

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL
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The Herald

THE HERALD

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

All Saints Episcopal Church
213 Madison Ave.
Lakewood, NJ 08701

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Father Draesel's	1
continued	2
Vestry Report	3
Senior Warden's report	
Senior Warden's cont.	4
Saints Alive: Marian Harris Christian Eduaction	
Lenten Services & Programs	5
Stewardship Weekend Lector Meeting Shrove Tuesday	6
Valentine's Day	7
Building & Grounds Food Pantry	

THE REV. HERBERT DRAESEL'S: State of the Union Message

Dear Friends,

It has always been my habit on the Sunday upon which the Annual meeting falls to give a kind of 'State of the union message instead of preaching a regular sermon, looking at where we have been as a parish in the last year and then asking where we think the Spirit is leading us in the year to come.

I think we had a very good year in many ways. We've grown in our numbers. We had a great Confirmation class that joined the ranks of our parish, went to the Cathedral last June and were either confirmed or received. (By the way we are started another class on Monday nights at 6 and any of you who wish to be part of that are encouraged to do so.)

This Christmas we had almost twice the number of people in church as we had the year before – a very good sign. As you all know, we have a consultant working with us on issues of Stewardship and growing the church. His name is Peter Saros and he consults with a large number of parishes up and down the east coast. He has commented again and again about the health and enthusiasm of the parish.

But it is more than just numbers. One of the frustrations that I mentioned at last year's meeting was leadership. Very few people were willing to step up and take leadership positions. Every year since I have been here we have had a difficult time finding people who were willing to serve on the vestry and often barely had enough to fill all the vacancies. Not so this year! You will see on the ballot the names of 7 people to fill 3 three-year terms and a one-year term. That is a first for us. All of them are extremely competent, committed and enthusiastic. I would be proud to have all of them on the vestry. Unfortunately our by-laws don't permit that, so some will not be elected. I only hope that all can take it in their stride and keep going in their service to the Lord in this parish. There will be other elections. But this is new- people stepping up to the plate and willing to lead and how that augers very well for the future of this church.

Another thing I would like to say is that we have a great staff that has been working together this year. We are all Part-time by necessity because of financial constraints. Joe D'Angelo, our sexton, takes care of the buildings. Eva LaBrozzi, our secretary, oversees the office and all of our communications. Mother Debbie Cook, who on paper is in charge of family ministries but in reality is doing so much more than that. She is involved in every aspect of our parish life and frankly I don't know how I could do without her. We have been working together for the past year in what I think is a very harmonious way and I am extremely grateful to all of them for their hard work and willingness to be part of this team.

Then recently, Brother Marco has joined us and is in charge of building the Hispanic congregation. Marco was a Roman Catholic Priest and who recently was received in the Episcopal Church. It is a joy to have Marco and his wife Elizabeth in our church family.

The one problem we've had in terms of staff is that we have not been able to find a regular organist. We've been looking but so far no luck. Thank the Lord for Christine, who has been with us all through the month of January and much of the time since Katya left us.

I think Annual meetings should be upbeat most of the time but I would be remiss if I didn't mention two issues that continue to plague us. First, when you come into the parish hall for our meeting you will be handed an Annual meeting booklet. In it you will see a projected budget with a whopping 35,000 dollar deficit. In years past we presented a balanced budget frankly by inflating projections of pledges and fund raising. We decided not to do that this year. We have a very realistic projection of our income but it falls \$35,000 short of our expenses. We don't have answers at this time but we need to keep reminding ourselves that it is there. It can't be the elephant in the room that no one is willing to talk about!

The other area is that our buildings have some incredible needs and we don't have the wherewithal to do much about them. Thank the Lord, the one person who is on top of this is Will Cam and he is not going to let us put our heads in the sand.

