



ST. DAVID'S

GOOD NEWS LETTER

December 2006

Volume 12, Issue 12

Advent

Submitted by Father David

On December 3rd we enter the wonderful, gentle season of Advent. Over the years Advent has changed. For generations it was "Lent" in the early winter. It was longer than the current four Sundays, lasting a minimum of six weeks. As with Lent, it was a time of penitence, fasting, and solemnity. Echoing the solemn season of Lent and to honor the "Kingship of Jesus," the color of Advent was purple and festivities were kept to a minimum. Keeping Advent in this way was intended to prepare the penitent for the birth of the Christ Child and to make Christmastide all the more glorious.

Advent today is still seen as a time of preparation, but a joyful time of preparation. In many churches, purple has given way to Sarum blue. Not only does this honor the Kingship of Christ, but it also honors his mother, Mary. When she said "Yes" to the angel Gabriel and agreed to become the *Theotokos*, the Christ bearer, she for all eternity changed her life. Mary became the perfect example of willingness to serve God and be used as God chose. She also, without knowing it, embraced a life of extreme joy and extreme sorrow. I believe Michelangelo's Pieta best presents how deep her sorrow was.

To make clear that it is not business as usual, in Advent there are liturgical changes as well. We change which Eucharistic Prayer we use, so the words are unfamiliar and we have to pay attention to what we are speaking. We begin

every service singing *Veni, Veni* (Come O Come Emanuel) to proclaim our heart's desire to experience the coming of Christ. The banners flanking the Altar echo our cry.

A longing for Christ, simplicity of life, and a timelessness in which we are one with generations of saints who have prepared for the birth of Christ are to be hallmarks of our Advent. In many ways it is the opposite of what is happening in society. For many in the world, the closer we get to Christmas, the more chaotic and out of control things become. People become obsessed with getting everything done perfectly and end up exhausted and hating what is meant to be a glorious event in our lives.

Use Advent as a break against the craziness of the world. One evening, stay at home, light candles and turn off the lights, take the phone off the hook and just pamper yourself. Read slowly the Christmas narrative from Luke's Gospel, write in your journal, write a long letter to a loved one, doze in your chair before a fire, sit and talk to your beloved. The rest of the world will spin crazily on but you will find the peace of this season.

May God continue to richly bless and keep you.

With deepest affection.

Father David

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Please note the deadline for the January 2007 newsletter will be December 15, 2006.

sarah.a.taber@gmail.com



Joshua, the church mouse overheard...

Dave and Janie Byers are home from a week in Mexico with the Pansino's. They look nice relaxed. Larry Carey is relaxing after a busy fall semester teaching in the English Department at MSU. Edith and Ken Cole enjoyed a visit from Chris, Beth and the girls over Thanksgiving. Eric spent the holiday with his other Grandparents on the east side of the state. Gail Donovan's dad, Dudley, had two surgeries and Gail was in Port Huron to help out. She and her dad appreciate all the prayers. Carey Draeger has not moved to DeWitt as I thought. Actually she is still living in her apartment on West Michigan Ave. Sorry Carey, I thought you had moved to a new apartment. Ginnie Dublanc is still homebound and appreciates your prayers. Father Bill has been under the weather lately, but is feeling better. Andi Flitton and Janet Volk are exhausted after the St. Nicholas Bazaar and thanks everyone who helped make it a success. Susan Froeligh is still recovering from her illness and really appreciates the prayers she has been receiving. Charles and Louise Henley's granddaughter, Samantha had her appendix out and is recovering nicely. Mary Hill fell while visiting her son and ended up with six stitches and a concussion. Prayers are much appreciated. Nancy Howard's Aunt Rosalyn passed away and was buried in the Memorial Garden. Nancy and Frank thanks everyone for their prayers for her aunt during these past months. Chip Kiebler continues to recover from his knee surgery. Please keep Ruby Klanecky and her son in

your prayers as they await a kidney transplant for him. Ken and Lois Klumpp have sold their home here in Lansing and are moving back to Mount Pleasant. They will be missed but thankfully have promised to stop in from time to time. Gini Orcutt has moved into her new home on our side of town. Please keep Brian Paff in your prayers as he applies to different medical institutions to continue his training as a doctor. Father David, Nancy, Jennifer, Neal and Andrew had a good time spending Thanksgiving in Mishawaka, Indiana with Nancy's brother Mike, his wife Nena and the rest of the family. Pat Purol is busy getting the KIDSHOPE USA program up and running between St. David's and Elmwood Elementary School. If you would like to be a mentor to a child at Elmwood and can give one hour once a week, see Pat. Ben Stein has a new job working for a Home Health Agency. John and Nan Strickler ask for prayers that their home in Mason sells quickly. Keep Father Jerry in your prayers as his health remains fragile. He really appreciates all the prayers, notes and cards everyone has been sending him. Sarah Taber has a new job working for Ingham Regional Medical Center at their Greenlawn Campus. She is very happy with her new job! Barb and Art VanDyke are back from out west where they visited children and grandchildren. Pat Vine needs prayers as she continues to be in and out of Ingham Regional Medical Center. Likewise Beverly Ware has been in Sparrow with pneumonia and is thankful for everyone's prayers.

