

Annual Report

January 20, 2008

St. David's Church

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Cranbury, NJ 08512

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The Rev. Karin R. Mitchell, Rector

The Rev. Linda Carlson Scholer, Assistant

The Rev. Richard Cromwell, Associate

Br. John Baptist, OSF, Pastoral Care

Christopher Jon Carl Lewis, Office Assistant

Agenda for the 2008 Annual Meeting

1. Opening Prayer
The Rev. Karin R. Mitchell+
Angela Levy
2. Opening of the Polls (Canon 49)
3. Nominating Committee Report and
Introduction of the Nominees
John Aveni
The Rev. Karin R. Mitchell+
4. Greetings
5. Adoption of Minutes from Annual Meeting January 21, 2007
6. Treasurer's Report
Tim Doutt
 - a. Statement of Assets and Liabilities (end-of-year 2007)
 - b. 2008 Budget
7. Report of the Priest Assistant
8. Report of the Deacon
9. Report of the Senior Warden
10. Close of Polls and Voting
11. Organizational Reports by Title:
 - a. Building and Grounds
 - b. Christian Formation
 - c. Evangelism
 - d. Liturgy Report
 1. Acolytes
 2. Altar Guild
 3. Greeters
 4. Music
 5. Ushers
 - e. Outreach
 - f. Pastoral Care
 - g. Finance
 - h. Stewardship
 - i. Communications
 - j. Social Committee
 - k. Memorial Garden
12. Report of the Building Exploration Committee
13. Vestry Appreciation Awards
alphabetical by last name

John Aveni	David Foppes
Linda Kelly	Angela Levy
David Miller	
14. Results of the Elections
John Aveni
15. Open time for further business, old or new
16. Adjournment and Benediction
The Rev. Karin R. Mitchell+

Annual Report Table of Contents

Annual Report	1
January 20, 2008.....	1
St. David's Church.....	1
Agenda for the 2008 Annual Meeting.....	2
Annual Report Table of Contents	3
Letter from the Rector	5
Report of the Nominating Committee 2007	8
Senior Warden: Angela Levy (2 year position; 2nd term).....	8
2008 Nominating Committee	8
Minutes of the Annual Meeting.....	9
Old & New Business.....	11
Report of the Treasurer for 2008	14
Statement of Assets & Liabilities	16
Report of the Senior Warden.....	17
Reports of Associate Clergy	19
Report of the Priest Assistant	19
Report of the Deacon	20
??? Report of the Priest Associate	20
Organizational Reports	21
Report on Building & Grounds.....	21
Report on the Memorial Garden.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Report on Lifelong Christian Formation, 2007-2008	23
The Lower Church School	23
Vacation Bible School	23
RITE 13, JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD (J2A) & YOUTH	24
Confirmation.....	25
Adult Education & Formation	25
Adult Forum	25
Christian Meditation Group.....	25
Many Thanks!.....	25
Report on Evangelism	27
Report of the Acolyte Master.....	28
Report of the Altar Guild	29
Report of the Greeters Guild	29
Report on Music	30

Report on the Ushers of St. David's	31
Report on Outreach.....	32
Report on Pastoral Care, 2007	34
Report of the Finance Committee	35
2008 Stewardship Pledge Results	36
Report of the Communications Committee	38
Report of the Social Committee	39
***	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Report on the Memorial Garden.....	22
Report of the Building Exploration Committee	40
Rector's Statistics for 2007.....	41
Baptisms	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Marriages.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Burials	Error! Bookmark not defined.
***	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Qualifications for Voting Members.....	42
***	42

Letter from the Rector

Dear Friends,

2007 was definitely a year of growth here at St. David's. Before beginning to write this report I tallied the numbers for our 2007 Parochial Report and was astonished by the totals. Our average Sunday attendance (ASA) for 2007 was 147; up from 111 in 2005 and 126 in 2006! Sometimes we need numbers to prove what we see with our own eyes and experience each Sunday, I guess, because I was very surprised and a bit awed. It shows that many of our initiatives for reaching out to the community are working. It also shows that we are keeping many of our guests as new members. Which also explains why the building feels so tight sometimes!

In my June Tablet rector's letter I spoke of our 2007 vestry retreat and the goals that your vestry set during that time together. First and foremost was enriching the life of the congregation and reaching out to the community. The second goal identified was looking at our present building and exploring options to help it to serve our present needs more fully.

The first initiative to meet our goal of inner growth and evangelical outreach to the community was our Natural Church Development program. This program began with our being assigned a coach from the diocesan Congregational Development Committee and forming a parish "health team". This committee administered the first questionnaire of the NCD process this summer. From those results came an assessment of our relative strengths and weaknesses. I am happy to say that most all categories were very strong; with "passionate spirituality" being our weakest category. A new "growth team" has been formed and will begin work with our coach to find ways to address this important aspect of our life as a worshipping community. Other initiatives to address our goal have been our new member programs, Sunday Adult Forums, Inquirers Classes, fellowship opportunities and our newest small group, the Christian Meditation Group. We have also formed a new communications committee headed by Helen Cushman which will be expanding our advertising opportunities and making sure the community around us knows we are here.

The second goal set by the vestry was the examination of our current building and its strengths and limitations. A Building Exploration Committee was appointed with three vestry members inviting three members of the parish to join them in this work. That committee has been meeting over the course of the past 9 months and will be making a presentation at today's meeting.

The vestry will be spending its working retreat in February exploring the dynamics of congregational growth with a congregational growth specialist. St. David's has been experiencing the growing pains common to all parishes who find themselves in transition between "pastoral" and "program" sizes. It is my hope that this retreat will help the vestry to identify the gifts, joys, stresses and strains of our life at St. David's and set a course for our future.

The good news is that together we have managed to bring in new people and keep them coming back to St. David's. That is no small feat and is largely due to a congregation that is open and welcoming to our "guests"--many of whom have remarked on how welcome they have felt here from

the very beginning. Thank you for sharing the joys of life in this parish family with so many and for being so open to incorporating our newest members into the life of the parish.

I have been greatly helped in this work by Mother Linda C. Scholer. Mother Linda has brought her particular brand of infectious enthusiasm to our worship, to our church school and J2A and to our entire "lifelong Christian formation" program. She has expanded all of the above and enriched our congregation with her gifts of sharing and teaching all the while keeping participants engaged and excited about learning new things. She has also offered pastoral and spiritual counseling to many in our congregation who have benefited from her expertise and wisdom. Mother Linda will be retiring at the end of July and moving with her husband, Dr. Fred Scholer to Maryland. To say she will be missed is an understatement.

