



# St. David's Anglican Church

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

## Advent/Christmas Newsletter

## December

### Finding Joy and Peace This Christmas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Often, during this busy time of year, it is easy for us to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. Long treks to seemingly endless numbers of stores, and planning Christmas parties many times creates more anxiety than joy. What is meant to be a peaceful and glorious expression of faithfulness and love, sometimes ends with many people saying "I'm glad Christmas is over with".

Yet, during Advent, we as Christians are called to find opportunities to become more aware of how God touches our lives each day so that we can be a sign of this love in the world. As we journey together towards Christ's coming again, I invite you to consider ways in which you can take a breather from the "business of the season" and enhance your spiritual journey. Take some time to read scripture, worship with us, engage in Christian fellowship, and reflect on the importance of God's presence in your life.

In an effort to provide you, your family, and friends with an opportunity to engage in the joy of the season, here at St. David's we will be hosting a number of events during the season so that we can come together as a community of faithful followers to experience the joy

of Christmas.

On **Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** we will be hosting a Community Carol Sing as we praise God for the gift of Jesus. Come and celebrate the season with us by singing along and afterwards joining us for some coffee, tea, or hot chocolate. It is a heartwarming event that is sure to kindle the Christmas Spirit in all who attend.

Finally, come and join us for our Christmas services taking place at the following times:

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** for our family service with carols, and Christmas pageant; **9:00 pm** for our traditional candlelight service with carols.

**Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am**

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

I look forward to seeing you all during this wonderful season. May God continue to bless each of you abundantly and may the peace of Christ surround you always.

Fr. Terry Holub,  
Rector, St. David's Anglican Church

### Message from Fr. Nirmal

It's a blessing for me to be part of St. David's ministry team this year as your Pastoral Associate. Apart from leading Wednesday Holy Communion services, a good part of my ministry among you so far has been visits I made to senior members of our church family who cannot make it to church at this time. Some of them are earliest members of St. David's Church family. It's been a blessed ministry for me which I'm hoping to continue.

I thank God for bringing me into this wonderful team of ministry at St. David's under the good leadership of Rector, Fr. Terry.

The Season of Advent teaches us to wait in hope and Christmas is the fulfilment of all hopes. May God who knows and understands our waitings, grant us Peace and Joy this Christmas.

I wish you and yours a blessed Christmas!  
Rev. Nirmal Mendis



**Sat. Dec. 8**

7 pm

Community Carol Sing

**Advent III**

**Sun. Dec. 16**

8 am Holy Eucharist

10 am Service of Lessons  
& Carols

**Advent IV**

**Sun. Dec. 23**

8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist

**Christmas Eve**

**Mon. Dec. 24**

6:20 pm Carol Sing

**6:30 pm** Christmas Play  
& Holy Eucharist

**9 pm** Holy Eucharist

**Christmas Day**

**Tues. Dec. 25**

**10 am** Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday**

**Eucharists**

10 am in the Chapel  
except Dec. 26

# Christmas Greetings from the Wardens 2018

*And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior. Who is Christ the Lord."  
Luke 2:10, 11*

The Wardens send you all our very sincere Christmas wishes for a joyous and happy Christmas season. Our ministry here at St David's continues to grow and reflect the love that this parish has for Jesus and our commitment to serving others. It is a truly caring community reaching out with God's love.

We had a very successful Bazaar this year, and the ACW needs to be commended for all the hard work they do. Without them, we could not support so many outreach projects. We are grateful

for their ministry.

Over the past few weeks, we collected food for local food banks through the efforts of the Altar Guild's Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, and the book club again coordinated our Bundle-up Sunday. Once again, we supported the Ministry to Seafarers with our Christmas parcel drive, and we continue to reach out to support local needs in many ways. St. David's does certainly take the Christmas story to heart.

As we approach the Christmas season, we hope you will participate in our Christmas services that are listed in this newsletter. A Community Carol Sing is something new this year, which we hope you will attend and invite someone to come with you. Our music director and choir are at work preparing our music for the Christ-

mas season. Let's make Fr. Terry's first Christmas at St. David's a happy and memorable time.

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.

We wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas.

