



For All the Saints

June 2014

Dear Friends,

Among life's milestones are graduation and confirmation, June being the month for both.

All month long, graduations dot the calendar, and in the summer newsletter, we will list the parishioners we know about who are graduating from somewhere. We are about to honor our three high-school graduates: Jonathon Dawson, Melissa Harris and Charlotte Peach. They will share the pulpit on June 1 in our first ever Preach-a-thon. Then on June 8, each of them will receive a Curtis M. Jackson Memorial Scholarship of \$500 to help with college expenses. All three have grown up in this parish and it is a privilege to celebrate this moment in their lives.

On June 21, we will take part in the Watchung Convocation's Confirmation Service – which we have been doing for the last several years. While it is lovely to have Confirmation in one's home parish, taking part in a larger service with other parishes is fulfilling in a different way. It is an opportunity to experience the larger church, and that is usually quite exciting. This time, two teenagers – William Robertson and Jovi Williams – will be Confirmed, and an adult, Stuart Solsky, will make Reaffirmation of Faith. Bishop Chip Stokes will preside at St. Mark's Church in Basking Ridge. (We will celebrate at Coffee Hour the next day.)

Somehow, experiences of sadness and loss seem to etch themselves more deeply in our souls than times of joy. And yet, our faith is framed in joy. When Jesus is born, a multitude of angels praise God and proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest." All through the Easter Season, we say and sing "Alleluia" many times during our worship. And in the *Prayer Book*, in the Burial Service, at the point where we commend the person who has died to God's eternal care, we say, "Even at the grave we make our song, 'Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.'" Joy is not frivolous.

I share with you a joyous verse from Paul's "Letter to the Romans" that I've carried around with me for years. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." (Romans 15:13)

Jane+

– All Saints' News –

PREACH-A-THON, JUNE 1

At the 10 o'clock Service, our three soon-to-be high school graduates will share the pulpit. Come and listen to the thoughts of Jonathon Dawson, Melissa Harris and Charlotte Peach.

ADULT EDUCATION IN JUNE

Sunday Morning Faith Study will continue each week through June. Paul's Letter to the Romans is the topic for discussion, and it will be finished this month.

What Does the Gospel Mean to You? This monthly program will have its final meeting on Thursday, June 5 at the home of its convener, Anne Goetz (call her at 908-889-7592 for details.) Discussion will focus on the readings for the following Sunday, June 8, which happens to be the Day of Pentecost. Readings are Acts 2:1-21; First Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39.

PENTECOST IS JUNE 8

It's a great old tradition that has somehow been forgotten – so let's revive it. Wear something red on Pentecost. That is the liturgical color of the day – hangings and vestments will be red -- to signify the coming of the Holy Spirit with rushing winds and tongues of fire.

CONFIRMATION IS SATURDAY JUNE 21

We will take part in this special service for as many parishes in the Watchung Convocation as wish to participate. The service is at St. Mark's in Basking Ridge at 3 pm, Bishop Chip preaching and celebrating. Jovi Williams and William Robertson will be Confirmed; Stuart Solsky will make Reaffirmation of Faith. We'll celebrate on home ground the next day.

SUMMER ACTIVITY ROOM FOR KIDS

Without Sunday School, we still have a place for youngsters to spend time during the Service. Arts & Crafts, Videos and Games – some of the offerings in the room that is the Nursery. **Mary O'Connor** is coordinating volunteers, so please speak with her about signing up for one or more Sundays. The Activity Room begins Sunday July 6, along with the 9 o'clock Service.

PARISH PICNIC, JUNE 8

Rain or shine it will be fun! **Kevin Walsh and Mark Douches** are organizing this kick-off to summer. As always, we supply hamburgers, hot dogs and rolls, and we hope you will bring side dishes and desserts. The Picnic will follow the 10 o'clock Service, outside under the trees if the weather permits, otherwise in Lea Hall. Time for adults to catch up and for kids to play. If you can bring something, please sign up. But in any case, come!

FATHER'S DAY – JUNE 15 -- IS PIE SUNDAY

We learned a while back that apparently, pie is the food men really want at 11 o'clock on a Sunday morning, so we supply it on Father's Day. There will be prayers during the Service and the special Coffee Hour. If you can bring a pie, please sign up.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS JULY 6

For the summer months, we combine the two Sunday worship services into one, so instead of worship at 8 am and 10 am, there will be one Service at 9 am. We will still have Lay Readers, Acolytes, Oblation Bearers, Greeters and Ushers, and the Altar Guild will be busy. We hope the early service will allow people to come and worship – and then go on to enjoy summer activities. **One worship service at 9 am from July 6 through August 31, Labor Day weekend.**

OUTREACH REPORT

Grace's Kitchen celebrated its 20th anniversary of service to the Greater Plainfield community, with a luncheon to honor volunteers. **Janet Gardner** attended, and brought back a wall plaque honoring our parish, "In recognition of Outstanding and Invaluable Service to the Local and Surrounding Communities." Grace's Kitchen is open the last five days of the month and All Saints' serves on Thursdays. If you would like to volunteer, speak to **Charlie Beakes**.

