

THE monthly newsletter from All Saints Episcopal Church MESSENGER



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Rector's Message

It's Epiphany -- Time to Bring in the Light

By Kit Carlson, All Saints Rector

The season after Epiphany focuses on ways that God manifests God's self to humanity, on ways that the divine light comes to shine in the hearts of human beings.

In the great worshipping sense of the season, we too focus on light and awakening and awareness.

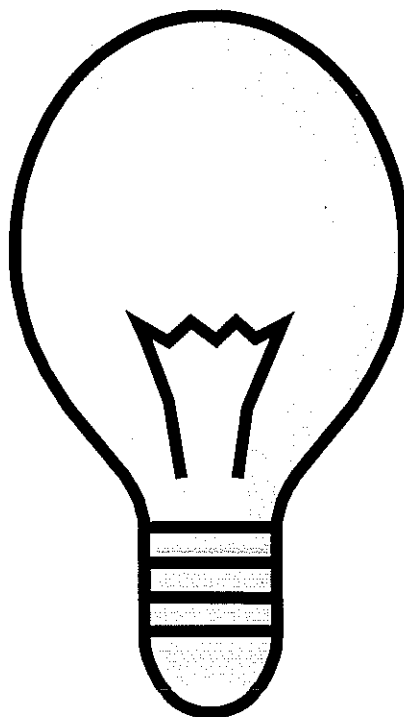
And in a very, very, practical way, we will focus on bringing light into our church this winter.

The long-awaited replacement of our sanctuary lighting is about to begin.

You may remember that almost a year ago, we were projecting summer as the time when the aging, dangerous lights in our sanctuary ceiling would be replaced with new, energy-efficient pendant fixtures.

We were imagining a summer spent worshipping in the cooler Undercroft, while work went on in the sweltering church above.

But the lighting fixtures did not arrive until fall, and this January is the first time that we have found space in the calendar to move our worship to the Undercroft



for a few weeks, while the lights are installed upstairs.

So, beginning January 10, for a period of no more than four weeks (we hope and pray), we will hold our regular 10 a.m. Sunday services in the Undercroft.

Coffee hour will be held in the lounge.

And we will experience a more relaxed kind of worship with piano and other instruments, sitting in very friendly proximity to one another for a few weeks.

Those of you who remember worshipping in the Undercroft during the Golden Renewal renovations several years ago know that all kinds of new blessings can emerge when things get changed up a little.

We get to know people we did not know before.

We encounter the Divine in new and welcoming ways.

We practice Christian hospitality as we move over, squeeze in, and flex our usual ways of being and worshipping on Sunday mornings.

It can -- and will -- be as spiritual and as moving as our more formal Sunday worship upstairs. Just in a different way.

So plan to snuggle up with your brothers and sisters in Christ for a few weeks in the cold midwinter, to praise God and rejoice in the gift God has given us ...

that with some grants from our diocese, funds from memorials, and careful stewardship of our resources ... that we will be able to re-light our worship space to make it safer and more beautiful.

In the light of Christ,

Kit

Haiti Outreach Mission to Return in March

The annual mission trip of the Haiti Outreach Mission (HOM), an ecumenical alliance of Episcopal and Catholic parishes, will return to Mirebalais, Haiti from March 19 to 26.

As always, medical personnel and some other volunteers are needed to staff the HOM clinic in Mirebalais, and mobile clinics that will go into the distant countryside where access to medical care is more difficult.

For the past two years, All Saints parishioners have joined the annual mission trip to work in the clinics, help with construction activities, and last year, to recreate and restore the entire garden area at the orphanage.

There is a lot of good news coming out of HOM. In the fall, a water purification system was installed in a small shop area at the orphanage. From this shop, gallons of purified, drinkable water can be sold to passers-by, offering a needed service to Mirebalais residents, and generating a source of income for the children at the orphanage.

The medical clinic continues to be open daily, with a full-time physician seeing patients.

Since the complete dental suite was installed last year, a dentist has worked at the clinic part-time, and his hours will be increased to full-time in January.

