



THE STAR

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SERVING GOD
AND NEIGHBOR...

COMPASSIONATE

TRANSFORMING

EMPOWERING

REACHING OUT

COMMUNITY

July 2009



FROM THE
Assistant
Rector



The Rev. Kris Graunke

A Farewell from Kris

“And God placed all things under his feet and has made him to be head over all things for the church, which is his body; the fullness of him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1:23)

There are certain moments which stand out in our memories; moments when things suddenly crystallize, and we understand in a way we hadn't before. These are moments of insight and illumination, where we find ourselves saying, “Aha! I get it!”

One such moment for me happened while I was being trained as a deacon who was expected to cense the altar, chancel party and congregation during the Sunday service. During the offertory, the deacon is handed the thurible (the metal pot that holds the burning incense and which is swung on a long chain.) My instructor was the Rev. Stephen Gerth, the rector of the church which presented me for ordination. He went through all the mechanics of the censuring, and then he came to the “why” of the censuring. “We cense the congregation,” he told me, because they are the body of Christ. That's why the gospel is also read in the midst of the people.”

Every Sunday at St. David's, I've had the privilege of being a vehicle to help nourish the body of Christ. This is most clearly focused for me in the distribution of Holy Communion. “The body of Christ, the bread of heaven,” I say over and over at the communion rail, moving from one person to another. One pair of hands after another are lifted up to receive, all forming a “little Bethlehem.” Old hands held reverently; young little hands opened out awkwardly in wonder; all kinds of hands. Some come carrying burdens and weighed down. Some come in the midst of distractions and concerns. Some come eagerly; some hesitantly. All these come with uplifted hands and all receive. The hands become a manger; the hearts a throne. All are reminded that we are nourished again for what we already are, the body of Christ.

The name “Bethlehem” means literally “house of sustenance.” Bethlehem is situated at the heart of the grain growing area of ancient Israel. Remember Ruth and the barley harvest? Ruth was a direct ancestor of King David, who came from Bethlehem. And of course, part of our Christian belief is that Jesus, *(Continued on next page.)*



*Breakfast honoring Kris.
Photo by Will Kirkpatrick*

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(Continued from previous page.) “son of David,” was the promised messiah. “Christ” is the Greek word for “messiah” and both mean “anointed.” David was anointed when he was chosen as Israel’s king, and he received the Holy Spirit. Jesus, we are told, had the Holy Spirit descend on him at his baptism, and he had the Holy Spirit descend on his apostles at Pentecost. He continues to send us the Holy Spirit to enable us to accomplish his will in the world.

The congregation is sent out, week after week, to be a vehicle to bring Christ to the world. I am awed by the simplicity of this miracle, week after week. Jesus continues to “feed the multitudes” through you and me, through his body in the world.

It has been a privilege for me to be a part of the body of Christ at St. David’s this past year. I thank you all for your many kindnesses to me, and I thank your rector, Fr. James, for giving me the opportunity to serve here. Please know that you have blessed and nourished me as well in this life we share together through Christ our Lord.



Susan Willcox

EfM Retreat Celebrates a Year of Study

The Education for Ministry group finished another exciting year with its annual retreat in the hill country. We relaxed, ate great food, and of course laughed a lot. We also managed to squeeze in many intriguing theological discussions.

Comments summing up EfM from this year’s group include:

“EfM has let me make God and Christ the foundation upon which my life rests.”

“EfM has helped me find a path to a real relationship with God and has given me tools to grow my faith.”

“Based on my first year in EfM, I’d say it’s cathartic, inspiring, stimulating, interesting even. The people are great. Plus, you learn some things you never would anywhere else!”

“A profound shift that has occurred within me as a result of the study in EfM was a surprise. And that after only the first year...!”

“I truly feel blessed to have been in this year’s class. As a group we all grew in our knowledge,

(Continued from previous column.)

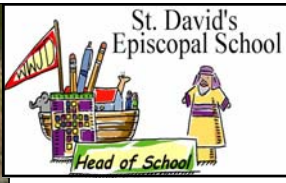
understanding, spirituality and sense of community. It was a year filled with tears, joys, sorrows, laughter and learning; all of which contributed to the warm bond that we formed and that helped us grow in our love and caring for one another, our church and our community...I am so looking forward to next year, I can hardly wait.”

EfM is a four year course in theological education written and overseen by the School of Theology of the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. Students commit to one year at a time, studying materials provided. Our group meets on Wednesday nights as a seminar to discuss the readings and do theological reflection. The course is designed to be a general study of Christian tradition and theology, not an in-depth Bible study.

This year we have had years one, two, and three represented. Next year, we will have students in all four years. This format allows everyone to learn from each other, review for some and preview for others. The goal of EfM is to provide a sound basis for a personal theology, so that each person may minister to others more effectively and purposefully wherever they may find themselves in life.

We are now enrolling students for next year, which starts on August 12th. Registration ends July 15th. For more information, call Susan Willcox or Carol Andrews, EfM mentor, at 824-2481.

(Continued in next column.)



