# For All the Saints

#### October 2013

#### Dear Friends,

The world continues to be plagued by violence. We have just gone through another wave of horrific events, here and abroad, with many people killed, scores injured, and an abrupt halt to normal life activities, not only where the actual events took place, but everywhere, as security measures became more stringent in response. Sometimes the perpetrators have been individuals working alone; sometimes they have been organized groups. As the list of such tragedies gets longer, and the number of place names that will forever be associated with violence grows, questions arise about how such events affect our perceptions and our reactions.

Are we becoming desensitized to this kind of violence? Are these stories losing their ability to horrify? Does their growing frequency somehow weaken the effect they have on our psyches, on our souls? This was a recent informal discussion at church, and while we have no precise answers -- without knowing the results of studies that may have already been done on this subject -- one can only hope that the answer across the board is "no."

While episodes of violence may be less shocking, hopefully, such occurrences will never get to the point where they seem routine. And while they are extremely sad and disquieting, it is important that distrust and fear do not take over. We have to continue to care, and we must not lose hope. We must not lose the conviction that being optimistic is reasonable, for now and for the future.

The Bible never denies the existence of evil. Its stories are filled with it – most especially Jesus on the cross. When Jesus introduced the Lord's Prayer, he acknowledged this reality, so when we pray, we ask God to, "Deliver us from evil." And while it will likely continue to be all too present in our world, there is this encouragement from St. Paul: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21)

With God's help.

Jane+

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

# - All Saints' News -



Presents

# **Chamber of Horrors**

#### October 25th & 26th at 7:30 PM

#### Adults \$12, Kids age 15 and under \$6 Or Family admission \$30

An evening of performance and horror centered around the works of our greatest author of Mystery, Horror and Imagination: Edgar Allan Poe. Enacted by professional performers in the atmosphere of a haunted house. Be prepared for the unexpected!

"A Cask of Amontillado," "The Tell Tale Heart," "The Black Cat," and of course Poe's best known work, "The Raven" will be performed in different rooms within the Chamber of Horrors...

Activities for kids and adults also include: a fortune teller, ghost stories, pumpkin and face painting, games, and deliciously demented refreshments. Nursery with baby- sitting will be provided for the little ones.

What better setting to experience the thrills of the season, on the cusp of All Hallows Eve, than All Saints' Church?

Presented by Triskelion – Refreshments by All Saints' Proceeds benefit All Saints' Church

This is THE EVENT everyone will be talking about! You don't want to miss it! For details call: 908-256-5704

# LYRA – CONCERT, OCTOBER 19

This exciting vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg, Russia will give a concert in the church – one performance only – on Saturday, October 19 at 8:00 pm. They are professional musicians, conservatory trained, who sing in various churches and theaters in St. Petersburg. This will be their fourth time with us, having shared their musical gifts with us in previous US tours.

The two men and two women – soprano, mezzo, tenor and bass -- will offer a program of sacred music from the Russian Orthodox tradition, Russian folk songs, and romantic pieces. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for concertgoers age 15 and younger and for seniors (65+). Tickets are on sale each Sunday at Coffee Hour. Call the church for more information.

# FAITH STUDY, SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 8:45

A new weekly program this year, replacing the previous Bible Study, is a lively exploration and discussion of diverse writings in the Christian tradition – and sometimes other traditions as well. The book currently under discussion is *What Paul Meant*, by Garry Wills, and author whose work has encouraged lively discussions in the past. Feel free to jump in! Come to the Guild Room at 8:45. The group disperses at 9:30. (Faith Study does not meet on the first Sunday of the month.)

## WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL SAY TO YOU?

This monthly program meets on Thursday evenings – the Thursday that precedes the first Sunday of the month. The first meeting is October  $3^{rd}$  from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the Guild Room. The discussion will focus on the Gospel for the following Sunday. For October  $3^{rd}$ , that assigned Gospel is Luke 17:5-10. The other readings are Lamentations 1:1-6 and 2 Timothy 1:1-14. Come and share your ideas – then come to church Sunday, hear more about those readings, and see how your thoughts compare.

## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, OCTOBER 6**

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, who was supposed to have had a special ability to communicate with the entire animal kingdom, we bless animals on a Sunday near his birthday, which was early in October. Bring your animals on Sunday at noon. We hope to be on the front lawn, but if the weather fails to cooperate, we'll be in Lea Hall.

# --YOUTH NEWS-

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes have begun for the 2013-2014 season. For the first day, September 22, classes met in Lea Hall, which provided a lively and festive atmosphere. There will be another week or so there before we are able to utilize the newly renovated space downstairs.

#### **RENOVATIONS**

The lower level of the Parish House is still a work in progress. Phase One has been finished – spackling and painting of all the walls in classrooms and hall, and renewing the ceiling in classrooms. Phase Two will be flooring – just as soon as possible,

After that, new furnishings will arrive, new closet doors (with locks) will be attached, the area will be thoroughly cleaned, and classes will move downstairs. Additional projects such as window treatments and wall decorations will be a pleasure to see adding to the atmosphere.

A plaque of some kind will be hung, naming the space as "The Charlotte Baker Sunday School." Design and wording details are being worked out.

There will be a dedication party - something to look forward to!

#### **PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN & NURSERY**

The wonderful space they share is not undergoing any renovations, so those programs are going along in their proper rooms. **Carol Albert** welcomed youngsters back to Pre-K/Kindergarten class, and **Sam Loop** is back in the Nursery.

#### FIRST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER

It's October 6, and the Gospel for that day is about the mustard seed. Jesus talks about a grain of mustard seed which is among the smallest of all seeds and yet it grows into a large tree or shrub. He says that if we have even that little bit of faith – the size of a mustard seed – God can help us make it grow.

For the First Sunday Program, **Liz Trimpin** will have some kind of planting with the kids – possibly grass seeds. They will have a good time and get a new picture of the Gospel.

#### **BLESSING ANIMALS**

On October 6, our young people will want to bring their pets at 12 noon for the annual blessing, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

# **HIGH IN THE SKY!**

By Carol Rahner

Restaurant Adventure? How about Parasailing Adventure!?

I was never the type of person who believed in Bucket Lists. That is, until this past August, when I decided to go parasailing off the Jersey Shore.

For the past few years, I'd be on vacation in Spring Lake with my family, and I would see a boat gliding by with "Parasailing" on the side and two tiny dots in the distance, namely two people, sailing high in the sky. They were hooked on to some cables or cords, dangling below this huge parasail, and gliding along over the deep blue sea, with nary a care!

For years I'd say to Scott and Scott Jr. (Scotty for purposes here) how much I wanted to do that, but I never did. So, with my mother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday approaching (my mother is Doris Rabasca), and with us being down the shore the week she actually turned 90, I thought that in honor of her Big Day, I'd try it out.

Belmar Parasailing is located in the Belmar Marina, off Main Street. Scotty and I, along with eight other "sailors," the driver, and the hook-up assistant took off from the marina while Scott watched from the sidelines. (Someone had to watch our stuff in the car!) While Scotty and I sailed off into the big, open ocean, Scott walked down the side streets of Belmar until he reached Ocean Avenue, which runs parallel to the beach.

To say that I screamed while being hoisted out over the Atlantic would be an understatement! I mean I SCREAMED (and laughed) and SCREAMED again, so loud, that I was sure I'd be heard not only on the beach below, but in Atlantic City! Once we were airborne, though, the peace and quiet up there was something only to which another fellow parasailor or bird could relate.

The entire boat ride was 90 minutes, and since there were ten people -- five couples on board -we went out two at a time for about 15 minutes. We sailed through the Avon Inlet and turned left and went up through Asbury Park into Deal, and then back again through Belmar into Spring Lake.

Scott got to the Belmar boardwalk just as we were sailing high above. He thought he recognized us (he probably heard my big mouth screaming), but he wasn't sure. He told some bystanders

that he thought he saw us. It just so happened that Scotty and I *were* actually soaring over the Belmar/Spring Lake border so it *was* us that he saw!

As nervous as I was, not being the 16-year-old girl anymore who'd go on every ride, in any amusement park, whenever she could, I felt that someone, namely God, was assuring us a safe ride and landing!

As much as I am not a fan of gifts left by webbed-footed friends and other winged creatures, I now truly understand what it's like to soar *High in the Sky*!

By Carol Rahner

### **BAGELS AND BISHOPS, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20**

There really will be bagels, and we'll talk about bishops – during Coffee Hour. We are a church of bishops – "Episcopal" means "bishop" – and this fall there are many events tied in with the approaching consecration of Chip Stokes as our new one, as Bishop Councell retires. What does it mean to be a bishop? What is the consecration service like? Does this matter to us at All Saints'? Pick up your bagel and beverage and grab a chair – in Lea Hall.

#### THE CONSECRATION IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

All Saints' weekend is an appropriate time to embark on a new ministry, and The Rev. William Stokes – "Chip, our Bishop-elect" – will be doing exactly that. The service will be at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton at 11 am, conducted by our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Katherine Jefforts-Schori. It will be exciting and colorful, and it would be nice to get a group together to attend. Please sign up – we'll deal with transportation as the day gets closer.

#### WE HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

We've gone to G-mail, but for the last number of weeks, if you emailed us at the old address, your message was forwarded to the new one. But that's going to stop very soon, so please note the new address. church@allsaints-spnj.org

# -- The All Saints' Family --

**Sharon Burk**, now a junior at American University in Washington, has begun an Internship for Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senior Senator from Minnesota. Her work means she gets to spend a lot of time on Capitol Hill.

**Mark Douches** is serving as Stage Manager for the Cranford Dramatic Club production of "Little Shop of Horrors." Performances are October 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26.

Although still spending a lot of time in Boston with her work as a chemical researcher for Novartis, **Rose Cubbon** has helped a lot with our Organist search. She has been the liaison with the American Guild of Organists (AGO), a major source of applicants.

# ALL SAINTS' ON CAMPUS

Guillerme Brewer – The College of New Jersey Sharon Burk – American University Kathleen Leeper – Hampshire College Alexandra (Alex) Loop – Alfred University Thomas Loop, III – Stevens Institute of Technology Erin O'Connor – Rutgers University Colin Okell – Drew University Liz Peach – The College of New Jersey (Graduate School)

## **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES – COMING SOON**

They're due the second week in November, so it's not too early to collect items for inclusion. Each year, we pack and send shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. They ship them to children in war-torn parts of the world, bringing the light of Christ to those who would otherwise have little or no Christmas joy. Choose the age and gender of the child(or children) you wish to help, and fill boxes accordingly. Leaflets with helpful instructions will soon be available.

> SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 GALA HOLIDAY DINNER

#### **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: October 27 Sanctuary Lamp: October 20, 27

#### **Missionary Outreach**

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

October – Laundry supplies (small boxes of detergent, bleach, stain removers) November – Health & beauty supplies (deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes (adults and children), toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, cotton balls) December – Stocking Stuffers

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

Peggy Tristram, Assistant Organist and Choirmaster The Rev. John R. Neilson, *Rector Emeritus* Irene Carlucci, *Secretary* Wesley Jenkins, *Sexton* 

> Wardens Jenine Williams Richard Johnson

#### Vestry

Charlie BeakesTodd BouverotLauren DiSarnoChris HarrisClark LandalePatricia LudewigGlen RobertsonMichelle Smith-CronaSally RobinsonLiz TrimpinKevin WalshSusan Winkler

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