



St. David's Anglican Church

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Services: Sun. 8 & 10 am, Wed. 10 am

Christmas Newsletter

December 2017

Christmas Message: Rev. Diana Wilde

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

One of my most memorable and meaningful Christmas experiences took place in a dark setting, where God brought His Glorious Light. It happened in a Correctional Centre in Winnipeg, where I was serving as the chaplain of a "Youth Centre", which housed 160 youth, who had been charged with various crimes and were awaiting trial. The majority of them were aboriginal and many were from far northern reserves. Working in this environment put me in the face of loneliness, guilt, brokenness, abandonment, betrayal, and suffering.

To be with family at Christmas time is a natural hope and desire, but here they were, locked up, lonely, frightened and feeling isolated. In many cases, family were too far away to visit.

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

I wanted to do all that I could to help these young people find some hope, meaning and joy in the real meaning of Christmas. It was my hope and prayer to hold a service of Christmas Carols and Lessons, along with a power point presentation, in which ALL of the youth could attend and take part. First of all, I needed to get the approval of the Security Team to proceed with my plan.

In this Correctional Centre there were youth who were not allowed to come to our church services, due to the severity of their crime and or their gang affiliation, as different gangs were

represented at the centre and it was dangerous to allow them near one another.

One youth in particular, who I will call Mark, a gang member who had been incarcerated for a very serious crime, had never been allowed out of his unit to church or to other functions. I had counseled him for a year, and learned about his sad and demoralizing early childhood years. It was my prayer that Security would allow him to be part of the Christmas Service, as I believed that he needed to be there. He had never been to church before, but when I offered him the opportunity to do a reading, he seemed surprised and accepted. Knowing that many looked down on him, and his self-image was poor, I wanted him to give him a place of honour and to experience my trust in his ability.

As the word got around, more and more youth were asking for a role in the service. We formed a choir and practiced for several weeks to help them gain confidence and familiarity with the music. There was also the task of helping the youth to understand that this was a privilege and respectful behaviour was essential. Part of the task was to educate them on what constitutes respect.

Jesus calls us to step outside of our comfort zone for His sake. To reach out to the poor, the sick, the imprisoned and the blind. We are to spread the GOOD NEWS of HIS KINGDOM to all in need, for He is the light that came into the world to save us from our sins.

On the appointed day, when the security guards took their places awaiting the arrival of the youth, I remember

the worried looks on their faces. This would be the first time that all the young inmates had been allowed to assemble together. I assured them that no trouble would take place; that I would immediately stop the service if any signs of disrespect surfaced.

I remember the astonished look on the other boys faces when Mark came up to read, and did so very well. It was the talk of the institution for days to follow. The choir members were so full of joy it was hard to contain them. The service was a testimony to what God can do when we put our trust in Him and allow ourselves to be used as His instrument. It was truly a blessing to the institution and to all who attended. It was a gift from God.

The greatest gift from God is what we celebrate at Christmas; the incredible gift of His Son given to a guilty and broken world; the gift of His love, forgiveness, redemption and sanctification.

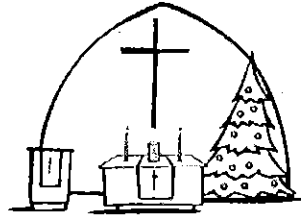
"Walking in the light" means we consider Jesus as *"the light"* in this world, and we *"walk"* in that light, by following His teachings, living in His power, and growing in His grace.

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. God bless you now and forever.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all,

Rev. Diana Wilde

Christmas Greetings from the Wardens



Worship Schedule

Advent III

Sun. Dec. 17

8 am Holy Eucharist
10 am Christmas Carol Service

Advent IV

Sun. Dec. 24

9:30 am Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve

Sun. Dec. 24

6:50 pm Carol Sing
7 pm Christmas Play & Holy Eucharist
10 pm Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

Mon. Dec. 25

9:30 am Holy Eucharist

Sun. Dec. 31

8 am Holy Eucharist
10 am Holy Eucharist

Sun. Feb. 4

8 am Holy Eucharist
10 am Old Time/Gospel Music Service

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God is with us). Matt. 1:22

The wardens send their most sincere Christmas wishes to the members of the parish. We thank you for your continued support during our time of transition. The ministry of the parish continues to move forward and we all are very blessed by everyone who volunteers their time and service to forward Christ's presence at St. David's. Again we also thank our interim priest, the Rev. Diana Wilde, and Deacon Richard for their ministry with us.

