

THE monthly newsletter from All Saints Episcopal Church MESSENGER



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Rector's Message –

July / August 2011

Letting our Liturgy Speak...

each in its own language

By Kit Carlson, All Saints Rector

Following an exciting and inspiring vestry retreat led by the Rev. Deon Johnson, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brighton, the vestry and I have been talking about ways to make our worship service proclaim more clearly who we are as Episcopalians, and specifically who we are as the people of All Saints, a community which welcomes all people to come and be fed, seek and love God, and serve each person as Christ.

For nine weeks this summer, we will try some new arrangements to try to fully express the intention behind each of our forms of worship--the Elizabethan-flavored Rite I of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP) at 8 a.m. in the chapel, and the more contemporary Rite II service at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Each service has a different emphasis, a different theology, and as such calls for a different style of worship space, worship sound, and worship presence.

When you come to church on July 10, you will notice some changes!

Holy Eucharist, Rite I at 8 a.m. -- The chapel will be rearranged in the formal series of ranks of chairs facing toward the altar and the cross. The Rite I liturgy focuses particularly on Christ's death as a saving atonement for our sins. It emphasizes our sinfulness, our need for repentance, and God's graciousness in saving us through Christ's death and resurrection. In Rite I, offering the eucharist is the work of the ordained priest, and the congregation participates through

silent prayer and penitential actions, focusing on the gestures and words of the priest as he or she presides at the altar. Our Rite I worship for these nine weeks will express all this formality and penitence and devotion. Kneelers will be available on each chair, and there will be a large kneeler so the sacrament can be received in a kneeling position.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10 a.m. -- The theology of Rite II draws on Eucharistic understandings that date from the earliest days of Christianity. First, that it is baptism that creates Christian community. Second, that the Eucharistic celebration is the work of that baptismal community, gathered around the Lord's Table, giving thanks and celebrating the sacrament together with the priest. Our altar will be moved down into the congregation, and the movable chairs will be arranged so that the people will gather around the table together. The altar party will sit in those chairs, indicating that they are part of the celebration of the whole congregation. Communion will be received standing, and the emphasis will be on standing, as we are able, to pray -- it is the ancient prayer posture Jesus used, and it signifies with our bodies that Jesus' death and resurrection has made us worthy to stand before God.

On July 10, an instructed Eucharist will take the place of the sermon. An instructed Eucharist is a running commentary throughout a regular communion service, explaining each

section of the worship, what it is for and why we do it. This will give everyone a chance to learn a little bit more about our worship services, why we do what we do, and how each element of the liturgy plays its part in gathering, shaping, forming and fueling us for worship. The text will be specific for Rite I or Rite II, so you can learn the particulars of each sort of worship at each service.

Summer is a great time to try new things, to learn new things, and to practice new ways of following Jesus. Please feel free to talk to me or any vestry member if you have questions about our nine-week experiment.

Peace,

Pastor Kit+

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The View from Here. . .

The Rev. Andrew K. Shirota

The view of Ambassador Bridge from the Canadian Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Park is particularly beautiful in this sunny weather. Thinking that this might be the last time I write to you from this side of the Detroit River sort of makes me feel a bit of melancholy, though I can't express how happy I am about my recent visa petition approval. I am now getting ready for the next step...the visa interview at the US Embassy in Ottawa.

I have been thinking about how to confidently articulate the truth about myself at the Embassy because the result of the interview will determine whether I will be joining you in East Lansing this August or be back in Japan for a while. This visa interview makes me feel very restless. Nonetheless, my heart is already preparing for the next chapter of my life with you, and I am starting to pack up my belongings again and clean up this apartment for the next occupant.

Tidying up my stuff makes me reflect on the last six months of my life in Windsor; I have met many people here, even some Japanese folks, in this short period of time. One person, Fumiko-san, loaned me the memoir of a Japanese businessman who lived in Rose City (another name for Windsor), for nine years. Reading the book was enjoyable because I discovered many similarities and differences between his experience and mine, not to mention the changes in the city over the years. He, too, met many people. Since I rarely read Japanese books anymore, I think of the oddity of my encountering a Japanese book about this city as a result of my moving here and meeting Japanese people.

