



For All the Saints

February 2015

Dear Friends,

Spirit is a word that is very hard to define, especially in a church context. We know the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Trinity – the way we speak of God, but beyond that, discussion is hard. The *Prayer Book* describes the Holy Spirit as “God at work in the world and in the church” – the Spirit of Christ bringing us “into love and harmony with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors and with all creation.” Still, recognizing the Spirit at work can be complicated.

I thought about this last Sunday at an Annual Meeting that can truly be said to have been “spirit filled.” One person after another, one report after another, poured out warmth and good will, positive feelings and evidence that God’s Spirit is most definitely alive and well in this place.

In my own report, given as part of the sermon that morning, I quoted what Lauren DiSarno wrote in her “Family Life Report.” She said, “Family life was in full swing again this year [2014], with events to bring the entire parish family together. Family life plays an important role at All Saints’ Church by strengthening the bonds between us.” So many people have worked to make that happen, and they’ve been inspired by the Spirit – known or unknown.

When parishioners share stories of how they first came here, there is often some mystery involved. Why did they happen to walk in for the first time on a particular day? Why did they drive the car into the parking lot after years of just driving by? Why did they suddenly notice a sign advertising some special event and decide to come to it? The answer is most definitely a mystery – the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit getting involved in our lives.

From Family Suppers to the Martin Luther King Day of Service, from the Sunday Morning Conversation, to Thursday night Choir rehearsals, from the website to a growing number of “likes” on our FaceBook page, from the Food Pantry to the Gardeners, from Coffee Hour Hospitality to Stewardship – all this and more reflects the Holy Spirit busily at work.

Yes, “Spirit” is a word that is very hard to define. But you know it when you see it, and happily you can see the Spirit here at All Saints’.

Jane+

– All Saints' News –

LENTEN SOUP & STUDY

This 5-week program is called, “Embracing a Life of Meaning,” featuring award-winning author Kathleen Norris on “Discovering What Matters.” Each meeting includes a DVD presentation with Norris, followed by discussion. There will be soup and bread, supplied by different people each week. Each participant will need a workbook.

Topics include:

Belief – “that to which we give our hearts”

The Bible – “the collective story/tradition of Christians”

Community – “where individualism and imperfection meet grace and acceptance”

Place – “setting faith within the physical space of home, church, land and people”

Us – “what it means to remain in God’s image, countering our selfishness to embrace the world”

Meetings are Tuesdays – February 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24 – at 7:30 pm in the Guild Room.
There is a charge of \$10 for the workbook. Please sign up.

SCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Each year, we join with our Boy Scout Troop 104 to celebrate Scout Sunday. A troop leader will preach at the 10 o’clock Service and scouts will read, usher, greet, and take other roles in the Service. Afterward, the Troop is kind enough to treat the congregation to a Pancake Breakfast in Lea Hall. All Saints’ is honored to have helped launch Troop 104 more than 50 years ago, and we’re pleased the Troop is going strong today. (Please note date change from last newsletter. Feb. 8 coincides with the national celebration.)

SCRIPTURE SHARING, FEBRUARY 3

Take part in an informal gathering to talk over the Scripture lessons assigned for the following Sunday. The discussion on Tuesday, Feb. 3, will cover the lessons for February 8 (Epiphany 5, Year B). which include Isaiah 40:21-31, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, and Mark 1:29-39. The meeting begins at 7 pm at the home of Peggy Tristram in Westfield. Please call the church to sign up.

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday is the official beginning of Lent, the penitential season of forty days that ends on Easter. Sundays are not counted in the forty days, but Lent does include Holy week. This is traditionally a time of preparation -- preparing ourselves spiritually so that we can more fully understand and experience the joy of Easter – God’s gift of grace in Jesus’ resurrection.

People often give up something for Lent, or instead, they may take on some useful activity, all to make the season more meaningful by having it feel different. Church looks different with purple hangings and greens instead of flowers on the altar. Also, we do not sing or say, “alleluia.”

On Ash Wednesday, All Saints’ has two worship services – 9 am and 8 pm. Both follow the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, and ashes are imposed at both. The All Saints’ Choir will sing at the evening service. Try to begin Lent with worship – here if possible, elsewhere if that works out.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER, FEBRUARY 17

Enjoy our traditional Pancake Supper on the eve of Lent. Rich food is traditionally served on Shrove Tuesday in order to use up the kinds of things that one might choose to give up during the penitential season that follows. Come and share pancakes with butter and syrup, sausage, applesauce, and beverages (coffee, tea and soft drinks).

