

THE monthly newsletter from All Saints Episcopal Church MESSENGER



The Messenger is published by All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823

Rector's Message

By Pastor Kit Carlson

January 2012

Shopping? Or Seeking?

"Church shopping" is a relatively new phenomenon that emerged with a more mobile society and a more consumer-oriented attitude toward faith. Once, if people moved to a new town, they sought out the nearest church of the denomination they had always belonged to. Catholics worshipped in their local parish. Episcopalians, Presbyterians and the like usually went to the closest, or only, church of their denomination. You were born a Lutheran, you stayed a Lutheran, and off to the Lutheran church you went.

But in the last 30 years or so, selecting a church has become more a matter of preference.

How are the children's programs?

Is the music "happy-clappy" or "classical"?

Do I like the pastor?

Is it big enough? Small enough?

Does it have enough people my age? Do they do good outreach?

Do I feel inspired when I leave?

And more and more frequently, the "shoppers" choose a church based not on location, or on denomination, but on how well it meets their spiritual, social and family needs. You might worship as an Episcopalian while in East Lansing. But if you move to Vermont, there might be a UCC church in your new town that suits your family better than the Episcopal church.

But something is changing across our society. People are still "shopping" for churches that fit them. But church is becoming more and more just one activity among many for families whose lives are filled with conflicting activities and demands. Sometimes church seems like a burden. Sometimes it doesn't even seem necessary at all. Today, 15 percent of Americans identify their religious preference as "none" (up from 8 percent in 1990). "None" outranks every other religious group in America, except for Catholics and Baptists.

For more and more Americans, especially those under 40, the kind of shopping they want to do on a Sunday morning takes them to Meijer or to the mall, not to a local church.

We could ponder this demographic reality and panic. But I wonder if we might think of this instead as a gift. If people who walk past our doors on Sunday aren't interested anymore in "church shopping", then we might hope that those who pause, who turn in, who come inside ... might be -- not shopping, but seeking.

If we thought of each guest in our worship as a "faith seeker" instead of a "church shopper", how would that change the way we greet them? If we believed they had come here because of a spiritual longing, a Holy Spirit prompting, a desire to ask questions and find a place those questions might be welcomed ... what might we say to them at coffee hour? If we thought they came here looking for Jesus, how would we let

Jesus shine through us in the way we greet them, the way we introduce ourselves, the way we speak about All Saints?

There will always be "church shoppers", people who plan to join a church and select one based on their needs. But my hunch is that more and more, we will find that our guests and newcomers are less shoppers than they are seekers, people with big questions and longing hearts, people who want to be at All Saints because this is where they find God, find fellowship, find companions on their spiritual journey.

The next time you see an unfamiliar face at All Saints, greet that person as a seeker. See the difference it makes in your conversation.

Peace,

Kit

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Let go and let God; Ah-ha moments everywhere

By Father Andrew Shirota

A Happy New Year to you! I hope you had a wonderful holiday celebrations. As we welcome Epiphany, we continue to seek opportunities to witness manifestation of Christ in our life through different ministries. To experience this, I am learning to let go some of my over planning to control things, but let God be the pilot. God appears to us not in our success, but in the opening of our soul.

Teen After School Center (Formally TASP) and Youth ministries provide me with many such learning opportunities, and I am happy to say that we are going strong this year! At TASC, I discovered that Pat Perry was an incredible table tennis diva, and Martha McKee, who had self-identified as a shy person, was such an entrepreneurial beads-artist ministering to the youth.

Meanwhile, our youth continue to dedicate their time on Sunday evenings engaging in deeper conversations about faith over games, food, and art craft. Although the shapes of outcome may be completely different than how it was originally planned, we accomplish the same goal—that is to find God in our midst together!

We have many events this year for youth. Take a chance and get involved!

Andrew+

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Thanks be to God for Generous and Gracious Givers

In 2011, All Saints received bequests from the estates of Isobel Blyth, Sarah Huyser and Joe Sheedy. We are grateful that these faithful members remembered their church in their wills. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

If you have remembered All Saints in your will, please let our Pledge Secretary Bob Kilbridge (rkilbridge@gmail.com) know. And thank you for your generosity.

-- Pastor Kit

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What's happening January 29?

If you guessed the All Saints Annual Meeting, you would be right! You'll be participating in the most important election of the church year—new members of the Vestry and delegates to diocesan convention.

We'll have reports from important parish ministries and more. And we'll adjourn by 12:30 p.m.!

DON'T MISS IT!

Sheila's Corner

By Sheila Wiitala

First, a quick thank you.

As you all may know, 2011 was a very rough year for my family. My Dad was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in April, then passed away in September. I've appreciated all the love and support over the past year. It is great to know that so many people care for me and my family. Thank you, I am glad that I am lucky enough to be a part of the All Saints Family.

