



The

# MESSENGER

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The Monthly Newsletter of St. David's Church

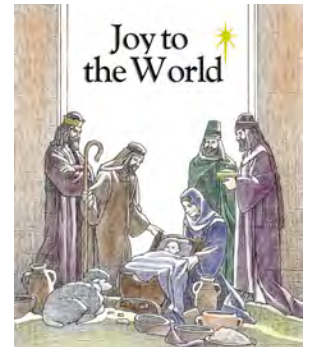
Volume 25, Issue 10 ♦ December 2011/January 2012

## Christmas Worship Services

This year with **Christmas Eve** falling on a Saturday and **Christmas Day** on a Sunday, we have decided the following schedule for our worship services:

On **Christmas Eve, December 24th at 7:00 p.m.**, we will have a fantastic service of Carols with a Concert and Holy Communion. Please plan to be with us, you will be very blessed. Invite friends and family. It will be a wonderful celebration of our Lord's Birth.

On **Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>, (Sunday)**, at **10:00 a.m.** (notice the time change) we will have our Christmas Day service. **That Sunday we will only have one service.** This too will be a wonderful service of celebration and Carols. Plan on joining us for this service as well.



We are

**A Committed Body of Christians**

whose mission is:

To Live Jesus

To Share Jesus

To Teach Jesus

To Take Jesus to Others

In the Power of the Holy Spirit



## Bishop Bill Thompson's Annual Visit to St. David's And Confirmations

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** **Saturday and Sunday, January 14-15**, our Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Bill Thompson, will be at St. David's for his annual visit and for Confirming those among us who are becoming Anglicans and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Please plan on being with us on Sunday to welcome our Bishop.

If you decide that you want to be Confirmed into the Anglican Communion by the reception of the imposition of hands by our Bishop or would like to reaffirm your faith on that occasion, please speak to Fr. Jose or Fr. Bill right away. There will be a two-day Confirmation Class on **Saturday, January 6 and 7**, plan on attending. After the Sunday service we will have a Question & Answer period with our Bishop.

We will have a wonderful worship service on January 15. Join us!

## Welcoming the Newly Baptized

On Sunday, November 6 we welcomed into the family of faith here at St. David's Mariah Hamdi and Savannah Adams who were baptized during our 10:30 service. We give God praise for His work in their lives.



## Pledge Commitments for 2012

Have  
You  
Pledged?



We thank everyone who has made a commitment to financially support the ministry of St. David's for 2012. If you have yet to turn in your pledge card, please be sure to do so right away as our Budget Committee will

be meeting soon. It's important that they know what to expect in the way of pledge income. Please be sure to bring your pledge card with you on Sunday and put it in the offering plate or you may also mail it to the church. Thank you.

## Two New Deacons at St. David's

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
Saturday, January 21 at  
11:00 a.m. at St. James

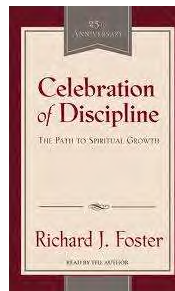
Anglican Church, Newport Beach, God willing, the Right Reverend Bill Thompson, Bishop of the Diocese of Western Anglicans will ordain to the Sacred Order of Deacons both **DiAnne Charves** (Permanent Deacon) and **Lee Mullins** (Transitional Deacon). A Transitional Deacon would be ordained to the Priesthood a year later (2013). Both DiAnne and Lee will be serving at St. David's. In addition to both DiAnne and Lee seven others will also be ordained from all over the Diocese.

Please make plans to join and celebrate with DiAnne and Lee. If you have any question, feel free to contact Fr. Jose. Join us!



## Second Sunday Study with Fr. Bill The Corporate Disciplines

Sunday, January 8, 2012  
1:15 to 2:30 p.m.  
in the Discipleship Room



## Kingdom Conference 2012

Like the whirling wind driving across the desert, bringing a new surface to the landscape, Kingdom Conference 2012 will bring a new way to view ministry and church growth in the 21st century. **The Power of Vision: The**

**Church for the 21st Century** sets down March 23-24, and will crack open new approaches to evangelism, church growth, and youth and children's ministry. Don't miss out on the only west coast conference designed just for Anglicans. More info coming soon!



