

St. David's Chapel
**Sacred Space filled with prayers and the
presence of the Spirit**



John Thomas and his family provided funding to restore the chapel space. He recalls that some of his best childhood memories are of the church. His parents, Art and Suzanne Thomas, brought John and his brother Steven to church every Sunday. The boys went to Sunday school, and it was a big part of their life. There weren't the intrusions on people's Sunday that there are today, which John finds a little bit troubling with today's kids. Sunday for the Thomas family was only for church, getting home from church and ripping off "your little monkey suit" and playing, and having Sunday dinner. And maybe watching a TV show at night. For John, St. David's was a great part of growing up and a great institution in Glenview that meant a lot to him. He was confirmed at St. David's and was an acolyte here. The chapel had a lot of meaning to him because that's where he did acolyte training.

John related in an interview, "I have recently retired from Abbott; I've done very well there. I was very fortunate, and felt like I wanted to give back to things that were important in my life, in the life of my family that allowed me to do things, allowed me to retire and that got me to where I've been, and St. David's was a big part of that. It was an institution that allowed me to develop a lot of values, to become a good person, I think, I hope, and I remember it fondly. And when we looked around, walked around the church with

Reverend Sue, there is something when you enter the chapel; it's very mystical and spiritual. There are a lot of memories there, and a lot of people connect with the chapel, because it's small, it feels very cozy in there; it has a special vibe to it. And it's also getting old. I looked around and I saw that it's still a very special place but a lot of the original materials were still there -- the floor, some of the paneling and side work and shutters, the core is still there, but it just felt like it needed a little bit of updating. I realized this was a pretty significant project, that if we were going to do it right, we'd needed to start from the ground up, in the basement and go all the way up and do everything. It needed new duct work a new furnace and air conditioning. Just about everything needed to be replaced except the core structure, the brick walls the beautiful ceiling obviously the front the cross, everything up there was fine, it needed a refresh. It would be a legacy that we could leave to the next generation and the generation after that, and hopefully for a long time. My mother's still with us at this time, however she's battled congestive heart failure, and I'm not sure how much longer she'll be around. My father passed away 7 years ago and he's buried in the memorial yard. St. David's was a big part of his life too. So there was that history and connection, and I wanted to do something in their honor and help the church.

Lyle Jorgenson

Lyle is St. David's, and this church has been her home all her life. Her parents, Dorothy and Al Collier, were some of the founding members of the congregation. They served faithfully here all their lives. Al did the early Friday morning prayer service before the healing service in the Chapel, and Dorothy was the first secretary, doing volunteer duty.

Lyle remembers the first service in the Chapel on Christmas Eve, 1947. She said the place was crowded, with the pews filled, and chairs sitting next to the pews and people sitting on the stairs. It was a magical night for her because it was the first service, and she got to stay up late for the 11 pm service.



She said St. David's has never since seen the work effort put into the chapel in preparation for that first service. Women worked during the day, and the men worked after their workday

was done. All day long people worked. It was a remarkable effort.

In the beginning, there was just the Chapel service. As the congregation grew, church school was in the choir room with temporary walls to divide the classrooms. Lyle remembers the children wore hats and gloves. The present choir room was the original kitchen.

When Fr. Upson married and moved next door, the upper room became a choir loft, where the children's choir sang. Lyle sang in the children's choir for many years, and in the adult choir with her father, sharing the space with a small organ. The loft was also used as the youth group room. She remembers a wonderful youth choir trip to Lake Geneva; they drove up, went on the boat and had such a lovely time.

Lyle also remembers how busy the parishioners were in cutting the grass, having cleaning parties often, and parties for the holidays, which were often used as fundraisers.

She was confirmed on St. David's Day in the Chapel. Fr. Graham Smith baptized Lyle's husband, John, in the Chapel. Lyle is a part of St. David's, from its inception with the first service in the Chapel, the building of the Big Church, the educational wing, the Rectory, and now the renovation of the Chapel space.

