



For All the Saints

May 2013

Dear Friends,

The tragic bombings at the Boston Marathon reminded us once again that we live with dangers unforeseen not so long ago. We face actual events that used to be the stuff of horror movies and science fiction. But there have now been two decades of terrorist activities in this country. The first World Trade Center bombing was twenty years ago, followed in fairly quick succession by Oklahoma City, Columbine, then September 11th and too much since then. As a result, we have had to acknowledge that the world has changed,

After all this, it seems time to restate a basic truth – God does not cause such tragic events to happen. In no way does God ever, for any reason, cause bad things to happen, not to punish, teach, test – not for anything. We do not know why tragedy strikes, and the standard answer we fall back on, free will, is not very satisfying. But there it is. God grants humans free will, so we have the freedom to make choices, and unfortunately, not all choices will be good ones.

On the Sunday after the bombing, I quoted from Harold Kushner's book about the 23rd Psalm (which happened to be the psalm appointed for that day). The book is called, *The Lord is My Shepherd*, and I share a few of his thoughts here because they are so beautifully stated and potentially helpful. "God's role," wrote Kushner, "is not to protect us from pain and loss, but to protect us from letting pain and loss define our lives."

And this..."We will hurt, but we will heal. We will grieve, but we will grow whole again. Even as the flock needs the shepherd because there are wolves in the world, we will find the world a less frightening and more livable place because, 'Thou art with me.'"

May God be with us.

Jane+

— *All Saints' News* —

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH LADIES

Carol Rahner's Annual Ladies' Night Out

Will be Friday, May 10 at 7 pm

35 Emerson Lane, Berkeley Heights

Bring your favorite appetizer

(Please sign up in Lea Hall even if you've spoken with Carol)

ELECTION REPORT, SUNDAY MAY 5

The special Convention to elect the twelfth bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey is Saturday, May 4 at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. Besides the Rector, Lay Delegates Charlie Beakes, John Burk and Mary O'Connor will represent All Saints'. There are nine candidates, and to be elected someone has to win a majority of the votes of both the clergy and the laity, who vote separately. This could happen in just a few ballots, or it may take many. We assume it will all be over some time on Saturday, and we will report on Sunday during Coffee Hour.

MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 12

Celebrate part of Mother's Day here with prayers and a special cake for Coffee Hour. There is always a nice gathering on this day, so come and be part of it.

JUNE DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

June 2 – Confirmation Party

June 9 – Parish Picnic

June 16 – Father's day, Pie Sunday

June 23 – Bowling Party

AFRICAN CRAFTS SHOW & SALE MAY 5 & 12

This annual event features carved wooden animals, beautiful pieces of jewelry with unique stones, colorful fabric items and more. There are always some surprises in the big box of craft items – some years toy musical instruments, hand-bags and more. And of course, the timing is perfect for Mother's Day shopping!

This is a project of our Outreach Committee. All proceeds go to East Africa 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 until 1:00 pm both Sundays. Please speak with **Beth Wojcio** if you would like to help.

LEMONADE FOR MEMORIAL DAY

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood community is planning the annual Memorial Day Parade, and we are planning to serve lemonade to those thirsty marchers, dancers and musicians in the Parade. The lawn and sidewalk outside the church are perfect viewing spots. The Parade starts around 11 am and features floats, music, all kinds of uniformed and costumed marchers, and classic cars. All Saints' is usually well-represented among the marchers, as well as the veterans being honored. Bring your own chairs or use ours/

We try to claim the space no later than 9:30. Kids of all ages love serving cups of lemonade to paraders, so join us **Monday, May 27**. (We thank **Mark Urbancik** for donating the lemonade!)

