
Saints Alive!: News & Announcements for the week of January 27, 2019

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Saints' Alive!

News & Events for the week of January 27, 2019

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 1/27

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

Monday 1/28

4:00p BT Cooking
7:00p AA

Tuesday 1/29

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

Wednesday 1/30

4:00p Bound Together
7:30p Choir

Thursday 1/31

4:00p Bound Together

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings for this Week:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21
Psalm 19

Preacher and President: The Rev. Dr. Chris Johnson

Friday 2/1

Office Closed
11:00a AA

Saturday 2/2

8:00a Community
Breakfast
10:00a
Resale/Produce/Book
Shop
Pridmore Memorial
Service

Future Events

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**Feb 3 8:00 Celtic
Service**

. . . from the Rector

January 25th is celebrated as the Feast Day of Saint Paul. It is also the day our 2nd grandchild was born, which was also one and the same day a dear friend from our congregation in Denver died. It's amazing all the memories a day can hold. Each important and special in its own right. My focus today will be directed to Paul.

Paul had everything a person of religious (a Pharisee, studied under Gamaliel, righteous under the law, born of the Tribe of Benjamin) or civil (Roman citizen, educated in philosophy and Greek rhetoric) status could ask for. And it is for this one reason alone that he continues to hold my attention and respect. He had nothing to gain by his worldly or religious standards by declaring Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ. His circumstances were so unlike those of the other apostles. His encounter with the risen Jesus must have been absolutely as real and the ground he stood upon. If it wasn't, what can explain why anyone of such position and means would subject themselves to being a victim of violence and imprisonment?

Christendom has indeed been blessed by the preservation of his letters. They inform our response to the Gospel stories of Jesus that were all written after his letters. The clarity of his rhetoric elevated the status of the early Followers of The Way in their own right before both Hebrew scholars and Roman philosophers. Readers today are side tracked when they become distracted by his engagement with patriarchal sociological systems. This was the cultural backdrop listening to him. Better that energy be expended appreciating how adept he was at challenging the status quo by his rhetoric. Better that energy be expended appreciating his conviction that in Christ there was no Greek or Jew, no man or woman, no free or slave...that in Christ we were being created into a new humanity, a beloved community that privileges no one over another. Better that energy be expended imagining what the world would look like if we all worked for the common good, building up the body, rather than for opportunities of self-interest for its own sake. These are notable teachings of Paul that are worthy of your investigation.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 2 Corinthians 5:17

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.

The Sanctoral Cycle

Like stars appearing....

For some of us, one of the important positive features of life in the Church is that it offers alternatives to the way things are. Giving is better than getting (indeed, it is in giving that we receive). Freedom is service.

Acknowledging weakness is a strength. We even have alternative ways of ordering time, highly symbolic ways. Time is organized into seasons to represent stages and aspects of the life of Jesus. We try to live our lives "in time with Jesus." However, there is another way which the beloved community has of organizing time. In addition to the liturgical seasons (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost), there is another "cycle" of time. It is called the sanctoral cycle, the commemoration of saints. It is a recognition that while Jesus reveals in a focused way who God is and what we are called to do and be, there are those among us who have managed to hear and respond to him and live lives of exemplary holiness. All of the baptized are saints, according to St. Paul. Yet these are Saints (with a capital "S") who by the consensus of the historic community have been listed on the Church Calendar. Each has an assigned day when s/he is remembered and each once again has a chance to teach the love of God. For the next five weeks we are going to share some of the stories of these ordinary people who lived extra-ordinary lives. It is not a coincidence that this little project occurs during Black History Month (the month of February), and the saints whose stories, however briefly told, will all be African Americans who appear on the Calendar of the Episcopal Church.