Netti vonMueller via Susan Jackson, Netti's niece

Netti's family attended St. David's when Fr. Upson was rector and she has many fond memories of St. David's and Glenview.

"It was a cold winter Sunday morning in the early 1950s when my uncle drove his wife and three young sons to St. David's. They lived nearby on Dewes Street, but it was too cold to walk. Uncle Curt turned into the church driveway off Glenview Road, and proceeded to the front door of the Chapel where he stopped to drop off the family. It was his plan to then turn around and head home for a cup of coffee and the Sunday Tribune since he had already shoveled his driveway and thought he deserved the day off! But the snow had piled up and he was stuck at the front door of the chapel with his wheels spinning. Out popped Bishop Conklin, in full dress with his staff held being held by his aide, and said, "Can I give you a push?" My horrified uncle was at a loss for words, but was compliant; his family had already disappeared into the church.

"Thank you, Bishop."

Lois Riedl

Lois and Frank's son, Tim, was baptized in the Chapel. Because Lois was Lutheran, she couldn't take communion, making her daughter, Cindy, curious as to why she didn't go to the

altar rail. It wasn't until Fr. Lyall came and suggested she go to an inquiry class that she became confirmed, along with Al Weyrich, and Maureen and Don Jordan.

Frank cut the grass in front of the chapel. Cindy would rake it into bags, and they would toss the grass cuttings to the Wagner cows – they lived adjacent to the farm. Fr. Lyall eventually got a service to do the grass, and thanked Frank for his years of service.

Formation of the children's choir didn't happen until the Big Church was built. Marie Lee starched the collars for the children's choir robes, which were made from a pattern that Dorothy Lyall found.



Because Frank worked at night, Lois couldn't join choir until her children were old enough to be left alone. She joined around 1964 with Paul Frazer and Towdie Disney.

Lois remembers that the Chapel music under Fr. Upson was High-Church music, nothing contemporary. She confirmed that the stairs leading nowhere in the current choir room

were the stairs to the outside door of the Chapel when it was the only building.

Jim Dolphin

The Dolphins settled in Glenview after Jim's military service was over in 1956. They were both raised Episcopalian. When their son, Jimmie, was born, they came to church in the Chapel at St. David's. Fr. Upson baptized Jimmie in the Chapel on April 20, 1958. Jim remembers standing outside the church, greeting the family as they came. Their younger children were baptized in the Big Church, and also confirmed there.

Jim recalls Sunday services when there was just the Chapel. If you didn't get there early, you sat on the stairs. There was no saving of seats. It was first come, first served. The service was simple, and there was not Communion every Sunday.

1958 was an exciting time to join St. David's. Fr. Lyall came to the congregation that year. Every Sunday, members would check on the building of the Big Church as they left the Chapel. Jim remembers when they built the educational wing. He had lost a brother at a young age, so he dedicated one of the classrooms in honor of his brother. Finally came the Rectory, and St. David's was complete. There was always some activity going on – usually fund raising. Still, everything was good stuff.

Their older child was married in the Chapel on October 24, 1992. Fr. Paul Hewett was the celebrant, and Victoria Jicha the flautist.

St. David's has always been part of their lives during the years they lived in Glenview. Jim served on the Vestry with Newland Smith. He would often go to the early Wednesday morning service during Lent before going to work. There were always a modest sized group of worshippers in the Chapel that early. He also served in the Chapel for the Easter Vigil.



St. David's is part of his wife, Barbara, and his life. It is a good place, and more important, St. David's is still here for us.

Dee Stevens

Dee remembers the church services in the Chapel as crowded with card table chairs set in the aisles. Their son, James, was baptized in the Chapel in a private service, since baptisms were not part of the regular church service.



Both he and his big brother, John, were acolytes in the chapel for the children's service. They used this training when they were older to become acolytes in the big church. James was later married in the big church.

Most of the attention of the church at that time was fund-raising to build the Big Church. The parishioners did most of the necessary chores themselves. She laughed as she related that while the women had cleaning women at their home, the women would be at church cleaning.

