



For All the Saints

January 2014

Dear Friends,

Is there any other time like Christmas when we come to church specifically because we want all the old traditions to envelop us? We want to hear the familiar story of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, no room at the inn, the baby Jesus born in a stable, shepherds hearing the news, angels proclaiming God's glory. Our most sophisticated youngsters (and the young at heart) happily put on angels' wings, shepherd's robes and kings' crowns as they bring parts of Luke's Gospel to life. And of course we want to sing the wonderful carols we grew up singing. Everyone has a different favorite – for me personally, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.”

In a world of constant and sometimes incomprehensible change, there is comfort in being able to come back to favorite sights and sounds. How good to have “the old, old story,” especially at Christmas, along with the costumes and decorations that get dusted off and brought up from the basement closet to enhance the whole experience.

That said, nothing is ever exactly the same year after year, because we are not exactly the same. Each year, Christmas reaches us in the midst of whatever else might be going on. If it has been a very good year, the joy of Christmas is a welcome addition. But if life has brought challenges – whether insignificant or traumatic -- there is hope in the promise of rebirth and renewal.

Even at that first Christmas, the beautiful image of “silent night, holy night,” exists for only a moment in time, set against the harsh reality of a world fraught with violence and injustice. The birth of Jesus, the coming of the Son of God into the world, continues to bring the promise of “peace on earth and good will to all.” And while these promises may still be millennia away from fulfillment, we know that whatever God promises will one day take place. Meanwhile, we get to enjoy everything Christmas once again – the story, the costumes, the music, the decorations – and the promise of a brand new year providing new opportunities for Jesus to be born into our hearts to guide us in the 2014 phase of the journey.

Happy New Year!

Jane+

– All Saints' News –

ANNUAL MEETING IS JANUARY 26

Annual Meeting is an important event in any Episcopal parish. 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. Annual Meeting, required by law, is the equivalent of a shareholders' meeting in other corporations – pledging members are our shareholders.

This 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.”

The annual reports submitted by all the chairs and parish leaders are part of the parish's Annual Report, copies of which are distributed at Annual Meeting. Our Vestry – made up of two Wardens, twelve Vestry Members, and chaired by the Rector – meets monthly. Members will be present to answer questions about their reports and to add commentary if needed. The Budget for 2014, which Vestry will approve at its January meeting, will also be presented.

Our Annual Meetings are fast-paced and upbeat. We begin with a light lunch 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 26 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. (The Super Bowl is February 2.)

FAMILY SUPPER, JANUARY 19

The November Family Supper was a wonderful event with lots of good food and fellowship, and a huge crowd of happy people! (Michelle Smith-Crona, Jenine Williams and Lauren DiSarno were the masterminds.) Again, the directions are: Show up, eat well, and have a good time. You are not asked to bring anything. Just come. (A special table will be set aside for kids.) **The Supper will be at 4 pm.**

SOHYUN AHN IN CONCERT, JANUARY 12

Having completed her Doctorate, Sohyun is focusing on her career as a concert pianist. She will perform Mozart's "Piano Concerto in C #21" with the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey. The Concert is at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison, at 3 pm on Sunday, January 12. Tickets are \$40 adults; \$30 seniors; \$5 students, and they may be paid for at the door, by check or cash. Reservations can be made by calling (973) 366-8922.

HOUSE EUCHARIST, JANUARY 17

When we come together to celebrate Holy Eucharist in a parishioner's home, we are recreating what the earliest Christians did. They gathered in one another's homes and followed the command Jesus gave the Disciples at the Last Supper to "Do this in remembrance of me." Then they shared a fellowship meal for which everyone brought something.

Peggy Tristram is graciously welcoming us to her Westfield home on Friday, January 17 at 6:30 pm. When everyone has arrived, we will celebrate Holy Eucharist, and then enjoy a pot-luck supper. Participants have been asked to sign up beside the part of the meal they wish to bring, and only a few spaces remain. If you would like to come, please sign up as soon as possible. Space is limited.

THE WONDERFUL VISIT OF BISHOP CHIP

In response to an invitation from our Sunday School, Bishop Chip and Susan Stokes visited on December 8th. The Bishop preached and celebrated, and when the young people came into church from Sunday School, they walked to the front with their Christmas stockings that he had suggested they bring, in honor of St. Nicholas whose feast day had just passed. Bishop Chip and the kids had a lively exchange, real conversation with questions and answers on all sides. It was a truly great day!

