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**Saints Alive!: News & Announcements for the week of January 13, 2019**

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**All Saints' Episcopal Church** <allsaints@allsaintspontiac.org>  
Reply-To: allsaints@allsaintspontiac.org  
To: brian.goldsworthy.mi@gmail.com

Fri, Jan 11, 2019 at 12:04 AM



## ***Saints' Alive!***

**News & Events for the week of January 13, 2019**

### **Weekly Calendar**

#### **Sunday 1/13**

8:30a Celtic Holy Eucharist  
10:30a Holy Eucharist

#### **Monday 1/14**

7:00p AA  
7:00p Movie Group

#### **Tuesday 1/15**

4:00p Bound Together  
7:00p Vestry

#### **Wednesday 1/16**

4:00p Bound Together  
7:30p Choir

#### **Thursday 1/17**

4:00p Bound Together

#### **Friday 1/18**

Office Closed

## **The Second Sunday after the Epiphany and Baptism of our Lord**

### **Readings for this Week:**

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
Psalm 29

**Preacher and President:** The Rev. Dr. Chris Johnson

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11:00a AA

**Saturday 1/19**

8:00a Community

Breakfast

10:00a

Resale/Produce/Book  
Shop

**Future Events**

**Jan 20 Violin Recital**

**Jan 26 Clabuesch  
Memorial Service**

**Jan 27 Annual  
Meeting**

**Feb 2 Mary Louise  
Pridmore Memorial  
Service**

**Feb 3 8:00 Celtic  
Service**

**. . . from the Rector**

I was baptized, confirmed and entered into early adulthood as a Roman Catholic. I have no memories of my baptism, vague memories of making my first communion, but clear memories about my confirmation. While most of my guy friends chose "Joseph" as their confirmation name, I recall clearly choosing "Christopher" as mine. Too bad Christopher lost his sainthood status. Humor aside, I chose Christopher because I knew that name meant one who is a bearer of Christ. At 12 years old I knew that I wanted to bear Christ, I just didn't know what that actually meant. There was intentionality early on about what I wanted to become. And I believe that intentionality of a 12-year old adolescent found ways to permeate future choices I made.

Our Episcopal Church de-emphasized the significance of confirmation when it introduced the current Book of Common Prayer and its attendant theology emphasizing the ministry of the baptized. With that revision, full membership in this church was established at baptism.

At issue with me is not the efficacy of infant baptism nor is it an unwillingness to embrace the practice of full membership being conferred on the baptized. The issue I would like to raise is one of the assumptions we make when we baptize. Theologically, when we baptize infants and young children we embrace a high theology of community - the body of Christ. It is not the faith of the infant that intercedes for God's anointing, it is God's response to the community of faith that is appealed to. We promise to do all in our "power to support this person in their life in Christ." Denominations that practice a Confessional theology put the emphasis on the individual's declaration of faith and not on the faith of the community as it baptizes only those who are prepared to make a "mature" commitment to accept Jesus as Lord. To me, that emphasis only reinforces our current culture of isolated individualism and consumerism. I much prefer putting my confidence in a belief that we are stronger together than alone. And so for that reason I like to support and even encourage infant baptism when possible.

This Sunday we hear the story of Jesus' baptism - as an adult. What we also know is that he was circumcised when he was eight days old and that presumably he had even made his bar mitzvah as a celebration of adulthood as a 13-year old boy according to traditional Jewish practice. The ritual of circumcision was about covenant making, the second a rite of passage into adulthood. His later baptism by water was for the forgiveness of sin; this presumably as an act of

solidarity with humanity rather than a confession of his own transgressions.

For Christians today baptism is our covenant making with God. Baptism serves as both a petition for the forgiveness of sin and a confession of faith as well as solidarity expressed symbolically as sharing in Christ's death and being raised through resurrection ("sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever"). The challenge we face as a denomination that practices infant baptism as ritual entrance into full membership in the church is that without emphasizing later confirmation we miss an important ritual opportunity aimed at supporting that child in their "life in Christ." More to the point - I don't remember my baptism, but I clearly remember my confirmation. If I didn't make my confirmation I would probably never have found myself acknowledging my life in Christ as anything other than a practice of mere religiosity.

Confirmation has the potential to help a young Christian make a lasting connection between their experience of cultural Christianity and an experience of lived faith in a God that is intimately interested in our lives. If for whatever reason you haven't made that connection there is no time like the present. Just let me know of your desire to do so, and we will introduce a class through which you can confirm your lived faith in Christ or renew that faith once again. Confirmations and Reaffirmations of Faith are held throughout the diocese in the springtime, so there will even be opportunity to formalize that desire when you are ready. Most importantly, I want to help you be a follower of Christ, which is what it means to be a "Christian". And that after all is why you are here.

### **. . . from the Sr. Warden**

Dear Saints',

Plans for our Annual Meeting on January 27th are well underway. One item on the agenda is the election to replace four retiring members of the Vestry. Retiring members are Mary Beth Tygielski, Roz Miller, Bob Senseney, and Gail Hunger. We are very pleased to present the following candidates: Bonnie Bentz, Ken Dyker, Michelle Lane, and Sydney Rooks.

Their bios will be printed in next week's Saints' Alive. They will make excellent Vestry members.

Remember that all Committee and group reports must be turned in to Norma (in Word format) by January 14th. It's important to turn them in on time so they can be included in the Annual Report booklet.

A potluck sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for the Annual Meeting. We're all looking forward to the delicious dishes that always show up at an All Saints' potluck. We are blessed with many wonderful cooks!

Our beloved Ward Clabuesch has given us a very beautiful gift. Before leaving us he created a fund for special music which allows us to again present our Music Series. On January 20 at 4pm the first program will be given in Ward's memory. Jason Totze, a noted violinist from San Francisco will be featured along with Lois Kaarre. The program will include works of Beethoven, Schumann, Faure and Charles Ives. Donations will be accepted.

Ward's memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 26, at 2pm. Following the service a reception will be held in the auditorium. Please join the family in celebration of Ward's life, labors, and legacy.

To those of you who attend the Celtic Service on Sunday Morning---

#### TIME CHANGE--

the service will be held at 8:00 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. beginning on February 3rd. This change allow us to reinstate the Sunday Adult Forum.

Thanks so much to those who have donated items to HUGS. Our community breakfast guests are very grateful.

Mary Beth Tygielski and her team are busy making some very neat changes at the Resale shop. I know they could use help as they restock and rearrange. If you have an hour or two to spare, call Mary Beth. Your help will be greatly appreciated and I guarantee you will have a good time. Also, consider signing up for a shift to work in the shop. Again, you will enjoy it as well as offering a valuable service.

Thanks to all who give so generously of time and talents. God is good--all the time!

Blessings, Gail

### Violin Recital

Our beloved **Ward Clabuesch** created a fund for special music before he left us which allows us to recreate our hibernating Music Series.

The **inaugural program** will be given in Ward's memory on **Sunday, January 20, at 4:00 p.m.** and will feature a wonderful violinist from San Francisco, Jason Totzke, in a recital with his occasional partner Lois Kaarre. The program will include works of Beethoven, Schumann, Faurè, and Charles Ives.

Donations will be accepted. No interested listeners will be turned away.

## Change for Celtic Service

Beginning Sunday, February 3, our Celtic Service will be held at 8:00 a.m. instead of 8:30. This change will allow us to reinstate our Sunday adult forum. Announcements regarding the adult forum will be forthcoming.

## Forever Vigilant

All Saints' recognizes the fact that many churches across the nation have started implementing security teams. As much as we focus on our community outreach, we must also be mindful to protect our church members and guests.

With that in mind, we have joined forces with Forever Vigilant, LLC. We will be taking their "Genesis" training class, which will help us determine our strengths and weaknesses. We will then begin to formulate our strategy on how we want to protect our community and start building a security team. We will have more information for you at the Annual Report meeting.

