



Inside this issue:

<i>Mistletoe Bazaar</i>	2
<i>Jubilee Chorale Concert</i>	3
<i>Living Gift Challenge</i>	3
<i>Route 66 Report</i>	4
<i>Advent Cafe</i>	4
<i>FAM JAM Update</i>	5
<i>Lectio Divina</i>	5
<i>Christmas Worship</i>	6

Connected?

By Rev. Martha

Facebook, Twitter, Blogging, Plus One-ing, Googling, or the dinosaur of the bunch -- e-mailing, one thing you can say for sure about our world today is that we are connected. Ultra connected. We can not only update our nearest and dearest of our thoughts, feelings, where-about, on a play-by-play basis, we can immediately receive feedback from them about *their thoughts on our thoughts*, while they are also giving us a window into their lives so that *their thoughts on our thoughts* can be returned by *our thoughts on their thoughts on our thoughts*. Where we used

to say that each one of us several billion inhabitants of this planet were only separated by six degrees, now I can accurately say, if I choose, that I am a 'friend' of just about every famous person in the world, that there is no separation between me and any one I decide I want to know.

Why do we make our personal lives subject to instantaneous and constant examination? Why are we so enraptured by the cyber revelations of others? We want to belong. We want to be seen. We want our lives validated through relationship. While social network-

ing is new, the desire driving it is anything but. No matter the time or place, that fundamental, aching desire for connection -- for my life to be meaningful, to be part of something -- is at the core of human experience.

This is the irony: the more we use social networking as a means to connect, the more isolated we feel. The new studies are discouraging. There is a distinct correlation between social networking and heightened rates of depression, feelings of alienation and overall dissatisfaction with life. We want it so badly that we are willing to invest each and

"The Bishops Are Coming!"

Not every congregation gets to see their bishop every year. On Sunday November 27—the First Sunday of Advent—we will have TWO bishops visiting with us: Bishop George Elliott of York-Simcoe Area, Diocese of Toronto, and Bishop

Michael Pryse, Bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada (ELCIC). Come out and meet our bishops, ask questions, and tell them how you are enjoying our unique blend of Anglican and Lutheran liturgy!



Count down to
Christmas

From Rev. Martha (cont'd from p. 1)

every spare minute into the construction of our on-line life, and yet what we seek gets further and further from our grasp. Which raises the question - the question for social theorists, philosophers, journalists, as well as Christians who believe passionately that God has something to say in the face of the world's alienation and hurt - how is it possible to be simultaneously so connected and also so disconnected?

The clearest answer is that having a relationship with at least two computer screens between you is simply not the same. We applaud social networking because of its ability to transcend geography, to bring people together, even if oceans or continents divide them. But it turns out that physical space actually matters: unplanned breaks in conversation, uncertain fidgeting, the awkward and enlivening chemistry of bodies interacting. Social networking bypasses that, twitter or face-

book has the definite advantage of smoothing out our oftentimes clumsy attempts at relating. It turns out that the clumsiness is missed.

It is not that any one believes, therefore, that social media should be chucked. It's not that there isn't potential, possibility, and realized gain from these networks. But now more than ever, we have to invest in Authentic Community. Authentic Community - the nerve-wracking, pulse-quickenning, faltering, clumsy creation of people honestly sharing, sharing *in*, something.

As I write this, we are in the Kingdom Season of the church: the time when we focus particularly on where we see God's reign of Healing, Joy, Love enacted in the world around us. And very shortly, we enter the season of Advent: the time of deepest darkness in the natural world, and yet we claim the possibility of the breaking in of God's light - in our lives, in our commu-

nities. In response to that basic human yearning for connection, this winter I give thanks for the experience of Authentic Community here at St. David's.

