



# For All the Saints

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*January 2013*

*Dear Friends,*

By the time you read this, the ball will have dropped over Times Square and 2013 will have been officially welcomed. The traditional way to see in a new year is with hats and horns, toasting and merry-making – anything to mark the undeniable significance of having come through one set of twelve months and preparing to take on the next twelve. Revelry is good, but I have always felt that the most reasonable way to mark the flow from year to year is with prayer.

Give thanks to God for getting through the year just past, and ask for God’s help in navigating the days, weeks and months just waiting to be filled up on those brand new calendar pages. As personal as prayers are -- since they reflect our hopes and fears, needs and desires – prayers also connect us to people everywhere. Children are taught to name family members and friends in their nightly prayers – and sometimes to pray for children in need, wherever they are. In church, the Anglican Cycle connects us to far-flung parts of the world, and our prayers for the Diocese remind us of the larger church here at home.

In recent weeks, we have continued to pray for those left homeless by the fall storms, especially at the Jersey shore, and of course, we pray for Newtown, Connecticut as that community tries to move forward, one difficult step at a time. It has often been said that the church exists for this -- to be a community called by God into prayer -- as worshippers lift up personal concerns and join together to pray for people and events that may not affect our daily lives, but need our support. In that sense, prayer is never private. In “The Lord’s Prayer,” the first word is “Our,” not “my,” because even when said alone, we pray as part of the community of Christians everywhere.

In the new year, let us pray for the light of Christ to guide our paths. Let us pray for God to turn the hearts of those who would perpetrate acts of violence against others, whatever their motivation. Let us pray for peace, joy, hope and love.

Happy New Year!

Jane+

## — *All Saints' News* —

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### **A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!**

More than seventy people made the first annual Gala Holiday Dinner truly gala! Festively garbed parishioners came for wine, hors d'oeuvres, and mingling. Then at the appointed time, all sat down at the beautifully decked-out tables to enjoy the wonderful meal prepared by **Scott and Cassie Triola**. Our chefs served the main course, as people filed up, which was fun for everyone since it provided an opportunity for Scott to get reacquainted with All Saints' friends from way back, and for Cassie to make new friends. Dessert was delectable too, and the evening was delightful in every way. The young people had their own wonderful time watching a film, playing games, and enjoying a special meal with their own printed menu.

Besides **Cassie and Scott**, without whom this would not have happened, special thanks to **Jenine Williams** for sending out e-vites and invitations, and keeping track of everything; to **Rich Johnson** for doing the invitations, and to **Liz Trimpin** for all the decorating (with help from her daughter, **Natalie**); to **Aubrey Johnson** and **Jovi Williams** for organizing and creating the youth party. (Photos from Jenine Williams are on the Lea Hall bulletin board.)

### **FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP, JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

Every year at this time, we offer an opportunity for young people who are not yet receiving Holy Communion to take this important step in their spiritual lives. A workshop led by the rector is scheduled toward the end of the Epiphany season – one hour on a Saturday morning. The children make their First Communion a week later at the 10 o'clock Service on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany (which means the Sunday right before Ash Wednesday when Lent begins).

At the workshop, we discuss what Holy Communion is and means, and what is expected in going to the altar rail for this Sacrament. It is important to remember, that **nobody** understands fully what happens at Holy Communion. We know that Communion brings us closer to Jesus Christ and to one another. It has the effect of providing forgiveness, inspiration and a new spirit that is supposed to go with us when we leave church. Children always seem to know – ahead of time – that Communion is special because it is about Jesus.

If you have a child whom you feel is ready to begin receiving Holy Communion, please speak with the rector. At least one parent should join their child at the Saturday workshop.

### **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES, JANUARY 13**

Bring your Bible and join us in the Guild Room from 9-9:40 am. We have reached Chapter 22 in Genesis – an exciting book with lots of familiar stories (in addition to many lists of names).

## **ANNUAL MEETING IS JANUARY 27**

In the Episcopal Church, the annual parish meeting is important. Because we are officially chartered in the state of New Jersey, we follow the state's religious corporation laws. We also follow canon law of our Diocese of New Jersey, with guidance from parish bylaws. An annual parish meeting is the equivalent of a shareholders' meeting in other corporations, and it is required by law. Following is the official "call."

"The voters of the Parish shall hold an Annual Meeting on the fourth Sunday of January of each year for 1) The election of Wardens, Vestry Members, Delegates to Diocesan Convention and the Watchung Convocation; 2) The receiving of reports from the Vestry committees, the Guilds, and all other organizations of the Parish; 3) The transaction of other such business as may properly be considered and acted upon at such Annual Meeting."

In the Episcopal Church, laity and clergy work closely together, and nowhere is this more evident than in an Annual Meeting. Annual Reports are distributed at the meeting covering committee and guild work for the year just ended. Our Vestry – made up of two Wardens, twelve Vestry members, and chaired by the Rector – meets monthly and members will be present to answer questions about their reports and to add comments if necessary.