The Safest Place—How to stay safe in the world today (church humor)

Submitted anonymously

1. Avoid riding in automobiles because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, above all else, avoid hospitals.

BUT, You will be pleased to learn that only 1% of all

deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually relative to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church.

And Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less. So,... for SAFETY's sake—Attend church, and read your Bible.

IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE! SEE YOU IN CHURCH!



Updates from Steph Post (retyped from E-mails received)

Friends-

I've spent this past week recovering from our amazing weekend at camp, so I apologize for not getting you an update sooner!

Camp was incredible. We had more kids at camp than the past two years, and 50 kids were able to hear the story of Jesus, and His grace and love for us. We had a

BLAST! We had an amazing program team from the States that were hilarious and ran all the activities super well. One of the guys was a friend of mine from the States, Josh, and we were able to spend a week together before camp started which was MUCH needed for me to have a friend from home. And an incredible special music guest that also did our speaking. (Like I said, check him out on iTunes "TJ McCloud" formally of the band "Stephen Speaks.")

God worked like crazy this past weekend, using crazy games, high-energy clubs, TJ's message, time spend with kids and leaders, etc. I had a group of freshman and sophomore girls in my cabin. You could say the girls I've been getting to know can be slightly difficult, mostly because their energy level is out of control! But, I cannot express to you how great our time went together when we were able to have "cabin times" and talk about what TJ was speaking to us about. Here are some of the things I

heard my girls say:

"Well, why did Jesus die for me? Does he love me that much?"

"I get it, I just need to trust him."

"I want real life."

Please keep these girls in your prayers, since although they've heard the story of

Jesus, are still struggling with past beliefs and what to hold onto and what to keep. I'm so proud of them for asking me so many questions this weekend and really trying to figure things out on their own. Chantal, Nyline, Chamile, Mildred, Sophia. Pray that our relationships continue to grow and grow and grow. And that they would know how much I care about them and the infinite love of Jesus.

I can't thank you enough for your support, prayers, encouragement....I could not be here letting God do what He does without you!

Also, Happy Thanksgiving! My parents fly in tonight to celebrate with me!

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF GOD'S CRAZY, WILD, MYSTERIOUS; INCREDIBLE WORKS HERE IN THE DOMINICAN!

Love, Steph

Supporters-

I just wanted to say THANK YOU and give you a quick update about camp this weekend. Thank you so much for your prayers and to those of you that are sponsoring kids to come to camp this weekend.

I am so excited to tell you that despite my worries....we have 50 kids signed up to go to camp. We expected 20. Combined with our work crew, assigned team, and leadership team, we will have almost 70 people at camp which will add amazing energy to everything. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement to keep working towards this weekend regardless of the challenges. I think I have been with high school kids more the past two weeks than in my whole life combined. =) It has paid off, and I can't wait to see what the Lord is going to do!

If you would like a list of names of kids going to camp this weekend to pray specifically, let me know!

You are the best team of supporters I could ask for. Love, Steph





Upcoming Events (mark your calendars)

December 6th: SIREN/Eaton County Open House— please RSVP to (517) 543-0748. Location— 245 South Cochran Road in Charlotte. Time: 3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

December 8th: Edgewood United Church of Christ Messiah Sing-a-long—all are welcome to join in the event. Participants are asked to bring their own score. A limited number of scores will be available at the front door for \$8.00. A free offering will be accepted and refreshments will be provided.

December 11th: ECW will be meeting to decorate small and medium coffee cans (or something similar). Please contact Andi Flitton or Glennis Muncie for location and meeting time.

December 14th: Senior World Lunch—11:15 a.m. in the Great Hall. Please bring a dish to pass. RSVP by December 11th to Lore Tuttle.

December 16th: Christmas Food Basket—Packing & Distribution. Packing & Distribution— 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. All welcome. Need

people to pack and deliver baskets as well. Can't make it on the 16th— Donations are also being accepted. Please use the Food Basket envelope in the Sunday bulletin. If you write a check—please note 'food baskets' on the memo line.

December 17th: The annual ECW Cookie Walk will be held after the 10:30 a.m. service. Cans will be sold for \$3.00 (small) and \$6.00 (medium).

