



THE STAR

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SERVING GOD
AND NEIGHBOR...

COMPASSIONATE

TRANSFORMING

EMPOWERING

REACHING OUT

COMMUNITY

October 2009

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Murray & Victor Mux

This Is Honduras

June 2008 on our way up and down bumpy little roads in the hills of Honduras, squeezed together, laughing and talking, in a van meant for nine, were Don Palacios (of the Honduras Education Ministry), our

driver Mario, his 10-year old son Roberto, the priest's daughter Tara, nine missionaries from St. David's, duffle bags full of books, school supplies, items for newborn babies, teacher supplies and sports equipment. We were heading for The School in the Clouds—so named by Brianna the first time she saw it—because it stands alone on a beautiful hill overlooking a lush, fertile valley, seeming, almost, to touch the clouds.

Before leaving Siguatepeque, we'd stopped at a local store to purchase several bags and arm loads of foodstuffs: beans, rice, salt, sugar, cheese, eggs, lard and matches for a very poor family (a couple and their nine children—6 girls and a set of triplets—who lived in a tiny ramshackle house right next to the road that led to the school). The fence between the house and the road was made of wobbly branches stuck into the ground and wrapped with barbed wire.

We pulled to a stop and the woman cautiously stepped out of her house with the children slipping out after her. They stopped short at the sight of us. Don Palacios explained who we were; we quietly fitted the children with flip flops

and gave their mother the groceries. She kept her children close to her the whole time we were there; she never smiled; she barely said a word. We were quiet and a little uncomfortable as we drove off up the road to The School in the Clouds where we happily re-established our relationship with the teacher and her students.



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Fast forward to June 2009: we're on our way again, bumping along in the crowded van on our way to The School in the Clouds. We passed the now vacant little ramshackle house we'd visited in '08. We arrived at the school, got out of the van and were surrounded by happy, laughing children. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a pretty, smiling woman rushing toward me. We looked at each other and smiled: I, a little tentatively. She threw her arms around my neck and gave me a big hug that said, "I remember you. I remember what you and your friends did for my family, and I am so happy to see you." It was the mother from last year.

She took some of us to her "new" ramshackle house; we sat on her porch and talked to her and her children. We gave her bags of food we had bought and some clothes, shoes, school supplies and books for the family. We took pictures and laughed at how we looked. It was one very special moment out of one very special week. This is Honduras.

Healing



Sarah
Cozad



But we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5

Why does suffering scare us? It hurts and it is painful. We take roads to avoid it. We learn to bear it or we learn to ignore it. We worry about possible suffering. We worry about our children suffering. We pray for those who suffer in our daily prayers and in community prayers. Suffering is a human characteristic. We can not escape it. It is real. Pain and suffering make us do crazy things, like become
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a workaholic. We are trying to fill that hole in our heart. Sometimes we don't realize how crazy we have become. Sometimes we dwell in suffering. It becomes a crutch or a habit. It becomes a part of who we are. We don't know how to live without it. Letting it go means moving on and we are not ready for that. At least we think we are not ready, but at some point, no matter how much we try, we realize we cannot live like this.

But suffering brings us closer to Christ. When we suffer, God draws us closer to Him when we let Him. The Holy Spirit was left on this earth to comfort and sustain us. Suffering can be good. Just think, the larger the hole in your heart, the more it can be filled with the Holy Spirit. Suffering causes us to surrender more of ourselves and depend on God. Share your emotions with God. Cry out to Him. It is humbling. You are made aware of the intimate relationship you can have with your creator. We have the freedom to choose God during suffering and to run to Him. God knows we suffer. He knows our life. Jesus is there to hold us and heal us everyday. So, boast in your suffering. Know that it will produce endurance and character and hope. Don't let your heart harden due to worldly things. Cry out to Jesus.

I struggle with letting my suffering go. Sometimes I want to hold on to it to control it. But my heart becomes flooded with pain and I know that only the Healer can take it away. Praise God for that understanding. After experiencing the healing that takes place after suffering, I am just not that scared anymore.

- September 21
- September 28
- October 5
- October 12 Columbus Day –
No Class
- October 19
- October 26
- November 2
- November 9
- November 16
- November 21
Thanksgiving Week– No Class
- November 30 final book
discussion Journey's End
- December 7 Angel Tree work
- December 14 Angel Tree work and
breakfast



Rhonda
Needham





The Rev. Lisa Mason

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“Come and See”

St David’s Annual Parish Retreat

October 9-11, 2009

Camp Capers

What does it mean to go on retreat and why would someone want to go?