Dee said Fr. Upson was very shy. He met his wife taking church news to the Glenview Announcements.

Carl Jacobs was very helpful in fund-raising for the Big Church. He worked for Inland Steel, and spent a great portion of his time flying from place to place, while on the

plane, he needlepointed the decorative pieces on the altar and lectern.

Ruth and Tom Hughes

Tom's hobby was woodworking, and he volunteered to make the letters on the altar in the Chapel. He was only satisfied with his efforts on his third try. He wanted them to be perfect for the Chapel.



Tom and Ruth renewed their wedding vows in the chapel on their 25th anniversary. Fr. Lyall presided, with just the three of them in attendance. As they were leaving, Tom whispered something in Fr. Lyall's ear, and he laughed in his hearty way. On the way out of the chapel, Ruth asked Tom what he had said to the priest. Tom, grinning broadly, pulled out airplane tickets to Florida to surprise her.

At the urging of their children, they repeated their wedding vows on their 40th anniversary, with Fr. Doug Schwert officiating. The whole family was there, and a small granddaughter was a flower girl. After the

service, the whole family went back to Tom and Ruth's home for a special dinner. Everyone was grateful for that service, because Tom died six months before their 50th anniversary.

Pam Carlsen

Pam remembers standing in front of the Chapel with her grandmother, parents, sister, aunt and uncle. The current breezeway between the office/church school building and the chapel was still a driveway into the parking lot. They were waiting for her grandfather to drive up in his big yellow and black DeSoto. She said it looked like a bumblebee. Pam remembers being confirmed at St. David's, and she married Chris Carlsen in the Chapel.

Barbara Knowles Hanson

Barbara's best memory of the chapel is that the children's service took place there while the rest of the people were in the 'big church.' Her dad used to conduct their service periodically. They called him "Father Knowles" which he loved.

Bonnie Prims

Bonnie Prims came to St. David's in 1957. She had a year of worshipping in the chapel when it was the only building of St.

David's. Bonnie loved the chapel then, and has always loved it since. She calls it "the little church," which she says is warm and cozy.

Bonnie says she only feels really at home in the Chapel. She was married in there on January 12, 1963, in a 7 pm candlelight service with about 30 people in attendance. She has pictures of the wedding party and Fr. Lyall in



front of the altar. The photo was taken after the ceremony because Father Lyall said no pictures could be taken while he married them.

Her husband, Jim, was raised Catholic. Bonnie took her husband-to-be to St. Luke's to show him how close high Episcopal services are to Catholic services. He remarked that Episcopalians make things easier than the Catholics, yet even with prayers from Bonnie and Fr. Lyall, he never converted. Jim did come to the Chapel on their anniversaries. Fr. Lyall gave his hearty laugh to see him there, and thought Jim would join the church someday. Fr. Lyall knew Jim because he plowed the snow at St. David's for many years. He would always come out of the rectory and wave to Jim when he plowed, even in the middle of the night.

Clarice Panfil

Clarice Panfil came to St. David's in 1957. She enjoyed a year of worshipping in the chapel when it was the only building. She loved the chapel then, and always. Clarice recalls her niece, Peggy, was married in the chapel, with a reception held afterward at Clarice's home.

Catherine Lyall Norris

“I have special memories of the Chapel at St. David's Episcopal Church. There was a quite reverence in the room, whether I was attending a service or even if I was using it as a way to move between buildings. The Chapel was how I walked from the Educational Building to the Church, always making sure to give a slight bow as I scooted around the corner of the altar. As a little girl, I had hoped to have my wedding in the Chapel. However, because of the size of the actual event, it just was not possible.

The sacristy was a very intimate place; all that you needed was contained in that small room. I do remember that at one point the room above the Chapel was used as storage, and then converted into an office, I believe for a Choir or Youth Director. I remember the choir room being dark, but at some point, a group painted the room, which greatly improved the space.

