



# The Tablet

**St. David's Episcopal Church**

**90 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512**

609-655-4731 [www.stdavidscranbury.com](http://www.stdavidscranbury.com) FAX 609-655-4732  
office@stdavidscranbury.com

June 2006

Vol. 37, Number 6

## **Sunday Morning Services:**

**8:00 am Rite I**

**9:45 am Rite II**

## **Wednesday Morning Service:**

**9:15 Holy Euch.  
And Healing**

**Rector: The Rev.  
Karin R. Mitchell**

**Associate: The  
Rev. Richard  
Cromwell**

**Pastoral Care:  
Brother John  
Baptist, OSF**

**Director of  
Music: Dr.  
Camilla Jarnot**

**Office Assistant:  
Debra Ribardo**

**Rector Emeritus:  
Rev. Laurence  
Fish**

Dear Friends,

Unless you have spent the past few weeks in outer space or on a deserted island, I'm sure you have heard something of the debate/discussion about "The Da Vinci Code." Putting aside for now the fact that the critics have panned the movie, what does it have to do with us as Christians and why are people so upset by it?

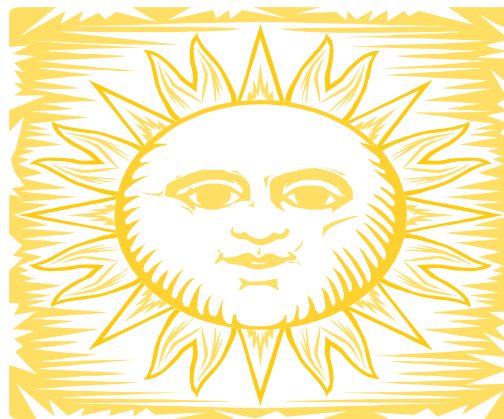
I suppose the members of the Roman Catholic Church have a little more to be upset about than we do in the Episcopal Church, as some of its present institutions are portrayed in a rather unflattering light. But the historical perspective the movie offers is of concern to all Christians, especially *if* they consider the book to be a work of *non-fiction*. This fortunately is not the case. Dan Brown has written a book of *fiction*, a mystery which draws from legend, myth, and questionable scholarship for its subject matter. There are parts of the story which have echoes of true Christian history, such as the Roman Emperor Constantine, who decreed that Christianity be the official religion of his empire. The early Church did persecute women who were seen to be a threat to the organized hierarchy of the day. Mary Magdalene was probably one of the disciples, and writings attributed to her have been found and are available to all of us for reading and study. There *are* non-canonical Gospels in existence, such as those attributed to Judas, Thomas, and Phillip to name a few others.

None of that is earth shattering information. None of that is particularly new to those who study the Church. None of that is enough to make me question my faith in Jesus Christ. They are not just fundamental to my faith. I would suspect that they aren't to yours either. My faith is not based on whether or not Jesus was a man who lived as most Jewish men of his time lived, in a relationship with a woman. My faith is not based on how the Church came into being. My faith is not based on the Institutions of the Church as they stand today. My faith is based on the love that God has shown to all of humanity through the person, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. I believe that God is active in this world right now, today, and maybe even through this great "debate" about what the church is and isn't about; God is active in my life and in all of yours. I believe that God is bigger than anything we can imagine or describe and certainly much bigger than the Institutional Church.

I read the book, I saw the movie. I enjoyed them both as entertainment based on a subject important and interesting to me, Christianity and the Church. I'd love to hear your reactions to them...let's talk about it!

Blessings,  
Karin+

## Summer Services Schedule



Wednesday 9:15 am:

Holy Eucharist Rite II and Healing

Sunday 9 am: **(beginning June 25)**

Alternating Holy Eucharist Rite I  
and Rite II with music

This summer we will be holding one Sunday worship service at 9 am beginning on Sunday, June 25. The service will be held using our Rite I and Rite II liturgies on alternating Sundays. There will be nursery care available. Lemonade will be available for those who wish to linger and catch up; otherwise the liturgy should conclude by 10 am leaving you free to have fun in the sun for the rest of the day!