The Budget for 2013 will be presented.

Our Annual Meetings are fast-paced and upbeat. They do not drag on! We begin with lunch – bagels and cream cheese and some other goodies – and the meeting is called to order when the time seems right.

**There will be a film for young people, shown in the Nursery during the meeting.**

**There is no 8 am Service on January 27**, in an effort to get everyone to come at 10 o'clock. The Rector's report is given as the sermon at the 10 o'clock Service.

## **CELEBRATE EPIPHANY – ON EPIPHANY, JANUARY 6**

**EPIPHANY** is always January 6, but it is not always on a Sunday. Since it is a Sunday this year, we are going to celebrate.

Epiphany marks the arrival at the manger of the Three Kings who have come to worship Jesus. At the 10 o'clock Service, our Three Kings will be brought to the creche in church, and our young people will be invited to bring their favorite toy animals for a procession to the creche – where they will stay just until the service is over, when the kids will claim them to take back home. An interactive sermon will be part of the 10 am Service. Please come!

## ***--YOUTH NEWS--***

### **First Sunday in January (Jan. 6)**

January 6 is Epiphany and the Sunday School will be part of our 10 o'clock celebration. Young people are invited to bring their favorite toy animal to church, and there will be a procession right after the Gospel to place the animals in and around the creche. (This is just for the Service. You get to take your animal back home after.) An interactive sermon will follow.

(Looking ahead – First Sunday, February 3, will be the annual Pretzel-Baking for Lent.)

### **Thanks to all who helped and took part in our 5 pm Family Service on Christmas Eve**

**Liz Trimpin** did an outstanding job directing the Mini-Pageant with Lessons & Carols. Thanks to **Michelle Trimpin** for helping on Christmas Eve.

Congratulations to our excellent readers: **Emily DiSarno, Natalie Green, Gisele Herb, Aubrey Johnson, Samantha Loop, William Robertson, Miranda Walsh and Jovi Williams.**

And many thanks to our Pageant Participants: **Alexa & Danielle Chuy, Anthony Dada, Emily DiSarno, Natlie Green, Gisele Herb, Aubrey & Victor Johnson, Thomas Loop, III & William Loop, Jovi Williams**

**Confirmation Class** has been meeting two Sunday mornings each month with Jennifer Dawson and Glen Robertson. **The Rector's class is Saturday, January 5 at 10 am**, when we will do a walk-around in the church to see what design and decoration say about how we worship and what Episcopalians believe.

### **First Communion Workshop, Saturday January 26 at 10 am.**

Young people who are not now receiving Communion – and whose parents believe they are ready -- are invited to join the rector for a program lasting about an hour. (At least one parent should come for each child.) Since the children come into church for Holy Communion each week, they know what the Service looks like and what it means to come to the altar rail (where they now receive a blessing). If your child is ready to take this important step in his or her spiritual journey, please speak to the rector. First Communion will be Sunday, February 10.

### **Sunday School classes resume January 13 at 9:55 am.**

Please come, because your teachers get really lonely without you!

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

# -- *Parishioner Profile* --

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## WHO AM I?

*By Marlenes Luvins*

When our dear rector asked me to write a small article for the January newsletter, I accepted without hesitation. Little did I know that the main topic of the article I so hastily agreed to write about, was me! I immediately had second thoughts about my rushed decision because writing about myself does not come easy to me.

As I drove home that day, I pondered upon what the focus of an article about myself should be. Should I speak about my native country, Cuba, and how difficult it was to leave it all behind, to come to the United States in the chase of a dream, twelve years ago? Should I write about what I left behind: friends, family members, and culture? Or should I concentrate instead, on everything I have gained: incredible friends, a new language, a house, a career, the sweet taste of freedom...?

And just when I was about to make my decision I flipped on the radio station in my car and stumbled upon the song, "I am coming home." Although, by far my favorite song, there was something about the lyrics that made me stop and reflect. As I listened to the lyrics...

"I am coming home, I am coming home,  
tell the world, I am coming home,  
Let the wind wash away all the pains of yesterday...."

I somehow transported myself to my childhood in a country where practicing any type of religious belief was forbidden and prosecuted. Sundays, used to be, for me, the worst day of the week. I never found a way to find happiness or joy on Sundays and so very quickly I began to resent Sundays and even fear them.

Until one day, in the summer of 1998, Cubans received the most unexpected surprise. The Pope, John Paul II, graced us with his visit! It is very difficult to express in words how much his visit meant to us, but I will try. Imagine a country where religion was forbidden and illegal, now opening its doors to religious freedom. When the Pope visited, everything changed. The dictatorship laws against religion softened, and many abandoned churches were suddenly crowded with thirsty believers who had never lost their faith. By that time, however, I had already given up on Sundays, and could not understand what the shift of consciousness was all about.