This clinic is now the only source of health care in Mirebalais. The local hospital is closed, and the hoped-for entry of Paul Farmer's Partners in Health into Mirebalais has not happened yet.

In the meantime, HOM is tapping the expertise of All Saints parishioner Pam Miklavcic to create tilapia fish farms that can provide food and income for the Haitian people.

Last year, Pam and other HOM staff identified a site near St. Jacques Episcopal Church, about 20 miles outside Mirebalais, that would be appropriate for six fish ponds.

The fish are put in the ponds as fingerlings, and moved from pond to pond as they grow, until they are ready for harvest and to go to market.

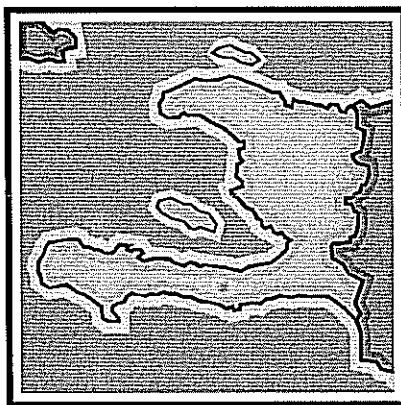
The rich runoff from the ponds also provides good fertilizer for gardens. Pam did this kind of work as a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo, and now HOM is relying on her guidance to create these fish farms in the Central Plateau.

Another project that All Saints hopes to take the lead on is the introduction of solar ovens to families at St. Pierre and St. Louis churches. Last year, we took two solar ovens to the orphanage. They proved to be too small to really work for feeding the large population at the orphanage, but we are hoping to train women from the churches to use the solar ovens for their families.

The hope then is that the larger population will want to cook with solar ovens, instead of charcoal, and reduce the deforestation that has laid waste to Haiti's hillsides.

All Saints will be collecting specific supplies to take on this year's trip, beginning next month. Watch February's Messenger for more information. Volunteers are also needed on packing day, which generally takes place at a church in the north suburbs of Detroit the week before the trip.

And, of course, volunteers who want to travel on the mission trip are encouraged to contact Pastor Kit right away for more information.



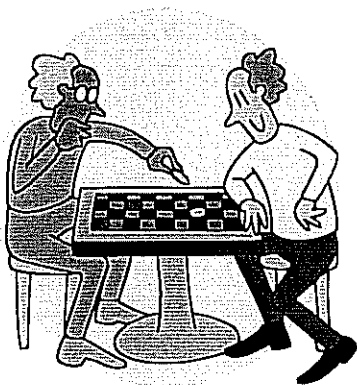
Monthly Breakfast at Coral Gables Open to Anyone

The third Tuesday morning of each month is a special time for members of All Saints. It's time to join informally with other parishioners away from the church building.

Arrival time is roughly 8 a.m. at Coral Gables restaurant, which offers a special price on a basic breakfast. The tradition started years ago as the "men's breakfast," but it's now open to women, too.

Parish Life, January 2010

Parish Life is planning a game night for All Saints this month. See the Sunday bulletin for a firm date and time. For more information; please contact Marguerite Halversen at 517-333-0251 or halverse@msu.edu.



Upcoming Events

De-greening of the Church, Epiphany service, and Potluck, 6 p.m. Wednesday, January 6. A potluck dinner and the de-greening of the church are held on either side of the Epiphany service on January 6. Come welcome the new year and prepare the church for the next holy season as we bid Christmas farewell. A special Kings Cake will enhance our celebration.

First Coffeehouse of 2010! 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, January 15, in the undercroft. Escape the early dark nights of winter in the warmth and glow of the All Saints Coffeehouse. Sing, listen to music and readings, or offer a performance of your own for others to enjoy. You can sign up or just grab a seat when you arrive that evening.



Food and beverages are available; and you can even bring something to share, if you wish. The atmosphere is relaxed, the evening full. There's no better way to start your weekend. We hope to see you there.

Interested in assisting with Parish Life? Please call Marguerite Halversen at 517-333-0251 or e-mail her at halverse@msu.edu.