THE CHARLOTTE BAKER SUNDAY SCHOOL IS DEDICATED

After the Service on December 8, Bishop Chip went to the entrance of our (almost) newly-renovated Sunday School and offered a lovely prayer of dedication in memory of Charlotte Baker. We were so pleased that Vernon Baker was present for this ceremony, with his son Christopher and daughter-in-law Janet. The improvements are being made thanks to a bequest from Charlotte's estate. She was a long-time Director of the Sunday School and absolutely committed to Christian education for children. A beautifully crafted sign at the entrance to the area reads, "The Charlotte Baker Sunday School" with the words of Jesus, "Let the little children come to me." All Saints' is most grateful.

--YOUTH NEWS--

Sunday School Classes

Classes resume January 12 after Christmas break. **Kelly and Glen Robertson** are ready to lead another good semester with the SPARK curriculum. They just need your children coming to class – **Sundays at 10 am**

First Sunday Program, January 5

The young people will work with **Liz Trimpin** to begin an outreach project – Heifer. With help from the rest of the parish, they will raise money in order to send various animals or seedlings for trees to people around the world who could lift their family standard of living through farming or other land-related jobs – if they had help. We can help Heifer provide that help.

If you haven't looked at the Jesse Tree created by the kids on the First Sunday in December, please do. The artistic creation is on the Sunday School Bulletin Board in Lea Hall.

THANKS TO ALL WHO TOOK PART ON CHRISTMAS EVE

We told the Christmas Story through Lessons & Carols and a mini-Pageant with **Shannon Ryan** as Mary; **William Robertson** as Joseph; **Aidan Robertson** as the Angel Gabriel. As Angels: **Alexa Chuy, Danielle Chuy, Gabriella Crona, Emily DiSarno, Morgan DiSarno, Sophia DiSarno, Natalie Green, Gisele Herb, Aubrey Johnson**. As Shepherds: **Victor Johnson, Jack Ryan**. As The Three Kings: **Colin Okell, Glen Robertson, Kevin Walsh**.

The Youth Choir: **Alexa Chuy, Danielle Chuy, Gabriella Crona, Emily DiSarno, Natalie Green, Gisele Herb, Aubrey Johnson, Aidan Robertson, William Robertson, Shannon Ryan**.

Thanks to **MaryRose Clark**, Organist and Choir Director, and **Liz Trimpin**, Pageant Director!

SPECIAL MUSIC AT THE FAMILY SERVICE

Our very talented high-school senior, **Jon Dawson**, sang "O Holy Night," and **Natalie Green** and her mother, **Liz Trimpin**, played a violin duet. It was all lovely!

ACOLYTE PIZZA PARTY, JANUARY 19

Calling acolytes, current and future! Come to the party, following the 10 o'clock Service on Sunday, January 19. We'll train newcomers, with help from the veterans.

SCOUT SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 9 – PANCAKES!

Mark your calendars.

-- Parishioner Profile --

MY WELCOME TO ALL SAINTS'

By Robin Sampson

My name is Robin Sampson and as a new parishioner to All Saints' in 2013, I was a little unnerved when Pastor Jane asked me to write a profile for the newsletter. When Jane mentioned a "faith journey" I began thinking. How did I end up at All Saints' in Scotch Plain, New Jersey? Maybe that would interest a few.

I have always been so happy to believe fully in God and his beloved Son without any minute of questioning. I have to credit my family for a faith that has never included a minute of doubt. First a disclaimer -- I was raised Roman Catholic. Yet my family included an atheist, a cradle Episcopalian, an uncle who became a Catholic priest (at age 65, after his wife died), and a Jewish aunt. Baptized, confirmed and married as a Catholic, how did I end up an Episcopalian?

I guess the obvious answer is that I had a grandmother who always said that labels did not matter. Whatever religion you embraced, what mattered was, how did you reflect your beliefs every day? What did you do as a person to reflect the grace of God's love? My grandmother was Episcopalian, yet embraced my devout Roman Catholic father, her Jewish daughter-in-law and more importantly, the people she met every day. I would spend at least one Sunday a month attending her Episcopal Church in a downtrodden neighborhood of Rochester, New York. Together with her "Church friends," she would give a ride to the "older ladies" who did not drive (though she was 78), run coffee hour, greet everyone, and take the altar chalices home to clean and for safekeeping. I was expected to help out with everything – and I was happy to do so, to the surprise of my 14-year-old self.

Many years later, I had become what would be considered a "lapsed" Catholic. My then husband did not want to go to church, so I was not an active part of any church community. When I found out I was pregnant with my first daughter, I prayed very hard with Thanksgiving. God had given me a gift, how did I honor him? The response was that I decided to become confirmed in the Episcopal faith, and my three children were raised in the Episcopal Church.

What led me to this decision? The example of my grandmother, who "walked the walk," guided me. She was famous for always including someone in our holiday or family dinners that did not have anyone nearby. If you were lonely or by yourself, feeling sad, Grandma and her church friends would quietly and respectfully invite you to their homes. I wanted my children to be raised in an environment that welcomed others with open arms. As children of a career military officer, with many moves in their lives, I wanted their faith and the Episcopal Church to be their constant, their rock.

