Saint David’s Announces
The Great 60 Days –
“Can You Hear Me Now?”

Episcopal Evangelism comes to Roswell, Georgia!

Ancient Christian tradition. Sacraments, mysticism and wonder. Grace-filled theology. Biblical scholarship. Traditional Christian values, ethics and morals. A heart for outreach. Radical invitation. Diverse community of prayer, worship and service. This is the Episcopal Church at its best. Some of our Episcopal parishes are what some folks think of as “too conservative,” and others seem “too progressive.” Saint David’s is right in the middle, and I think that in this time and place that makes us “just right” for many, many people who want to not merely practice but celebrate their faith! Saint David’s Episcopal Church, Roswell, Georgia, is the Episcopal Church at its best.

Starting with the first day of our Fall schedule, August 14, 2005 through October 13, 2005, Saint David’s will mark The Great 60 Days – “Can You Hear Me Now?” During these 60 Days Saint David’s will reach out in a major evangelistic effort to the unchurched and under-churched in our communities. If you do not know the Lord Jesus at all and have no life of faith we will reach out to you. If your life of faith has grown cold and you no longer have a church home or your church home no longer feeds your soul, we will reach out to you as well.

This will also be a time to revitalize those members of our own parish family who need a spiritual boost.

It is our hope, during The Great 60 Days to reach out in every conceivable way. Certainly there will be evangelistic preaching and teaching by way of an old fashioned teaching mission. There will be concerts, youth events, small group activities, the men’s retreat, our annual Fall Festival, ongoing neighborhood invitations, house Masses and house blessings, meals and picnics, BBQ’s, dances and dinners, movies, speakers, debates, events for families and children - and every conceivable celebration – each

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and all of them opportunities to invite someone to meet the Risen Lord at St. David’s. We will mark Sunday, September 11, with particular tenderness and hopefulness and we will have our first healing service for cancer victims, survivors and loved ones of those claimed by cancer. We will reach out to others in dramatic ways. We will tend to our annual pledges for 2006 and kick off the capital campaign for new construction! We will worship gloriously and boldly and proclaim Christ as Lord in new and memorable ways. Our doors will be open almost constantly as we invite people to come and meet us, and through those introductions come to know the Risen Lord. Look for more, much more about The Great Sixty Days – “Can You Hear Me Now?”.

Vestry attends Annual Retreat

Three Major Topics were brought to the table:
✔ The Strategic Plan and Vestry Function
✔ Youth Ministry
✔ Getting Ready to Build

Once a year, as soon as possible after the election of a new Vestry, the Vestry takes a retreat to focus on the needs of the parish for the months ahead. It is also a time of worship and prayer, listening and bonding. This year the retreat took place on April 1 and 2, the first weekend in Eastertide, at Simpsonwood Conference Center, in Norcross.

In 2003 Saint David’s completed quite a fine Strategic Plan for the future of the parish. The Strategic Plan also sets forth specific steps for how this Plan is to be realized. Much of the work at St. David’s has been informally guided by the Plan. The time has come for us to be formally guided by that Plan. We will therefore be looking at the organization of the Vestry and Vestry assignments and accountability to determine the best way to do our work and bring the vision in focus.

The other two major areas of discussion and planning were an examination into 1) Youth Ministry, and 2) Getting ready to build, and the responsibility and role of the Vestry in the process leading up to a capital campaign and building project.
Rector Calls for Sabbatical Study Ideas

Following The Great 60 Days at Saint David’s (ends October 13), I will be taking a period of time off to study and prepare in body, mind and spirit for the challenges ahead for Saint David’s – a major building project, a new initiative in youth ministry, and program development, as well as the ongoing day-in and day-out ministry at Saint David’s.

During these several weeks away from Saint David’s, I would like to learn something new that may be of help, perhaps to Saint David’s but if not, to the cause of Christianity generally. I am inclined toward reading, study, and writing.

That said, I am open to some suggestions. I continue to learn a great deal from you all and think you may have some great ideas. What do you think I might study, write about, perhaps in a series of essays, or a book, or an extended sermon series that people need or want to hear or read about?

If you have an idea, send me an email at psw@stdavidchurch.org and let me know what you think.

Fr. Paul+

Chapel Service at 5:00 p.m.

Every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. there will be a Chapel service. Over the last several weeks, in response to lower than anticipated pledges, we had decided to curtail the number of Sundays at which the 5:00 p.m. service would be a Mass. The reason one affects the other, is that in order to reduce expenses we removed Fr. Ogier from the Sunday schedule (though he stills serves Saint David’s during the week), and Fr. Gordon is now serving another parish.