**Please be sure to call the office** if you or your family are ill and/or in the hospital. Area hospitals are no longer permitted to call member's churches to let them know you have been admitted. You can also call either the rector at home, 443-0640 or on her cell phone, 908-812-2684 or Brother John at home, 936-0149. We want to visit you when you are ill, but we can't if we don't know if you need a visit and where you are!!

## Fireweed Evangelism

On Tuesday, May 2, Anne Benenson, Kim Neighbor, Mother Karin and I spent a very fruitful day attending the Fireweed Evangelism conference hosted at Grace Episcopal Church in Haddonfield, New Jersey. The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Geitz, along with The Rev. David Stout, inspired us with new and innovative ways to reach out to others—both from within our congregation and to those outside our congregation.

Canon Geitz and Rev. Stout sited the church's message as stodgy and outdated in today's mass media society. We do agree that some of those mass-media appeals can and should indeed be employed to further the mission of the church to reach out.

A particular initiative discussed at the conference was to establish a database to track and inform parishioners. The Parishioner Information Data Store (PIDS) has been completed for St. David's and is currently being deployed for a resource not only for the office use but to create a current Parish People Directory. The office staff and I will continue work

towards making this database serve the ends for which it was designed.

Thanks again to the ad hoc committee of Suzanne Camlin, Harry Ruhl, Mother Karin, and of course our vestry in putting together a very thoughtful and clear directive. We also look forward to making a version of the PIDS available to other parishes.

Mother Karin invited a number of people to participate on the Evangelism Committee and I would again like to extend an invitation to anyone else so inclined, if only for specific initiatives, to engage into a conversation about evangelism and discipleship.



Lincoln Crosley

## *An Invitation...*

*You are cordially invited to attend the Celebration of New Servant Ministry between The Church of the Holy Communion, Fair Haven and The Rev. Robert W. Thomas, Deacon at the 10:00 am Eucharist on Sunday, June 11, 2006*



### Directions

Find your way to the Garden State Parkway. Exit at 109. Bear Right onto Newman Springs Road. Take Newman Springs Road to Shrewsbury Ave. Turn left onto Shrewsbury Ave. Continue on Shrewsbury Ave. to W. Front St. Turn right onto W. Front St. W. Front St. becomes River Road. Continue on River Road. The church will appear on your right just past Church Street in Fair Haven. Church Street is a side street. Parking is on side streets.

The Rev. James C. McReynolds, Vicar  
Church of the Holy Communion  
7 Church Street  
Fair Haven, NJ 07704-3320  
732-747-4671

## *Angel's Hands*

Do you have a few extra minutes here and there? If so, please consider adding your name to our list on the bulletin board in the narthex.

A group, titled appropriately, Angel's Hands, will be formed of St. David's members. These volunteers will provide help when and where needed for things such as special mailings, clean-up, inventory, special events, cooking, painting, repairs, shopping, delivering, and other services.



We would like to assemble a list of potential helpers to call as the need arises. Each person would help if they are available for a one-time task. Anyone, young or not-quite young is welcome to sign up.

Our gracious thank you in advance to help make St. David's and it's members an even greater place!

### *St. David's Clean-up Day*

**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY:** Please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 25 after the 9 am service to stay around for awhile to help with sprucing up our grounds. Wear your jeans, bring your gardening gloves and stay for as long or as short as you like. As they say, "many hands make quick work!" Our grounds are the first thing the community around us and our guests see and we would like make St. David's property a joy for all to behold. Thanks for your help! Coffee and donuts will be served!

## Congratulations to our Graduates!

Rachelle Levy graduated from Tufts University on May 21. Rachelle received her Bachelor of Arts degree in child development.

Jeff McDermott graduated from the Univ. of Delaware on May 27 with a major in business management/economics.

Amanda Thomas is graduating from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. Amanda plans to go to Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania.

Caroline Fabian is graduating Hightstown High School and will be pursuing a career in acting.

Josh Miller received his Eagle Scout Award May 19. He is graduating from high school and in the fall will attend Penn State University, Main Campus, School of Engineering.

