
The Messenger

All Saints Episcopal Church, East Lansing, MI

May 2009

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RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Speaking out for children, taking action

By **KIT CARLSON**, All Saints Rector

Justice and advocacy for children have long been important aspects of our calling to Christian witness and service here at All Saints. Our annual observance of the Children's Sabbath, frequent collections to furnish apartments for children leaving foster care, layette and teddy bear collections, and our work with the families at Haven House, the project at the orphanage in Haiti, all show our commitment and concern for the youngest and most vulnerable members of our society.

This month, we have an opportunity to ally with local churches to speak out for equity and justice for the children of mid-Michigan. Action of Greater Lansing, the interfaith justice network, of which All Saints is a member, has chosen to focus this year on

children's health. Specifically, it is working to make sure that the new Children's Health Initiative (CHI), coming into being in our community, will address the health needs of ALL area children, regardless of whether or not their families have insurance or are able to pay.

Last fall, the Action member congregations voted to focus on the lack of user-friendly, centralized access to human services in the Lansing area. The research committee that tackled this broad request soon learned about the CHI, an effort of local parents, health care providers and organizations to create a children's health center where pediatric subspecialists – the doctors your child must see when the primary-care doctor cannot address all their health needs – can provide care for children with serious health problems.

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CHILDREN

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Currently, families must travel to Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids or even farther for their children to receive care. The CHI would bring this kind of care back to the Lansing area for our local children.

Action's interest is to make sure the CHI meets the needs of all children in our area ... not simply the ones whose families can pay. You can imagine the kind of burden this need for specialty care places on poor and uninsured families and their children – 40 to 50 percent of the children in our area are on Medicaid.

Traveling to distant doctors, trying to retain a job, caring for the other healthy children in the family, all without financial resources, is vastly more difficult for poor families than for those of us with insurance, education and financial security.

There are two key events coming up where our presence is necessary to show our support for uninsured and underinsured children. The first is a **RALLY** to be held at **7 p.m. Tuesday, April 28**, at First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa, in downtown

Lansing. At the rally, we will learn more about this issue and the part Action will play in bringing justice for children's health to the consciousness of the leaders in our community.

Then everyone is asked to go to the **Nehemiah Assembly and to bring THREE PEOPLE**. The assembly will be held at Union Missionary Baptist Church, 500 S. MLK Blvd., at **7 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at 7 p.m.** Action of Greater Lansing will invite leaders from MSU and Sparrow Hospital to hear our request for the CHI and for a commitment to serve all children, regardless of ability to pay. Action's goal is to turn out 600 people at this assembly. Your presence is very important!

Come out to these two events. Bring your family members, friends and neighbors to the Nehemiah Assembly. Speak out for Lansing area children, who need our voice and our commitment.

*In Christ's peace, power and love,
+ Kit*

Adult education opportunities

Reading Mark's Gospel: The final Wednesday evening course of the year looks at the first gospel ever written, the Gospel of Mark. Pastor Kit takes us through the entire book in just four weeks. A book for the course "Hearing Mark," by Elizabeth Struthers Malbon, is available on the book group tables at both Schuler's Books locations. The final two sessions are Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., May 6 and 13. On Wednesday, May 27, we will read the gospel out loud in its entirety. All are welcome to come to hear Mark on the 27th whether you attended the earlier sessions or not.

Sunday Forum – Sharing our Gifts: The adult forum on Sunday mornings in May will allow All Saints' parishioners to share their God-given gifts with the congregation at coffee hour. We'll start it off with a session on "The Theology of Golf," led by golf junkies David Baker and Bob Kilbridge at 11:30 a.m. May 3.

Jesus Was an Episcopalian ... And You Can Be One Too! Our preparation class for newcomers to the Episcopal Church will be held 7 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays, May 11 and 18. Pastor Kit will use Chris Yaw's excellent book "Jesus was an Episcopalian, and You Can Be One Too," as a starting point to learn more about our denomination, its history and its future. All are welcome, but this is a particularly appropriate class for anyone seeking to become a member of All Saints or of the wider Episcopal Church.

Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation is the way one officially aligns with the Episcopal Church. Confirmation will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lansing. Please speak to Pastor Kit if you would like to join the Episcopal Church in this official and meaningful way.

Information about our two weekday Eucharists

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

On Wednesday evenings, the chapel is filled with the glow of numerous candles, illuminating icons and casting a gentle glow.

A brief service of Holy Eucharist follows, including the laying on of hands and anointing with healing oil as participants pray for healing for themselves or another person.