The African Crafts Sale, which took place in Lea Hall on two Sundays in May, brought in \$1,404. This will go to Africa Team Ministries, whose projects include orphanages, educations and feeding programs in Kenya and Uganda.

Mark your calendar: Restaurant Adventure, Sunday, July 13***

--YOUTH NEWS--

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS ENDED FOR THE YEAR

All Saints' owes a debt of gratitude to **Kelly and Glen Robertson** for coordinating the Sunday School this year under less than ideal conditions. The renovated classrooms did not get finished so classes were in Lea Hall – which, fortunately, is large enough to accommodate everyone

Thanks to our teachers: **Carol Albert, Grace Butler, Lauren DiSarno, Joy Ogunyemi, Carol Rahner, Beth Wojcio -- along with Kelly and Glen.**

We are so grateful to **Liz Trimpin** for coming up with a host of interesting and educational programs for the First Sundays. The most recent activity in May beautified **Claire's Garden** with flowering plants, and also the area around the dogwood tree that memorializes **Kristi Burk.**

FIRST SUNDAY IN JUNE (JUNE 1) -- THE PREACH-A-THON

Sunday School students will want to hear our three high-school seniors: **Jonathon Dawson, Melissa Harris and Charlotte Peach.** Jonathon will also sing later in the Service.

CELEBRATING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL – JUNE 8

Glen Robertson will preach, and we will pay tribute to our teachers.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE DOWNSTAIRS

Tables and chairs have arrived and **Sherry Woodruff's** beautiful new curtains are on the windows. The classrooms still need to be organized and supplied, which will happen soon. **Then we will hope that everything is well cared for as it all starts being used once again.**

SAM LOOP IN THE NURSERY

She is a popular presence in the Nursery and we are very grateful that she is continuing there. (Thanks also to **Aubrey Johnson, Melissa Harris and Jovi Williams** who have substituted.)

YOUTH GROUP

The focus now is planning for a “Stop Hunger” event that will be part of a Lock-In for parishes in the Watchung Convocation, set to take place here in September. Youth Groups will spend Friday night, September 19, in Lea Hall doing a variety of activities including the hunger project. **Chris Harris is our terrific coordinator.**

NATHANIEL HARRIS IS MOWING THE LAWNS

He has taken on this responsibility – mowing the lawns himself or finding substitutes when he is unavailable. If anyone would like to be on his “call” list, let him know. We \$30 each time.

-- Parishioner Profile --

COMING HOME

By Stuart Solsky

On June 21, I will participate in a Reaffirmation of Faith alongside our Confirmation class at St. Mark's Church in Basking Ridge. At the ceremony, I will reaffirm my faith in Jesus Christ and in the Episcopal Church's way of being Christian.

My mother was an Episcopalian and my father was a Roman Catholic. I was Baptized and Confirmed as an Episcopalian and attended Trinity Episcopal Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey. I attended services there regularly until I went to college, even after my family moved to Rahway when I was four years old.

I was always comfortable at Trinity Church, and have many fond memories of it. Sunday School was fun, and my brother and I enjoyed Coffee Hour. On the way home, my family would stop at a bakery and deli and buy rolls and lunch meat for lunch; it was our ritual. We had an annual picnic at the church and I remember the fathers playing softball with the kids. When I became a teenager, I became an Acolyte and enjoyed the duty, even though I often had to take a train or bus from Rahway.

Nevertheless, I thought something was missing. Almost all of my friends and cousins were Roman Catholic. They had more ceremonies (First Communion and Confession), the Pope and, most importantly, a basketball league! I wondered what it would be like to be a Roman Catholic.

When I was 13, my parents sent me to a Catholic camp at a monastery in Matawan. This was pure coincidence; they did it because my cousins had attended the year before. It was a great experience. We attended services three times a day with the monks, who sang chants while burning incense, which I thought was beautiful. Being a monastery, it was a pretty Spartan place without a lot of amenities, but there were a lot of boys there and we were able to play basketball and other sports all day.

My best friend was Jack, who was from Keansburg. In those days, Keansburg had a reputation as being "a tough town," and Jack basked in that reputation. He did not enjoy the camp very much and got both of us in trouble on a few occasions. After one KP (kitchen patrol) too many, he decided he wanted to lock the baker in the kitchen, but he couldn't find a lock. Before I could stop myself, I said, "You don't need a lock, just put a stick in the latch." Despite my protests, Jack did it, and we ended up almost getting kicked out of the camp. Instead, we were sent to bed without dinner. But Brother Marcel felt sorry for us and took us to Burger King. Being forgiven and hanging out with a priest at a fast-food restaurant was so cool.