I was also blessed to have a wonderful office assistant in the person of Mrs. Leila Troup. Lee has moved on to Pennsylvania where she and her husband Ron have a family home and we wish her well. This month we have welcomed Christopher Lewis into the office and it has been a real "baptism by fire" as he has tried to learn the job at one of the busiest months of the year. I look forward to working with Chris in the office as he brings his gifts to St. David's and makes the job his own.

Dr. Jarnot has been such an important part of our growth and her work in growing our choir has been outstanding. Our music program puts many larger churches to shame and our choir enriches our worship with their musical offerings each week. This year Dr. Jarnot has incorporated praise music into our Sunday services and has designated 4 Sundays a year as "contemporary" music Sundays. She has also started a children's choir which debuted at our Christmas Eve Family Service and was just wonderful. I greatly value our ministry together here at St. David's and am grateful to Dr. Jarnot for all she brings to us.

Our senior warden, Angela Levy, has been a great asset to our vestry and to my work as rector over the past two years. I am grateful to her for agreeing to another term as senior warden as she leads our vestry with an uncommon grace. Angela has been responsible for some of our most enjoyable fundraising opportunities beginning with Caribbean Night. Russell Beaulieu, our junior warden, has worked wonders here at St. David's over the past year. It's hard to believe he has only been junior warden for one year. He has been a trusted advisor and tireless worker for our church. Heartfelt thanks to Angela and Russell for their support over the past year.

A new addition to our parish life has been Deacon Richard Wisniewski. I was privileged to attend Deacon Rich's ordination to the diaconate and he joined our staff a few weeks later. Dcn. Rich has been a great addition to St. David's; he has helped expand our outreach and pastoral care programs and is developing into quite a good preacher. He has seamlessly integrated himself into our Sunday worship services. I am really pleased to have the opportunity to work with Rich as he grows into his new role as deacon of the church.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the kindness of our parishioners and the hard work of our parish staff and lay leaders during my recuperation from heart surgery this past spring. When I look back at my writings, it is almost amusing to think that I really believed I would be back to “normal” so quickly! I now must admit that it was quite some time before I felt even close to my old self again; something I am just beginning to realize. Thank you for all your support and prayers during my surgery and convalescence...in retrospect it feels as if I floated through those weeks buoyed by your prayers and tender care.

During our 2006 stewardship campaign many of you participated in Vision Sunday. As I look back at your hopes, ideas and dreams for St. David’s; many of them have been addressed by our expanded outreach and communication programs and by our Christian Formation program. Our Jr. Warden has addressed many issues identified with regard to our aging building. The front of the church and the entire sanctuary have been painted, creating a more inviting building and worship space for old and new alike. Our outreach into the Latino/Hispanic community has begun with one family and their extended network of friends, and here I must thank Father Harry Brant for his guidance and support. Our fundraisers have been fun social events and we have had some purely social times together. Our music program has expanded to include inspiring, spiritually enriching contemporary music and our children, too. Please know that your leaders are working constantly to grow and enrich our church and the lives of our parishioners. Our building committee will be keeping the parish informed and involved in their work so that all who wish to make their opinions known are heard. Your voice is important and I urge you to make your visions and dreams known to me and your vestry leaders as we enter 2008.

In 2007 I identified my goals as expanding our evangelism, music and communications programs as well as our commitment to St. Paul’s, our New Orleans partner parish. Thanks to all who have helped me work towards achieving these goals. Of course work will be ongoing in each of these important areas. My goals for 2008 are finding the right part-time Priest Assistant to support my work as rector and the life of the parish; improve on new member incorporation; and support the vestry in their determining and achieving a vision for the future of our building here in Cranbury.

I thank all who have given so generously of your time, talent and treasure for the good and welfare of St. David’s. We have received many generous gifts that have allowed us to beautify our sanctuary and enrich our life together; while keeping our outreach, parish life and diocesan financial commitments. For all of you who have been so generous, I am extremely grateful.

What a pleasure it is to pastor this parish and work with our wonderful staff! I thank God for the privilege and blessing of being your second rector as I look forward to the coming year and our continuing work together.

God’s blessing,

Karin R. Mitchell+

Report of the Nominating Committee 2007

Senior Warden: Angela Levy (2 year position; 2nd term)

Vestry: Three 3 year terms available

- Richard Bailey
- Michelle Black
- Gwen Lockhart
- Jacob Mani
- David Miller (2nd term)
- Kim Elaine Neighbor

Youth Vestry Member: One 1 year term

-Josiah Doutt

Convention/Convocation Delegates: 3 delegates / 3 alternates;

1 year term

- Ed Abramovitz
- Charles Fischer
- Jean McFarland
- Donna Munde
- Marilyn Fischer
- Barbara Beaulieu

2008 Nominating Committee

- Michael Black
- Kathy Herzog
- Lincoln Crosley
- Corinne Peters
- One additional lay member to be appointed by rector

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Davis-Vassall
Michael Black
John Aveni
Linda Kelly
Karin R. Mitchell+

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

St. David's Church, January 21st, 2007

The Annual Meeting of St. David's Church was called to order at 11:35 am on January 21st, 2007, with 70 people in attendance. Before the meeting began, those present were served a delicious buffet of quiche, bagels, various pastries, fruit, and desserts, which were provided by members of the Vestry. The Rev. Karin Mitchell opened the meeting with prayer. She then offered greetings of welcome to the assembly and gave a brief summary of what has been happening here at St. David's Church during the past year. Here are some of the points she made during her summary:

- Worship services at St. David's have been getting better and better. The choir in particular has made the services beautiful and inspiring and has strengthened the ministry here in Cranbury.
- Vision Sunday provided a lot of input to assist the church in its development.
- The upcoming Vestry Retreat in March will be making plans for the future.
- We will need to use all the gifts of all our members.
- We finished 2006 with a \$2,000 surplus.
- The Rector thanked the Vestry for their support and also those who have taken the time to speak with her during the year.
- Mother Karin thanked the staff and also Gwen Lockhart, Tim Doutt, Bob Rodgers, Angela Levy, Rex van Veldhuisen and Lee Troup for their work at St. David's.

Gwen Lockhart gave the Nominating Committee Report and introduced the Nominees to the congregation.

Angela Levy, Senior Warden, officially opened the polls for voting. The polls were managed by Gwen Lockhart, who was assisted by David Levy and Marcia Ruhl.

The Minutes from the January 22, 2006 Annual Meeting were discussed. Linda Kelly moved to accept the minutes, and Margaret Perritt seconded the motion. The proposal to accept the minutes was voted upon and passed unanimously.

The polls were officially closed by Gwen Lockhart and counting of the votes was conducted in the Church Office while the meeting continued.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Corinne Peters, Vestry member in charge of Finance, due to the unavoidable absence of Tim Doutt, Treasurer. St. David's Church paid their full Fair Share to the Diocese in 2006. The assessment went down this past year.