Stephen Hanns      Carole Little  
Carolyn Alakas      Pierre Dalaire

## Budget Update

As of the end of November, our offerings are \$38,000 behind what is needed to meet our 2018 budget. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

*"A Shawl wrapped around you is like a hug from God."*

For thousands of years, prayer has been a powerful source of healing. The early Jews called their garment a *tallit*. Originally the word meant gown or cloak. This was a rectangular mantle that looked like a blanket and was worn by men. After the exile of the Jews from Israel and their dispersion, they came to adopt the fashion of their gentile neighbours more readily. The tallit was discarded as a daily habit and it became a religious garment used for prayer; hence its later meaning of prayer shawl. Each colour, twist, knot and decoration had to do with one of the laws of the early Jews and were reminders for them. In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo were in Hartford, Connecticut where they gave birth to the prayer shawl ministry as a result of their experience in a program on Spirituality. They decided to combine compassion and their love of knitting and crocheting into a powerful ecumenical ministry and spiritual practice that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy.

The power of the prayer shawl is in its physical properties and source of warmth. It feels like a hug and serves as a reminder that people are praying for you and whatever your concern is. There always seems to be someone in need of a shawl, and in the course of making each one you come to feel closer to the person who will receive it. The gift of a prayer shawl enables the recipient to be surrounded by prayer, and is a tangible reminder of God's

care and love, encouragement and inspiration.

The shawl-maker begins the shawl with prayers and blessings for the recipient. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on the way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl or donating yarn to the ministry for a shawl for someone else in need. Thus, the blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and receiver feeling an unconditional embrace of a sheltering and comforting God!

Shawls can be used for people undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress, prayer and meditation, marriage ceremonies, birth of a baby, during an illness and recovery, ministering to others, to name a few as there are endless possibilities.

In order to serve our community better and to reach out to those who are in need we have created cards which will be located next to the prayer shawls to keep track of those who have received a prayer shawl and/or who are in need of our prayers. We ask that you kindly fill out a card or if you prefer you may contact Joan in the office who will complete one for you.

I would like to thank all of you here at St. David's for your dedication to reaching out to those who are in need, for offering comfort and hope, your gifts of time, work, and prayer are more valuable than you know. May God bless you in your generosity.

Fr. Terry

## Prayer Shawl Crafters

A group of crafters are currently meeting monthly to create prayer shawls, either knit, crochet or loom-knit. Anyone, who is interested in adding to our supply of shawls, but unable to attend a craft session, can make a shawl at home and bring it to the church for inclusion in our supply of shawls. If you need patterns, we have copies available for you. Anyone interested in patterns, please talk to Pauline Robertson or Stephen Hanns. Our group will meet again in the Lotta Moore Room on Wed. Dec. 12 at 2:00 pm for anyone wishing to attend. Watch the bulletin for further notices. Thank you to all, for building our supply of prayer shawls.

Yarn donations are most welcome at any time.

Stephen Hanns 905-735-7038  
Pauline R. 905-735-2938  
Kathy Thomas 905-714-1361  
Wendy Bradnam 905-732-2501



## ACW Christmas Update

We have had a very busy fall season and lots of preparations for Christmas. The Parish Bazaar was a financial success and we saw many visitors come to the church. Lots of hands made this event a success with Pauline Robertson, Kathy Thomas and Jackie Marr spearheading the event.

The Gently-used Clothing Boutique and Bag Sale was held on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and the clothing donated but not sold has been distributed to various charitable organizations.

St. David's Christmas Re-

membrances will be delivered on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, thanks to all Santa's helpers who do a wonderful job. Thanks also to Carol Bull who does all the organizing.

On Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, the ladies of St. David's will gather for a Christmas dinner at Swiss Chalet and a donation for "Toys for Tots" will be collected.

Wishing all a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year,

Judy Metler, ACW President

## Bazaar Report

Our annual bazaar was a huge success for many reasons, for which many thanks needs to be given: to the area coordinators; the men who set-up and broke down for the bazaar; to everyone who donated in any way (time, talent, items, or monetary donations); to everyone who obtained donations from various businesses and to all our shoppers.

New this year to our bazaar was Beryl Martin's suggestion of gift baskets. Thank you to Brenda Martin French and Adele Tanguay for organizing all the amazing donations for this area which resulted in an increase in our overall sales total. (They have said "yes" to doing it again next year...hurray!)

