



For All the Saints

April 2013

Dear Friends,

If you are wondering whether there is life after Easter, let me assure you that there is. For one thing, Easter the day, is the beginning of a glorious season of thanksgiving – the Great Fifty Days. The Easter season officially ends on the Day of Pentecost – which falls this year on May 19th. This fiftieth day after Easter is the day to celebrate the dramatic arrival of the Holy Spirit with powerful winds and tongues of fire. But even more important than the calendar is that for us as Christians, Easter is the beginning of new life.

There is nothing more profound than God's gift of the Easter miracle – something way beyond our ability to imagine or explain. Jesus Christ, the charismatic teacher and healer – and a miracle worker himself – whom many people had watched suffer a terrible death on a cross, was seen alive again on the third day after. And at the heart of Christian teaching is that Jesus' triumph over death has opened for us the way to eternal life. (That is why every Sunday is celebrated as a little Easter.) As noted, this is beyond imagining and certainly beyond explaining. It is helpful to have the Bible remind us more than once that with God, all things are possible.

Not only in Easter season, but all through the year, we are continually in planning mode, which our diocese and others encourage, since we are always being asked what we are doing that is new, and how we are moving forward. Fortunately, we do not sit back! A recent Thursday night was a case in point. As the All Saints' Choir rehearsed in the Choir Room, two other meetings were taking place -- gatherings of parishioners planning new programs for the parish. It was exciting and inspiring. Certainly, some favorite events go on each year, but the calendar features much that is new. And here is an interesting statistic, prompted by a recent survey... More than 45% of the parish became part of All Saints' during this millennium – and that includes most of the Vestry.

Welcome to the season for celebrating new life. A blessed Easter to all!

Jane+

— *All Saints' News* —

SOUP & STUDY. APRIL 3

It began as a Lenten program, but there is one more meeting on the schedule, to complete discussion of the book, *People of the Way: Renewing Our Episcopal Identity*, by Dwight Zscheile (SHY-lee). Meetings have been interesting and worthwhile. Looking forward, where do we go from here? Wednesday, April 3 at 7 pm.

INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST, SATURDAY, APRIL 13 at 10 am

This is the April meeting of the Confirmation Class with the Rector, but everyone is invited. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated in the Guild Room with explanations of everything that takes place – a good opportunity to ask questions and see this Sacrament from a new vantage point.

EPISCOPAL BASICS, SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Three adults in our congregation are planning to be Received into the Episcopal Church, and they will attend the Instructed Eucharist. This will be the Episcopal Basics class for April. A class is set for Sunday, May 19 – the third Sunday afternoon meeting in this series – and future dates will be scheduled to talk more about material that has been covered with great speed!

MARK DOUCHES IN “THE MUSIC MAN”

Meredith Willson’s wonderful musical is a perennial favorite, and **Mark Douches** will appear in a production at the CDC Theater in Cranford. Performances are in May, and we’re trying for a theater party for Friday, May 17 at 8 pm. Mark has the role of Olin Britt, one of the School Board members, which puts him into the Barber Shop Quartet. Tickets \$25; for seniors, \$23. If you’d like to join us, please sign up in Lea Hall.

GENESIS – SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9 AM

The Bible Study has reached Chapter 42. It’s a good story, wherever you come in, so join us at 9am in the Guild Room.



present

Come to the Cabaret!

***Favorites from the Great
American Songbook***

April 27, 8 p.m.

All Saints' Episcopal Church

Come support All Saints' while enjoying
the music of Gershwin, Berlin, Sondheim,
Rodgers & Hart, and many more.

\$20 adults; \$18 students/seniors

(\$3 off ticket with a donation for the
food basket)

Refreshments included!

(Mary O'Connor is one of the
Oasis Players!)

--YOUTH NEWS--

FIRST SUNDAYS

First Sunday in April – April 7th -- will be about Easter!

On the First Sunday in May – May 5th – Rich Johnson, whose Kids' Improv Group meets at All Saints', will work with the Sunday School on acting out the Gospel for the day.

And thanks to all who brought toy animals for Epiphany. It was a great Sunday!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The five young people are working through the book, led by Jennifer Dawson and Glen Robertson, are working through the book, *My Faith, My Life*. They are also completing their required essays (100-150 words) on “What Confirmation Means to Me” or “Why I Want to be Confirmed,” or again, they may create a prayer.

All five (and some parents) went to **Grace's Kitchen** on February 23rd to help serve at the soup kitchen – an invaluable outreach experience.

The Rector's class for April will be Saturday, April 13 – an Instructed Eucharist. Class will be in the Guild Room – a relatively small space, making it easy to see the actions of the Eucharist -- and questions will be welcome all during the service. Parents and others who are interested are encouraged to come.

CLARK LANDALE is now directing the Acolytes.

Many thanks to **Scott Smith** for ten years in this ministry. Recruitment efforts will soon come for young people in 6th grade or older (you know who you are!)

MELISSA HARRIS – Relay for Life

Thanks to generous All Saints' parishioners (along with her other efforts), Melissa raised over \$700 for this program to help the American Cancer Society.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

-- Parishioner Profile --

SCRANTON

By Don Kern

I was born in Pennsylvania coal country, Scranton General Hospital to be precise, in the wee hours of February 28, 1933. In case you're wondering, no bright star appeared in the East that night, but my father found the hospital, anyway.

