



For All the Saints

December 2012

Dear Friends,

Much to the amazement of many, Thanksgiving happened. Even though the recent storms were still very much a factor in our lives – parishioners still had trees resting on wires in their yards, while others waited for phone service to be restored, and still others faced the overwhelming task of dealing with what used to be oases at the shore – in spite of all this, along came Thanksgiving.

I have always said that deadlines are helpful. Ready or not, there they are to force the issue and make things happen. Without deadlines of one kind or another, preparations can go on forever. A performance can always benefit from more rehearsal. A paper or a book – or a sermon – can always be a little better with more research and editing. There can always be more cooking or baking on Thanksgiving to make that dinner a little more special, but thankfully, the guests show up. And thankfully, we do not get to decide each year whether or not we are in the mood for a big holiday celebration.

Christmas is just a few weeks away, and that is always very good news – especially now, in a year when it may seem to be intruding on a lot of other more serious concerns. That song from a Broadway musical of some years back has it correct: “We need a little Christmas, right this very minute.” This year, that could not be more accurate, so stop and smell the poinsettias!

Take time to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Take time to give thanks for lives made richer, hopes made stronger, and the way forward made less fearsome and somehow more possible, just by taking seriously the Christmas story. In spite of the challenges and struggles, or perhaps because of them, take time for Christmas. Embrace this lovely time of year, and share it here, with your parish family.

May you experience a joyous and blessed Christmas.

Jane+

— *All Saints' News* —

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas is a Tuesday this year, so after celebrating 4th Advent on Sunday, December 23rd, we move to Christmas Eve the following day. Here is the holiday schedule.

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24

5 pm Family Service (Mini Pageant, The All Saints' Youth Choir, Carols for Choir and Congregation, Holy Eucharist)

10 pm Festival Service (Music from the All Saints' Choir, Sermon by the Rector, Candlelight "Silent Night," Holy Eucharist)

Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25

10 am Christmas Eucharist (Sermon by the Rector, Carols, Holy Eucharist)

The Second Sunday of Christmas – December 30

8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist (regular schedule)

Wednesday, January 2

Holy Eucharist, 9 am

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

We invite you to offer memorials and thanksgivings through the Christmas flowers and greens that will grace the sanctuary for the Christmas Season. Since names are placed in the Christmas bulletins, please **PRINT CAREFULLY** the names of those being remembered.

Your monetary donation will help defray the cost of the decorations. Please get flower memorials to the church office **by Wednesday, December 18**. Flower envelopes are available in the narthex, or you may mail material to us.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY, SUNDAY DECEMBER 16

Instead of Coffee Hour, share some Christmas cheer – special refreshments, carols, and even Santa Claus. If you can bring a food or beverage item, please sign up to do so. In any case, plan to come, and sign up to let us know you will be here.

“TO ALL A GOODNIGHT”

DECEMBER 14, 15

Enjoy an old-fashioned holiday treat from Rich Johnson and Triskelion.

Traditional Christmas readings from such favorite authors as O’Henry (“Gift of the Magi”), Frank McCourt (“Angela’s Ashes”), Dylan Thomas (“A Child’s Christmas in Wales”), Emily Dickinson (poetry), Charles Dickens (“A Christmas Carol”), Jack Finney (“Time and Again”) and selections from “Miracle on 34th Street.” There will be Christmas Carols from our young people – hopefully joined by the audience – and Tommy Lepano will be at the piano.

Performances – Friday and Saturday, December 14 and 15 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for young people age 15 and under, with a family max of \$30.

GALA HOLIDAY DINNER, DECEMBER 8

Parishioners and friends will gather for good food, fellowship, and holiday cheer.

Saturday, December 8th

Wine & hors d’oeuvres at 6:30 pm

Dinner & Music, 7:30-9:30 pm

\$30 per person

(Semi-formal attire is suggested)

Our professional chefs from the parish: Scott and Cassie Triola

Please RSVP by December 2nd.

Childcare will be available, with a yummy menu! Aubrey Johnson & Jovi Williams are planning a special program.

--YOUTH NEWS--

First Sunday in December (Dec. 2nd)

Sunday School will be in Lea Hall as Glen and Kelly Robertson lead a program of creating and constructing Christmas ornaments. Since it is the First Sunday of Advent, discussion will be about this special season, complete with Advent calendars. Please come!

Christmas Eve Family Service, December 24th at 5 pm

An exciting worship experience, with a Mini-Pageant, the Youth Choir, and Holy Communion. **Liz Trimpin**, our stalwart Pageant Director, would like to know who is in town over Christmas and what part you would like to play. Rehearsals and costume-fittings will be announced.

Andrew Kilkenny, Organist and Choirmaster, is working with the Youth Choir to plan for Christmas Eve. Again, we urge all singers who are going to be here over the holiday – please go to rehearsals, after the 10 o'clock Service each Sunday.

Confirmation Class has been meeting two Sunday mornings each month with Jennifer Dawson and Glen Robertson. The Rector's class is December 1st at 1 pm.

Grace's Kitchen, the soup kitchen at Grace Episcopal Church in Plainfield, is open the last five days of each month. All Saints' has participated for many years, usually on Thursdays. **Grace's Kitchen will be open on Thursday, December 27 – during school vacation.** This would be a wonderful experience for any in our Youth Group who might be free (10 am – 1pm).

YOUNG PEOPLE, GRADES 6 -12, INVITED TO THE CATHEDRAL LOCK-IN DECEMBER 7-8

Trinity Cathedral (Bishop Councill) is the host, beginning at 8 pm on Friday, December 7th, and ending at 7 am on Saturday, December 8th. The Lock-In is for 6-12 graders with adult sponsors. Lodging = sleeping bags on the floor. The cost is \$33.

Here's what the Diocese says. "This all-night party includes a high energy concert by the Sloan River Project; a project with STOP HUNGER NOW, creating meals for the needy; pizza; worship; and a fun mix of games, movies and free time." Let's get a group and sign on!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

-- Parishioner Profile --

THE WANDERING MINSTREL

By Leo Campos

Music has been a major aspect of my life. Singing in church has been a particular favorite of mine ever since I was a boy. I grew up in South Plainfield, New Jersey where I attended Sacred Heart Church. During my years there, I served as an acolyte, and later as cantor for the mass. I also served as an usher, but only once.

I began my music studies in elementary school, taking on the viola in the third grade. It wasn't until middle school that I joined the chorus where, at that time, I was a baritone. In high school, I continued to sing in the chorus, and began taking voice lessons. During that time I had several opportunities to perform outside of school, singing with the Central Jersey Regional Chorus, the New Jersey Opera Festival and the New Jersey All State Chorus. I continued my musical studies at the collegiate level, at Kean University.

It was at Kean, in Concert Choir, that I crossed paths with piano/organ major Andrew Kilkenny, where we both sang in the tenor section. Fellow voice major, Amelia Singh, could be found in the soprano section. Andrew would soon transfer to Rutgers/Mason Gross to finish his organ studies, but we never fell out of touch. While I was at Kean, the choir director told me of an opportunity to sing with a local church choir at Saint Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Elizabeth. It was there that I learned a majority of the hymns in the 1940 Hymnal, and the ceremony of the Anglican/Episcopal mass. In 2009, the choirmaster and organist, Nick Tino, left St. Elizabeth's, and since I had already graduated from Kean, I felt it was time for me to move on as well.

Fast forward to the summer of 2011, where Andrew and I crossed paths at an annual Barbecue hosted by a mutual friend and singer, Terron Singletary. It was there that Andrew told me of his current church choir and asked if I would like to join, and I quickly agreed.

Besides singing, I also enjoy spending time with my family and friends. My girlfriend, Alisha, and I are avid movie goers, and have accumulated many bonus points on our AMC Stubs card. Although still a South Plainfield resident, I do enjoy going out to various locations in Scotch Plains/Fanwood. I can be found ordering a pizza at the Sun Tavern, sipping a cocktail at Vienna60, or watching some football at the Stage House.

Although it has been just roughly a year since I've been here at All Saints', I am happy to say that the relationships I have with the choir members and members of the congregation are nothing short of a second family to me. Still, I have many names to match to these ever growing familiar faces. So please, don't hesitate to come over and say hi. I truly would be happy to get to know all of you better.

By Leo Campos

FALL OUTREACH EFFORTS

Nets for Life – We raised \$ 1,591.47 to provide 132 anti-malaria nets (Episcopal Relief & Dev.)

Sandy Relief – We raised \$ 640 to help the Diocese of New Jersey's assistance programs

Christmas Shoe-Boxes – We sent some to Samaritan's Purse, not as many as usual, given that the deadline was just after the storm hit, but we are grateful for all who participated.