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# Children's Corner

by Barbara Thomas, Children's Ministry Director



**D**ecember is a great time of year! We find ourselves caught up in the Holidays, from Thanksgiving and Christmas to the New Year. It's a time of excitement and anticipation of what will come.

**Mark your calendars:** As you plan for the Holidays please make sure to put the following dates on your Holiday calendar.

- ! **November 20, 2011** – *Christmas program practice begins and continue each Sunday through December 18, 2011.*
- ! **December 11, 2011** – *Christmas program final rehearsal – 1:30 PM in the church*
- ! **December 11, 2011** – *Children's caroling and Holiday Party – 3:30 PM in the parish hall*
- ! **December 18, 2011** – *Children's Christmas program during church service*

**Stepping Down:** As 2011 comes to a close, so does my time as Director of Children's Ministry at St. David's. It's been a great ride but I think God has a different plan for me, one that includes me in the program but frees me up for different challenges.

I have truly enjoyed my time leading this ministry and feel touched by every child who has graced the program during my time. I've seen so many kids grow in faith and blossom into wonderful teens and young adults. I look around and see them stepping up during vacation bible school, serving at the altar and wanting to teach and angel in a program they were once a part of. I'm so very proud of each and every one of you and want to thank you for being faithful soldiers in your walk with God. As Mr. Ken always said, God gave us free will to make

choices, your choices have been good ones!

To those kids who are currently in Children's Ministry, I'm not leaving the program and I'm not leaving you. Ms. Christine and Ms. Otmara will be taking over the leadership of the program and co-directing. It is my plan to remain a teacher and help wherever I am needed. I will still be around and I will see you each Sunday. I will always, always be there if you need me.

So, as I open a new chapter in my personal walk with Christ, I leave you in very capable hands. My wish is that you will always listen to your heart and hear God when he speaks to you. If you let Him, God will always lead you where He wants you to go.

## We Give You Thanks!

by Deborah Chase

**S**ince our shelves were depleted, we announced two weeks before Thanksgiving that due to low supply, we would not be able to distribute any food until after Thanksgiving. We really dreaded turning our brothers and sisters away. We asked and you came through in an awesome way.

Our Harvest Festival, Thanksgiving Day donations of food have filled our shelves and we are able to distribute food again to those that come to our doors seeking to feed their families.

Please take a look at our shelves:



Before



After

Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

# St. David's Family Christmas Party and Outreach!

## Sunday, December 11

by Laurie Leney

Let's go tell it on the mountain! and in the valleys and in our neighborhoods, Jesus is Coming! Let's Celebrate!

On Sunday, December 11, four ministries, Men's and Women's Ministries, the Children's Ministry and the Outreach Ministry are joining together to celebrate this special time of year with our church family and to bring the light of the world to our neighbors at the Four Seasons Convalescent Home in North Hollywood.

All St. David's men, women and children, will meet in the Parish Hall at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 11, practice our Christmas Carols and then carpool over to the Four Seasons Convalescent Home, one mile away. There at the Home, being lead by Fr. Bill and Darlene, we will sing in the dining room and stroll the halls, spreading the good news and some holiday cheer with our imperfect voices being overshadowed by our Spirit filled attitudes!

After our caroling, we will meet back at the Parish Hall to enjoy a YUMMY home cooked meal, being hosted by the Men's Ministry.

But wait, there's more! Our friends at the Four Seasons don't just need our Holly Jolly voices and candy canes, they have some real needs and we want to fill them!

St. David's will be collecting clothing items that the unvisited aren't getting from anyone else. Please buy the following items and bring them to the church on December 11 or before, so that we can bless them with our giving.

**Sizes:** Men - M, L, XL and Women - M and L

<i>Socks for men/women</i>	<i>Sweatpants for men/women</i>	<i>Sweaters for men/women</i>	<i>Long sleeves shirts</i>
<i>T-Shirts for men</i>	<i>Slippers for men/women</i>	<i>Fleece blankets</i>	<i>Shorts for men</i>

If you have any questions, please see Spencer Johnson, Tom Leney, Barbara Thomas, Deborah Chase or Laurie Leney.

Let's have a St. David's Christmas! Blessing the world in His name and enjoying the fellowship of believers!



