

THE monthly newsletter from All Saints Episcopal Church MESSENGER



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Rector's Message –

June 2011

Is it Summer Yet?

By Kit Carlson, All Saints Rector

As I write this in May we have had a brief spat of heat, then Noah's Ark-quality floods, grey skies and chilly weather. And May somehow always ends up being one of the busiest months in the church year, as everything -- Sunday School, choir, adult education, Wonderful Wednesdays-- careens to a halt.

It is time for summer. Time to find a lake, a pool, a stream and be restored by the peace of water. Time to stretch out under robin's-egg-blue skies and white puffy clouds and brilliant sunshine (come on, sunshine!). Time to find Sabbath rest, restoration and recreation.

As I look back on this program year, All Saints has done some amazing things. Beginning with the Qu'ran reading on September 11, when we reached out to all our neighbors, especially our Muslim neighbors, to read from their holy text on a day when a Florida man said he was going to burn it. Our annual Day of the Dead celebration honored our blessed dead with a joyful fiesta, as baptisms abounded at the All Saints Sunday service. Westboro Baptist Church came to town to protest at East Lansing High School, and again All Saints was the gathering spot for the community, as we collaborated on a counter-protest that asserted our community and religious values: *God loves everyone. No exceptions!*

In the winter, we dove into our Habitat for Humanity project, raising funds and then restoring a home alongside the new owners. We

Relaxing, restful, refreshing, rejuvenating

spent a Saturday fixing up the home of a Lansing resident through Rebuilding Ingham. And we deepened our commitment to Action of Greater Lansing, sending Tom Jackson for week-long organizer training and fielding 20 trained parishioners in a listening campaign that reached out to almost 200 of our parishioners.

Easter and Holy Week recalled us to our salvation story, and our prayers and meditations were enhanced by a new, portable, canvas labyrinth that was available in the chapel during Holy Week. Along with a quiet day led by Martha Lynch, there was room for prayer and contemplation during Lent.

We still wait for our promised curate, the Rev. Andrew Shirota. As a Japanese national, he must have a religious worker visa specific to All Saints. And we rejoice in the May graduation of the Rev. Wisnel Dejardin from Virginia Theological Seminary. He returns to Haiti ready to teach, to lead and to make a difference there. We are proud to have supported his journey.

But now it is summer. Time to rest, rejuvenate, relax and breathe. Even God rested. We shall, too.

Pastor Kit+

Editor's Note: For more *Messenger* material, visit www.allsaints-el.org

In the Midst

By the Rev. Andrew K. Shirota

I have finally moved to a new place, which is in student housing at Canterbury College, located a block from the Detroit River. Weather being stunningly beautiful, a short walk to the river in the morning has been a delightful diversion.

This evening there must be a party of some kind in downtown Detroit. From across the river, I can hear the beautiful, slow tempo music with the comforting sound of the bass and the electric guitar. The music is perfectly fitting on this warm spring evening with a nice orange sunset over Ambassador Bridge. Listening to the music, I am wishing I could just travel across the river back to Detroit in much the same way as the sound from the instruments visits me in Windsor!

While trees and grass are spreading their leaves to soak up the sun before sundown on this side of the river, many people are hanging out at the park. Children are either running around or looking over at Detroit through binoculars trying to find out what is happening, while a number of couples are romantically strolling the walkway. While the exchange students talk about their homework and their future, runners are enjoying their “alone” time, listening to their own music from an iPod while zig-zagging through the crowd. Homeless people are walking around searching for a safe and warm spot for the night, while, ironically, a few folks are enjoying a fast boat ride on the river. A Muslim mother has just walked by, pushing the stroller while gazing at the sunset with her baby.

And here I am, an Episcopal priest serving in a Canadian Anglican Church writing an epistle to you. All these different lives are hanging out at the park enjoying the spring, peacefully.

