
Saints Alive!: News & Announcements for the week of December 16, 2018

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Saints' Alive!

News & Events for the week of December 16, 2018

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 12/16

8:30a Celtic Holy Eucharist
10:30a Holy Eucharist
4:00p Burt Carols

Monday 12/17

Lighthouse
7:00p AA

Tuesday 12/18

Lighthouse
7:00p Vestry

Wednesday 12/19

Lighthouse

Thursday 12/20

No planned activities

The Third Sunday of Advent

Readings for this Week:

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18
Canticle 9

Presider and

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Chris Johnson

Friday 12/21

Office Closed

11:00a AA
10:00a Resale Shop

Saturday 12/22

Window Insulation
8:00a Community
Breakfast
10:00a
Resale/Produce/Book
Shop

Future Events

Dec 6-19 Lighthouse Holiday Program

Dec 16 Burt Carols

Dec 22 Window Insulation

Dec 23 Hanging of the Greens

Dec 24 Services at 4:00p and 10:00p

Dec 25 Service at 10:30

Jan 5 Budget Planning Meeting

Please mark your calendars for Sunday,
December 16 at 4pm for
our "Celebration of the Burt Carols"!

In two more sleeps, fine musicians of many kinds will present a collage of our beloved Burt Carols. We would be excited to fill the church for this event.

We're doing samples of all of them--from the first to the last--with narration to tell the story. The program should last a little more than an hour.

We hope to communicate why these carols, written by our own former rector as his Christmas greeting, succeeded by his musician son and our long-time organist as poet, are so warmly embraced.

Please bring all your friends! Free admission. Cookies.

Sunday, December 16 - 4:00 pm - All Saints, Pontiac

Bring your friends!

. . . from the Rector

The Quality Standards for Organizers that follows is a summary excerpt from Mike Green's book, Asset Based Community Development: When People Care Enough to Act.. Through this summary he reminds anyone intending to work for change is any community context about necessary dynamic and activities to be mindful of. I make this offering for those who read this newsletter who find themselves engaged in the business of working with other people to accomplish shared goals. I labor to discover exceptions among us....

Quality Standards For Organizers

Doing **Learning Conversations**. How many learning conversations did you do this week? If as a full time organizer you do not do 15-20 learning conversations per week (30-60 minutes each), then you are not primarily organizing but doing something else. What you are doing might be good, but it will not organize your community. Organizing requires relationship building through learning conversations. These **opportunities to listen are the way you prepare the ground in your community for participation, organization, and meaningful action.**

Leaders and Members **Growing Participation**. At the beginning of a local initiative, the organizer's goal is to develop the connector- leader group at the center of the community partnership. Is this group growing week by week? What evidence do you have that the connector-leader group is having productive meetings? Later the focus shifts to expanding the membership of people actively participating and contributing to the community through the community partnership's work. Does the diversity of the people active through the community partnership reflect the diversity of the whole community? **What evidence do you have that the group is growing in its ability to help people experience diversity as a source of strength, not a problem or a matter for awkwardness.** Can the community partnership honestly say that it is weaving a tapestry of many different threads?

Inviting the Contribution of **Marginalized People**. Are a growing number of people who might ordinarily not be seen as having gifts actively included in your work as contributors? Are you involving young people? The elderly? People with disabilities? People on welfare? **Is the conviction growing among your group and in the community that everyone has something to offer?**

Setting a **Citizen-Centered Agenda**. Is the action agenda of the community partnership coming from the connector-leaders group rather than from the management of government, human service, or granting agencies? Is the action agenda arising from listening in the community through many conversations and meetings? Is there evidence of a constituency for action on the issues chosen? **Is your community partnership doing what people in the community want to do rather than doing what someone else thinks they need to do?**

Getting Results. Are you accomplishing anything or just talking or just caught up in activity? What evidence do you have that the community partnership is growing increasingly effective at reaching out to new members, planning, setting goals, doing research, finding assets, making connections, and producing results on issues? Are you making new partners? **Is the community partnership successful on issues?** How would you, as the organizer, describe your contribution to the community partnership's effectiveness?