After the year my family has had it will be nice to start 2012 with a little miracle. As many of you know, Matt and I are expecting a baby boy the first week in February. We are all very excited to be adding a new little person to our family. The kids are so looking forward to their new brother coming very soon.

With the new addition, I maybe out on maternity leave for the month of February. I am looking for someone to lead the gathering time and the family Sunday school for that month. If you would be willing to lead the children for the 15 minutes gathering time, please let me know so that we can start planning.

Parents' Time Out

Parents' Time Out will start again on Wednesday, January 11th. You can bring your children-- any age is welcome, even teens-- to All Saints between 5:15 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. They should have either already had dinner or they can bring a sack dinner with them. The kids will be entertained while you do what you need to do. There is no charge; all you need to do is either email allsaintssheila@hotmail.com or call the church to reserve your spot. Spaces are limited so call a.s.a.p.

Christmas Pageant

The Christmas pageant will be Friday, January 6, as part of the Epiphany service at 7 p.m. We will have a rehearsal on Wednesday the 4th from 5:30 p.m. -7 p.m. On the 6th the children will need to be at the church at 4:45 p.m. We will rehearse the play, then have dinner at 6. After the children are

finished eating, we will put on their costumes and get ready for the 7 p.m. service. It will be a great way to conclude the 12 days of Christmas.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

In the cold, dark days of January, it's nice to imagine the warmth of June. So mark your calendars for VBS June 18-21 from 5-7 p.m. Please prayerfully consider leading an activity area or being a group leader. More information will be coming.

Mom's Group

We will be meeting on January 2nd and the 17th. This group is open to anyone either expecting a baby or having a young child. If you are not a part of this group but are or will be a parent of an infant or a young child, you are missing out on a great mom fellowship time. Childcare is provided. It is a great time to relax and know that many moms that are going through similar things as you. Please consider joining us, and, if you know anyone that might benefit from this group, please let them know.

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Celebrate Epiphany with Chili, Prayers and Pageantry!

Celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany **Friday, January 6** at All Saints. We'll start at 6 p.m. with a chili cook-off. Bring your best pot of chili and put it to the test!

Just before worship begins at 7, we will have a brief prayer service...Bring a short branch from your (live) Christmas tree or wreath to be burned along with prayers for the New Year.

We'll conclude the Christmas season with an Epiphany pageant presented by the parish youth and children, followed by Holy Eucharist.

After worship, we will "de-green" the church and put Christmas away until next year. It will be an evening of fellowship and worship with a family focus. Bring the kids, bring the grandparents, bring the neighbors!

A Women's Retreat: Exploring Connectedness

by Martha Lynch

Come find renewal in the presence of your sisters in the Spirit by gathering with the women of All Saints for a contemplative retreat in January. Celebrate the holy bond between women that stretches beyond time and place.

The theme will be connectedness. During this time, we will search our spiritual roots, and explore what holds us together in community. We will consider how relationships between women are expressions of the sacred in each of us. Also, there will be an invitation to ponder the interconnectedness between ourselves, Earth, and the feminine throughout all of God's Creation.

The wisdom of our ancestors and words of contemporary wise women will guide us. Elements of the day will include contemplation, reflection, sharing, silence, prayer, beauty, art and celebration. There will be opportunity to *remember* women who have been formative in our lives. . . family, elders, wisdom-bearers, ordinary saints, soul friends, and those who have shown love.

For those who wish to walk during the quiet times, the labyrinth will be available in the church. Refreshments and a meal will be provided . . . enjoy a simple lunch - on the house!

The presence of *each woman* in our parish community will enrich the experience and contribute to the wholeness of the group. As a gift to yourself, please set this time aside and come on **Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

Please **RSVP by January 15** to the parish office (allsaints@allsaints-el.org or 351-7160) so we can plan for lunch and arrange for supplies.

If you have questions or would like to know more, please contact Pastor Kit or Martha Lynch (marthalyn38@comcast.net).

Exploring Our Faith and Practice Are Adult Education Themes

by Tom Jackson

JANUARY: Famous Seekers of Unity. The Reverend Jannel Glennie introduces this month dedicated to Great Mystics at the Sunday Forum **January 15**. Wednesday Adult Education classes will concentrate on women mystics: Teresa of Avlia, Julian of Norwich, and Evelyn Underhill. We also learn about Meister Eckhart.

FEBRUARY: Science & Religion. Eric Hegg leads a team of All Saints members involved in science to explore the implications for faith in light of scientific advances in physics and other fields. Dark energy, parallel universes, quarks, "God particle" and the evolution of consciousness are topics they will cover.