The Senior Warden's Report was given by Angela Levy. St. David's experienced an amazing year in 2006 with many accomplishments, thanks to the hard work of the congregation, the Vestry, Mother Karin and the other staff members. The Senior Warden looks forward to another wonderful year during 2007. In particular, the church faces the challenge and opportunity of working with our partner parish, St. Paul's, in New Orleans, as they rebuild their church and their city.

The Building & Grounds report was given by Rex van Veldhuisen. He gave thanks to Ian Bailey for his assistance with the work of this committee.

The Christian Formation Report was given by John Aveni. During this past year the committee has realized how much work Deacon Bob did during his tenure here at St. David's. Mother Karin pointed out that the Diocese is emphasizing Lifetime Christian Formation which goes far beyond the work with the children and youth of the church. The Christian Formation Committee has been working with setting up Adult Forums which meet monthly after the 10 am service on designated Sundays (and every Sunday in Lent). He is hoping to reach out to other demographics as the result of people's interest in attending these Forums.

Lincoln Crosley gave the Evangelism Report. He stressed the success of the newly-formed Men's Breakfast Group and encouraged the men of the church to attend.

St. David's has a very active Acolyte group of 20 members. This is a very substantial number for a church of this size. David Miller gave the Acolyte Report and he encouraged more children, youth and adults to join the group. The only requirement is interest and that the person is a height of at least four foot, eight inches tall. A new Acolyte handbook is on the way.

Kathy Herzog was not able to be present to give the Altar Guild Report.

Angela Holman gave a brief report about the Greeters.

The Music Report was given by Dr. Camilla Jarnot, the Director of Music. The church recently purchased new choir chairs which have been an encouragement for them. The choir is looking to develop other types of music in their repertory. New choir robes will be purchased in February to enhance the appearance and ministry of the choir.

Charles Fischer gave the Report for the Ushers. There is always a need for new people to volunteer to become ushers. Also, Charles gave a rather funny instruction that only one hymnal or prayer book can fit in each slot!

In the Outreach Report, Carol Rodgers thanked everyone for the variety of activities which comprise the work of the Outreach Committee. The Vestry has reinstated the second collection for Outreach during Sunday morning worship once a month starting in February. Small envelopes to be used for Outreach contributions were included in the Tablet mailing for the month of February. Thanks was given to Whitney Pullen for pointing out organizations that need our Outreach assistance and working with our Partner Parish, St. Paul's, New Orleans.

Brother John Baptist was not able to be present to give a report on Pastoral Care.

Corinne Peters gave the Finance Report. St. David's had an interesting year in regard to its finances and the changes made to the budget and the investment portfolio.

The Stewardship Committee Report was delivered by Bob Rodgers. He mentioned that stewardship of our resources is not just about money but about commitment of our time and talents.

The Communications Report was given by Linda Kelly.

The Social Committee thanked all those who have hosted coffee hours after Sunday morning worship.

Mother Karin gave Vestry Appreciation Awards to Rex van Veldhuisen, Carol Rodgers, Suzanne Camlin, Ian Bailey and Brian Laustsen for their work.

The results of the elections were shared by Marcia Ruhl. Russell Beaulieu was voted in as Junior Warden for a two-year term. Ian Bailey, Kimberly Rodgers Duck, and Carol Rodgers were voted in as members of the Vestry for three-year terms. David Foppes was voted in as the Journey to Adulthood Vestry Representative for a one-year term. The one-year term delegates to Convention/Convocation will be Ed Abramovitz, Charles Fischer and Marilyn Fischer with Anne Benenson and Rob Sarchiapone as alternates.

Old & New Business

- Kim Neighbor shared that when she goes on vacation, she checks Websites of churches in order to find a place where she can attend worship. If a church does not have a Website, she is not likely to attend there. St. David's Church is fortunate to have a good Website with Bob Rodgers as our Web Cherub.
- Ed Abramovitz brought up a concern about the 2007 budget. At present, a \$5,600 deficit is projected. In 2006 the actual collected income was \$20,000 less than had been pledged. If this situation repeats itself, St. David's could be facing a financial disaster, especially with salaries and other obligations going up.
- Corrine Peters answered the concerns about the budget. She pointed out that in the past our securities have been pledged and liquidated. The church is experiencing a steady growth and the pledges recently have been increasing. Even with a major pledge moving away in 2006, the church finished the year with a surplus. The health of the church cannot be expressed purely on paper and Corrine feels that we are in good financial condition. The future financial plans which look towards 2008 will change the previous situation and we will not be working from a deficit position in the future. In addition to these points, the non-pledge income has been very high. Recently there has been a careful checking of the church finances and Tim Douth has been comfortable with the numbers of people who are included as pledging and non-pledging units. Fulfilled pledges are running above 90 percent. Some people who could

not fulfill their 2006 pledges reduced their pledges for 2007 and we are working now with more realistic numbers.

- Lincoln Crosley stated that the Vestry will be working towards more fundraising projects in 2007. St. David's is adding about five new families each quarter, which will positively affect the financial picture of the church during 2007.
- There was some discussion and clarification about salaries and housing allowances.
- During the upcoming Vestry Retreat in March, there will be goal setting for the future and serious discussions about the question of the building. The biggest problem St. David's faces for the future is the inadequacy of our facility to meet the needs of our growing congregation. Mother Linda commented that there already is not enough room for the children in Kindergarten and pre-Kindergarten and there is an expectation that these ages groups will soon increase in number.
- Tim Doutt has a 'seed money' account in place to be used for the growth of the church. This account presently contains about \$50,000. Planned giving should include encouraging people to leave money for the church in their wills. Episcopalian clergy are instructed to mention this to their congregants. In raising funds for the growth of the church, we should be looking not just at events but at the full array of possibilities and ways that money might be brought into the church.
- The new committee of Christian Formation is meant to be lay-centered and seeks to instruct more groups and people. Recently the Adult Forums were launched. The congregation was invited to consider teaching in the Church School or to work with the Journey to Adulthood youth group. There will be a need for more adults to be involved as we are expecting more children and youth to be attending St. David's in the future.
- Men's Group has been active and has done some projects around the church including painting and cleaning the attic. They have also begun a Thursday evening Bible Study.
- Mother Linda spoke about the new Women's Lunch Discussion Group which meets once a month. She encouraged the women to attend the upcoming Women's Retreat which will be held on the 24th of February. New groups in the church develop a valuable sense of connectedness.
- The Clericus Group is working to connect local parishes within the Diocese.
- There will be four services on Ash Wednesday; four opportunities for people to get together and to worship. This year St. David's will have a special Ash Wednesday service at 4:30 pm for families, and especially children, to attend.