Ashley Rumpf will graduate from West Windsor High School South and will go to the Mountain State University in Berkley, West Virginia, majoring in Forensics.

Josiah Doult is being promoted from the Melvin H. Kreps Middle School to Hightstown High School. . Elizabeth Kelly is graduating from Cranbury School. She will attend The Peddie School in the fall.

## Congratulations to...

The proud parents, Kim and Michael Duck, on the birth of their son, Zachary Rodgers Duck.

Becky Rodgers and Bill on their engagement. A November 2006 wedding is being planned.

Andrew and Jennifer Stenard on the baptism of their daughter, Katherine Grace on Pentecost Sunday.

Our rector on her election to be the Trenton Convocation representative on the Diocesan Board of Missions.

Sarah Mitchell who achieved All-American status in Women's Track and Field at the NCAA Division 3 Finals at Chicago over Memorial Day weekend in the Javelin.

## A Special Thanks to...

Michelle Black and her Women's Tea committee members for a beautiful and successful afternoon fundraiser for our church.

Carol Rodgers for coordinating our blood donation day at Princeton Medical Center and the 5 people who donated blood that morning.

Our Rite 13 young people who created and celebrated a wonderful Rite 13 Service on May 21. Many thanks also to their adult leaders and Camilla Jarnot for their guidance and support.

Kim Rodgers Duck, who after many dedicated years in our J2A program, is taking some time off to attend to her own family! (but not too long...right Kim?)

The Rev. Linda Carlson-Scholer for filling in while our rector was away at a Continuing Education program for Congregational Development and on Memorial Day weekend.

All of our Church School and J2A teachers/leaders who have done a wonderful year providing a stimulating, loving and spiritual educational environment for our children to learn about their faith and our church. And to all our parents who made sure their children attended faithfully!

The St. David's Choir as they take their summer hiatus... we will miss you and thank you for your time and dedication.



### Meeting Date Change:

For members of St. David's who are interested in attending Vestry meetings, beginning in September, Vestry will meet on the third Tuesday of each month, not the second Tuesday as we have done previously. The date change is because our rector will be attending the Diocesan Board of Missions, which meets on the second Tuesday of each month.

## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

All baptized Christians are called to ministry in Christ. The Education for Ministry (EFM) program provides lay people with an opportunity to discover how to respond to that call to Christian service and carry out their ministries.

**What is the Education for Ministry Program?** EFM is a theological education program of the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Participants commit for one year at a time to meet regularly in seminars led by trained mentors. Completion of the entire program takes four years, during which participants study the Bible, church history, and twentieth century theology.

**Who participates in EFM?** EFM is for the laity of the church. EFM provide the basics of a theological education in order to develop knowledge and confidence about the ministry we share. Since its beginning in 1975, more than 70,000 people have participated, and in the U.S. more than 20,000 have completed the full four years. EFM groups can be found throughout the U.S., and in Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and other countries. In 2002-2003, enrollment reached 9,000.

**What can you expect from EFM?** EFM provides a comprehensive, experiential education in the foundations and message of our Christian faith. You will find that EFM teaches you how to think theologically, deepens your faith and your understanding of our Christian heritage, and provides you with a new confidence to be Christ's minister.

**How does EFM work?** Seminar groups of 6 to 12 students are led by trained mentors. Groups meet weekly during a nine-month cycle to reflect theologically, discuss the study materials, and worship together. Participants follow a lesson and study guide which are to be read each week in preparation for the seminar. There are no tests or papers!

**Where can I participate in EFM?** Trinity Church in Princeton, NJ hosts an EFM seminar group that meets on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:30 from mid-September through May. The group is co-mentored by Steve Isham and Diane Paulsell; both are EFM graduates and have served as co-mentors for three years. Trinity's EFM group is currently accepting applicants for 2006-2007 (only a one-year commitment is required).

For more information: Contact Diane Paulsell (609-279-1584) or Steve Isham (609- 890-1602), EFM mentors at Trinity Church, or Gwen Lockhart (609-585-0990), an EFM participant and parishioner at St. David's. More information about the EFM curriculum and sample lessons are available at <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/EFMhome.html>.



