with new fall proams and money raising events.

All Saints Sunday, when fully observed, can be a meaningful expression of faith. This is a day of remembrance and thanksgiving for all the saints, martyrs and others who have gone before us: those who have given us a model of faith and righteous living; and others on a broader scale, who have been leaders in centuries of socio-political and techno/scientific advances which enrich our lives today.

For those who are turned off by saints and martyrs and other great personages of the past, this day has something for you, too. This is a day when you, also, can remember, here and now, deceased loved ones and friends by giving thanks to God for their lives and for the impact they have had on your own life.

*Thanks be to God for all his saints, both present and past;
and may they ever remain in our gratitude and in our memories!
For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus, be for ever blessed: Alleluia, Alleluia!
William Walsham How (1823-1897)*

November Bake Sale Each Sunday Benefiting Southeast Mexico Church Bakeries

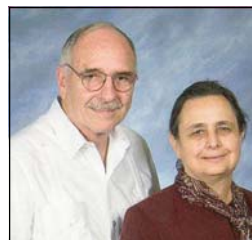
By Catherine Lillibridge

The Sundays in November will be a time of great feasting at St. David's! Patsy McGaughy and her crew of bakers will sell their **cookies, pies, cakes, breads, rolls and muffins** after each service. The proceeds will go to the bakeries in five congregations of the Diocese of SE Mexico.

These start-up bakeries have no running water or electricity, and yet the women bake and sell their baked goods to the communities they live in!

Please pray for the following bakeries: Los Angeles Bakery at San Pedro Apostol Church in the town of Arroyo Zacate; La Divina Bakery at La Vivienda de Providencia in the town of Camalotal; Dos Corazones Bakery at La Transfiguracion in the village of Nuevo Progreso; La Esperanza Bakery at Jesus de Nacared in the village of La Esperanza Arroja; and San Marcos Bakery at San Marcos Church in the town of El Nigromonte.

If you have questions about being a baker or buying goods, please call Patsy at 824-2481. If you have questions about the Diocese of SE Mexico, please call Tony and Beth Price, who live in Mexico but have a local number, 824-2481 or Catherine Lillibridge at 824-2481.



Beth and Tony Price

News from Southeast Mexico

Hi, everyone! The summer flew by and the Kids Foundation is now one year old! It all began with one little boy who was 11 years old, still in the second grade and unknown to everyone was nearly blind. Little Chucho had bilateral eye surgery last October 1. He spent several weeks getting dental care before he could have surgery. Because his teeth were so bad, he was at very high risk of infection. Our wonderful Dra. Blanca donated her services for the surgery and continues to see Chucho for his follow-up care at no charge. The Kids Foundation began by raising money for the hospital bill. Chucho will continue to wear alternating eye patches and thick prism glasses for 2 to 3 more months. Then he will no longer need the patches or the special glasses. His vision is greatly improved.



Since then, The Kids Foundation
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has helped 42 children. These kids have been seen by one or more of the doctors and dentists we work with.



Our doctors and dentists routinely give us considerable discounts on their usual fees, and Dra. Gloria and Dra. Irma do a great deal of work for the children at no charge.

There is no shortage of children who need help. This afternoon, when I took little Yamileth home after her dental appointment, we were immediately surrounded by kids and their mamas asking if they,

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dra. Blanca, ophthalmologist | Dr. Ivan, odontologist |
| Dra. Jania, pediatrician | Dra. Irma, pediatric odontologist |
| Dr. Bartolo, neurologist | |

too, could go to the dentist. These are children from extremely poor families who have never seen a doctor or a dentist in their lives. Many have terrible dental problems. Some have vision problems, and others need to see the pediatrician.

We want you to know how very much we appreciate your gifts and your prayers. Every penny donated goes directly to pay for doctor and dentist bills and prescriptions for the kids. Some children require very expensive and specialized care that they would otherwise not be able to have. We cannot change the world. We cannot change Mexico. But we can relieve the pain and suffering of one little child at a time. I wish you could see how these kids LOVE the dentist...and I wish you could see the expression on the face of a mother who is so touched that someone cares about her child.