Blessings,  
Pauline R, Jackie M, Kathy T

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gently-Used Clothing Sale

On Nov. 3 (bazaar) and Nov. 17, St. David's had two Gently-Used Clothing Sales. Thank you to everyone who generously donated lots of items; advertised our sale; set-up, sold and cleaned up after both sales. A huge thank you to Julius M. who made two more wooden clothing racks and provided "free" pipes for the new and old racks. From both sales the ACW now has \$1177 to be used for future outreach and other projects.

We hope that you will remember our sale, which again will be held next Nov. Please save any donations until next September, 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 (especially David Middleton).

Pauline R. and Kathy T.

## St. David's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trivia Fundraiser

### Trivia Question #1.

**Who do you know that can help make this event a success?**

To help celebrate St. David's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and to raise much needed funds, a Trivia night is being organized for **June 15, 2019**. We are seeking donations from merchants and others who would be willing to donate a new gift or gift card. We all frequent businesses, restaurants etc., where owners are often willing to provide a donation in exchange for publicity about their business. All donors will be recognized at the event. Business owners often say yes to donations especially if the request comes from someone they know such as a neighbour, family member, loyal customer etc.

An official letter is available for those who want to request a donation from a friend or business owner. Given the importance for us to track requests, please contact Brenda Martin [bkmartin@cogeco.ca](mailto:bkmartin@cogeco.ca) (289.820.8003) or Adele Tanguay [atan-guay20@cogeco.ca](mailto:atan-guay20@cogeco.ca) (905.414.8780) if you are able to help solicit donations for this event. Thanks and stay tuned for more updates about the Trivia Night!

## BOOK CLUB

The book club meets at 7:00 pm 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.

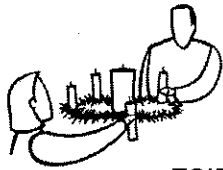
We sponsor 5 special Sundays throughout the year. In time for Christmas, the pyjama and book collection will conclude on December 9. Our first project for 2019 will be Sock Sunday on Sunday, January 27.

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your faithful and generous support and wish you a blessed Christmas and God's blessings in the new year.

*A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship and he who plants kindness gathers love.*

St. Basil

# Sunday School



Christmas Greetings from the Church School!

The excitement is building among the children for the Advent and Christmas Season. From Advent Day to the Carol Sing, lighting the Advent Wreath candles each week and the Christmas Eve Pageant, there are lots of opportunities for lasting Christmas memories for every child at St. David's. Please make our holiday activities with your children part of your Christmas experience.

Many thanks to all the teachers, Courtney Evers, Sonja McMorland, Krista Cooke, Alison Steele, and Jillian Blaney. Special thanks to Nancy Stonos and Anne Morton for your gift of time and expertise for our Christmas pageant production. We are truly blessed.

Merry Christmas,  
Carolyn Alakas,  
Sunday School Coordinator

# TGIFF

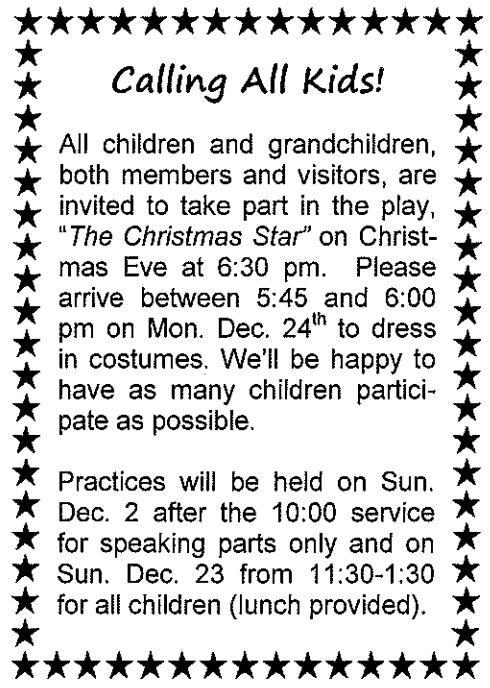
Thank Goodness for Family Fridays!

TGIFF has had an amazing couple of months of fellowship and learning with the families of St. David's. In November, we held our first off-site event at Niagara College where we learned about drama and had a Pizza and Movie Night.