Note from the Rector

Waiting is not a virtue in the eyes of marketing companies competing for your dollars. I don't have to reflect back prior to our photo directory project this past Monday. While understandable, it is still frustrating to sit across from a salesperson who knows that statistically if you don't buy right then, you probably won't buy at a future date either. They work to entice you to spend your money now so you can "save money" (that you wouldn't otherwise have spent!). I hope the picture for the rector's hallway photo comes out good J. The point I want to make today is simply this...waiting is not natural today. In order for us to wait we need to delay gratification until a future moment. We have to resist understandable temptation now for the sake of obtaining something we value more in the future. There was a time when people paid cash for their homes rather than take a 30-year mortgage. There was a time when people saved their money to pay cash for their necessities rather than to charge those expenses to credit cards. Today we are heavy laden with debt as a culture. Along with our need to satisfy our desires immediately through means of indebtedness, comes increased anxiety and stress. Now I will accept that these statements are essentially gross generalizations that few people reading this article will be able to relate to, but for the rest of you I think my point strikes all too close to home.

Advent calls us to a period of waiting. It is interestingly a time of waiting accompanied by the act of preparation. We await the coming of Christ as messiah into our lives. We look expectantly for Jesus to somehow find a way to meet us where we are, and to liberate us from whatever it is that holds us in bondage when he does. It is a time when we begin to clean our interior (if not also our exterior) house of its clutter and false assurances. The liberation comes when we are no longer possessed by the possessions we have indebted ourselves to acquire.

I think the events of this week for Michael Cohen really illustrate my point. Mr. Cohen is a fellow human being, warts and all! But it seems that, however mitigated, he came to realize that family trumps (pun intended) everything else. He has clearly been forced to work to clean out his interior clutter and the false assurance that serving his boss was in his best interests. Serving time incarcerated is in many ways an important part of the cleansing he is seeking. When he returns to reclaim his role as a citizen, I suspect that he will be a stronger and better human being able to fulfill his task and purpose better. I don't think that God cares so much whether one is a Jew or a Christian or a Muslim (limiting my comments to those of us religiously bound by Abraham as our religious patron). Given humanity's track record subordinating human dignity and respect to interests of greed and power for personal gain, I think God wants us to set any and all human attributes focused on power and privilege aside. Power belongs to God and we are

not God. When God entrusts us with power or privilege we are merely entrusted as stewards on God's behalf. We never become God and are always accountable to God for our use of those gifts.

So I am back to waiting and preparedness. Now is the time we are once again invited to clean out our clutter. Now is the time when we are invited to remember that our purpose is to labor on God's behalf in the work of reconciling all people to God and one another in Christ. Now is the time we are to trust expectantly that God will find ways to return our gazes and be seen by us so that we are further encouraged in our faith. Whether our memory is provoked by a mother and her infant child or by a person in need of food, drink, clothes, welcome, healing, or companionship when we serve and care for them we serve and care for Jesus. That's a good place to start your search for the one you are seeking.

Pictorial Directory Photo Session

Our photo session was a success!

A few were not able to make your appointments. And we would like EVERYONE to be included in the photo directory. If you have a professionally composed photo that can be scanned, you can submit the photos to Pamela Todoroff. Please make certain to print the names of everyone in the photo on the back. If you have an electronic version of a photo you would like to include, please send it to pamela.todoroff@gmail.com as soon as you can.

And a special thank you to MaryBeth Tygielski, Robert Dawson, and Pete Morgan for assistance and encouragement all through the day! ~Pamela

Note from the Sr. Warden

Dear Saints'

Here are a few dates to put on your calendar:

- Sunday December 16th at 4pm Burt Carol Concert

- Christmas Eve at 4pm Holy Eucharist
- Christmas Eve at 10pm Christmas music by All Saints' Choir; 10:30pm Holy Eucharist
- Christmas Day at 10:30am Holy Eucharist

Hopefully you will be able to attend one or more of our beautiful and meaningful services.

Happy holiday season and God bless you and yours.

Gail

Note from the Treasurer

As we near the end of 2018, please consider paying any outstanding balance on your 2018 pledge in this year. Payments received (or postmarked) after December 31 cannot be recorded against this year's budget. I would like for us to minimize the 2018 deficit as much as possible.

If you are older than 70-1/2 years and have a traditional IRA account, you are required to take a minimum distribution (RMD) each year. You can make a contribution directly to All Saints' Church as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). You are allowed to directly transfer up to \$100,000 per year to charities of your choice. Your gift will not be reported as taxable income to you and will count toward your minimum distribution requirement. Please contact your individual plan administrator for additional information. If you plan to make such a gift to the church, please notify the church finance office in advance. Frequently the checks are received from the broker without identification of the donor.

If you have not turned in your 2019 please card, please prayerfully consider doing so before year end. Next year's budget is based on pledge commitments received.

Hepatitis A vaccine

Second Dose Information--

The Oakland County Health Department ("OCHD") came to All Saints' on June 9th and 11th to administer the first dose for the Hepatitis A vaccine. At that time it

was mentioned that this is a "2-step" vaccine meaning that a second dose could be given 6 months from the time of the administration of the first dose. That time is now here, December 9th and 11th.