Mother Karin ended the meeting with prayer and a benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Troup, Office Assistant

Report of the Treasurer for 2008

St. David's began the year 2007 with over \$16,000 in our checking account and ended with about \$9,500. Accounts payable are current and Saint David's carries forward no outside liabilities.

St. David's began 2007 with investments valued just over \$302,000 which ended the year at \$332,500. Saint David's investments grew at a rate of about 10% across the reported year (Note: Investments are reported for the twelve month period ending November 30). No new moneys were added to and no sales were made from investments. In the prior year (2006), Saint David's liquidated some investments - a portion of which were placed into money market accounts as a ready reserve to deal with short term cash flow needs and to pay for ongoing maintenance and repairs to our aging infrastructure. Due the generous support of our congregation, including fundraising and gifts over and above pledge giving, we stayed current with significant new expenses in 2007 (including but not limited to roofing, painting, parking area resurfacing, carpeting, furniture, air conditioning, musical equipment and vestments) without taking from these reserves.

St. David's began 2007 with just under \$50,000 in the restricted Capital Campaign fund (intended to support building expansion), and ended with about \$59,500, due to the Vestry's decision to dedicate a portion of all gains in investment to this fund, the gifts of a few parishioners, and the T-shirt fundraiser.

Including the value of Land and Building (which are very likely undervalued in our statements as we have not recently reassessed their value) we began the year with Total Assets of \$1,005,668 and ended at \$1,029,060.

Detailed presentations of our financial position are provided on other pages of this report. Please take some time to review St. David's Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the 2008 Budget.

I would like to thank Finance Chair Corinne Peters for her leadership and work on behalf of the financial health of St. David's Church. Thanks also to Donna Munde for performing the independent check of balancing our checkbook. I would also like to thank each of those individuals (coordinated by Kathy Aveni and anchored by Financial Secretary Penny Stout) who perform the weekly task of counting and accounting for contributions and make thousands of entries into our database each year. Finally, thanks to outgoing Office Assistant Lee Troup for making the deposits and managing the office.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Doutt, Treasurer

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

FPO

Report of the Senior Warden

FPO

Reports of Associate Clergy

Report of the Priest Assistant

With much joy I joined the staff of St David's Church in a quarter time position on January 7, 2007. And the decision to accept the offer from the Rector and Vestry was one of the best I have ever made. I would describe this past year of ministry as the busiest of times and the best of times. I knew my time here would be limited so I have chosen to work busily and give as much as I could. The community and love of this parish family is a daily blessing.

This has been a time of much growth for St David's so most of my effort and time has been spent in providing assistance in the enriching of the Lower Church School (Pre-K to 5th grades), in assisting the Coordinator, Debi Ribardo, with J2A program, giving Communion Instruction, facilitating Adult Forum, writing materials for Advent and Lenten programs for adults and children, designing specialized worship for children and in pastoral counseling.

I do share in preaching, in presiding at weekday and/or Sunday Holy Eucharist, sick communions and a number of other functions at the Rector's request or in her place. There are times when the Rector has to be away and in particular this year when Mother Karin needed surgery. I am very grateful to the vestry and parish family for their support and assistance during that period of time.

Some of the highlights of this year, just to mention some of them, are the projects of the children such as All Saints, the Pageant, J2A's outings, bible verse hangman & meetings, Children's Ash Wednesday and Good Friday Liturgies, children's chapel, bringing Communion to all of you during difficult times, vestry retreats, the laughter and fun at Welcome Evenings and....the way everyone in this parish family helps and supports one another! I am happy indeed that you have extended my contract to through July 2008.

I remain humbled and grateful for the trust and love all of you have shown me as I endeavor to minister together with you and for you. You really do love one another.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you also love one another."

John 13:35

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rev. Linda M. C. Scholer
Priest Assistant at St. David's Church

Report of the Deacon

The Rev. Richard J. Wisniewski, Dcn.

As most of you know, I was ordained this past June, and St. David's is the first parish I have served as a Deacon. It has been a wonderful experience for me. As I continue to grow in this ministry, I know that each of you will continue to provide me with the support and encouragement that is so important during this time of learning and experiencing the work of God in our lives and the lives of others we reach out to.

During the past six months, my main focus has been involvement with outreach ministries. I wish to thank Carol Rodgers for all of the wonderful work she has done with the St. David's outreach program, her commitment and your support has been outstanding.

The Men's Fellowship group has been another one of my areas of ministry. This is a growing ministry and it has taken the direction of being both social and faith based. Some months the group discusses the lectionary readings and other months the discussion is related to current social issues. We have also touched upon some of the issues facing The Episcopal Church. This is a group where every person's views are respected and where one may speak freely. Every month we have great breakfast food and great fellowship. The Men's Fellowship is open to all men in the parish and we meet on the second Saturday of the month at the church.

Attending clergy days and clergy conferences has been very helpful to me on many levels. The topics and speakers have been great and will be useful as I become more involved in the adult education program of our parish in the future.

Mother Karin has been very generous in sharing the pulpit with me. I enjoy preaching and I especially love giving the children's talks. I have appreciated the many opportunities afforded to me to preach.

I thank all of you for your support and welcome into this wonderful faith community known as St. David's Episcopal Church. I am excited about our future together and truly believe that we are headed for wonderful opportunities to serve The Lord in many, many ways in the next year and the years to come.

Report of the Priest Associate

During the year of 2007 I celebrated three Eucharistic services, two Sundays of which were as supply pastor without fee, as my donation to the Parish.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Richard Cromwell

Organizational Reports

Report on Building & Grounds

Russ Beaulieu, Junior Warden

As one approaches St. David's, it becomes evident that our church has received both cosmetic as well as structural improvements. Members of the congregations have consistently volunteered to give of their time and energy to assure that the building and grounds received proper attention.

Each Sunday the lawn and grounds appear to be well manicured. Mowing is now done on days closer to our Sunday services. This has made a noticeable difference. The Memorial Garden and shrubs were cared for throughout the growing season. A rather large groups of volunteers spent time pulling weeds, raking and trimming trees. The trees and grass in front of the church have been fertilized at least twice this year. The parking lot was re-sealed. Parking spaces were identified and two special handicapped parking places were created. A new sign replaced the one that had served us so well for nearly a decade. Also two railings have been added to the side entrance of Croes Hall. A portion of the roof was repaired and new shingles applied. The front of the church was giving a good cleaning and two coats of paint and stain were applied. A dead plum tree next to the Memorial Garden was removed. One shed was given a good cleaning to make room for newly purchased church furniture. Over the years, spaces in the front sidewalk have developed. Powder dust has been used to fill these spaces. This should improve walking conditions, especially during the winter months. "No Trespassing" signs have been placed on the borders of the property.