We operate on a very tight budget every month, and we would love to be able to help more children. Whenever you are able to help the Foundation, it will be very much appreciated. Thank you for your help and prayers,

Charlie and the kids: *Chucho, Rafael, Miguel, Rosalina, Sahir, Chuchi, Jose, Maria, Juan Jose, Zaira, Mayra, Maricella, Jose Guadalupe, Pablo, Areceli, Maria Guadalupe, Ivan, Marbella, Victor, Coral, Arleny, Thania, Gabriel, Edna, Lorena, Rodolfo, Manuel, Noberto, Mia, Luis, Uriel, Vanesa, Gustavo, Jonathan, Sandra, Rey David, Iris, Yamileth, Jesus Alberto, Xavier, Jose Antonio, and Lourdes.*



Mary Gilson



Doug Thomas

Prayer Shawl Ministry Changes

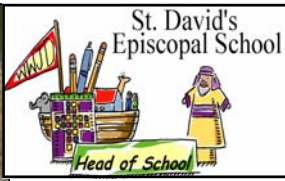
By Mary Gilson

It has been a blessing and a privilege to be part of the St David's Prayer Shawl Ministry. Since the inception of the St. David's Prayer Shawl Ministry, we have given 180 prayer shawls. However, I think we probably have given slightly more than that because sometimes we forget to record the gift.

We have many members who meet with us on the 4th Sunday of every month and some who are unable to meet with us but continue the ministry in their homes. We have had several young people express an interest in learning how to knit/crochet, and we are helping them to learn this ancient craft so that they can pass it on to future generations. We have tried to make our ministry visible. You will see our brightly colored yarn spilling from our bags and needles clicking at every parish meeting and event.

It is such a personal ministry, for me. When I give a prayer shawl, I explain to the recipient the meaning of the prayer shawl, and then I always say a special prayer as I wrap the shawl around their shoulders or lay it across their laps. I hope that it has great meaning for the person receiving the prayer shawl. For me, it is an awesome experience. I try to explain that a prayer is said at the beginning of the process as well as at the end and that with every twist of the yarn and every stitch that is taken, a prayer is said. Then we ask that the prayer shawl be blessed. As I look at this completed prayer shawl and wrap it around someone's shoulders, I can see the prayers moving around and through each stitch. Each piece of yarn in that shawl and those prayers are providing warmth and comfort to the wearer and, hopefully, giving them some peace in the knowledge that God loves and cares for them.

It is my fervent belief that no one should be "in charge" of any group or organization for life. I believe that after 2 years, that position should be passed on to new and fresh eyes, and energy. Thus I have passed on my "in charge" status to Doug Thomas. Doug has kindly agreed to be the "leader" of the group for the next 2 years.



Ashley Miles

The beginning of fall has been a busy time at St. David's Episcopal School. Students enjoyed the Blessing-of-the-Stuffed-Animals Service in chapel when each child brought his or her favorite stuffed animal for Father James to bless. Our annual Nursery Rhyme Olympics Event had children climbing up hills to fetch pails of water and jumping over candlesticks while reciting nursery rhymes!



St. David's School Pet Blessing

In the classrooms, students enjoy learning about the changing of the season, how to determine and predict the upcoming weather changes. Different kinds of apples have been counted, tasted, graphed, and integrated into art projects.

The 2009 Fall Fling was a grand success! Thanks to our co-chairs Rhonda Needham and Melissa Pritchard for their leadership, to the school staff, our parents, and St. David's parish members for their support. A good time was had by all! *(Continued in next column.)*



St. David's School Fall Fling 2009

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Sally Foster sales brought in over \$2500 for St. David's School. This money will support students' learning through teacher staff development and the purchase of classroom resources. Again, thank you for your support of this fundraiser.

Our students are busily preparing costumes for the Spooky Parade. Please join us October 30th at 11:00 am for quite a spooky sight! Halloween tamales are for sale through the school office. Please contact Bonnie Babbitt if you are interested in purchasing tamales.

Staff members will travel to Houston in early November for the annual Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools Conference for an amazing staff development opportunity. Our teachers are afforded this experience due to the generous help of our supporters. As always, thank you for your support and please keep our school in your prayers.

Thanks

By Murray Mux

Our Central American Children's Ministry

thanks all those who through their participation, donations and prayers supported our Silent Auction and Raffle fundraiser.



Your continued generous support and prayers allow us to continue our work with the children in Siguatepeque, Honduras and Comalapa, Guatemala.

St. David's now has a Facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com and search for St Davids Episcopalchurch. You can see the weekly Enews on that page.

Attention Ministries: **Outreach Market** will take place on the first two Sundays of Advent (11/29 & 12/6). If your ministry would like to sell an item to help with funding, please contact Jerry Kirkpatrick in the church office at 824-2481. We are planning now!



Michael Koehler



Seminary News from the Koehlers

From the Mountain

As the first half of our first half of our first of three years winds up this week, the Koehler's have taken a step back to reflect on the whirlwind of change that has been the last 6 months. The best we can describe it is "organized chaos!" We have a new baby, now 5 months old. We are in a new city. We are in a new house. We are meeting new people. We are adjusting to new occupations and a new pace of life. Change abounds in nearly every aspect of our lives.