My father, Rev. Gordon Lyall, had a special bond with the Chapel. He presided over

weekday services always in that space. I do not remember the exact schedule, but there was a morning, noonday, and evening prayer on a regular basis. There could also have been Compline, the final church office of the day. My father's prayer book had ribbons placed in An Order of Compline; I imagine it is how he closed his day in prayer.

The Chapel was part of parish life. I remember Fr. Lyall had acolytes such as Marlow Pomeroy assist him in the Chapel. There were many other parishioners that assisted in the services. I believe that morning and evening prayer were important aspects of Fr. Lyall's ministry, as he wanted to have a variety of services available, giving people the opportunity to worship every day of the week.

In Thanks for Gordon Lyall, Catherine Lyall Norris.”

Jerry and Towdie Disney

Jerry's wife, Towdie, says that Jerry enjoyed every moment being with the children in the Chapel Service, and they loved him. He would become one of the children; he loved being on the second grade level. Jerry wanted to be informal, and when the time came, he could be silly and make religion fun. He was truly comfortable, and the children knew that.

Jerry, Tom Koontz and Bob Williams were great friends, like the 3 Musketeers, so they enjoyed conducting the Chapel Service.

The children, now middle-aged, remember enjoying them.

Louise Johnson

Louise taught the kindergarten class on Sunday mornings for 19 years. She would attend the 8 am service, then the adult education session between services, and then teach her class. She was there until the final child was picked up after the social hour, sometimes being there until noon. Fern Pulfer and Betty Cazel, who taught first and second grade, were two of the other teachers who had the same schedule. Billie Head was in charge of Christian Education.

Chris Wilson would come into the big room to play “Onward Christian Soldiers.” The children were encouraged to really march as they went around the room during the song. Although this was not part of the children’s chapel service, it is a fond memory for both teachers and children.

For Chapel service, the children were lined up to march to the chapel. On a rotating basis, some of the children would don the vestments to carry the cross and serve by sitting near the altar. One would carry the cross, and the others would attend the candles. There also were hymns to sing. Louise remembers the children knew “Jesus Loves Me” and “Jesus loves the little children of the world” by heart. A member of the parish would give a homily for

the children. The speaker would just talk without notes to the children on a worthy topic of their choice. The children enjoyed these talks. Louise remembers Bob Williams, Tom Koontz and Jerry Disney were the wonderful men who gave this service for the children. One particularly memorable homily by Jerry Disney ended with him pulling a puppy out from under his arms. The children laughed with glee. The chapel service was about 20 minutes in length, and the children returned to their classrooms at the end.

Louise felt the children's chapel service prepared them for admission to the Big Church as third graders. The children serving their turn as acolytes were being trained for their role in the big church, when they would assume these roles as part of the adult service. Most of all, Louise felt the children learned to appreciate the sacredness of Holy space.

Both Fr. Lyall and Fr. Bruce Pettit, or Curate at the time, welcomed the Johnsons into the St. David's family in 1958. Everyone in the family loved Fr. Pettit and kept the friendship throughout his career. When illness forced Fr. Pettit into a nursing home in Crystal Lake, Louise and her husband Dick would visit him once a month. Before his death, he gave Louise the crucifix above his bed. She donated it to the Altar in the Chapel in his memory, because when she thinks of Fr. Pettit, she sees him in the Chapel.

Besides teaching, Louise's memories include Thursday evening Communion Services at 7 pm conducted by Fr. Lyall. Only a small number attended faithfully, but they felt the joy of the service and the love bonding these people together. Louise and Dick remember that Gene and Irene Tracy, Marlow and Dorothy Pomrening, and Tom Koontz were with them in these services.

Gene Tracy

When Irene was pregnant with their son, Glen, she attended a Sunday service at St. David's. Her cousin, who was attending Seabury, was part of St. David's staff at the time (this was in 1955) before the present church was built. He was later ordained and is a retired priest in Seattle. Gene and Irene returned to St. David's and joined just after the Big Church was built.

Marlowe Pomrening and Gene served with Fr. Lyall for many years at the Thursday 6:30 am mass before going to work. He has great memories of serving with Fr. Lyall and Marlowe. It was a special time for all three men. There would be other church members once in a while, but Gene and Marlowe were the regulars.

