



The All Saints MESSENGER December 2020

All Saint's Church
1250 Spear Street
So Burlington, VT 05403
Telephone 862-9750
allsaints16@gmail.com
website www.allsaintsvt05403.org

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
9 a.m. Adult Forum
10 a.m. Child Care & Christian Education
for Children and Teens.

The Rev. Canon David Hamilton, Rector
The Rev. Peggy Mathauer, Deacon
Vestry:

Glenn Sproul Senior Warden
Whye Yap Junior Warden
Josh Cheney
Charles Conn
Hilla Damm
Susan Hartman
Marian Halloran
Cheryl Hooper
Katrina McGibney

Vestry Clerk: Julie B. Pierson

Special Warden for Property: Julie Bonanno

Treasurer: Marcia Corey
Assistant Treasurer: Iris Darling

Pledge Secretary: Don Crofut
Assistant Pledge Secretary: Iris Darling

Church Secretary/Administrator:
Margaret MacLean

Young Children's Ministry:
Katrina McGibney

Middle School & Teen Ministry:
Don Crofut

Adult Education Leaders:
Josh Cheney/Whye Yap



Advent Ponderings

Maybe it's just me, but I am finding it difficult to take in that it's already Advent. Maybe because we missed some of the usual seasonal triggers: almost no children trick-or-treating in this pandemic year, and miniscule Thanksgiving gatherings.

For months now most of my conversations and meetings with other folks have been "virtual". As a result, I have come to feel a certain sense of flatness and distance in the day-to-day experience into which the pandemic has cast me.

Do you remember when, during church, in the last bad flu season, we felt awkward during the exchange of the peace, when we had to resort to elbow bumps instead of hearty handshakes? I find myself now longing for the palpable sensation of my "crazy bone" being activated by a too enthusiastic elbow greeting. I am definitely missing the tactile.

(continued)

This lack of physicality also seems to have skewed my sense of time. Often during a 'virtual' conversation, someone will ask, "What day of the week is this anyway?!" There is something diurnally disorienting about going from one meeting to another on

Zoom, or another cyber platform, without the lovely interruptions of someone poking their head into my office at church to say something like, "Picking up the bulletin for Sunday and just wanted to say, 'Hi!'"

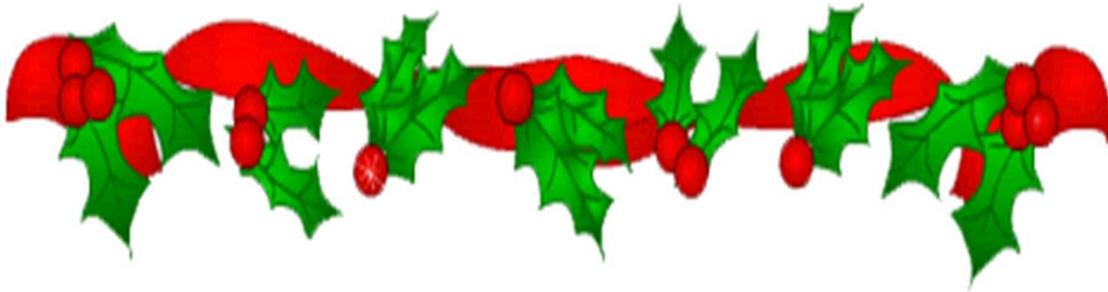
We are exiles in a digital land, most noticeably so while we continue to stay out of our church building due to wise precautionary decisions from our bishop. As the spread of the virus has become frighteningly, to coin a phrase, "virulent", our absence from our beloved building seems a small price to pay to combat the spread.

Advent during a pandemic is unique . Each Advent we wait "on the tiptoe of expectation" for the birth of the Child of Bethlehem. That waiting is most fruitful as a spiritual journey when we keep our focus on the saving grace of Jesus, and not get totally caught up in the commercialism of Christmas. This year, waiting takes on an additional meaning as humankind waits for the arrival and distribution of a Covid vaccine, hoping to suppress and then, in the long run, eradicate Covid.

Waiting is never easy. But what makes waiting sustainable is the hope for what is promised. In Advent 2020 we again prepare with joy to greet the Promised One, the Child of Bethlehem. Additionally, in this unique time of 2020, we await the manifestation of the power and Spirit of God shown in the ingenuity and discipline of scientists who by the grace of God soon will deliver an effective vaccine. Praise God,
in whom we live and move and have our being!

Advent blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David" followed by a small plus sign.



All Saints Church

Christmas Eve Service

5:00 PM

*Join us for worship on Zoom
including
Children's Puppet Nativity Pageant*



News From Sunday School



Pictured are lanterns the children of All Saints created while learning about Saint Martin. Also pictured is an example of a liturgical calendar the children made while learning about the Christian year. Below I have included an excerpt from one of the lessons we shared.