This service provides a prayerful lead-in to our busy Wednesday evening schedule of Cherub Choir, supper, Children's Choir and adult education.

It has come to be a crucial element in the Wednesday evening program.

However, when the choirs rest and the class ends for the program year, this service will also go on summer hiatus.

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, there will not be a Wednesday evening healing service and Eucharist.

It will resume again in September, along with all the many Wednesday activities.

+ Pastor Kit

Thursdays at 7 a.m.

Our weekly Thursday morning Eucharist began 32 years ago, with authorized use of the "Proposed Book of Common Prayer," which became our present prayer book.

The Thursday service has always had a strong tradition of prayer for our broken world; prayers for Gaza, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, North Korea, etc.; for protection and guidance of our president, his cabinet and other advisers, and for Congress, in this worldwide recession with its impact on millions; and wherever hatred and genocide prevail.

The service allows worshippers a chance to gather prior to a busy workday and to share fellowship over a breakfast which follows. Along with the Wednesday service, it has a vital, but different, complementary role in our parish spirituality.

Most parishioners may not feel called to share in either weekday service, or only occasionally. But both small weekday congregations faithfully represent us all, lifting up before God our need for personal healing, and healing for our broken world.

The Thursday services *WILL* continue each week throughout the summer.

+ The Rev. Paul S. Downie

Welcome to All Saints ... Celebrating our newest members

On Sunday, May 31, we will welcome new members to All Saints during the 10 a.m. service. This day is the feast of Pentecost, the "birthday of the Church," and it is an especially appropriate time to expand our own outpost of the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, through baptism and renewal of our baptismal vows.

We will baptize Nina Largey at this service, welcoming her into our Christian family. We will also welcome any newcomers to All Saints over the past year who want to officially align themselves with our parish. And those who became new Episcopalians the preceding day in Confirmation will also be honored.

If you are new (or new-ish) to All Saints, and would like to stand up and be recognized and welcomed as a new member on May 31, please email the church office at allsaints-el@sbcglobal.net, or call the office at 351-7160.

Who Are You? Please Wear Your Name Tag!

Ascension Day: *Rogation procession to pray for our community*

In the ancient church, the three days leading up to the Feast of the Ascension were called Rogation Days.

They were a time when the church community would process around the bounds of the parish, praying for a fruitful harvest, praying for the health and well-being of the people in the parish, and praying for the wider community.

Our Ascension Day celebration this year will be based in a similar sort of procession. We will process to various locations in our East Lansing neighborhood to sing, pray and ask God's blessing on our community.

We'll pray at East Lansing High School, at the Haven House shelter for the homeless, at Hannah Community Center, at the gateway to MSU, at City Hall and at the sites on Abbot Road where All Saints was born.

We'll then return to All Saints and resume our worship with the Great Thanksgiving and share Eucharist together.

For those not able to walk this distance, Chaplain Sarah will drive the Canterbury bus from spot to spot, so folks can still participate in our community prayers.

Join us at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 21, to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and to pray for the well-being of our community.

Bishop Desmond Tutu to Speak at MSU

The Rt. Rev. Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and formerly Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, will be the featured speaker at the Undergraduate Convocation ceremony as part of the MSU Commencement festivities.

Tutu, a leader in the fight against apartheid, and a noted Anglican leader and theologian, will speak at the ceremony at 1 p.m. Friday,

May 8, in the Breslin Center. The ceremony is free and open to the public, and tickets are not required.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear one of the great leaders of our church.

Tutu is a compelling and moving speaker, and is truly a saint in the making. No Anglican should miss the opportunity to hear him speak!

May is Teddy Bear Collection month

By **MARTHA LYNCH** for the Outreach Committee

On Sunday, May 10, we will continue our long-standing tradition of collecting stuffed animals on Mother's Day. Please bring one (or more) clean, new, stuffed animal and place it at the rear of the church.

At the end of the month, the cuddly critters will be taken to South Church of the Nazarene on Holmes Road in Lansing. Members of that congregation coordinate Christian Services' Teddy Bear Ministry.

Each stuffed animal will be tucked into an overnight bag, ready to be given to a child who is being placed in foster care.

Before you bring your gift to church, consider offering the following prayer for the child who will receive it:

"Most Merciful God, we beseech you to remember your child. Send your healing Spirit into [his or] her body, mind, and soul. Comfort her, hold her, heal her. Return her to the fullness of life in your love, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

(from "The Anglican Family Prayer Book" by Anne E. Kitch)

All Saints family canoe trip planned for May 9

By **BILL MURPHY**

Join your All Saints friends on Saturday, May 9, for a leisurely float down the picturesque Looking Glass River.