Judy Frazer Bruce

"I can't remember too many specific things that Mom and Dad (Paul and Barbara

Frazer) were involved in regarding the chapel. I am sure Mom had her hand in the flowers for any service that was planned there. She probably also had a hand in the kneelers, but I can't be sure of either of these things. I think I remember Dad participating in the Easter Vigil in the chapel, but that is a very vague memory.

One of my strongest memories of the chapel is playing the organ for the children's service each Sunday. Mr. Disney would do the service, and I would lead the kids in hymns. I am not sure why I was the one playing the organ, but I do remember it fondly.

Another memory I have of the chapel is my wedding day. The chapel is the place where the bridal party waited for the service to begin, and where we went after the wedding. We have some beautiful pictures from the chapel on that day.

The chapel was also the place where my niece, Grace, was baptized. Other than some bad behavior by my daughter, Katie, during the service, it was a beautiful day.

We also had the service for my grandmother Stanek in the chapel. Again, it was a lovely service and a beautiful place to be."

Janet Koontz Johnson

"My dad did help with the Sunday school services. I remember Bob Williams, and Jerry Disney also doing the readings. Mr. Disney was very popular with the children.

When my dad retired and my mother's knee started to play up on her, dad would come with her to the Friday service. There was always something a bit heavy for the ladies to carry. Dad would take care of the heavy stuff. He always enjoyed the fellowship and the treats after the healing service.

Dad often took a middle of the night shift for the Maundy Thursday Vigil.

I remember helping clean the chapel on the workday we always had at St. David's the Saturday before Palm Sunday. I washed windows in the chapel and duster book holders. I have fond memories of Jerry Disney walking through with a smile on his face asking how it was going. We worked very hard on those days, but it was also fun.

In honor of their 50th wedding anniversary, Mom and Dad renewed their vows in a private service in the chapel. Some of the last things Mom knit were shawls she placed in the chapel so others could be warm during the services in the Chapel."

Dawn Williams

Dawn's memories of her father at St. David's include him presiding over the Children's Sunday school church service in the chapel every Sunday. He loved working with the children, and spent time preparing his homilies at home. He really enjoyed leading the special children's services, and he made his own

children so proud as he shared his Christian faith with others. Once his children were grown, he took great pride in participating in the regular church service, reading and serving Communion.

In their later years, Bob and Dorothy Williams were also “regulars” for the weekday morning healing service, and the early Sunday church service. They would head out to breakfast with their lifelong church friends each Sunday. What a wonderful place St. David’s was for Bob and his family. Bob truly found his Christian home here, and now rests in peace in St. David’s Memorial Churchyard, alongside his loving wife, Dorothy.

Kim Nystrom

“I remember refinishing the chapel balcony floor with Bob Branion and Father Moyer. We did it so the youth group would have a place to meet, I guess. I can’t imagine that I was much help, but we did work hard, as I recall.” Kim was a member of the first children’s choir in 1962.

Marland Berdick

In the fall of 1953, Marland was stationed at the Glenview Naval Air Station. He went to one service when the Chapel was the only building. His memory is that it was so small compared to his old church, The Church

of the Good Shepherd in Buffalo, New York, so if he bothered to go to church, he went to the chapel on the base.

While stationed in Glenview, he met Ruth, a lapsed Mormon, at the Officer's Club. For Easter 1954, he took her to the Church of the Holy Spirit in Winnetka to show her a real Episcopal church. They were married at St. Matthew's in Evanston, where she had been a Girl Scout.

Thirteen years later, they moved to Glenview. Fr. Lyall called on them, and the next Sunday, the family was at St. David's. They are still there.

Marilyn, Barbara and Brent Berdick

Marilyn has vivid memories of her first years at St. David's, beginning in the fall of 1966. She remembers that as a four-year old, she didn't go the Children's Chapel Service. The worship part of her Church experience was rolling the moveable white altar to the big room, lighting the candles, and singing songs. She thinks it was Chris Wilson who played piano. The children also marched around to "Onward Christian Soldiers."