The ACW, held a very successful bazaar and used clothing sale, which has generated funds for their continued ministry to the church, the community and the broader church.

We continue to sponsor the Hope Centre lunches and had a successful Thanksgiving Food Drive, Bundle-up Sunday and Seafarers' Christmas Parcel collection. All these activities could not continue without the dedication of our entire congregation.

Thank you to Gord Rendell for painting the driveway arrows, and Walt Eggleton for fixing the cracks in the sidewalks and other members of our maintenance crew for their continued care of our building.

Please note the Christmas services listed in this newsletter. We hope to see you at one of our Christmas celebrations.

The wardens thank everyone for their continued financial support to the church, and prayerfully ask that you continue to support the church spiritually and financially, so we can end the year in a positive financial position.

Wishing everyone a very Blessed Christmas.

Stephen Hanns
Carolyn Alakas

Carole Little
Pierre Dalaire

BUDGET NEWS

As of the end of November, we are \$32,800 behind budget in offerings. Please help us meet our budget. Thank you.

Parochial Committee Update

Members of the Parochial Committee are working on completing the draft for the Parish profile. We hope to have the draft sections to Robert Morrow, the Transitional Coordinator, by the end of November. He will edit the document and format it, and then return it to the committee for review. After the committee has completed the review, copies will be made available for the congregation to read.

The parish event on November 26, *The "Hinge Time: Celebrating our History and Future"*, was well attended. Ninety-three people attended this parish workshop. We appreciate the support from the congregation for this workshop and thank Canon Terry DeForest for leading us in the process. At this meeting we explored the history of St. David's, reflected on who we are as a parish and what has made us a vital and vibrant church. Canon DeFor-

est answered questions and lead us through the process of searching for a new priest. Thank you to the ACW for arranging the sandwich lunch for us.

As we move forward, there will be a parish survey conducted in late January or early February. At both services the congregation will be given a survey to complete, which will seek your opinion on what attracts us to the church, what we like about our present situation and what you feel is important to us, as we move forward in our search for a new priest.

The committee continues to ask for your prayers and support over the next few months.

Stephen Hanns, Carole Little, Carolyn Alakas, Pierre Dalaire, Cecil Mitchell, Greg Laughton, Judy Metler, Rob Lewis

Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the hearts of people.



ACW Christmas Report

The ACW has been very busy this fall. With the help of many men and women of the parish, our Annual Bazaar was very successful, netting approximately \$4,450.

With no St. David's Ladies Day in February next year, we hope to be able to meet some of our outreach projects with other fundraisers.

The Tribute to John Lennon concert in October was a most enjoyable evening and the Gently-Used Clothing Sale in November also did well.

The Christmas Remembrances will be delivered on Friday, December 8th and we thank all who donate and volunteer with driving. Also thanks to Carol Bull who organizes this wonderful pastoral care event sponsored by the ACW.

Our year will end with our Christmas dinner on December 5th and we look forward to a busy 2018.

All ladies are invited to attend our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Lotta Moore Room; the next one will be on January 2nd.

Merry Christmas,
Judy Metler, ACW President

2nd Annual Gently-Used Clothing Sale

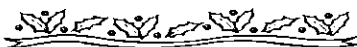
On Nov. 4th (bazaar) and Nov. 18th, St. David's had two Gently-Used Clothing Sales. Both sales were made possible because so many people generously donated lots of items; loaned clothing racks for the sale; gave of their time to sort the clothing; advertised our sale; set-up, sold and cleaned up after both sales. A huge thank you to Walt Eggleton who made three sets of wooden clothing racks for our large sale and to Stan Comfort for finding two steel pipes "free!" for the new racks.

