Interfaith Thanksgiving feast slated

The Northwest Suburban Interfaith Ministerial Association will host A Celebration of Thanksgiving at the 22nd annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Worship at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, at Temple Beth El, 7400 Telegraph at 14 Mile, **Bloomfield Township.**

Participants will include:

•From Bloomfield Hills – Temple Beth El, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Christ Church Cranbrook, Congregational Church of Birmingham, Nativity Episcopal Church, Pilgrim Congregational Church, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, St. Hugo of the Hills Church, Kirk in the Hills Church, St. Owen Church, St. Paul United Methodist Church.

•From Birmingham – Church of Christ Scientist, First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, St. James Episcopal Church, St. Regis Church, T.E.A.M. Center.

•From Beverly Hills – Beverly Hills United Methodist Church, Northbrook Presbyterian Church.

•From Franklin – Franklin Community Church.

•From Detroit – Christian Communication Council.

•From Farmington Hills –The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

•From West Bloomfield – Pine Hill Congregational Church, the Rev. Joseph F. Ryder.

•From Southfield – The Ecumenical Institute.

•From Royal Oak – William Beaumont Hospital.

BELIEFS & Values

New web site offers inside view of church

BY RENA FULKA
SPECIAL WRITER

Visitors to the new Kirk in the Hills web site are greeted by a colorful stained-glass window superimposed with a greeting found above the church entrance that begins, "There is a welcome in the church for thee."

With a simple click on the stained-glass window, Internet cruisers can then catch glimpses of the faith community that makes its home at the English Gothic church overlooking Island Lake.

Launched on Nov. 6, the extensive web site features a brief, pictorial tour and history of the Kirk, along with a map that pinpoints its Oakland County location on a 40-acre site in Bloomfield Hills. Other categories for exploration include Christian education information, activities, a calendar of events, worship schedule, pastoral biographies, last-minute reminders and congregational goals.

The elaborate information center was offered as a gift to the church by members Kathe and George Cameron. The Bloomfield Hills couple are two of five partners of Identix, Inc., an interactive media solution provider based in Troy, where the web site was designed and created.

"The Kirk is such a beautiful church," said Kathe Cameron. "We really wanted to show the world how beautiful the Kirk is inside . . . and that it's a warm and fuzzy place."

Kirk in the Hills is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church USA, which has several hundred of its churches featured on the Internet. The Camerons have taken full responsibility for the creation of the Kirk site, from gathering photographs and information from church archives to absorbing the ongoing expense of maintaining and updating the site.

"It's our church and that's part of giving time, talents and treasures," said Cameron, a mother of two. "It's my hope that this inspires other people in the congregation to give what they can give."

Three days before the web site debuted on the Internet, the Camerons provided a remote presentation after each Sunday worship service to showcase the new mode of communication to the 2,700-member congregation.

STAFF PHOTO BY LAWRENCE McKEE

Internet savvy: *The Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard and Publications Director Angie Kessler explore the new church web site that offers colorful glimpses of the Kirk in the Hills faith community via the Internet.*

Jim Devlin, his wife, Denise, and their children, Adam, Nicholas and Rhonda, were among the large crowd that gathered for the presentation in the Heritage Hall at Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W. Long Lake Road.

"My immediate reaction was the one I saw through my son, who said, 'Hey, the church's got it's own web site. Let's go check it out,' " recalled Devlin, of Adam, his eldest son.

Adam is a 13-year-old with a wide set of interests — and cruising "the Net" is one of them.

"What I hope, and actually I'm fairly confident will be realized, is that 12, 13, 14, 15 year olds, and even older, will see a sense in prowling around and doing what they like to do. And up could pop their Sunday morning experience again," said Devlin, an engineer. "Any time that comes more often than Mom or Dad brings it to them is a good thing."

A Bloomfield Hills resident, Devlin serves the Kirk as an usher, a member of the Garden Guild and the Board of Trustees, and as chairman of the long-range planning committee. He plans to plug into the site monthly to check meetings and compare calendars.

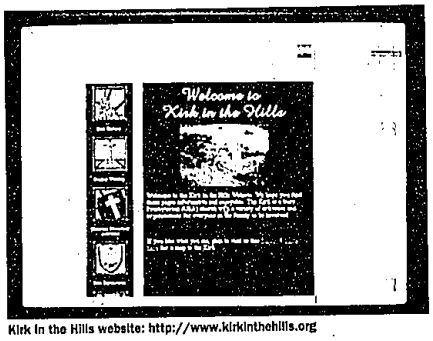
While other individuals at the church presentation explored the new medium, enthusiastic computer owners came forward to learn how they could "go online" at home. The Camerons also plan to offer the congregation basic Internet education classes.

