



# St. Augustine's Clarion

6110 Fulton Road  
780-466-5532

Advent/Christmas 2011

## Your Rector's Musings

### My Advent-Christmas Message

Christmas! Its less than a month to the main event. Anticipation has been building. Baking is progressing, parcels are being wrapped and gifts selected. All things are being made ready, yet somehow, even with all the pre-Christmas entertaining, the concerts at the schools and hospitals, the carols on the airwaves, is something still lacking? With all the fuss, all the preparation, all the busyness of the season some of us feel that all is not right or complete. Perhaps in that all-is-not-right-or-complete feeling is a question – as we reflect on our lives, have any of our preparations been focused on ourselves? Have we made ourselves ready personally and spiritually to receive the true gift of Christmas?

God has given to us, as we celebrate the anniversary of Jesus birth, a time to see new hope for our lives. To see new hope for the world if only we have made a place in our world and in our hearts to receive a gift beyond all that we could ask or imagine. Have we made him room? Are we prepared to receive the new life God promises?

Come now and prepare him a room; come now and adore him; come now and celebrate our Saviour!

Merry Christmas Everyone!

Bob+



### A Christmas Prayer

Lord Jesus, please forgive me for being so grumpy as I trudge through the never-ending tasks set before me this holiday season...

My to-do list seems to keep growing with shopping, church services, and family gatherings...and I'm running short of time!

Restore the joy of Christmas to my heart ...and help me to relax each day and make time for YOU...my one true Source of Joy.

Amen



Next "Families  
with Young Children"  
Gathering  
Sunday, December 18, 2011  
"Christmas Pageant"



St. Augustine's  
Advent Activities and  
Outreach

#### Advent 1

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>  
Services  
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Outreach Focus:  
Food Bank Sunday  
and Culmination  
of Stewardship Initiative

#### Advent 2

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Services  
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Outreach Focus:  
Youth Emergency Shelter  
Society  
Guest Speaker: John Berry

# St. Augustine's Clarion Advent/Christmas 2011

## Advent 3

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>  
Services  
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Outreach Focus:  
Bissell Center (Blanket Sunday)  
Guest Speaker: Bob McKeon

## Advent 4

Sunday, December 18, 2011  
Services  
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and Noon

Outreach Focus:  
No Room in the Inn  
Guest Speaker: Catherine Molyneux

## Advent 4 At 12 Noon

Christmas Carols  
Community Pot Luck  
Christmas Pageant

## Wednesday, Dec. 21, Hardisty Lodge Service

10:00 a.m.

## Saturday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve

8:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

## Sunday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Eucharist

## Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012 First Sunday After Christmas

10:00 a.m. Eucharist



## "Come, Sit, Stay"

If you were at church on Oct. 30, you heard a funny story about puppies and the Advent season. Advent is a time to listen, to pay attention, to receive what the Holy One is offering. You might even call it "obedience training."

In preparation for the coming of Jesus, you are invited to set aside a time to listen for the peace and hope that arise in silence. Meditations and reflections on the promise of this season will be shared. It will be a mini retreat. A time of fellowship, fun, and even a free lunch. Bring a friend.

Please join us on Saturday  
December 4th from 9 - 4.

Contact Pat Cherewick 780-469-0704 or the church office for more information and to sign up.

Financial Contributions for the 2011 Tax Year must be received at the church by Noon, December 29, 2011.



Sunday Nights at Blues  
is now Monday Night at Blues

We continue our conversations on Monday  
November 28<sup>th</sup> and on December 12<sup>th</sup>

Delicious Coffee  
Thoughtful Conversation  
A Friendly Community

7 – 9 p.m.  
Blues Java Bar  
106 Avenue & 50 Street

Every Christmas morning, when my kids were little, I read them the nativity story out of the big family bible. When my son was old enough to talk, he asked me what a stable was.

I thought for a moment how to explain it to him in terms he could understand, then told him, "It's something like your sister's room, but without a stereo."



### Kathie Sutherland

will read from her recently published book of poetry

#### Balancing Act

Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us as we celebrate poetry with festive treats of fruitcake and sherry.



### Christmas Eve Outreach

#### No Room in the Inn

This year's offering will assist **Wings of Providence** with their **Our Home Next Door** project which will provide affordable housing for women with children who have experienced family violence.



#### A Little Humour

As it was coming up to Christmas a young boy is praying upstairs while his mother sits by him and his dad and grandma are downstairs. He prays "Lord I pray for a train set, a remote control car, and A NEW BICYCLE!!!" "You don't have to shout dear", says the mother "God's not deaf." "I know" said the little boy, "but grandma is."