Inside the church, the rugs were professionally cleaned once and twice by a member of the congregation. Croes Hall and the instructional rooms were painted by volunteers. Throughout the year, light bulbs and ceiling tiles were replaced as needed by volunteers from the congregation. In a few weeks a bronze plaque will be placed in the narthex near the doors to recognize the contributions made in honor of Chris Curry to St. David's. Doorstops have been placed on nearly all of the doors that require it. A ten-foot piece of shelving was hand-crafted by Mr. Evans and attached to the wall in the sacristy area. Additional shelving has been added in the instructional areas. In addition to the shelving in the sacristy, Mr. Evans has built a children's altar which has been donated to the staff of St. David's. Ten new tables were purchased by a member of the congregation. These tables will be used for social occasions in the sanctuary. The tables are presently stored in the "cleaned-up" shed. Inspected exit and emergency lights as well as fire extinguishers. The furnace required a great deal of attention as it had failed inspection. A member of the congregation spent several days and nights making the necessary changes for us to receive approval. We received the inspector's approval this past week.

The kitchen was totally reorganized by a volunteer of the congregation. One attic has been cleaned, which has enabled us to find places to store seasonal pieces of equipment and more will be done this winter. A new air conditioner has been placed in Croes Hall. A licensed exterminator has continued to treat the exterior of the church on a scheduled basis. A group of approximately ten men traveled to

Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Tuckerton, to receive a gift of ten or eleven pews. The men refurbished some of them. Today they grace the choir area.

A special thanks to all who stepped forward to assist in making St. David's a special place to worship. I have enjoyed working with you all and look forward to recruiting new volunteers this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Beaulieu, Junior Warden

Report on the Memorial Garden

Edmund Abramovitz

For the year 2007, there were no interments in the Memorial Garden. The grounds continue to be looked after and well maintained by Harry Ruhl, who makes it his special commitment to ensure that the Garden is in good shape throughout the growing season. Thanks to him for his stewardship.

The only activity in the Garden was its use as a gathering place for the Palm Sunday 2007 procession, which has become a tradition, weather permitting. Once again, the Garden served as an ideal location to begin the 10:00 a.m. Service.

Respectfully submitted,

The Memorial Garden Committee

Edmund Abramovitz, Chair

Harry Ruhl, Member

Cynthia Smith, Member

Paul F. Szymanski, member

Report on Lifelong Christian Formation, 2007-2008

Written by Mthr. Linda +

At St. David's we believe that Christian Formation is a lifelong process. Our formation to a mature faith and spirituality is nurtured through worship, education, spiritual practices (such as prayer, meditation) and fellowship. The Christian Formation Committee, along with the clergy, works to provide such nurturing programs and experiences for all ages. Encountering God in the person of Christ Jesus is the goal that education, worship, learning spiritual practices and fellowship serves to promote.

As the parish has increased in size we have focused on expanding our strengths and in enriching the activities of the Lower Church School, adding new teachers for the J2A program, adult education, spiritual practices such as Christian Meditation, vacation bible school and worship for children (such as the children's Ash Wednesday Eucharist and the children's Good Friday Liturgy).

The Lower Church School

Gwen Lockhart is the superintendent for The Lower Church School and she works along side Mother Linda and the wonderful Pre-K to 5th teachers. This year has brought in new projects for the children, the return of some traditions like Advent Wreath Lighting and the Christmas/Epiphany Pageant and, of course, bigger classes. Our current Church School enrollment (Nursery through 5th grade) is 39. We continue to hold classes at 10am. After class the children join the service at the time of the Children's Talk and the whole parish receives Holy Communion together.

The curriculum being used is "Witness Sunday School" series. This bible based program helps our children know the Bible, understand the Good News and strives to help the children to know God as their life long Companion not just know about God. Each lesson includes activities, story telling, and the development of faith traits that stem from God's Graces of love, trust, courage, and hope. This fall we added special projects planned to teach more about the major Holy Days and to provide intergenerational experiences for the parish. Communion Instruction has been added to the Sunday lessons. Now that Mr. Tom Evans has build a children's altar, Children's Chapel Prayers and Holy Communion is held for the students and teachers on a regular basis. Many thanks go to these teachers who nurture these young children into the faith. Teachers for the primary age are often the individuals who are remembered for showing them the love of God.

The Lower Church School teachers for 2007/2008 are:

Grade Lower Church School Teachers
PK – K-1 Denise Touhey, Ann Holmes
2-3 Jean Hegedus, Amy Doutt, Whitney Pullen (Sub)
4-5 Bill Kluxen, Susan Laustsen, Laura Ribardo

Vacation Bible School

In August 2007, St. David's were co-sponsors with Cranbury Presbyterian Church for a 5 evening Vacation Bible School that met from 6pm to 8pm. The program, which included parents and their

children ages 4-12, began with dinner and was followed by music, lessons, and crafts and ended with music & prayer. Our parish members and clergy assisted in the kitchen, set-up/clean-up, teaching, skits, and bible study.

RITE 13, JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD (J2A) & YOUTH

Ms. Debi Ribardo is the Coordinator of J2A and Mother Linda assists her. The juniors and the seniors have three teachers each. These teachers are incredible in the time they devote to our teens, the wisdom they share, and the Christian model they set. Each June the 5th graders graduate to the Rite 13 program and receive their "J2A red shirts." From September to May our Junior and Senior High youth meet twice monthly on Sunday evenings from 5-8 p.m. Current enrollment is 35 (19 "juniors" 6 to 8th grade and 16 "seniors" 9 to 12th grade.) The evening meeting begins with dinner, which is either cooked by the staff /youth or provided by parent volunteers. The student officers hold a meeting after which there is free time and an activity. The evening concludes with a one-hour class for juniors and seniors.

The Rite 13 and J2A teachers for 2007-2008 are:

Grade Teachers

Junior High (6-8th) Rite 13 Donna vanVeldhuisen, Rachelle Levy, Tim Touhey
(Also helping on occasion is Kreg Doer)

Senior High (9-12) J2A Bonnie Rumpf, Lora Inglisa, Rob Ragati

The junior high program, focuses on preparing the students for a coming-of-age ceremony entitled Rite 13. The senior high program explores social roles in the context of the Bible and our faith community of young adults. We continue to use the Journey 2 Adulthood (J2A) curriculum, with its emphasis on applying church-based values to the various issues encountered by teens. The J2A program, which is based on the bible and on the Episcopal Catechism, is intended to qualify our students for confirmation.

Every year the Rite 13 is an inspiring celebration of the coming-of-age of our 13 year old and this moment of dedication to follow Christ Jesus. The service features a sermon and a children's talk by a student, readings and music by students. Our May 2007 Rite 13 included wonderful music led by Camilla Jarnot, Music Director and John Aveni (then Coordinator of J2A.) This year's Rite 13 celebration will take place on Mother's Day, May 11, 2008.

