



For All the Saints

May 2014

Dear Friends,

We had a beautiful Holy Week and Easter. The liturgies – the services – were Spirit-filled, each with profound meaning unique to the day. In addition, it was (as always) inspiring to watch parishioners come to the various services to sing, read, usher, set the altar, and arrange flowers.

Seeing so many with incredibly busy schedules make a point of getting to church was welcome reassurance that the current reports about churches (church in general) fading away and becoming obsolete are exaggerated. There is no more convincing evidence of the church's well-being than the men, women and children who put aside other activities to be here. A special word: I said on Easter Sunday that no one has to tell me who works hardest during Holy Week and Easter. It is the musicians. So special thanks to MaryRose Clark and the All Saints' Choir.

The Easter Season is relatively short, only fifty days. For the disciples and others who followed Jesus during his earthly ministry of approximately three years, this was a period to get accustomed to the new reality brought about by the Easter miracle. They had seen him die on a cross and now he was back with them in a different way. All that he had said before, and all his hope-filled promises now took on new meaning which they would have to work to understand.

For us as well, who have seen and celebrated the events in Jesus life, beginning with his birth in Bethlehem, Easter brings a different reality. In celebrating his resurrected life, we too receive him in a new way, unhindered by time and space, and like the disciples and others, we have to work to let our lives be shaped by this new reality. Before this month ends, on May 29, the fortieth day after Easter, Jesus will ascend into the heavens, returning to God, from whence he came (Acts 1:9). Thanks to the miracle of Easter, when he ascends beyond our physical sight, the truth of his words, spoken at the end of Matthew's Gospel, will stay with us: "I am with you always."

Happy Easter!

Jane+

– *All Saints' News* –

AFRICAN CRAFTS SHOW & SALE, MAY 4 & 11

This annual program is a popular part of our Outreach ministry. Craft items include carved wooden animals, beautiful jewelry with unique stones, colorful fabric items and more. There are sometimes toys and carved musical instruments. We never know what treasures will be included in the box sent to us. Be assured, this is perfect for Mother's Day shopping!

All proceeds go to East African Team Ministries which funds children's food and education programs in Kenya and Uganda. The sale will be in Lea Hall from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm both Sundays. Please speak with Beth Wojcio if you would like to help.

MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 11

The Youth Group is doing Coffee Hour for Mother's Day, so we can expect refreshments and other surprises. There will be prayers in church and a party after. Whatever else you may be doing to celebrate, please join us.

FAMILY SUPPER, SUNDAY, MAY 18

One of the most popular programs in recent years, the Family Suppers begins at 5 pm, and as you know, there's nothing to bring for the supper and no place to sign up. Just come to enjoy and please bring a can of food for the Food Pantry. (The Family Supper in April was our Easter Brunch, a delightful family meal, accompanied by the Easter Egg Hunt.) Any questions – please speak with Jenine Williams, Michelle Smith-Crona, or Lauren DiSarno.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, ONGOING

Faith Study, Sunday mornings, 8:45-9:30 am (currently reading *Romans*)

What Does the Gospel Say to You?

(Meets the first Thursday of the month – May 1st -- to discuss readings for the next Sunday.)
(Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35)

Confirmation Class/Episcopal Basics

(Special meeting Tuesday, May 6 at 6:30)

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH WOMEN

CAROL RAHNER'S ANNUAL LADIES' NIGHT OUT

WILL BE FRIDAY, MAY 9

7:00 PM

35 Emerson Lane, Berkeley Heights

Please Bring Your Favorite Appetizer

Sign Up in Lea Hall

THE PIZZA BOWL IS MAY 25TH

Thanks to John Tucker, this has become a fun way to raise money each year for the Curtis Jackson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Curtis Jackson was a lifelong educator and a long-time active member of All Saints'. The Fund bearing his name allows the parish to award scholarships to our graduating high school seniors who are going on to higher education.

Join with members of the parish family at Strike & Spare on Route 22 West, in Greenbrook. Bowling is from 2-4 pm. The cost is \$20, which includes the two hours of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and soda. Please sign up in Lea Hall.

MAY MEANS LEMONADE!