Writing this letter, I am just reminiscing about my last Sunday sermon in which I spoke of the disciples walking to the village of Emmaus—how an “undercover” Jesus was strolling along with them as a stranger, and they did not realize who he was until they had dinner. Having all these people in front of me, I am going through a sort

of “finding Jesus in the midst” moment, wondering if one of the people in front of me is really the “undercover Jesus.”

After *A Thousand Cranes for Japan* reached well beyond our original goal and collected more than 6,800 prayer cranes, the mobile was blessed by Suffragan Bishop Dance of Huron on Easter Sunday. It is now displayed at the Art Gallery of Windsor and will be on exhibition through July. Now that the crane project is coming to an end, I will have the luxury of some free time to meditate on such thoughts as I’ve shared with you this evening.

As part of my clerical duties at All Saints Anglican, I have been making numerous pastoral visits, and this is something I very much enjoy. Meeting with people in their home, a hospital room, or the nursing home is an intimate and very personal way to learn more of the person and his or her life. Once again, I am drawn to consider and ponder who, among these folks, might be an “undercover Jesus.” This is such an intriguing thought for me. I wonder: Do you ever look for “Jesus in the midst?”

Andrew +

PS - On May 20, Andrew learned that his visa application was approved! He now must have a visa interview at the US Embassy in Tokyo. We hope to welcome him to All Saints sometime in July.

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The Newest Saints!

We welcomed the following folks in recent sacraments of baptism and confirmation:

Baptized: Emma Riddell, Bryce Delaney, Teena Hedden, * Gracie Perry, * Liam Beauregard

Confirmed: Peter Milan Miklavcic, Caitlin Cosgrove Hegg, Megan Johnston, Bria Kelley, Johannes Melfi, Teena Hedden, Tom Victor Jackson, Lual Deng Awan, Jane Ann Jakeway.

* To be baptized at Pentecost.

Summer Reading Selections to Stimulate Learning & Discussion

By Tom Jackson

In an attempt to hasten the warmth of Summer, the Adult Education Committee presents the following five picks for summer book group reading. Thanks to committee members who contributed to the selection process and other parishioners who offered thoughtful suggestions.

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation - by Parker J. Palmer, Quaker, Teacher, Activist and Senior Associate of American Association of Higher Education and the Fetzer Institute. He writes that "vocation" isn't an objective to be achieved or some voice out there urging one to be someone they are not. Vocation is rooted in the voice within "calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood". The book is under 125 pages, yet it contains wisdom one may fail to unearth in a book many times its length.

Hamlet's Blackberry: A Practical Philosophy for Building a Good Life in the Digital Age, by William Powers. Although one reviewer's remarks that the book changed his life may be over the top, our own parishioner Pat Enos thought it well worth a summer group read. This 288-page book about the digital age of "obsessive connectivity" [NY Times review] may prove the very wake-up call we need to grasp the badges of human servitude suffered by a techno madness we seem to have gotten caught up in at the expense, perhaps, of mind, body and spirit.

Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person, by Rob Bell. In this controversial book, authored by a native of western Michigan, Bell is said by our parishioner and education committee member Nell Corkin to argue "that in the end every soul will be reconciled with God." Nell opined that whether one agrees with the view or disagrees, it ought to supply rich group discussion. Kit mentioned this book in a sermon a few weeks back. Rob is quoted as saying he wrote for those thirsty. Have fun drinking this novel and positive cup of tea.

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, by J.K. Rowling. It describes how Harry discovers he is a wizard, makes close friends and a few enemies at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and, with the help of his friends, thwarts an attempted comeback by the evil wizard Voldemort, who killed Harry's parents when Harry was one year old.

Sensing God: Reading Scripture With All Our Senses, by Roger Ferlo, professor and associate dean at Virginia Theological Seminary. This small book packs loads of insight into the value of using all our senses including taste, touch, smell, sense of time, sense of presence -- even if in the foreground -- to interpret Scripture. The open focus, or paying full attention to the Scripture, is explored, often using famous religious paintings as the backdrop. The creative approach Ferlo takes is refreshing.