In the next 29 years, my family moved thirteen times. We joined the nearest Episcopal Church in South Korea, Germany, and finally landed in Phoenix, Arizona. My children selected a church that welcomed us with open arms. We drove forty minutes each way to go to a church that made three very different teenagers feel loved, and to this day I always felt that God put us there for a reason. In those forty minutes, we talked about God, and what was good and bad with the week. Sometimes we were quiet, most times we argued. But we ended and began our Sunday in God's house.

Many years later, my children are scattered and I am single. But no matter where my family is, the faith has been our foundation in good times and bad. We have been tested. But I felt the Holy Spirit at work in my daughter's recent marriage, when her brother, who has battled many demons at age 19, resoundingly and loudly proclaimed the Nicene Creed without hesitation.

I moved back to Rochester New York in 2011, to help my aging mother. Two years later, my company was sold, and I found a job in New Jersey. I am hoping that this is the final destination! Now on to All Saints'...

What made me choose All Saints'? I guess to put it simply, I felt the presence of God and the Holy Spirit...right from the beginning. Everyone was welcoming, inclusive and as I prayed it was easy to see that God was at work here. Parishioners welcomed me from the start and I am grateful to call a few my new found friends. I don't know if it was the trips to the soup kitchen (I will get there this year!), to the Boy Scouts, or the Lenten soup and suppers – the dialogue is spirited, the sermons are thought-provoking, and we are truly challenged to “walk in love as Christ loves us.” Thank you for welcoming me, All Saints', and I hope to be able to give back to you more this year.

By Robin Sampson

PLEDGE ENVELOPES ARE HERE!

If you have submitted a monetary pledge for 2014, your box of pledge 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 fill one out and turn it in, and a box of pledge envelopes will be waiting for you!

--The All Saints' Family --

We joined with **Mariana Caldwell** in celebrating her 95th Birthday. Altar flowers one week, cake another, as family and then snow kept her away. Some celebrations should continue on!

Congratulations to **Casey and Priscilla Woodruff** on the birth of their second son, **Miles Alexander** – and to grandparents, **Sherry and Larry Woodruff**, who now have another grandson to enjoy, along with **Calvin**.

Susie Roeser reports that her son, **John Roeser** is teaching Advanced Placement Economics and English at St. George's Episcopal Boarding School in Newport, Rhode Island. Many of his students come from Europe, Asia and Africa. He is enjoying exploring the Newport area. **Susie's** daughter, **Courtney Rovito** and son-in-law **Michael** have twin daughters who are champion swimmers. **Isabella Rovito**, on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA Swim Team, earned ribbons in butterfly and freestyle at swim meets in NY and NJ. Her twin sister, **Sophia**, on Y's Little Fish Swim Team, earned ribbons in the backstroke at swim meets in NJ.

Sadly, on the evening of December 30, **Muriel Voizard**, mother of **Pam McGivney**, passed away. She was frequently here, accompanying her daughter and **Charlie Beakes** to many services and performances at the church, and nearly all of the Restaurant Adventures.

BELATED THANKS TO OUR PIE BAKERS

As if Thanksgiving were not busy enough, some of our talented bakers made pies for this successful fundraiser. Thanks to **Shirley Hamlette, Cathy Harris, Marie Leppert, Tom Loop, Joan Mott, Bev Peach and Liz Trimpin**.

THE HOLIDAY GALA WAS GREAT FUN

A snowstorm did not dampen the spirits of those who came, although about half those who made reservations could not. Since the snow lingered, delaying the Dinner would not have helped – and it was fun and delicious (including packaged leftovers for many who were unable to attend.)

RICH JOHNSON'S "TO ALL A GOODNIGHT" WAS LOVELY

Rich's own dramatic reading of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas, accented by Celtic Christmas music performed by an excellent instrumental quintet and a small choir was a real Christmas treat. **Aubrey Johnson's** reading of a satirical response to "The Twelve Days of Christmas" provided just the right touch for the ending.

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: January 12, 19, 26

Sanctuary Lamp: January 19, 26

Missionary Outreach

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

January – Non-perishable snacks: juice boxes, raisins, granola or other bars, crackers, etc.

February – Health & Beauty supplies (deodorant, shampoo, soap toothpaste & brushes, floss, cotton balls, mouthwash, etc.)

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.

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

Charlie Beakes	Todd Bouverot	Lauren DiSarno	Chris Harris
Clark Landale	Patricia Ludewig	Glen Robertson	Michelle Smith-Crona
Sally Robinson	Liz Trimpin	Kevin Walsh	Susan Winkler

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