

Trinity Dove

February 22, 2004 + Transfiguration + All Are Welcome!

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

André Lavergne & Nadine Nicholds, Pastors
Syd Hills, Pastoral Assistant

23 Church Street + New Hamburg + Ontario + N3A 1J1
Phone (519) 662-1810 + Fax 662-4313 + Web www.telc.ca + E-mail mail@telc.ca

+ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Wednesday, February 25 ~ Ash Wednesday

- + Affirmation Ministry Supper at 6 pm.
- + Worship with imposition of ashes at 7:30 pm.

Sunday, February 29 ~ Lent 1

- + Worship at 9 am and 11:15 am.
- + Ministry update at 8:50 am & 11:05 am.
- + Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- + Sunday School at 10:15 am.
- + Adults: ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS. Alice Schuda:
“What do you mean ‘My brother’s keeper’?”

Sunday, March 7 ~ Lent 2

- + Worship at 9 am and 11:15 am.
- + Ministry update at 8:50 am & 11:05 am.
- + Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- + Sunday School at 10:15 am.
- + Adults: ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS. Ralph Beaumont of
GRCA: “Like, man, the environment’s all around us!”

Sunday, March 14 ~ Lent 3

- + Worship at 9 am and 11:15 am.
- + Ministry update at 8:50 am & 11:05 am.
- + Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- + It’s March Break! No Sunday School this morning!
- + Adults: ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS. Nadine Nicholds:
“The 3 R’s: Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.”

Sunday, March 21 ~ Lent 4

- + Worship at 9 am and 11:15 am.
- + Ministry update at 8:50 am & 11:05 am.
- + Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- + Sunday School at 10:15 am.
- + Adults: ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS. Jonathan Schmidt:
“Living more simply (that others might simply live...)”

Sunday, March 28 ~ Lent 5

- + Worship at 9 am and 11:15 am.
- + Ministry update at 8:50 am & 11:05 am.
- + Community Fellowship at 10 am.
- + Sunday School at 10:15 am.
- + Adults: ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS. André Lavergne:
“What does this mean?”

+ *andré lavergne*

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Look inside for your Habitat Family Giving Calendar!

+ Pr. Nadine ~ All Are Welcome!

Grace and peace to you.

The theme of “welcome” is our emphasis in this month’s TRINITY DOVE. I am also pretty sure that “welcome” is going to be an emphasis in the months and years to come.

It seems odd to have to talk about welcoming people to, and in, church. I think that most people think it comes naturally to us Christians: “Oh, they’re church people, they are going to be nice and welcoming.” Unfortunately, it often does not go that way. I think that we Christians take it for granted —this welcoming stuff— and we have stopped exercising our welcoming muscles.

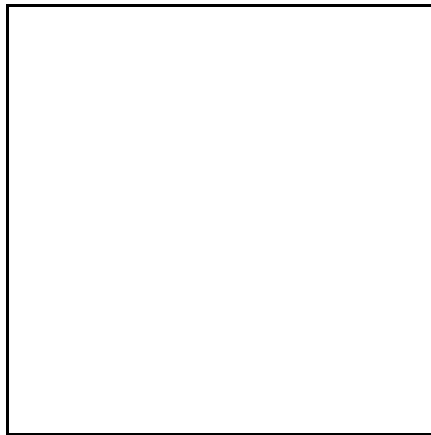
As a whole, I think Trinity is pretty good at being hospitable and welcoming, but we are far from perfect. Do you remember my friend, Davy, who came to visit me from Guyana? Did you know that during coffee time, only one person went over to talk to him? Only one. That’s far from perfect, isn’t it?

Welcoming the stranger, the other, the outsider is challenging—for everyone. When we extend our embrace to those we do not know, we are making ourselves vulnerable; we are opening ourselves to risk, because we do not know if we will be accepted or if we will be rejected. Then, all of a sudden, we are twelve years old again: the new kid, on the playground, at school. “Will they accept me? Will they tease me? Am I wearing the right clothes? Please accept me. I don’t want to be alone.”

“I don’t want to be alone.” Isn’t that the heart of the matter?

In Romans 15:7, Paul implores us to “welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you.” How has Christ welcomed us? Well, God became one of us. God became vulnerable to the foibles of humanity. Jesus risked rejection and he opened his arms to all. The weak and the strong, the clean and the unclean, the young and the old—all are welcomed by Jesus Christ.

And in our time, I hope that when we welcome, we will receive others cheerfully and will accept them with gladness. I hope that, in the words of the hymn writer, we will “proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome in this place.”



+ All Are Welcome

This hymn (Marty Haugen; b. 1950) represents a lovely example of the wonderful new music we shall be singing from Trinity’s new RENEWING WORSHIP SONGBOOK. It may be familiar to some from the music of THE THREE CANTORS. © GIA Publications, 1994. Reprinted by permission.

All Are Welcome

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children
tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children
dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they’ve known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God’s face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace:
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: Refrain.

+ Sacraments & Seasons

March Birthdays

1 - Jill Merner, Nancy Ropp, Linda Bjerre Danner, Caroline Wilson, Kimberley Ferguson, T.J. Godlewski Junker; **2** - Helen Roth, James Szanto, Christine Gascon, James Pearson; **3** - Sandra McCorkindale, Caley Klaassen; **4** - Joan Firetto, Walter Briner, Madeline Lass, Taylor Randerson; **5** - Brenda Ingold, Manfred Chiduck, Dick Bakker, Matt Vanderburgh, David Hillar, Griffin Smith; **6** - Dave Mello, Kelsey Briner, Abby Burchatzki; **7** - Heinz Magnus, Todd Nickolas, Delaney Bender, Caitlin Sostar; **9** - Melissa Racho, Michael Schiedel, Willow Racho, Heather Heise; **10** - Bruce Junker, Bonnie Long; **11** - Dorothy Jardin, Jaida Regan; **12** - Kathryn Genrick, Ron Preikschas, Shaelyn Lindner, Jairus Eastlake-Keller; **13** - Viola Pauli, Wilfred Greulich, Cassidy Lake; **14** - Tom Pearson, Mark Beavis, Valarie Fisher, Robert Johnston, Kristopher Stefansson; **15** - Arlene Meyer, Kim Ruthig, Bryan Chester, Carl Seltzer; **16** - Judy Millar; **17** - Rita Coxson, Kelly White; **18** - Lloyd Hagen, Angela Snider, Nathan Stere; **19** - Karl Ruthig, Jim Snider, Jason Faulkner, Adam Jantzi, Michael Vancoillie; **20** - Carl Schroeder, Gerry Baan, Lisa Hagen, Jacob Aicken; **21** - Paul Morrison, Misty Parsons, Christian Thomson, Nathan Riedel; **22** - Ron Witzel, Anna LeBlanc, Mackenzie Normandeau; **23** - Bob Steinberg, Brooke Wettlaufer, Molly Vanderburgh; **24** - Edward Ingold, Jim Hammer, Conner Glencross, Dylan Bender; **25** - Lynn Buehlow, Tom Otto, Nancy Brodrecht, James Patton, Breanne Pauli; **26** - Tim Scheerer, Erica Buehlow, Evan Szierer; **27** - Kathy Hancox, Tom Hinz, Kevin Erb; **28** - Kay Becker, Michael Klosch, Maggie Siegel, Jeanette Long, Joshua Knackstedt, Caitlin Livingston; **29** - Merva Zehr, Bob Hillar; **30** - Clarence Zoeller, Jane Szierer, Kevin Becker, Jim Delahunt; **31** - Bonnie Hell, Aidan Ruthig. Happy birthday, friends!

March Anniversaries

4 - Richard & Sheila Zoeller, Andy & Jane Knackstedt; **9** - Joan & Bob Cook; **10** - Pat & Paul Diebel, Joanne & Steve Aitken; **16** - Bruce & Janice Junker; **22** - Grace & Ralph Wettlaufer. Happy anniversary, friends!

+ *jill merner*

+ Help for Mary's Place

Mary's Place is looking for household items —new or nearly-new pots, pans, cutlery, sheets, towels, kitchen appliances. Please bring your items to the Martin Luther Room outside the office. Questions? Call Joyce Roth at 662-1717.

+ *nadine nicholds*

+ Observing a Holy Lent

We gather for our annual series of Lenten noon-hour devotions every Wednesday, at 12:05 noon, at Zion United Church. Trinity is hosting the March 3 gathering. Pastor André will preside. Under the gentle direction of Betty Ritz, a number of parish women will be contributing pots of Trinity's famous Hamburger Soup and sandwiches to the effort. This year, we're looking at COMING HOME ~ JOURNEYS WITH THE PRODIGAL (See Luke 15!) Join us for this lovely ecumenical experience!

+ *andré lavergne*

+ New Hamburg: As it Really Was...

Trinity's Ernie Ritz has just released his much-anticipated history: "NEW HAMBURG: AS IT REALLY WAS..." It's a lovely volume. Look, for example, for a photograph of the two Trinity's standing at the 1911 completion of the present building and prior to the relocation of the 1851 building. And there's much more! A sample of NEW HAMBURG: AS IT REALLY WAS... may be found in the narthex. You may purchase your own copy at the Stationery Store.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ 2004 Congregational Council

On February 8, Lyla Wettlaufer and Henry Simon were acclaimed to a second (3 year) term on Council while Marlene Mueller and Sheri Morrison were acclaimed to new terms. They join Ray Merner, Deb Roth, Earl Nickolas, Cy Ridout, Don Jardin, Bill Weichel, Audrey Cook and Flex Bender. Bob Ruthig was re-appointed treasurer; Laurie Clarke became financial secretary; and Mike Gascon became a member of the Endowment Fund Committee. Welcome, all!

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Molly Wolff's Sabbath Blessings

Each month, we download and reprint one of Molly Wolff's essays. © 2003, Molly Wolff. —*André Lavergne*

The Apple Tree

The words are peculiar, but then, the tune's a trifle odd too.

The tree of life my soul has seen
Laden with fruit and always green.
The tree of life my soul has seen
Laden with fruit and always green.
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

The tune starts low and peaks high, with a single jump-up note, just to test your voice; it has the characteristic open, fresh, reaching feel of the best American folk melodies, and it ends in mid-air, without a resolution. It's angular and a little ungainly and therefore extremely fetching, like one of those plain-faced children who somehow draws your attention all the more. We're learning it in choir at the moment, but I find myself singing it in the car a lot.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasures dearly I have bought.
For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasures dearly I have bought.

Oh, I know all about this one... The godlet of "Tea for Two" and the white picket fence, the deity that our whole culture tells us is ours to possess, the godlet that will look after us and keep us as long as we're good and eat right, get enough exercise, pay our taxes. As long as we keep our worship quiet and our expectations modest (no McMansions, no Hummers, just ordinary contentment) we can expect this godlet to meet our needs. Or so we feel. Isn't ordinary happiness a basic human right, after all? Isn't it something we should be able to expect from life?

I missed of all, but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

Is there happiness in Christ? I'm not sure. I doubt if any happiness in Christ looks like the white-picket-fence variety. I know that expecting God to provide you with the white-picket-fence stuff is a recipe for disappointment, because it's not faith but magical thinking: "If I'm good and

faithful, I'll get rewarded with all the things that make people happy." Doesn't work that way, or not reliably. Look at Job.

But then there's the verse that really hits home these days. In choir, we sing it quietly and a little more slowly, as befits the words:

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile.

And suddenly I am not in the brilliant blue-and-white of High Winter at its highest; I am back in the orchard where we used to go, out in the country, an obscure place of small old trees, enclosed by woods and deeply private, smelling of hay and windfalls. I have slung the handles of a cloth shopping bag over my shoulder. I pick each apple as I've been shown, with a gentle turn-up-and-twist motion that leaves the fruit-bearing twigs unharmed for next year's crop. I place the fruit gently in the bag, careful not to bruise it, feeling the

growing weight as the bag fills. I will pick five big bags, about 150 pounds, and then I will spend a week making and freezing enough applesauce for a whole year.

And when I've filled my bags and lugged them back to the car, I walk slowly back down into the quiet of the orchard and find a tree to sit beneath, in the corner furthest from the house and the road, and pick myself an apple to eat right now, polishing it on my shirt. I sit in the long grass, leaning my back up against the tree's warm, tough roughness, tasting the fresh sharp-sweetness, as quiet as a tired child. This is a moment that a person can live in for a very, very long time, quite possibly forever.

In reality, it *is* High Winter (at its most beautiful, too) and that orchard is a long way away —longer in time than in space, but what's the difference? There are other differences, too. I'm very tired, but this weariness is deeper than ordinary apple-picking physical fatigue, and it comes from other burdens than sacks of Macs.

Still, the remedy is the same, and different.

Under the shadow I will be
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

I turn back to faith again and again, when I'm angry and fed-up and frustrated, when I'm aching with tiredness, when

God seems to have left for the south for the duration. It's a continual choice, sometimes baffled but always voluntary. Sooner or later, there *must* be joy; I've caught the scent of it, like the sharp fresh smell of apples.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive.
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

+ *molly wolff*

+ ELW/CLWR Layettes

The ELW is working on its annual layette project. The layettes consist of sleepers, baby shirts, a knitted sweater, wash-cloths, receiving blankets, diapers and safety pins. Knitted sweaters or other items would be appreciated as would cash donations. Betty Ritz, 662-1037, has information.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Habitat - Lutheran House Build

Look for the calendar enclosed in TRINITY DOVE. Look, as well, for the mauve forms in the narthex. Both represent our opportunity to help with the May/July **Habitat for Humanity - Lutheran House Build** in Kitchener. Dates and additional details are contained on the narthex board.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Seminary Women's Auxiliary

Enclosed in this copy of TRINITY DOVE is an offering envelope to help support the terrific work of the Waterloo Seminary Women's Auxiliary. Ruth Jones and Elva Trussler remind us: "It's time to renew your membership in the Waterloo Seminary Auxiliary! The suggested minimum donation is \$5. Simply place your donation in an offering envelope and mark it 'Seminary Auxiliary.' Put it on the plate or give it to me, Elva. I can be reached at 662-2111."

Why not lend your support to the valuable work of the Waterloo Seminary Auxiliary?"

+ *andré lavergne*

+ Faith in Hard Times

In the fall, the adult learning team anticipated that many in our community might be contemplating issues of faith given a variety of "hard times" realities.

This Lenten series is designed to help the Trinity community—and the wider New Hamburg community—to take up the question of "Faith in Hard Times." Our guests are all people whose vocations take them, in one fashion or another, into that place where faith and the living of life in all its fulness—and occasional harshness—intersect.

Sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings, from 7 to 9 pm, in the Martin Luther Room. The coffee will be on and the wider community will be welcome. Consider inviting a friend.

We'll pass a sign-up sheet around toward the end of February to get some idea of numbers. You can also simply call the church office, at 662-1810, to express

interest. Of course, as ever, walk-ins are always welcome.

March 2 - *Faith in Hard Times: Introduction* with The Rev. Dr. Tom O'Connor, Professor of Pastoral Care (Spirituality and Health Care), Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo.

March 9 - *Faith and Hard Times in Suffering* with Melinda Szilva, Chaplain at St. Jerome's University, Waterloo.