Fingerprints of God: What Science is Learning About the Brain and Spiritual Experience, by Barbara Bradley Hagerty, NPR's award-winning religion correspondent. She reports events about people speaking in tongues, meditating, praying, etc., referring to science now able to explore the tracks left by an otherwise invisible spiritual event. She recounts scientific studies and concludes that science is consistent with God.

How does it work? At the Abbot Road entrance, you'll find a sign-up sheet for each book. Someone on the list will agree to organize the group and contact the others about meeting to discuss.

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HABITAT FUNDRAISING TOPS GOAL!

At its April 26 meeting, All Saints vestry presented a check for \$6,166.95 to Denise Paquette, Habitat for Humanity – Lansing's Executive Director. The money was raised through a silent auction in February and a bowling event last fall. All Saints crews continue to work on houses that will soon be homes. See a photo on All Saints' web site at: <http://www.allsaints-el.org/>

Marching On For Justice Ministry

By Janet Chegwiddden

The All Saints Listening Team has completed its task of listening to the stories, concerns and passions of approximately 200 parishioners. Heartfelt thanks to all who participated, either as a listener or as one who was listened to.

This listening process has helped us to draw closer to one another, to form connections, and to identify concerns and issues within the parish as well as in the community. New ideas have been brought forth that will enable the vestry and other parish leaders to develop the path All Saints wishes to follow as we continue to nourish current members as well as to encourage others to join us.

Of particular interest were the community issues expressed by our parishioners. Most of those concerns centered around children—their physical, emotional and educational well-being in light of recent budget cuts—and for the homeless and hungry in our communities.

As a member of Action of Greater Lansing, All Saints now looks to the next step in the development of a new community justice issue. On **Tuesday, June 7**, Action will hold an Issues Convention at Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Lansing. At this event, we will choose three issues that have been presented as possible justice ministry areas and set up task forces to research these issues. Ultimately, Action will choose one or two issues on which to focus.

Also at this gathering we will officially end three previous community issues that have been successfully completed by Action. We will also make a formal decision for re-committing to the ongoing issue of children's health inequities through Action's participation with the Children's Health Initiative. We invite all members of the Listening Team and any other parish member who is interested in having a voice in the selection of the next justice ministry issue to attend. Each member church will have votes based on the number of attendees.

Please consider helping us swell the ranks!

Action Community Issues Convention
Tuesday, June 7 - 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Pilgrim United Church of Christ
125 South Pennsylvania
(Behind Rite Aid)

Questions? Email Janet Chegwiddden
(chegwid1@msu.edu)

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Rebuilding Ingham

By Carolyn Plante

Eleven people converged on a small house and yard on April 30th with the sole intent of making one woman's life a little bit prettier and more private. Home owner Sue Ellen's only wish was a fence and some trees to provide privacy from the empty lot next door that is slated to become a community garden soon.

The All Saints crew refurbished old fencing, painted it and planted arborvitaes in between. We also painted both of her porches, installed a new bathroom sink and cleaned up her yard. And, lest we forget the little things that bring great joy, we attached new house numbers. Sue Ellen was thrilled!

This was All Saints' fourth year sponsoring a house for Rebuild Together. This year's project was not nearly as large as last year's, but the heart and soul of the volunteers were huge! Thank you to each and every one of you for giving your all!

RICE BOWL GIVING HELPS CLINICS HERE AND IN HAITI

This year's Lenten Rice Bowl and Easter Offering contributions totaled \$2,802.39. This money was divided equally between the St. Pierre Clinic of Haiti Outreach Mission and the MSU Children's Health Initiative, to help families of children being treated in the pediatric hematology/oncology clinic.

Those Whose Lives are Closely Linked: 2Lt Graham N. Burgess, US Army

A Company, 1-503 ABN (Airborne) 173rd ABCT
(Airborne Brigade Combat Team)

Stationed at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy, until
January 2014.



No wonder he's smiling; his team won!