Now as we move to the future, and where the Spirit is leading us, I want to turn to a little scripture. Each week this month in our Gospels, we have heard about the beginnings of Jesus' public ministry. After Jesus is baptized and goes into the wilderness, he emerges on the scene and begins his ministry. Look what he did. He proclaimed that the Kingdom was near, he called a number of people to come and follow him, and in today's gospel we see him confronted with a demented man whom he heals. I don't see much of a well thought out blueprint here. He gathers people around him, he teaches as our gospel today says, "What is this? A new Teaching with authority", and then we see him reacts to whatever form of brokenness is going on around him. He is beginning and there is a wonderful freshness in that. "I'll make you fishers of men and women" he tells his followers. Imagine how exciting that must have sounded to those followers. He didn't say, "Take up your cross and follow me" That would come later but now, it was optimistic, visionary and compelling. The fact is that beginnings are exciting. There is a certain freshness to be sailing in uncharted waters. You are not bogged down saying "This is the way we have always done it" because you've never done it before. You can try things and if they don't work you abandon and try something else. For some, beginning something is unsettling because nothing is predictable. I don't believe Jesus knew where his beginnings back there in Galilee would lead. But he was sure it was what God wanted him to do and that was enough for him.

What has this to do with All Saints? I believe we are going into uncharted waters. Not that other churches haven't done that before. There are many places that have made this transition and we have much to learn from them, but to be sure we haven't done it. All Saint's has had over a 100 years of ministry, wonderful clergy and lay people who have given us a rich heritage. But we are about to go somewhere this parish has never been before. We are embarking on a new chapter of our life and asking what does it mean to be a bi-lingual community. In the last two Sundays we have had 30 people at one and 25 people at the other at our Spanish service. Look at this service we are having today. In our bulletins we see Spanish on one side of the page and English on the other and will jump from one side to the other always trying to have a liturgy that is inclusive, powerful and leading each one of us into a deeper life in Christ. Do we know what we are doing? Of course not. But we know this is the way the Spirit is leading us, and we know that wherever we are being led it will be good.

So let us do it confidently. Let us be carefully to listen to one another. Let each of us be attentive to our own spiritual needs so that we can all grow into the persons that God calls us to be. But let us also be conscious of those who are different from us and make room for the wonderful gifts that each of us brings to this community that we call All Saints' Church.

Clearly this bi-lingual service will not become a regular thing. Both Spanish and English speaking peoples need to be able to worship in their own language. But from time to time it is good for us to worship together as an expression that WE ARE A FAMILY. We share a faith in Jesus Christ, we break bread together and receive in that bread and wine that wonderful presence of our Lord Jesus Christ who stands in our midst and asks us to love each other as He loves us. Amen .

Faithfully,

The Rev. Herbert G. Draesel Jr.
Priest-in-Charge

Valentine's Day Celebration

On February 14, 2012, our Spanish Congregation is having a Valentine's Day celebration at 6:00-p.m. In Lockwood Hall
All members of All Saints are invited to come.



Giving Statements for 2012 have been sent out. Please check yours for accuracy.

If there are any questions or corrections, please let the office know and we will correct any errors.

NOTES FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER AND ATTENDANCE AT THE FOOD PANTRY IS PICKING UP.

AFTER A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE DIETARY HABITS OF OUR CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN GUESTS, WE PLAN TO PROVIDE MORE ETHNOCENTRIC FOOD. AS WELL AS THE USUAL AMERICAN FOOD WE DISTRIBUTE TO THOSE IN NEED.

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO DONATE HISPANIC FOOD AND/OR PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, HERE IS A LIST TO WORK FROM. THE FOLLOWING ARE POPULAR ITEMS:

WHITE AND YELLOW RICE, DRIED MILK PACKETS, BOXES OF RICE AND CHICKEN MIX (ARROZ CON POLLO), CANS OF TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED TOMATOS, PASTA, CANNED SPANISH BEANS, CANNED CORN, CEREALS, SPAM, CANNED FRUITS, COFFEE, TOILET AND KLEENEX TISSUE, SOAP, TOOTH BRUSHES AND PASTE, SHAMPOO, LADIES PERSONAL ITEMS.

EVERY SUNDAY, THE LITTLE RED WAGON AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH IS HAPPY TO RECEIVE YOUR DONATIONS.

THE FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN EVERY TUESDAY FROM 10 TO NOON IN THE CHURCH KITCHEN.