See you there!

## 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.

## The Blessing of our Homes at Epiphany

Often we hear that Christmas is not just a day long. It is a season, twelve days long. Nor is our observance of the wonder of God become human to be limited to gift giving. There are many ways of celebrating "God with us." How could this not be the case? For we are celebrating a fundamental conviction that when we seek meaning and purpose and direction in our lives we find God...who has been seeking us all the time. One of the sites where our seeking is most candid is where we live. Of course, we can find God seeking us anywhere and at any time, but home is so often where we encounter the divine in the ordinary.

There is a simple and beautiful custom among Christians of all sorts and conditions that assures, protects and encourages us in sensing the divine in the ordinary. It is the custom of the Blessing of Homes at Epiphany. The Feast of the Epiphany is January 6. For many of the faithful, Epiphany is the culmination of the celebration of God with us, rivaling Christmas. It is on Epiphany that we recall the visit of the three Eastern sages who have been following the star to find Jesus. When they find him, the Holy Family is no longer in a stable, but have found a house. (Mt. 2:11) Thus, not only are these three the first gentiles to find and be found by Jesus, they are the first to be welcomed into his home. This image of home has been particularly powerful. From it arises the custom of blessing our homes during the Epiphany season, a custom which we would like to offer the people of All Saints Church.

The rite itself is simple. This is not like the blessing of a new home which can be more elaborate. This rite acknowledges the dailiness of our lives of faith. Perhaps the most noteworthy feature of it is the "chalking of the door" (or the sprinkling of baptismal water or the anointing with holy oil....all determined by the hosts in consultation with the celebrant).

The "chalking of the door" (or any place adjacent to where people generally enter and leave the house) is a particularly meaningful gesture. The celebrant or a member of the household will use chalk, the most ordinary of materials, to inscribe the formula 20 + C + M + B + 18 near the main door. The "+" are signs of blessing. The letters have a dual meaning: the names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, though these names are not mentioned in Scripture), framed by the year of the blessing, 2018. Alternatively, they may represent the Latin phrase: *Christus mensionem*

benedicat ("May Christ bless this house."). It is a reminder and comfort to all who enter and depart this house or apartment; it reminds us that God is with us everywhere; it reminds us that our homes are to be havens and sanctuaries, and it is a subtle witness to any who may notice and inquire of the commitments of this household. Of course, the chalk will fade and then disappear, itself a valuable lesson. This is why the rite is renewable during the Epiphany season next year, should one choose it. [Also, a form of the blessing can be used in offices and businesses, its intention being to welcome and include all.]

The season of Epiphany begins on Sunday, January 6. For all practical purposes it ends on Sunday, March 3. If you would like to have your house blessed by one of the parish clergy, please sign-up below (see, the bulletin board) or call the parish office (248-334-4571). You will be contacted and a visit scheduled.

### More about "Chalking the door.... "

God has endowed us with imagination so that we might envision a future more humane and ennobling than the past. Imagination is not fantasy. Fantasy is just making up the way you want things to be. Imagination is about envisioning that which is "not yet." It is tested by community consensus, and common sense and laws of physical science and principles of human psychology. Imagining is powerful enough to propel us forward toward a future that is worth the effort. I will return to this point further on.

In our parish, we are introducing the custom of the blessing of homes during the Epiphany Season. It is an acknowledgment of the strong link between where we live and where we worship. The faith we focus on in Church on Sunday mornings, must never be confined or limited by its association with a specific place (e.g. "church"). Rather it needs expression and cultivation in all the places where we spend our lives. Church and home are two such places. Thus, there is the beautiful and very simple little rite which acknowledges that God is present and active everywhere and particularly in that place where much of life is experienced, viz., home.

