

## The All Saints MESSENGER March 2021

All Saint's Church  
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On Zoom

10 a.m. Ministry of the Word - Rite II  
9 a.m. Adult Forum  
10 a.m. Christian Education for Children

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

Vestry:

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

Vestry Clerk: Julie B. Pierson

Treasurer: Marcia Corey  
Assistant Treasurer: Iris Darling

Pledge Secretary: Iris Darling  
Assistant Pledge Secretary: Laura Buel

Church Secretary/Administrator:  
Margaret MacLean

Young Children's Ministry:  
Katrina McGibney

Adult Education Leaders:  
Josh Cheney/Whye Yap

### Mid-Lent 2021

Dear Parish Family,

Here we are, smack in the middle of Lent, Ash Wednesday now being some days back on our Lenten journey. I always find Ash Wednesday to be a moving beginning of the forty days, reminding us of the trials and temptations of Jesus in the wilderness. Perhaps I am particularly moved by the act of the imposition of ashes because it came to be part of my own experience only as an adult Episcopalian. (By the way, I find it odd that the Prayer Book still says "imposition" of ashes is optional.)

When I was growing up in a "broad church" Episcopal parish (meaning on the Protestant end of what we used to call "Churchmanship"), we did not have ashes marked on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday. At least not in my home church, where suggestions of "High Church" practice, such as a cross with the corpus affixed (crucifix) and the making of the sign of the cross during worship was, if not frowned upon, at least was delicately ignored.

(continued)

Living in a very Roman Catholic part of Massachusetts, I was able to identify who was Catholic and who was Protestant, when later on Wednesday, I would encounter neighborhood kids and see on their foreheads the dark smear of ashes. I remember asking what that was all about, further identifying myself as of a different tribe. Maybe that explains, in part, why I now feel choosing the imposition of ashes to be important. I like being identified as part of the tribe of believers (sinners) who know their absolute dependence upon the Grace and Forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

For this Ash Wednesday, during this time of pandemic shut-down, we had to do a great deal of planning and intentional choosing to have a packet of ashes reserved and then picked up at All Saints. Yes, it seemed odd to self-impose the ashes because of the distancing required. But to me it seemed that the deliberate decision needed and the extra effort to get ashes, made the observance and significance of this Ash Wednesday more deeply rooted in my spirit.

Let me suggest that a worthwhile follow-up during this Mid-Lent would be to turn to your Book of Common Prayer (if you don't have one, let us know) and read again the Liturgy for Ash Wednesday, pp. 264-269.

Lenten Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David +". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "Lenten Blessings,".

The following is an Ash Wednesday  
poem from poet and artist Jan Richardson

**Blessing the Dust  
For Ash Wednesday**

All those days you felt like dust,  
like dirt,  
as if all you had to do was turn your face  
toward the wind and be scattered  
to the four corners

or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantialô  
did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say  
we are scorched.

This is the hour we are marked  
by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing  
that lives within the ancient ashes,  
that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow.  
And let us be marked not for shame.  
Let us be marked not for false humility  
or for thinking we are less than we are

but for claiming what God can do  
within the dust,  
within the dirt,  
within the stuff of which the world is made  
and the stars that blaze in our bones  
and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge  
we bear.

—Jan Richardson 2016 update: “Blessing the Dust” appears in my new book  
*Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*.

## News From Sunday School

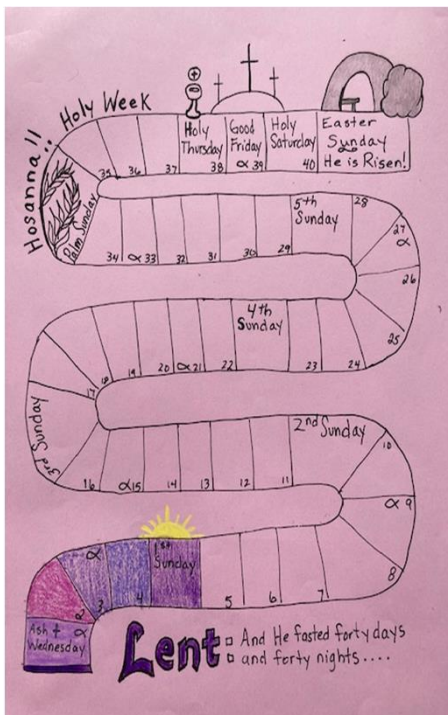
February was a flurry of energy and enthusiasm as children tuned in to virtual Sunday School to hear miracle stories, create works of art, and share in our weekly rituals and conversations.

With the season of Lent, we began a new lesson block called "My Path to Easter." Weekly lessons remind and encourage children to pray, explore Christian symbols and their meanings, and travel the path to Easter on a Lenten Calendar.

