



ECW News

Submitted by Andi Flitton

Our **St. Nicholas Day Craft Bazaar** is coming fast! We are looking for ideas for the St. David's Booth, and we are looking for Artists/Crafters. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact Andi Flitton at 517-321-2219.

Beginning November 2, **we began a craft time after the 9 a.m. service to work on items for the bazaar.** We have been getting together every Friday throughout November and plan to gather the first two or three weeks in December. If this is a success, we will pick it up again in January. This will be a good time for thinking of service projects we can do for the community.



The ECW Annual Cookie Walk

Submitted by Glennis Muncie

This year's Cookie Walk will be Sunday December 16 after the 10:30am service. Decorated cans will be for sale then you may fill your can with your choice of cookies.

We will **need lots of small homemade cookies donated** to make it a success. We thank you in advance for your generous donation. See you at the cookie walk!

GREETERS NEEDED for Christmas Eve

We are in need of greeters for both the 7:00 PM (Family Service) and 10:30 PM (Midnight Mass beginning at 11:00 PM with Carols at 10:30 PM) on Christmas Eve. **If you are able to assist, please contact the Parish Office (323-2272).**

St. Nicholas Day Bazaar

Submitted by Andi Flitton

This year's bazaar is a week later than normal, but I think it will be just as great as the past years!

Why should you shop both the Shopping Extravaganza and the St. Nicholas Day Bazaar? Because they are not the same! At the Shopping Extravaganza you will find mostly home based businesses such as Avon, Lia Sophia, The Pampered Chef, Partylite, etc., and at the Bazaar you will find only crafters. If you know anyone who is a crafter, then you know that is their way of sharing what they love.

We have some exciting crafters this year, Dick Otto is returning, and he makes beautiful hand turned wooden bowls, pen sets, and much more. Chris Hanses is coming back with her beautiful fused glass pieces and jewelry. New to us this year are several more St. David's members. Nan Strickler will be here with her dog and puppy treats that she lovingly makes by hand. Lorayne Otto will be joining Dick with her beautiful paintings. Carlene Howrani makes unique, gorgeous jewelry, some of her beads are from Africa, she will have the story behind them at her booth, be sure to stop and shop! Judy Droste is back again this year with her great florals. We also have more new crafters with candles, fleece blankets and pillows for children (they were a big hit at the Holt High School show a couple weeks ago, the children were dragging moms to see the blankets), and many other items, some that we have not seen before.

At the moment, it doesn't appear that we will have any food. I will keep trying to find a way to have some food, at least for the crafters in the morning.

Come to shop!! Shop both the Shopping Extravaganza and the St. Nicholas Day Bazaar!!

Beginning now, dear Lord, help us "to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:12-13, NRSV).

December Happenings to note:

- 1-Shopping Extravaganza 10am-3pm
- 6-MOPS 9-11:30am [last meeting till 2008]
- 7-St. Nicholas Day Bazaar: 5-8pm
- 8-St. Nick Bazaar continues: 9am-4pm
- 13-Senior World Luncheon 11:15am
- 16-Bishop's visitation
 - Annual ECW Cookie Walk [aft.10:30 service]
 - NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- 19-Lessons & Carols 7pm
 - Life Line Screening 8am-5pm
- 21-22 -Food Basket Assembly and Distribution
- 23-Greening of the Church following the 10:30 service
- 24-Christmas Eve Services and Carols
[\[see information page\]](#)
- 25-Christmas Day Eucharist 10am

Be sure to check your St. David's directory for monthly birthdays and anniversaries.

Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live
Christmas every day.
—Helen Steiner Rice

Curate's Corner

Anticipation.

We are all familiar with times of anticipation. We know anticipation from both the personal and community perspectives and it is something with which we are incredibly familiar. For us, individual anticipation is when we are nearing completion of a project, waiting for one's birthday, or planning for the birth of a child; corporate anticipation are felt in shared experiences such as new seasons, family

meals, and even presidential elections. In fact, the very notion of anticipation gives rise to a variety of feelings: anxiety, hope, reward, disappointment. We have all found times of anticipation to be in themselves positively exciting (waiting all summer after a particularly good TV cliffhanger) and negatively frustrating (waiting all summer after *any* TV cliffhanger!). The very nature of anticipation creates emotions that are by nature ambivalent: strong in conflicting ways.

For Christians, Advent is a natural time of anticipation. It is woven into the DNA of the season; from the way the gospels build the story to our natural rush to celebrate one of our favorite days of the year. But like any time of great anticipation, it is the build up that can be so incredibly rewarding.