As I write this epistle to you, it occurs to me that you are also reading this article about my life. For whatever reason, you happened to become part of the All Saints community, and were curious enough to read this monthly parish newsletter, and now you are reading my article just as I read the Japanese memoir.

Communication is powerful because it either builds or harms relationships. How we express ourselves and listen to others makes an impact in our lives regardless. People in Jesus' time talked about communication. I remember the scripture passage in which the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and they started speaking different languages yet somehow understood one another. Regardless of circumstances, how I articulate myself at the US embassy or share my life with you in this epistle, when we speak truth from our heart, it is important to remember that God is with us. When we manage to find peace among ourselves even in the midst of disagreement, what we'll find between us is the love of God. As we are in the season of Pentecost, how may we become more intentional about expressing and listening for the truth with one another, with love?

Andrew+

In case you haven't heard yet, Andrew's visa was approved after his interview in Ottawa, and we look forward to his first service with us on August 7!

Monday Night for Study, Prayer and ... Laughter



By Barbara Backus

What is this Monday Night Prayer and Study group? Well, one member calls the group “AA for the theologically inclined.” Our addiction is to questioning wonderment. We are a group of seekers in a quest to answer the questions of who is God? why are we here? and how do we make sense of each other in this creation? In our search for answers to these questions, we have sought the wisdom and reflections of a range of thinkers, from the ancients—St. Augustine, St. Teresa of Avila, and Meister Eckhart—to more modern—Martin Buber, C.S. Lewis, and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, to living writers such as Agnes Sanford, Matthew Fox, and Marcus Borg.

Finding final, absolute answers to our theological questions does not seem to be our purpose. Our purpose seems to be to make ourselves present to each other by listening to others’ thoughts and interpretations as we reflect upon our readings. We have found that we do not need to agree with each other to respect and love each other. And we have also discovered that, though final answers to the big questions may never be found, considering and pondering them becomes our way of praising God and celebrating creation.

You may notice that we are more than a study group. We also believe in prayer. Prayer tills our souls, opening us to the seeds God wills to plant within us. At the beginning and ending of every meeting we have a period of silence, a time for meditating, centering, petitioning and receiving God’s spirit. Prayer also tenderizes our hearts, so that we listen more closely to the cares and concerns of the others in the group.

In one way, the group’s name is incomplete. We are really the Prayer, Study and **Laughter** group. God must be present at our meetings, because we

laugh frequently. Our discussions are noisy and unbridled. Laughter comes easily and often in a room of honest exchange. Though we may arrive at the meeting tuckered out from our day, after the peaceful prayers, animated discussions, and gleeful laughter, we leave refreshed, God’s wind at our backs.

If you like pondering the big questions and entertaining theological ideas, please join us. All are welcome at the Monday Night Prayer and Study group, meeting at 7 p.m. Monday nights, in the church library. On July 11, we will begin discussing *Amish Peace* by Suzanne Woods Fisher, available online and in local bookstores.

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You May Still Join a Reading Group

If you didn’t register for a reading group, you may still read one of the chosen books and join the discussion. Contact Tom Jackson at tvjaxon@gmail.com if you’re interested.

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation, by Parker J. Palmer
Discussion Organizer: Steve Findley

Hamlet's Blackberry: A Practical Philosophy for Building a Good Life in the Digital Age, by William Powers.
Discussion Organizer: Pat Enos/Anita Ezzo

Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person, by Rob Bell.
Discussion Organizer: Jean Friend

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone, by J.K. Rowling.
Discussion Organizer: Joe McKee

Sensing God: Reading Scripture With All Our Senses, by Roger Ferlo
Discussion Organizer: Tom Jackson

Fingerprints of God: What Science is Learning About the Brain and Spiritual Experience, by Barbara Bradley Hagerty
Discussion Organizer: Barbara Backus

Climate Change and the Church? Exploring the Connection

By Carol Swinehart

Some call it global warming; others use the term climate change. Many scientists have reached consensus that human beings have contributed to the condition that is bringing significant, unwanted changes to many areas on Earth.

The world's religions are seriously engaging in work to address ecological and social concerns related to climate change. How are faith communities responding to climate concerns, and what do their ethical and moral perspectives add to scientific approaches to climate change?