I give thanks for time and space where we can be together, to be able to clap or cry, sing or be silent, have our hearts lifted with joy, allow our hearts to break open with the sorrows and burdens we have learned to carry. I give thanks for the diversity of backgrounds, the variety of ways of experiencing and knowing God, the way in which the gifts of both young and old are upheld and empowered within our common life. I give thanks for gestures of generosity and compassion - small and great, those that every one can see, those that fly under the radar. I give thanks for raising my children in a place where they are surrounded with a richness of wisdom, experience, care and concern, raising my children in a community committed to the work of



feeding, welcoming, and empowering. I give thanks for our shortcomings: for the things we don't know yet, the truths we have yet to discover, the challenges that lie ahead for us. I give thanks that in this church we make music, we garden, worship, pray, dance, network, support, cook, serve, eat, do crafts, light candles, meditate, contemplate, give, receive, bike, run, play sports, study, learn, make instruments, collect pennies, gather shoeboxes, knit toques, sew, quilt, teach, buy fair-trade, buy local, write letters, vote, advocate, build, fix, host, work, care, play. I give thanks that not one of these things is the basis for our life in community, but that all of these gifts flow out of the relationship we share in God's love.

Thank you. For Authentic Community. True Connection.



Come to the "Mistletoe Bazaar"

Come out to St. David's for a fine luncheon with sandwiches, tea and dessert. Then afterwards check out the Bake table, the Christmas Crafts table, the White Elephant table, and a special

table where all Christmas gifts are under \$2 - a wonderful place for kids to shop for family and friends. Put this date on your calendar:

**Saturday November 26
from 11:00 to 1:30 pm !**

Jubilee Chorale Concert, Bake & Craft Sale

On Sunday December 11th 2:00—4:00 p.m. the Jubilee Chorale will be holding a concert along with a Bake and Craft Sale.

A portion of the proceeds will go towards a donation to our

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

here at St. David's.

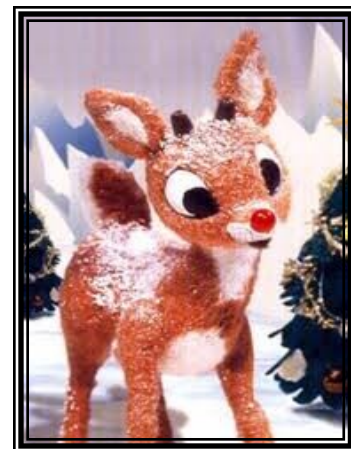


Cheesy Christmas Movie Marathon

Saturday December 10th for youth grades 7 & up. Stay after the Advent Café for an evening of pizza, goodies and fa-

vourite Christmas movies on the big screen. Who's your favourite Christmas movie character? The Grinch? His

dog? Rudolph? Hermey (the elf who wanted to be a dentist)? Tim Allen in *The Santa Clause*? Or Tom Hanks in *The Polar Express*?



Christmas "Living" Gift Challenge

What if every single family in our church committed to spending just \$20 less on Christmas gifts this year?

What if we all opted out of that crazy Christmas pressure of buying a whole bunch of stuff for people who, for the most part, don't need anything?

What if we all gave that \$20 to one common project?

Last year, between Advent and Easter, St.

David's raised enough money to purchase a well for a third world community in need. We put our "spare change" to the amazing gift of clean, fresh, living water for an entire community.

What if we all gave that \$20 to one common project?

This year we could easily build a well, perhaps more, by each of us taking seriously this simple, life-changing, thought-provoking, Christmas-re-claiming challenge.



Report from Route 66 by Cheryl Fournier



Route 66 is now travelin' into its first winter with up to a dozen children enjoying the ride.

As we sing songs, hear a Bible story that allows us to practise the lesson given in the story to our everyday lives, and play games, we encourage:

R—respect for one another
O—offer our gifts where needed
U—utter kind words
T—teach with love, trusting one another
E—enjoy each other's company

Along the road we have met Zaccheus in a tree, Noah in the ark, Angels watching over us, Martha awaiting Jesus' arrival, and Shepherds in waiting...

With **Isaiah 55:12** being our theme song/Bible verse...we continue to **“go out with joy and be led forth in peace”** as we grow in love and faith.