## Third Service Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.



The goal of this new service is to reach out to the local community of St. David's and provide an expression of worship that is rarely found anywhere else in Los Angeles. It offers a chance to worship and experience high church liturgy in a way that each of your senses participates in the worship of Christ. As such, the

service introduces the singing of the psalms, hymns, incense, bells, and not to mention the chanting of the mass by our beloved priests! The service is open to whoever would like to attend.

## Mission Trip to Honduras by Deborah Chase

June 18– June 26, 2012,  
St. David's plans a mission to Honduras. As you know, we have supported our missionaries, Mike and Kim Miller, financially, and in prayer. We now plan to go and join them in the work on the farm and the Orphanage. We hope that in this announcement you will begin to pray as to whether you will want to join us. Further details will follow by the start of the New Year.



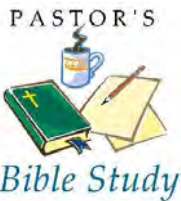
We would also ask you to lift up prayers for God's guidance and wisdom as we plan this trip.

## Pastor's Bible Study

Sunday, December 18  
at 1:00 p.m.

### Important Scheduling Change

**F**r. Jose invites all members of St. David's to join him on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month for the *Pastor's Bible Study*. In December, due to a scheduling conflict, the Bible Study will only be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, December 18. The Bible Study will not be meeting in January due to New Year's Day falling on the 1st Sunday of the month and our Bishop visiting us on the 3rd Sunday of the month.



The study is held in the **Discipleship Room from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.** and we are currently studying the Book of Acts of the Apostles with the idea of helping all of us apply what we will learn from the Early Church and the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the Disciples to our 21st Century Church context. Join us; just bring your Bible and writing materials. You will be blessed!

C.S. Lewis  
The Screwtape Letters  
January 14 and 15  
Sat 4pm & 8pm, Sun 3pm  
Thousand Oaks CA

"C.S. Lewis' brilliant novel, *The Screwtape Letters*, reveals spiritual warfare from a demon's point of view. This funny, provocative and wickedly-witty theatrical adaptation will change the way you think about how demons influence your everyday life."

Order now: [ScrewtapeOnStage.com](http://ScrewtapeOnStage.com)  
805.449-2787 or Ticketmaster 800.745.3000

Box Office & Performances at:  
Civic Arts Plaza, Kavli Theatre  
2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks CA

## Pushing Through Hay

by The Rev. Bill Blomquist

**A**dvent is a time of striking contrasts: a King who becomes a Servant, a Virgin who births God, a creation that births its Creator, a miraculous Life marked by horrific Death. There are theological contrasts as well. For example, Ethiopian Coptics link the Burning Bush (on Mt. Sinai) with the Virgin Mary. Why? Because both contained the Word of God, yet were not consumed.

A theme I often reflect on is the role of "wood" in the Christ's life. Wood is a symbol of hardened "humanity". Jesus was laid upon the hard wood of the manger at his birth, and upon the hard wood of the cross at his death. Though fully Incarnate, he was rarely recognized because he was so much like us.

When the Shepherds showed up to worship him it took real "openness" to see God buried somewhere, there in the hay, alive in the wood. He was there alright - just as the angels said. They just needed to get through the hubbub of the census, find the dimly-lit cave, and refocus their eyes upon the Heart of the Matter. But they got there.

Fast forward two thousand years. Santa reappears on Coke cans, people stream in and out of malls, rushing and bustling through the malls with one thing in mind: to get that package wrapped and under the tree, to get those cards out in time for Christmas rush, or get that last string of lights blinking and synchronized with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's *A Mad Russian's Christmas*. We've all seen people like that. We have been people like that; mindlessly roaming through mobs like Seasonal Zombies, blinded by the glitz of commercialism from the Real Presence of the Infant Savior, lying somewhere there, buried under the hay.

Advent releases us from all that. It gives us permission to chill out. Originally Advent was given to prepare the manger of our humanity for the birth of "Christ in us". Today it prepares us for that great and fearful day when the Glory of God will once again visit His Creation.

Pushing through hay and seeing the true meaning of the Season takes work. It's like the Priests of old moving through one veil and through the next, until finally arriving at the Shekinah-lit Ark of the Covenant. But it's a good work. Without it everything gets hollow, not hallowed.

May we all have the grace to see the Christ Child face to Face in this most magical season. Christ, be born in us today!



