



For All the Saints

February 2014

Dear Friends,

Sometimes, Epiphany seems like empty space. Situated between the color and excitement of Christmas and the intensity of Lent, this season that comes after the celebration of the Three Kings arriving in Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus does not offer the same kind of drama. What it does offer is story after story pointing to Jesus' true identity.

When Jesus is baptized, the voice of God is heard claiming him as "Beloved Son." When John the Baptist sees Jesus coming toward him, he proclaims him "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." In the story of the wedding feast in Cana, Jesus performs his first miracle, turning water into wine (although this is not a year when that story is read). Even without Cana, we do see him perform healing miracles, and we see Jesus enable his disciples to catch a boatload of fish after a fruitless night.

In one story, Jesus goes to the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth and he reads aloud the portion of Isaiah that begins, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me...to bring good news to the poor...to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind...." When he finishes reading, he closes the book and announces to the people, "This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read." We hear him say, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near." These are the words John the Baptist had been speaking as he walked through the countryside preparing the people to receive Jesus, only now the message comes from Jesus. And the season will end with the Transfiguration when Jesus is seen glorified. By the end of Epiphany, Jesus has taken on the mantle of Messiah so that when Ash Wednesday comes and we are reminded of our mortality, the words do not seem so threatening.

Empty space? Not at all. Epiphany is a beautiful and meaningful time for understanding what we celebrated at Christmas, and to prepare for the journey into Lent and beyond.

Jane+

– *All Saints' News* –

SCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

All Saints' was among the founders of Boy Scout Troop 104 more than 50 years ago, and the parish is pleased to continue as sponsoring organization. Scout Sunday has become an annual tradition, when a Troop leader preaches at the 10 o'clock Service, scouts take part in other ways, and they put on a Pancake Breakfast for the congregation. **Bob Okell** is the liaison between the parish and the troop, and **Colin Okell**, who became an Eagle Scout last spring, remains active.

FAITH STUDY, SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:45

The study has just begun of "Paul's Letter to the Romans," often named as his greatest work. A detailed outline of Paul's theology, *Romans* is not always easy to comprehend, but it offers great insights and expressions of faith. Bring a Bible and join the discussion in the Guild Room – every Sunday but the first of each month. **Anne Goetz** facilitates the Faith Study.

WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL SAY TO YOU?

On the first Thursday of each month, from 7-8 pm, come to the Guild Room, Bible in hand, to discuss the Gospel (and other readings) for the following Sunday. On February 6th discussion will be on the lessons for Sunday, February 9 – Isaiah 58: 1-12; First Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20. Bring a Bible and take part. **Anne Goetz** also leads this program.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION IS FEBRUARY 28

Besides the Rector, All Saints' will be represented by three lay delegates – Charlie Beakes, Rich Johnson and Kevin Walsh. Convention is in Cherry Hill, overnight, ending on Saturday. This will be the first chaired by Bishop Chip. We will report Sunday, March 2 during Coffee Hour.

HEIFER PROJECT – FOR ALL

The Sunday School has led the way, bringing Heifer to the attention of the parish and working to raise money for this worthwhile outreach effort. They've set as a goal, sending an actual Heifer (\$500 and a pig or two (\$120 each – more, if possible. Watch the bulletin board with the thermometer to see how we're doing. Please make checks payable to All Saints' and write "heifer" on the memo line.

FAMILY SUPPER, FEBRUARY 23 – 4 PM

The next Sunday Family Supper has been moved from the third Sunday because that is Presidents Weekend -- a three-day weekend. So mark your calendars and come on the following Sunday instead. Come to Lea Hall at 4 pm. No need to bring anything or sign up in advance.

LENTEN SOUP & STUDY

Lent begins in March, but now is the time to read the book for this year's program. The book is, *Christianity after Religion – The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spirituality Awakening*, by Diana Butler Bass, a respected author and lecturer. If you would like us to order the book for you, please sign up by February 9. The cost should be about \$12.

Lenten Soup & Study will meet in the Guild Room on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 pm – March 11, 18 & 25; April 1 & 8. (As in the past, we will ask one person to bring soup each week and another to bring bread.)

SEE JON DAWSON IN “HOW TO SUCCEED....”

Our own Jon Dawson, a senior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, is playing J. Pierrepont Finch in the spring production of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.” Ticket sales begin February 3rd at <http://spfhsreptix.broenpapertickets.com> Onsite ticket ordering is possible on Feb. 10, 24, and March 3 from 7-8 pm in the auditorium lobby of the High School.