## A Camping Event

St. David's is invited to join Grace St. Paul's annual camping trip and head for the hills this fall! **September 22-24** (Friday evening through Sunday mid-day) are the dates for **Camp GraSP**, a camping weekend held at YMCA Camp Ralph Mason in Blairstown, NJ. Accommodations are dormitory-style, meals are included, and the activities range from canoeing and hiking to sitting by the fireplace talking to old friends and making new ones, community building events and worship.

Camp Mason is about an hour and a half north of Mercerville, in the beautiful hills of Sussex County. We stay in Spruce Lodge, which has a large central room with a fireplace, bunk rooms that sleep eight, and a small kitchen. Meals (breakfast Saturday through lunch on Sunday) are held in the camp dining hall, which is a short

walk around the lake from Spruce Lodge. Camp Mason staffs activities like archery, canoeing, and apple cidering. We will hike to the old fire tower (bring a camera!), enjoy a Saturday evening campfire, celebrate outdoor Eucharist on Sunday, and have plenty of time for games and relaxing.

**Camp GraSP** is for everyone— young, old, singles, married, with or without children. The costs this year for lodging, meals, and activities for the two+ days will be \$82 for campers 13 years old and up, \$55 for 12 –3 yrs, and no charge for under 3 yrs (financial assistance is available). If you'd like to sign up or need more information, please contact the office at 655-4731.

*This will be a great weekend of fellowship and fun!*

## June Lord's Pantry Items: Rice and Beans

**Please bring your items to church and place in the baskets in the narthex.**



## Golf Outing

It's time for the annual Golf Outing!! Join us at Gambler Ridge Golf Club in Cream Ridge, New Jersey on Thursday, July 13 at 10:30 am.

The program begins at 10:30 with registration. Lunch will be served at 11:00, and a Scramble Tournament will be held at 12:30 pm. Yes, non-golfers, you can come just for dinner!!!! (\$35. fee)

The awards and dinner begin at 5:00 pm, with prizes awarded for: closest to the pin, closest to the line, and the longest drive. Many door prizes will be offered. Space is limited, so reserve your spot now! Individuals \$90; Foursomes are \$360. Sponsorship opportunities are also available; please see the flyer located in the church narthex or call Ian Bailey at 609-448-0467 after 7:00 pm. Checks can be made payable to St. David's Church; please include your registration form with your fee.

Funds raised from this event will aid in our ongoing efforts to provide the greater Cranbury and Hightstown/East Windsor area with spiritual support and financial aid for our outreach programs.

## Community News

St. Luke's Village, a permanent resident apartment building located in Somerset County, currently has three (3) vacancies. This unique living concept offers apartments that include laundry and kitchen facilities, and is located in the heart of beautiful Gladstone, New Jersey.

The Village's requirements are that applicants be 62 years of age or older, and fall within Somerset County's guidelines of low to moderate income.

For further information, please contact Bill Jordan at 908-234-0605 or Sally Holzapfel at 908-439-2866.

## Funding Future Leaders

Will our parishes have priests? God calls all to ministry...some to ordained ministry. However, not all can respond to the call to the priesthood because of the cost of seminary.

Burdened by college debt and a price tag of \$50,000 to \$100,000 or more for seminary, faithful people with the potential to develop into committed, dynamic priests cannot say "yes" to God's call. Others successfully complete a Master of Divinity degree, but the load of educational debt limits where they can serve and lessens their effectiveness in ministry.

The Society for the Increase of the Ministry has launched a national campaign called Funding Future Leaders within the Episcopal Church to establish a national endowment for Episcopal seminarians so they will not incur additional educational debt while they attend one of 11 Episcopal seminaries.

The Episcopal Church is the only major denomination in the United States that does not have a central funding source to support seminarians in their education and training.

For more information about the debt crisis and how you can help, visit [www.FundingFutureLeaders.org](http://www.FundingFutureLeaders.org) or contact The Society for the Increase of the Ministry at 860-233-1732.

***A good life makes you wise according to God and gives you experience in many things, for the more humble you are and the more subject to God, the wiser and the more at peace you will be in all things.***

**Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ***