

## *The Meaning of White Gift Sunday*

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations.

The story is told that a minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday School Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others.

Here at St. David's, we have observed White Gift Sunday for many years during the season of Advent. In keeping with the spirit of the first White Gift service, all those attending would bring a gift of toys, food, personal care items, etc. all wrapped in white paper or in a white bag.

**This year**, on the three Sundays in Advent, please bring a gift if you are able, for a child, youth, man or woman. The gifts will be distributed to various organizations in the city before Christmas. Food items will be either included with the Christmas Hampers or given to Bridges To Hope.

This is one way we can show God's love and our caring commitment to the people of our community. Please consider how you can help.