CROP Walk – A parish donation of \$200 was given at the Community Thanksgiving Service

All in all, an incredible and generous outpouring from the parish!

ALL SAINTS' COOKBOOKS ARE BACK!

They sold very well last year, especially around the holidays, and the good news is there still are some left. Mary O'Connor will be selling copies of "Heavenly Delights" at Coffee Hour. They make wonderful presents – or replacement copies, in case you have used your cookbook so much during this past year that its pages are dog-eared and you need a new one.

TWO ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES UNDER WAY

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets in the Guild Room from 9-9:40 am. The group is reading Genesis, a book filled with dramatic stories, major characters, and what have become familiar sayings. We are in Chapter 18.

Lay Reader Classes are on Tuesday nights. Led by **John Burk**, and assisted by the Rector, these training sessions – with four new lay readers -- cover lesson reading, offering Prayers of the People, and serving as Lay Eucharistic Minister, among other things. A meeting for all Lay Readers will be scheduled shortly after the new year.

--The All Saints' Family --

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open for persons to serve as members of the All Saints' Vestry, Class of 2016. Our Vestry has two Wardens and twelve regular Vestry Members, plus the Rector. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month. According to parish bylaws, a Vestry Member must be "a parishioner in good standing," which means: at least 18 years old; a regular worshipper in this parish (and present more often than not); a pledging member currently and for at least the past six months; familiar with the Episcopal Church and how it functions; someone who cares for this parish and its people.

Vestry Members are expected to attend the monthly meetings and take a leadership role in parish programs and activities. Vestry Members work together in a collegial atmosphere, which means joining in discussions, listening to one another, respecting the views and opinions of others, and supporting the ministry of this parish.

Nomination forms are available from the Rector and must be returned by December 16th. Elections will be held at Annual Meeting, Sunday January 27, 2013.

THE PIE PIPERS WERE BUSY BEFORE THANKSGIVING

More than twenty pies were ordered again this year for Thanksgiving, so parish bakers were turning out apple, blueberry-rhubarb, pecan, pumpkin and sweet potato pies. Thanks to Shirley Hamlette, Cathy Harris, Tom Loop, Joan Mott, Bev Peach, Jane Rockman, and Liz Trimpin.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 1 – Altar Guild meeting
December 2 – Outreach Meeting
December 8 – Gala Holiday Dinner
December 14 & 15 – "And to All a Goodnight"
December 16 – Parish Christmas Party
December 24 – Christmas Eve Family Service, 5 pm
Christmas Eve Festival Service, 10 pm
December 25 – Christmas Eucharist, 10 am

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Lamp

We invite you to keep fresh Flowers on the altar with a memorial or thanksgiving. The cost is **\$40.00**. You can keep the **Sanctuary Lamp** burning for a week, as a meaningful way to remember loved ones or offer thanksgiving. The lamp is **\$10.00**.

Make checks payable to the Altar Guild and put in the **memo** line that the check is for flowers or lamp. Sign up for specific dates in the narthex, or call the office.

Available Dates

Altar Flowers:

Dec. 16, 23

Sanctuary Lamp:

Dec. 16, 23

Missionary Outreach

The second Sunday of each month is Sharing Sunday at All Saints' when we ask for donations to help local families through Heart for Humanity.

Dec. – Stocking Stuffers

Jan. – Non-perishable snacks (juice boxes, raisins, dried fruit, granola bars, crackers, fruit snacks, etc.)

Feb. – Health & Beauty Supplies (shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothbrushes & paste, floss, mouthwash, Q-tips, cotton balls)

Please keep our Food Basket filled every Sunday with non-perishable items. This is also a way to help local families through Heart for Humanity.

The Rev. Jane Rockman, *Rector*

Andrew Kilkenny, Organist and Choirmaster

The Rev. John R. Neilson, *Rector Emeritus*

Irene Carlucci, *Secretary*

Wesley Jenkins, *Sexton*

Wardens

Don Kern

Jenine Williams

Vestry

Charlie Beakes

Todd Bouverot

Lauren DiSarno

Rich Johnson

Clark Landale

Patricia Ludewig

Mary O'Connor

Glen Robertson

Scott Smith

Sally Robinson

Liz Trimpin

Susan Winkler

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