



For All the Saints

January 2015

Dear Friends,

There is a special challenge posed by a brand new calendar year with all those blank pages – uncharted waters. There is a feeling that one should wax poetic or make grand pronouncements. Think of all those lists of the passing year’s best and worst, and all the analyzing and pontificating about what has been and what may come. Then, of course, we mark the new year with the huge ball encased in Waterford Crystal, dropping over Times Square.

It is all very dramatic, as new year’s should be. We need glorious celebrations, first because they are enjoyable, and also, they structure our lives. But again, we’re striving to live daily on another level. January 1st is a holy day for Christians, not because it is New Year’s Day, but because it is the Feast of the Holy Name. Jesus was named on the eighth day after his birth – the eighth day after Christmas – following tradition. The Word of the Lord is meant for all days, and it is more easily lost in the business and busyness that we live with most of the time.

There is something in the church called, “Ordinary Time.” It does not mean hum-drum or mundane. Ordinary Time refers to the days that are not part of the period of Lent through Easter, or Advent-Christmas. As we know, the 40 days of Lent (including Holy Week) take us steadily to Jesus’ death and on to Easter and Resurrection – then Jesus’ post-Resurrection appearances during the 50 days of Easter, followed by Ascension and Pentecost. Those are busy seasons in the church, but even so, that leaves a lot of time not covered. That is Ordinary Time because, as someone said, we celebrate “the mystery of Christ not in one specific aspect but in all its aspects.” The special times highlight the story of who we are, and the challenge is to take those moments of high-drama into daily life.

In Paul’s words, “I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38)

Happy New Year.

Jane+

– All Saints’ News –

ANNUAL MEETING IS JANUARY 25

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, with pledging members as our shareholders.

This is the official “call” which must also be read in church in weeks leading up to the Meeting: “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 committee chairs and parish leaders are part of the parish’s published Annual Report, copies of which are distributed at Annual Meeting. Our Vestry – made up of two Wardens, twelve Vestry Members, and the Rector, who serves as chair – meets monthly. Members will be present to answer questions about their reports. The Budget for 2015, 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.

A film will be shown for young people – in the Nursery – during the meeting.

There will not be an 8 am Service on January 25 to encourage everyone to come at 10 o’clock. The Rector’s report is given as the sermon at the 10 o’clock Service.

PLEASE TURN IN ANNUAL REPORTS

A reminder to committee chairs and other parish leaders to get your annual reports to the office by January 15. If possible, please email them in final form. If you need information, statistics or other data, just call. We’re happy to help.

FAMILY SUPPER, JANUARY 18

This wildly popular tradition of family suppers, established just a few years ago by **Michelle Smith-Crona, Jenine Williams and Lauren DiSarno**, is a great way to move into the new year. Others have helped in a variety of ways, but Michelle, Jenine and Lauren remain the mainstays, and for that, many thanks. Again, the directions are: Show up, eat well, have a good time chatting with old friends and meeting new ones. **No need to sign up or bring anything except a nonperishable food item for the Food Pantry.** (A special table is set up for the kids.) **It all starts at 4 pm.**

SCRIPTURE SHARING, JANUARY 6

Each month, you are invited to be part of an informal gathering to talk over the Scripture lessons assigned for the following Sunday. The date of this month's gathering, January 6th, is a major feast day – The Epiphany, when the Three Kings are said to have reached the manger where they worshiped the baby Jesus.

The Episcopal Church follows the Revised Common Lectionary, a three-year set of readings for every Sunday and holy day. We are in Year B and readings for Sunday, January 11 are: Genesis 1:1-15; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11. This is the First Sunday after the Epiphany when Jesus' Baptism is celebrated.

This gathering will be at the home of Peggy Tristram on Prospect Street in Westfield, beginning at 7 pm. Please call the church ((908) 322-8047 to sign up.

SUNDAY MORNING CONVERSATION RESUMES JAN. 11

The winter season begins with a two-part program on the book, *Christ: A Crisis in the Life of God*, by Jack Miles. **Don Kern** will lead this discussion on January 11 and 18. The author, Jack Miles, won a Pulitzer for his first book, *God: A Biography*.

Sunday Morning Conversation meets in the Guild Room from 8:45 – 9:30 am, but times are approximate so if you have to be a little late or leave a little early, please come anyway. Discussions are interesting and topics vary within the vast world of religious writing.

SCOUT SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 1

Each year, we join with our Boy Scouts of Troop 104 to celebrate Scout Sunday. A troop leader will preach at the 10 o'clock Service and scouts will read, usher, 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.