A special thank you to my volunteers: Barry, Jen and Riley...and to the congregation. Thank you for seeing God's vision for the children in our community and for your continued support in prayer.

Advent Café—Saturday December 10th 4 p.m.



Shirley Johnson getting ready for the “Shout Out Your Favourite Christmas Hymn” portion of the Advent Café.

A wonderful blend of music, food, and fellowship appropriate for all ages—that's the Advent Café. A great way to introduce friends, family and neighbours to St. David's. Note the time change this year from Sunday afternoon to Saturday afternoon. We're going to set up the Café upstairs in the church this year, in order to be able to hear our new Jam Band and to use our brand new sound equipment. (The acoustics are much better too!) FAM JAM will be rolled into the Advent Café that day, giving us all an opportunity to share our talents, musical gifts, and favourite Christmas goodies in a relaxed café atmosphere. Stay tuned for details on signing up for food and performing.



Update on FAM JAM

Thank you!

To everyone who has been supporting FAM JAM through attendance, musical gifts, snacks, and prayers. We have had a wonderful start thanks to YOU!

We have a talented group of musicians contributing piano, percussion, guitar, clarinet, trumpet, bass, ukulele, and vocals to our jam sessions. Over 18 musicians—both younger and more seasoned—have participated at one time or another, and the weekly variety of musicianship means that the music sounds

different every time we get together. A number of other community musicians have expressed interest in checking us out, and we hope and pray that they will do so.

We now have a program for children as well, those who are not yet at the age

of being able to join the band. Thanks to Lindsay, Breanna and Amanda—a newly created FAM JAM team—our children have an opportunity to learn about music, rhythm, singing, making instruments, sound creation, and dance. Yes, we have dancing at FAM JAM!

Within the wider church community, a great deal

of interest in FAM JAM has been expressed. We have been interviewed by our church paper and video-ed by a church documentarian. We are having a great time and generating a lot of buzz.

This is what we need from YOU: PRAYER!

Always prayer! And **SPREAD THE WORD**—encourage family and friends who might be interested in trying church in a new way, who want to connect with a faith community but have had trouble doing it. Invite them to try out FAM JAM, to be part of creating this worship community from the ground up.



Lectio Divina in Advent

“Lectio Divina? What’s that?” ...You want to pray, but you’re not sure how...You’re looking for a kind of prayer that works for you...You’ve tried *Lectio Divina* before and you liked it—would like to do more of it...

If any of these descriptions fit, maybe you would enjoy our **Advent Prayer Time**, Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. (starting Nov. 30) and Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (starting Dec. 6). Martha will lead us in this

ancient form of prayer with scriptures and we will use our imaginations to enter into the scriptural text, explore what it means, and find a deeper connection to God.

Come try *Lectio Divina!*



Praying the scriptures



St. David's Anglican Lutheran Church

Incumbent: Rev. Martha Tatarnic

Deacon: Pamela Harrington

Director of Music: Brent Mayhew

Church Council:

Clayton Hannah, Chair

Ann Parsons, Treasurer Catherine King

Penny Boyd Ken McMullen

Mike Harrington Robert Donald

Anne Ewaschuk Bill Palmer

Web Site Editor: Angela Lipp

Newsletter Editor: Pamela Harrington

We're on the web!

www.stdavidsorillia.org

Mission Statement

Journeying together to grow in faith and serve God's world.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Lessons & Carols

Sunday December 18th 4 pm

Featuring music from our choir, the beautiful Holden evening prayer used in Fairvalley, candlelight and our favourite Christmas carols and stories, this evening is the perfect way of counting down the last week leading to Christmas.

Christmas Eve

Saturday December 24th 7 pm

Family service (featuring both the choir & Jam Band)

Saturday December 24th 11 pm

Midnight Mass with Choir

Christmas Morning

Sunday December 25th

9 am Breakfast

10 am Service

(* no 8 am service this day)

