
Saints Alive!: News & Announcements for the week of January 20, 2019

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Saints' Alive!

News & Events for the week of January 20, 2019

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 1/20

8:30a Celtic Holy Eucharist
10:30a Holy Eucharist
4:00p Violin Recital

Monday 1/21

7:00p AA
7:00p Book Group

Tuesday 1/22

4:00p Bound Together
6:00p Spirituality Group

Wednesday 1/23

4:00p Bound Together
7:30p Choir

Thursday 1/24

4:00p Bound Together

Friday 1/25

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings for this Week:

Isaiah 62:1-5
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11
Psalm 36:5-10

Preacher and President: The Rev. Dr. Chris Johnson

Office Closed
11:00a AA

Saturday 1/26

8:00a Community
Breakfast
10:00a
Resale/Produce/Book
Shop
2:00p Clabuesch Memorial
Service

Future Events

Jan 27 Annual Meeting

Feb 2 Mary Louise Pridmore Memorial Service

Feb 3 8:00 Celtic Service

. . . from the Rector

Prayer is:

union with God,

open to new ideas and old ones too,

holding on to self-interest and the interest of others with
the same grip,

fragile like hoarfrost and dependable like bedrock,

an offer of forgiveness,

the acceptance of forgiveness offered,

unceasing,

washing feet and dirty clothes,

hindered by possessions,

free and priceless,

letting go,

dark nights giving way to new beginnings,

contentment with unknowing and knowing all will be well
when it isn't,

what we do for a friend and what friends do for us,

amazing grace,

deeper than words,

available to everyone, including you, including me.

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!

Candidates for Vestry

Bonnie Bentz

My name is Bonnie Bentz. I am Shirley Knebel's sister, am married to Rod Bentz, and have been asked to serve on the Vestry of All Saints'. I am more than excited about this!

When I come into our church, I always feel the same. I feel safe, warm, and comfortable. Besides the fact that All Saints' is a beautiful building, it exudes a charm and warmth that I think God wants. It's open to all who enter.

Why is that? Do you ever wonder? Is it because of the people who attend? Is it because of the message that's delivered each Sunday? Is it the fellowship that is found there? I believe it's all of those things. We reach out to all people; we care about our neighbors; we welcome all who enter. Of course it's much more than that. However, it's enough to get us interested. I am looking forward to helping move All Saints' to all that it can be to our family and community.

Ken Dyker

Hello fellow parishioners. My name is Ken Dyker, and for those who may not know me, I have been an active member of All Saints' for about 20 years now. That being said, I'm a rather "new" member in terms of length of membership here. I was invited here when I was searching for a new parish home. I immediately knew that this was the place when I was greeted with warmth and compassion. I would hope that this initial reception has been instrumental in my desire to become a better and more involved member of this parish community. Since my arrival, I have been involved in many of the committees that operate under the umbrella of "outreach" as well as "worship or faith formation", and some wonderful fund raising projects that help us support many of our ministries. I am an usher, a member of the Altar Guild, and Lay Eucharistic Minister, occasional lector, and attend both Sunday services on a regular basis.

I have served on three previous Vestries and appreciate being able to serve with many individuals that have helped me in my journey here at All Saints' to be positive and rewarding. While election to the Vestry is an honor, it comes with the responsibility of representing the members in all parish matters, including and not limited to, the financial well-being and decision-making issues like budget. It also is the lay representation and support to the clergy. It is not only the balance here, but through the entire Episcopal Church structure. The Episcopal Church canons and our parish by-laws help us to maintain consistency in our decisions moving forward.

This is an exciting time for us, with having had a successful search come to fruition with the Rev. Dr. Chris Johnson answering the call and being here for a year of getting to know all of us; and us getting to know him. It is a blessing to have him and his wife Debbie here to lend stability and pastoral care experience to our little corner in Pontiac.

I would be honored to be a representative on the Vestry. Knowing most individuals in this community has helped me to understand our mutual as well as individual

concerns. I still believe that worship is the primary reason for belonging here, and our music programs is almost always mentioned as being a key component to our worship service. This community draws from a wide geographic area with a diverse background and a wide range of interests. Always being a safe place for all is the number one priority. I pledge to maintain confidentiality to all whether serving on the Vestry or not. Being passionate about All Saints', the church and its people, is all I have to offer to each and every one of you.

Michelle Lane

I grew up in Pontiac and currently live in Rochester Hills with Mike, my husband, of nearly 30 years. We have raised two daughters, Abby (26) and Ruth (24). For the past 20 years I have been a science teacher for 9- and 10- year olds at the Roeper Lower School on Woodward Ave, and I taught at Friends School in Detroit before that.

I did not grow up with any particular religious tradition, but I was always drawn to know more about religion and felt a strong spiritual connection in my life. This manifested for me in some formal and informal study of world religions, time spent in nature, meditation and yoga practice. For several years when our children were younger, my family and I attended Birmingham Unitarian Church and I sang in the choir there. In recent years I have felt a steadily growing pull toward God in Christ.

I was drawn to find a deeply observant church home, and I had known people throughout my life who had attended and are still attending All Saints'. I loved that it was in my home city of Pontiac. I also knew a bit about the Episcopal denomination and felt that the high liturgical tradition and the attitude of open worship and embrace of all would really agree with me. When I came to church last year on Palm Sunday with Matt and Lori Hackett (our neighbors of 28 years) and then participated in many of the subsequent Holy Week services, everyone I encountered was so warm and welcoming to me and the spiritual practice was so moving, I felt that I had come home. I stayed. When I became a baptized Christian at All Saints' on November 4, 2018, the occasion was truly one of the happiest and deeply affirming days of my life.

It is an honor to accept this nomination, and it will be my joy to serve All Saints' by participating as a member of the Vestry. As a new member I may not know as much as others about the ins and outs of church life, but I bring with me enthusiasm and a willingness to participate and to contribute in whatever ways my particular skills and gifts may meet the needs of this community.

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+

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, Everett, Frannie, Glenden, Gordie, Greg, Harry, Jan, Janet, John, Larry, Lenora, Linda, Lisa, Lori, Micah, Michelle, Paul, Reatha, Sarah, Shari, Shirley, Steven, Susy, Sydney, and Twyla.

Birthdays:

Jan 21 Mary Lou Henry, Jack Hunger
Jan 23 Ross Maxwell
Jan 24 Bruce McIntyre
Jan 26 Bill Richardson

Notes

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Church e-mail Contacts

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Bound Together

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