

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Weekly Newsletter for February 24 & 25, 2024
Love God, Love One Another

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THIS WEEKEND—SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24:

- 5 p.m. COMAP Service, Deacon Susan preacher

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25:

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Formation -
Presentation by Kathleen Marker,
CEO of the YWCA
 - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery
 - 10:30 a.m. Worship, Deacon Susan preacher
 - Prayer ministry during communion
 - Farewell reception for Pat Coleman
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25:**
- 5:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross and Lenten Soup Supper and Study -
Chapters 3 and 4 of Bigger God Humbler Faith

FROM MOTHER DOREEN

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We began our study of Fr. Sam Wells' book *Humbler Faith Bigger God* this past week at our first Lenten Soup Supper and Study. I will admit I was a bit unsure of the book after slowly making my way through the first chapter. The second chapter, however, captivated me and I am finding great insight and depth in what Fr. Wells writes.

One of his points is to present God from two perspectives: God "for" us and God "with" us. Traditional theological beliefs teach Jesus came among us and was crucified "for" us, i.e. to atone for the sins of humanity because we had broken our relationship with God the Father. This thinking leads to our desire for, and prayers to Jesus to fix our lives. We pray that he cure our disease, or help us get a new job, or end our physical or emotional suffering. Very often, the ultimate result of this perspective is disappointment and anger with God because our prayers are not answered as we expected. We likely ask the question "if God is so loving and powerful, why will he allow XXXXX to happen?" We conclude God is either distant and uncaring, weak, or simply a figment of our imagination.

When we view God as "with" our theology offers a remarkably different view. If God is "with" us, Jesus became incarnate to live and die as one of us. To eat with his friends, to be moved by the pain of others, to see the humanity of those on the fringes of society, and to cry when his friends died. Jesus was crucified because of his love for humanity. And God was "with" Jesus on the cross and certainly with Jesus at the resurrection.

In the same way, God is "with" us eternally, in every single moment of our lives. And God is "with" us when our mortal lives end and afterwards. When we believe God is "with" us, we stop making demands on God and find joy in the knowledge that we are never, ever alone. God's kingdom is not a future reality but present now.

I have been wondering how we view church. Is church "for" us or "with" us? Is our relationship with church transactional? Are we simply consumers, taking what we need from the church and expecting it to be available "for" our problems? Or do we see the church as "with" us? With us sacramentally in the celebrations and griefs of life? With us in eternal love? Most importantly, are we "with" one another in love through the journey of our lives?

No doubt you can guess where my theology falls: God is "with" us walking alongside each and every one of us. Suffering in a variety of forms will occur in every human life. Suffering is not a sign of a sinful nature, but rather a normal aspect of life. Suffering in and of itself is not redemptive nor is it a form of piety. The pains of life, just like the joys, provide important reminders that we can rely on God because he has been with us since the beginning.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was **with** God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God*

All blessings!

P.S. See Page 8 for information on Fr. Sam Wells' visit to the Diocese in May!

WHAT'S NEW AT ST. DAVID'S?

IMPORTANT! New Sign-Up Process for Ministers:

In the narthex you will find sign-up sheets for March and April listing all our services and minister roles, such as lectors, ushers, etc.

The monthly creation of a minister schedule is difficult for the office, since there are always a number of changes the moment it is emailed out. So, we would like to experiment with a sign-up process that begins with the ministers.

We ask that you sign-up ASAP for your ministry on the sheets in the narthex. The office will fill in any open slots and the final schedule will be distributed. If you would prefer the office to automatically assign you, just let us know!

Communion Prayer Ministry:

Our worship will now include intercessions and thanksgivings offered by a prayer minister during communion. The prayer-ers will be available to pray with, and for you confidentially. In person prayers are a wonderful complement to St. David's Prayer Chain.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Mother Doreen or Deacon Harry.

Seasonal Banners in the Nave:

The banners that previous hung in the nave prior to the installation of the large screen have returned, thanks to the worship committee. Look for the beautiful purple banner for Lent.

Adult Formation - Sunday Mornings at 9:15 - NOTE TIME CHANGE!:

February 25: Parishioner Kathleen Marker, CEO of the YWCA will share the important work the Y does to help eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

March 3: April Holman, long-time St. Davidian and Executive Director of the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas will speak about the urgency for Kansas to expand eligibility for our Medicaid program. This would provide health coverage for tens of thousands of low wage Kansans in the coverage gap, help to stabilize struggling hospitals across the state and provide many additional benefits to the state and its people. April will share how you can become part of the Movement for Medicaid Expansion in Kansas and why it is so important for everyday Kansans to weigh in on this issue.