Besides activities, lessons, a yearly retreat, and the occasional discussion group between the teens and our priests, our youth take seriously the call of Christ to reach out to those in need. The J2A youth raised funds ERD relief by donating 50% of the receipts of our fall 2007 car wash. In January 2007 the J2A teens raised approximately \$500 to the Trenton-Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) at our annual "Souper-Bowl" charity event and we expect them to do so on February 3rd this year. 13 teens and 4 adults went to help preserve the shoreline dunes by planting dune-grass near Harvey Cedars, NJ in October 2007. In mid-October approximately 18 of our youth/adults/staff participated in Crop Walk. (Many thanks to Deacon Rich for feeding the whole crew his "famous deacon (hot) dogs!") In Lent

the youth will join the Lower Church School in collecting money for Relief and Development programs similar to the Heifer Fund. This spring J2A will give assistance to Home Front.

Confirmation

On Sunday, April 1, Bishop George Councill was at St. David's for the Sacramental Rite of Confirmation. Seven of our young people were confirmed by Bp. Councill; Mathew Lilly, Cassandra Pane, Victoria Pane, Josiah Doutt, Eric Curry, Elizabeth Kelly and Christa Laustsen and one adult, Gary Long. Each of the confirmands were prepared by attending at least two years of our Journey to Adulthood program and being at least 14 years of age. Bishop Councill also received three adults into the Episcopal Church; Rob Ragati, and Denise and Tim Touhey. The rector was honored to present each of these persons for confirmation and reception to Bishop Councill. In 2008 we will join with other parishes in the Trenton Convocation on Trinity Sunday, May 18, for the Sacramental Rite of Confirmation with Bishop Councill.

Adult Education & Formation

Adult Forum

A year and a half ago the Christian Formation committee responded to the interest expressed by the congregation for more "Adult Forums." Starting in January 2007 Mother Linda and the Christian Formation committee offered Adult Forum twice a month (now 1st & 3rd Sundays.) The topics in the first half of the year generally pertained to bible study, or matters of faith and/or spiritual life. In Lent 2007 we met weekly to explore and discuss being a welcoming congregation that reaches out into the community.

As of this fall those participating in Adult Forum decided that they most wanted to look at the lectionary readings and discuss them. Also during Lent a daytime Bible Study was offered for 5 weeks. An evening Quiet Reflection Mass was offered before the Thursday Choir practice. This combined a period of silence and reflection before the Eucharist.

In Advent 2007 we met weekly and discussed a selection of meditations, poems and Gospel lections. In Lent 2008 we will do a 5- week discussion program on C.S. Lewis's Four Loves.

Christian Meditation Group

Mother Karin organized the Meditation Group this fall and it is made up of parishioners and a few adults from Meadow Lakes who have had some experience in this. The group quickly grew from 3 to 8 or 9. This group has introduced the spiritual practice of meditation which some say has become a deep avenue of prayer and "centering" in God.

Many Thanks!

And many thanks are due to those wonderful teachers who stopped teaching in June 2007...often after many years! Linda Kelly and Trisha Metzger wonderfully taught for many years in the Lower Church School. Many thanks to John Aveni for his work and contributions as a Coordinator of J2A and to Kreg Doerr, Kim Duck, and Maddie Patterson who worked so hard as teachers in the program. Thank You All!

Respectfully submitted by the Christian Formation Committee,

Gwen Lockhart

Mother Linda +

Russ Beaulieu

Jackie Crosley

Linda Kelly, Vestry Liaison

New Members for 2008: Janet Boyle, Joe Hayes

Report on Evangelism

Lincoln Crosley

Evangelism continues to be a unique challenge in our parish; as it is, not only in our denomination, but in the Church. As further attempts are made to gain traction in the parish, the following objectives will continue to be worked on:

- Meet and greet actively at, and after each service.
- Active men's ministry.
- Explore ideas that will foster spiritual growth in our parish; particularly among men.
- Regularly scheduled new member incorporation meetings and New Member Sundays

Some of the initiatives planned for 08 will be:

- Bring a friend to church.
- Monthly men's fellowship.
- Invigorating evangelism in the parish through collaboration with other ministries, and by bringing this concept into the daily life of the parish.

Anyone feeling the urge to participate in the evangelism ministry please feel free to contact the church office, and share your ideas as we go into this new cycle.

Report of the Acolyte Master

David Miller, Acolyte Master

2007 was another great year for St. David's acolytes. Although we had to bid momentary adieu upon the high schools graduation of Sam Mitchell, John Kluxen and James Kelly and gave them much-deserved thanks, we also trained-up a record six new acolytes: Kyle and Kevin Mani, Natalie Sarchiapone, Charlotte Thomas, Matthew Boyle and John Peters. This brings the ranks of St. David's acolytes to its highest level ever, 24. Once again we participated actively in the diocesan acolyte festival and conducted a special commissioning/recognition service in June 2007. While we were unable to coordinate participation in the national festival, mostly due to the timing of my change of occupation and new responsibilities, we were able to create a new acolyte handbook, which was given to all new acolytes and posted in the sacristy. We will look to publish it in a more user-friendly format and circulate it to all acolytes. We also made a full inventory of vestments and have ordered new albs and cinctures.

Our main goals for 2008 will be completion and distribution of the new acolyte manual and participation in both the diocesan and national acolyte festivals. All members of St. David's, 9 years old or more, are encouraged to consider becoming acolytes and joining in this important and fulfilling lay ministry. It requires only 3, 1-hour training sessions, which will be offered in the spring of 2008. Just call me.

Respectfully submitted,

David Miller
Acolyte Master

Report of the Altar Guild

St. David's Altar Guild continues to work behind the scenes as a dedicated group of 16.

This year has brought us a year of new horizons. Mother Karin has been a bright light in our worship and a true gift to our church family. The addition of our new vestments and Altar Hanging has sparked everyone's creative eye and proved that with time, change is good.

Flowers, in Memory of a Loved One, will continue to be \$40.00. The Sanctuary Candle will be \$7.00. Our vestry will continue to pay for the bread and wine used in Sunday worship. The Altar Guild will continue with the purchasing of altar linens and sanctuary adornments.

2007 will be another year of change here at St. David's. We, the altar guild, will continue to work with our clergy to ensure worship at St. David's continues to run smoothly to meet the needs of our St. David's Family.