--YOUTH NEWS--

First Sunday Program – January 4th -- The Three Kings

This is two days before Epiphany, when the Three Kings arrive in Bethlehem from the East to worship the baby Jesus and bring their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Our young people will make crowns (to wear), and maybe other parts of the kings' attire. They will also carry our Three Kings into church, to the creche – a few days ahead of schedule!

Sunday School classes resume January 11.

Parents are invited to teach the 4th Sunday of the month. Speak to Kelly or Glen Robertson.

Christmas Eve

At the Service of Lessons & Carols, our young people out-did themselves! **Alexa Chuy** was Mary, **Jayden Johnson** was Joseph and **Christian Johnson** was the Angel Gabriel. They were joined in the Choir by **Brandon Johnson, Gabriel Lepano and Madelyn McCarthy**.

Lessons were read by Gabriella Crona, Natalie Green, Gisele Herb, , Emily DiSarno, Sophia DiSarno, and Miranda Walsh

Youth Group has a busy January, thanks to Chris Harris.

Sunday, January 11 at 5pm – Convocation-wide meeting at St. Andrew's, New Providence to plan future events for the youth groups from the Watchung Convocation, notably a Bowling Day, a Service Project, and a Fall 2015 Lock-In.

Saturday, January 24 – The All Saints' Youth Group Takes Manhattan

Leave from the church at 10am

Visit the Museum of Natural History and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

Friday, January 30 at 8 pm – Bishop's Ball, Hosted by Chip and Susan Stokes

It's at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton

Chris Harris will provide transportation.

--Parishioner Profile--

FOR 62 YEARS A COLLEGE CLUB GROUPIE

By Marie Leppert

I joined what was then called the Fanwood College Club as the only young member amongst college educated women of my mother's age. In 2014, the now named College Club of Fanwood and Scotch Plains celebrated its 81st anniversary. An 81st anniversary may bring an image of an old gray-haired couple: he, smoking a pipe in bathrobe and slippers; she knitting – a picture of grandchildren on the table between them. Happy, complacent in their set pattern of life. An organization which can celebrate an 81st anniversary brings an entirely different image: commitment, direction, loyalty, adjustments to the times, and hard work. A fitting description for College Club. We have survived for all those reasons. We have gone from the original twelve members in 1933 to over 200 in the 1960s and '70s when we had a big building boom in our towns. In the '80s, women returned to the work force in droves and membership has gone down consistently since then. But our small group is still doing College Night and the Community Calendar, and we still give one of the largest amounts locally of scholarships for women. We have not been complacent and set in our ways, but have been energized by new ideas and new approaches coming from new members.

In many ways, the changes in College Club mirror the evolution of women's roles in society. The Club was founded by what we now call "stay-at-home college educated mothers" who had never been in the work force. Local teachers joined the group en masse. (Today, local teachers don't necessarily live locally, and few join.) The College Club provided intellectual stimulation and a way of using creative talents, whereas today's young women use their abilities in careers, and want to relax or focus on family evenings. Evening meetings or club work is difficult. Thus our drop in membership.

Our programs reflect the change of lifestyle. Early programs were serious, educational, thought-provoking, and presented by such people as: Ashley Montague (anthropologist), Flo Dwyer (long-time Congresswoman), Margaret Mead, the Amazing Kreskin, John Henry Faulk, Mario Pei, Joseph Kramm, Pete Williams (Congressman), Carol Bellamy (NYC political figure), Edward Bloustein (Rutgers President) -- and from WOR Radio, Fay Henley, John Gambling, Shelley Strickler, Dora McCann, and Susan Murphy. The Margaret Mead program was open to the public and we packed Terrill Junior High (now Middle School). Each month's program was prefaced by a five-minute current events presentation, usually of local interest. Today, the working women members have a surplus of intellectual stimulation all day long. The more popular programs are closet clutter, tricks with scarves, dance as exercise, charting your colors, etc. The dress code for meetings also reflects changes in society. We've gone from party dresses or dressy suits to jeans, baggy sweaters and sneakers. In the '50s, two cars were not the norm and the telephone committee offered rides to meetings.

In earlier days, College Club members used their stymied creative talents to the benefit of interesting programs. Alternate years there were dinner meetings and mixer or fun nights.