When I think about going on a retreat I think of setting aside a period of time either by myself or with a group of others, in this case, my parish family, to intentionally focus on time with God and with each other. I think of a place away from my daily routine that includes being in nature, for time in creation feeds my soul.

There are many different types of retreat. The mental picture that comes to mind when one hears the word retreat covers a wide variety of images and concepts. I have actually been on a retreat with St David’s long before I was ever called to serve here as an ordained person. For me, it was a time of relaxing, spending time with God and with each other, a time of laughing, learning, singing, and being in nature away from technological entertainment such as computers, TVs and video games.

I value the opportunity to enter into conversations without running off to the next thing. What a peaceful thought! The idea of sitting down on the point at Camp Capers spending time soaking in God in the early autumn/late summer of the Hill Country sounds pretty heavenly! I look forward to playing games, flying kites, singing, going on a meditation walk by the river, and sharing meals with others.

I hope our retreat will be a time to deepen relationships with God and with each other and to pause and take a few deep breaths in the midst of the business that we let surround us in our daily lives. *Come and See!*



Men’s Burn Your Own Steak will be Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 pm. Bring your own meat and a side to share. For more information, contact Bruce Harsh at 824-2481.



St. David’s Pet Blessing
Sunday, October 4 at 3:00 pm

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!

Widow’s Lunch will be Tuesday, October 13th at 11:30 am at the Botanical Garden Restaurant. Please call Marty Lawrence at 824-2481 for more information.

Bakers and Sweet Eaters - Mark your calendars for each Sunday in November:

November Bake Sale

Proceeds to Benefit Church Bakeries in Southeast Mexico

Cookies, pies, cakes, breads, rolls and muffins

Five churches in the diocese have started small bakeries that have no running water or electricity. Please call Catherine Lillibridge or Beth and Tony Price at 824-2481 for more information.

Bakers are needed. Bring your goodies marked to sell between 8:00 am and 10:30 am any Sunday in November (there are 5 this year). Questions about baking? Please call Patsy McGaughy at 210-824-2481.



Donald Sebesta

Cowboy Music

After our last Country Western Service, September 13, I received several inquiries about our lead singer and instrumentalists.

Lead singer, Davi McKinnie, was baptised and confirmed at St. David's and is a member of our choir. She spends leisure time with her brother-in-law, Charlie Kuhnel, our bassist, perfecting her Amy Grant sound-alike voice.



Jim Manzo, our guest jazz trumpeter, is a middle school band director. Originally from New Jersey, he is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music.



Linda Greene, our percussionist, is multi-talented, a folk singer, dancer, and math professor at SAC.

Linda's association with St. David's goes back to 1975, when she was a (child) member of a liturgical dance group led by her mother, Susie, at the same time that her late father, Tom was a member of our choir.



The other instrumentalists, all members of St. David's were: Jim Kirkpatrick, baritone; Elizabeth Wolfe, trumpet; Steve Markelz, clarinet; Clay McGaughy, guitar; Malcolm Myler, harmonica; Jennie Winkle, flute; and Karen Sebesta, piano.

Two new songs, recently composed, were included in this year's service: "We Are the Church," and "Take It to the Lord in Prayer," composed by Jay Beech and John Helgen, both Lutheran folk musician-singers,

and alumnae of the famed St. Olaf's Choir.



Let everything that breathes, Praise the Lord!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

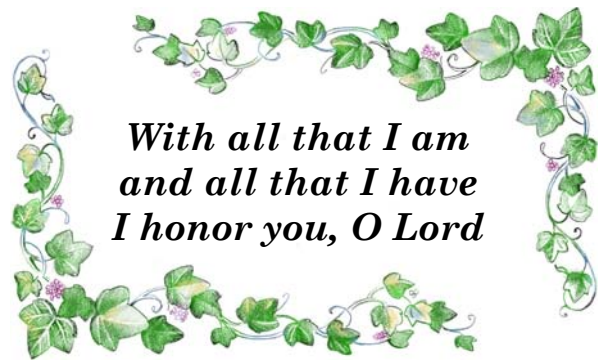


October Offerings

- Pet Blessing October 4
- Parish Retreat October 9,10,11
- Wednesday in October October 7, 14, 21, 28
- Stewardship Month

*"You are the vine,
We are the branches."*

John 15: 5



*With all that I am
and all that I have
I honor you, O Lord*

**WE MEET THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH
IN THE ST. DAVID'S CHURCH YOUTH LOFT FOR
LUNCH AND A MOVIE AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE !**

FROM 11:45 TO 1:45

9009 - 9010 PER /SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



THE GAP GROUP!