Between my sophomore and junior years of college, I decided I didn't want to immediately go to graduate school or take a job in the civilian world. After talking to my Dad, a career infantry officer, I decided that joining the Army would allow me to pursue a unique leadership experience, while also serving my country. I enrolled in ROTC that fall and, less than two years later, I was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army.

Now I'm an infantry platoon leader; I lead 40 paratroopers, working closely with my platoon sergeant and four squad leaders to plan and execute training and look after the men. I also represent my platoon up the chain of command.

So far, I've been very impressed with the dedication and work ethic throughout my entire unit, from the soldiers in my platoon up to the officers above me in the chain of command. I am very thankful for the great leadership environment within my battalion.

To date the most satisfying experience has been graduating Ranger School and having my parents (Louis and Kathy Burgess) and girlfriend attend the graduation.

I expect our unit to go back to Afghanistan sometime in the near future. I believe my previous military training will help (Infantry Officer's Basic Course, Ranger School) as well as

drawing on the experience of my NCOs (non-commissioned officers) who have served 1-3 combat tours each.

Of course, I miss being able to see friends and family on a daily basis. I keep in touch through email, Facebook, and Skype, but it isn't the same as seeing them every day.

During the work week I usually come home, eat, watch some TV and Skype with my girlfriend before bed, but on the weekends I love to travel. I've already been to a couple Italian destinations and spent long weekends in Berlin and Budapest.

I'd like to thank my family, friends, and the All Saints community for all the support. It really means a lot to me and I appreciate it. Thanks!

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Behind the Scenes: Finance Hannah Rethamel – Bookkeeper

When she earned her bachelor's degree in political science, Hannah Rethamel didn't imagine that she would have the position she now holds as All Saints' part-time bookkeeper. She started with us in 2009, while studying accounting at Lansing Community College and has found the work here very satisfying.

Her regular duties include keeping the parish's financial records, preparing the payroll, responding to requests for reimbursement, doing monthly reports for the finance committee and Vestry, paying the bills, submitting quarterly and annual tax forms, supporting the budget committee cooperating with annual audits.

"I think all of this is fun, especially learning to do new things," she says with a smile.

Among the new things she's learned are the small business credit for health care and the church's unrelated income (from parking space rental).

June 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| | | | 1 1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:00 p.m. Adult Ed Meeting 7:30 p.m. Debtors A Anonymous | 2 Ascension Day 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & breakfast 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon | 3 3:00 p.m. String Group | 4 10:00 a.m. Advent House |
| 5 Easter 07 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum | 6 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:00 p.m. Moms' Group 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA | 7 9:00 a.m. MCWS 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem | 8 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous | 9 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon | 10 3:00 p.m. String Group | 11 |
| 12 The Feast of Pentecost Birthday Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 8:45 a.m. 2 nd Sunday Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum | 13 1:30 p.m. Staff 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA | 14 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 | 15 Messenger Deadline 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous | 16 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 6:00 p.m. Outreach 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon | 17 3:00 p.m. String Group | 18 9:30 a.m. Prayer Needlers |
| 19 Pentecost 01 Father's Day 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Car Wash 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum | 20 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 | 21 3 rd 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 | 22 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous | 23 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon | 24 3:00 p.m. String Group | 25 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi / Qigong |
| 26 Pentecost 02 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum | 27 1:30 p.m. EL Women's 1:30 p.m. Staff 5:45 p.m. Vacation Bible School 6:00 p.m. Tai Chi / Qigong 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA | 28 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Vacation Bible School 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 | 29 5:45 p.m. Vacation Bible School 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous | 30 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 5:45 Vacation Bible School 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon | | |

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The Episcopal Chaplaincy at Michigan State University services are held at 9 p.m. Wednesday evenings in the Chapel during the fall and spring MSU semesters. Weekly dinners and discussions will be served at 5 p.m. Sundays in the Undercroft. For more information, please email emmsu@msu.edu.