Home talent was featured with members directing and rehearsing us for weeks for: Thornton Wilder's "Happy Journey to Trenton"; Choral Reading of "The People, Yes," by Carl Sandburg; dramatic readings from "Mary, Queen of Scots" and "The Glass Menagerie"; a musical satire on clubwomen put to Gilbert and Sullivan music; an old-fashioned melodrama (in which I was the dark-haired, mustached villain – a part I was chosen for because of my jet black hair, now gone). I remember vividly rehearsing right-armed gestures while holding my 5-month-old son with the other arm. Those stay-at-home mothers had more time than money and frugality was the key word. I remember picking violets with my 2-year-old son and my 4-year-old daughter trailing, to be used for new members' corsages. We had fashion shows where we made desserts, and carted tables, chairs, teapots, coffee pots, china – everything – no catering as we have done recently. The mention of using paper good brought screams of outrage – too expensive!

Scholarship Committee activities have improved steadily through the years, probably because of our career women members. Without a doubt, we do the most thorough screening of all scholarship committees in town. When I was growing up in town, this was the procedure: All senior college prep girls were invited to an evening tea accompanied by entertainment. My year, the entertainment was the "Weepies" from New Jersey College for Women (Douglass College), a harmony singing group. Really, the ladies of the club were looking us over. At a later time, they chose one of us after consulting with the one and only guidance counselor from the high school, a member of the College Club. No transcripts, no SAT scores, extra-curricular activities or letters of recommendation.

College Night progressed from a panel discussion of three or four college admission people to the huge enterprise it is today under the leadership of one of our members who had experienced this format elsewhere.

The traditional silver bowl given to the SPFHS female graduate with the highest average has been replaced by an award of \$1,000. Again, changes in lifestyle and values. Silver is now looked upon with disdain as something to be polished and stored – never used.

Some of our past activities have fallen by the wayside because fewer members can give time or take part: semiannual book sales, annual dances at various country clubs, progressive dinners, a Winter Fantasy of Trees, and community events. For four years, for a very small fee, we presented these at Scotch Hills: "Golden Age of Broadway," a musical program, and "Lou the Remarkable Miss Alcott." Round-Robin bridge and a spring fundraiser at a country club remain.

We can be very proud of ourselves. In 1937, a club member, Mrs. Herbert Buckley, was given \$150 for advanced study, an ample amount in those days. In 1948, a former scholarship recipient was given money to attend law school. We've not only given scholarships to young women consistently for all these years, but have done much more. We initiated the first Children's Theater in town after previewing groups in New York City, Princeton and Plainfield. We corrected standardized tests at the high school when they were short of help. We gave furniture to Union College. We supported Camp Endeavor for years in the '50s and '60s. World War II rallied us to give magazine subscriptions to Camp Kilmer, staff the USO, and help salvage fat for the war effort. Club members saved gasoline during the War by riding bicycles to meetings. Try that sometime in fancy dress or dress suit! When the Board of Education

elections were very controversial and nasty, we formed the Joint Civic Committee to screen candidates. We aided in the formation of the Scholarship Clearing House. The Volunteer Resource Directory thrived for many years providing programs and speakers for the schools. The Fanwood Railroad Paperback Library still functions.

If you haven't guessed, I am the membership chairperson for College Club and would welcome any of you gals out there with a 4-year degree to join us. I've made good friends, enjoyed the activities and felt I was contributing to our community.

By Marie Leppert (908) 233-3829
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--The All Saints' Family --

Alex Loop, returning from three weeks in Australia, is off to Italy for a Junior Year Abroad program – second semester in Florence. Alex is completing her junior year at Alfred University in New York, majoring in Art.

Our newest parishioner is **Erin Rose McCarthy**, born December 12 to **Natalie and Sean McCarthy**. She joins big sister, **Madelyn**. Erin's Baptism is scheduled for January 11. Congratulations to all!

DRIVER WANTED TO HIRE

The family of **Mark Douches** is looking to hire someone to drive their son, **Steven Douches** to an Asperger's Skill and Support Program sponsored through the National Institute for People with Disabilities of New Jersey.

The program meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The location is on Mt. Bethel Road, Warren. Steven lives with his parents in Scotch Plains. The trip is 9 miles one way. The pick up time would be around 9 a.m. in Scotch Plains and then 2:30 in Warren. The program begins in January. The driver would be paid through a budget that Steven has through the NJ Division of Developmental Disability. This amount can be negotiated. The family is flexible and would accept one driver for one day and another for the other if that works best.

Asperger's Syndrome is a neurobiological disorder on the higher-functioning end of the autism spectrum. The program offers social and vocational skills training, as well as provide support and help build confidence and self-awareness. You can email **Maryellen Douches** at med8927@gmail.com or call at 908-310-0460 if you would be interested to discuss this further.

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: January 18, 25

Sanctuary Lamp: January 11, 18, 25

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, fruit bars, crackers, etc.)

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

March – Flashlights and 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

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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