The cost is \$5 for an adult and \$2 for a child age 10 and under, with a \$15 maximum for a family. We invite you to come any time between 6:30 and 8:00 pm. Please call the church to reserve a place or sign up in Lea Hall. To help with the pancakes, speak to **Kevin Walsh**.

RESTAURANT ADVENTURE, SUNDAY MARCH 1

We’re going to **Mario’s Tutta Bene on Chestnut Street in Union** for a delicious Italian meal. The reservation is for 6 pm, and it will be possible to car-pool from the church. Please sign up and plan to come along.

SUNDAY MORNING CONVERSATION

The current topic is the book, *Christ: A Crisis in the life of God*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Jack Miles. Don Kern has been leading some lively conversations, and thanks to his notes, it is not necessary to have the book in order to participate. Come to the Guild Room, between 8:45 and 9:40 am.

--YOUTH NEWS--

Sunday School

Glen Robertson reported at Annual Meeting that he and **Kelly Robertson** are pleased with how classes are going. There are more children and more teachers. Inviting parents to sign on for the fourth Sundays has been well-received.

Pretzels for Lent, February 15

This always popular program is set for the Sunday just before Lent begins. That is a holiday (3-day) weekend when people may be away, so those who are around and come to church will have a treat – baking the pretzels!

First Sunday Program – February 1 – “Look Around Jerusalem”

Jesus is looking around, so let’s look with him. Each young person will build a wall of Jerusalem to take home, along with a booklet of poems and riddles, and a page of stickers to accompany them. Each day in Lent (which begins Feb. 18), has a poem and sticker that goes somewhere on the wall. Youngsters will follow Jesus through Jerusalem and look for the hidden images. Thank you, **Liz Trimpin & Michelle Smith-Crona**

Coffee Hour Cookie sale, February 1

Youngsters are baking cookies (Friday, Jan. 30) to sell at Coffee Hour. This is their annual fundraiser. It will be tasty and tempting, so prepare to shop!

Children’s Choir

Rehearsals will resume during Lent with **Sohyun Ahn**. Hopefully, youngsters will join her after the 10 o’clock Service on Sundays in March. But first – **Sohyun is planning a party** for our young people on Sunday, February 22 after church. If you don’t know her, you can meet her, and if you sang with her a few years ago, catch up!

Youth Group New York – A Successful Excursion!

The weather on Saturday, Jan. 24 did not dampen their spirits. They went into the City by train, for one exciting experience after another. First came the Museum of Natural History and lots of butterflies. Next, the Hayden Planetarium and a special program by Neil DeGrasse Tyson. And finally, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine – a tour of this largest Gothic-style cathedral in the world, and the seat of the Episcopal Diocese of NY.

What film did the kids enjoy during Annual Meeting?

“The Lion King”

--Parishioner Profile--

A PROFILE OF NATALIE RAE KRAUSER McCARTHY

By Natalie Rae Krauser McCarthy

I was born in New York, NY and grew up in Flushing, NY. After graduating from Alfred University, I moved back home to save money and start working. I was ahead of my time since it's now “trendy” to have more than one generation under the same roof!

Sean and I met through work (I worked for his company, so rather than date one of the partners, I changed jobs). After becoming engaged, we bought a 100+ year-old house in Plainfield. We love the historic neighborhoods, the diversity of the community and pretty much everything about our house except maybe the plumbing. It feels like it might be original though Sean says “no.”

After spending ten years in travel and media, I changed industries nearly six years ago, moving into the nonprofit world. I am a fundraiser for a global professional association of engineers (IEEE) Institute of Electronics Engineers, and travel to meet with companies and individuals to raise funds to support the history of technology and educational scholarships for power and energy engineers. I love working in an organization that has members such as the creator of “Simon” and Nobel Prize winners.

We have two daughters, Madelyn, 5 and Erin, 7 weeks (or zero as Madelyn says) and an English Bulldog, Izzy-Bel who is 8. Madelyn is “Mama” to Snowball the cat, and we can only imagine what Erin will request when she's old enough to dictate letters to Santa.

Despite being raised in a dual-religion household: Episcopalian and Russian Orthodox, and going to two churches for all holy days (and many in-between!), it wasn't until I was pregnant with Madelyn, our five-year-old, that I decided to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church. I joined an adults' confirmation class and started to delve more deeply into my faith and how to incorporate it in my daily life. My involvement in the church community has mainly been about children. I helped teach Sunday school at my previous church and am excited to have taught last November at All Saints'. I am scheduled to do so again in February.