### March Themes and Activities

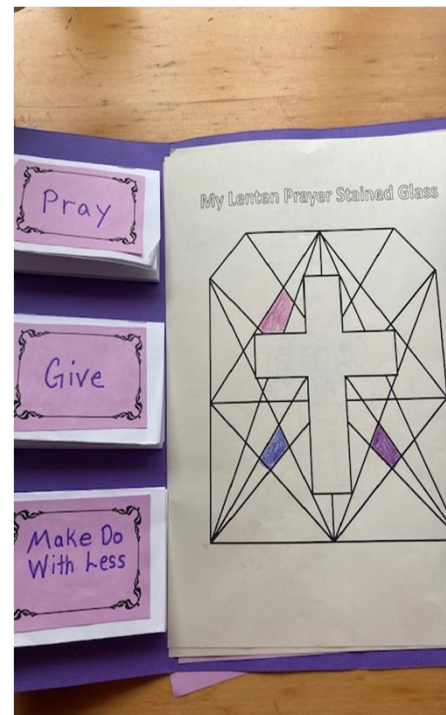
March 7: Patience and Forgiveness	Activity: Purple Prayer Chains
March 14: Saint of the Month: Saint Patrick	Activity: Make a 3 in 1 Shamrock
March 21: Welcome Spring	Activity: Make Paper Birds
March 28: Palm Sunday	Activity: Create palm tiles to remind us of Jesus' footsteps throughout Holy Week

We are now in our sixth month of virtual Sunday School and I feel tremendous gratitude for my role as their teacher. Each week, I try to create a lesson that gives meaning and truth to the Christian faith, invites curiosity, and engages them in activity. I appreciate the unique ways each child approaches my invitation to participate in faith-building stories, music, prayer, games and art.



(Left) The Lenten Calendar we are working with as we count the days to Easter.

(Right) Children color a section of the cross each time they say or read a prayer. One section for each prayer. When they have filled in all the sections of the stained glass, they will receive a new stained glass to color in with their prayers.



With Gratitude.  
*Katrina*

## All Saints Annual Support of JUMP continues to adapt during COVID



For a number of years we filled shopping bags with groceries, and then later, we shifted to providing personal hygiene and cleaning products. We delivered them to JUMP. Now what is needed is cash to support the JUMP outreach to families during the pandemic to avoid utility shut-downs and other basic needs.

See the details below.

On 3/24 thru 3/27 JUMP CLOSED. And when JUMP re-opened, all in-kind donation and collection drives were no longer being accepted due to pandemic safety concerns and JUMP no longer physically at host church.

JUMP adjusted to improve access and better serve our families in need, and now offers the option of a \$50 Utility assistance voucher, \$35 Hannaford card, \$35 City Market card or \$35 Shell gas card. JUMP budget is based on the number of annual projected families that receive \$35 voucher assistance which help purchase food, diapers, personal hygiene, cleaning supplies and gas for transportation; the 2021 projected client budget is approximately \$82,320.

“Have your Donation make a difference!”

Utility and other Assistance: help JUMP subsidize the cost of a \$50 utility assistance payment for a family who is having trouble paying their home electricity and/or gas bill because of a crisis or emergency situation.

- \$15 Donation - helps subsidize (1) family
- \$30 Donation - helps subsidize (2) families
- \$45 Donation - helps subsidize (3) families
- \$150 Donation - helps subsidize (10) families

**Please make out checks to All Saints Church with JUMP in the memo line.**



Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry urges every Episcopal Church to dedicate the first Sunday or another Sunday in Lent to Episcopal Relief and Development. All Saints has traditionally distributed materials such as a bulletin insert and donation envelopes.

This year help is asked for the millions who still remain without power and water in the southern states. The February 2021 winter storm, which devastated communities in Texas, Oklahoma and beyond, continues to wreak havoc. The ice and snow are melting and power has been restored to many, but the region continues to deal with burst pipes, lack of safe water supply and uninhabitable housing. The US Disaster Team at Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting affected dioceses as they respond.

Perhaps we can help by designating your donations to this disaster.

Please make out checks to All Saints Church, ear-marked ERD

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Katherine McBride  
5 Bud Edgerton  
Katherine Chase  
6 Betsy Gardner  
8 Emma Sarge  
Richard Page  
9 Kayden Mathauer  
10 Susan Hartman  
13 Margaret MacLean  
15 Jerry Proulx  
18 Matthew Vile  
20 Paul Menson  
21 Stacy Franklin  
27 Charles Kail  
28 Linda Wright  
29 Amy Possidente

### ANNIVERSARIES

12 Rick & Deb Lockwood

### IN MEMORIAM

1 Charles Leonard  
Steve Whittlesey  
3 Hotch Young  
7 Charles Burnett  
9 Ruth Spooner  
21 Jack McDonald  
23 Suzanne Udell  
24 Fred McGibney  
25 Mark Crofut



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öFind your roots in the rituals and traditions of a people with a history.ö