She felt quite grown up when she was a member of the kindergarten class. Louise Johnson was her teacher, and she did attend the Children's Chapel Service along with first through third graders. She recalls dashing/running to get to the first pew, where

she would be selected to gather the offering. She doesn't remember much singing, but there was a hymn during the offering. Her sister Barbara, who is two years older, remembers singing during the service. In fact, Barbara sang the entire "Sing a Song of the Saints of God" as she remembered the chapel service nearly 50 years later.

The service consisted of a short homily given by Marlow Pomrening and Gene Tracy. It would be a Bible story with explanations. Other men also contributed to the children's services, including Bob Williams, Bob Wilson, Jerry Disney and Tom Koontz.

The real treat remembered by many were the occasional appearances from Maxine Randall with her felt board stories. Both Marilyn and Jenny Riedl Case described the excitement and thrills of anticipation of Maxine's presentation. The highlight of that service was to be chosen to help Maxine with one of the figures in the story.

It seemed a long time to wait until fourth grade to go into the big church. Marilyn moved right into the children's choir. One year later, third graders were allowed into the big church. Even after 40 years, both Marilyn and Jenny felt

that they had been cheated as children of a year in the big church.

Marilyn loved looking at the big



crucifix in the Chapel. She especially felt drawn to the women because she then understood their sorrow. Her big sister, Barbara, concentrated on the main figure of Christ, and was frightened.

Marilyn, Barbara and Brent remember painting the choir room and the bathrooms off the room. Brent remembers that it was a lot of fun, and his dad, Marland, was “a ton of fun and really patient with us.” He remembers being amazed how painting a room could change it so much. Marilyn recalls they painted the walls a light blue color, which remained for many years. She felt it was a good experience overall, like they were doing a good job, and helping out the church.

Robin Lee

Robin remembers liking the Chapel Service just for children. The Chapel was small, and she felt it was her place. She felt comfortable sitting in the pews rather than being in the Big Church. She said that the young children's Chapel Service taught them how to sit in a pew. She also said her mother, Marie Lee, would substitute at the small organ in the Chapel, but she wouldn't use the pedals. At age eleven, Robin was the maid of honor at her sister Betty's wedding in the Chapel.

Jennifer Riedl Case

“What I remember the most about the Children’s Chapel was being overwhelmed by how big it was. It almost felt cathedral-like to a small girl. Even in those days, I liked to sit in the back rows by myself. I remember I used to lie down in the pew and look up at the tall ceiling. I think we went to chapel from first grade through third grade, so that would have been 1968-1971.

“I don’t remember any specific teachers at that time, but the chapel leaders were Dick Johnson, Jerry Disney, and Bob Williams. I remember them telling the Bible stories most of all. I don’t remember who played the music, but I remember the little organ in the back corner – I think it was white.

“My absolutely favorite times in Chapel were when Maxine Randall came and put on her puppet shows, or had her felt board figures. I always wanted her to pick me to be one of her helpers.

“It was the next year, when I was in fourth grade, that they started letting the younger kids come into the big church, and I remember feeling mad about that – like they were getting special treatment or something because they got to come to the big church early.”

Carroll Preece

Carroll drove by St. David's one day, and admired the red brick and Colonial style. The next Sunday, she was in church, and she has continued to attend ever since. Fr. Al Johnson, the Curate at the time, almost immediately started to talk about baptism. Fr. Al in the Chapel baptized her in 1972.

The joy of adult baptism is you can pick your own Godparents, friends to include in the service and the music. She clearly remembers the actual water on her face and the oil. The music provided on the electric piano is also memorable. After the baptism, the entire gathering went to Matty's Wayside Inn on Waukegan Road for dinner.

She has been in the Chapel many, many times since. She is part of the group that faithfully attends the Friday morning Healing Service, and was one loyal group of parishioners who attended the Thursday night service in the Chapel, led by Fr. Lyall.