PLEASE MOW THE LAWNS

This is the time of year when **Chris Harris** puts sign-up sheets in Lea Hall – a welcoming invitation to take turns mowing the church lawns. It's done weekly from now into the fall, and if a lot of volunteers sign up, the work is shared. The mower is in good shape and Chris sees to it that there's gas for it. He mowed everything last weekend, and all through the season he does more than his share. Please help

--YOUTH NEWS--

FIRST SUNDAY IN MAY

On May 5th Rich Johnson, whose Kids' Improv Group meets at All Saints', will work with the Sunday School. Rich and **Liz Trimpin** will help the kids act out the Gospel for the day which is John 5:1-9 -- a wonderful and somewhat unusual healing story.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The five young people are getting ready for Confirmation -- **Anthony Dada, Dan Dawson, Nathaniel Harris, Aubrey Johnson and William Loop.** Please read their essays in the "Parishioner Profile" section of this newsletter. **Jennifer Dawson and Glen Robertson,** have been working with them on the book, *My Faith, My Life*. The rector conducted an Instructed Eucharist in April that included the young people, parents, and the three adults being Received into the Episcopal Church.

There will be one more Rector's class in May (date to be announced). This is to discuss how the church functions in the world, and also to go over the upcoming Service.

Clark Landale is looking for Acolytes.

He will be training interested young people who are in 6th grade or older. If you think you might be interested, please speak to him.

Sunday School classes end for the year on June 2nd

This is the last day for classes.

**Sunday June 9, we celebrate the Sunday School at the 10 o'clock Service
Glen Robertson will preach.**

The Curtis M. Jackson Memorial Scholarship will be presented to Colin Okell.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

-- *Parishioner Profile* --

FROM OUR CONFIRMANDS

This month's newsletter offers brief reflections from the five young parishioners being Confirmed on June 1st. They were asked to write brief essays addressing, **“What Confirmation Means to Me” or “Why I Want to Be Confirmed”**

Anthony Dada

Confirmation helps me grow from being a child into an adult, and it allows me to work with other children my age at church. I was baptized when I was a 1-year-old baby. I do not really remember what happened to me when my mother took me to church to be baptized. This time, at Confirmation, I'm aware more of what being a Christian means. Confirmation will make me closer to God. A few Sundays a month, I attended Confirmation classes where I learned how the church was started and how it works. I was able to visit Grace's Kitchen in Plainfield, NJ and I helped serve meals to people in need. I now understand better the different parts of the church service on Sundays. Finally, I look forward to meeting Bishop Councill.

Daniel Dawson

Back in September I began attending Confirmation classes. We have gone over topics such as: baptism, prayer, the Sacraments, Faith, the Trinity, worshiping God, and other facts about church. Confirmation is growing up in the church. I will be making a commitment to Christ. That means that I will follow through on being a good person, worshiping in church and loving Jesus. I try to be a good person every day. I know that if I mess up, I can ask God for forgiveness. I always try to learn from my mistakes so I can be a better person. Confirmation is me taking on the responsibility to follow the Ten Commandments. I know that it will be a special day for me and my family.

Nathaniel Harris

Confirmation is important to me, because it is a milestone for maturity in one's life. There is the notion of moving ahead in the church community and being looked upon more as an adult, but, more important is what Confirmation means for one's self. As an opportunity for reflection, it helps one realize what he or she has done and how one has matured over the course of one's life. To me, Confirmation readies me to take on more responsibilities. It is a time when you start to take on a bigger role in the church community, interact with that community, and do more in the adult life of the church. In my life it has taken me time to become serious about things, but of the many activities I partake in life, church is an area I now take much more seriously. I have started paying much closer attention to the services that I go to, and I have found that church is more than just a place where you get free food after the service. When I joined the acolyting ministry, I learned that you can benefit from listening because the lessons we learn in church

apply to our lives. I think that being confirmed marks this step in my maturity. It is a milestone that I am prepared for and one that I am ready to build from.

Aubrey Johnson

Thirteen years ago I was baptized, something I had no choice in. Now I am about to be confirmed which, to me, means confirming my beliefs, renewing my faith, and truly becoming Episcopalian. This is a conscious decision, which I feel I am ready to make. I want to be confirmed because I want to know I chose to be an Episcopalian instead of being born into this religion. Also I want to become a part of my church and become closer to God. Other good things will probably come out of being confirmed later on, but for now I think it is a decision I will not regret making.

