

TAX NOTE Donations to St. Olave's must be received no later than **Christmas Day, Monday, December 25**, to be included in Income Tax Receipts for 2006. Please note that the offering received on Sunday, December 31 will be credited to 2007 in our books as the bank will not be processing the deposit until January 2.

Friday night youth drop-in: A fun way to kick back!



Youth enjoy a game of floor hockey.

The Back Door Youth Drop-in exists to help youth experience life to the full, encouraging physical, emotional and spiritual growth. Each Friday night, community youth (13-18) are invited to participate in drop-in from 4 till 9 p.m. Pool, foosball, X-Box, floor hockey and good conversation are part of the programme, which has been in running for 11 years. The Back Door Youth Drop-in now operates weekly at St. Olave's. This partnership enables us to bring Christ's love to community

youth in practical ways. We are financially supported by individual and corporate donations. Our programmes extend throughout the year to include: monthly supper night, out-tripping/camping, tutoring, job skills/employment initiatives, community service projects and a variety of special clubs aimed at building relationships with youth. We hope our programmes will continue to be a practical expression of the love of Jesus to each youth involved. ✂

—Doug and Morag Wilson

Interest expressed for annual event

(continued from front page) dant talents. The Junior Choir under the direction of Janice Douglas; Cathy Hutcheon (solo flute), Janice Douglas (solo piano), Dale Allen (solo vocals); and organist Tim Showalter's leadership of the concluding and rousing sing-along.

Potluck 2007?

Among the many positive comments received by the committee, several parishioners suggested that some form of major congregational pot-luck dinner become an annual event. Of course, this is easier said than done, but not impossible. Perhaps about the same time of year

(between Thanksgiving and the Christmas Market) would be ideal. It need not be such an ambitious fundraiser, but more of an opportunity for good fellowship. There are some fixed costs — napkins, coffee, milk, cream, juice for children etc. — but they are probably less than \$100 and could be recaptured with a free will basket at the door.

The Arts Guild might be involved again in producing it, as an entertainment opportunity could be available. If there is sufficient interest, please speak to the writer and a date can be reserved. Perhaps we have the start of a new tradition. ✂

Winter 2006



The Olave Branch

Reaching out to St. Olave's Anglican Church community

Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

First Sunday in Advent
* 4:00 p.m. - Evensong followed by Annual Christmas Tea and Michael Coren: In Person

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Second Sunday in Advent
* 10:30 a.m. - 23rd Annual Christmas Pageant

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Third Sunday in Advent
* 7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Fourth Sunday in Advent
* 8:30 a.m. - Holy Communion
* 10:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Christmas Eve

* 4:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas Eve Service
* 10:30 p.m. - Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

MONDAY DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
* 10:30 a.m. - Holy Communion

FRIDAY JANUARY 5

Epiphany
* 6:00 p.m. - Evensong followed by Light Supper and Feature Talk "The Holy Lands in Turmoil"

Heather Cosgrave, left, and her sister Thelma, stand before a beautiful pavilion representing India.



Let us overcome materialism

Letter from the Rector
The Reverend David Burrows

My wife, Penny, was looking at a Christmas/Holiday Wish Book for a local upscale shop. Contents:
• Pair of silver stiletto shoes: \$650
• Shift dress: \$2,995
• Italian leather brief case: No price given (just imagine).

The above do not exemplify the true spirit of Christ-mas i.e. the Mass of Christ's Nativity. If these no not, then what does? Let the following be your Christmas model:

Remember the words of our Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35 (Also BCP, page 72)

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: The Lord shall deliver him in the time of trouble. Psalm 41:1 (Also BCP, page 72)

I would like to suggest that between now and Christmas you memorize each of these verses. Try the following technique for at least two weeks before Christmas: Before you go to bed, open your BCP to page 72; read out the first verse aloud 12 times. Say it over again silently 12 times. Leave your book open on your dresser near your bed. In the morning repeat the same procedure with the other verse.

This is what the Holy Scripture calls meditation. Meditation is NOT merely a technique of Eastern religions. It is Biblical. And it will have an effect on your psyche as well as on your behaviour. Meditation internalizes the Word of God; God's Word becomes our food and drink; it becomes the air we breathe.

At this time of year, it is more important than ever that we internalize Christ's teaching to help make us immune to the spirit of materialism and commercialism that will be abroad in our land over the next month. ✂

Mini-caravan a global success

By Jim Shapland

Saturday evening, October 21, saw the St. Olave's spirit at its best. After an absence of 10 years, the mini-caravan was revived as a joint effort by the Arts Guild and Jessie Powell and a group of her friends. It was a remarkable success:

- A sold-out Parish Hall with 130 in attendance;
- 11 colourful and informative cultural pavilions representing Ukraine, Ireland, Africa, England, Jamaica, Canada, Wales, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India and Norway;
- A fabulous multicultural meal with an abundance of potluck contributions from our parishioners;
- A highly enjoyable entertainment hour to conclude the evening.

The mini-caravan met its financial expectations, raising more than \$1,100 to benefit our church. The first \$1,000 of the net proceeds was donated toward the

cost of replacing the front sidewalk leading from Windermere Avenue to the front doors. The balance was given to the Junior Church to expand its lending library.

There already have been several bulletin acknowledgements, but perhaps we should again mention the organizing committee who put the even together. In addition to the co-chairs (Jessie Powell and Jim Shapland), the members were Bette Birmingham, Nancy Shapland, Sheila Tait and Annis Tebbutt.

Each accepted specific areas of responsibility and executed them throughout. The committee also benefited from the helpful support of Judy Beal in the church office and our caretaker Ching-Hong Lam's extra effort. Finally, thank you to the many who volunteered and contributed their time and effort so generously.