After some experimentation and some shifting of schedules, we have found a way to continue to offer a Mass on Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m., at least through the summer. The 5:00 p.m. service will almost always be a Mass, though sometimes other special liturgies will change that, as in an occasional Evensong.

Currently there are five (5) services on a Sunday: 7:45, 9:00, 11:15, 1:30 (Spanish) and 5:00, unless there is also a Youth Mass, and then we have six (6) services. This summer we will continue to offer five services, and the times change for only two of the services: 7:45, 9:00, 10:30, 12:00 (Spanish) and 5:00.

“Build It and They Will Come” or “Better Build It They’re Here!”

Better build it – they’re here! You may have noticed the red ribbons on many of the trees on the church campus. That is the first visible step of a construction plan in our future. One of the first things we needed to do was get a current survey of the land, which includes a topographical drawing and an accurate inventory of trees and plant life.

The schedule for architectural work is being revised slightly as we spend some time as Rector and Vestry in planning very carefully for our respective roles in this effort. We certainly expect to be in contact with architectural firms and capital campaign firms during the month of April. We will host a series of meetings where we will offer the selected firms the following:

1. A presentation of our Strategic Plan: that document that sets forth the future ministry vision of the parish.
2. A presentation of our Master Plan: that document, based on the Strategic Plan, that details the ministry, fellowship, and outreach space needs of the parish.
3. A tour of the campus
4. Observation of facilities use on a Sunday morning
5. A Q and A session

As schedules firm up we will let everyone know what is going on.
Recognizing that the summer is when families look for a church home, St. David’s announces the following changes to the summer worship schedule:

The summer schedule begins on Sunday, May 22, “Trinity Sunday.”

- **7:45** – will continue as a Rite I Mass with sermon
- **9:00** – new arrival to the summer schedule. This will be a continuation of our popular, highly child-friendly, family service with an adult homily.
- **10:30** – will be a traditional Rite II Mass with sermon. During the summer there is no formal choir, but we are inviting people who are interested in forming a “summer choir” to support the singing of hymns.
- **12:00** – will be a Rite II Mass in Spanish with sermon
- **5:00** – will be a Chapel Mass – a casual service lasting approximately 30 minutes – Rite II Mass with homily

**St. David’s Announces Changes to the Summer Schedule Effective May 22!**

No Sunday School until August 14.
Yes, Breakfast continues to be served in the Parish Hall.

Alleluia!
Children’s Music Program Underway

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners who have funded this ministry, if all goes according to plan, by next Christmas we will be blessed with a children’s choir as part of every Sunday’s 9:00 a.m. service during the school year.

On Holy Saturday, parishioner Susie Clements started as Assistant to the Rector for Children’s Choirs. In this part-time role Susie is expected, along with help from parents and other parishioners, to build a program of children’s music that represents the best we have to offer both in terms of program and fun for the children.

It is our clear hope to have made enough progress in forming and rehearsing a group of children to have children’s choirs in place and ready to sing on a regular basis at the 9:00 a.m. service before Christmas 2005.

Susie will normally be at the Church in the afternoons after 3:00 p.m., and can be reached at 770-993-1094, ext. 131, or by email at susie@stdavidchurch.org.

“Couples Night Out” Excursion to Brookwood Grill!

The “Couples Night Out” Tour of Roswell Eateries continues this month on Friday, April 15th with a trip to the Brookwood Grill of Roswell, located on Holcomb Bridge Road. Brookwood Grill offers an assortment of great foods ranging from steak, chicken, and seafood, and has a wonderful atmosphere for casual dining. We will gather at the church at 6:15 p.m. and arrive back at the church at approximately 9:00 p.m. As always, childcare will be provided at the church for infants through children in fifth grade for the cost of $10 per child, with a maximum cost of $20 per family, and we will feed the children at the church! The cost of each meal at the restaurant will be the responsibility of each couple. Reservations will be limited to the first 20 people who call, so please call the church reservation number at 770-993-1094, ext. 126, by Tuesday, April 12th to save your spot and to inform us of your childcare needs. We hope to see you there!

Lay Service as Eucharistic Minister

Have you ever thought about becoming a Eucharistic Minister? At St. David's, worship opportunities continue to expand, and at this time additional Eucharistic Ministers are certainly needed.

St. David's clerics, as well as any of the vergers, would be delighted to discuss this lay ministry of the Church with you. Training is available to help you prepare for participation in this blessed ministry.

If it is your desire to learn about and participate in this ministry, you can contact verger Bruce Thomas at (770) 993-8445.
Rector and Vestry Step Out in Faith

2005 Vestry Retreat Marked by Several Bold Steps

At the annual Vestry Retreat, April 1 and 2, the Rector and Vestry looked into the future of the parish and committed to bold new steps.