December 20th: Lessons and Carols— an evening of fellowship, food, and worship! Please bring a dish to pass and place settings for a potluck dinner. At 7:00 p.m. the choir will present a Lessons and Carols worship service.

January 27th: ECW is planning an Old Fashion Tea Party. This will be fun time for the girls in your family. We will be asking you to bring tea sandwiches and/or finger desserts. Wear your fancy hats, get on your furs, and get gussied up! Please see Andi Flitton for more information and watch the church bulletin.

Notice: miscellaneous information

Submitted by Father David

Cheese balls

Once again St. James' in Albion is selling their wonderful cheese balls. Father David is taking orders and will pick them up on Tuesday December 12th. The cost is the same, \$4.00 each and will arrive frozen. There are envelopes in the Narthex and all you need to do is write your name, the number of cheese balls and put in your check. Make the check out to St. James' Episcopal Church.

Inquirers Class

Beginning on Wednesday December 6th the 6:30 Eucharist will be moved back to 6:00 pm. Afterwards there will be a simple potluck and after that Father David will hold an Inquirers Class. This is a 10-week class, which covers all kinds of information about the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Church, the Prayer book, the Bible - you name it. There are NO stupid questions in this class. If you have a ques-

tion, come and get an answer. This is for everyone new Episcopalian and old. It is a relaxed and enjoyable time. The sign up sheet for the potluck is on the table in the Narthex. See Father David if you have any questions.

Vestry Minutes

Minutes from all Vestry meetings are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex across from the coat racks. They are just to the right of center and usually there are three or four months of minutes and reports there. A complete set of all minutes is kept in the Parish Office and is available to anyone who would like to see them. All you need do is ask Edie or Fr. David and they will pull the copies for you. Starting next month there will be a brief report of Vestry actions and the church financials in the Good News Letter.



Christian Education—Calendar for the upcoming school year

Submitted by Debbie Cornell

December 10, 2006—Teacher's Meeting after the second service

December 17, 2006—Children's Christmas Program at the 10:30 a.m. service

December 24 and December 31, 2006—No Sunday school

January 7, 2007—Sunday school resumes

January 14, 2007—Teacher's Meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service

January 19, 2007—Nursery through 2nd grades, Family Fun Night, 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

February 11, 2007—Youth Sunday
Kindergarten and Grades 3-5th will be host/hostess for coffee hour and clean up. Please bring a dish to pass of your favorite dessert, veggies or fruit. Teacher's Meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service

February 17-18, 2007—Middle school class "Winter Retreat"

February 23-25, 2007—High school class "Winter Retreat"

March 11, 2007—Teacher's Meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service

March 16, 2007—Nursery through 2nd grades, Family Fun Night, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

March 25, 2007—High School Brunch after the 10:30 a.m. service

April 1 and April 8, 2007 – No Sunday school – Spring Break

April 8, 2007—Easter Sunday – Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:30 a.m. service

April 15, 2007—Teacher's Meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service

May 6, 2007—Youth Sunday and Teddy Bear Sunday
Grades 6th-8th and high school will be host/hostess for coffee hour and clean up. Please bring a dish to pass of your favorite dessert, veggies or fruit.

May 18, 2007—Nursery through 2nd grades, Family Fun Night, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

May 20, 2007—Student's Car Wash
Teacher's Meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service

June 3, 2007—Sunday school recognition and Church Picnic

June 10 through June 14, 2007—Vacation Bible School

June 16-17, 2007—High school class "Cedar Point Trip"

Recruiting Greeters:

Submitted by Larry Carey

Have you ever thought about becoming a greeter at St. David's for either the 8:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. service? It's a great way to welcome both visitors and members to the church; it only takes a few minutes every month or two. The schedule can be adjusted for those who spend winters elsewhere. If anyone would like to be added to schedule or wishes additional information, please see Larry Carey, call him at (517) 627-6137 or E-mail him at:

hippie_indian@hotmail.com.

KIDS HOPE USA

Taken from church bulletin

KIDS HOPE USA is a new program of outreach between St. David's and Elmwood Elementary School. Please consider becoming a mentor, prayer partner, or substitute mentor to help change a child's life. Adults and older teens who are willing to commit to working with a child one hour per week are welcome to train and serve as mentors. Each mentor needs a prayer partner. KIDS HOPE USA builds caring relationships—one child, one hour, one church, one school. Please see Patricia Purol for more information.