And we should again mention our performers who contributed their abun-

(continued on back page)

ACW helps youth get their lives back on track

This is the sixth year that our ACW, helped by the congregation, will be making Christmas gift bags for young people 16-24 years of age living in LOFT residences. These young people have had extremely difficult lives, including homelessness, abuse, addictions, and mental health problems. Beverley Lodge and its three co-op houses serve up to 30 young men. Etobicoke Girls' Residence is a similar program for

young women.

For most of these young people, your bag may be the only gift they receive. Please help us to reach out to them in the true spirit of Christmas.

Please place your bag under the Christmas tree in the Narthex on or before Sunday, December 17 so that they may be delivered to LOFT prior to Christmas.



What should you put in a bag?

Everything must be new and in a store-bought Christmas bag. You do not have to put everything in your bag. Please label your bag for a young man, a young woman, or unisex. DO NOT include any candy that has peanuts. Here are some suggested items:

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Comb or brush
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Chapstick
- Kleenex



- Washcloth or sponge
- Shampoo and conditioner

- Pad of paper and pen or pencil

- Warm items of clothing such as mittens, hat or toques, socks or scarf

- A game or two from your favourite dollar store

- A token of Christmas
- Candy
- Gum

WANTED

New ACW leader

As some of you may know, Sue Ferguson has stepped down from her position as President of St. Olave's Anglican Church Women, and Margaret Rodrigues from her position as Past President (for family reasons), both after many years of service to our church. This is a wonderful opportunity for a parishioner to liaise with women of the church, plan as many or as few events as you are willing or able, and coordinate outreach projects in the community. For more information contact Margaret at 416/766-9720 or email her at senican@sympatico.ca.



The Parish Hall, humming with activity; (left to right) Nina and Natalie Franke and Sandy Bowers sell ornaments made by the Junior Church.



Market appeal

Many thanks to all of you who joined St. Olave's Christmas Market Team on November 18. The Parish Hall was packed once again with parishioners and visitors buying knitted goods, crafts, books, jewellery, treasures and more. More than 100 people enjoyed the lovely lunch. The result was more than \$4,300 raised! This is the major fundraising effort of St. Olave's ACW which continues to support many worthy causes. We look forward to doing it again next year.

— John Damery,
Co-ordinator

Gingerbread adds spice to Nativity play



By Janice Douglas

If you thought you noticed the warm smell of gingerbread baking in the Church kitchen in the weeks leading up to Advent, you were right. The Junior Church has been busy creating a cookie crèche to display in the

Narthex the morning of the Christmas pageant. The children will also be handing out cookies after their performance on December 10. A group craft project during pageant rehearsals has been a staple activity of the Junior Church for years. Many papier maché shepherds are no doubt still unwrapped each season in St. Olave's homes!

This year we have 21 children involved in the production, a 20-minute-long poem written by Annis Tebbutt three years ago.

This season we have also been enjoying a new curriculum called Seasons of the Spirit. All three grade levels are able to discuss the same Bible reading each week, each at different capacities. It came highly recommended by the Anglican Church of Canada.

In November, several Junior Church families got together for the first ever Family Craft and Movie Night. We made crafts to sell at the Christmas Market, had some pizza, and watched the South African movie Duma. Look for it at your local video store! Our crafts helped bring in more than \$50 at the Market.

This year the Junior Church also began a Junior Choir. Tess Puntanen, Gabbie Douglas, Katie Douglas, Natalie



Joshua Virani-Wall and Christine Comi prepare to transform a gingerbread camel with icing and candies.

Franke, Nina Franke and Natalie Gillard all sang at the Mini-Caravan on October 21 to great acclaim. The choir will also be singing at the Lessons and Carols Service on December 17.

Think inside the envelope

The Advent season often serves to amplify our emotions. Many of us take a step back, take stock of our lives, and end up trying to lead a less self-centred and more giving, loving, friendly and reverent lifestyle ... for the time being.

These days we speak before we are spoken to and welcome new acquaintances, rekindle old friendships, and even seek to repair damaged or broken relationships. Grumpy salespeople, impatient drivers, and nagging co-workers fail to change our pleasant demeanors. We open our wallets to those in need.

During this penitential season of Advent, we Wardens have an important message — regarding the Church finances. There is a continuing decline in the number of envelope subscribers, as

Letter from the Wardens

Sheila Tait, Rector's Warden

Don Weston, People's Warden

John Floyd, Deputy Warden

well as in envelope offerings. The Treasurer and her deputies, a group of faithful members of the congregation, tell us our bank deposit every Sunday is on a sharp decline. As Wardens, we have a duty to inform you that as a congregation, we are not able to continue to rely on legacies to keep our building and our programs running and serving us in the manner to which we have all become accustomed. We encourage those of you who do not use envelopes to consider

taking them in 2007, or using the convenient Pre-Authorized Giving, and to everyone to consider boosting your givings. Do it now, while you're in that good Christmas mood! By the way, St. Olave's is looking for a replacement to coordinate the Sidepersons and Greeters team. Only skill required — the ability to recruit! Please speak with one of us.

The true meaning of Christmas as we all know is in the story of Jesus. Can we make the story of His birth and the joy and hope it provided to all of us rub off well into next year, when the warm gatherings hosted by our friends and the appeals from the charities slow down? We hope your lives are, and will continue to be, touched by the teachings of Jesus each and every day, and that you will find refuge in the words of the Bible during the difficult times which inevitably come.

Our best wishes to you for Advent, and for a blessed and happy Christmas.