We are very excited to join All Saints' and feel very blessed to be so warmly welcomed by everyone.

By Natalie Rae Krauser McCarthy

MORE NEWS....

BUILDINGS SUPERVISOR

Joe Triola, long-time chair of Buildings & Grounds, has joined our staff as part-time supervisor of buildings. He will be working on capital projects and some of the more complicated maintenance needs. Joe will work primarily with **Tom Loop** and **Bob Okell** as sounding boards.

MUSIC FOR LENT AND EASTER

We are very pleased that **Sohyun Ahn** will be here as Organist Choirmaster beginning Sunday, February 15, and going through Easter, April 5. Since we last saw her, Sohyun has completed her Doctorate at Rutgers and is now on the faculty there. She has also maintained a busy concert schedule. Some in the parish have been able to attend her concerts, most notably at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison. Sohyun looks forward to working with both the All Saints' Choir and the Children's Choir.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION AND A REPORT TO THE PARISH

Just as parishes are mandated to have annual meetings, dioceses have annual conventions. The Diocese of New Jersey will meet in Convention Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Princeton. Locations change every few years, and this will be the first time in Princeton.

While much business is carried out – budgets and resolutions get debated and voted on – a highlight is the Convention Eucharist with a Choir made up of singers from throughout the Diocese. The evening Banquet is a time for meeting and greeting, as is the Women's Association Breakfast Saturday morning with a special speaker, which most everyone attends. Your delegates – John Brewer, Rich Johnson, and Don Kern, along with the Rector – will report to the parish at Coffee Hour on March 1.

IS YOUR PICTURE ON THE PHOTO BOARD?

A request to our newer parishioners... We try to keep track, but if we've missed you, please speak to Jenine Williams, Rich Johnson or Chris Harris and we'll arrange for a photo op.

AND HAVE YOU "LIKED" US YET ON FACEBOOK?

--The All Saints' Family --

ANNUAL MEETING

In between ice storms and snowstorms, January 25 was a beautiful, sunny day – perfect for an Annual Meeting. A good number of parishioners came for the church service and stayed for the meeting, with a lunch of bagels (with a variety of toppings) and chocolate cake for added encouragement.

In an hour-and-a-half or so, the Annual Report was covered, as chairs of the different committees and guilds came forward to elaborate on the printed material and take questions. The final Budget for 2014 and the Budget for 2015 were presented by Treasurer John Brewer, and his reports were accepted. There are financial unknowns tied in with the rector's retirement as of June 1st, and future meetings with representatives of the Diocese will help fill in the blanks. Tom Loop gave the Endowment Report – thankfully, a very good year. His report was accepted.

The Vestry Class of 2015 included two members completing their allowed two consecutive terms – Glen Robertson and Susan Winkler. Elections were held for the Vestry Class of 2018: Bob Okell (2nd term), Robin Sampson (1st term), Stuart Solsky (1st term), and Liz Trimpin (2nd term). Richard Johnson was elected to his second term as Warden. For Diocesan Convention, Delegates are John Brewer, Richard Johnson and Don Kern. Alternates are Charlie Beakes and Susan Winkler.

MUSIC – MARYROSE CLARK'S DEPARTURE

February 8th will be MaryRose's last day with us and we greet her departure with sadness. In her slightly more than a year-and-a-half, she has been a very nice addition to the parish community, both as a musician and a friend to many. She is leaving for health and logistical reasons – a little too much driving all during the week to fulfill her day job, compounded by a lot more driving to be with us for rehearsals during the week and of course, church on Sunday. We wish her well – she will surely be missed.

FIRST COMMUNION IS FEBRUARY 15

We have had our annual First Communion Workshop, but if you missed it and your child(ren) is ready to take this important step, please speak with the Rector.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY LAMP

We invite you to keep flowers (greens for Lent) 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: February 1, 8; **Altar Greens (Lent):** February 22

Sanctuary Lamp: February 1, 22

MISSIONARY OUTREACH

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

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

March – Flashlights and batteries

April – Baby/toddler items (disposable diapers, ointment, powders, wipes, thermometers, shampoo, nail clippers, etc.)

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	Robin Sampson
Michelle Smith-Crona	Stuart Solsky	Liz Trimpin	Kevin Walsh

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