



THE STAR

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SERVING GOD
AND NEIGHBOR...

COMPASSIONATE

TRANSFORMING

EMPOWERING

REACHING OUT

COMMUNITY

November 2010

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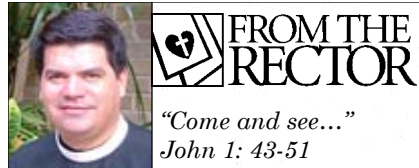
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Have you heard we're **Growing The Tradition?**

For over a decade, the Vestry of St. David's Church and the School Board of St. David's School have had ongoing discussions about the condition of Jackson Hall. The compromised foundation and deteriorated condition of a building that has more than served its time are now demanding action.

About a year ago, an anonymous donation of \$25,000 was made to begin the vision of rebuilding Jackson Hall. The process began with the selection of an architect who would put our vision down on paper. After interviewing several local architects, Lyndsay Thorne of Thorne and Graves was selected. He created the above building plans.

A capital campaign committee was then formed, comprised of parish members, church and school leadership, vestry and school board members. The committee interviewed several campaign consultants and chose Sue Fornabai from the National Episcopal Foundation to lead us through this process. "**Growing The Tradition**" was selected as the title for our project as it honors the rich tradition of our church and school, while also looking towards the future.

The Discernment phase of our project has begun. During this time, we are working to get information out to all interested persons about **Growing The Tradition** and to invite opinions, suggestions, and ideas. Two informational meetings were held in September and October during which all parish members and school parents were encouraged to listen to the architect describe his plans and share their thoughts. Additional informational meetings will be held in the Motor Movement room of Jackson Hall.

The next phase of our project, the Feasibility Phase, will begin in late January. During this time, a survey will be offered to all parish members, school parents, alumnae, and friends of St. David's Church and School. The survey will provide the committee with information about both positive and negative aspects of the building project, a realistic amount of money that could be raised, and a list of potential donors. By early spring, the results of the Feasibility study will be presented to the **Growing The Tradition** committee. The committee will then decide how best to move forward with launching the formal Capital Campaign.

We invite you to be a part of this exciting new vision in the history of St. David's Church and School. Please join us in **Growing The Tradition**.





FROM THE

Assistant
Rector

The Rev. Lisa Mason



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Searching my Heart

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 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, His feet, His eyes, and His 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 where I intentionally remember 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

The Daughters of the King will meet on Thursday, Oct. 28, 2010. Continuing our study of the sacraments, Fr. James will speak on Unction (and All Saints Day) and Enedina Vasquez will present a display and program on the "Day of the Dead".

10:00 a.m. Refreshments/Gathering

10:30 a.m. program followed by business meeting

12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing service in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.



The evening meeting of the Daughters will be on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 with the Rev. Mary Earle, presenter, as we meet for prayer and meditation. All women are invited, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thanks, Barbara Stone

Sarah Kates
Director of Children & Youth Ministries
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All Saint's Day: Remembering the saints in your life, both living and deceased.

This has recently become my favorite Sunday service. I remember my mom telling me as a child that this was her favorite Sunday because she always thought about her Dad, who died when she was 16. We would stand next to each other in church on All Saint's Day singing, "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" holding hands, with tears in her eyes. I remember those days like they were yesterday. Now, it is my turn to sing hymns about saints and heaven and remember my mother, the saint in my life.

We are having an All Saints' Day Celebration on Sunday, November 7, 2010 at the 10:30am service here at St. David's. There will be an opportunity for you to remember the saints in your life both living and deceased, by writing a favorite verse, quote or message about them. We would also like to encourage you to write the story of your life and include your saints' impact on your journey. These mementos and stories will make up an alter for all to see. Bring your stories with you to church on Oct 31st or Nov 7th. There will also be supplies available in the McAllister Hall that you can use during that week. We will sing, remember and celebrate our saints' lives on Nov 7th. To top it all off, there will be breakfast tacos that Sunday also.

Prior to the Sunday service, on Monday November 1, 2010 (actual All Saint's Day), there will be a short All Saints service at 7:30pm in the transept by the columbarium.

The saints in our lives add meaning and magnitude to our stories; they make up who we are. They are a significant part of our life here on this earth, even though, some are in heaven.

Upcoming Events for Youth:

Youth Bake Sale - Sunday, October 31

Spurs game & Lock In for Junior High Youth, Saturday, November 6, 2010

Equipped: Learning to sow the kingdom with abandon

- November 13, 2010, 9am-9pm @ St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- Come join us for a full day of learning how to impact the world! We will be discussing how to better serve our community through games, worship, small groups, AND going out and participating in the world around us. It will be a full day of learning through experience and fun! This one day retreat is for Junior High and Senior High youth. You can register starting Oct 20th at www.stlukes-sa.net.

