



For All the Saints

December 2014

Dear Friends,

When the Altar Guild prepares for a service, they check to be sure the color is right. Is the pulpit fall (the fabric hanging in front) correct for the season? What about the Bible Markers (the fabric strips on the lectern)? Seasons and holy days have different colors. The season of Pentecost, just ended, is green except for special days, and now that we are in Advent, the color here will be blue (it could also be purple). Is all this the key to world peace? Probably not, although....

The changing colors are meant to engage us, to deepen our worship experience. The beauty of the hangings, stained glass, and everything else in church not only appeals to our sensibilities, it also conveys meaning. We have a season named Epiphany, but epiphanies are not reserved for that period alone. Hopefully being in church, immersed in the atmosphere, praying, singing, listening, looking – hopefully it all connects us more deeply with God and one another, and helps us come to a better understanding of our place in the whole wonderful story.

Advent is a rather dramatic season. Not long – the four Sundays before Christmas, with the week-days in between. At this busy time of year, almost everyone inside and outside of church would identify with the Advent theme of preparation. In the church, of course, we prepare in a special way -- for the birth of Christ on Christmas, and for his promised return one day as King. The outward and visible signs of the season – blue hangings, blue vestments, the Advent Wreath with an additional candle lit each week, Advent calendars for marking off the days until Christmas – remind us not to miss out on thinking seriously about our faith and how it might more completely shape our lives.

In that sense, the different colors and other embellishments could hold the key to world peace. They could remind us of our responsibility to follow Jesus' directive in Matthew 25 where he describes returning as King, and welcoming into God's Kingdom those who helped people in need – who did not turn away -- generally recognizing that all people, without distinction, are equally children of God – which is how God sees.

May we all find our faith fed by the beauty and traditions of the Church.

Jane+

– All Saints' News –

3RD ANNUAL GALA HOLIDAY DINNER, DECEMBER 6

Join with parishioners and friends for good food, fellowship, and holiday cheer.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

WINE & HORS D'OEUVRES, 6:30 PM

DINNER & MUSIC, 7:30 – 9:30 PM

CATERED BY THE STAGE HOUSE TAVERN

(There will be a Silent Auction.

Semi-formal attire is suggested.)

TICKETS ARE \$35 PER PERSON

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY NOVEMBER 30

Proceeds benefit All Saints' Church

---- THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL PARTY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ---

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 21ST

Share in the holiday spirit with Santa Claus and parishioners of all ages -- instead of Coffee Hour. If you can bring a holiday treat – Christmas cookies, for example, please sign up. We hope Luann Schnable Kaldor will be signing her new book, *The Angels on my Tree* (if it's published in time). Plan to come for some light-hearted fun!

SCRIPTURE SHARING – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

This month, participants will gather at 7 pm at the home of Anne Goetz (6 Pitching Way in Scotch Plains) to discuss the readings assigned for the following Sunday – December 7, Second Advent. The lessons to be covered are – Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

The Four Sundays of Advent: November 30; December 7, 14, 21

Each week, an additional candle on the Advent Wreath will be lit.

Christmas Eve – Wednesday, December 24

5 pm Family Service (Lessons & Carols with the Christmas Story; 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 – Thursday, December 25

10 am Christmas Eucharist

The Sunday after Christmas Day – December 28

8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist

The Second Sunday of Christmas – January 4, 2015

8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist

"A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS"

Friday, December 19, Saturday, December 20

Triskelion Productions

Proudly presents

"A Charlie Brown Christmas"

Directed by Rich Johnson

Live Music from the Tommy Lepano Trio

Both Shows start at 8 pm

Tickets: \$12 for adults; \$6 for children; \$25 max for families of 4 or more

--YOUTH NEWS--

MaryRose Clark is rehearsing the Youth Choir, Sundays after church. An excellent group sang in church several weeks ago and we look forward to more on Christmas Eve. Please join her after the 10 o'clock Service each Sunday to get ready for Christmas.

Liz Trimpin is looking for readers for the 5 pm Family Service Christmas Eve. Please let her know if you're going to be here

The First Sunday in December – December 7 -- will have a Craft Project for Advent. Everyone will make “Mangers for the Mantle” – a small manger to take home; something to help count off the days until Christmas. **Liz Trimpin and Michelle Smith-Crona** have plans!

