



THE STAR

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SERVING GOD
AND NEIGHBOR...

COMPASSIONATE

TRANSFORMING

EMPOWERING

REACHING OUT

COMMUNITY

August 2009

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FROM THE

Assistant Rector



The Rev. Lisa Mason

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Thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to me and my husband, Kirk. Even though our sons, Rand and John, have not been able to be present with us in worship yet this summer, they have both been a part of the St. David's family in the past through the Youth Group and know that we are in good hands in a great place. Our family has attended St. David's periodically for years, long before we moved to San Antonio, and I did several Godly Play trainings here as well in the past, so I have known some of you for years. All of you have been wonderful about introducing yourselves to me and helping me get to know your faces, your names, and your stories. The warmth and hospitality I have received make me feel like I have been part of this parish family for a long time.

I hit the ground running on June 22 as your new Assistant Rector by participating as *Skeeter* in Vacation Bible School. What a great way to see children of all ages experience the love of God through worship, games, skits and music.....giggling and singing all the way. I also loved getting to watch the many volunteers from counselors to teachers, cooks, and decorators in action.



Photo by Tom Hawley



Photo by Lisa Mason

Immediately following VBS, I attended the beautiful wedding of Catherine Schweers and John Harper as the faith community gathered to celebrate with a family of the parish at this important milestone in their lives. I also arrived at St. David's in time to participate in the Annual Terrell Hills July 4th celebration; what a great tradition! I have enjoyed and appreciated getting to know some of our parishioners who can not be physically present with us on Sundays; they have powerful stories of

what it means to belong to this church family. In preparing for Celebration of Ministries scheduled for Sunday, August 23, I have been learning about all of the ministries in the life of St. David's such as Agape, Mission Road, Park Lane, and Community of Hope...plus many more! This is a parish who under
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stands what it means to seek and serve Christ in each other and those to whom Christ is not known.

As most of you know, the first two Sundays after my arrival, James and I were here together. Then, off he went to serve our diocese and the greater church at General Convention, then to Camp Capers and hopefully for some R&R in between. Several people have asked me, “How does it feel to be alone?” or, “Are you ready to be on your own?” My answer was and is a resounding, “I am not alone.” As Christians in a faith community, we are not called to ministry alone! This parish is a supportive community who ministers to each other. I have countless people to rely on and help guide me along the way from the amazing staff, to incredible parishioners. Plus, James was only an email or text away!



Photo by Will Kirkpatrick

In this first month of my ministry, I was blessed to baptize Dominic Samuel Blue. This was my first baptism as an ordained person; it was a beautiful and memorable experience. I look forward to leading my first Adult Christian Education Class in August, and everything else God has in store for me and my family in this parish! What an amazing community in which to serve the Lord, continue to be formed as an ordained person and share with all of you the ever adventurous journey of a life in Christ!

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21

**Christian
Formation**



John Brooke

A Four-Week Exploration of St. Paul and His Letter to the Romans

Beginning on September 6, John Brooke will facilitate an in-depth study of St. Paul and St. Paul's Letter to the Romans with the Adult Formation group.

Qualifying the Witness—The first session will be on the person of Paul: where he came from, his training, his philosophy, his vocation for persecution, his conversion and what he did thereafter.

What, Why, and How—His technique in writing the various letters, his purpose in writing this specific letter.

The Testimony—The letter to the Romans has been characterized as “Paul's Gospel.” During the following three Sundays, the group will go as far into Paul's gospel as time permits.

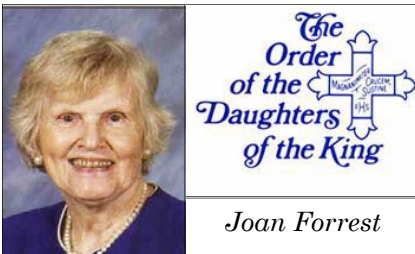
As always, this effort will be “structured free form” discussion where the bulk of what is learned is from the group. John sparks good conversation by posing questions. Anyone is welcome; this is not a closed group. You will not be subjected to a lecture. Our object is to learn while we have a good time. Come and join us!



For Good Samaritan
Community Services Center

Bring your cash donations to the church office and leave the shopping to Jacki Bucci and Rhonda Needham.

Help students start the year with the supplies they need.



St. David's Delegate to Daughters of the King National Meeting

I was thrilled to attend the Daughters of the King Triennial in Anaheim, California in July. It was amazing and very inspirational to be with over 450 Daughters and share in Holy Eucharist each day.

The variety of activities was astounding. The Glory Bound Singers from the Diocese of Texas led us in many wonderful hymns and songs. Bishop Bruno of Los Angeles welcomed us to his city. Bishop John Howe, our National Chaplain, gave great homilies using biblical scriptures as he spoke about the Holy Spirit in our lives and for several days, elaborated on spiritual gifts and fruits. Mary MacGregor from Houston gave inspirational sessions related to several personal testimonies of how the Holy Spirit has worked in her life. Hopes of amending our by-laws to be more inclusive to others failed to pass, so we will try again in 2012. A new national council was elected, and two fellow Texas Daughters will serve on it for the next three years.