Father Davis Barker

In the middle of the 1970s, Fr. Barker arrived at St. David's as a part-time priest. Those who knew him felt the Holy Spirit around him. A group from St. David's attended his Saturday night services in the Chapel. He gave

fascinating sermons His favorite topic was a different view of Job.

Fr. Barker had an office in the upper room of the Chapel, where he provided counseling with young and old. He was a strong supporter of AA, and encouraged many AA and Al-Anon groups to meet at St. David's.

Billie Head shared Fr. Barker's interest in Jungian psychology. She located a course from Centerpoint in St. Louis, and led a study group. The members were Rachel Dosé, Ruth Berdick, and Ginger Wiese. Many friendly groups were formed that stayed together long after Fr. Barker retired to warmer weather. They would meet for dinner, drive someone to the airport, and care for a house when someone was away.

Rachel Dosé

“In the early 1970's, Father Barker held a Saturday evening service in the chapel. I think it was with Communion. What I remember most is the hymns; he told us to ‘sing like Methodists!’”

Jean Ray

Jean remembers, with great laughter, that her one connection to the chapel building was volunteering to paint the upstairs room. On the way up those narrow stairs, Marshall Head,

who was carrying the paint can, “somehow put his foot into the paint bucket and made a mess.”

Newland Smith

“My memories of the chapel are few, as I never was involved in the Children’s Chapel. But I do remember standing with my daughter, Jennifer, and Jean Ray, a member of the Altar Guild, in what was a very hot Chapel that late Saturday afternoon in early August waiting for Jennifer and Eric’s wedding to begin in the Big Church.”

Marilyn Atamian

“I have been thinking about the chapel and the many services I attended there on Friday mornings between 1986 and 1992. But perhaps the most memorable time was a Lenten vigil on Maundy Thursday. I was praying by myself late at night, when suddenly I heard a voice – rather angelic, I thought – begin singing, “Let all mortal flesh keep silence.” Even though that was over 20 years ago, I can still hear that voice proclaim, “Lord of lords in human vesture, in the Body and the Blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.”

I later discovered the person singing was the wife of one of our seminarians. I have forgotten her name, but her voice is still vivid!

Thanks be to God for all the faithful who have prayed and sung in that sacred space. Thanks be to God for the Body and the Blood.”

Marilyn Mathieu

Marilyn remembers keeping watch during the night as part of the vigil following the Maundy Thursday service, and the more intimate services like the Befrienders Remembrance service.

“The chapel as the oldest part of St. David’s always had a feeling of holiness, as a place that had been prayed in a lot.”

Eileen Chandler

Eileen has very special thoughts on the women at the feet of Christ on the Crucifix in the Chapel. She understands their suffering. Jesus was a feminist, and related to these weeping women. They got it; they understood his message and the meaning of his life and sacrifice for all of us. They were the first to see the risen Lord. Eileen feels the power of the figures on this Crucifix.

She likes to pray in the Chapel when she feels a need for renewal in her own spiritual life. She will often stop in before choir rehearsal. If she were to marry again, it would be in the chapel!

Graham Jackson

Two things come to mind for Graham when thinking of his experiences in the chapel. One is the Remembrance Service, which we hold every year as part of our observance of All Saint's Day. All members of the St. David's community who have lost loved ones are invited to attend. A reception in the library follows the service. The service is conducted by the Rector and includes prayers and a homily. All present are invited to reflect about their loved one if they so desire. Normally, around 20 people are present. The number often includes family members who have lost members in prior years.

Another event held in the Chapel that Graham will always remember was the viewing held for young Evan Thomas Rohrer. Evan was the son of Thomas and Suzanne (Douglas) Rohrer who died tragically on July 29, 2000. He was playing on a construction site in Glenview when the piled up earth collapsed on him. The fences we see today in Glenview surrounding construction sites are a consequence of his untimely death, and a living tribute to his life. The line of people (mostly youth) filled the Chapel and wrapped outside through the parking lot. Evan's mother, Suzanne, died years later and was also buried from St. David's Church. Many St. David's families helped the Rohrer's through this difficult period, including former parishioners, Steve and Judy Kinnard.