P.S. SUBSTITUES ARE NEEDED TO RELIEVE LYNNE, HESTER OR JAIMEE FROM TIME TO TIME. PLEASE CALL HESTER @ 732-730-0514

Buildings and Grounds Report

Our church buildings are the physical homes for our worshipping, missions, and ministries. They are the most tangible symbols of our faith and as we gather within them, it is our responsibility to make sure that they are an asset and not a liability.

Our church in many respects is just like our homes when it comes to issues that need to be attended to. We all have to check on and inspect various aspects of our property to keep everything in "tip top shape" as much as we can afford to do.

Here at the church, we check our smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, burglar alarms, schedule maintenance on our three oil furnaces, test operation of our emergency lights, prepare our outside hose spigots from winter freeze ups, remove leaves/ debris from gutters, trim tree limbs, insect/termite control, snow removal, cut the grass and apply fertilizer. We also plant flowers, bulbs, trim the landscape and put out the trash.

This coming spring we are planning a "spring cleanup and beautify" project around the church. We can use your help this coming spring if you like to paint, plant flowers, repair small items ,trim bushes and many other inside or outside chores !

A sign up work booklet will be made available listing various tasks and supplies or tools required.

If interested, please sign up and come out and give us a hand .

See me Will Camm for further details and questions .

Stewardship Weekend

Come to one or come to both

SATURDAY, FEB. 11, 2012

Senior Luncheon: 12:00 noon- 2:00p.m.

Wine and Cheese: 5:00p.m. -7:00p.m.



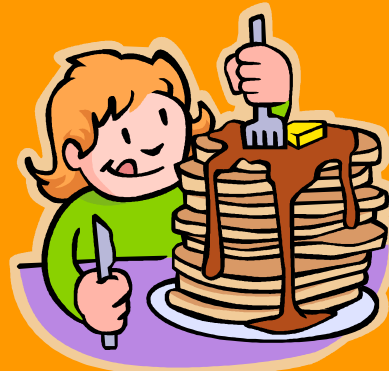
Lector Meeting:

For all those who are presently reading the lessons and for those who would like to proclaim the Scripture reading, there will be a breakfast meeting to discuss all aspects of being a Lector. Please come on February 18, at 9:00 to enjoy the conversation, training, and a delicious breakfast. A special invitation to all those who have wanted to read but were not sure of what that entailed.

ANNUAL SHROVE PANCAKE SUPPER

FEBRUARY 21, 2012
5:00P.M. -7:00 P.M.
WITH CABARET

COST :
Adults \$5.00
Children (12 and under) \$3.00
Children (2 and under) Free



Vestry Annual Report 2011

The Vestry began its year by evaluating church accomplishments and disappointments. It looked at its own strengths as a group and discussed nine leadership tasks. In March we held a planning meeting to further evaluate, set future goals, and plan a calendar for the coming year. We reviewed Vestry responsibilities and areas of ministry offered at All Saints'. The church incorporation papers were found.

We looked at Lakewood demographics and set goals for a Hispanic ministry. We approved the initiation of a Spanish Eucharist which was postponed for a few months but is now again being offered at 12:00. We approved the employment of Brother Marco as our Outreach Worker to the Latino community.

We set guidelines for the 150th anniversary celebration which is scheduled for 2014 and will continue to plan for events to "remember the past and look to the future".

We approved the new ministries of Jubilee Singers, St. Andrew's Guild, weekly Soup Kitchen, and the Corner Nursery. We revised the Scholarship Criteria. We received a gaming license and were pleased to note several fund raising activities were successful. The Thrift Shop continues to prosper. We participated in the Lakewood Historical Society "Houses of Worship Tour".

We have hired a consultant to help us focus on increasing membership and plan for our future. The budget again was at a deficit and if we are to meet our expenses and take care of our beautiful buildings we will have to grow our committed pledge income. This continues to be a concern for the Vestry. Our many ministries have drawn people to us and increased our membership this past year.

The Montgomery House Sunday School room was redecorated. The outside grounds were improved and the Vestry will take a more serious look at buildings needs which have been postponed over the years. Enhancing the outside "look" was one of the goals for this year and we will continue that effort into the spring.

Vestry Panning Meeting: February 4, 12:00 Fr. Draesel's House. Vestry Meeting: February 21, 7:00p.m. L.H.