# The 17:17 St. David's Men's Group

by Spencer Johnson and Tom Leney



## Great Turkey Cook-Off Thank You!

**T**he 17:17 St. David's Men's Group (and a few women!) answered the call of the **Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission** to deliver cooked turkeys to feed the hungry and homeless of the San Fernando Valley. The turkeys helped the Mission provide a fantastic turkey feast for hundreds of people throughout Thanksgiving week. We want to thank all of those that contributed their time, treasure and talent to this worthwhile cause and especially Fr. Steve Kennedy for cooking two turkeys!

## Children's Christmas Party Looking for Volunteers

On **December 11**, the **Children's, Women's and Men's ministries** will join forces for an afternoon and evening of fun for all. We will be visiting a local convalescent home in the late afternoon to sing **Christmas Carols** and to deliver some **Christmas Holiday Cheer**. The group will finish up at St. David's for our annual **Children's Christmas party**. For more details on this event, please see the Children's Christmas Party article in this month's newsletter.

**The Men** will be cooking a delicious dinner for the **Children's Christmas Party** and we are looking for the usual strong volunteer effort and support from The 17:17. If you are interested in helping in the kitchen with preparation and/or cleanup, please see Spencer or Tom.

## Tool Box Ministry

St. David's started the **17:17 Tool Box Ministry** to help members of our church in need. We are ready and available to assist with various tasks such as handyman work around the house / apartment (such as changing fire alarm batteries, a ride to a doctor's appointment, picking up groceries, etc.) If you are in need and would like some help, or if you know someone from St. David's that needs help, please fill out a connection card during the Sunday Service and explain what you want us to do or you can call Janet at the Church office. One of our team members will contact you to discuss your request.

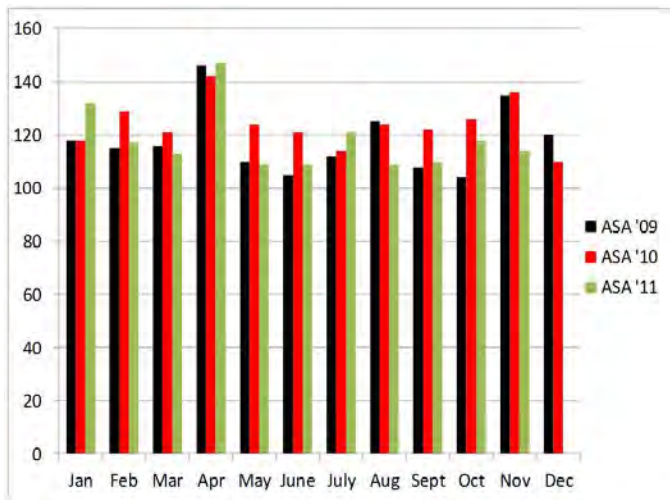
## Upcoming Events: (Mark Your Calendars)

December 11

Children's Christmas Party and  
Convalescent Home Singing

January 14

Men's Breakfast Meeting  
Bshop Bill Thompson, Guest



## Church Attendance

by The Rev. Jose Poch

**T**his is offered to you so that you are aware as to how you are doing on evangelism, invitations and our own church attendance in 2011. I would like to challenge all of us at St. David's to have a goal for a 10% growth in church attendance every year, including this year. That means if we have an average Sunday attendance of 120-130 persons, by the end of the year we would have added 12-13 new people at St. David's. These are not impossible numbers, are they? Not if we all do our part. I would like to think that 100 of us could bring 10 new people to our church. This will be our annual challenge. Join me in this.

## Monthly Potluck and Annual Meeting to Elect New Vestry Members Sunday, January 29, 2012

St. David's is governed by a board of directors also known as the Vestry.

It is the responsibility of the Vestry to manage and maintain our church facilities and finances.

Currently our Vestry is composed of 9 members, each of whom serves a 3-year term. Elections are held each year to vote in 3 new members. This year's elections will take place at our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29** immediately following our 10:30 a.m. service (**we'll have only one service on this day**).

Our meeting will begin with a **potluck meal** – so be sure to bring enough to share with others. Following the meal will be the elections and the presentation of the 2012 approved budget as well as the Treasurer's Report for 2011. Those qualified to vote are anyone age 16 and older who has been an official member of St. David's (has attended the New Members Class and signed our Membership Covenant) for at least 2 months prior to the meeting and who faithfully attends the services of the church. We encourage every member of St. David's to participate in this election process.