Ticket prices are \$17 for adults, \$14 for Students and for Seniors age 60 and up. (Seniors' “Gold Cards” may be used for Thursday night performances only.)

Performances are Friday, March 14 at 8 pm; Saturday, March 15 at 8 pm; Sunday, March 16 at 2pm; Thursday, March 20 at 7 pm; Friday, March 21 at 8 pm; Saturday, March 22 at 8 pm.

THE CALENDAR FOR LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER

The date of Easter determines the dates for Ash Wednesday and Lent, Palm Sunday and Holy Week. The length of Epiphany (technically the Season after the Epiphany) also depends on the date of Easter, and since Easter is later, this is one of the longer years. Here are dates to note.

ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 5
PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 13
MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 17
GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 18
EASTER – APRIL 20

--YOUTH NEWS--

Sunday School Classes -- **Kelly and Glen Robertson** have been creatively organizing the classes in Lea Hall while the downstairs room are still being renovated. Please come, 10 am.

Heifer--The Sunday School hopes to raise enough money to send a heifer (\$500) and possibly a pig or two (\$120 each) – and maybe more. These animals are raised by the recipient families to provide income. The large thermometer on the board shows our progress.

Pretzels, 2 Servings -- Those popular pretzels that the Sunday School bakes for Lent were made a little early this year, to sell at Annual Meeting as a fundraiser for Heifer. They will be baked again just before Ash Wednesday – Sunday, March 2nd -- and that will be for Lent.

The Youth Choir -- They sang right after Communion on January 26, and their music was lovely and well-received. **MaryRose Clark**, our Organist and Choir Director, holds brief rehearsals each week during Coffee Hour and encourages the kids to come. It's fun – and they will sing again soon.

Youth Group Movie Night, February 7 -- On Friday, February 7, young people ages 12 through high school are invited to a screening of “Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters.” It's in Lea Hall. There will be Refreshments. Please RSVP to Rich Johnson (908) 256-5704

Youth Group Bowling, February 9 -- Chris Harris (with help from Melissa and Nathaniel) has scheduled a Bowling Party for Sunday, February 9. Meet at the church at 2 pm and talk about future activities. Then go to Strike & Spare on Route 22 in Greenbrook. Please RSVP to the Harris family (908) 322-0790.

Youth Group will meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month – events, etc. to be discussed.

The Acolyte Pizza Party on January 19 was a great success – a good kick-off for the Youth Group. Some 12 young people enjoyed the pizza and talked -- about church, among other things! Acolyte training followed, led by **Clark Landale** with veteran acolytes mentoring the newcomers. Four new acolytes should be appearing in the services.

First Communion Workshop, February 22 -- This annual Saturday program led by the Rector is for youngsters who are ready to begin receiving Communion. It is at 10 am, where we discuss the sacrament, answer questions, etc. (At least one parent accompanies each child.) Please speak with the Rector for more information and if you wonder whether your child is ready for this.

--- Parishioner Profile ---

MY MUSIC, MY LIFE

By MaryRose Clark

Hello all! When Jane first asked me to write something for the monthly newsletter, I came upon writers block at first. Actually, it was more a question of what to write about. I thought of several different topics, but then I settled down, and thought & prayed about what is important to me and what I would like to share with all of you. When thinking about this and answering this question, it became very clear to me what that would be. I'd like to tell you about my Music Ministry!

To start this story I have to go back to the time I was about four years old. My parents had just bought an old player piano for my twin sister and me. (Yes, I am a twin!) Soon, instead of just listening to songs on the Radio, I was finding the melody of those songs on the piano. It was at that point that my parents decided to start me with Piano lessons.

Let me also add, that when I was about four or five years old, I remember sitting next to my maternal grandmother and listening to her play the piano. I don't have many memories from that age, but I remember that one very well. I would sit for hours listening to her! My grandmother was also an organist as well for her home parish. She died when I was six years old, but those memories have stayed with me for a lifetime.

I continued with my piano lessons, and by the time I was fourteen years old, I realized that I wanted to do something with my music. I just wasn't sure what that would be. But that was soon to change. That's where my Mother comes into this story.

After coming home from school one day, My Mom announced to me that our church, St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church in Cedar Grove, NJ had found their Organist for the "High Mass." There had been a sign in the church about the need for someone to play at that mass and accompany the choir. When I asked my Mom who that person was, she proceeded to tell me that I was that person, and she had "Volunteered" me. Honestly, my first thought was, "You have got to be kidding!" Years later, I told my Mom how God had to be working through her that day, and me as well. You see, I'm not sure why my Mom thought I could do this, (I was only fourteen years old after all) and I'm definitely not sure where I found the courage to give this a try, but that's exactly what I did. God's hand was definitely there encouraging me!