We are happy here on "The Domain" of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. It is different. The closest full grocery store is 30 minutes down the mountain, and there is not a decent flour tortilla within 1000 miles of us! But it is wonderful. We find ourselves amongst many amazing families, all in the same situation, adjusting to new surroundings and lifestyles.

We find great comfort in the community of fellow sojourners as we all miss our friends and families we left back home.

Kenny is happy, healthy and growing by leaps and bounds! He helps me study Greek-mostly by trying to put my flash cards in his mouth. He has become a welcomed visitor around the seminary, as he flashes his grin around campus. Erin is busy taking care of Kenny, singing in the seminary choir, substituting at the Parents' Morning Out Program, and actively participating in the Spouses-of-the-Seminary offerings.



The course work is both challenging and interesting. Early Church History, New Testament Greek, Spirituality for Ministry, Old Testament Foundations, and Creeds are the classes I am taking this *(Continued in next column.)*

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semester. All good stuff!

God is VERY good, and His presence here is felt in amazing ways. I will say that it has become very apparent to us how blessed we are to be sent here from the Diocese of West Texas. The support we receive from our diocese, our bishops, and our sponsoring parishes is second to none. I pray thanksgiving for you every morning at Morning Prayer. We humbly ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers. They are welcomed, needed, and felt as we adjust more each day to our new calling and environment.

Blessings,
Michael, Erin and Kenny Koehler



Jacki Bucci

Christmas Dinners for Good Samaritan Community Services

If you feel the chill in the air and are beginning to feel the Christmas spirit, the Women of Worth prayer group would like to help you to remember the great way it feels to provide Christmas dinner for a family.

This year the need for food is so great that they have asked David's to contribute only Christmas dinners, no gifts. We have been asked to donate 150 bags of food. We have the shopping list and will provide HEB shopping bags for you to fill.

If you don't want to shop, we will shop for you. Simply make out a check to St. David's and mark it for the Christmas dinners. We shop, they eat and you get to enjoy the feeling of blessing a family on Christmas.

For more information, contact Jacki Bucci at 824-2481.

Insight from my Recent Travels



Sarah
Cozad



I know “change” can be a scary word. Despite the fear of change, it is happening all around us every day, whether we embrace it or not.

Our whole world revolves around change. Every day is a new day, different from the days before. Every child grows up and does not simply stay the same. Relationships change. My relationship with God now is not the same as when I was in high school. Your relationship with your child is not the same as when he or she was five years old. Technology changes. Go into an Apple store this week and you will find something incredible; go into an Apple store next week and you won’t believe the difference you will find. We can not stop change.

As a church, as a family, as parents, as persons in society, we can not get stuck. The next generation of adults is close at hand. We have an opportunity to reach this rapidly changing generation of teens. Current and so called “new” assumptions do not stay correct forever. You can not play a record in a CD player. I have forgotten what a record player looks like now. When we are open to change, we keep teens moving towards our mission. When we frequently make updates, it keeps them coming and understanding our mission, which is to deepen their relationship with God, to keep them in the faith and help them understand faith.

Some things will never change: Jesus being God’s Son, worshipping together on the Sabbath and God’s truth in the Bible. Some things can change: how we worship, what time we worship, the building where we worship or the manner in which we worship. These are just examples.

Relevance is the issue. How do we connect timeless ideas and core truths to our youths’ lives? Jesus is relevant; the way He is sometimes presented is not. Jesus came to earth in a radical manner, confronting an irrelevant system. The laws and rules the Pharisees followed were outdated and did not fit the times. The times were changing. God knew it, so he sent His Son. *(Continued in next column.)*

(Continue from previous column.) Think about your family, your children, your parents, your friends and your neighbors. Is our current system in which we are portraying how to live a life like Christ working? Is it sticking? Is it too comfortable? Is it relevant?

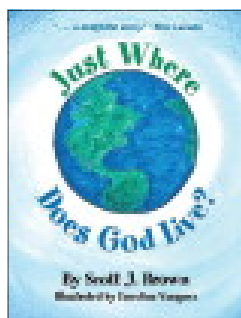


And it is not only about your family or your children or your grandchildren. If we have this inward approach, we are not doing our job as a church or a village. It is about ministering to all youth, families and individu-

als. It takes all generations to minister to the next generation. What are we doing to minister to the next generation? We all need to recognize the change and do our part to make the truth relevant. Are you doing your part?