Ashley Miles

The School Year Ends and A New Project Begins

I am excited to share with you an opportunity to commemorate St. David's Episcopal School. Our School Board has begun our first annual 'Brick Project'- a fundraising opportunity for students, parents, church, and community members to purchase a brick to be placed in the St. David's Episcopal School courtyard. The bricks purchased can be inscribed with a loved one's name or short message.

Proceeds from the Brick Project will support St. David's Episcopal School's mission "To Love God, love learning, and love our neighbor" by providing for the students of our school.

A Brick Project order form is available in the church office. Should you choose to purchase a brick, please return the completed form and payment to:

**St. David's Episcopal School
Attn: Brick Project
1300 Wiltshire Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78209**



The deadline for purchase of a brick that will be installed before school begins in August is July 31, 2009. Thank you for supporting our wonderful students and school.



Father James talks to St. David's School children at the final chapel of the 2009 school year.



**Diocesan Conference,
Abide With Me,
Has 460 Attendees**

Parishioners from many congregations came together and shared expertise in different areas, and many St. David's folks took advantage of the opportunity. Rena DuBose particularly liked being with people concerned with children of the church. Sharon Hicks enjoyed Bishop's Reed's session about small groups. Charlotte Phillips thought it was a great day of worship, sharing and education. She particularly appreciated the opportunity to reflect on how to put the words into action after each talk. All felt that it was a long day, but very much worth it.



**Editor's
Corner**

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**The *Enews* Has a New Look
The *Star* Newsletter is the Same**

St. David's *Enews*, an electronic newsletter, is sent every Friday and is the fastest way to get St. David's news. It has a new look and format with news and photos. If you are not receiving the *Enews*, please send your email address to jerry-kirkpatrick@sbcglobal.net.

The *Star* newsletter is mailed once a month on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Please send articles for the next *Star* to Jerry in the church office by Wednesday, July 15. This issue will go in the mail on Tuesday, July 28.



Photos by Will Kirkpatrick

A Warm Welcome on Guest Sunday

June 7, Guest Sunday at St. David's, was a day of warm welcome and good food. Frank Schweers and our friendly ushers gave out eleven guest bags. One item in the Gguest bags is a jar of Divine Rice prepared by Patsy McGaughy. There were great snacks provided by the Newcomers Team. Malcolm Myler popped savory popcorn. The day ended with a BBQ in honor of newcomers to St. David's hosted by the Murguia family, the Newcomers Team and the Vestry. Thanks to everyone who invited a guest and thanks to newcomers who graced us with their presence.





St. David's Exceptional Adults 2009



Frances Welgs receives her bowling medal.



Suzan Reagor, ministry leader, receives her bowling medal.

Exceptional Adults Receive Bowling Awards



Mark Thomas, Sharon Hicks and Betty Tondre cook and serve delicious BBQ.

The End-of-the-Year Exceptional Adult Banquet was full of fellowship, fun and good food cooked by the wonderful Mark Thomas.

The highlight was the bowling ribbon ceremony with master of ceremonies, Mike Rytell. Everyone celebrated their personal-best bowling score. Suzan Reagor, ministry leader, says that her personal goal for the year is to at least break 100!

Bowling will resume again on September 14. Please come and take part in this awesome fellowship. Contact Suzan Reagor at 824-2481 for more information.



Giezi Nagao is the Building Superintendent for the school and church. He keeps the buildings in working order and the landscaping trimmed and beautiful. His father, Santos Nagao, works at the Diocese as Maintenance Supervisor.



Sarah Cozad begins as Youth Minister in August. Her passion in life is helping and healing youth and families. Currently, she is working in Tarrant county with adjudicated teens and their families. However, her roots are in the Diocese of West Texas. She was Staff Director at Camp Capers during the summer of 2007, and she says that the seed to come back and work in the diocese was deeply planted in her heart.



The Rev Lisa Mason begins as St. David's Assistant Rector on June 22. Lisa was ordained in May at Church of the Good Shepherd in Corpus Christi.

Haven of Hope Tour

The Haven of Hope campus when finished will offer the services of 72 non-profit and public partner agencies to the homeless of San Antonio. According to the San Antonio Express-News, in the past year "veteran, medical, dental, vision and mental health services" have been available.



Rena DuBose will be arranging a tour of the facility. The date has not been decided. If you would like to go on the tour, please contact Rena or the church office.

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* Treasurer *Bob Bucci*
 Junior Warden *John Amos* 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.*

The Color of Pentecost



Red is the color of Pentecost because after Jesus ascended into heaven, the twelve apostles, Jesus' mother and family gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish harvest festival. While they were praying, a sound like that of a rushing wind filled the house and tongues of fire came down and rested over each of their heads. This was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit promised by God through the prophet Joel. The disciples went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began preaching to the crowds gathered for the festival. They were able to speak in the native languages of the crowd.

St. David's celebrated Pentecost on May 31 with red balloons given out by Bubee B. Bulbenik (a.k.a. Steve Bissell.), red pinwheels and red food.

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.*