Let me say, that for the first six months, it was difficult, and I often thought, "I can't do this!" But I kept trying and I kept practicing. I took lessons every week on the Organ. I would walk to the church after school each day and practice for 1 ½ hours and then my father would pick me up on his way home from work. After six months, I became the Main Organist for all six masses that were held each weekend; two on Saturday night and four on Sunday. Somewhere during the next six years at St. Catherine's, I realized that this was indeed a calling for me. It was and still is one of the things I believe God has called me to do!

This calling of my Music Ministry has been a privilege and gift to me. The privilege has been in sharing my ministry in the many different churches God has led me to since that time, many years ago when I sat in front of the organ for the first time. The gift to me has been all the countless blessings that have come my way because of my Music Ministry. I have the blessings of dear friends, whom I have come to know and love from the many different churches I have had the privilege to serve in. Some of my closest friends are all former choir members of mine. One person in particular, Gene Mayer, who has become very dear to me, sang in one of my choirs some fourteen years ago. Recently, quite by coincidence, or we think divine intervention, we re-connected, and now he sings again in my choir, this time right here at All Saints!

In closing, If my Music can help you hear God's message and in doing so, help you to become a better Christian, and follow the life Jesus wants you to lead, then I am humbled to have a small part in your own personal journey in becoming the best Christian and person you can be!

By MaryRose Clark

SCOUT SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 9

We celebrate with Boy Scout Troop 104.. A leader will preach at the 10 o'clock Service, scouts will take part, and the Troop puts on a Pancake Breakfast for the whole congregation.

PLEDGE ENVELOPES ARE HERE!

If you have submitted a monetary pledge for 2014, your box of envelopes is in the narthex. If there are no envelopes with your name on them, that's easy to remedy. There are also pledge cards out there. Just turn one in, and a box of envelopes will be waiting for you! Pledges have gone well this year, but we are still slightly below last year's record level. Pledging is an act of Stewardship, and Stewardship is about giving back to God in thanksgiving for the good things God has given us.

--The All Saints' Family --

ANNUAL MEETING

Despite a significant coating of snow, there was a good turn-out for the 10 o'clock Service and for Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26. After a light lunch, the meeting – which lasted for about ninety minutes -- got underway at 11:40.

The minutes of last year's meeting were accepted as were the Treasurer's Report and the Endowment Fund report. John Brewer, as the new Treasurer, presented the final report on the 2013 Operating Budget as well as the 2014 Budget. Both were approved. Tribute was paid to Sally Robinson, long-time Treasurer, who moved away last fall – to Waretown. Rich Johnson was her temporary replacement, and John Brewer has now taken over. Tom Loop presented the Endowment Fund Report, a very good performance in 2013.

Elections were held for Warden and Vestry members. Churchwardens may serve three consecutive two-year terms, and Jenine Williams was elected to her third two-year term as Warden. Vestry Members may serve two consecutive terms, for a maximum of six years. In the Vestry Class of 2014, Charlie Beakes, Clark Landale and Patricia Ludewig completed their two terms and were not eligible for reelection. Lauren DiSarno completed her first term, and has been reelected. Joining her in the Class of 2017 are John Brewer, Anne Goetz and Joanna Hurley. Filling out Sally Robinson's Vestry term in the Class of 2015 is Bob Okell.

Other reports were discussed in order, as they appear in the published Annual Report. A very good spirit pervaded the room, and all participants were shown appreciation as they came forward to comment on their programs and activities. Special thanks were given to Claudine Doyle, who redesigned and re-launched the parish website and who posts events on the parish Facebook page; MaryRose Clark, Organist and Choir Director; and staff-members Irene Carlucci and Wesley Jenkins.

For a small parish, All Saints' has a long list of programs and activities in every area – worship, education, outreach, and recreation – and that is thanks to genuinely concerned parishioners who get involved and get things done. We have been fortunate, and we are blessed.

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**. 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 2, 9, 23

Sanctuary Lamp: February 9

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 toothpaste & brushes, floss, cotton balls, mouthwash, etc.)

March – Flashlights & Batteries

April – Baby/Toddler items (disposable diapers, ointments, powder, wipes, thermometers, Nail clippers, other related items)

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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