Fortunately, the OCHD was able to administer the first dose free of charge. I have been in contact with the OCHD throughout the fall with hopes that the second dose would also be able to be administered free of charge. Unfortunately that is not the case. Although the second dose is recommended, you are 95% protected with the one single dose. Thank you for taking care of your health and personal health needs.

Please read the following information regarding how to obtain the second dose of this vaccine.

The Department of Health and Human Services has not "relaxed" the eligibility criteria for second dose Hepatitis A for State funded vaccine. While dose #2 is highly recommended, the first dose does impart up to 95% immunity. Other options for obtaining the HepA dose #2 is as follows:

Walk in to either location of the Oakland County Health Department for vaccine. Eligibility criteria for cost is based on client insurance. If client has insurance, it will be billed to insurance as long as the OCHD participates with client's insurance. If client has high risk behaviors, State funded vaccine may be provided at no cost. Cash pay is always an option (\$52 for vaccine/clinic fee/administration fee). If client has financial hardship, a sliding scale fee may be utilized.

Vaccine is available at PCP offices and at local pharmacies. Eligibility to determine cost may vary.

Mary Beth Tygielski RN

Window Insulation Party

When: Saturday, December 22nd

Time: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Eats & Drinks: Donuts for a starter
Pizza and Soda for lunch

Experience not required.

We offer "on the job" training.

Donations: The Property Committee will gladly accept monetary donations to help with the purchase of materials used for the window insulation project! If you would like to offer a contribution, please speak with Lisa Berg. Thanks.

Annual Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

You are cordially invited to attend the All Saints' Annual Meeting & Potluck on Sunday, January 27th, 2019. Fellowship, business meeting and deliciousness!!!

As you know, at this time we elect four new Vestry members to replace the four whose terms are up. We are in the process of putting the Vestry slate together. If you would consider running for Vestry, or know someone you would like to nominate, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee (Lisa Berg, MaryBeth Tygielski, Bob Senseney or Gail Hunger). You must have permission from the one you are nominating before doing so.

DID YOU KNOW...???

- New lighting has been installed in the Nave
- The new roof and drainage system have been installed on the South entry/vestibule (other work still in progress)
- The 2nd floor Men's Restroom has been repainted with the addition of artwork
- Rooms 4 & 6 in the undercroft have been repainted and the Bound Together office has moved from the Old Rectory into this space
- The Choir Room has been repainted and artwork hung
- A new music library has been installed in the Choir Room
- The Library has been repainted, window casements repaired and is getting a furnishing facelift
- The quilt box has been built and installed on the stairwell landing going to the 3rd floor (The repaired quilt should be hung very soon)
- The 3rd floor hallways are in the process of being repainted (archival photos etc. will be hung when painting is complete)
- The video security system both inside and outside have been updated and expanded

- We have contracted with Oakland County Snow Removal for our winter weather needs
- Routine maintenance/repair and annual maintenance/inspections are on-going (alarm systems, fire systems, sprinklers, kitchen, boilers, Orkin, plumbing...)
- And so much more...

Thank you to the many many volunteers and professionals who have worked so hard to help with the upkeep, safety/security and beautification of our landscape and parish home!

The Old Rectory Christmas Shoppe

The holiday spirit has invaded the Resale Shop! The entire second floor of the shop has been turned into a Christmas wonderland. There are so many beautiful ornaments and decorations for you to choose from. Come see this wonderful addition to our campus which may be fondly referred to as "Frankenmuth South". See you there!!!

Christmas and Holiday Shopping

When you are doing your shopping on **Amazon** this year, remember to use the link that appears at the bottom of the first page on the All Saints' website. All Saints' receives up to 6% of all purchases from Amazon!

Pastoral Care, Notes & Birthdays

Office Administration Hours

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|------------------|------------------|
| Tuesday | 9:30-4:00 |
| Wednesday | 9:30-4:00 |
| Thursday | 9:30-3:30 |

Prayers

For those who have asked for our prayers: Ali, Alicia, Annamary, Arnold, Ben, Chris and Lisa, David, Delphine, Ernie, Frannie, Glenden, Gordie, Greg, Jan, Janet, John, Lenora, Linda, Lisa, Mark, Mary Louise, Michelle, Reatha, Sarah, Shari, Shirley, Susy, Sydney, Twyla, Ward and Charles.

Birthdays:

Dec 17 Jim Vickers, Georgia Buckley
Dec 19 Cindy Philips

Notes

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Church e-mail Contacts

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Bound Together

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