MARCH: You don't have to live in a monastery to be monastic. In Lent, we look at "New Monasticism" with Pastor Kit, Martha Lynch and Beth Bingham. Discover how Christians are living out their faith in new communities, both urban and rural, in small groups and as individuals. Their purpose is to create a world of people who practice the way of Jesus together, rather than in isolation. Also, look for classes on how to pray, contemplate, and meditate.

APRIL: Pastor Andrew will offer five sessions titled Anglicanism/Episcopal 101. Learn how our denomination walks with other Christians in a single spirit, apply Scripture to our daily lives, explore the meaning of the Sacraments and communal worship, and work in the world. For those intending to be confirmed, as well as those simply wishing to gain more insight into the faith.

MAY: During Sunday Forums, Howard Anderson and Jenifer Banks will explore the Gospel of John from a new perspective. Wednesday Classes will be devoted to the Coming of Christ. Whatever happened to the second coming that early Christians expected? Did they have it wrong? What have theologians thought about it over the centuries? How might we think about it today?

Thanks for Thanksgiving Help

As always, All Saints parishioners came through with the energy and resources to provide Thanksgiving baskets to 36 families.

The Outreach committee would like to thank all who donated food or money to provide the necessary items for each basket. Thank you to the families that purchased complete baskets. Also, thank you to the youth group that worked so hard putting the baskets together and the volunteers who delivered the baskets. I hope you all realize how important your involvement was in making someone's Thanksgiving special.

If you would like to take part in organizing in next years' Thanksgiving Baskets, the Outreach Committee would love to have you participate in this wonderful project. Please contact Amy Maffeo via e-mail at a.eldmaffeo@gmail.com.

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“Walk For Warmth” Receives All Saints Christmas Offering

All Saints Outreach Committee chose the Capital Area Community Services “Walk For Warmth Program” as the recipient for our 2011 Christmas Offering.

With the ever increasing cost of heating one's home, agencies have been hard-hit to provide local residents with heat assistance. CACS raises funds mainly through its “Walk For Warmth” event, which will take place February 28, 2012.

Funds are also raised from individuals, civic organizations, businesses, clubs and church groups. 100% of the funds raised or donated to this program are used to assist low-income households in the county where it is raised. No money is used for administering the program.

If you would like more information regarding this program, you can go to the CACS website--

<http://www.cacs-inc.org/> --or you may call them at 676-1065.

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Unto the least of these...

We gather on January 6th for the Feast of Epiphany to celebrate the Light of Christ in our midst. On this holy night, we will again collect layette items for the Infant Needs Bank at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Lansing.

You are invited to bring new items for babies size 0-36 months: clothing, onesies, undershirts, hats and mittens, diapers, rubber pants, diaper service coupons, crib sheets and blankets.

Like the Magi who come with gifts for the Christ child, please let your generosity shine forth for little ones in our own community.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast – January 14

From 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, Union Missionary Baptist Church—500 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.—will host this third annual breakfast in memory of Dr. King.

Featured speakers will be
Renée Branch Canady, Ph.D.
Ingham County Health Officer and
Ana Garcia-Ashley,
Gamaliel Foundation Executive Director

Music will be provided by the choirs of Union Missionary Baptist Church and Cristo Rey Catholic Church

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

To RSVP or for more information, call 517-394-4639 or send an e-mail to:
actionofgreaterlansing@gmail.com
Action of Greater Lansing—a Gamaliel Affiliate—is organizing the event.

Behind the Scenes: Don Hoopingarner All Saints' Composer-in-Residence

For the past several years, All Saints has enjoyed a unique individual in a unique position. After all, how many Episcopal congregations of this size (or those of any religion, for that matter) can claim a Composer-in-Residence?

When Don Hoopingarner and his wife Dottie chose East Lansing as their retirement community, they also chose All Saints as their church home. They had a long standing involvement in the Episcopal church in Grand Rapids, where they lived and worked in musical circles for 35 years.

Soon after they arrived, they joined the adult choir and the bell choir, as well as the Steiner Chorale (which rehearses in the sanctuary on Monday nights). That would have been a significant contribution of time and talent, but Don has offered even more.

He heard violinist Tamara Hicks-Syron and oboeist Sandy Consiglio playing the soprano part to accompany hymns. After Minister of Music Michael Crouch gave his enthusiastic endorsement, Don began making arrangements for those instruments, "something that enhances the score instead of just re-enforcing the melody."

He confesses to getting something of a "high" when an arrangement, such as the one he did for the brass ensemble on the 2011 All Saints Sunday, works well.