March 16 - *Faith and Hard Times in Sickness* with Michael Chow, Director of Spiritual Care Services, Saint Mary's Hospital, Kitchener.

March 23 - *Faith and Hard Times in Ageing* with Dr. Melanie Carrothers, Medical Director at Nithview Home and The Westmount, Kitchener.

March 30 - *Faith and Hard Times in Dying* with Dr. Kevin Bezanson, Pain and Symptom Management Physician (Palliative Care Physician), Grand River Regional Cancer Centre, Kitchener.

April 6 - *Faith and Hard Times in Care-Giving* with the Rev. Richard Vandenberg, Coordinator of Spiritual Care and Ethics, Grand River Hospital, Kitchener.

+ *Randy Thomson, Don Jardin et al*

+ Tintinnabulations

February 23 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

Zion United Church is sponsoring this 2 pm to 8:30 pm clinic at Waterloo-Oxford.

March 1 ~ ELW Gathering

The ELW gathers at 2 pm for a meeting with a Seminary Auxiliary focus. Details from Shirley Unrau, 662-1515.

March 3 ~ Trinity Hosts Lunch

Trinity hosts the noon-hour Lenten SOUP, SANDWICH, SERMON & SONG series at Zion United Church. Pr. André will be leading the service. Come out for the famous Trinity Hamburger Soup; stay for the great fellowship!

March 5 ~ World Day of Prayer

We gather, 7:30 pm, at Living Water Church, 45 Hincks St., for a service written by women in Panama: "In Faith, Women Shape the Future." Everyone is invited and welcome!

March 15 ~ TOTS Gathering

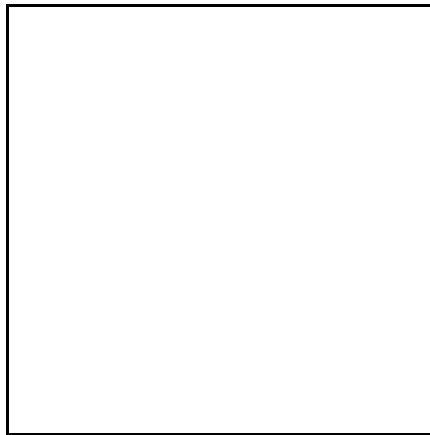
The Trinity Outreach To Seniors group gathers at 11:45 am, for a brown-bag lunch and conversation around the Lord's Prayer. Rides available. Contact Pr. Syd Hills, 662-4919.

March 16 ~ Gentle Friends

The Gentle Friends gather, 7:30 pm, at the home of Kathryn Ritz, 39 Hunter Street, for a discussion of ENIGMA by Robert Harris. Call 662-2960 for information.

April 2-4 ~ Eastern Synod Lay Retreat

This year's spiritual retreat for laypersons will take place at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls, under the theme "Reclaiming the Lord's Prayer." Complete details are carried on the narthex board. Bishop Pryse will serve as chaplain while the Very Rev. Peter Wall, Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton, and Dean of Niagara, will act as spiritual director. A most worthwhile event!



+ Sunday Morning Adult Learning

Sundays in Lent: Ecological Footprints

In this Lent, 2004, Sunday morning adult learning series, we will ask ourselves "stewardship of creation" sorts of questions: "What impact do God's people at Trinity have upon God's world? How does our living of life touch our world and what will be our legacy — what footprints will we leave our children and our children's children? Several guests will help us to take up these questions in a variety of ways.

February 22 - Transfiguration - Alice Schuda & Fred Ludolph introduce us to "Ecological Footprints." They will provide theological and biblical grounding for our conversation.

February 29 - Lent 1 - Alice Schuda takes up the question of our "global footprints." We ask ourselves "What do you mean 'My brother's keeper'?"

March 7 - Lent 2 - The GRCA's Ralph Beaumont touches on "footprints on the land." "Like, man, the environment's all around us."