Parents are invited to teach on the 4th Sunday of the month – a way to be more involved in what the children are studying. **Glen Robertson** preached a wonderful sermon about the importance of Sunday School, not only for Bible lessons, but for life in general. **Kelly Robertson** has a sign-up board with details on topics being covered each 4th Sunday and she's ready to answer your questions and offer you suggestions. The Spark Program (curriculum) is user friendly, and all materials are copied here and handed to you. **Please sign up for one date!**

Vernon Baker, whose wife Charlotte is the namesake for the Sunday School, received a set of pictures. He was very impressed with the work that had been done, and sends thanks to all who were involved in the planning and execution. He said Charlotte would be very pleased, and he hopes it will result in many years of an active and vibrant Sunday School.

Youth Group continues meeting several times a month, thanks to Chris Harris. The Lock-In Evaluation on November 9, which brought a large representation from St. Mark's in Plainfield, along with diocesan staff, elicited very positive comments about the event and the role All Saints' played.

Cathedral Lock-In, December 12 & 13 – Trinity Cathedral

Bishop's Ball, Hosted by Bishop Chip & Susan Stokes, January 30 – Trinity Cathedral

--Parishioner Profile—

By Gerry Shea

A LIFE IN MATHEMATICS

My wife, Beverly, introduced me to Calvary Episcopal Church in Manhattan after we met thirty years ago. We were married at Calvary and continued there even after Beverly moved out of New York. Later we attended Christ Church near our second home in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Now we find ourselves spending most of the school year in New Jersey, and encouraged by friends such as Mariana Caldwell, Peggy Tristram and Beth Wojcio, we have joined the All Saints' community.

I came into the world a Shropshire lad, born in Muchwenlock in England, in the closing days of the Second World War. My mother, Peg, grew up a farm girl in Grafton Underwood, Northamptonshire; she was a nurse in Birmingham until she was given charge of children evacuated from London to Shropshire during the Blitz. My father, Bill, had grown up in Chatham, Ontario and had come to the U.K. in 1940 as a captain with the Canadian Army. Through the last four years of the war, Peg raised her twins, Mike and Phil, in the English countryside, catching rabbits to supplement their rations. Bill returned to university studies in Canada in early 1946, while Peg and now three boys came in late 1946.

My introduction to mathematics came from my father who spent a summer teaching me arithmetic so I would be ready for fifth grade in our new home town of Ottawa. My interest was deepened during high school where my favorite teacher taught me math for four years. My undergraduate degree is from St. Louis University, Missouri, and my Masters is from the University of Ottawa. The beauties of Ithaca, NY, led to doctoral studies in Applied Mathematics at Cornell University. I spent five years living beside the waterfalls of Cascadilla Gorge as the head resident of a graduate student hall. My life in the classroom came full circle at The University of Texas at Austin, as assistant professor of mathematics and statistics.

My interest in industrial statistics brought me to New Jersey. Exxon Research and Engineering hired me as an internal consultant to its scientists and engineers in Linden, Florham Park, and Clinton. I quickly became involved in the 1980's Quality Decade, giving me a chance to travel the world instructing manufacturing personnel in the basics of statistical quality control. Beverly joined me on trips to Louisiana, Texas, throughout Western Europe and on to Singapore. In the mid-1990's, our then teen-aged daughter, Robin, and son, Peter, joined us for two summers in Anchorage; I alone spent the winter in Alaska. In 2000, after the merger with Mobil, I transferred to Fairfax, Virginia, building mathematical models to understand data brought to me by environmentalists, engineers, lawyers and tax accountants.

Since retiring, my time has been dedicated to serving as parliamentarian, membership chair,

newsletter editor and web-master for the Piano Teachers Congress of New York; as treasurer and program editor for the Musical Club of Westfield; as photographer for the Junior Musical Club; and as harp mover for Beverly. In late June, we take a month-long visit to our grandchildren Emily (6), Nicole (5) and Matthew (1) in Gothenburg, Sweden, where Robin and her husband, Jim, work at AstraZeneca Research. For two or three months a year, we have Frank, the dog, who lives in Queens with our son, Peter, a multimedia producer for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Round out the week with Sunday mornings in the church with the All Saints' community, and my days are full.