## A New Church in Santa Clarita?

A friend of Fr. Jose and a new clergy member of the Diocese of Western Anglicans, **Fr. Jim Obermeyer**, who now resides in Arizona with his wife Betty, is planning to relocate to Santa Clarita, where he lived for several years before moving to Arizona and where he had planted a church before.



Fr. Jim and Fr. Jose have been in conversation for several months now about planting a new Anglican Church in Santa Clarita. Fr. Jim and Betty still have many friends in that area who have been asking him to return. We ourselves know many people in Santa Clarita, some of our own members commute to St. David's from Santa Clarita and we also know of several old members who no longer attend our church who live in that area as well as friends and acquaintances. The point of Church Planting in that area is not to cut our own membership at St. David's but rather to open our heart to the possibility of a new church to the extension of God's Kingdom there.

Fr. Jim and Betty were at St. David's to preach, celebrate and meet with potential persons interested in a Church Plant in Santa Clarita, on **Sunday, November 13, during the 10:30 service**. We had a great time with them and enjoyed meetings many of their friends who also came to visit and listen to Fr. Jim preach. Afterwards Fr. Jim met with all those who were able to stay and discussed with them what it would take to start a new church. The meeting was attended by about 10-12 persons and others who could not stay gave Fr. Jim their personal information to maintain contact.

The next step in this wonderful endeavor is to continue praying and asking the Lord for guidance. Fr. Jim and Betty also need to commit their possible return to Santa Clarita to prayer asking the Lord for direction. Starting a new Church is not easy and it carries with it a number of challenges, personal and ecclesiastical. *“Lord Jesus, if this is of You, please help us all with your grace, courage and direction, open doors that currently seem closed and give Fr. Jim and Betty your clear direction. Amen.”*

# Outreach Update

by Deborah Chase



It is appropriate that this article comes to you at this time of the year. We truly are blessed to have a community that is so generous. Many thanks to you for all that you have done to support the ministries of St. David's, especially through Outreach.

- ❖ We were able to send a small donation to World Vision to help in the Food Crisis in the Horn of Africa (Sudan). Please, if there is anything that you can do on your own, it would be deeply appreciated.
- ❖ Hunger has been relieved by the food you donated in our food drives in June and at Thanksgiving. Those who come to our office doors weekly are blessed. Each week we are able to offer our facilities to Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, who hosts a breakfast for our Homeless brothers and sisters. St. David's participates as a group on the first Saturday of each month. We need your help. Please contact me.
- ❖ Many feet were covered for the first time, in your contribution to Shoes for Orphan Souls Shoe Drive, in August. You showered us with 216 pairs of shoes. Shoes for Orphan Souls of Buckner International in Dallas, Texas, was extremely appreciative of your generosity. These shoes are distributed here in the United States, and are shipped to children all over the world.
- ❖ Your coffee purchases continue to help support Hope Farm Coffee and La Esperanza de Jesus Orphanage in Honduras, S.A. The missionaries, Mike and Kim Miller are simply ecstatic by your response. Alex Faló and I were able to introduce and sell coffee at the House of Delegates Meeting and Salt Conference in September 2011, thereby spreading the word to our Anglican Diocese. We will continue to support the Farm and Orphanage through our purchases.
- ❖ Ana Reid, a new missionary, will be joining Mike and Kim Miller in Honduras soon, to serve the children and those coming for short term missions. Ana arrived in Honduras in November.
- ❖ Fr. Bryson and Deborah Samboja, continue their work in Kenya. They are currently working on building a school. This is a very ambitious project. Please pray that they receive all the supplies they will need.



Damalie Nakamoga (in front)

- ❖ We continue to support two students at the Uganda Christian University. Please see Rev. Canon Stephen Kalanzi Kigozi graduation picture posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall. Ordinand Damalie Nakamoga continues her education, and another student, Eria L. Walusimbi, will join her this year at Uganda Christian University.



Eria L. Walusimbi

- ❖ Diganta Maity continues his work with House of Revival in Calcutta, India, offering training courses for Ministry leaders and feeding Hungry Children.
- ❖ We continue to offer our prayers in support of missionaries in Papua, Argentina, the Persecuted Church, Barnabas Fund, and Voice of the Martyrs.