Susan Tisch



My mom, Marion Hewett, took this picture of my dad. He was unaware of the picture being taken. It was during the prayer vigil that starts the Thursday night after the Maundy Thursday service.

On November 20, 1998, Susan's parents, Fr. Paul and Marion Hewett, renewed their wedding vows in the chapel for their 50th wedding anniversary. Fr. Graham Smith presided. All their children, most of their grandchildren, Newland and Martha Smith, Guy and Sue Solazzo, and Sherry Smith were in attendance. They did not want a big "bash." They would always say having our family is big enough.

The lovely, warm and inviting chapel was an obvious choice. Following the service, my parents got into their "just married" decorated car and proceeded to the Tisch house just down the road from St. David's



for a dinner party. A family quilt had been made by the whole family and was presented to them that night.

Fr. Virgil Robinson, Jr.

Both the “Big Church” and the Chapel are sacred spaces filled with prayers and the presence of the Spirit.

Perhaps the Chapel lends itself to a more intimate feeling because of its size, whereas the Sacristy embodies the beauty of music and a more formal liturgy.

Each are beautiful spaces in which to pray and officiate. How fortunate I feel to have been welcomed and invited to participate in the services of both the Chapel and the “Big Church.”

David McDonald

Children’s chapel was reinitiated in about 2009 in response to surveys on how to make the church more welcoming. Children from ages three to twelve are invited to attend. Sometimes, older kids in middle school would also join in to assist with the singing and dancing. While parents are welcomed, they are often more concerned about their child’s “ideal church behavior.” As we say, “What happens in children’s Chapel stays in Children’s Chapel.”

The service tries to follow the format of the Big Church. It opens with lighting of the candles and offertory. After some songs, which may also include dancing, the lessons of the day are read, either in an abridged format or from the service booklet. A children's sermon is offered. Most of the time, the children gather around the preacher on the steps to the altar. The children, often prompted by pictures of the church, the world, their families and friends, give prayers of the people. During this time, the children would provide items that they would like to pray for, including the sick, their friends, and their families. Some would pray for the world or themselves. We often pray for those on vacations or away, including Father Graham Smith in Jerusalem. A simplified prayer of forgiveness is offered, and the children would repeat the words. The kids also say the Creed, following along with pictures. At the end of the service, another song is sung, and followed by everyone gathering to process into the Big Church. One child carries a small cross, another the offering, which includes food as well as money.

Most weeks, there is clergy present in Children's Chapel. They are assisted either by Mary Beth Darr or Linda Sawyer, who provide the outline for the service. The clergy provide a wonderful connection between the Big Church and children's chapel. Father Graham, Virgil, and Tom prepared wonderful sermons. During the interim between Father Graham and Rev.

Sue, Father Gary would provide sermons, sitting amongst the kids, frequently chuckling along



with them. The children form a strong bond with the clergy during this period, and for many months missed Father Graham and Father Gary.

Music is an essential part of the Children's Chapel. A recording provides most of it, and music from Vacation Bible School is often used. Various adults provide dance moves that the kids seem to love.

The joy of the Children's Chapel is that it provides a loving, nurturing service, where kids can ask questions and raise their concerns. They learn about God and His love in a manner that is meaningful to them. They also get to blow off steam, as the main service is a long time if you are only three years old. They also learn to interact with other adults in the parish.

The children know that in the Big Church, you need to remain quiet, while in Children's Chapel, they can move, giggle, ask questions and learn. They learn that they are respected and loved while participating in a service that is similar in format to the service in the main church. They also love to serve, by lighting candles, leading the cross and the offertory.

Overall, the children seem to enjoy going to Children's Chapel. The three and four year olds are just pleased to be able to squiggle, while the older ones are pleased that they know the words to the Creed, and can help with the prayers. They all seem to enjoy singing and dancing and praising the Lord.