March 10: Parishioner Scott Satterthwaite will describe his work with the State of Kansas Department of Health and Environment Watershed Management Section as an Environmental Specialist to improve soil health on a watershed scale

Lenten Soup Suppers and Study:

Each Wednesday in Lent, we will begin our evening at 5:30 with the Stations of the Cross. We hope to have youth lead the Stations on March 13. We then enjoy a soup supper and conversation around Samuel Wells' Book Bigger God Humbler Faith.

February 21: Chapters 1 & 2

February 28: Chapters 3 & 4

March 6: Chapters 5 & 6

March 13: Chapters 7 & 8

March 21: Chapters 9 & 10

New Office Volunteers:

Thanks to Julia Laura Oldham and Dennis Hodgins for helping out in the office!

Braille Version of The Book of Common Prayer:

To be as welcoming to as many as possible, St. David's now owns a complete set of The Book of Common Prayer, braille version. You can find the set in the narthex cabinets.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Our learning activity last week centered around clarifying details about Lent such as the color of the season, important dates during Lent, as well as the symbolism in giving something we enjoy during this time so we can feel a part of Jesus being in the wilderness during this time. We were also able to do a cool painting project that kids enjoyed. With that foundation, we will jump into the Stations of the Cross as was mentioned last week and cover the first 5.

Sunday School - Sunday, February 25th:

- 1st Station: - Jesus is condemned to death.
- 2nd Station - Jesus accepts the cross.
- 3rd Station - Jesus falls for the 1st time.
- 4th Station - Jesus meets his mother.
- 5th Station- Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross

Youth Group:

Would your child/grandchild like to help lead us through **the Stations of Cross** on one of the Wednesdays during Lent? I know that families may travel during Spring Break but could you please let me know of their interest and availability on **Wednesday, March 13th**. We will modify the text to fit each reader's comfort level. This is a great opportunity for our youth to participate in a church wide event, thanks for the great idea Pat! If March 13th doesn't work we can try for a different date.

Youth Spotlight:

Congratulations to Madilyn T. and her high school cheer squad. They competed in a regional event last week in Iowa and placed 2nd. Way to go Madilyn! Congratulations are in order for Maddy B. as well. She performed in her high school's musical, Fiddler on the Roof! They had four performances over last weekend, great job Maddy! Also, be sure to ask Beckett S. about his ski trip to Colorado last week with his family. We hope you had a great time Beckett!

Reasons to give to the St. David's Endowment Fund

With the season of Lent rapidly approaching, it felt appropriate to remind parishioners of the importance of the endowment fund. St. David's strives to provide a message of love and hope to our neighbors, as well as minister to our own congregation. By maintaining a healthy endowment fund, we make the following possible.

- Ensure that the mission of the church will grow and be carried out into the future.
- Create a lasting legacy of your stewardship.
- Create a more stable financial environment for the church.
- Support the ministries and long-term interests of the church.
- Focus stewardship and fundraising efforts.
- Build community and increase the vitality of the church.
- Increase evangelism and ministry.
- Express your own stewardship philosophy.
- Provide for church needs in the future.

Gifts to the Endowment Fund are tax deductible. Please consider providing a gift to the Endowment Fund.



GREEN TEAM NEWS

The Green Team had our first meeting and have started moving forward with some ideas. First, we will be updating some of the church's recycling efforts by adding additional, updated recycling containers, and by trying to place them more strategically, with updated and helpful signage, so we all remember to use them. Remember, all items that go in them should be grease- and food-free. Aluminum and tin cans, paper, cardboard, and some plastic*, can be recycled. Glass must be kept separate. Please remove caps from bottles before placing them in the container. (Note: Sunday School is collecting plastic bottle caps at this time for a project they will be working on.) Also, do not throw plastic film, e.g. shopping bags, in the plastic recycling container. We will soon be getting a special container to collect these as well. These guidelines can also be used for your home recycling efforts.