I will bring you more plans for mission and missionaries after the first of the New Year. Thank you very much for your generous support so that these ministries can continue to flourish and God's Word and work can be manifested. Blessings, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year to you and your loved ones!

# News from the Anglican Communion

The following article comes from the periodical review, [The Apostle](#), published by the Anglican Church in North America.



The Rt. Rev. Ray Sutton

The Anglican Church in North America has been blessed by the immediate interest of other Christian bodies to have dialogue and some level of relationship

with us. This is important for any Christian jurisdiction that is part of the Church Catholic and not a sect. One of the tragedies of Western Churches departing from the Faith Once Delivered is the collapse of the great ecumenical work that had been building through the 20th century. In confirmation of God's favor on the ACNA, He seems to be transferring the Anglican mantle of responsibility for ecumenical work to our jurisdiction. This is born out by the quality and number of groups who have responded to us. The following is a summary.

At present we have entered dialogue with the Eastern Orthodox through the Orthodox Church in America. A concordat has been formed between St. Vladimir's and Nashotah House seminaries. We have had four meetings, have embraced larger agreements between the Anglican Communion and Orthodoxy, and we're working on a book together to describe the historic relationship between these two, non-papal catholic jurisdictions: Orthodoxy and the Anglican Way.

We have had two meetings with the Roman Catholic Church via their Archbishop of ecumenical concerns, the Most Rev. Wilton Gregory in Atlanta, Georgia. Our own Archbishop, the Most Rev. Robert Duncan, has already participated in two important documents with the Roman Church dealing with cultural matters, the Manhattan Declaration and an Amicus Curia upholding traditional marriage in California. We have also discussed conferences on topics such as Marriage and Pro-Life where our scholars could jointly produce statements and

documents to help the wider Church.

Three Lutheran groups have requested various levels of involvement with them. The first is the new North American Lutheran Church. This group has emerged from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that parallels The Episcopal Church. I have spoken at their first two conventions, having given the sermon at their opening service of worship. They have recognized and designated one of our own seminaries, Trinity School for Ministry, as the seminary where they will send their candidates for ministry. Unlike us, they have no theological institutions for their already nearly 200 congregations and growing. Also, they have requested and it has been approved by our Provincial Council and College of Bishops to use our clergy where they have vacancies. I fully expect that we will be able to be in intercommunion with this jurisdiction within a short period of time.

Second, the historic and Biblically faithful 173 year old Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has entered into dialogue with us. We are the only non-Lutheran jurisdiction with whom they have ever had dialogue. We have had three meetings at our different seminaries (Concordia St. Louis, Reformed Episcopal Philadelphia, Concordia Ft. Wayne) and we're scheduled to meet at Nashotah House in spring of 2012.

Third, we even have a group of Lutherans forming who believe in the historic three-fold ministry. They have asked if they could form a diocese within the ACNA. Our own confessional documents such as the 39 Articles are based on theirs. They want apostolic bishops and to have an Anglican home, so we have been working toward the formation of an Augustana Diocese in the ACNA.

On the evangelical front we have been involved with the Lausanne Conference on World Evangelism. Archbishop Duncan along with some of our bishops and laity attended the recent

historic meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. We have also attended the National Association of Evangelicals meetings as observers. We continue to be involved with both movements to proclaim the Gospel.

One final exciting group that has come to us is the Messianic Jewish movement. Jewish evangelism historically has had its roots in the Church of England going all the way back to the early 1800s. Since WWII Jews have been finding Jesus in large numbers. Many of their groups would like to partner in some way with an expression of the historic Church. They have turned to the ACNA to seek partnership in the Gospel. Together we are beginning to explore ways that we might work with our Jewish brethren to spread the transforming love of Jesus Christ.

Based on other contacts, we plan to begin ecumenical dialogue with the Assemblies of God and the Presbyterian Church in America. Significantly, those who believe in the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ are moving toward each other. Incredibly, at a time when we've participated in a realignment of the Anglican world, we find ourselves right in the middle of a bigger realignment. The larger realignment is not about one denomination converting to the other as was the case with the old liberal model of ecumenism. It is about standing together in the Word and the Sacrament to the greatest extent possible that the world might see we are one. And as Jesus said, the purpose of true Gospel unity is that "they might believe" (John 20:21). God is up to something huge. In His Sovereignty He has poured out His favor on the ACNA, calling us to such a time as this. The ecumenical developments are so phenomenal they can only be attributed to Him and His great purposes to which He has called us.