Writers Forum nearing its fourth anniversary

After taking a break for the holidays, the East Lansing Writers Forum will begin the new year by resuming its weekly sessions at 2 p.m. Sunday, January 3, in the church library.

The forum to encourage beginning and experienced writers to write and share stories, memoirs and poetry started nearly four years ago. As many as 50 different people have participated, some only a time or two, but a solid core of about 15 have been attending on a regular basis.

Usually, there are six to eight people in any given session, and everyone has time to read and comment. The format is based on a similar group that Vic Rauch and Ellen DeRosia enjoyed on visits to San Miguel de Allende in Mexico. For more information, contact Vic or Ellen at vrbrmk@aol.com or 351-9908, or drop in to share or just listen.



Lessons for All Saints (as learned from the September Parish Survey)

By Pam Miklavcic

In late September, All Saints parishioners were given the opportunity to complete an on-line survey about our experiences at the church. Designed to take a broad look at how we are doing in our various ministries, and to identify any areas that might need immediate attention, we were asked about worship, attendance, adult education, Christian formation, outreach, buildings and grounds, Canterbury-MSU, newcomer events, parish care and parish life. We were asked to compare recent experiences with those from three years ago - and we were asked what we like best and least about different aspects of our life together at All Saints. The survey took about ten minutes to answer. Ninety-three of us chose to respond.

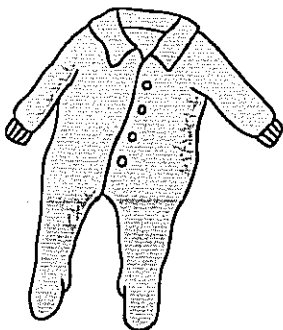
This survey was the first step in something called Mutual Ministry Review (MMR), a process chosen to evaluate how faithfully All Saints is living out the mission God has given it to do. Its focus is on how we are doing as a community, not on specific individuals or leaders. Through MMR, the Rector and Vestry will administer occasional, short, on-line surveys. Our hope is that more and more of us will choose to respond each time. It's really easy!

As a committee (Pastor Kit Carlson, Nicky Findley, Gina Mazzolini, Pam Miklavcic, Jack Minton, and Anne Porter-Day), we are glad to report that All Saints presently sees itself in a good place. For example, 77% of the respondents rated their present worship experience a 4 or 5 ('close to excellent' or 'excellent'). Of the 73 respondents who could compare their current worship experience with 3 years ago, 70% rated their *previous* experience a 4 or 5. In other words, the worship experience stays strong, has improved by 7%, and clearly appeals to a majority of All Saints parishioners - new ones included. Likewise, 70% of the respondents rate their *present* satisfaction with Outreach offerings as a 4 or 5. This compares with only 56% of the 64 respondents who could make a comparison with three years ago. Again, this is good news.

The best news of all is that no areas were revealed as needing immediate attention. We will, however, explore some findings in greater detail in the coming months. For example, why do a third of us never attend adult education sessions? Or, in the music we choose, what speaks to some of us and what speaks to others?

To those who participated in the September survey, thank you. To those who did not, you'll have another chance! This is a simple, painless way to tell us what you think - and to help keep All Saints moving in a direction that is meaningful to you.

Epiphany Layette Collection



By Martha Lynch for the Outreach Committee

We gather together on January 6th for the Feast of Epiphany, to celebrate the Light of Christ in our midst. On this holy night, there is an opportunity to express love in a tangible way. Each year, we collect and give new items for the Infant Needs Bank, housed at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Lansing. This is one small way to physically share the Light of Christ with people in the greater community.

You are invited to bring new infant layette items (size 0-24 months): clothing, onesies, undershirts, hats and mittens, diapers, rubber pants, diaper service coupons, crib sheets and blankets. Let your generosity shine!

Some things you should know in case of an emergency at All Saints

By Greg Veltema

At a recent meeting of the Building and Grounds Committee, a spirited discussion occurred about the All Saints Incident Response Plan that I wish to share.