I recently participated in a webinar, sponsored by Ohio Sea Grant and others, which provided information and perspective about:

- History, trends, and tensions in faith communities' response to climate change;
- Religious teachings and moral imperatives about climate change and environmental stewardship;
- Engaged projects within faith communities as examples of response in action.

The webinar was presented by Greg Hitzhusen—a lecturer in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University and Board Chair of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light. His work and research center on the intersection of faith and the environment and on collaboration between scientific and faith communities; his teaching focuses on environmental communications and religion and ecology.

The Episcopal Church in the USA is one of the leaders in this effort. Please let me know if you want to access the materials from this webinar and/or discuss how we can be involved in this issue. Call me at 881-3537 or send an e-mail to carol_swinehart@yahoo.com

Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked: Claudia's Cause: Helping Haiti

Seven year old Claudia Miklavcic is on a mission...to help children in Haiti. She's especially concerned about children who need medical care which their families can't afford.

Over the past three years she has become friends with The Rev. Wisnel DeJardin of Haiti who spent holidays with her family while on break from Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). Claudia learned a lot from him about the needs of people in his homeland, especially since the earthquake in January 2010. Her Mom, Pam, also provided her with personal perspective gleaned from a Haiti Outreach Mission trip in 2009.

But what can one young girl do when the needs are so great? Claudia decided she could ask family and friends to contribute to her cause, and that's how she raised the first \$100. She asked her friend Wisnel, who recently completed his studies at VTS and has returned to Haiti, to choose a girl who needs money for medical care. Wisnel identified five year old Emmanuel, who has plague in her feet. Her father died last year and her mother doesn't have the financial resources for the expensive, ongoing treatment of the Emmanuel's condition. Wisnel reports that Claudia is now famous in Haiti for her project.

Claudia's cause continues because the need still exists, so she's collecting more money...perhaps another \$100 or more, depending on how much people give. She's thinking of selling lemonade and possibly hot chocolate. If you'd like to contribute to her cause, you may contact her mom at rileypam@msu.edu



Emmanuel



Claudia

..... and a little child shall lead them.

Behind the Scenes: All Saints' Coffee House

In 2006, All Saints was searching for a new rector, an exercise in patience that took most of the year. While the search committee worked very hard, the congregation explored some new ways of being together. Steve Findley came up with a form of fellowship that will soon celebrate its fifth anniversary.

Steve called it a “coffee house” to reflect its casual and eclectic atmosphere, where parishioners, guest musicians and other performers could contribute their talents and time for an evening’s entertainment.

The audience gathers in the undercroft around 7:30 p.m. on the third Friday of most months, where tables for four are lighted by oil lamps. Attendees are welcome to bring snacks and libations for refreshments. They are strongly encouraged to sing (as they are able) the mostly familiar songs whose lyrics they find on handouts that Steve has prepared.

Over the years, the All Saints' Coffee House program has featured Rector Kit Carlson reading Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, popular local pianist Laura Agar, Dr. Nancy Spates telling jokes with parish youngsters, young singing, ukulele-playing phenom Magdalen Fossum, MSU's R-CAHpella group, sing-alongs with strumming Steve and his sidekick Bob Kilbridge, author and professor Dedria Barker reading revealing passages from her writing about family experiences, talented professional Jean Lyle Leopard singing and acting, violinist/fiddler Tamara Hicks-Syron stroking with her bow, and writing enthusiasts Vic Rausch and Ellen DeRosia reading some of their poetry...to name just a few.

The show has even brought a performer—Steve's daughter Emily singing some of her own songs—from great distance via Skype. She and sisters Lisa and Heather did some in person trio and quartet work with their dad at this Spring's May gathering.



A fine Findley foursome—Heather, Lisa, Steve and Emily—harmonizes at All Saints' May Coffee House

Steve, whose blog “All Things Music” is an apt motto for the multi-talented musician, taps his extensive network of musical friends within the congregation and beyond to build the program for each session. He welcomes local writers to read their own work and indulges yours truly to present the work of her favorite authors and some of her own.