First, the very nature and work of the Vestry has been changed. Vestry assignments will now be based on the best means of bringing the Strategic Plan of Saint David’s into completed reality by May of 2007. Vestry Members now work in teams guiding ministry heads in the completion of specific recommendations designed to bring the six vision elements of the Strategic Plan into reality. The work of the Vestry will be measured in how effectively the Strategic Plan, which is the Ministry Plan of the parish, becomes a reality.

Second, recognizing the challenges in the larger Church, as one of the larger Episcopal Churches in the country, the Rector and Vestry of Saint David’s have agreed that Saint David’s responsibility is to lead by example. Therefore, our every effort will be to respond to God’s call to us to be a large, healthy, vibrant, accepting, loving, exciting Episcopal parish. It is our belief that God will bless us and that our ministry will bear fruit and witness to the truth that a parish Church that focuses on Sacred Worship and Outreach to others will flourish. On matters of human sexuality we will continue to hold to a traditional posture and that posture will continue to be communicated in love.

The Vestry therefore, recommends that Saint David’s step out boldly in the design, remodeling and construction of new facilities and enthusiastically encourages the Rector to engage in such work with the Vestry and the Diocese as necessary to begin that process immediately, with a Capital Campaign to begin in August of 2005.

Central to this bold look for the future of Saint David’s is a new commitment to our Vision Element that “We Give Abundantly” – from the riches of God’s Grace. Remembering that this Vision Element came from the congregation and not from the Vestry in isolation, we have no choice but to be faithful to it. Our Abundant Giving will be without exception or contingency. We will give abundantly not only within the parish but to the Diocese and the larger Church, trusting God in His infinite wisdom to guide ministry beyond St. David’s in a way pleasing to Him. We believe this to be the only faithful way to give – abundantly, faithfully and cheerfully. We cannot ask others to be generous with us while we withhold from others. We believe this emphasis on Giving Abundantly is necessary if our ministry at St. David’s is to receive God’s blessing and be fruitful.

The Book of Acts is the account of the birth and early life of the Christian Church. It was a time of explosive growth, dynamic teaching, great danger, and controversy; not unlike what the Church is seeing today. We believe that there is a powerful call to ACTion in this wonderful bit of Holy Scripture. Join us as we bring this wonderful book of the Bible to life.

“ACTing Up” is a teaching and preaching series presented by Saint David’s Episcopal Church. Fr. Todd Dill and Reverend Anne Elizabeth Swiedler will join the Rector, Fr. Paul Winton, in the Wednesday night teaching series, April 13, 20, and 27. Fr. Winton will preach on three Sundays, April 10-24, at both the 7:45 and 11:15 a.m. services.

We are convinced that this teaching series will inspire, uplift, encourage and challenge you as a modern day Christian. Don’t miss this series!

Fr. Paul Winton

ACTing Up
the Radical Roots of The Christian Church
Welcome our Newest Members!

New members who have joined since January 2005...

Jason and Catherine Groen  
385 Ivy Mill Court, Roswell, 30076  770-587-0602

Tom and Suzanne Croteau  
200 Lakemont Drive, Roswell, 30075  770-642-1806  
Owen b. 8/1/02, Anelie b. 3/24/04

Tom and Margaret Jobes  
10575 Summer Creek Dr., Alpharetta, 30022  770-667-5638  
Eli b. 11/20/02, Sophia b. 11/20/04

Ron and Kay Pearce  
752 Old Jones Rd., Alpharetta, 30004  770-475-0999

Rich and Vicki Connelly  
515 St. Regis Dr., Alpharetta, 30022  770-552-6908

Chris and Rebecca Kirkpatrick  
1795 Northridge Rd., Atlanta, 30350  770-399-5421

Ralph and Doris Shelly  
1000 Applewood Dr., Apt. 43, Roswell, 30076  770-992-8275

Kelly and Sandra Sirmon  
6745 India Lane, Cumming, 30041  770-844-4494

David and Michele Rowland  
165 Autry Trail, Alpharetta, 30022  770-777-3277  
Clay b. 4/23/90, Drew b. 10/8/93

Alec and Alison Bounds  
625 Fourth Fairway Dr., Roswell, 30076  770-650-4020  
Joseph Wyatt b. 8/18/03

Kurt and Stacey Wilson  
300 Whisper Wood Dr., Roswell, 30075  678-461-0806  
Sparling b. 4/14/93, Leighton b. 11/15/96, Mattie b. 10/25/01, Sarah b. 12/12/04

Steve and Cindy Koehler  
540 Westminster Court, Alpharetta, 30004  770-751-3734  
Shannon Elaine b. 5/9/83, Meredith Lauren b. 7/31/86