The truth is that I love anticipation. I grew up voraciously reading (and therefore collecting) comics. Each one would come out monthly, so I would always race home, speed through the issue and get bummed that I would have to wait four more weeks for the next issue to arrive. But, with the regularity of the story and the monthly ritual of going to the store, buying the new issue and learning the next stage in an ever-expanding epic, I learned to appreciate that time. In my mind, I would re-tell the story and then write new chapters for myself: dreaming up how Wolverine would get the rest of the X-Men out of certain doom or how Rogue would return to New York from the Savage Land. Those times of writing my own endings often made up for times when the 'real' endings weren't as good.

For us, Advent is often the prelude to Christmas. We build things up so big, and we get ourselves so tired from shopping and listening to carols and drinking the egg nog, that Christmas can become a time of stress and depression. But I think anticipation is the key. Advent isn't the prelude but is the story that allows for Christmas. Without Advent, Christmas would lose most of its power. And like any time of high anticipation, we should take the time to slow down, watch, and listen. It is in the quiet, dark times that we are most likely to hear God.

I would encourage you to take the opportunity to join us for our biweekly book study. We are reading *The Womb of Advent* by Mark Bozzuti-Jones (ISBN13: 9780898695670). Books are available from me or *(continued on next page)*

ordered from Barnes & Noble. It is a book of meditation, inspiration, and anticipation, dealing with the elements of the season at hand. Our group will have the opportunity to share in those elements and pieces that make Advent such an engaging and fascinating time. I would enjoy telling you more about it.

It is my hope that you make Advent a time of true, Spirit-filled anticipation.

The Rev. Drew Downs



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Amy Mugnolo

– Are you living pay check to pay check? Do you have credit card debt, school loans, car loans and other debt that you just can't seem to get out from under? Would you like to be debt free and make your money work for you rather than you working for your money? Then consider Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. FPU is a 13-week course beginning at St. David's on January 29th from 7 to 9 p.m.. It is a life changing program on financial debt that will help you obtain financial freedom. All information is biblically based and taught via entertaining video by Dave Ramsey. **For more information and to sign up, contact Amy Mugnolo at 712-5583.**

Youth Corner

Submitted by Rev. Drew Downs

A recent study by the Barna Group found that 87% of young people, aged 16-29 believe that Christians don't practice what they preach. The most blatant example is that our value of radical hospitality seems very hypocritical when we are seen to reject and exclude others.

I'm reminded of this because we do a great deal to develop the sense of "other". It feels good to be in the 'in group' and to keep out those that aren't good enough. It makes us feel special. We don't always recognize when we do this, however. One of the most blatant examples is how, as Christians, we like to 'other' our youth; suggesting that 'they' are not full members, despite the baptismal covenant clearly including 'them' in the 'in group'.

It is in this spirit that I challenge the congregation, during this season of anticipation, in this season of Advent and preparation that we commit ourselves to do work for our youth. We can take time to pray for our youngest members, to remember each one, and to imagine what you can do to show kindness and support. Youth ministry is all of our responsibility!

We are also forming a Youth Ministries Discernment Team that will, in the coming year, gather voices and ideas for where our youth ministries may go in the future. It is an opportunity for the community to elevate and empower the spiritual formation of our youth. It is a time of anticipation!

Lastly, I would like to give special thanks to Jaime Williams for her help in making our first Family Fun Night a blast! We had seventeen people, a great turnout; played games; and ate pizza, salad, and brownies. Look for the next one in the new year!

One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving.

–Amy Carmichael

LAY READERS NEEDED!

We're looking for a few new lay readers, who also serve the Eucharist, for both 8 and 10:30 services. You do need to go through an instruction class with Fr. David. Pray about this as a possible ministry. Direct any questions to: **Gretchen Smith, 374-4588 (w), 321-4955(h), or e-mail:gretchen.smith@irmc.org**

You can tell a lot about a person by the way he or she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.

–Maya Angelou



Prepare the Way of the Lord

Submitted by Rev. David Pike

The month before last, the Lansing State Journal obituaries reported that one John

Lord, age 41, of Delta Township, an employee of Kroger's, died and was to be buried from St. Gerard's on the following Friday.

Most likely many of you saw John's obituary and didn't think much of it. What perhaps many of you don't know is that without realizing it, you saw John regularly and perhaps even talked with him.

John was one of the hardworking baggers at Kroger's. He also was often seen collecting carts and returning them to cart storage so shoppers always had carts available to fill with groceries. John often worked with Randyll Shook and lived in the same building as Karen Burt and Theresa Houser.

I never went to Kroger's when he was working without being warmly greeted. John would always pause in his work and say, "Hi, Father," and then go on with whatever he was doing. I am sure John touched the lives of many people, including many of the people of St. David's. He will be missed.