Senior Warden's Report 2011

According to an article in the Star-Ledger last February, Lakewood is the seventh largest populated town in New Jersey. It population soared to 92,843 in 2010 and continues to grow. The increase was fueled by the growth of the Jewish community, the Latino community, and senior citizen retirement communities. We can ask ourselves the following:

Can we become a church for the unchurched whoever they are?

Can we be a church for Latinos in Lakewood?

With no Episcopal church in Howell and Jackson can we become a magnet church for Episcopalians in surrounding towns?

Can we attract seniors in Lakewood and nearby communities?

I think the answer is "yes" but it will take commitment and work on our part.

This past year our services were enhanced by the Jubilee Singers, guitar, horn, and dance in addition to our regular choir and organ. We sponsored a successful Watoto concert. We continue to search for a part time organist. The Coventry Players were here again this fall. Could we think of ourselves as a church center for the arts?

We have been fortunate in the leadership and vision of our Priest-in-charge Father Bert as we move forward. We are also are grateful for Mother Debbie's hard work and willingness to fill in when needed. Father Dudley adds support, his prayers and meditation. And now we have Brother Marco who will be our Hispanic outreach coordinator. Our part time office secretary Eva LaBrozzi and Sexton Joe D'Angelo have also added to better administration and management of the parish.

We began a more serious attempt to improve the look of our buildings and grounds this year by installing new signage, lamp posts, putting in new landscaping in front and adding new plantings. Additional landscaping will be done this spring and the front doors painted. Under Will Camm, our Buildings and Grounds Chairman, several repairs were made to the infrastructure necessary to maintaining old buildings. We have a comfortable seating area in the newly named Lockwood Hall. Several volunteers helped with changing inside and outside and they continue to work with Will and the Sexton.

St. Andrew's Guild, the Jubilee Singers, the Children's Christmas Party, the Food Pantry, and the Nursery Corner were new this year. We continue the Soup Kitchen, the Thrift Shop, the ushers and Eucharistic Visitors, Lectors, St. Luke Guild, Adult Education, Sunday School, Coffee Hour (now with name tags), and Altar Guild.

Lenten Services and Programs

We are very grateful to those of you who chair these groups and those of you who put in many hours and work hard to keep them operational.

For the first time in a long time we had five people in our Confirmation Class. They have continued to be active in Soup Kitchen, the Thrift Shop, and Hispanic Ministry. As you know we have hired Peter Saros to help us focus on how to grow in members and spirit. Everyone has chosen or been assigned to a group and I hope we take our assignments seriously. For all of us that means evaluating our commitment to the common effort to maintain ourselves as a viable congregation, a magnet to outsiders, and a witness to God's presence in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Bennett

Saints Alive! An Interview with Marian Harris

Marian Harris grew up on Oakland Terrace in the Vailsburg section of Newark. She was an only child and was active in the Girl Scouts as a child and teenager. She was a Girl Scout in Newark, attended camp in Orange, and was a counselor at Stokes State Forest camp.



When it came time to go to college, Marian followed in her parent's footsteps and attended the University of Michigan. She majored in Sociology and Psychology and joined Tri Delta sorority which was also her Mother's sorority. Going so far away to school was not such a stretch as it may seem since her parents both attended the University of Michigan and her father taught chemistry and metallurgy there at one time. She had cousins in Michigan and Indiana.

After college she returned to Newark and began a career with the Girl Scouts. She was an executive in Newburgh, NY for five years, was in Wilkes-Barre, PA and Binghamton, NY where she trained leaders and organized troops. She then returned to New Jersey and worked with the Youth and Families Programs at the YMYW. She worked in the field in Vailsburg and in Irvington for five years. She also was a substitute teacher in elementary and high school in the Irvington Public Schools for seven or eight years.

Marion belonged to St. Andrews/Holy Communion in South Orange. For many years she ran the bazaar there which was a year-long project that required a great deal of organizing. Her interest in crafts, knitting, felt work and ornaments and her organizational skills helped make the bazaar a big event.