Reservations have been made with a canoe livery west of DeWitt for a choice of trips with lengths of 1.75 hours or 3.5 hours, or 4.5 hours for the real *voyageurs* among us.

A number of additional canoes may be available at the rental site. The livery will transport canoes up stream allowing for a pleasant trip downstream through the beauty of emerging spring flowers and wildlife.

The Looking Glass is a family-friendly river with few obstacles and no rapids. The livery is located on the river on Bauer Road near Wacousta, less than a half-hour from East Lansing. A map will be provided when the date gets closer.

Canoe rental is \$18, \$22 or \$28, depending on which of the three length trips you select.

Departure time from the livery is noon.

There will be a stop at a park along the river for a break and a snack of your choice, and a chance for young and old to stretch their legs.

Contact Bill Murphy if you wish to attend.

Children's Choir to present musical about Esther

By **MICHAEL CROUCH**, Minister of Music

The Children's Choir of All Saints will perform the modern day musical, "Esther-Ordinary Faith" by Kathie Hill, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 20. The story of Esther and her amazing faith is set to the music and humor of today and "such a time as this." The time is about 40 minutes.

In the musical, a fictional scribe, Zerox, details Esther becoming queen through God's intervention in Haman's plot and Mordecai's appointment as the king's adviser. And as Zerox tells the story, he experiences the testimony of Esther and develops his own faith in God and His grace.

All this is done through gritty songs and witty dialogue among these characters and the residents of Susa, the Susans. Songs like "God Is in Control," "The Eleventh Hour," "While You Sleep" and "In That Moment" will help children understand the sovereignty of God and the confidence we can have in trusting Him with the greatest of problems by displaying our own Esther-Ordinary Faith.

What's new in Sheila's Corner?

Understanding the Eucharist

If your 1st -5th grade child would like a better understanding of the Eucharist, we will have classes 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Sundays. The classes run for five weeks starting May 3. We'll skip May 24, Memorial Day weekend. Classes are for both parents and children. Please sign up with Sheila Wiitala.

Time to return all Mite boxes

All who collected money in the Mite boxes, please return them as soon as possible to Sheila. Thank you for your support.

School year winding down

The school year is coming to an end and that means Sunday school, too. Our last children and youth classes will be May 17. We had a great year. With five classes, preschool through high school, all had an opportunity to learn God's

word. It's time to start thinking of how you might help next year. Talk with Sheila.

VBS reminder

Vacation Bible School will be 5:45 to 8:15 p.m. June 15 to 18. A simple dinner will be provided between 5 and 5:45pm. This year we will be doing Studio Go. It is a game show theme and has a focus on serving God and others.

Opportunities to serve

Volunteers are needed to make this a great VBS. There are many opportunities to serve the children. We need people to be in charge of the following areas: crafts, games, snacks, dinners, skits, registration, publicity, decorating, community leader, bible leader, group leaders.

Watch for VBS sign up for both kids and adults after church.

Parish Life May Events

Parish Life is offering a number of events for the month of May, all of which have been previously advertised on the All Saints Web site or in the Sunday bulletin. We would love to have you join us for any and all of the following adventures. Please see Marguerite Halversen for more details.

Note, however, that tickets for “*Church Basement Ladies*” and reservations for the family canoe trip may be sold out. Check with Steve Findley or Bill Murphy, respectively, as soon as possible to learn if joining the event is still possible. Note that for the canoe trip, anyone with his or her own canoe may join the group without difficulty; those who need to rent **must** speak to Bill to learn if reservations are still available.

Family Canoe Trip!

Saturday, May 9, departing at noon from the livery west of DeWitt

Join your fellow parishioners for a leisurely paddle along the picturesque Looking Glass River. (See story on preceding page for more details.) If the weather is nice, unreserved canoes go fast, so you cannot count on same-day rental without a reservation. Contact Bill Murphy for more information. Maps are available. You may use your own canoe if you wish, but you will need to pay for the snack provided at the break.

Coffeehouse!

Friday, May 15, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the undercroft.

Gather with your All Saints family for an evening of singing, acting and readings at the monthly All Saints coffeehouse. The coffeehouse is free and children are welcome; they're not even required to sit still. Coffee and popcorn are provided. Other snacks and beverages may be brought to share. We would love to have you join us.

Second-Sunday* Breakfast,

May 17, 8:45 to 9:45 a.m., in the undercroft.