Growing up in Scranton was a terrific experience. Though coal smoke from the stoves and furnaces of homes, factories, and even the earth itself often filled the sky with haze, we took no notice. After all, we were kids, and the streets of Scranton were our playground.

Despite the smog, a virtual sun shone on us coal-country children, mainly because there were a lot of us around for companionship. The residential streets in our section of town were lined with small, sagging, wood-framed, in-need-of-paint houses nestled tightly together with not much more than ten feet of front yard. In these streets you would find a swarm of kids set to play a game of stickball, touch football, war with slingshots and acorns (stones, occasionally), or some other totally made-up frolic; and an absence of adult supervision. There was hardly a boy among us who wasn't adept at street sports and street smarts (defined any way you like) by the time he was eight. The same was true of girls. But the genders didn't mix much, or at all to be truthful until, say, junior high school. So we didn't know what they did other than hop on one or two legs over some chalk lines, skip rope, or sit at curbside for hours on end chatting about God knows what.

Our street games never suffered because of injury; we had an endless supply of bodies. Hardly a house existed that didn't have at least two to five children plus, if you can believe it, two parents. In short, street-sports bodies were expendable because they were plentiful, like an invading army; somewhat less like one in retreat.

The fact that families were large and the houses small led to a constant stream of garden variety bickering that occasionally erupted into real beauts. It passed as a normal, if somewhat intense, variety of family conversation. Those not in the fray willingly substituted at the first sign of one side tiring or needing a bathroom break. It was a mirror image of the way we kids acted outside, except it involved adults.

The shape of the houses in our neighborhood depended on the layout of the property they slumped on. Our property had practically no front yard. A dozen steps and you were standing in traffic. It was long and thin, and of necessity so was the house. It was built like a double-decker New York City railroad apartment with all the same inconveniences and dark, ant-like tunnels. The back yard ended at what amounted to a near-cliff. It dropped about 100 feet to a railroad track. The slope was covered with something that today we might call moon rock. Probably debris from the steam engine smoke stacks and the general environment gave the stuff its grimy

texture. Anyway, it made for a great slide, so long as you timed the descent to miss the passage of freights dragging endless miles of coal cars across your path.

The gas station next door to us was owned by one of my uncles, so I learned a lot about draining oil, changing tires, and over-charging Scranton's ladies for repair work. Not that I had any say in the matter.

The street in front of our house was a main thoroughfare. As it passed us, it sloped downward. At the first bend lay a house with a large yard that contained a miniature Eden—at least fifteen fruit trees, apple, peach, and pear. The fruit was abundant despite the already mentioned air quality. We kids were so in awe of the sight, it seldom occurred to us to steal any of the fruit, unlike that biblical you-know-who in *Genesis*. Of course, two frothy-mouthed Dobermans helped to discourage us. (Think how they might have saved Eve's reputation and, for that matter, us.) We'd gawk, talk in low tones, and ponder how such a horticultural miracle could occur amid our worn neighborhood, and whether those dogs ever slept.

The true miracle, though, lived in the streets and echoed in the shouts of us children at play. It took on a new dimension, when we entered junior high and learned what those curbsitting girls were really talking about.

By Don Kern

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Grace's Kitchen in Plainfield – Join with All Saints' parishioners on the last Thursday of the month to help set and serve food for lunch. Speak with **Charlie Beakes**.

Hurricane Sandy Relief – The 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, volunteers from Fanwood Presbyterian Church go to the shore area, wherever it seems they would be most useful. If you'd like to help, call our church office.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT – COMING MAY 10

Carol Rahner is planning her wonderful get-together, so mark your calendars!

--The All Saints' Family --

Congratulations to **Winnie and Chris Kistler** on the birth – March 9 -- of their daughter, **Clara Li** (7 pounds, 11 ounces and 21 inches). Clara Li's photo is on the board in Lea Hall.

We celebrated **John Tucker's** 80th birthday with a cake and singing at Coffee Hour (planned by **Lisa Tucker**) on March 17. Besides being a long-time parishioner, John has been part of the All Saints' Choir for more than 40 years.

WE'RE ELECTING A BISHOP!

Nine men and women have been duly nominated to become the 12th Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey. Six were nominated by the Episcopal Election Committee (so named because "episcopal" means "bishop,") and three more were nominated via an "independent nomination process" that began January 28 and ran through the month of February. The Election will take place on Saturday, May 4, at our Cathedral in Trenton. All Saints' will be represented by the Rector and Lay Delegates Charlie Beakes, John Burk and Mary O'Connor.

The Election Committee has published a booklet with data about all nine candidates, including their pictures and brief responses to questions. You are welcome to look through the booklet (found in the narthex), but please don't take it away. Information is also available via the link on the Diocese of New Jersey website (newjersey.anglican.org).

Our Bishop, The Right Rev. George Cuncell, will retire at the end of the calendar year. The new bishop will be consecrated on Saturday, November 2, All Saints' weekend.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

April 3 – "Lenten" Soup & Study

April 10 -- Vestry

April 13 – Instructed Eucharist

April 14 – Facebook Demo

April 21 – Scholarship Committee

April 27 – Oasis Players

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: April 14, 21, 28

Sanctuary Lamp: April 7, 14, 21

Missionary Outreach

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

April – Baby/toddler items (disposable diapers, ointments, powder, wipes, thermometers, shampoo, nail clippers)

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

June – Health & Beauty supplies (deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, 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*

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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