SIRENS' Wish List—six week campaign to help meet the needs of many

Taken from church bulletin

SIRENS assists with domestic assault, is a homeless shelter for Eaton County and teaches a variety of self-growth, parenting and life skill classes. Current needs are:

ALARM CLOCK

CAN OPENER

DISH SOAP

PHONE CARDS

GAS CARDS

BLANKETS

BROOMS AND MOPS

MICROWAVE MEALS

VACUUM CLEANER

TOWELS (NEW OR USED)

BATTERIES (ALL SIZES)

DIAPERS (ALL SIZES)

PULL-UPS (ALL SIZES)

MATTRESS PADS (FULL & TWIN)

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Often people are put up in a hotel with a microwave. SIRENS can store frozen microwavable meals. Dry meals (i.e Dinty Moore) or canned meals (i.e. ravioli) are also appreciated. Items dropped off (to St. David's) are transported weekly to SIRENS. Thank you for your generosity.

Senior World news—record number of attendees in November

Submitted by John Post

The November St. David's Senior World Luncheon Program provided a record number of persons (61) with an entertaining program supplied by Lorayne Otto and a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14th at 11:15 a.m. Members of St. David's are urged to attend and, with our guests from Lansing Manor, Serenity Place, Sterling House of Delta and other loca-

tions, hear again the story of the first Christmas and join us in the singing of familiar Christmas carols. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy the fellowship. Please contact Lore Tuttle at (517) 321-2469 before Monday, December 11th to let her know if you are coming. If you have questions, please ask them of me (John Post) or Father David.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

1st—Aiden Jackinchuk

1st—Sue Kohler

2nd—Loretta Kappler

2nd—Lois Klumpp

2nd—Michael Sorrell

3rd—Nancy Burns

3rd—Evan Jones

4th—John Sistanich

5th—Kevin Henley

7th—Sheridan Leinbach

7th—Betty Frost

8th—Griffin Zaske

8th—Jim Thurston

11th—Bill Paff

12th—Laura Sistanich

12th—Shelly Albert

13th—Gordon Smith

13th—Sara McNeil

13th—Megan Cote

14th—Carolyn Jacobs

14th—Dana McNeil

18th—Ericka Miller

18th—Steven Freeman

20th—Carlene Howrani

22nd—Larey Carey

25th—Bill Hawes

25th—Gerald Smith

25th—Carole Leigh

27th—Tom White

28th—Justin Brabon

28th—Lindsay Cornell

29th—Tom George

Anniversaries:

10th—Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Burgess

14th—Mr. & Mrs. Steven Bolin

17th—Mr. & Mrs. David Bell

24th—Mr. & Mrs. Scott Cathey

29th—Mr. & Mrs. Joe Miller

30th—Mr. & Mrs. Don Flitton



Important Contact Information

Saint David's:

Fr. David R. Pike, Rector Box 103
Dr. Timothy Flynn, Music Director Box 147

Vestry:

Gail Donovan, Senior Warden Box 17
John Runcie, Junior Warden Box 50
David Byers, Treasurer Box 15
Craig Leinbach, Asst. Treasurer Box 27
Francis Jacobs, Verger Box 4
Carolyn Jacobs, Clerk Box 4
Adam Williams Box 143
Vicki Tisdale Box 102
Dave Sonnenberg Box 138
Barb VanDyke Box 73
Jeff Spitzley Box 52
Nancy Howard Box 59
Carol Abbott Box 126
Dick Otto Box 82

Office Staff:

Edie Nordlund Box 35

Good News Letter:

Sarah Taber Box 162
sarah.a.taber@gmail.com

*Deadline—15th of the month for next month's issue.
(Example: December 15th for January's newsletter).*

Service & Schedule:

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Saint David's Episcopal Church
1519 Elmwood Road
Lansing, Michigan 48917
Phone: (517) 323-2272
Fax: (517) 323-2830

E-mail: frdavid.stdavids@sbcglobal.net
Office: office.stdavids@sbcglobal.net

Web: www.stdavidslansing.org

Corrections/Changes to St. David's Directory

Please update your church directory with the following changes:

Jay & Karen Leiby
6300 West Michigan, Apt. F-19
Lansing, Michigan 48917
Phone: (517) 321-4311
Church Mailbox: #180

Genevieve Strang
Phone Number Correction:
(989) 249-0489

Correction to attendance of St. Michael's 50th Anniversary

Submitted by Lorayne Otto

Just a small correction in the last St. David's paper:

At the St. Michael's 50th Anniversary—Norma Bunday, Art & Barb Van Dyke, and Dick & Lorayne

Otto attended. Bob & Glennis Muncie were not in attendance. The Bunday's and the Otto's were founding members back in 1956.

A "not about me ministries" reminder:

Please remember that "not about me ministries" provides donations to the homeless, for breast cancer research, to children with AIDS, and to St. David's. Your federal tax-deductible donation is always welcome and is distributed to each of these special causes.

God Bless. - Jim Thurston

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*Seasons Greetings
and
Happy New Year*