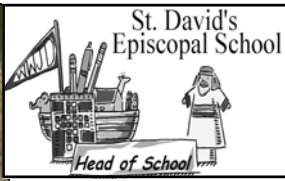
**4TH & 5TH GRADERS
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Laura Nelson



- JULY & AUG. (CANCELED / FOR SUMMER BREAK)
- SEPT, 6 \$, (CANCELED /FOR LABOR DAY)
- SEPT, 13 \$, (GAP SWIM PARTY AFTER COWBOY BBQ)
- OCT, 4 \$, (**GAP GROUP / BLESSING ANIMALS 3:00**)
- NOV, 1 \$, (GAP LUNCH / MOVIE)
- DEC, 6 \$, (**GAP CHRISTMAS PARTY**)
- JAN, (CANCELED / FOR WINTER BREAK)
- FEB, 7 \$, (**GAP SUPER BOWL PARTY LUNCH / MOVIE**)
- MARCH 7 \$, (GAP LUNCH / MOVIE)
- APRIL 4 \$, (CANCELED FOR EASTER SUNDAY)
- MAY 2 \$, (GAP LUNCH / MOVIE)
- JUNE 6 \$, (**GAP END OF SCHOOL YEAR SWIM PARTY**)
- JULY & AUG, (CANCELED / FOR SUMMER BREAK)

QUESTIONS LAURA NELSON (950- 57 23 11, 241-33 60 C,



Ashley Miles

School News

The 2009-2010 school year is off to a great beginning! St. David's Episcopal School is proud to have 146 wonderful students gracing our classrooms. Our fantastic teachers have enthusiastically welcomed these children and have great plans for them.

I am fortunate to welcome some new staff members to the St. David's School team. Bonnie Babbitt will serve as our new Administrative Assistant. Bonnie has hit the ground running and is already an integral member of our team.



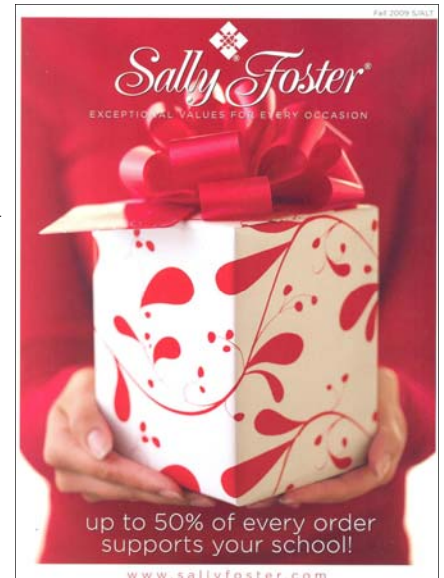
Jennifer Arnold is our new Music Teacher. Jennifer recently moved to San Antonio and has two children who attend our school.



Allyson Elrod joins the St. David's School staff as an Assistant Teacher. Ally recently graduated from Texas Tech and is doing a great job.



Our Sally Foster fundraiser has begun. Chair Kristie Harnisch will be glad to help you with any order. You can purchase your holiday wrapping paper, gifts, candy and more. 50% of the proceeds go straight back to our school!



Fall Fling 2009 is almost here! Mark your calendars for Friday, October 16th from 5:30-7:30pm. Co-chairs Rhonda Needham and Melissa Pritchard are planning a fantastic event filled with food, games, silly string, and the popular Wiggle Waggle train rides. I hope to see you there!



As always, I thank you for your support and ask for your continued prayers for the students and staff of St. David's Episcopal School. God bless you!



Fall Fling 2008

2009 Cowboy Sunday



Hats off to everyone who helped make our 20th Annual Cowboy Sunday a rompin', stompin' good time!