One of the main themes the committee has been working on is how can we make All Saints a "safe and secure" facility to carry on our Christian community duties and responsibilities as we engage in our corporate mission.

As a result, an Incident Response Plan was adopted by the Vestry to address the question of how we respond in the event of a fire, a tornado, mechanical equipment failure or finding a disruptive person in our midst, especially during a time we are worshipping or engaging in other activities in the church.

Fire

In the event of a fire, step one is to call 911.

Step two is to evacuate the building, following the directions and leadership of the rector and the church ushers.

We have two primary exits, the Abbot Road and Grove Street entrances, and two secondary exits, one at the northeast corner of the building and one behind the kitchen. There also is an exit from the chapel. Circumstances and common sense will dictate which exits are to be used.



We have 18 fire extinguishers located throughout the building, seven on the upper level and 11 on the lower level. The kitchen stove is equipped with an

automatic fire suppression system. There is a separate fire extinguisher also located in the kitchen.

While parishioners are not expected to be firefighters, anyone who is ready, willing and able to volunteer, under appropriate circumstances may use an extinguisher, as long as they can do so safely. Be sure to notice where they are and read the instructions for use sometime when you are in the building.

Tornado

In the event of a Tornado, the north, east and south hallways on level two are the designated tornado "safe havens." They are constructed of concrete blocks and away from large windows.

Occupants of the building are to gather in these locations if a tornado is approaching.

Equipment failure

In the event of a mechanical equipment failure, the main shut off valves are located in the boiler room.

The electrical main is located on the north wall of the boiler room, the water shut-off is located northeast of the boiler itself and the gas main shut-off levers are located on the gas lines right under the metal staircase leading down to the boiler.

For a quick tour of the boiler room, see either Greg Veltema or Bill Murphy.

For parents

Parents -- know that your children are under the excellent supervision of their Sunday school teachers. If a fire, tornado, or other incident happens, please DO NOT try to rescue your children. Let their teachers evacuate them safely or provide necessary protection. Hysterical parents rushing to find their children would only make a difficult situation worse. Thank you.

Bill Ramsey to Become Permanent Choir Director

I am pleased to announce that William (Bill) Ramsey is now the All Saints Choir Director. Since the departure of Sandy Consiglio last summer, Bill has filled in as the interim choir director during our search period.

Although the search brought us several qualified candidates to interview and audition, none of the candidates seemed to provide the right fit with our choir and our overall music program. I am pleased that Bill is willing to continue in this role on a permanent basis.

As many of you know, it is my policy not to employ members of the parish. Bill will be transferring his membership to St. Katherine's in Williamston, where he has been worshipping occasionally, and where he will be able to worship during the summers and at other times when he is not needed here.

Bill is professor emeritus of choral music at Stanford University. He studied at Julliard School of Music, has a degree from the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary, and earned a doctorate from Columbia University. His choirs have toured internationally and appeared on BBC radio, ABC-TV and the Armed Forces Network.

-- Pastor Kit

Michigan Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

By Nell Corkin

Save the date: January 20, 2010. The Annual Roe v. Wade Commemoration of the landmark Supreme Court decision guaranteeing a woman's right to reproductive choice will be marked by an interfaith service of remembrance and celebration at 7 p.m. at Shaarey Zedek Congregation, 1924 Coolidge Road.

A legislative update and Cookies for Choice will follow the service.

Sponsors include the Michigan Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of Michigan, MSU Medical Students for Choice, and MSU Students for Choice.

The Cookies for Choice connection stems from the belief that too many chips make the cookie crumble. In spite of Roe v. Wade, access to abortion,

contraception and comprehensive sex education are gradually being chipped away.

MIRCRC members, as people of faith, support the right of every woman to make decisions about having children based on her own conscience and religious beliefs.

We are looking for people who would like to bake and decorate cookies to bring to the interfaith service. (Please note: In accordance with kosher practices, lard cannot be used for baked goods provided in a synagogue.)