The first with whom we will deal is Martin Luther King, Jr. We know that the civic commemoration of his life was observed on January 21. However, remember we are talking about life in the Church. On the Church Calendar, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is April 4. It is April 4 because this is the day of his martyrdom. Martyrs are those who witness to the faith, witness with such conviction that they die for their beliefs and the actions that grow from them. A strong case can be made that Martin Luther King Jr. was a martyr, i.e., he was killed because he exemplified the Christian Faith in a way and at a time when there was violent opposition to his

insistence on the dignity of all human beings, particularly African-Americans. Dr. King's life reminds us of the costliness of faith. He took with utter seriousness the promises we make at baptism and reaffirm regularly. To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself. To strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being. To persevere in resisting evil, and whenever one stumbles to repent and return to the Lord (B.C. P. pp. 293 ff). The last pulpit from which he preached was at the National Cathedral, the seat of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. From there he departed to Memphis to support the city's sanitation workers who were locked with the city in a prolonged labor dispute. It was there, April 4, 1968, that he was assassinated. His life's work had to be picked up and continued by others. Through his writings and personal example even in death he continued to pave the way ahead. He possessed the preacher's ability to "turn a phrase," to utter the truth in a memorable way, a hallmark of the Baptist tradition of which he was a product. It is those "turns of phrase" and the ideas that they express that remind us of the direction toward which our faith summons us. Of particular note are the following, which are only partially representative of his large body of work...

* Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

* Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

* Power without love is reckless and abusive, and love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love..

The prayer appointed for April 4, the Feast of Martin Luther King, Jr., likens him to a modern day Moses. For his vocation was to lead all people out of slavery and to encourage and challenge them to live lives of freedom that faith affords.

Chris Berg+

Adult Forum

We are excited to announce that our Adult Forum program will begin again on Sunday, February 3, and the series will continue on most Sundays until the end of June. Several of our members have offered to facilitate sessions on a variety of fascinating and inspiring

topics and dates and offerings in February and March). We hope you will consider attending when you can from 9:15-10:15 in the Library!

A calendar of dates and offerings in February and March is posted on the bulletin board.

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.

Sydney Rooks

Little did I know when I walked into All Saints' for the 2018 Easter Sunday service that I was coming home! I am very grateful for the warm welcome and encouragement you've given me to jump into the life of this vibrant faith community.

I'm a native Detroiter. I relocated temporarily to Waterford eighteen months ago when my apartment building in Detroit's Midtown neighborhood changed hands and rent immediately doubled.

I have degrees from Oakland University and the University of Detroit School of Law. My lawyering experience is very wide-ranging: complex defective products and toxic chemical injury litigation with several law firms and then as a senior environmental attorney at the Dow Chemical Company in Midland, legal counsel for a Member of Congress, solo practice, and now doing elder law at a legal services organization through which I have the privilege of supervising law student interns at Wayne State University. I took a lengthy sabbatical from law to manage several programs in Detroit that provided social services to homeless and indigent persons. This gave me extensive experience in grant writing and funding campaigns. I followed this as the Associate Director of Planned Giving at the Salvation Army's regional Southeast Michigan headquarters.

I was received into the Episcopal Church in 1985. Over the next decade I was a lay minister, vestry member and warden, fund development and outreach director (community meal program, food and clothing banks, job skills training, and community organizing), and Jill-of-all-trades at historic Trinity Episcopal Church, which is located near the Motor City Casino and is now Spirit of Hope, a joint venture between our diocese and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Trinity was blessed to be in a yoked relationship with Christ Church (Detroit) and become a Jubilee Ministry during my time there. I am currently in the discernment process with the Third Order Society of St. Francis.

And now my journey continues here as a member of your faith family. I hope to be a resource, and I look forward to working and celebrating with you in the days to come.

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.

Pastoral Care, Notes & Birthdays

Office Administration Hours

Wednesday 9:00-4:30

Thursday 9:00-4:30

Prayers

For those who have asked for our prayers: Ali, Alicia, Annamary, Charles, Chris and Lisa, David, Delphine, Ernie, 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:

Notes

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Church e-mail Contacts

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Bound Together

Jane Porter - director@boundtogetherpontiac.org

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