What a Perfect Christmas Gift!

*Reviewed by Karen Sebesta,
Librarian for Children and Teens
San Antonio Public Library*



If you have ever heard a child ask *Just Where Does God Live?* and found yourself struggling with exactly the right words for young ears, you will find them in this delightful picture book with text by The Rev. Scott J. Brown (yes, *that* Scott J. Brown) and illustrations by Enedina Vasquez. In Scott’s book, this simple question is discussed by

Parker and Nate, two curious six-year-olds, who go on a mission to find the answer. They observe everything in their immediate world and try using logic to solve the mystery. When that fails, they query other people. But no answer seems quite right. Then they decide to go right to the source: they each ask God in their nighttime prayers to tell them where He lives. And the answer they get goes right to the heart of the matter, so to speak. This story-in-rhyme will not only solve the *Just Where Does God Live?* puzzle for children, it will undoubtedly create an “ah-hah” moment for adults as well. The illustrations are bright, bold and appealing, a perfect complement to the text. There is space at the end for children to write and draw their own responses to *Just Where Does God Live?* This first picture book by The Rev. Scott J. Brown and Enedina Vasquez is published by Wine-Press Publishing (2009).



**FROM THE
Assistant
Rector**



The Rev. Lisa Mason

masonlisap@sbcglobal.net

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?*

*⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God,*and crowned them with glory and honour.*

⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

Psalm 8:3-8

The Joy of Giving: Why do I give to God?

I give in response to the awesome reality and gratitude that all that I am, all that I do and all that I have is a gift from God. Nothing is mine alone or comes as a result of my own power. Nothing! So I give because of the enormous and deep joy and peace that rests deep within me as a result of giving out of the very core of all that I have been given. I need that joy and I need to give in order to even experience a taste of the abundant life that Christ desires for us just like I need to breathe in order to live. Why do I give to the Church?

I give to the church because I believe that
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we as the church are baptized into the Body of Christ; therefore, we are the living embodiments of Christ in the world. We are His hands, feet, eyes, and heart in the world. We have been blessed so that we may be blessings to others, and we are a people who have made a covenant with God to love each other as Christ loves us. We give in order that others might experience that love, and in return, we receive more life than we could ever imagine. I give to the church because people look to us with a deep hunger and longing in their soul, desperate to know that they are loved by God and by another human being. Sometimes that hunger and thirst is literal and of a physical nature, and we can provide food, water, clothing and shelter. At other times, that hunger and thirst are at a deeply spiritual level; a longing that can only be filled by the assurance that they are God's beloved and are worthy of respect and dignity. The Church is called by God to be that voice and that witness at all times and in all places.

I look forward to the time in our life together as a parish when we each write down our pledge for the year. It is a time when I am intentionally reminded of who I am and whose I am. It is a time that allows me the opportunity to examine the way I am living my life. Am I being a good steward? What can I and my family do differently in order to live into our Baptismal Covenant more fully? Am I fully living into a relationship with God that allows me to seek and serve Christ in all persons? Am I striving for justice and peace for all people, not just some of the people, and am I respecting the dignity of every human being? These are the types of hard but vital questions that I must honestly ask myself as I review how I am living into being a steward of all that God has given me and my family. I pray that we each enter this time of pledging prayerfully and reflectively.

In Christ's Love,
Lisa



Angel Tree for Special Adults

At Outreach Market beginning the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, there will be an Angel Tree for the Special Adults. They would love to be remembered at Christmas by the people of their church. They would like Wal Mart gift cards, and socks. They do a lot of bowling and need socks for that. We can do the shopping for you. For more information, contact Jacki Bucci at 824-2481.



Pat Bose

Grief and the Holidays Offered through Porter Loring Family Care Services

Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Light Supper at 5:30 pm
Presentation at 6:30 pm

The holidays are an especially hard time when grieving the loss of a loved one. The season renews memories, family ties and traditions. We become painfully aware that our special loved one is no longer present. This is often difficult for families. The pain of the loss is confused with the spirit of the season. Grief and the Holidays is a workshop designed to help those who are grieving and their families to better understand the grief process, how it affects us during the holiday and how we can use this special time to continue to heal.

Contact Pat Bose at 824-2481 if you are interested in attending.

How am I going to face the holidays and handle all those first times?

What are some things that I can do to eliminate unnecessary stresses?

Do I even want to attend social gatherings?

How do I develop a game plan or maybe even a game face just to get through.

Photos by Vicente Amos



Episcopal School Sunday

Parish Retreat 2009



What's happening at St. David's?