Many shoppers took advantage of our sales, resulting in the growth of the ACW's Outreach Funds. The leftover clothing was sent to non-profit charitable organizations who support our community and beyond.



We hope that you will remember our sale, which again will be held next November. If you find any unwanted gently-used clothing in your wardrobe, please save it for us until Sept., as storage space is limited at our church. Also, please save any large plastic, store clothing bags.

Blessings, and a huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way, *Pauline*



BOOK CLUB

The book club meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Lotta Moore Room on the 4th Wednesday of the month. The year's book selections are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway just past the church office. All are welcome to join us at any time.

We sponsor 5 special Sundays throughout the year. In time for Christmas, the pyjama & book collection wraps up on Dec. 10. The first project for 2018 will be Sock Sunday on Sun. Jan. 28. We take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your faithful and generous support and wish you a joyous Christmas and a blessed new year.

One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth the doing is what we do for others.

-Lewis Carroll

WARNING: Advent Virus

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner hope, peace, joy, and love. Many hearts have already been exposed to this virus and people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions, posing a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world. Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:

- ◆ A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- ◆ An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- ◆ A loss of interest in judging other people.
- ◆ A loss of interest in conflict.
- ◆ A loss of the ability to worry.
- ◆ Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- ◆ Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- ◆ Frequent attacks of smiling.
- ◆ An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- ◆ An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it. -Anonymous

Painting Party with Judy

Wed. Feb. 21, 2018, 7-10 pm

Tropical theme: 16x20" acrylics on canvas
All materials supplied, just bring paper towels and dress for painting.

Cost: \$30, includes coffee, tea & cookies

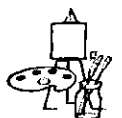
Bring goodies and wine if you wish.

To register call Judy Szalinski at 905-714-9269

or email jszalinski@cogeco.ca

Bring a friend or two!

All proceeds donated to St. David's Church



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christmas greetings!

Our Sunday School and Nursery continues to be a solid and hopeful reminder of our future church: happy, energetic, curious, loving, thankful and eager to learn about God and our life with Him.

We have had a wonderful and energetic Autumn with Family Fun nights being successfully introduced to our parish family. Hats off with extreme gratitude to Alison Steele for her enthusiasm and remarkable imagination and coordination skills for this monthly parish event. We are blessed to have Jillian Blaney, Krista Gray-Cooke, Courtney Mous, and David Middleton and their families to help with these activities. They continue to be great fun for everyone that attends.

The Sunday School hosted Coffee Hour on November 12th (with fresh baked cookies) to say thank you to our parish family for all the support they provide us each week and to especially give a big thank you for all the arts and craft supplies that continue to roll in each week. We are truly grateful. The children love doing different crafts. Being creative expresses so much imagination and individualism and the conversations we have while we play always amaze me.

Advent Saturday is planned for December 2nd to celebrate the beginning of the Season, (the most wonderful time of the year). Crafts and games and discussion about the Christmas Eve pageant are the plan for that day.

Our tradition of a Christmas Eve children's play continues at the 7:00 pm service on

December 24th. Nancy Stonos and Anne Morton will be our producers and directors for this play. All children who attend are invited to be part of this celebration.

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who love their little ones and give them the opportunity to come to church, learn more about God and his love for us, and give all parishioners an opportunity to be a part of their lives. Watching them grow up is a privilege that we share.

Merry Christmas to all! All the blessings of the season to you and your family.

Carolyn Alakas,
Sunday School Coordinator

NOTE: There will be no Sunday School classes on Dec. 17, 24 & 31. Classes will resume on Sun. Jan. 7.

TGIFF

Thank goodness for Family Fridays! Our new program for families has been a great hit this fall and we look forward to the coming winter events.