The audience is generous with its applause, encouraging even the shy to step up to the microphone, look into the friendly faces, take a deep breath and offer their talents. Members are welcome, yea verily encouraged, to bring friends to experience this enjoyable aspect of parish life.

The coffee house's 2011-12 “season” begins Friday, September 16, at 7:30 p.m. If you'd like to help, you may join the crew at 6:30 to set up tables and light the lamps. Feel free to bring a snack—a tasty bite or beverage. If you'd like to read, recite, sing, dance or play your instrument, contact Steve so that he can get you into the lineup. Email him at steve.findley@gmail.com.



Ellen Armentrout and daughter Nora; Glen Staszewski and son Benno enjoy the May 2011 All Saints' Coffee House

Water for LaPita

Pura Vida, in partnership with El Porvenir, **recently installed new latrines and a source of running water** in the farming community of La Pita, Nicaragua. Dona Hernandez, a mother in the La Pita community, helped organize the construction of the project and is currently working to ensure its sustainability.

Since the completion of the project **Dona no longer has to carry 40 pound buckets of unsanitary water** home several times each day. Prior to the installation of the new well, the community's source of water was badly contaminated with bacteria. This contamination caused Dona and her four small children to become ill and required frequent trips to the clinic.

"I feel more relaxed", said Dona, since the installation of the new well and latrines. "I have water in my house and I can easily do the household chores, maintain good hygiene and my children don't get sick any more. **We appreciate your generosity** and help in this project that we needed so badly."



It's better to give than receive. Unless you can do both.

Did you ever wonder where we get the coffee we serve at All Saints for Coffee Hour, Second Sunday Breakfast, Coffee House and other occasions??

The slogan at the top of this column is a motto for the Pura Vida Create Good brand, which prides itself on being . . .Fair Trade, USDA Organic, Roasted Daily, and Cause Driven. Good Never Tasted So Good!



Proceeds from the sale of its coffee and other products—tea and wine—are channeled to its charitable partner, the [Create Good Foundation](#), to support water and economic infrastructure projects in coffee growing regions of the world.

Something to think about the next time you enjoy the fellowship of an All Saints event where hot beverages are served.

speaking of coffee ... have you reserved a Sunday to host coffee hour after the 10 o'clock worship service? It's super simple! This summer, it's being served in the Grove Street entrance area. Please contact Marguerite Halversen at 517-333-0251 or e-mail her at halverse@msu.edu

Hunger knows no season! Please remember to bring your contributions for the Food Bank at Haven House each week and volunteer to deliver the collection if you can.

You can help serve lunch at Advent House on July 2. Contact Barbara Backus at backbarb@yahoo.com if you're available for this ministry this month...or any other ;-)

July 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	1 3:00 p.m. String Group	2 10:00 a.m. Advent House
3 Pentecost 3 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	4 Independence Day – Office Closed 7:30 p.m. AA	5 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	6 1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous	7 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	8 3:00 p.m. String Group 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi & Qigong	9 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi & Qigong
10 Pentecost 4 Birthday Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	11 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	12 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. B & G Meeting 7:00 p.m. Cancer Support 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	13 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous	14 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 6:00 p.m. Adult Ed Meeting 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi & Qigong 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	15 3:00 p.m. String Group	16 9:30 a.m. Prayer Needlers
17 Pentecost 5 Father's Day 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	18 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:00 p.m. Moms' Group 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	19 8:00 a.m. 3rd Tuesday Breakfast 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Finance 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	20 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous	21 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	22 3:00 p.m. String Group 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong	23 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi / Qigong
24 Pentecost 6 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	25 1:30 p.m. EL Women's 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	26 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. O. S. L. 7:00 p.m. Vestry 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	27 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous	28 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	29 3:00 p.m. String Group	30 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi / Qigong
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August 2011

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	1 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:00 p.m. Moms' Group 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong 7:00 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	2 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	3 1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous	4 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	5 3:00 p.m. String Group	6 10:00 a.m. Advent House
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28 Pentecost 11 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	29 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	30 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	31 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous			

ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics
ANS = Abbott Nursery School

AIAnon = Family and Friends of Alcoholics
Debtors A = Debtors Anonymous