



# The St. David's Epistle

Volume 4  
Issue 1  
Winter 2015

St. David's Episcopal Church • 905 E. McMurray Rd., Venetia, PA 16367 • 724-941-4060  
Pastoral Care Hotline (412) 780-6212, www.stdavidsp.org

## An Unlikely Partnership



For the past couple of months, I have been in conversation with Doug Brandt, the Senior Minister at Peters Creek Presbyterian Church, to talk about the possibility of St. David's hosting the people of Peters Creek while they decide where their new worship space will be.

About seven years ago Peters Creek Presbyterian Church decided to leave the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America (PCUSA) and join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). Since then, they have been working through a long and difficult lawsuit over the rightful ownership of the property and assets of the church.

This fall the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decided not to hear their ap-

peal and the property was awarded to the Washington Presbytery of the PCUSA. After some negotiations with the Presbytery, the leadership and the parish of Peters Creek have decided they may need to leave the property behind and seek out a new home.

During the appeals process, Doug approached me to ask whether we might be willing and able to make room for them to worship here if the need arose. I begged off a bit realizing the enormity of this request, but something drew me to the proposition.

After our meeting I spoke with Bishop McConnell about whether this was even a possibility and if he would be comfortable with us sharing

space with another congregation. After some conversations with some of his colleagues and a follow up with me, he gave us permission to look into it.

Now on its face, this seems like a crazy idea. Anyone that has had a roommate knows how it goes. Even the best ones do and see things differently and this ultimately leads to tensions and frustrations. The idea of welcoming 150 new roommates into our midst opens us up to the potential for trouble.

In addition to the practical and logistical concerns are the political ones. This is a congregation that decided because of the trajectory of their denomination and its practices, they could no longer be a part of the PCUSA. They left to join a more traditional and evangelical denomination. This is exactly what happened here at St. David's seven years ago which led to 90% of our congregation leaving to start a new church in a new denomination.

Our parish experienced first hand the destructive power of division. We know how quickly it

## Announcements

### Ash Wednesday Service & Imposition of Ashes-

St. David's will hold an Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. on February 18th. Those who cannot attend the service may stop by the church from 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 2:45-3:30 p.m. to receive the Imposition of Ashes from Rev. Kris McInnes.

**St. David's Day** - On March 1, Bishop McConnell will be visiting St. David's as we celebrate St. David's Day. The church will be decorated with daffodils, and our music will include the beauty of a harpist. A reception will follow. Please join us for this special day.

### Maudy Thursday Service

The service will be held Thursday, April 2, 2015 7:00 p.m. and will include foot washing.

**Good Friday**-We will once again participate in the Ecumenical Good Friday Service held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 105 Gateshead Dr., McMurray, PA at 12:00 pm. On Friday, April 3, 2015.

Continued on Pg. 3

# The Columbarium at St. David's Episcopal Church

By Esther Kirchner

As you approach your main entrance of our church have you ever seen a beautiful stained glass window? Have you ever wondered where this is located inside the building? Well it is located in a tiny room next to the conference room which houses the Columbarium

In today's world many chose cremation rather than traditional burial. Families are then left with the decision of where to place their loved one's ashes. Here at St. David's we can provide a special service and a final resting place within the church building. The room is set apart and has the beautiful stained glass window of St. David which accentuates the feeling of tranquility and that it is a special place.

The Columbarium itself is divided up into many vaults. Families who plan



ahead will often purchase their space when making a will. Many find comfort in knowing this option is available.

Stop by the room and enjoy the beautiful St. David window from the inside

and see for yourself what a Columbarium really is. If you're interesting in purchasing a vault in St. David's Columbarium, please contact the office at 724-941-4060.