David and Kristin Sanders  
1270 Creek Ridge Crossing, Alpharetta, 30005  770-569-2179  
Aiden b. 10/8/01, Sean b. 9/16/04

Bob and Robin Brooks  
620 Buttercup Trace, Alpharetta, 30022  770-840-9638  
Will b. 7/8/95, Todd b. 8/7/96

Carla Poston  
1032 Sasha Lane, Roswell, 30075  770-649-4685

Katherine Puckett  
14205 Jefferson Creek Dr., Alpharetta, 30005  770-337-8695
Confirmation Sunday and The Episcopal Visitation

It will be our blessing and honor to welcome The Right Reverend J. Neil Alexander, Bishop of Atlanta, to Saint David’s at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 24th. In this glorious service we will present 30 young people and 6 adults for confirmation. We will receive another 16 adults and 8 children into the Episcopal Church. As any visitation by the Bishop is occasion for Holy Baptism, we will also have a Baptism. Plans for celebration for and with those being received, confirmed and baptized are underway.

Attention Seniors!

The next trip is to Oglethorpe University’s museum to see “Masterpieces from European Artist Colonies, 1830-1930,” from public and private collections. You will leave the church on April 14, Thursday, at 11:00 a.m., to return by 3:30 p.m. Bring lunch and $15 for transportation and admission. Call the reservation line to reserve your spot at 770-993-1094, ext. 127. There will also be another trip on Thursday, April 28, to Callaway Gardens. Leave church at 9:30 a.m. and return by 8:00 p.m. Bring lunch and $20 for transportation and admission. Call the reservation line to reserve your spot!

Spring Outing for Seniors

“Marriage and Me, From Marriage to Holy Matrimony”

On June 3-5, Saint David’s Family Ministries will sponsor a weekend marriage enrichment workshop at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersville, North Carolina. Kanuga is situated on 1,400 beautiful mountain acres with scenic Kanuga Lake at its center. Its wonderful setting makes it the perfect getaway for a church retreat or group function. The weekend will feature several discussions and workshops on practical ways to strengthen marriages in the midst of a Post-Modern world. In addition, there will be a parallel program offered for the young children of these families, and there will be plenty of opportunity for family fun and recreation along the way!

The marriage workshop will consist of three or more sessions of practical advice on issues facing married couples today, including conflict resolution, child rearing, and sacred time. The weekend will also offer worship opportunities, as well as social time with one another. Kanuga Conference Center offers the perfect setting for a couple or their family to come and get away from the hectic pace of life and to focus on one another. Kanuga Conference Center has much to offer in the way of recreational facilities. The property contains four tennis courts, a full size and fully equipped gymnasium, and the thirty acre Kanuga Lake offers plentiful opportunities for swimming, boating, and fishing. This is a weekend that you will not want to miss!

Costs for the weekend are $150 for each adult, $82 for youth age 10-18, and $52 for children age 5-9. There is no charge for children under the age of 5. The rates for the weekend include overnight lodging, six full meals, and access to all of the Saint David’s programs and worship services for the weekend. If you are interested in attending, please fill out the Kanuga registration form (found on the St. David’s Website) and deliver it along with your registration fees to the church office. The space at Kanuga is limited, and the few spots that are reserved for Saint David’s are sure to go fast. If you would like more information on the weekend, please contact Father Todd, or go to the Kanuga website at: www.kanuga.org. This will be a wonderful weekend together, and one that will provide you with the strategies and techniques to strengthen your family. We hope to see you there!

“Green Sunday”

Mark your calendars: St. David’s annual environmental "Green Sunday" will be observed on April 17th.
I am grateful to be able to come to you in this new format of The Illumination. It has been great fun to watch the evolution of The Illumination. The Illumination points beyond itself to the life and growth and evolution of Saint David’s. It is evident that our blessings are manifold. Linda Thomas, Editor, has done yet another wonderful job with the re-design as we move from a weekly newsletter to a magazine twice a month. (We have not increased our cost because it is only mailed twice a month and only to active, pledging parishioners. It is available in the church’s web site at www.stdavidchurch.org, and can be picked up at the church.)

In this special edition of The Illumination I will be sharing a great deal of information with you. I do this from time to time as the life of the parish dictates, but generally I will have much less of a presence in the magazine so that all the other folks working so hard at ministry at Saint David’s will have space to share information they need to bring to your attention. I will have a brief column in each issue and I have asked a cleric to write a regular piece on either a spiritual or pastoral topic. There will also be a number of regular features in addition to all the news of the parish.

As always, if something you read here gives you cause for concern or questions, I am available to you. Just call and I’ll make some time to be with you. Wishing you each and all a blessed Eastertide.

Fr. Paul+