In Faith,

Kathy Herzog, Directress
St. David's Altar Guild

Members:

Angela Holman	Nancy Roberts
Marna McDermott	Gioia York
Mary Whitlock	Barbara Beaulieu
Bonnie Rumpf	Carol Rodgers
Corinne Peters	Shirley Vassall
Sandra Szymanski	Penny Stout
Nancy Roberts	Susan Lautsen
Sue Curry	

Report of the Greeters Guild

The greeters at St David's have enjoyed another year of meeting many new friends, some of whom have been passing through while others have remained as permanent members of the congregation

We continue to have a very faithful group of volunteers each Sunday including Virginia Reading-Davis, Arleen Cazalet, Dr Malcolm Plum, Margaret Perritt, Helen Cushman and Ann Benenson.

Barbara and Russell Beaulieu continue to be our regular greeters at the 8 am service and various members of J2A and young church families help on special occasions.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Holman

Report on Music

2007 was a year of positive change and growth for the music program at St. David's.

A Music and Liturgy Committee was created, which meets quarterly, to aid in the presentation of music/liturgy at St. David's.

The regular use of Contemporary music in worship was introduced, and the first Contemporary service was held in the Memorial Garden in September.

St. David's Children's Choir was formed, with regular weekly rehearsals, and debuted very strongly at the 6.30pm Christmas Eve service.

Choir Gowns were purchased, and choir stalls placed in the choir area of the Sanctuary. St. David's Choir vested for the first time on Palm Sunday - during Bishop Councill's visit.

A Digital Baby Grand Piano was added to the Sanctuary in October, which has already proven a useful asset, serving in both Traditional and Contemporary worship environments.

New Choir folders were purchased, to aid in streamlining the presentation of the Choir.

A variety of soloists - singers and instrumentalists - from St. David's Congregation performed during worship services this past year, proving what a musical community St. David's really is!

St. David's Choir remains strong and continues to enrich and uplift the worship at this church.

In addition to their outstanding performances most Sunday's, they especially gave of their gifts on the Festival of St. David's Day, Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Advent Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve. The Choir also represented St. David's admirably at the WHAM Choir Festival in February. I continue to be amazed and thrilled by their hard work and commitment to the quality of music and worship at St. David's.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr. Camilla Jarnot

Report on the Ushers of St. David's

The Ushers of St David's are scheduled for all regular Services.

Our assigned duties are: to help ensure that members of the Congregation have the necessary programs and inserts, to direct worshipers to available seats, to participate in the Service, and to prepare the Sanctuary for the next Service.

The lead usher at the 8:00 Service is Russ Beaulieu.

Ushers who served during 2007 and/or are scheduled to usher during 2008 at the 9:30 Service are: Ed Abramovitz, Ann Bright, Bernadette Bruce, Suzanne Camlin, Pete Caputo, Charles Fischer, Joe Henning, Angelo Inglisa, Laura Inglisa, Bill Jones, Bill Kluxen, John Kluxen, Perry Laustsen, Angela Levy, David Levy, David Mitchell, Sam Mitchell, Ed Miller, Kim Neighbor, Debi Ribardo, Bob Rogers, Rob Sarchiapone, Paul Szymanski, and Robert Thomas.

We also thank members of the Congregation who have voluntarily assisted us when needed.

Several Ushers are involved in other ministries or are away attending college, so we are requesting additional volunteers. Each Usher is placed on a rotating schedule of 2 - 3 Sundays every three months. Any one who is interested is encouraged to contact the Church Office or Charles Fischer for additional information.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Fischer

Jan. 2008

Report on Outreach

Last year I concluded my Outreach Annual report with the words "Let's continue to do the good works that GOD has set us out to do, to serve and love one another". I must begin this year's report by thanking everyone for his or her constant and generous service to others and for the palpable love that we show for one another. We are actively doing GOD's work and I believe that he is pleased with our efforts.

The Lord's Pantry has been very successful again this year. Week after week the baskets are overflowing with food. Bill Kluxen and Donna Munde have provided the transportation of the food to the various food banks. The food is donated to the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Homefront, and St. Anthony's food pantry. Your continued support of this much-needed outreach is greatly appreciated. It's hard to imagine that in an area of such prosperity that many of our local residents really do go hungry.

We had two clothing drives this year. The spring collection was donated to the Salvation Army and the fall collection was donated to our FIRST ANNUAL YARD SALE. The Salvation Army picked up the left over yard sale items. Thank you to everyone that donated!

The congregation participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the Susan G. Koman's Race for the Cure, and the CROP WALK. Many thanks to all the participants and generous sponsors.

Whitney Pullen has worked hard to help us keep focused on the continued needs of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Orleans. She spearheaded a very successful pie sale with the proceeds being sent to St. Paul's to help them continue their rebuilding efforts. Thank you Whitney!

Our Advent outreach for the organization ENABLE' and the Community Action Service Center was a huge success. We sponsored 10 families from Enable and 60 children from the Community Action Service Center. Your response was awesome and many families and children had a happier Christmas this year because of your generosity and caring.

The following list represents the organizations we supported in 2007:

- Womanspace
- Mercer Street Friends
- Trinity Cathedral Academy
- Theological Seminary Support of Chuck Fischer
- Better Beginnings Child Care Center
- Episcopal Relief and Development Fund
- Dawes Park Recreational Summer Program
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Mercer County
- Crop Walk
- Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bound Brook, New Jersey

- Princeton Medical Center's Chaplaincy Program
- Community Action Service Center
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Orleans, Louisiana
- UNICEF

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Rodgers

Vestry member representing Outreach

Report on Pastoral Care, 2007

Submitted by Br. John Baptist, OSF

I am pleased to report that Pastoral Care continues to be a strong component of St. David's call to ministry to all of God's children. Parishioners receive in-hospital visitation as well as home visitation when attendance at Divine Service is not possible due to illness or other health considerations. Your clergy staff continues to find a sense of deep satisfaction in serving as the hands, ears and heart of Christ Jesus in these pastoral callings. Please remember to notify the parish office in the event you or your loved ones find yourselves in hospital. The ministry of the church is an important component of any health-care plan.

Our Pastoral Care ministry is not limited to members of the parish; we continue to extend love, compassion and care to persons living at five sites within the local community.

The following locations continue to be part of our parish Pastoral Care Outreach Program:

Meadow Lakes
Monroe Village
Cranbury Center
The Elms
Pavilion

I am pleased to let you know we have added the Pavilion at Forrestal as one of the sites to which we provide monthly worship services. Fr. Jim Walworth has added additional support to our ministry at Monroe Village, as has our deacon, Richard Wisniewski.

I serve as On Call Chaplain at the Princeton Medical Center at various times throughout the year; this means I provide Chaplain Service after hours at the hospital.

On an average month St. David's Pastoral Care Program ministers to 100+ souls outside our Sunday and Wednesday services. This ministry is not limited to Episcopalians; we minister to persons from all Christian denominations as well as to several Jewish people who attend services at the Assisted Living sites.