Scotch Plains and Fanwood put on a terrific Memorial Day Parade – this year on Monday, May 26. The Parade goes down Park Avenue, so we're set up in front of the church dispensing cups of lemonade to participants. It's fun for all, especially the kids. The Parade usually gets going around 11 am, but we need to claim space earlier, setting up a table or two and some chairs before 10. Please come, take part, and enjoy! (All Saints' is usually well-represented in the Parade itself, with dancers, musicians, scouts and athletes.)

SPRING CONVOCATION IS SUNDAY, MAY 4

When the Watchung Convocation gathers this spring, All Saints' will be represented by Charlie Beakes, John Burk and the Rector.

--YOUTH NEWS--

FIRST SUNDAY PROGRAM, MAY 4

Weather permitting, **Liz Trimpin** has planting in mind. Some lovely flowering plants from Easter and from last week's concert decorations are just waiting to be planted somewhere on the parish grounds. This is a good activity to go along with the Sunday Gospel which takes place outdoors. (It's about two travelers encountering the Risen Christ as they walk the seven miles from Jerusalem to the town of Emmaus.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL FINISHING OUT THE YEAR

Kelly and Glen Robertson have done a masterful job keeping Sunday School alive and very well despite the usual classrooms not being used. May has a full month of Sunday School, and then the final day and celebration will be June 8th.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE DOWNSTAIRS – IT'S GETTING DONE!

The accordion doors have been installed and furniture has been ordered. A few details to iron out, and the sign which Bishop Chip dedicated back in December will be re-installed naming the Charlotte Baker Sunday School.

YOUTH GROUP MEETING TWICE EACH MONTH

Our newly energized Youth Group usually meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month to discuss Bible stories, life, and programs they might like to do. **Chris Harris** is the mastermind behind all this, with assistance from **Carol Rahner, Stuart Solsky and Kevin Walsh**.

YOUTH CHOIR SANG ON EASTER

A portion of the Youth Choir sang, and they were excellent. Thanks to **MaryRose Clark** for all the rehearsals, and to the singers: **Natalie Green, Miranda Walsh and Jovi Williams**.

NEW ACOLYTES SERVING IN CHURCH

Anthony Dada and **Jovi Williams** have begun serving Sundays at 10 o'clock, assisting some of the veteran acolytes, and **William Robertson** will be scheduled soon. They will "apprentice" several times before serving alone, and the congregation very much enjoys seeing this.

THREE PARISHIONERS GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL

Jonathon Dawson, Melissa Harris and Charlotte Peach will have a whirlwind of activities over the next two months as they prepare to graduate from high school and get ready for college.

-- Parishioner Profile --

MY EXPERIENCE LIVING WITH AN ITALIAN EXCHANGE STUDENT

By Samantha (Sam) Loop

From the beginning of it all, I was kind of an anomaly in the exchange program. The Italian students were coming from the region of Calabria (Southern Italy), seventeen in all – seven guys, ten girls. The Italians were in high demand, and we had an excess supply of Americans willing to host. In the end, I wound up getting an Italian boy since there weren't enough male American hosts and I, living in a predominantly male house, was the next best option. I continuously asked Francesco over Facebook if he was sure he had no problem living with me for the two weeks, and he assured me in broken English that it would be just fine. I was one of two girls to be hosting a male.

Francesco arrived Friday night at 12:30, or Saturday morning at 12:30 if you're picky. Exhaustion coupled with shyness made our first meeting awkward and clumsy, with me rambling in fragmented Italian-English and him nodding politely. That first night, all he said was "hello," "your house is beautiful," and "your Italian is better than my English." (The last one, by the way, I can confirm.)

The 24 hours after we first met were the most uncomfortable of his stay, with me forgetting seemingly all the Italian I learned since 6th grade and him unable to understand pretty much anything. It was a relief to go into New York Saturday, where he could talk with the other Italian guys and I could make conversation with the Italian and American girls. I was dreading an awkward dinner with Francesco, but I lucked out – a friend invited me and a few others over for dinner. Eating in the relaxed environment calmed my nerves, and my Italian came back to me.

There is something enormously satisfying in being able to laugh and joke around with others in two languages, and after that dinner, speaking Italian became easier and easier. While my Italian was undeniably flawed, Francesco was able to understand what I was saying a solid 95% of the time. The same could be said for his English, although I believe he attempted to say maybe two sentences of it while he stayed with us for the two weeks. The language barrier now set aside, we were able to converse freely about many things, mostly learning about the other. He told me how for breakfast, he had only tea. How he rode a motorbike to school. How he was failing math, my favorite subject. He informed me of how bad I was at soccer and ping pong, I told him his English could use some improvement. He winced when my socks didn't match, I incredulously

asked him if he really needed to wear a scarf when it was 60 degrees out. For two weeks, it was like I had another brother in the house – a brother my age who could only understand me when I spoke in Italian or very slow English with hand gestures, but a brother nonetheless.

As the day Francesco and the others would leave drew closer and closer, I started to realize how lonely it would be without him. I got to know a group of Italians better in two weeks than I have people from school in ten years; I forgot what life was like before they came. Soon it was the day they would leave, then a few hours before they'd leave, and then I found myself getting choked up while telling Francesco he'd have to be ready to leave in a few minutes. A few days before, I had taught him "Don't cry" in English, and he repeated it to me admonishingly in the last hour he had in Scotch Plains. I wasn't the only American teary-eyed at their departure (although teary-eyed is an understatement, I was flat out bawling). Not everyone made a connection with their student the way I did, but the general consensus among the Americans was that the Italians would be missed. We hugged one another goodbye again and again: no one wanted to say the final farewell.

In the days that followed their departure, all the American students agreed our days seemed lonely without them. I found myself thinking of how I would translate questions, remarks, stories into Italian – only to turn and remember it was all for naught. I met Domenico, who wore a neck warmer all the time – even while playing soccer. I met Yana, who spoke Ukrainian as well as Italian. I met Valeria, who wanted to improve her English, and Enrico, who spoke less English than Francesco. But it was Gregorio, fluent in both English and Italian and going to attend college in the United States in two years, who summed it up very well at the end: "This isn't goodbye. This is a 'see you later.'" Next year, I will be spending a week in Italy with Francesco's family, and I have already started counting down the days until I'm there.

By Samantha (Sam) Loop

OUTREACH REPORT

Thanks to everyone who contributed to **Grace's Kitchen**. We don't have a total since checks were made out to Plainfield Community Outreach, but it was definitely several hundred dollars. (It is always possible to volunteer at Grace's Kitchen in Plainfield, which serves lunch as a help to area residents during the last week of the month. All Saints' volunteers are there on the Thursday of the week. Speak to Charlie Beakes for information.)

Besides the entertaining program presented by the Oasis Players, a basket-full of food was collected for the **Food Pantry** thanks to their policy of discounting tickets in return for food donations.

--The All Saints' Family --

Gail Flathmann passed away recently. She is the daughter of one of our senior parishioners, **Jack Flathmann**, who has been living in the retirement community of Meadowlakes for the last number of years. Gail grew up in this parish and went on to an exciting career in the Navy and in high-level federal agencies for which she needed top security clearance. Our thoughts and prayers are with her dad.

C-Span broadcast an April 3rd “Janus Forum Debate,” titled, “The NSA and Privacy,” hosted by **Sharon Burk**, and featuring General Michael Hayden, former Director of the CIA and NSA, speaking with Barton Gellman of the *Washington Post*. Next year, Sharon will serve as Chair of The Janus Forum, a program of American University in Washington where she will be a senior.

Marie Leppert was pictured in the *Westfield Leader/Scotch Plains Times*, helping celebrate the 80th anniversary of the College Club of Fanwood and Scotch Plains, which has awarded more than \$600,000 in scholarships to young women from our communities over the years. Marie has served as President several times.

RASCALLY RHYMES BY LEFF LaHUTA

Thanks to **Leff LaHuta** for bringing the parish a copy of his new book, *Rascally Rhymes*, for the Sunday School to enjoy. In his inscription to the All Saints' Church School, he sent the following wish. “Hope your nose will wiggle so your face will giggle.” (Leff and Lorraine often bring their grandchildren – Isabel, Ava and Nicholas.)

DATES TO NOTE IN JUNE

June 7 – Altar Guild Luncheon

June 8 – Sunday School celebration & Parish Picnic

June 15 – Father's Day (Pie Sunday)

June 21 (afternoon) – Confirmation in Basking Ridge with All Saints' participating

June 21 (evening) -- “A Night at the Races”

June 22 – Coffee Hour Party for Confirmands

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: May 18

Sanctuary Lamp: May 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.

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

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.

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