William Loop

To me, getting confirmed is something that could help me later on. For example, it could be when I miraculously survive in a game even though I should have died, or when I find a mysterious five-dollar bill on the ground and I have someone to thank. Yet there is another reason that stood out the most to me. It's because I know when I walk alone in my own path, someone will be there to guide me. Not only can they be my mentor, but they will be there for the rest of my life. They will tell me what to do by making certain things occur that could mean my actions are correct or wrong. However, some things need to happen. For example, Hurricane Sandy happened in the month of October. I unfortunately, lost power for twelve days and a lot of trees were knocked down like a stack of dominoes. I was like many others who lost power and the less fortunate even lost their homes and prized possessions. It is not our call to say what's right and wrong. It is God's because he knows all. Thank you.

THREE ADULTS ARE BEING RECEIVED

Confirmation is not the only way to become an Episcopalian. Adults who have been confirmed in the Roman Catholic or Orthodox churches are Received into the Episcopal Church. This takes place at the Confirmation Service, but the Bishop says different words. **On June 1st the Bishop will Receive Claudine and Brian Doyle, and Stuart Solsky.** We are pleased to welcome them into the Episcopal Church, and especially as communicants of All Saints'.

COME CELEBRATE ON JUNE 2ND

The Confirmation Service is at Church of the Holy Spirit in Lebanon on Saturday, June 1st. The participants will be from a number of parishes in our Watchung Convocation. **We will have our own special celebration on Sunday, June 2nd at Coffee Hour for the five young people being confirmed and the three adults being received.** Please come and join in the welcome. (And if you would like to bring cookies, etc. for the party, please sign up.)

--The All Saints' Family --

Colin Okell, a long-time member of Boy Scout Troop 104 (and of All Saints'), has completed the requirements and received necessary approvals for becoming an Eagle Scout. Everything has to be done before a scout's 18th birthday, which for Colin came at the end of April. His Eagle Scout project, a shed for garbage and recyclables, which now sits behind Lea Hall, will be very beneficial to the parish. His Eagle Court of Honor will be sometime in the future. Congratulations, Colin!

Jonathon Dawson and Colin Okell are among the singers and instrumentalists from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School performing at Disney World in early May.

Charlie Beakes and Carol Buttke are singing in The Fanwood Choir Festival on Sunday, May 19 at 7:00 pm at Fanwood Presbyterian Church on Martine Avenue. This is a Benefit Concert for the Rescue Squads of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, so a free-will offering will be taken.

Congratulations to **Thurston Hamlette** who graduates from Howard University Law School on Saturday, May 11. What a lovely Mother's Day present for **Shirley**!

MARK DOUCHES IN "THE MUSIC MAN"

This classic Broadway musical by Meredith Willson is being presented at the CDC Theater in Cranford over three weekends in May. **Mark Douches** plays a member of the School Board, which means he is in the Barber Shop Quartet and gets to sing a lot of great music. A group from All Saints' will be going on Friday, May 17, so if you would like to be in this theater party, please call the church or sign up in Lea Hall. Regular tickets are \$25; seniors and students, \$23.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

May 5 – Report on Convention/Electing a Bishop

May 5 – African Crafts Show and Sale

May 10 – Ladies' Night Out

May 12 – Mother's Day

May 12 – African Crafts Show and Sale

May 17 – Theater Party

May 27 – Memorial Day Lemonade

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: May 26

Sanctuary Lamp: May 12, 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.

May – Laundry supplies (small detergent boxes, bottles of bleach and stain removers)

June – Health & Beauty supplies (deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, etc.)

July – Non-perishable snacks (juice boxes, raisins, granola or other bars, crackers, fruit snacks)

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*

Andrew Kilkenny, Organist and Choirmaster

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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