Sincerely in Christ,  
**The Rt. Rev. Ray R. Sutton, Ph.D.**  
Chairman,  
Ecumenical Relations Task Force

# Grow in Your Faith

## Deepen Your Love for the Lord

### Strengthen Your Church Family Ties

#### *Small Group Discipleship Opportunities*

#### *Home Churches - A Place to Belong*

by The Rev. Bill Blomquist

**H**ome Churches provide a place to gather on an informal level, laugh and grow in the love and nurture of the Lord. Each Home Church has a character of its own. Some meet weekly; others meet bi-weekly. Some have refreshments and jelly bellies; others have special potlucks. Some meet in the day; others meet at night. Some last for two hours; others go longer.

The one thing they all have in common is spiritual growth. This usually comes through the form of Bible Study but certainly includes book studies, DVD curriculums on some aspect of Christian life, music, art, or even outings. Topics discussed usually emerge from needs or suggestions from the groups themselves. But a big part of what happens in a home church has more to do with simply "doing life" with others.

Currently, there are three Home Churches operating from St. David's. (See below) If you are not currently a member of a Home Church you are missing out on much fellowship and spiritual support. Joining or hosting a home church would be a wonderful New Year's Resolution! If you are interested in learning more about an existing group you may call or email one of the leaders below and see if it's a good fit for you.

A new Home Church in Pasadena? Currently we are seeing a need in the Pasadena area for a new Home Church. If you are interested in hosting it, or would like information about attending it, please contact Fr. Bill at [discipleship@stdavidsnh.org](mailto:discipleship@stdavidsnh.org).

## House Churches

### Wednesdays

✦ 7:30 p.m. - Oak Park

818.346.3661

818.707.6973

Tom and Laurie Loney and  
Spencer and Luisa Johnson  
meets weekly  
Study: Gospel of John

### Thursdays

✦ Noon - Studio City

818.506.8842

818.980.4634

John Mattingly and Don Eitner  
meets weekly  
Study: "Life and Letters of St. Paul"

### Fridays

✦ 7:00 p.m. - North Hollywood

818.762.1934

Bill and Marian Coburn  
meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday

## Pastor's Bible Study

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

in the Discipleship Room  
Study: The Book of Acts

**T**he church of Jesus Christ is not a building where people come together for a religious service, but it is a gathering of people who come together in order to worship God and to build each other by mutual faith and strength.

- Donald Grey Barnhouse

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



## Birthdays:

- 8 Naomi Martinez
- 10 Cary Tan
- 11 Amanda Guevara
- 19 Robert Aguirre
- 19 Melissa Taggart
- 26 Armando Vergara

## Confirmations:

- 5 Olney Sulker-Hall
- 7 Ken Thomas
- 7 Kim Milanovich
- 8 Alwyne Palmer
- 17 Otmara Martinez

## Birthdays:

- 4 Karen Waugh
- 8 Peggy Medberry
- 8 Ariana Vergara
- 10 Shirley Christie
- 22 Erica Okene
- 28 Oduore Etuwewe
- 31 Nancy McKee

## January Baptisms:

- 1 Hayden Clement
- 1 Brainerd Dharmaraj
- 1 Esther Dharmaraj
- 1 Omosanya Fazoranti
- 1 Herman Kottenbach
- 1 Laurie Leney
- 1 Bill LeRoy
- 1 Joyce Okene
- 1 Lillian Santana
- 1 Cary Tan
- 1 Armando Vergara
- 1 Karen Waugh
- 1 Richard Waugh
- 1 Sally Wills
- 5 Louise Norman
- 14 Barbara Aguirre
- 16 Sally Ricord
- 17 Meena Khalaf
- 19 Barbara Thomas
- 21 Taylor Puskar
- 26 Siew Tan

## Baptisms:

- 1 Don Eitner
- 1 Carol Waterman
- 2 Eileen Allen
- 14 Bill Coburn
- 24 Janet Palmer
- 25 Otmara Martinez