Sit down with your All Saints friends for a hot breakfast between the 8 and 10 a.m. services. Three dollars brings you eggs and sausages, a croissant or Danish, and juice. Everyone welcome! (* **Breakfast will be the third Sunday this month!**)

Church Basement Ladies

**2 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at Cornwell's Dinner Theatre (Turkeyville),
18935 15-1/2 Mile Road, Marshall**

Travel down I-69 to share in the fun of the new musical comedy “Church Basement Ladies” at Cornwell’s. Sponsored by All Saints Parish Life, tickets are \$35 from Steve Findley (517-853-6046 or steve@findley.org) and include a turkey meal at 12 noon. (Note: the ticket price is not less if you forgo the meal). The show begins at 2 p.m. Tickets are limited, so contact Steve as soon as possible to reserve your spot. “*Church Basement Ladies*” is a new musical comedy celebrating the church basement kitchen and the women who work there. It features four distinct characters and their relationships as they organize the food and solve the problems of a rural Minnesota church about to undergo changes in 1965. Don’t miss it. Transportation can be arranged.

Interested in assisting with Parish Life? Please call Matt Helm at (517) 337-0758 or Marguerite Halversen at (517) 333-0251.

May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Women's Weekend Away 9 a.m. Potters Guild 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	2 Women's Weekend Away 9 a.m. Potters Guild 10 a.m. Advent House
3 Easter 4 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Youth classes 11:30 a.m. Understanding the Eucharist class 2 p.m. Writers Forum	4 2 p.m. Staff Mtg. 7 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	5 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	6 1 p.m. Parkinsons Support 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	7 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 9 a.m. ANS Parents Tea 6:30 p.m. ACLU 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8 p.m. AIAnon	8 9 a.m. ANS Parents Tea 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	9 9 a.m. Diocesan Council Meeting 9 a.m. Parish Care Retreat Noon Canoe Trip
10 Easter 5 Mother's Day Teddy Bear Sunday Birthday Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Youth classes 11:30 a.m. Understanding the Eucharist class 2 p.m. Writers Forum	11 2 p.m. Staff Mtg. 7 p.m. Newcomers' class 7 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	12 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Nehemiah Action Assembly 7 p.m. Cancer Support 7 p.m. ECW 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	13 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	14 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 10:30 a.m. Sparrow Auxiliary 7 p.m. Outreach 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8 p.m. AIAnon	15 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 7:30 p.m. Coffee House	16 7 a.m. Zonta Club 9:30 a.m. ANS Graduation 9:30 a.m. Needlers
17 Easter 6 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 8:45 a.m. 2 nd Sunday Breakfast (on the 3 rd Sun.) 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Youth classes 11:30 Understanding the Eucharist class 2 p.m. Writers Forum 3 p.m. Sine Nomine Concert	18 2 p.m. Staff Mtg 5:30 p.m. Finance 7 p.m. Newcomers' class 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	19 8 a.m. Breakfast Club, Coral Gables 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. B & G Mtg 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	20 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 7 p.m. Children's Musical 7:30 p.m. Canterbury Board 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	21 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 12:30 p.m. Executive Committee Mtg 7 p.m. Ascension 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8 p.m. AIAnon	22 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	23
24 Easter 7 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 2 p.m. Writers Forum	25 Memorial Day Offices Closed 1:30 p.m. EL Women's Club 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	26 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 2 p.m. Staff Mtg 6:30 p.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7 p.m. Vestry 7:30 p.m. AA	27 6:30 p.m. Adult Ed 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	28 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8 p.m. AIAnon	29 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	30 Lansing Area Confirmations 2 p.m. "Church Basement Ladies"
31 Pentecost 1 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 Understanding the Eucharist class 2 p.m. Writers Forum						

AA = Alcoholics Anonymous
ANS = Abbott Nursery School

ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics
Debtors A = Debtors Anonymous

AIAnon = Family and Friends of Alcoholics

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Holy Eucharist Schedule: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday;

5 p.m. Sunday for Canterbury MSU student ministry; and 7 a.m. on Thursday

Steps To Encourage Physical Stewardship...of our bodies!

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” --1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Members and friends of All Saints Episcopal Church are invited to “Walk to Haiti” this summer! Participants in the Diocesan S.T.E.P.S. challenge will add together all their miles walked from May 1 through Labor Day. For every 2,000 miles accumulated, one person will have completed the journey from All Saints to Mirebelais, site of the St. Blasé Orphanage where several of our members worked during the Haiti mission trip in March. Walking can be done individually or in groups. One group plans to walk each week immediately after the Thursday a.m. Eucharist. For more information or to sign up to participate, contact Alicia Armstrong (347-0887 or johnarmstrong@ameritech.net) or Ellen DeRosia (351-9908 or eiderosia@aol.com).

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