October was our turkey dinner and saw the children Trunk or Treating in the parking lot. Thanks to everyone who came out with their cars to pass out candies to the children!

In November, it was the Teddy Bear's Picnic which had families playing games, doing crafts, and reading stories.

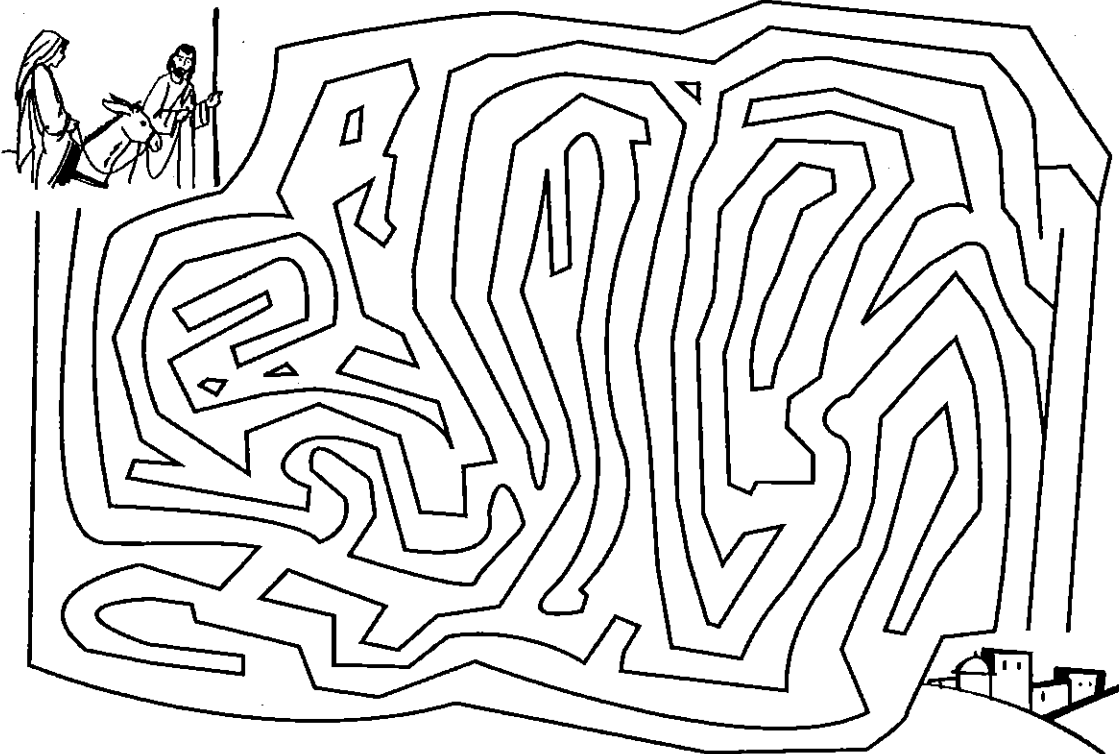
On Fri. Dec. 15th, from 5:30-7:30 pm we will be having a pasta supper at Santa's Workshop. All are welcome to join in this event and activities full of Christmas fun. We ask that you please RSVP by December 10th for numbers.

We look forward to the new year sharing in fellowship with everyone! Mark your calendar for Fri. Jan. 19 & Fri. Feb. 16.

Alison Steele, 289-820-6772

Finding Bethlehem

Can you help Joseph and Mary find the way to Bethlehem?



-Kid's Klips, Dec. 2007 © Logos Productions Inc.



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★ **Calling All Kids!** ★
★ All children and grand- ★
★ children, both members ★
★ and visitors, are invited ★
★ to take part in the play, ★
★ "Just A Little Christmas" ★
★ on Christmas Eve at 7:00 ★
★ pm. Please arrive be- ★
★ tween 6:15 and 6:45 pm ★
★ on Sun. Dec. 24th to ★
★ dress in costumes. We'll ★
★ be happy to have as ★
★ many children partici- ★
★ pate as possible. ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★