This December, we will be holding a "Christmas Morning" party. Everyone is invited to dress in your PJs and bring your favourite Brunch dish to share. We are looking forward to making cards for children who will be in the hospital this Christmas and of course singing some wonderful carols. We look forward to seeing everyone on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.

The new year promises to be exciting as we continue to have parishioners share their skills and hobbies with the kids. Please keep in mind the dates: January 18, and February 15.

Alison Steele, 289-820-6772



## Calling All Kids!

All children and grandchildren, both members and visitors, are invited to take part in the play, "The Christmas Star" on Christmas Eve at 6:30 pm. Please arrive between 5:45 and 6:00 pm on Mon. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> to dress in costumes. We'll be happy to have as many children participate as possible.

Practices will be held on Sun. Dec. 2 after the 10:00 service for speaking parts only and on Sun. Dec. 23 from 11:30-1:30 for all children (lunch provided).

## THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone who purchased items from the knitting table. Your purchases have made it possible to purchase yarn for our Prayer Shawl Ministry as well as make a monetary donation toward our new Children & Family Ministry Program. New items are always being added to our "Knitting Boutique" thanks to our wonderful St. David's knitters.

Stephen, Kathy, Wendy and Pauline

## God's Love

(Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

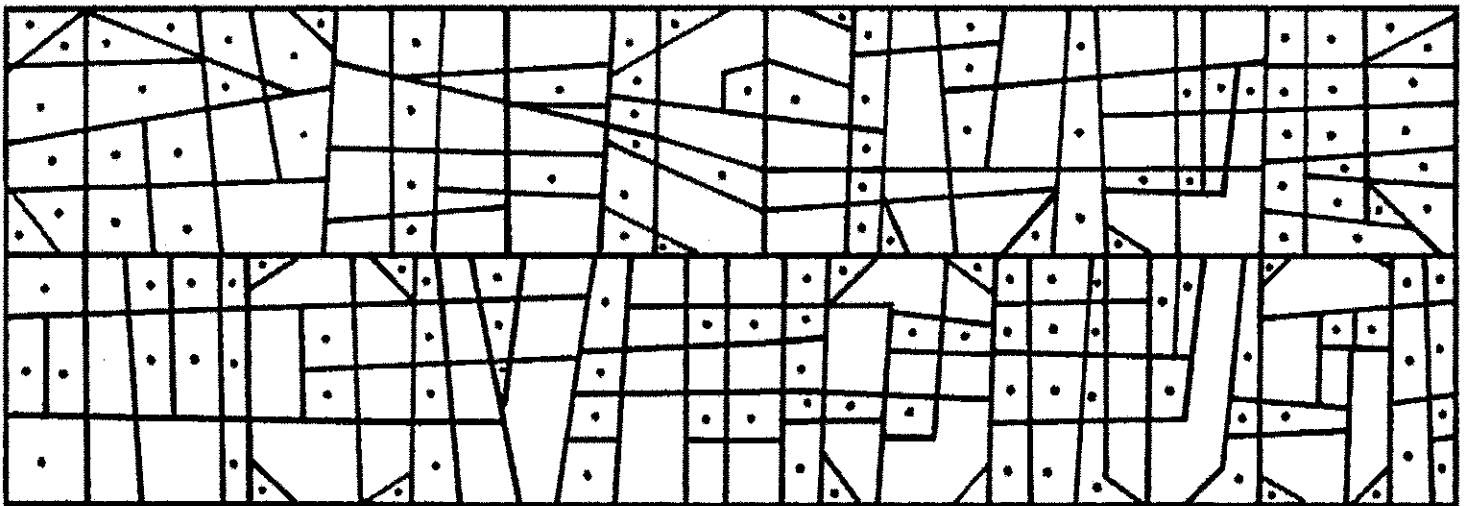
God's love is for all to share. We can show God's love and care.  
God's love will go on and on. God's love will go round and round.  
God's love is for all to share. We can show God's love and care.

- Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFUSION Advent, Christmas 2018



# Savior

We also know Jesus is God's Son and our Savior. Jesus is called our Savior because he saved us from being separated from God by our sins. He was even willing to die on the cross for us. Why did he do that? Color in the shapes with a dot in them to find out.



-Kid's Klips, Dec. 2014 © Logos Productions Inc.