

All Saints' Episcopal Church

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FOR ALL THE SAINTS

WINTER 2017



Welcome to the Family!

We celebrated our first Family Sunday on October 29th! Our church was filled with bright and beautiful kids of all ages for a special sermon, blessing, and Eucharist. We invite families for these special services on the last Sunday of every month — come and join your family with our All Saints' family! And remember that our 5 pm service on Christmas Eve is our family service, complete with our Children's Choir and a kid-friendly sermon. We're excited to have your family grow with ours!

My Beloved Community,

Grace and peace to you! We are walking together into the mystery of the Advent Season—a time in which we acknowledge the deepening darkness with the sure and certain hope of the light's arrival into the world. As the days shorten and the nights grow longer, we know that the cycle will move on, reverse itself; we know that the long darkness has a limited shelf life.

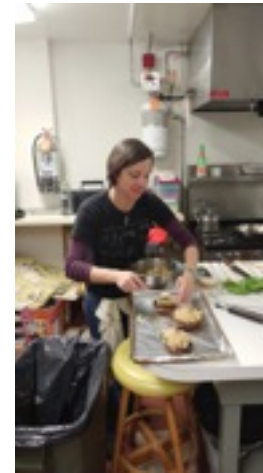
In the meantime, we're learning more and more to let our light shine. We're learning more about our faith, our church, and the God who makes it all possible. And the more we learn, the more we'll be able to share with our communities.

What do you long to know about God? About the Episcopal Church? About your own spiritual autobiography and journey of faith? In the coming year, we'll have the opportunity to ask and answer questions of all kinds about the fundamentals of Christianity, the Church, and ourselves. Beginning on Sunday, January 28th, join us for "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Church (But Were Afraid to Ask)!" This small-group-focused class is relaxed, fun, and deeply meaningful. Whether you're a life-long churchgoer or brand-new to the faith (or even if you're not sure about your faith at all!), you *will* grow in this program! Please come along with us, and bring friends who have questions of their own!

We are being made new! Come and grow with us in the light of God!

In the love of Christ and all the saints,

Susanna+



What's Cooking with Mother Susanna?

Our November cooking class is winding down, but the high energy and great food will continue! We welcomed over a dozen parishioners and friends into the Lea Hall Kitchen for a very fun class followed by a very good dinner! It was such a rousing success that we just have to keep on going. After the holiday season, our next cooking class will resume on Tuesday, February 6th, at 7 pm. Our theme will be "Fine Dining on a Dime."



SERVICE TIMES

Sundays

8:00 am

Rite I Holy Eucharist

10:00 am

Rite II Holy Eucharist
(Family Service on the last Sunday of the month)

Children's Sunday School

11:30 am

Coffee Hour/Christian Education

Youth Group

Children's Choir

Wednesdays

12:15 pm

Rite II Holy Eucharist
(healing service on the last Wednesday of the month)

What's Happening at All Saints'?

December

Friday, 15th-Saturday, 16th: Diocesan Youth Lock-In, Trenton

Saturday, 16th: Greening of the Church, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday, 17th: Christmas Open House, 11:30 am

Sunday, 24th: NO 8:00 AM SERVICE

10:00 am, Advent 4 Eucharist

5:00 pm, Family Christmas Eve service

10:00 pm, Candlelight Christmas Eve service

Monday, 25th: Christmas Day service, 10:00 am

Tuesday, 26th - Friday, 29th: Offices Closed

Sunday, 31st: Epiphany Pageant Rehearsal, 11:30 am

January

Monday, 1st: Offices Closed

Sunday, 7th: Epiphany Pageant, 10:00 am, followed by Epiphany Feast, 11:30 am

Operation Warm Heart, 6 pm - 7 am

Sunday, 21st: Annual Meeting, 11:30 am

Operation Warm Heart, 6 pm - 7 am

Sunday, 28th: "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Church (But Were Afraid to Ask)" Education program begins, 11:30 am

Youth Group News!

After the trip to the Bronx Zoo in late September, the Youth Group remains engaged and active. On Saturday October 28, we joined St. Mark's and Grace in Plainfield, as well as Canon Debi Clarke from the Diocese, on our ongoing service project at Evergreen Cemetery in Plainfield, continuing with our work to maintain the grounds and clear the perimeter. While there, we met a man named Victor Thomas, who has received a grant to fix the headstones that have sadly suffered neglect or been vandalized over the years, and we will meet with him in the coming weeks to discuss how we might help with his project. On Saturday, November 11, we returned to the Fanwood Nature Center with a number of other parishioners enduring the cold, enhancing the paths with chips, and very much impressing our host Phyllis Sandrock with our hard work and sense of civic duty.

With C.S. Lewis' "Mere Christianity," we are now into Book III and find ourselves grappling with the topics of morality and virtues – both cardinal and theological. Next up, forgiveness and humility...



What's on our horizon? No doubt much more, but at least a couple of lock-ins, both involving our staple-program – Stop Hunger Now... The first is the annual Diocesan event at the Cathedral in Trenton overnight from Friday December 15 to Saturday December 16. We know that we count on Debi Clarke to organize an event that includes both top-flight music and an uplifting service. Also, in the coming weeks we will be planning

our fourth Convocation-wide lock-in, which is likely to be in the late March, early April timeframe. Especially if we host the event again, we will be counting on you, as we so often have, for your support.

Why is there evil
and suffering?

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Church

(But Were Afraid to Ask!)

We all have questions about our faith...but maybe we've felt as though we're not allowed to ask. All Saints' Episcopal Church is a church that wants to hear your questions! Beginning on Sunday, January 14th at 11:30 am, we'll be exploring our own faith journey in the light of the Christian story and the history of the Church. We welcome you at any stage of questioning, seeking, and finding! To sign up, please email Mother Susanna at rector@allsaints-spnj.org.

Who is God?
Who is Jesus?

**WHY
SHOULD I
CARE?**



Operation Warm Heart

On Sunday, January 7th, and Sunday, January 21st, All Saints' will host a group of homeless men and women seeking shelter from the winter weather. From 6 pm until 7 am, Lea Hall will serve as a restaurant, movie theater, and hotel! We need adult male sponsors to spend the night with us here, folks to help provide and serve dinner, and kids to help pack up brown-bag lunches for our guests to take with them. Please let Mother Susanna know if you can help!

"Take Away Despair," A Prayer Poem by Peggy Tristram

Disaster strikes! O what a bummer!

Dear God, we call on you

Help us in this pain together

Draw us closer, and in your arms enfold us.

Forgive our sins, as in your love you told us.

Is there reason for this sorrow?

Yes, dear God. We feel despair.

Help us bear the pain and sorrow

Take away disaster everywhere.