When I arrived in this country in 2001, I found a society rooted in their religious beliefs and suddenly found myself playing the piano for the local church. At first, it was a just a job, but it quickly became a way of life. And so one day, at a barbeque, our choral director, Andrew

Kilkenny, invited me to become a member of the *All Saints' Choir*. I was more than thrilled! At that time I was in the midst of pursuing my second master's degree, and the time of rehearsals conflicted with my schedule. Nonetheless, I promised myself that I would find the time. And I did.

Ironically, or maybe by God's design, I am now singing in what used to be my great grandmother's church. She was a member of St. Anne's Anglican Church in Jamaica, a long, long, time ago.

Now, the biggest mystery of my life was revealing itself in front of my eyes. I finally understood why my childhood Sundays were gloomy, heartbreaking and empty: I was missing God. I also understood why I treasured the lyrics of the song: "*Coming Home*." I can finally thank God for my homecoming. I am finally home, and in the church I belong to, the church that was denied to me for more than twenty years.

*By Marlenes Luvins*

## **BOY SCOUT SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 3**

This is our annual salute to the Scouts that are part of this parish. Boy Scout Troop 104 was founded by All Saints' over 50 years ago, and we remain the sponsoring organization. We also sponsor Cub Scout Pack 4. Both organizations have seen a big resurgence in recent years, and both have many members and lots of activities.

At the 10 o'clock Service on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Boy Scout leader will preach, with Scouts participating in other ways (including our own **Colin and Bob Okell**). A Pancake Breakfast follows for the whole congregation, thanks to the generosity of the troop members and parents. Scouts and parents from Troop 104 help out during the year, especially on outdoor clean-up days. We are always grateful for their assistance.

## **PLEDGE CARDS AND PLEDGE ENVELOPES**

Our Every Member Canvass has gone well, but we always hope everyone in the parish will make a financial pledge for the coming year, 2013. Pledge cards are available in the Narthex of the church along with an interesting sheet of data. Filled-out cards may be dropped in a collection plate. Any questions about pledging – please speak with **Don Kern** or with the rector.

If you have already pledged for 2013, your box of pledge envelopes should also be in the Narthex. We hope you will pick it up and use the envelopes. They really make the ushers' work easier, and minimize errors in reporting.

As always, we are very grateful to everyone for supporting the ministry of All Saints' Church.

## ***--The All Saints' Family --***

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Congratulations to **Jonathon Dawson**, who has been selected from among more than 1,000 East Coast applicants to perform with the All-Eastern Mixed Chorus in Connecticut for a special concert in Hartford on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Jon has been part of all-state choir for the last two years. Besides serving as one of our Acolytes, he joined two other choristers several Sundays ago, singing the offertory anthem.

**Rose Cubbon** is now a commuter – from Boston. A chemical researcher, she recently became a staff-member at Novartis in Boston, so she commutes about every other weekend to be with her family at home in Fanwood, and to remain an active part of this parish.

**Thurston Hamlette**, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania almost three years ago, has one more semester at Howard University Law School. He has written an article, which has just been published in the Law Review. The article, which deals with how the whole community benefits when low-income families are dispersed into the community, is called, “The Affirmative Duty to Disintegrate Concentrations of Impoverished Communities,” and it appears in *The Howard Law Journal*, Vol. 56, Issue #1. Congratulations to Thurston!

### **A WORKSHOP FOR ALL LAY READERS, JANUARY 29**

All of our Lay Readers – brand new and those of longstanding -- are invited to a **Workshop on Tuesday, January 29 at 7:30 pm**. There is always material to go over, and we hope for a good turn-out. We had an excellent class last fall, led by **John Burk** (and the rector) that has produced four new additions to our roster. Please RSVP to John Burk.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 16**

Leaders of committees and parish programs are asked to submit reports for inclusion in the big Annual Report that will be distributed at Annual Meeting. Email is fine – and if the material is camera-ready, that is great.

### **EPISCOPAL BASICS – CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR ADULTS**

We offer this series annually, and last year, four adults were confirmed. Given our vibrant Confirmation Class of five young people this year, we will certainly be part of a Confirmation Service. So please, if you are not officially an Episcopalian, this is your opportunity. Classes will meet once a month, and we invite **anyone** who is interested in learning more about the Bible, the church, how it all works. Our first meeting will be **Sunday, February 10 at 11:30 am when we will explore, “What it Means to Be a Christian; What it Means to Be an Episcopalian.”** For more information, speak to the rector.

## 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:**  
Jan. 20, 27

**Sanctuary Lamp:**  
Jan. 13, 20, 27

## 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.

**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)

**March** – Flashlights & batteries

**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.**

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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

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