An optional part of the rite is called the "chalking of the door." It involves physically marking the entrance to the house or apartment with chalk as a sign of blessing and commitment. The marking is simple and does not last for we live in a world of transience. However, if one researches the topic of "chalking the door," s/he will find that it has two meanings, meanings

that are not compatible. First, the blessing. The door (or an adjacent area) is marked in chalk with the formula 20+C+B+M+19 ["Christus Benedicat Mensionem" framed by the year of the blessing. It means: "May Christ bless this house."]) It is used to protect and encourage all who live there. Second is a "non-blessing," wholly different words, expressing a wholly different intention. In Scotland during the 19th century "chalking the door" was a cheap way for a landlord to issue an eviction notice. One simply wrote on the door the date by which any inhabitants of that dwelling had to be out. It was public and shaming and effective.

These two meanings of "chalking the door" contradict one another. The first, the blessing, is a sign of approval and acceptance. The second, the eviction notice, feels like failure and rejection. It is in the conflict between the two that the imagination is excited and a better future is envisioned.

What if Christ's body in the world, i.e., the Church, were to treat the chalking of the door - whether as a blessing or as an eviction notice - as a sign of God's favor? Recall that in the topsy-turvy world of the Kingdom of God, the poor have priority (the last shall be first and the first last.). In this Kingdom that is actual but "not yet," the poor are the first among us, and those who "have and hoard" are among the last. Perhaps some might see in the chalking of their doors a gesture of solidarity with those whose doors are marked because they have no advocates. We are called to be Kingdom citizens, to enlarge the Kingdom of God where we have been set. At the very least, this means that the last among us by the world's standards are to be esteemed as first in the Kingdom to which we aspire. Chalking our doors, then, invites us to look more closely, feel more deeply and see more clearly the extension of the love of God to all homes.

On the face of it, it seems an absurd proposition, that there can be goodness in an eviction notice. But God can create circumstances in which some may intend what is less than good, but in which goodness finds expression. Over time, we who are the community decide what meanings symbols might bear. During World War II, a common paper clip worn on the lapel meant solidarity with Jews during the Nazi occupation of Norway. Some now wear a safety pin in order to assure the undocumented that there can be safety here among those who respect their neighbor. A cross, the means of public execution, becomes a symbol of life. One might see the chalk on the door as a "Kingdom Statement" about God's love for all sorts and conditions of people, and the sanctity of those who struggle to make wherever they live home.

Chris Berg+

**On the lighter side. . .**

Hello,

Welcome to Flight #2019. We are prepared to take off into the New Year. Please make sure your Attitude and Blessings are secured and locked in an upright position. All self-destructive devices should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt and discouragement should be put away. Should we lose Altitude under pressure, during the flight, reach up and pull down a Prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated you can assist other passengers. There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. The Captain (GOD) has cleared us for takeoff. Destination GREATNESS.

💖 Yessss, I have already purchased my ticket!!!!

I'M BUCKLED IN AND READY FOR TAKE OFF!!!

## Pastoral Care, Notes & Birthdays

### **Office Administration Hours**

**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, Charles, Chris and Lisa, David, Delphine, Ernie, Frannie, Glenden, Gordie, Greg, Jan, Janet, John, Larry, Lenora, Linda, Lisa, Lori, Micah, Michelle, Paul, Reatha, Sarah, Shari, Shirley, Steven, Susy, Sydney, and Twyla.

### **Birthdays:**

Jan 17 Carolyn Simpson

Jan 19 Matt Hackett

### **Notes**

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### **Church e-mail Contacts**

Chris Johnson - [rector@allsaintspontiac.org](mailto:rector@allsaintspontiac.org)

[revchristopherjohnson@msn.com](mailto:revchristopherjohnson@msn.com)

Gail Hunger - [ghunger@comcast.net](mailto:ghunger@comcast.net)

Kay Bell - [treasurer@allsaintspontiac.org](mailto:treasurer@allsaintspontiac.org)

Norma Warner - [allsaints@allsaintspontiac.org](mailto:allsaints@allsaintspontiac.org)

**Bound Together**

Jane Porter - [director@boundtogetherpontiac.org](mailto:director@boundtogetherpontiac.org)

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All Saints' Episcopal Church, [171 West Pike St., Pontiac, MI](#) 48324

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