St. David's Pastoral Care is provided by Mother Karin, Mother Linda, Deacon Rich and Br. John Baptist.

Report of the Finance Committee

The financial projections, reflected in next year's budget, are better than last year's. Because of an increase in Congregational Pledges, and good support of fundraisers, we have reason to consider new projects that will enhance the future and impact of St. David's on the community at large, fulfilling the desires and expectations expressed in the Parish profile. This budget of 2008 reflects continued funding of all areas that produced noticeable growth for us in 2007, in the expectation of encouraging and producing enduring growth. Last year, in planning for 2007, we also looked at possible 2008 needs, which we did again for 2009 when developing this new budget. This helped us to not only keep an eye on the future requirements, but also to assess the accuracy of our projections when planning the current budget.

Despite the vacillations of the market, our portfolio again this year achieved modest paper profits. Early last year, the Finance Committee reviewed strategies that would better allocate our funds in a manner that would update and support the needs of our Parish, from Cash Management to Asset Allocation for various investment requirements. Although the Committee made recommendations that were supported by the Vestry, that would authorize changes to the investment portfolio, due to possible future commitments, different investment strategies maybe needed to be implemented, changing it from a discretionary posture to one of collateral.

During this new fiscal year, we will need to consider various matters, from finding a new associate to beginning plans for a facility that will better serve and accommodate our growing Parish. This will entail the development of strategies that will increase our income from new sources to asking for greater contributions from our current pledges, so we can accomplish even greater achievements in 2008.

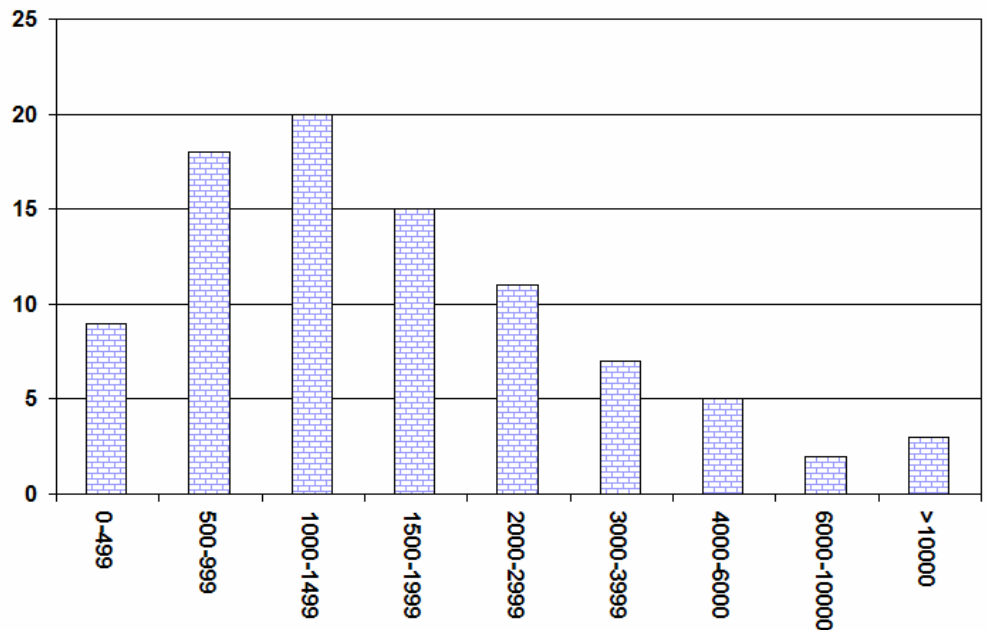
Respectively submitted,

Corinne Peters

2008 Stewardship Pledge Results

The 2008 Stewardship campaign was rewardingly successful. The pledged amount - over \$209,000 - is the largest pledge total ever. The number of pledge cards returned -90 - was also a record. This is evidence of St. David's growth.

I would like to add my own personal "stars" to those who increased their percentage giving, and progressed towards their goal of the biblical tithe, and making stewardship a visible part of their belief.



The chart on this page shows the distribution of pledges. Although our number of pledges increased, a sizable portion (over 30%) came from only a few very generous pledgers. We need to broaden our base.

Bob Rodgers, Stewardship Coordinator

*For those who gave from abundance,
like the Three Kings at Epiphany,*

Lord we thank you.

*For those who gave from scarcity,
like the widow who had only two copper coins,*

Lord we thank you.

*For those who showed their commitment
to Christ and his work
by returning their pledge card,*

Lord we thank you.

Let us give thanks to our Lord and God,

It is right to give Him thanks and Praise.

Report of the Communications Committee

Report of the Social Committee

Social

St. David's started the year with our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper marking the start of Lent. The events to follow were the Maundy Thursday Foot Washing and Seder meal, The Women's Tea, The Church Picnic, Caribbean Night the return of an old favorite... Progressive Dinner and the annual Women's Christmas Party.

Coffee Hour continues to be a big hit on Sunday morning after the 10 am service here at St. David's. Delicious treats and great attendance continue to make fellowship exciting! If you would like to host a Sunday there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We will calm your fears with a "What To Do and How Much" packet to be available soon!

Thank you to all who have contributed to our church fellowship. It could not have been done without you!

Coming this spring... bus trip to Sight & Sound, Lancaster PA. Watch for Details....

Faithfully,

*Kathy Herzog
Chair*

Report of the Building Exploration Committee

Ian Bailey

Rectoꝛ's Statistics foꝛ 2007

Baptisms		
Caitlyn Tuleya Nagle	2/18/07	KRM+
Alexandra Carol DeRose	3/4/07	KRM+
Samantha Marie DeRose	3/4/07	KRM+
Hannah Revere Lohr-Pearson	4/7/07	KRM+
Adam Caldwell Lohr-Pearson	4/7/07	KRM+
Daniel Nicholas Edward James Hodge McAra	5/27/07	KRM+
Tyler Christopher Cenci	6/17/07	KRM+
Tochi Amuche Owunna	9/9/07	KRM+
Payton Kendall Farkas	10/7/07	KRM+
James Steven Farkas	10/7/07	KRM+
Shona Malika Morris	10/28/07	KRM+
Joseph Niall Schneider	11/4/07	KRM+

MARRIAGES		
Alison Reese & Mark Megee	3/31/07	KRM+
Melinda Neff & Marc Willems (Molly Pitcher Inn, Red Bank, NJ)	8/5/07	KRM+

BURIALS		
Alice Anne Navin	9/15/07	KRM+
Eleanor M. Siebers	10/27/07	KRM+
Jason Christopher Harley	11/30/07	KRM+
Kenneth Yates	12/10/07	Br. John Baptist, OFM
Irwin Kenneth Werner	12/32/07	KRM+

Qualifications for Voting Members