Saint Martin is remembered for an incident that occurred while he was serving in the army at Amiens. Martin met a poor beggar at the city gate, who shivered half naked in the cold. Drawing his sword, Martin cut his warm cloak in two and gave one half to the pauper.

The following night, Jesus appeared to Marin dressed in the piece of cloak that the young soldier had given away and said, "Martin has covered me with his garment."

Saint Martin's cloak brought hope, comfort and protection to the beggar. Saint Martin recognized a divine light in the poor man and gave it the protection of his own cloak. When we make a paper lantern, we too may feel that we are giving protection to a divine light. It may only be a small fragile light – but every light brings relief in the darkness.

Advent

Sunday, November 29th, we begin a new lesson block focusing on the season of Advent. For the four Sundays heralding the birth of Jesus, we will add a new aspect to the nativity tableaux each child is creating.

Christmas Pageant

The children are excited to keep with tradition and offer a virtual Christmas Pageant. We will share our pageant with the congregation during the Christmas Eve Zoom worship. We hope you will all tune in to share in this special event.

Many blessings,
Katrina McGibney

ADULT FORUM

The All Saints' adult forum will return on December 6, 2020. Our Advent study this year will be **Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem**, presented by Adam Hamilton. The series will take place on all of the Sundays in December and wrap up on Sunday, January 3, 2021. I will prepare a link and an invitation each week that will be distributed church-wide. There is no need to sign up, please feel free to join as you are able.

I am excited about the series and look forward to the conversations, reflections, and comradery that make the All Saints adult forum so special.

If you have any questions, please call or text me at 802-343-7425.

Joshua

An Important message from your Senior Warden

Dear Saints (that would be all of You),

Please send your pledges for 2021 in to All Saints by Sunday, December 6th. Your vestry needs this information as it works to build our church's budget for the coming year. Your support for All Saints is vital as never before in this time of Pandemic. Also, if you have never pledged before, please consider doing so this year, as we strive to keep All Saints vital during this challenging time. Thank you for the many ways you support All Saints!

Sincerely,
Glenn



Be an All Saints “Food Angel” this Year



In this pandemic year, when our annual All Saints Angel Tree is not feasible, because we are not in our building, consider sending a generous Food Shelf contribution to All Saints, and mark “Food Shelf” in the memo line. All contributions will be collected and sent to the S.B. Food Shelf in time for Christmas. In this pandemic, as never before, the need is great!

The Canon to the Ordinary, Lynn Bates, will retire
December 31, 2020 after 25 years working faithfully for our Diocese



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop of Vermont

Dear People in the Episcopal Church in Vermont,

We are gathering a purse to present to Lynn as a parting gift upon her retirement. We hope that members of your parish will join this effort to honor Lynn for her many years of dedicated service.

Your contribution can be mailed to the Diocesan office.
The mailing address is:

Pamela Van de Graaf
Assistant to the Bishop
The Episcopal Church in Vermont
5 Rock Point Road
Burlington, VT 05408-2737

Please also consider sending a personal message in the form of a card or an e-mail. Cards can be mailed to Pamela at the Diocesan Office with “Lynn” noted on the envelope. Emails can be sent to Pamela at pvandegraaf@diovermont.org Please put LYNN in the subject line.

At this uncertain point in the COVID-19 pandemic, we clearly cannot hold an in-person goodbye. Your good wishes and the purse will be delivered to Lynn in a beautiful gift basket.

Thank you for your generosity to our faithful Canon.

Peace and Blessings,

+ Bishop Shannon

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Anne Nolte
4 Catherine Pawlowski
5 Ryan Hockenbury
7 Molly Averyt
8 Sandi McGowan
11 Jane Hamilton
12 India Hoover
13 Phillip Reynolds
16 Stephanie Hockenbury
17 Grace Dattilio
18 Patricia Tedesco
19 Dan Kronlund
20 Toni Kail
21 Kathleen Richburg
28 Chris Sheil
30 Charles Conn
Ian McGibney
31 Sandy Aldrich
Susan Martin

ANNIVERSARIES

14 Mike & Marty Torpey
15 Alex & Amy Possidente
27 Art & Kathy Hessler
29 Craig & Candace Smith
31 Joe & Freda Nieters

IN MEMORIAM

13 Sally Walker
14 Sherry Ann Park
15 Joyce Dattilio
18 Shirley Pelkey
19 Jerry Pond
21 Bob Sutherland
25 Harold Woodaman



All Saints Episcopal Church
1250 Spear Street
So. Burlington, VT 05403

“Find your roots in the rituals and traditions of a people with a history.”