*Currently Shawnee County is only accepting plastics #1, #2, and #5 for recycling. Unfortunately, "wish-cycling" (throwing in items that you think should, or you hope could be recycled) only serves to hinder recycling services. More information about what can and cannot be recycled in the Shawnee County curbside recycling services can be found at: https://www.snco.us/sw/image/content/recycle_guidelines_flyer.pdf or https://www.snco.us/sw/recycle_coach.asp

Did you know that you can recycle various types of plastic film at many stores around Topeka? Recycle bubble wrap, plastic overwrap from paper towels, cereal box liners, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, produce bags, newspaper sleeves, plastic shipping envelopes (peel off or cut out paper labels), clean sandwich bags and plastic grocery bags can be dropped off at Dillons. This plastic then gets recycled into composite decking or made into furniture like benches. We hope to start collecting bags here at St. David's to take to Dillons. Look for updates to come.

Save your pop tabs—those little tabs with which you open an aluminum can. Break them off the can, recycle the can, and we will soon have special buckets here at St. David's to collect these tabs. They will be sent to the Ronald McDonald House who uses them to help fund overnight stays for parents to stay close to their hospitalized kids. <https://rmhcneks.org/our-pop-tab-program/>

REMEMBER, WE SHARE ONE EARTH WITH ALL GOD'S PEOPLE—THE ONES HERE NOW, AND THOSE TO COME IN THE FUTURE! WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE STEWARDS OF GOD'S AMAZING CREATION!



RECTOR'S PANTRY NEWS AND NEEDS

Now that the pantry sports a freezer, please consider donating 1 lb tubes on hamburger or other meat. And our pantry guests so appreciate fresh vegetables, fruit, and bread. This week, the pantry is low on canned fruit.

FEBRUARY is PROJECT TOPEKA

Filling the Food Pantry

February is Project Topeka month. Our donations will help stock the shelves at these food banks;

Doorstep

I-Care

Rescue Mission

Topeka North Outreach

Fellowship & Faith Ministries

Let's Help

Salvation Army

Bring your canned goods here to put in the Narthex and they will be delivered to the local fire station. Questions-Contact Meredith Williard.

WITH THE INCREASING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE NEEDING ASSISTANCE, LET'S SHOW HOW MUCH WE CARE AS A CONGREGATION.

DOORSTEP NEWS

Each year has its challenges when it comes to providing basic needs services; often they are the same as the previous year. In 2023, we saw a sharp increase (88-90%) in the number of households and individuals needing food assistance. Our member congregations answered the call to help, donating an additional 11,608 pounds of food over 2022 for a total of 44,164 pounds of food. We received \$11,000 in Project Topeka funds to purchase food, but we also had to spend an additional \$54,632 out of pocket to keep enough food on the shelves to meet the need. In total, Doorstep provided 127,370 pounds of food to 2,307 households in 2023.

So far in 2023 we are not seeing a decrease in the need for food assistance in our community. We have had many empty pallets in the basement where cases of food are stored. Help us fill those pallets and show your neighbors you care!

Our January food collection was **1460.6 pounds**. Thanks to all who donated.

Sharon Koepke—Doorstep Coordinator

HOT TIMES IN THE HEARTLAND DOCUMENTARY PREVIEW

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 AT 2 PM

Bishop Cathleen Bascom is among those featured in a new, feature-length documentary entitled “Hot Times in the Heartland.”

Members of the diocese are invited to attend a screening of the documentary on Sunday, February 25 at 2 pm at Grace Cathedral, Topeka in All Saints Hall. The film will be shown in its entirety, and there will be a discussion facilitated by the bishop and producer Dave Kendall, former host of the “Sunflower Journeys” series on public television.

SEE FR. SAM WELLS IN-PERSON!

The Diocese of Kansas is pleased to [welcome the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells](#) for the 2024 Tocher Lecture on May 15-16 at St. Michael and All Angels, Mission. The Lecture will be a rich and engaging experience with the [St. Martin’s Voices](#) choral ensemble joining from Vicar Sam’s parish, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London under the leadership of [Dr. Andrew Earis](#).



Funded through the generosity of the Diocese of Kansas’ Tocher Fund for Clergy Education and the St. Michael and All Angels Foundation, this is a formation event for the clergy, musicians, and other lay leaders of parishes and institutions in the six *Bishop Kemper School for Ministry* partner dioceses: Kansas, Western Kansas, Nebraska, West Missouri, Missouri, and Iowa.

Focusing on themes of evangelism, community and parish development, and the Church’s role in God’s future, Sam Wells and his musicians will gather participants for seminars and worship. Music directors are especially invited as several seminars will focus on the role of musicians in the parish-neighborhood relationship. This will be an exciting formation endeavor for the BKSM dioceses outside the classes and programs offered directly by the School.