A highlight was seeing numerous Junior Daughters who sang for us one night. Another highlight was seeing international Daughters from Kenya, Malawi and Dominican Republic who wore their native dress. I would encourage more Daughters from St. David's to go to the next national conference.

Widow's Lunch will be Tuesday, August 11, at 11:30 at the Barn Door Restaurant. Please call Beryl Cunningham at 824-2481 for more information.

Men's Burn Your Own Steak will be Tuesday, August 11, at 6:30 pm. Bring your own meat and a side to share. For more information, contact Bruce Harsh at 8248-2481.



Jeff King

Reflections of St. David's Youth

Some of the best experiences I have had throughout my years at St. David's have come through mission work. With our church, mission work is such a wonderful thing because it is easy to get involved. Whether it is going to New Orleans, Honduras, or Tennessee, there is always something in the works with respect to mission trips. I have been fortunate enough to travel to New Orleans twice and will be going to Honduras.

Each of the trips to New Orleans helped teach me about God. I learned what an impact a group of young people can have on a community. The first time we went to New Orleans, the church where we were working was trashed. There was mold everywhere, and the entire sanctuary had to be gutted. Our job was to get rid of the debris and paint the inside of the church. After leaving, it seemed like we had not done very much.

The second time I went back though, the entire church had been transformed into an amazing place whose goal is bettering the community around it. I realized that even though during our first trip it seemed like we did little, this work, combined with the work from many other groups was necessary for the end result. Through these trips, I was able to see the impact young people with the spirit of God can have throughout a community. Because of the combined efforts of our work, hundreds of individuals in New Orleans have received help in creating a better life for themselves and their families.

Going to Honduras in June, I am looking forward to what God has in store for me to learn there. Having the opportunity to travel with the intent of bettering people's lives has helped me gain a better understanding of the workings of God in other places and has planted a seed in me for mission work that will continue to grow for many years to come.



Donald Sebesta

Musical Notes

July and August are the months when the choir goes on vacation; however, the music does not stop. Special thanks go to: Jim Kirkpatrick and Maggie Fox for their presentation of Franck's *O Lord Most Holy* and Steve Markelz' solo, *My Lord of Light*, during the Eucharist on July 12: Doug Thomas for coming to the rescue when we needed a sound engineer: and Elizabeth Wolf for joining the summer choir in the loft.

These are also the months when we start recruiting new choir members for the fall season. Our choir is open to anyone who loves to sing. Rehearsals start up again in September and are held on Wednesdays from 7:30-9 pm. We sing each Sunday at the 10:30 service.

Anyone interested in singing but can not make a long-range commitment should consider a short-term commitment. We would be happy to accommodate busy and conflicting schedules.

Please call me at 824-2481 or e mail DMSEBESTA@aol.com, and I would be delighted to talk to you about our program.



Congratulations to Donald Sebesta, our Director of Music, who introduced his new book of hymns at the National Conference of the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada. The conference was held at St. Olaf's University, home of the famous St. Olaf's Choir.

The book, entitled Let All the People Praise You, O God, is a collection of 42 hymns. Donald wrote the music, and the text was by six contemporary poets. His wife, Karen contributed four poems to the collection which is published and marketed through Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc., Colfax, N.C.



Adult Education Sundays in August Led by The Rev. Lisa Mason

Can you hear Me now?

Listening to God's Call: Seasons of Life; Seasons of Ministry

How do we know (or discern) God's call in our lives?

Tools to help us hear, listen, and respond

Scripture, prayer, spiritual direction, discovering and using your spiritual gifts, affirmation of others

Answering God's call is a journey, not a one time event

Different ministries for different times in our lives
Times of transition in our lives
Ministries at St David's



Sunday, August 23
8:45 am in McAllister Hall

Breakfast honoring Beth Murguia's Children's Ministries and
Celebration of St. David's Ministries with Ministry Moments, games and displays

Sunday, September 13 Cowboy Sunday

Featuring The Rev. Don Lee
8:00 am Rite I
Holy Eucharist
10:15 am Musical Round-up
10:30 am Rite II
Holy Eucharist and Special Music
BBQ Lunch after 10:30 am service.



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 *Thille Newton*
Junior Warden *John Amos*
Treasurer *Bob Bucci*
Clerk *John Brooke*

Members: *Brian Babbitt, Frank Davis, Rena DuBose, Vicky Goebel, Patsy McGaughy, John McInerney, Steven Mitchell, Don Mills, Victor Mux, Joy Pierce and Catherine Schweers Harper.*



Photo by Michael Koehler



Photos by Will Kirkpatrick

Baptisms



Photos by Will Kirkpatrick