For many years she was interested in craft work. She used to "knit up a storm". She was also interested in gardening, hiking, photography, and volunteering for the Red Cross. She spent time traveling to Bermuda and Alaska. She took a cruise to Indonesia and three times went to Israel. She was active with a business and professional women's group where she worked with various groups and ran a fund raising bazaar.

If someone would ask her about All Saints' Church she would tell them about "her church". She has been a member of All Saints' for about twenty years. She found it a good church and close to home. She remembers a Priest who had interest in preserving the Pinelands. She remembers going to the ECW where they wrapped Christmas gifts. Some things don't change!

Marian has lived in Harrogate for twenty two years and enjoys her friends, bridge, and card games there. She serves on some committees and likes it because there is a lot of activity. Former All Saints' members Sal and Pat Paoletta also live at Harrogate as did Art Tyler before he moved out of state. She no longer can come to services but she takes communion and sends clothes for the Thrift Shop.

Christian Education

Sunday School started again at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 8th in the Montgomery House—all children ages 5 and up are welcome. Lessons are from the curriculum *Weaving God's Promises*, and almost always include a special activity or craft. Class runs until about 10:15 a.m., at which time the students are brought over to Lockwood Hall to join their families for the 10:30a.m. service.

Nursery is open to our younger set during the 10:30a.m. service and the children rejoin their families during the Sign of the Peace. The Nursery is located in Lockwood Hall.

Confirmation Class: A class is starting for adults on Monday night at 6:00p.m. It will be a summary of the faith, an introduction to the Episcopal Church, and an opportunity for some to be confirmed, received, or have a renewal of ones Baptismal Covenant. The class will be led by Fr. Draesel and will be from 6:00-7:15, each Monday night. Some of you may want to be received or confirmed and that we hope can happen some time after Easter.

Come and think through who we are and what we do as Episcopalians.

Lenten Services— Sunday— Holy Eucharist Rite I at 8:00a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:30 a.m.

Spanish Holy Eucharist Rite II at 12:00 noon

Ash Wednesday —February 22, 2012—12:00 noon and 7:00p.m. The Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes.

Wednesday Evenings during Lent —Join us every Wednesday evening in Lent at 7 pm for Stations of the Cross, followed by a meditation by one of the clergy and a brief celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Services will begin Wednesday, February 29th.

Mondays during Lent— Confirmation class— 6:00 p.m. The Episcopal Church, who are we and what do we believe? What are the tenants that make us who we are? It is an opportunity for those who would like to be received or confirmed into the Episcopal Church. Our hope is that sometime during the Easter Season this can be accomplished.

Tuesdays— Holy Eucharist Rite II Healing service followed by a bible study. Please bring a bagged lunch.

Thursday Lenten Service and Study:

Beginning Thursday, February 23rd at noon, the clergy will lead a time a prayer, followed by a study using our Lenten selection, *God Has a Dream*. Please join us beginning in the church for a brief time of Noonday prayer, followed by a bag lunch and study in Lockwood Hall.

Lenten Study: God Has a Dream by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The clergy of All Saints invite everyone to join us in a Lenten study of Desmond Tutu's concise and powerful book, *God Has a Dream*. Grounded in who we are as God's children, this accessible book explores not only God's dream for all of creation but our part in that dream. Mission is not something we just do, but springs from who we are. Archbishop Tutu speaks personally and compassionately how pain and suffering can be transformed into hope and new life, a life that reflects the fullness of God's goodness.

Study questions are available in the book, and copies will be available through the Church (please let the office know); the book is also available on Kindle and as an audio book if you prefer those formats. There is even a related children's book called *God's Dream*.

We hope that you will join us in the discussion of we can partner with God and live into God's dream for all of creation.

Saturday—March 17, 2012—Quiet Day 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. - A Quiet Day is a time when people come together in silence. Meditations are given. During the silence people read, think and pray. We share a simple meal of soup and bread also keeping the silence. The Quiet Day ends at 2:00PM with the Eucharist. The Rev. Herbert Draesel will be leading the meditation.

Daily Meditation: "Crisscrossing Lent" will be handed out Sunday- February 12.. It is a collection of meditations for each day during Lent. Let's make this something we all will do as a family in our own homes on a daily basis. There will be a booklet for each family in the parish.