For more information about the event and Cookies for Choice, go to www.mircrc.org/events. You can also contact Nell Corkin at (517) 381-1980 or by email at miniminis@aol.com.

Sheila's Corner

The Pageant: We are looking forward to the pageant again this year. The children all know what part they will have. The pageant will be on January 3. All the children and youths should be in the sanctuary by 9 a.m.

MOPS: Calling all moms! We are having a spa night on Friday, January 8, at 6 p.m., for our MOPS meeting. I am in need of foot massagers and other spa related items.

Joint Meeting: We are having a youth and parent meeting 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on January 10 for all youths in sixth grade and older. Youth will meet with Sheila and other youth leaders while their parents meet with Pastor Kit.

Adult Education in January -- Listening to Luke and Listening to our Community

The adult education programs this month will give us an opportunity to listen to familiar voices anew. First, during the Sunday adult forums, representatives of local social service agencies will come tell us about desperate needs in our community and how we can help. What is it like to be poor, hungry, homeless, or marginalized in Mid-Michigan? During the Outreach Cafe last fall, it became clear that many of us don't really know what our community's actual needs are. Representatives from local shelters, soup kitchens, and other outreach programs can tell us what they are seeing and experiencing "on the ground" in the greater Lansing area right now. The adult forums will be held in the Undercroft while our lighting project is going on, at 11:30 a.m. each Sunday.

The Wednesday evening class will be a chance to listen to the voice of that great evangelist, Luke. For six weeks, we will read through Luke's gospel, using the book *Luke for Everyone* by N.T. Wright. You can order the book for under \$12 from amazon.com. The book features Wright's own translation of the entire text. Each short passage is followed by a highly readable discussion, with background information, useful explanations and suggestions, and thoughts as to how the text can be relevant to our lives today. Join us for "Wonderful Wednesdays" -- healing eucharist at 5:30 p.m., supper at 6 p.m., and class from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting Set for Sunday, January 31

The annual meeting of All Saints Episcopal Church will be held immediately following the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, January 31. The meeting is our chance to celebrate the year, past, look to the year ahead, and to elect new vestry members and diocesan delegates.

Because the January issue of the Messenger had to go to press early because of the Christmas holiday, the names of all the candidates were not yet available. Watch your Sunday bulletin and the downstairs bulletin boards for more information.

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 10:00 a.m. Advent House
3 Christmas 02 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Children's Pageant 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed Class	4 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	5 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. AA	6 1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support Group 6:00 p.m. Supper 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Degreening of the Church 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	7 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:30 p.m. ACLU 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8:00 p.m. AlAnon	8 1:00 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 6:00 p.m. MOPS Group	9
10 Epiphany 01 Birthday Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Adult and Youth Meeting 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed Class 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum 5:00 p.m. Canterbury MSU	11 1:30 p.m. Staff 5:45 p.m. Finance Meeting 6:30 p.m. Steiner Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	12 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Cancer Support 7:30 p.m. AA	13 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. HE/Healing Service 6:00 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	14 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:00 p.m. AAUW 6:00 p.m. Outreach 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8:00 p.m. AlAnon	15 Messenger Deadline 1:00 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 7:30 p.m. Coffee House	16 9:30 a.m. Prayer Needlers
17 Epiphany 02 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed Class 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum 5:00 p.m. Canterbury MSU	18 MLK Day, Office Closed 6:30 p.m. Steiner Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	19 8:00 a.m. Breakfast at Coral Gables 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Meeting 7:30 p.m. AA	20 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. HE/Healing Service 6:00 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	21 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 4 p.m. Lattice Book Club Meeting 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8:00 p.m. AlAnon	22 1:00 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	23
24 Epiphany 03 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed Class 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum 5:00 p.m. Canterbury MSU	25 1:30 p.m. ELWC 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:30 p.m. Steiner Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Mtg 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	26 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Quilters Guild 7:00 p.m. Vestry 7:30 p.m. AA	27 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. HE/Healing Service 6:00 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	28 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8:00 p.m. AlAnon	29 1:00 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	30
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ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics
ANS = Abbott Nursery School

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