



**February 13, 2025**

**St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church  
Fort Walton Beach, FL**

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**Service Times  
SUNDAY**

**10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, in the Nave**

## Message from Father David

Well. Unfortunately, I am once again writing to you from a hospital bed, having been readmitted this past Monday. Dealing with the intricacies and especially unnecessary complications of our healthcare system is exhausting and I don't know how people without an advocate like Jennifer make it work. We hit roadblock after roadblock, and she finds ways around them. I am so grateful for her; this is definitely a team effort.

I have had one dose of a biologic that may or may not put me in remission and won't really know for several weeks. Meanwhile my symptoms and complications are basically the same as when this nightmare began. My best treatment plan is all of your prayers and support. Thank you. Please pray for healing and patience, for decision makers having compassion and the experts, well, "experting".

I write today to give you this brief update and to thank you for being a beacon of light and hope for me and my family. Keep it up!

And if you get a chance, thank someone. Our staff is of course having to pick up a lot of slack with my absence. The "new" vestry is stepping into leadership as needed while keeping me informed. And our Episcopal Medical Trust Short Term Disability program is providing funds to help offset any extra costs associated with my absence (supply clergy, etc.).

Please continue to show up on Sundays and Wednesdays and for special occasions! This is what will sustain us and together help us to weather this storm. We didn't know it but God has prepared us for this kind of challenge, because it has never been about the Priest, it is always about Jesus and his love and how we share it. Keep sharing. I love and miss you all.

Fr. David

# FAITH matters

**All are invited to the gathering of the “Faith Matters”  
class, led by Michelle Anchors,  
beginning again on Sunday, February 16 at 11:15  
in the Parish Hall.**

**We will be finished by noon!**

**Please join us for this time of getting to know one  
another as we get to know more about the world in  
which we live and how our faith matters.**

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WOW Wednesday  
February 19

5:30 - Communion

6:00 - Dinner

**SMOKED  
PORK BBQ  
and all the  
Fixin's**

Donations Support  
The St. Simon's Chapter  
of the Brotherhood of  
St. Andrews



# **WE WANT YOU!**

**It's hard to believe it's already February! We have a lot going on at St. Simon's and I'm excited about the opportunity to help lead the Ministry Committee for the Vestry this year...and we REALLY need your help!**

**The St. Simon's mission statement reads that we are a sacramental church, striving to know Christ and make Him known. We are doing a pretty great job with this already, but there's always opportunity for growth!**

**We really need you and your ideas as we look forward to lots of great opportunities to connect with each other and with others in our community.**

**If you are interested in getting more involved, we would love to have you join us for an organizational Ministry Committee meeting Tuesday, February 11 at 10AM in the Parish Hall.**

**We will be discussing what's going on in already established community support areas such as Blessing Bags, Altar/Flower Guild, Elliott Point Elementary School, and Sharing and Caring; sharing news on upcoming events like The Daniel Ballad presentation to kick off the Lenten Dinner series on March 12th; and discussing some new initiatives such as creation care.**

**Please come! There will be a place where you can help no matter what your spiritual gifts are! If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out!**

**Kelley Fuller - 850-830-8498**



## Special announcement from Fr. David

Blessings to all of you. I cannot thank you enough for your prayers.

Unfortunately, I don't have much to update regarding my health condition. So don't stop praying!

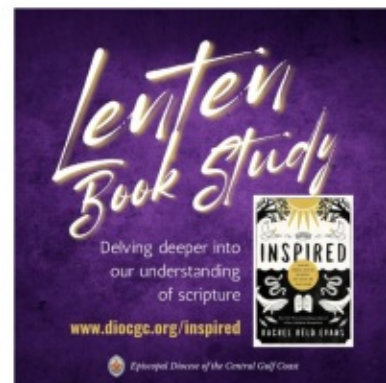
Because of this ongoing battle with my own body, I will not be able to continue the Rector's Bible Study for the rest of this program year. Many of you know how much I love leading Bible study and learning alongside of you. I do have a suggestion for any of you, whether part of the Bible study class or not, to consider for Lent.

The diocese is encouraging us all to participate in a Lenten book study and I want to ask you to join in. Below is information about the study with links to purchase a book and to register for study guides and the like. I believe it will be a very fruitful discipleship time for all, and I can assure you the late Rachel Held Evans, author of the book, will inspire and challenge you.

### Lenten Book Study - Rachel Held Evans' "Inspired"

Bishop Kendrick has issued an invitation for our diocese to undertake a special book study through the season of Lent, reading Rachel Held Evans' "Inspired." The purpose of this study is three-fold:

- To enhance the bonds that make us one Body in Christ by sharing and studying together;
- To provide a poignant guide to assist us in naming and claiming our stories;
- To better discern our roles as disciples as shaped by the intersection of biblical stories and our own.



In addition to the study guide, video reflections will accompany each week's reading. It begins March 3!

[Here's a link to purchase the book.](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE THE STUDY GUIDE AND WEEKLY VIDEOS](#)

## Happy Birthday!

Lisa Allen, Hunter Avett, Susie Flood, Roz Hill,  
Georgine Hillgenberg, Mary Jones,  
Addie Kelly, Chris Kelly, Matthew Macella,  
Tatiana McCrea, Barbara Menoche,  
Dennis Miller, Ron Poole, Pam Scheel,  
Alexis Whitted



Single Friends will meet for a Dutch Treat Lunch

At Noon

On Saturday, February 15th

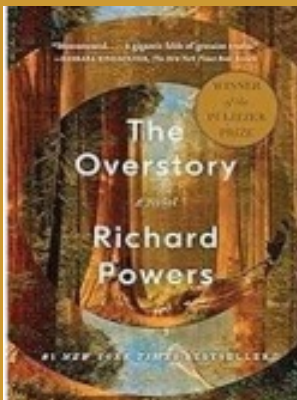
Anglers Beachside Grill

10030 Miracle Strip Parkway SE

(Next to the Gulfarium)

Fort Walton Beach

Contact Barbara Bethea (850-582-7011 or [babethea7@icloud.com](mailto:babethea7@icloud.com))  
if you have questions. No RSVP is necessary,  
but it will help to know how many to expect.



### ST. SIMON'S BOOK GROUP

St. Simon's Book Group

will meet on February 25, 2025

at noon in the Parish Hall.

We will finish our discussion of

"The Overstory" by Richard Powers.

The discussion will cover the sections

"Trunk", "Crown", and "Seeds".

You may contact JoAnne Connell (850) 240-3051 with questions.

Read the latest blog posts from our Clergy:

Father David's Blog



[Click Here to Register](#)

Follow the on-screen instructions to create a new password. You will need to use the same email address St. Simon's has on file for you. If you have difficulty, please email

[Office@stsimons-fwb.org](mailto:Office@stsimons-fwb.org)



*St. Simon's on the Sound*



Episcopal Church • Fort Walton Beach, Florida

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