"I have found this very exciting and moving that people would bring these gifts to the church without being asked," said the Rev. Dr. Norman Pritchard, a Scotland native who assumed his pastorate at the Kirk earlier in the year. "It's the most wonderful example of giving gifts and talents for the service of the church."

Within its first week of operation, the Kirk web site had already prompted two E-mail messages - one from a church member attending college in Virginia and the other from Pritchard's friend in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"Once we get it fully operational, it will be quite interactive," said Pritchard, who ministered in Australia before taking up residence in Bloomfield Hills. "Next year the Kirk turns 50. And there'll be a whole program of events, celebrations and commemorations listed in a whole

See WEB, B15



Kirk in the Hills website: http://www.kirkinthehills.org

DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM

Tree Lighting

Wednesday, November 27th
(Thanksgiving Eve)
7:00 pm • Shain Park
Music • Carriage Rides • Gifts
Costumed Dickens Carolers

Big Buck Savings!
Fireplace & Spa is Michigan's largest fireplace dealer!
You won't find a better selection anywhere!
gas logs
Take aim at great value!
Custom Oak Six Log Sets: 18" Gas Log Set $89; 24" Gas Log Set $129
Royal Series Massive Oak: 18" Six Log Set Your Choice $149; 24" Split Log $149
EARTHSTOVE, INC. Ultra Bay Insert — Ultra Bay fits fireplaces utilizing the existing chimney. Installation is a snap, saving you hundreds of dollars! Five realistic gas logs with glowing embers, up to 24,000 Btu's, and a variable speed heat blower complete this hinge unit. NOW ONLY $1,099 (WITH GAS LOGS INCLUDED)
ENVIROGAS® #828 Freestanding Gas Stove — Stay cozy this winter with the Envirogas® Stove. It's safe, clean, efficient and affordable. The gas stove installs almost anywhere, heats up to 1,400 sq. ft. and with instant lighting and an adjustable flame pattern the look and comfort level are yours to enjoy. NOW ONLY $1,399 (WITH GAS LOGS INCLUDED)
Don't miss this!
DESA FACTORY RECONDITIONED Vent Free Gas Logs — These amazing vent free logs are 99.9% efficient and will provide the blast of warmth you'll look for this winter! $299
RUSTIC CRAFTS Oakwood Blaze Electric Love Logs — The outstanding line of electric products have many features for lasting beauty. The patented Living Flame action with unique screening simulates a smoky effect. ONLY $79.95
HEAT-N-GLO Slimline SL36 Gas Fireplace — Enjoy all the natural beauty of a real wood fire with Heat-N-Glo's space saving Slimline 36" gas fireplace. The slender profile and flexible venting options make installation easy! $899 (WITH GAS LOGS INCLUDED)
SunStar® Vent Free Radiant Heater — Ideal for safe, supplemental heating! Virtually 100% efficient with three year limited warranty. $249
New Product Line!
Exceptional quality and value.
TRAVOS 36" Pre-Fab Fireplace — Price Buster! Engineered for the look of quality that's sharp and clean at an affordable price. *TFC36-2 $99 (One Per Customer, Quantities Limited!)
michcon Ideal Energy Dealer — Let michcon name your Natural Gas Appliance!
See the entire Hercules selection in our showrooms!
The Noble 7' Pool Table — "Billiard Congress of America" approved tournament style cushions. Solid hardwood rails finished with mar, stain and heat resistant formica, corner rail caps of cast metal match table finish. Three piece Italian slate supported by cross beam construction. Commercial grade woodmylon blend cloth for exceptional play & durability. Your best shot on great family entertainment! $995
$99 Pennwater Custom Glass Door — The polished brass bifold door fits sizes 26 to 36" wide x 24 to 31" high.
Hampton 5' Oak Mantel $99
FIREPLACE TOOL SETS 20% OFF!
PRIOR SALES EXCLUDED
Fireplace & Spa
We know the way you love to live, inside and out!
Here's Important Details!
KENSINGTON (810) 318-1700
MT. CLEMENS (810) 463-7100
SOUTHFIELD (810) 353-0001
Some depicted items may not be in stock at local merchandisers.