March 14 - Lent 3 - Nadine Nicholds leads us to ponder the "footprints in time" we leave as we reflect on the 3 R's: Reduce; Reuse; Recycle.

March 21 - Lent 4 - Jonathan Schmidt invites us to take a "lighter step" and to "live more simply than others might simply live."

March 28 - Lent 5 - André Lavergne wraps up the series as, together, we contemplate "What does this mean?" and what difference we can make.

Tuesdays in Lent: Faith in Hard Times

On Tuesday evenings in Lent, Trinity will host a series called *Faith in Hard Times*. We'll explore suffering, sickness, ageing, dying and care-giving. Leaders will include Tom O'Connor, Melinda Szilva, Michael Chow, Melanie Carrothers, Kevin Bezanson and Richard Vandenberg. See TRINITY DOVE, page 5, for details.

+ *andré lavergne*

+ *don jardin, randy thomson et al*

+ Finances to January 31, 2004

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 15,885	\$ 1,421	885
Outgo	24,645	466	550
Balance	-8,760	955	335

The Year to Date

We begin the new year, as usual, significantly in the red. It always seems to be that way! People are paying off their Christmas Visa bills —getting caught up for the new year— and the church offerings take a dip. PAR, however, has helped to relieve the January budgetary red ink, somewhat, and the regular summer stress on the books, as well!

Annual Meeting Challenge

At the annual meeting, the congregation approved a budget which will require a 5% increase in General Fund offerings. We feel we are up to it as offerings were flat, year over year, in 2003. Please see the BULLETIN OF ANNUAL REPORTS for details and please do your part, as you are able. Please consider, as well, joining PAR...

PAR Direction

PAR —Pre-Authorized Remittance— (automatic debit) has been very helpful in evening-out Trinity's offerings, in recent years, and we are grateful to all who have chosen to join.

PAR simply mirrors the way many parishioners already regularly meet their family obligations —hydro, gas, phone, insurance, mortgage and other bills. In fact, it's the way Trinity pays a number of its own bills!

Each month the bank transfers a "pre-authorized" amount from members' bank accounts to the Trinity's account. People can designate their choice of funds and causes: General, Capital, Global Hunger, Seminary Appeal, ELW, etc. Our current total PAR offerings stand at \$6,800 monthly or \$81,000 yearly. Can we do better in 2004?

Please speak to Jill Merner or to Pr. Lavergne about joining the extremely helpful PAR program. It's great stewardship!

+ bob ruthig & andré lavergne

+ TYGer Tales

The sausage and sauerkraut dinner was a great success! Everyone had lots to eat and it was great fellowship. We also honoured Chris —and Dick!— Ritz, for many years of ministry as financial secretary. Their cake was delicious! Thank you to everyone who supported Chris and Dick and the TYGers. You made our dinner marvellous!

+ nadine nicholds

+ Scholarships Available

Eastern Synod scholarship forms are out. Many Trinity youth have received scholarships over the years. Interested? Speak to pastor Nadine. The application deadline is April 30.

+ andré lavergne

+ Lent in the Sunday School

As we enter Lent, the Sunday school is going to be looking outward for the opportunity for some special giving. This year, our families are invited to participate in raising funds for the **Habitat for Humanity - Lutheran House Build**. Look for the Family Giving Calendar in TRINITY DOVE and for Sunday School handouts to help you in this journey.

+ nadine nicholds

+ Discipleship ~ Children & Youth

Affirmation! Ministry Calendar

Please transfer these dates to the family calendar:

Tuesday, March 2 - Grades 3 - 6 meet in Trinity Hall from 7 pm to 8 pm for our second service event.

Affirmation! Mentoring Schedule

Orange Team - January/February "Peer Pressure" and March/April "Having it All" Share Sheets.

Yellow Team - January/February "Living with Parents" and March/April "Cheating" Share Sheets.

+ nadine nicholds