## Marriages:

- 2 Hugh and Alwyne Palmer

## Confirmations:

- 1 Deborah Chase
- 1 Hayden Clement
- 1 Brainerd Dharmaraj
- 1 Esther Dharmaraj
- 1 Oduore Etuwewe
- 1 Deanna Falo
- 1 Omosanya Fazoranti
- 1 Laurie Leney
- 1 Dianne Magambo
- 1 Nancy McKee
- 1 Peggy Powell
- 1 Fiona Smyth
- 1 Carol Waterman

## The True Meaning of Christmas

A few years ago, my Christmas season centered on the arrival of a baby — our second child, due December 23. Exhausted with pregnancy, I skipped out on holiday gatherings, did less decorating and baking than usual, didn't send cards and didn't plan a holiday dinner, assuming — correctly, it turned out — I'd be in the hospital then.

It was a strangely quiet Christmas season, with our focus on the impending arrival. But once our baby was born, in the last hour of Christmas Day, all the missed parties, caroling, cookie-indulging and even present-opening paled in comparison. All that truly mattered was God's gift to our family of this one very special baby.

Isn't this how Christmas should always be? Seasonal activities are fun, but they hold meaning only if they deepen our focus on the coming of one very special Baby — the Christ-Child. Hold him in your heart this season, as I held my newborn that Christmas night. If the hustle and bustle distracts you from the Baby, put an end to it. If traditional activities prove more stressful than joyous, consider what you can let go of to embrace the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of Jesus, God's gift of love.

—Heidi Mann

## December/January Prayer Needs



### Healing:

Jorge Alamilla  
Eileen Allen  
Elaine Archuletta  
Dante Babayan  
Patricia Barrios  
Umilo Belfonte  
Bob Blough  
Christopher Bolt  
Cathie Boyce  
Eli Boyer  
Kent Bridwell  
Bill Brooks  
Patricia Brown  
Frank Castro  
Garry Christie  
Sharyon Cobe  
Raymond Coty  
Roger Coty  
Gloria Delgado  
Anne DeMeri  
Ethan Alfred Derick  
Dan Di Vito  
Frank Durham  
Don Eitner  
Randy Elliott

Danny & Rosie Fray  
Daniel Fray  
Forrest & Faye Greene  
Carter Haney  
Rev. Tom Heinzel  
Harold Hyman  
Virginia Johnson-Bish  
Margaret Kent  
Evan Leney  
Beverly Long  
Paul & Dorothy Lyons  
Allison Maury  
Kathy McCabe  
Nancy McKee  
Kim Medlock  
Daniel Moran  
Lindy Moran  
Forrest Moyer  
Louise Norman  
Carol Proffitt  
Chloe Quakenbush  
Dorothy Rideoutt  
Rivas family  
Crystal Roberts  
Harout Sarafian  
Negin Sarooei

Karl Schanzer  
Paul Sciarrio  
Wanda Scott  
Diana Sekovich  
Ken Simmonds  
Kathleen Smith  
Fiona Smyth  
Ransom & Anne Smyth  
Marie Spagnola  
Suarez family  
Melissa Taggart  
Christiane Thiel  
Ken Thomas  
Flossteen Tompkins  
Vincent Tompkins  
Prince Tyler  
Kevin Wafer  
Sally Wills  
Cheryl Yaney  
Daniel, Darlene & Danny  
Lisa

### Serving in the Military:

Christopher Armas,  
Benjamin James Bisetti,  
Aaron Hales, Georgette  
Trezvant, Nataly Yoncee

### Serving in the Peace Corps:

Matthew Day

### Organizations:

Sudan Sunrise;  
Barnabas Fund;  
SOMA (Sharing of  
Ministries Abroad);  
Anglican Church in North  
America (ACNA);  
Diocese of Western  
Anglicans;  
Hope of the Valley Rescue  
Mission;  
St. Michael's in the City,  
Pasadena

### Sponsored Students at Uganda Christian University:

Nakamoga Damalie,  
Eria L. Walusimbi

### Missionaries to Honduras:

Mike and Kim Miller  
Ana Reid

### Missionaries to Kenya:

The Rev. Bryson and  
Deborah Samboja

### Missionary to India:

Diganta Maity

### Missionary to Recife, Brazil:

Gustavo Branco

### Missionaries to Simbari, Papua New Guinea:

David and Shari Ogg

### Missionary to Argentina:

The Rev. David Alenskis