By Gerry Shea

WHAT ARE YOU DOING NEW YEARS EVE?

We're asking the question because there has been some interest in a parish New Year's Eve Party. We haven't had one for several years, and the parties we did have were well attended and fun. There were games, music, dancing, food, and a toast/prayer at midnight. The question now is whether enough people would come this year. If you are interested, please sign up in Lea Hall (soon), or call the office.

POINSETTIAS ON SALE, DECEMBER 7

As they do every year, the Boy Scouts of Troop 104 will sell poinsettias and wreaths during Coffee Hour – Sunday, December 7. The poinsettias come in 6" pots (\$11); wreaths are 12" (\$18). Last year's plants were especially beautiful as they decorated our altar for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS FOR THE CHURCH

Susie Roeser will soon decorate the Christmas tree that stands in the back of the church, and she is hoping for some new ornaments – especially if they have your name on them. Some of the beautiful, classic ornaments that are part of the church collection are made even more special by having the names of their donors on them somehow. If you have ornaments to contribute, please leave them in the Office.

--The All Saints' Family --

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

The flowers and plants that will grace our sanctuary during the Christmas Season provide a lovely way to remember friends and loved ones. You can offer memorials and/or thanksgivings. Names of those being honored are printed in the Christmas bulletins, so please print the names carefully for us. Flower envelopes are available here at church or they may be mailed to us. Your monetary donation helps defray the costs of the flowers. Please turn in your names no later than December 14.

THE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

We set a record – 32 Shoeboxes! Thanks to **Toki Dada** who coordinates this outreach program every year, and thanks to everyone who had the joy of filling those boxes. Under the auspices of Samaritan's Purse, the boxes are on their way to children in strife-ridden parts of the world.

THANKS TO THE PIE BAKERS

We sold 25 pies in this annual fundraiser thanks to: Janet Gardner, Shirley Hamlette, Cathy Harris, Marie Leppert, Tom Loop, Joan Mott, Carol Ortlepp, Bev Peach, and Jane Rockman.

THE VANCE GILBERT CONCERT DID VERY WELL

Besides being an enjoyable evening that attracted 76 people to Lea Hall, the Vance Gilbert Concert – “a fundraiser for a cause” -- is resulting in a donation to Grace's Kitchen of \$1,097. Thanks to **Kevin Walsh** for organizing the whole thing. He made it happen!

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open for persons to be elected to the Vestry (Class of 2018) at Annual Meeting on January 25. Our Vestry has two Wardens and twelve regular Vestry Members, plus the Rector. Vestry Members are in three classes of four each, and they serve three-year terms.

According to parish by-laws, a Vestry member must be “a parishioner in good standing,” which means: at least 18 years old, a regular worshipper in this parish (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 activities. Members work together in a collegial atmosphere, 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 21.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY LAMP

We invite you to keep flowers on the altar as a memorial or thanksgiving. The cost is **\$40.00**. Keep the **Sanctuary Lamp** burning for a week 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 the lamp. Sign up in the narthex, or call the office.

Available Dates

Altar Flowers: December 14, 21 (Christmas Flowers for Dec.28 & Jan. 4)

Sanctuary Lamp: December 14, 21

MISSIONARY OUTREACH

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

December – Stocking Stuffers

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

February – Health & beauty supplies (deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste, floss, mouthwash, cotton balls, Q-tips)

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*
MaryRose Clark, *Organist and Choir Director*

The Rev. John R. Neilson, *Rector Emeritus*
Irene Carlucci, *Secretary*
Wesley Jenkins, *Sexton*

Wardens

Jenine Williams Richard Johnson

Vestry

Todd Bouverot	John Brewer	Lauren DiSarno	Anne Goetz
Chris Harris	Joanna Hurley	Bob Okell	Glen Robertson
Michelle Smith-Crona	Liz Trimpin	Kevin Walsh	Susan Winkler

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