Event Registration

[Registrations are now being accepted! Click here to register as a Parish Team or as an Individual.](#)

Costs

Parish Team of up to 4: \$100

Individual: \$50

Student (*Youth, Young Adult, BKSM*): \$30

Full-event registration includes all seminars, tickets to the Wednesday, May 15 Concert “In Ev’ry Corner Sing,” and lunch on Thursday. Individual Tickets to the Wednesday, May 15 Concert “In Ev’ry Corner Sing” will become available after full-event participants have registered.



MINISTERS FOR FEBRUARY 24 & 25

Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16/Romans 4:13-25/Mark 8:31-38

https://www.lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent2_RCL.html

Altar Guild:	Sat-Sharon Koepke/Sun-Marilyn Homan, Carol Hamilton, Jenny Typer, Mike Homan
Greeter:	Maddy Typer
Ushers:	Shirley Golos, Frank Golos
Crucifer:	DJ Holman
Lectors:	Sat-Ethel Edwards/Sun-Pat Cress, Kynlee Adams
Eucharistic Ministers:	Sat-COMAP/Sun-Tom Seddon, Terry Martinez
Offering Counters:	Dennis Hodgins, Frank Golos
Dir. of Digital Ministers:	Bryan Irvine
Digital Ministers:	Sat-Bryan Irvine/Sun-Roger Byler, Jim Lampe, Alan Fries
Director of Music:	Kristi Baker-Lampe, DMA
Nursery Provider:	Nyckie McKnight
Prayer Ministers:	Deacon Harry, Deacon Susan

MINISTERS FOR MARCH 2 & 3

Lectionary Readings:

Exodus 20:1-17/1 Corinthians 1:18-25/John 2:13-22

https://lectionarypage.net/YearB_RCL/Lent/BLent3_RCL.html

Altar Guild:	Sat-1st Team/Sun-Diana Allen, Raye Acker, Spenser Acker
Greeter:	Eva Brown
Ushers:	Karen Morse, Wayne Morse
Lectors:	Sat-Julia Seago/Sun-Lynda Crowl, Bart Ramsey
Eucharistic Ministers:	Sun-Kirsten Book, Meredith Williard
Offering Counters:	Carolyn Francis, Laura Oldham
Dir of Digital Ministers:	Bryan Irvine
Digital Ministers:	Sat-Bryan Irvine/Sun-Roger Byler, Mike Stanfill, Alan Fries
Director of Music:	Kristi Baker-Lampe, DMA
Nursery Provider:	Nyckie McKnight
Prayer Ministers:	Deacon Harry

LECTORS - CHECK THE PRONUNCIATION IN YOUR READINGS!

[Click here for a bible pronunciation guide](#)

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday Mornings:

9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult formation, Nursery, and Fellowship

Every Monday:

6-9 p.m. EfM in the St. Phillips Room (September-May)

Every Tuesday:

12:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study and 7-8 p.m. Al-Anon

Every Thursday:

6:15 a.m. Men's Study and Fellowship and 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

1st Saturday:

5 p.m. Fellowship reception following worship

1st Sunday:

11:30 a.m. Blood pressure clinic following worship

1st Tuesday:

6 p.m. Vestry Meeting. All are welcome to attend!

2nd Saturday:

11 a.m. Daughters of the King Meeting

3rd Thursday:

4 p.m. Dementia Support Group

Fourth Saturday of the Month:

COMAP worship

Fifth Saturday of the month in March, June, August, and November 2024:

No Saturday Service

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February 21 - March 21:

5:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross and Weekly Lenten Soup Suppers and Study

Bigger God Humbler Faith

March 24:

9 a.m. Palm Sunday Procession and Worship

March 28:

6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Agape Meal and Service with Stripping of the Altar

March 29:

Noon and 7 p.m. Good Friday Worship

March 31:

10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

- February 27: McCall Beal
- February 29: Brogan Hoss
- March 1: Jeanie Eudaley

HELPFUL LINKS:

Episcopal Diocese of Kansas:

<https://episcopal-ks.org>

Episcopal Diocese of Kansas e-Newsletter *DioLog*:

<https://episcopal-ks.org/diolog/>

Episcopal Diocese of Kansas magazine *The Harvest*:

<https://episcopal-ks.org/the-harvest/>

National Episcopal Church:

