



For All the Saints

March 2014

Dear Friends,

What a winter! With myriad snowstorms inhibiting travel and forcing untold cancellations, weather has been the dominant force in our lives for a number of weeks.

When I rode the Raritan train on a recent Friday afternoon, it suddenly stopped and sat motionless in the middle of nowhere for the better part of an hour. That left a lot of time to contemplate the scenery, which was especially dismal. It was foggy and dark with a light drizzle, and messy piles of snow were still everywhere. I kept thinking of “In the Bleak Mid-winter,” which I admit is unfair to a beautiful Christmas hymn. But our world was buried in the bleakness of winter.

Then, the very next day, a complete turnaround. There was meteorological resurrection, with warmth and sunshine, blue skies, melting snow and singing birds. Even though more wintry weather was in the forecast, that beautiful day (and the next day as well) were signs of hope. Not only were those days to be enjoyed in and of themselves, they also provided encouragement for when the gloom returned. If there could be a sudden infusion of glorious sunshine – and a promise of spring -- at the end of one week, it could happen again. Good things – whatever they may be -- are to be enjoyed in real time, of course, but they also serve as reminders not to lose hope when challenges return.

That familiar phrase, “Hope springs eternal,” is not from the Bible. It is the creation of Alexander Pope, the 18th century English poet. But hope is a very biblical concept, and central to our faith. For Christians, there is always hope. Lent and Holy Week always lead to Easter. The death of Good Friday always becomes the miracle of resurrected life on Easter.

One of my favorite Bible verses is from Paul’s Letter to the Romans. I carry it on a slip of paper in my wallet, and as we enter the somber season of Lent, I share it. “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 –

WHAT HAPPENED AT CONVENTION?

Your delegates want to tell you, so come to Coffee Hour Sunday, March 2nd. Grab a beverage, a Lenten pretzel, and a chair. This 230th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey is the first to be chaired by Bishop Chip Stokes. It features Dwight Zscheile (whose book we read last Lent) as Keynote Speaker, and Barbara Crafton (who came here last Lent), speaking Saturday morning.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEN'S DINNER, MARCH 16

Men of All Saints' – you are invited to this annual event to enjoy good food and libations. Festivities start at 6 pm. Dinner will be served at 7:15. The cost is \$25 per person. For information, speak to **Jack Koch** or **Kevin Walsh**. Sign up in Lea Hall.

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 March 6th discussion will be on the lessons for Sunday, March 9 – Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11. **Anne Goetz** leads this program.

FAMILY SUPPER, MARCH 23 – 4 PM

This will be the fourth, and they have been wonderful. So mark your calendars and come! **Jenine Williams, Lauren DiSarno, Michelle Smith-Crona** and **Liz Trimpin** have been the masterminds – now with a growing number of welcome assistants. And rumor has it that the men of the parish are hosting the March supper. No need to sign up in advance or bring anything – except a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH STUDY

Every Sunday morning but the first one, in the Guild Room from 8:45-9:30 am. Current study is of the Book of Romans. Bring your Bible.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER, MARCH 4

Enjoy our traditional Pancake Supper on the eve of Lent. It is purposely rich and gooey to use up the kinds of foods that one might choose not to eat during the penitential season when such things are often “given up.” Come and share pancakes and sausage with butter, syrup and applesauce – with coffee, tea and soft drinks.

The cost is \$5 for an adult and \$2 for a child age 10 and under, with a \$15 maximum for a family. We invite you to come any time between 6:30 and 8:00 pm. Please call the church to reserve a place or sign up in Lea Hall. To help with the pancakes, speak to Kevin Walsh.

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. In between is the most penitential season of the year, consisting of forty days, not counting Sundays, but including Holy Week. Lent is the time to prepare spiritually for Easter in order to more fully embrace and appreciate the gift of grace that God gives us through Jesus’ resurrection. The point of giving up something one enjoys, or taking on a useful activity is to make the season more meaningful by having it feel different. Church looks different, with purple hangings, greens on the altar, and no “alleluias.”

Begin Lent by worshiping on Ash Wednesday. We have two services – 9:00 am and 8:00 pm – with ashes imposed at both. The All Saints’ Choir will sing at the evening service.

LENTEN SOUP & STUDY

This year, we are reading *Christianity after Religion – The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*, by Diana Butler Bass, a respected author and lecturer. It is a provocative book that should lead to lively discussion. We have already done our group book purchase, but you should be able to purchase a copy through Amazon (and for a Kindle). Please sign up if you are planning to join us – **Tuesdays at 7pm in the Guild Room: March 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8. As in the past we will ask one person (or more) to bring soup each week and another to bring bread.)**

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 9

There are excellent “annual” outreach programs including the Christmas Shoeboxes, African Crafts, and Heifer, and there are volunteers going to Grace’s Kitchen each month. This parish also responds generously to emergencies, which have come up all too often in the past year. Come and help focus this important parish ministry, possibly in some new areas. Toki Dada is Chair; Susan Winkler is Vestry liaison. We will meet in the Guild Room.

--YOUTH NEWS--

Sunday School Classes -- **Kelly and Glen Robertson** have been creative in organizing the classes in Lea Hall while the downstairs rooms are still not ready for use – completion now hampered by snow! Please come to Sunday School, 10 am.

Heifer--The Sunday School continues to raise money, hoping to send an actual heifer (\$500) and possibly a pig or two (\$120 each). These animals are given to families so they can raise them as a way to provide income. The thermometer on the board shows our progress – which is great! To contribute, make checks payable to All Saints’ and write “Heifer” on the memo line.

Pretzels for Lent – One of the most popular First-Sunday Programs each year is baking pretzels for Lent. As Glen Robertson has said, the kids enjoy making them, they smell wonderful (bread baking), and they taste terrific. It’s this Sunday, March 2nd .

The Youth Choir – They rehearse each Sunday after the 10 o’clock Service with **MaryRose Clark**, our Organist and Choir Director. Please encourage the kids to come. Newcomers are always welcome It’s fun – and they will sing again soon.

Youth Group Is Going Strong – After a recent “reboot,” the Youth Group had its second meeting on Sunday, February 23 (they went bowling February 9), both during and after the Parish Family Supper. The meeting was engaging and well-attended, with the group watching and then discussing a tough and moving scene from, “The Boy with the Striped Pajamas.” We also had a couple of ice-breakers and teed up our discussions for next time with a “clothesline survey” and a reading of the Parable of the Good Samaritan that we will try to modernize. A number of potential future activities were discussed, including a Lock-in at either our Cathedral in Trenton, or The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, a trip into NYC for something else, participation in a convocation-wide anti-hunger event, and/or a work project around the parish (possibly beautifying the parking lot landscaping). From **Aubrey, Jovi, Scott, Nathaniel, Melissa, William and Anthony** who have participated so far – please join in! For everyone else, please stay tuned.

-Chris Harris

Don’t forget Jon Dawson in “How to Succeed....” At Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in March

-- Parishioner Profile --

AN ADVENTURE TO ISRAEL

By Claudine M. Doyle

Brian and I love to travel; we love adventure and had the incredible opportunity to travel to Israel for a wedding at the beginning of 2014. The wedding we attended was a Jewish wedding in Tel-Aviv, but the bride and groom arranged for a few day trips, including Masada and the Dead Sea. The first day trip, however, took us to Jerusalem.

I was raised in a religious family. There was never a shortage of discussion about God and Jesus Christ. My Mom and Dad both embodied Jesus' teachings in their kindness for others, care for the less fortunate and goodness – they truly lived what they preached and still do to this day. Our home was full of love for God and all his goodness and blessings; we prayed together often focusing on all the ways God blessed our lives and family.

When Brian and I told my parents about our impending travel to Israel, I expected a bit of pushback, given the contentious area we were about to visit, but instead, my Dad looked at us and said, "That will be incredible – to travel to the area that is the basis of our beliefs, to walk in the footsteps of Jesus." In the moment, I thought I truly understood what he was saying and completely agreed. I, too, couldn't believe that Brian and I were buying tickets to travel to Israel.

We arrived in Tel-Aviv and were simply amazed at the contrast of this thriving city that was full of artwork and ornate buildings right next to buildings completely under construction, actually looking gutted and in need of serious repair. The city also sits on the Mediterranean Sea and offers a beautiful beach.

Our second day in Israel, we hopped on a bus and traveled about an hour to Jerusalem. Our first stop was the Mount of Olives. We were able to stand on this majestic location and look at the Old City in Jerusalem, which is .35 square miles. Within the walls of the Old City were three of the most religious sites for the Jewish people, the Muslims and the Christians. Brian and I looked at each other – no wonder why there was so much tension. You can read about it and see it on the news, but to be there and see how close everything is adds a whole new perspective on the situation.

While looking at the Old City, our tour guide pointed out a variety of places, including the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested after being betrayed. He also pointed out The Western Wall (also known as the Wailing Wall) – one of the most sacred locations in the Jewish

faith, Temple Mount – considered to be the third holiest place in Islam, and the location of Jesus' crucifixion and ascension. We were able to take a bird's eye view of the location where we would do further exploring.

When we entered Old City Jerusalem, I was overcome by history and blown away that I was walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. What I didn't expect was to walk into a room being told that THIS is where Jesus had his last supper. Stepping into that room, I felt tears well up in my eyes; it was at that moment that the impact of my father's words came over me. So much of who I am began right there, the basis of my beliefs, the values that I try to instill in our children – I just couldn't believe that I was standing there (and the room was much smaller than what I was expecting it to be!).

We then walked to the Wailing Wall and through the Jewish, Christian and Muslim quarters of the Old City, navigating our way through religious symbols which changed from one step to the next. When we arrived at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, I couldn't believe that we were looking at the place where Jesus was crucified and buried. I was simply amazed and in awe of what I was able to see.

I love knowing that we “walked in the footsteps of Jesus Christ” and I will be forever impacted by our travels, not only because of our faith, but also because of what life in Jerusalem looked like – Palestinians having to walk home through a checkpoint and fence, because they are not allowed legally to sleep in Jerusalem; walls and fences separating designated travel areas so that people driving to Rachel's Tomb or driving through the West Bank have less chance of being attacked by rocks or worse; water tanks on the tops of homes so that they have a water supply and signs on roads separated by 6 feet of dirt stating fatal harm if you are caught being on the wrong road without the proper country's card.

When our travels brought us home, I was so thankful to be back in the United States and yearning to read and learn more about the history of Israel. We are so thankful for the experiences we shared and will always remember being in the holiest of locations of our faith.

By Claudine M. Doyle

TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD!

It really is *that* time. So Saturday night, March 8, turn clocks ahead one hour. That way, you will be on time for church Sunday morning!

--The All Saints' Family --

Ivy Reznak, a delightful English lady and former parishioner, passed away on January 30 in North Carolina, where she had been living with family members. We had her Funeral Service at McCracken Funeral Home in Union on February 6, with family members present.

Several parishioners have recently lost close family members, and we have had prayers for them and their loved ones. We have prayed for **Sally Pettit**, on the passing of her mother, Sally Johns Pettit. We have prayed for **Sally Robinson**, on the passing of her father, Robert Griffiths. We have prayed for **John Tucker**, on the passing of his sister, Marie Walker. May God's grace be with them all.

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 their production of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." Tickets are available at <http://spfhsreptix.broenpapertickets.com> Onsite ordering is March 3 from 7-8 pm in the High School lobby. Performances: Fri., Mar. 14 - 8 pm; Sat., Mar. 15 - 8 pm; Sun., Mar. 16 - 2pm; Thurs., Mar 20 - 7 pm; Fri., Mar. 21 - 8 pm; Sat., Mar. 22 - 8 pm.

THE CALENDAR FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday – April 13

Maundy Thursday – April 17

Good Friday – April 18

Easter Sunday – April 20

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVINGS

It is not too early to think about memorializing loved ones and/or offering thanks through the Easter flowers and plants that will grace our church. You may email names to us, or use the Flower Envelopes that will be here in the narthex (and please print the names legibly so they can be reprinted in the Easter bulletin. Your monetary donation will help defray costs. Please get material to us by Thursday, April 10.

EPISCOPAL BASICS – MARCH 23

The next topic will be the Sacraments – after church on the 23rd.

Altar Greens and Sanctuary Lamp

We invite you to keep Greens on the altar during Lent, 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 greens or the lamp. Sign up in the narthex, or call the office.

Available Dates

Altar Greens: March 23, 30

Sanctuary Lamp: February 2, 30

Missionary Outreach

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

March – Flashlights & Batteries

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

May – Laundry supplies: small boxes of detergent, bleach, stain remover

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

Phone: 908-322-8047 ♦ **Fax:** 908-322-8006

e-mail: church@allsaints-spnj.org ♦

facebook.com/allsaintsspnj

All Saints' Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ, 07076 ♦ www.allsaints-spnj.org