Christmas Pageant is Sunday, Dec 12th. I need volunteers to act, help direct, and get costumes organized. Find me and let me know if you are interested. It's going to be a dramatic performance this year. Joy to the world!



THE GAP GROUP!
4TH & 5TH GRADERS
ALL ARE WELCOME !
(ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH)

~ 2010 ~
ALL 4TH & 5TH GRADERS PLEASE JOIN US IN THE EYC LOFT FOR "GAP GROUP" AFTER THE 10:30 CHURCH SERVICE

Pizza & Movie
Sunday, November 7th
11:45 to 1:45

PARENTS: PLEASE PICK UP YOUR CHILDREN ON THE SIDE OF THE CHURCH BY THE CHURCH OFFICE / 901 CANTERBURY HILL
QUESTIONS CALL LAURA NELSON
950-2725 HOME / 241-3368 CBL

The Youth Group is making Hot Cocoa to sell at the Outreach Market, Nov 28 & Dec 5.

Please help by donating Cocoa Mix Ingredients:

Quart size empty mason jars
Pint size empty mason jars
Coffee mate
Sugar

Chocolate Nesquick
Dry milk powder
Red hots

St. David's
Roving Reporter
Ethel Porter



A Tree of Remembrance

I see two trees from one of my apartment windows. They are crooked; gnarly; sturdy; and, silent in their mute pronouncement of strength. Daily, they provide a backdrop for self-reflection and meditation. Those trees, more than likely, will have a measured lifespan beyond my appointed time on this earth. The poet/journalist, Joyce Kilmer, understood the symbolism of a tree when he penned the poem, *Trees*. He declared in the final stanza, "...only God can make a tree." An author of a Psalm wrote (Psalm 1:1) that those who walk in godly paths are as trees planted by rivers of waters whose leaves do not wither. From the perspective of Christians, a Roman-made wooden cross, hewn two millennia ago, evokes an image of suffering and, commensurately, a symbol of abundant Grace. On a recent Sunday summer evening at Camp Capers, a tree became a metaphor for remembrance for a mother of a slain Marine.

Alice Babine chose Camp Capers as the venue for a tree planting ceremony in honor of her son, Travis. Campers, friends and family memorialized Travis on June 6, coincidentally; the date of what would have been his 21st birthday, in a Liturgy led by Assistant Rector, Lisa Mason. Participants sang, *Amazing Grace, I Can Only Imagine*, and *Better is One Day*, and Alice likely remembered Travis' fun-filled and faith-developing summers at Camp Capers. While serving in western Afghanistan, twenty-year old Marine Lance Cpl. Travis Thornton Babine died on August 6 last year when an IED struck the armored vehicle in which he was traveling. A man of constant faith, a voracious reader, Travis found time amidst the chaos of the Afghan war theatre to be a lay reader in his unit. When the military returned Travis' body to San Antonio, hundreds paid homage. In the open space of Camp Capers, dozens remembered a precious life.



Recently, I met Travis' Gold Star mother. She has a kind face, a mother's face. I asked her about her motivation to plant a tree in honor of her son. Why a tree planted with sand from Afghanistan's Farah province, and a tree under which the dirt is mixed with small things that she and her daughter selected from her son's life that were emblematic of his favorite pastimes? Why plant this force of nature at Camp Capers? She responded after a brief moment of reflection that the Burr Oak tree symbolized her son's strength and ongoing life. She told me about his stubborn refusal to attend Camp Capers after her persistent requests that he do so; his final acceptance to go to the Camp in his high school sophomore year; and, his love for the Camp for three subsequent summers. I learned about his determination to become an enlisted Marine before attending college because he was convinced that the experiences of an embattled Marine are the seeds for a commissioned Marine officer. She related the incident in which Travis fervently sought chaplaincy certification to become a unit lay reader scant days before his deployment. Within an hour of my meeting Travis' mother, I became among the privileged many who respected Travis' decision to join the United States Marine Corp because he wanted to do something, as his mother told me, harder than he had ever done before. For him, the Marine Corp tested his mettle, national dedication and physical strength.

Only through God's Grace, can we experience a few precious occasions in our lives when we internalize the innate meaning of scriptures. Through discipline and habit, we read the Holy books, recite the creeds, ponder them and, perhaps on some days, say to ourselves, Eureka! I get it. However, Travis took a particular scripture to heart and anchored his transition from youth to manhood by invoking Isaiah 6:8 as the reason for his compulsion to join the Marines. On the plaque mounted at the tree at Camp Capers is the verse: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" In considering this verse, Travis made me look within my soul. I have read many times the canonized Book of Isaiah. I will confess that I have not internalized it in the context of modern circumstances. However, Travis did. In thinking about his valor, I find myself asking the question: "Lord, where do you want **me** to go in your created world? What do you want **me** to do for those whom you created?"