In college, I started to attend a Roman Catholic church to see what it was like. It reminded me of the services at camp. Then John Paul II, who like me was Polish, became Pope, and was treated like a rock star by the media. Soon, I decided to make it official, and converted to Roman Catholicism. My wife and I were married in a Catholic Church and our children were Baptized as Catholics.

But after a number of years, my wife (who grew up Catholic) and I started to question whether the Roman Catholic church was right for our family. The main reason was that we never felt at home at any Catholic church we attended. The priests did not know us, even though they baptized our children and we attended Mass regularly. Then my son, who has a beautiful singing voice but special needs, was asked to leave the children's choir. We couldn't believe it! That was the last straw.

In discussing various religions, I told my wife that I had always been happy at church as a kid, and suggested trying All Saints'. From the time we stepped inside the door, we felt welcome, and I knew it was the right choice. As I approach my Reaffirmation of Faith, I would like to thank Rev. Jane and everyone else at All Saints' for making my entire family feel at home and part of a very special community.

By Stuart Solsky

NO RAIN ON THIS PARADE!

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade went off beautifully. Our own **John Tucker**, who served in Korea, rode in one of the cars for honorees. **Marie Leppert** walked (in period dress) with the Historical Society. **Scott Smith** and his son **Will** were with baseball teams. We gave out a lot of lemonade! Thanks to **Joe Urbancik** for donating it, and to **Wesley Jenkins** for getting everything set out. Thanks to **Kevin Walsh** for coordinating (and pouring), and to **Brenda Jackson** and **Joan Mott** for keeping the liquid flowing. And of course, thanks to our young parishioners who served the paraders: **Alexa and Danielle Chuy, Isabella and Arianna Blake, Yasmine Jenkins, Victor Johnson, Miranda Walsh.** (There were others not from the parish, and we thank them too!)

THE MYSTERY OF THE FOLDING CHAIRS

Maybe not a Stephen King novel, but the folding chairs in Lea Hall keep disappearing. Occasionally, parishioners ask to borrow some, and we hope that once borrowed, they get returned. Otherwise, they should not leave the building. Boy Scout Troop 104, which needs a lot of chairs for courts of honor, has come up short several times and has donated generously so we can buy at least 30 new chairs, which we are about to do. So, please don't take chairs away, and if you have any church chairs at home, please bring them back. **MANY THANKS!**

--The All Saints' Family --

Ed Hollien, an active and beloved member of this parish, passed away on May 18, one month short of his 89th birthday. We celebrated his Requiem Eucharist on May 22. Ed came faithfully on Thursdays for years to fold the Sunday bulletin, and he handed out those bulletins each week until the ushers arrived. He served on Vestry and on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, was part of the Men's Luncheon Group, played Santa Claus, baked for our pot-lucks, and always had stories to tell. Our thoughts go out to his family.

The Altar Guild is grateful to **Carol Schirm** who gave a lovely altar linen, embroidered with crosses, in memory of her mother, **Elsie La Bate**. The linen was dedicated on May 18.

FROM OUR TWO YOUTH BEING CONFIRMED JUNE 21

William Robertson: On the first day of Confirmation Class, our teachers told us that at the end of classes, I would be getting "confirmed." Confirmation is the first choice that I get to make for myself as an adult. Near the end of our classes, we talked about how Confirmation was going to change my relationship with the whole parish. I am really looking forward to Confirmation because I now know that All Saints' is like my soccer team. Just like a team, everyone at All Saints' works together and makes their own goals and contributions to the church. Being confirmed means that I get to decide what my job on the team is. When the Bishop confirms me and ushers me into the Episcopal Church, I am praying that I know what my role will be.

Jovi Williams: I want to be confirmed because I feel like I will have a stronger understanding of my beliefs. Throughout my years attending church, I have learned a lot from Sunday School teachers and also from our rector. I had accumulated many questions in Sunday School that weren't always answered to the extent where I could completely understand it. I feel that during the confirmation process and when I am confirmed and can stay in the church for the entire service, I will have a better understanding of what it means to be a Christian and it will answer my questions specifically towards stories in the Bible. Not only that, but I can appreciate God and Jesus more because I will know more about what they have done and what they will continue to do for me throughout my entire life.

MAY WE INCLUDE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Some time back, we asked permission to include email addresses in a new parish directory. After some delay, we are about to put it together, so again the question: May we include your email address? If not, please let us know.

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: June 1, 6, 22, 29

Sanctuary Lamp: June 1, 8, 15, 29

MISSIONARY OUTREACH

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

June – Health & Beauty supplies; deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothpaste & brushes (children & adults), floss, mouthwash, cotton swabs, cotton balls

July – Non-perishable snacks: juice boxes, raisins, granola bars, crackers, fruit snacks, etc.

August – School Supplies

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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