He began writing original compositions—most of them for hand bells—about 15 years ago. Then someone on the west coast asked about doing arrangements of hymn tunes for their two octave bell group, so he did several compositions for them. Some were hymn tunes set for bells and others were original compositions. Naturally, All Saints' bell choir has played several of them, too.

Don says that the biggest challenge of being a C.I.R. is the pressure of getting it done in time. The delight is hearing the finished work.

"The composer puts the notes on paper with an idea of how the piece/song should sound. The performer brings the composition to life, and that is the blessing that the composer is granted," he says with a wry smile.



Don Hoopingarner, Composer in Residence

Those Whose Lives Are Closely Linked: The Parkinson's Disease Support Group

By Martha Seaman McKee

Editor's Note: If you were to happen into the All Saints Lounge on the first Wednesday of the month between 1 and 3 p.m., you'd find a group of folks who have at least one thing in common. They're all caring for someone with Parkinson's Disease. I asked Martha Seaman McKee to share some of her experience with the disease and with the group. Thank you, Martha.

"In 2004, my husband, Russell McKee (a long time writer and editor), was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease (PD). I knew nothing about this disease except that it caused tremors. He

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Christmas 01 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist w / Lessons & Carols 11:45 a.m. Adult Forum	2 Office Closed 7:30 p.m. AA	3 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 3:00 p.m. TASC 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	4 1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support 5:30 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Adult Ed 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous	5 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 9:30 a.m. Artistic & Spiritual Covenant 7:30 p.m. ACOA	6 Epiphany 6:00 p.m. Pot Luck 6:30 p.m. Sacred Prayer Circle 7:00 p.m. HE, Pageant and De-green of the Church	7 10:00 a.m. Advent House
8 Epiphany 01 Baptism of Our Lord Birthday Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 8:45 a.m. Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:00 a.m. Healing Prayers 11:45 a.m. Adult Forum 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum 6:00 p.m. J2A 6:00 p.m. Rite 13	9 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 3:00 p.m. TASC 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study Group 7:00 p.m. Steiner Chorale 7:30 p.m. AA	10 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. TASC 6:00 p.m. TASC Volunteer Meeting 7:00 p.m. B & G Meeting 7:00 Cancer Support 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	11 5:00 p.m. Cherub's Choir 5:15 p.m. Children's Choir 5:15 p.m. Parents Time Out 7:00 p.m. Adult Ed 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous	12 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 6:00 p.m. Outreach 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	13 Messenger Deadline 4:00 p.m. String Group	14 9:00 a.m. Personal Needs Bank 7:00 p.m. Chorale Evenson w/Ad Hominem
15 Epiphany 02 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:45 a.m. Adult Forum 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum 6:00 p.m. EYC Parents Night Out w/Pastor Kit	16 Office Closed 6:00 p.m. Mom's Group 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study Group 7:00 p.m. Steiner Chorale 7:30 p.m. AA	17 8:00 a.m. 3rd Tuesday Breakfast 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 3:00 p.m. TASC 5:30 p.m. Finance 6:30 p.m. AAUW 7:00 p.m. Rector's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	18 5:00 p.m. Cherub's Choir 5:15 p.m. Children's Choir 5:15 p.m. Parents Time Out 7:00 p.m. Adult Ed 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous	19 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 9:30 a.m. Artistic & Spiritual Covenant 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	20 4:00 p.m. String Group 7:30 p.m. Coffee House	21 9:00 a.m. Women's Retreat
22 Epiphany 03 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Family Holy Eucharist 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:45 a.m. Adult Forum 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum 6:00 p.m. J2A 6:00 p.m. Rite 13	23 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. EL Women's Group 3:00 p.m. TASC 6:00 p.m. Winter Warm Up 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study Group 7:00 Steiner Chorale 7:30 p.m. AA	24 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. TASC 6:30 p.m. Quilters 7:00 p.m. Vestry 7:00 p.m. OSL 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem	25 5:00 p.m. Cherub's Choir 5:15 p.m. Children's Choir 5:15 p.m. Parents Time Out 7:00 p.m. Adult Ed 7:30 p.m. Debtors Anonymous	26 7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & breakfast 9:30 a.m. Artistic & Spiritual Covenant 10:00 a.m. East Lansing Clergy Meeting 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	27 8:30 a.m. Tai Chi 4:00 p.m. String Group	28 8:30 a.m. Tai Chi 9:00 a.m. Personal Needs Bank
29 Epiphany 04 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	30 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. EL Women's Group 3:00 p.m. TASC 6:00 p.m. Winter Warm Up 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study Group 7:00 Steiner Chorale 7:30 p.m. AA	31 12:00 p.m. Debtors Anonymous 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 3:00 p.m. TASC 7:30 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Ad Hominem				

ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics
 ANS = Abbott Nursery School

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