Please consider donating a spring plant in memory of a deceased loved one or in thanksgiving for family and friends. Plants will include Easter lilies, hydrangea, hyacinths, mums and primroses. A donation of \$10 per name is suggested and additional order forms can be found in the narthex

## Easter Flowers 2015 To the Glory of God and

In Loving Memory of:	In Thanksgiving for:
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

Name of Donor (as to be printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **St. David's Episcopal Church**. Return by Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, to St. David's Episcopal Church, 905 E. McMurray Rd., Venetia, PA 15367 Attn: Easter Flowers





## Godly Play- The Parables

During the Season of Epiphany, our Godly Play stories often include the Parables Jesus told. See,

when the disciples asked Jesus a question, they often did not get a straight answer, instead they got a story. Jesus storytelling was thought provoking and rich in symbolism as

are the Parables we use with the children. First, a Parable is kept in a gold box. We tell the children the Parables are even more precious than gold. We say the parables are in a box like a gift and were given to us a very long time ago. We tell the children the Parable has a lid and sometimes when you open a Parable you may not understand it, so you must keep trying. The Parable story pieces are all flat, unlike many of the three dimensional pieces used to tell other stories. This reason they are flat is because they are meant to be brought to life by the imagination of the listener. Some of the Parables we will tell include The Good Shepherd, The Good Samaritan, The Sower, and The Leaven. These stories seem simple in many ways. But as it is with Parables, you may find more than you thought the deeper you look into the box.

## Thank you very much for the Christmas gifts

This year many of you contributed to a collection for a Christmas present for me. Among the gifts were some cash/gift cards, a personalized travel mug, and a magnetic decision maker (which I found very humorous and something my son Oliver especially likes to play with). Thank you for your gifts and contributions. I am so very blessed to be a part of this wonderful parish. Here is to many more years of ministry and love in future. God bless.

Kris+

## Partnership continued from Pg. .1

drained our energy and shifted our focus away from ministry in our community, but once the conflict was over we had the chance to rebuild. Out of great pain and uncertainty an incredible congregation emerged. One that is rich in love and grace and is called to "warmly welcome all."

After much prayer, reflection, and discernment, I believe that it might just be God's call for us to

welcome them into our midst. It is a path with many potential pitfalls and difficulties, many of which we will not know until we start along the path. But it is also a path rimmed with great possibility and a strong spirit of reconciliation.

It is my hope that we take a leap of faith and invite them into our home, but it is not a decision that I make alone. We will all need to be committed to the work of welcome as they will be more than just another tenant renting space in the build-

ing. They will be partners in Christ with us as we seek to live the call of God in our lives as individuals and as a congregation.

I would like to hear from you if you have thoughts or feelings you are willing to share. Please feel free to call or email. There will also be an open forum as part of our Annual Parish Meeting, which immediately follows worship on Sunday, February 8. The meeting should be less than an hour and childcare will be provided for any who require it.

Fr. Kris



**Sack Hunger**– Join SHIM to help Sack Hunger in the south hills by visiting [shim-center.org/virtual food drive](http://shim-center.org/virtual-food-drive) to “shop” online. There you will see exactly how far SHIM can stretch your dollar. They can purchase 6 times the amount of food from the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank than if you went shopping yourself. Please make your donation today.

## Discipleship Group (Christianity 101)

Wednesdays in Lent at 6:30 p.m. (starting Feb. 25) I will be hosting a discipleship group in the conference room. Think of it as Christianity 101. This will be an opportunity for any adults and high school students who would like to learn more about being a follower of Jesus. Topics will include, but are not limited to: the scriptures, the prayer book, Episcopal tradition, church history, systematic theology, and ethics. Together we will learn more about the Christian faith as our church has received it and discuss how that faith affects our lives and this world. All are welcome and encouraged to join us. If you would like to attend and require childcare, please let Fr. Kris know so that arrangements can be made.



### ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

905 E. McMurray Rd.  
Venetia, PA 15367

Phone: 724-941-4060

Fax: 724-941-4061

Pastoral Care Hotline: (412) 780-6212

[stdavidspt.org](http://stdavidspt.org)

*Reaching out to warmly  
welcome all.*