(continued on back)

A Tree of Remembrance *(continued)*

God touches the hearts of many and through the miracle of His Grace; a few of us experience a one-on-one spiritual conversation in which we hear His Voice. He gives each of us a portfolio for specific duty. He asks us, as He did Peter: "Do you truly love me? Then take care of my sheep". Travis loved his family, his Lord, and his country.

For Travis' family and friends, the tree at Camp Capers is a tree of remembrance. When I see it, it may propel me to draw nearer to my neighbor and celebrate the liberties of the country in which I live.

Thank you, Travis, for the expectation of a singular blessing when I go again to Camp Capers.



Fall 2010 Parish Retreat At Camp Capers



Advent: a time to prepare!



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Who are we preparing for? How are we preparing?

We are preparing for the birth of a king, a king who has, is, and will change the world forever! A king who does not rule with power or great wealth, but rather a king who dwells in us and among us with a loving and humble heart. We are preparing for the Son of God, God made man by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of Mary. The God who has created us, loves us, is sending His only Son into the world to show us the way, the way that God desires for us to live with one another. We are preparing a place in a stable for a baby who brings forth light in to a dark world, hope in the midst of self absorbed chaos.

We are preparing to enter the season of Advent. The birth of the Christ child is too big to experience all at once; it takes preparation! This gift from God requires us to slow down and remember who we are as people of God. During Advent, we are called to prepare our hearts to receive Christ, which means letting our hearts be transformed by grace, gratitude, and humility. God is giving us the gift of His Son, God made man dwelling and walking among us, showing us and teaching us how to love one another. We need to be alert, be waiting with listening ears and an open heart to receive this gift. How do we prepare? For me, I take on a different prayer discipline during this season. I start by inviting God to help me be still and to be present first thing each and every morning praying that I can be alert and ready for the birth of Christ. I also pray each morning not to let the rush imposed upon us through commercials and advertisements get to me during this season. Christmas is not about the quantity of what we spend, but whom and how we spend our time and resources. I usually take on a seasonal devotional book or other Advent readings. I repeatedly read through the scriptures appointed for Advent each year so that I am attuned to God at work within me during this time of year leading up to Christmas. Another spiritual exercise I invite you to try is to spend the time after you arrive at church and have made your way to your seat in the pew praying that God will help you slow down, quiet your mind, and help you be present to the worship that particular morning and all that God has in store for you that day. For me, this time of year also includes remembering the Christmases of years past which helped form me in my life including remembering those I love but see no longer. If I do not do this work of preparation, I find myself surprised, discombobulated, and not truly ready to receive the gift of my Lord and Savior.

I invite you to slow down and just be with God during the season of Advent. Christmas will come, and let us be truly ready in our hearts. If you are searching for a new way to prepare during this season or have questions about how to experience Advent, let's talk!
Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

Lisa+

Congratulations to St. David's School and the Fall Fling Committee.

This year, the Fall Fling raised \$6600 for the school, as well as provided a great time for all!!





Note these Dates

Sunday, October 31	Youth Bake Sale
Monday, November 1	All Saint's Day Service
Wednesday, November 3	1st Wednesday Bible Study; chapel at 5:30, dinner at 6:00, study at 6:30
Sunday, November 7	All Saint's Day Daylight Savings Time, "fall back"
Tuesday, November 9	Growing the Tradition informational meeting 6:00-7:00 pm in the Motor Movement Room
Tuesday, November 9	Burn Your Own Steak at 6:30
Thursday, November 11	Growing the Tradition informational meeting at 8:45 in the Motor Movement Room
Thursday, November 11	Lifeline Screening in McAllister Hall
Friday, November 12	St. David's School day at Kiddie Park on Broadway (10% of the proceeds go to the school)
Sunday, November 14	Pledge Sunday
Sunday, November 28	Outreach Market and Advent Wreath making
Sunday, December 5	Outreach Market, Gingerbread House Making, and St. Nicholas Day



Outreach Market is coming!

This year's Outreach Market will be on the first two Sundays of Advent, November 28 and December 5, in McAllister Hall. If your ministry would like to sell an item to help with funding, please call the church office at 824-2481. We are planning now!



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

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; our proof-reader, Jean Bevans; and our own special mail carrier, Victor Mux. Thank you for your faithful ministry.

ST. DAVID'S VESTRY is our elected governing board of lay people who, along with our rector, The Rev. James R. Murguia, promote the spiritual welfare of church members.

Officers:

Senior Warden	<i>Patsy McGaughy</i>
Junior Warden	<i>Victor Mux</i>
Treasurer	<i>Frank Davis</i>
Clerk	<i>Catherine Harper</i>

Members: John Amos, Brian Babbitt, Mikel Brightman, Rena DuBose, Jill Fitch, Carol Hester, Don Mills, Steven Mitchell, Pat Patterson, Joy Pierce, Tim Woodall and Thad Ziegler