What does John Lord have to do with Advent? Simply put, his death reminded me of the shortness and uncertainty of life. I was very surprised at his death, considering his young age. I had seen John just a day or two before he died. We spoke, and suddenly I found out he was gone.

Advent is all about us preparing for coming events. In a most practical way we prepare for Christmas with our shopping, cooking, and decorating. In a spiritual way we prepare for the return of the Lord by spending extra time in prayer and reading. In

scripture we are reminded in any number of ways that the return of Christ will happen like the coming of a thief in the night.

Too many of us live as though we are going to live forever. We put off finishing tasks we know we need to complete. We don't ask forgiveness for actions done which shouldn't have been done. We don't grant forgiveness when requested. We don't give God the time we know we should.

These next four weeks of Advent, spend the time wisely. Yes, spend the time preparing your home physically for Christmas. More importantly, spend time preparing spiritually. It is so easy to become overwhelmed by "doing Christmas right" that the true meaning of Christmas becomes lost. When that happens, we become like those who suddenly and unexpectedly lost a friend named John.

May God bless you and grant you the quietness needed this Advent and always.

With deepest affection.

Fr. David

Military News

Mitch Cornell enjoyed a Thanksgiving Dinner with his family and then left for boot camp in Wichita Falls, Texas, with the Air National Guard.

Captain Adam Martzke is now married and stationed in San Diego, California. He is a Marine Helicopter Pilot and has been deployed twice during the Iraq war and is schedule to go again in 2008.

If you have news to report about someone in the military or nonmilitary working within the war, please submit it to the editor before the deadline date each month.

Address Change:

KaCey and Cindy Chapin
160 Adams St.
Ionia, MI 48846 Ph: 616-522-5027



**St. David's Presents
Our 5th Annual
St. Nicholas Day Bazaar**

**Friday, December 7, 2007, from 5 pm to 8 pm, and
Saturday, December 8, 2007, from 9 am to 4 pm.**

St. David's Episcopal Church

1519 Elmwood Rd.

***Lansing, MI 48917, ½ mile north of the Lansing
Mall***

**Beautiful hand turned wooden items, lovely handcrafted
jewelry, candles! Much more!**



"You are what you eat" applies not only to the physical world but also to the spiritual. There is no way to take in junk without becoming junky.

—Anonymous

Garrison Keillor on Episcopalians

Submitted by Rev. David Pike

We make fun of Episcopalians for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense; their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese.

But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in Des Moines, a relatively Episcopalianless place, to sing along on the chorus of Michael Row the Boat Ashore, they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Episcopalians, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Many Episcopalians are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Episcopalians to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison.

When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this, people: Episcopalians, who love to sing in four-part harmony, are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you are dying, they will comfort you. If you are lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

Episcopalians believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud. Episcopalians like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

Episcopalians believe their rectors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.

Episcopalians usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

Episcopalians believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.

Episcopalians feel that applauding for their children's choirs will not make the kids too proud and conceited.

Episcopalians think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

Episcopalians drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.

Episcopalians feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.

Episcopalians are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.

Episcopalians still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and Episcopalians believe that it is ok to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you are an Episcopalian when:

- It's 100 degrees, with 90 percent humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
- You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say "May the Force be with you", you respond "and also with you."
- And lastly, it takes 10 minutes to say good-bye.

Editors note: The views in this article are not necessarily that of all Episcopalians. However, some are pretty good.

Important Contact Information

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Rev. Drew Downs, Deacon andrew.stdavids@sbcglobal.net	box 78
Rev. Bill Ericson, Pastoral Assistant	box 40
Dr. Timothy Flynn, Music Director	box 147
Edie Nordlund, Admin. Assistant office.stdavids@sbcglobal.net	box 35
Kerry Chapin, M.of M. (sexton)	box111

VESTRY CONTACTS:

Gail Donovan, Senior Warden	box 17
David Sonnenberg, Junior Warden	box 138
David Byers, Treasurer	box 15
Craig Leinbach, Asst. Treasurer	box 27
Carolyn Jacobs, Clerk	box 4
Carol Abbott	box 126
Tim Cote'	box 90
Nancy Howard	box 59
Sue Kohler	box 75
Patrick Lynaugh	box 1
Bob Nordlund	box 35
Dick Otto	box 82
Jeff Spitzley	box 52
Barb VanDyke	box 73
Adam Williams	box 143

Fall/Winter Service Schedule:

Sunday: 8am, 10:30am (with choir)

Wednesday: 6:30pm (watch bulletin for changes)
Dec. 19th Lessons & Carols -7pm

Friday: 9am

Newsletter Editor

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**Newsletter deadline
for January Edition
is Sunday December 16**



Christmas Eve Services: 7pm & 11pm
With Carols at 10:30 pm

