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# *The Messenger*

All Saints Episcopal Church, East Lansing, MI

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November 2008

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## *Trusting in God*

### **All Saints moves forward as community of faith**

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By **KIT CARLSON**, All Saints Rector

**“S**urely it is God who saves me. I will trust in Him and not be afraid!” This bold statement of trust by the prophet Isaiah has been our prayer over the past few weeks. And soon it will be time for each of us to make our own faithful response to God.

In the year ahead, All Saints can do great things for God. We can increase our outreach to the community and to the world. We can sustain and support our members with fellowship and care. We can continue to guide and form disciples of Jesus Christ, beginning at birth and extending all the way to the end of life. We can be a community of disciples, a beacon of hope on Abbot Road, a resting place for the weary, a school for saints.

But to do this requires financial resources, your generous and faithful pledges of financial support to this parish. As you continue to talk with God and your family members about your household's pledge for 2009, think back . . . remember how you

*(Continued on next page)*

## **TRUSTING**

*(Continued from previous page)*

came to this parish for the first time. Think about how many ways you have been fed here -- spiritually, emotionally, and of course, with real food!

Think about your journey with God at All Saints, how you have drawn closer to Christ, learned more about your faith, become a better Christian. And then think about the many ways that nourishment and that friendship with Jesus has sent you back into the wider world with a renewed vision, a deeper commitment to reach out to others, to see the face of God in each person you meet.

I pray that each of you will be in church on Nov. 9. It is a special time for us to join together to offer ourselves, our lives and our promises of support on the altar. There will be time in each service to fill out a pledge card for whatever amount you feel that God is calling you to offer for All Saints' work. Each of us will seal our card confidentially in an envelope, and they will be offered on the altar.

Trust in God. All Saints has important work to do in God's vineyard in the year ahead. Trust in God. There will be sufficient for our work and for our ministry. Trust in God. We will be sustained and blessed as we strive to follow the One who calls us forward.

In Christ's outrageous and magnificent love, **Kit**

*P.S.: As always, your pledge is completely confidential and is known only to the pledge secretary. And remember, "strive to tithe!"*

## **Día de los Muertos**

### ***Celebrate life and death with your family and friends***

**T**he success of last year's observation of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) at All Saints has raised hopes for an even bigger turnout this time around.

The second annual celebration of this Mexican tradition is scheduled to run from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, in the undercroft. Again this year, it will feature live mariachi music, a folkloric dance demonstration, some recitations and creation of a community altar for all of us to honor departed loved ones.

And, of course, some favorite Mexican foods – tacos, enchiladas, burritos, tortilla chips and salsa – will be available for snacking, along with some traditional drinks.

Our first Day of the Dead attracted nearly 250 people, many of whom had never visited All Saints before. Word of mouth, especially among students and Lansing-area families with Mexican roots, is expected to boost the number this. Members of Canterbury/MSU have played a key role in promoting the event on campus and in the community.

Most of this year's food is being catered, but parishioners have been busy studying recipes for desserts which they will provide.

Don't forget to bring your fresh or frozen marigold blossoms to the church the afternoon of Nov. 1. Volunteers will be using them in decorating the altar and filling the undercroft with a sweet, pungent aroma that is believed to attract the souls of the departed so they can join in the festivities.

And don't forget to remind your living friends and family members to attend the celebration. It's free, but donations of canned goods will go to Cristo Rey Community Center in Lansing.

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### ***Women of All Saints:***

*Save the Date: Set aside the afternoon of Dec. 18 from 4 until 7 p.m. for our annual Christmas gathering. Look for more information in December.*

# November offers ways to grow in God

**B**uilding a spiritual life is really not too hard, even if you feel you don't have the time, or the energy, or the expertise.

This month, the adult education

offerings in the Sunday Adult Forum and the Wednesday Evening Class will touch on ways to create and sustain an ongoing, honest and life-giving relationship with God.

## ***Wednesday Evenings ... find out about Nooma!***

What is "nooma?" (apart from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word *pneuma*, meaning "spirit"). Nooma is a series of short films featuring Grand Rapids' own Rob Bell, founder of the Mars Hill Church and author of "Velvet Elvis" and "Everything is Spiritual."

These films open doorways for inquiry into questions we all have about God and what God is doing in our everyday lives.

For three weeks in November, we'll watch and discuss situations that apply to all of us: Why do bad things happen? Where is God in this life, in my life, right now? Why is it so hard to really love other people, at least *some* people?

Why am I still carrying around all this baggage, and how can I set it down?

These are the sorts of questions everyone has, and the kind of discussions that people's hearts long for.

If you have a friend, a co-worker or family member who has been asking you these sorts of questions (because you are a "church person"), or who is wondering how to make sense of his or her own life, why not invite them along for a few weeks?

There is no official "Episcopal" answer to these deep questions; this is just a chance for us to learn from one another and from God. Wednesday, Nov. 5, 12 and 19. Supper at 6 p.m. and class from 6:30 to 7:30.

## ***Sunday Adult Forums: Building a Spiritual Life***

In anyone's life with God, the things that support and sustain that relationship generally fall into one of these three areas. All three are helpful ways of keeping that lifeline open between you and God, of helping you mature in faith, of opening that doorway between the Holy and the Earthly.

### **Practices (Nov. 9)**

Practices are the things we do on a regular basis that bind us to God. It can be receiving the Sacrament weekly. Or sitting every day with a cup of tea while watching the bird feeder. It can be a daily prayer schedule, or a monthly outreach ministry. Drawing on practices from 2,000 years of Christian tradition, and practices that are unique to each of us, we'll share ways that regular actions and efforts can build bridges to God.

### **People (Nov. 16)**

The People session features a guest instructor, Kathleen Henderson Staudt, who is an adjunct professor at Virginia Theological Seminary and Wesley Theological Seminary and a spiritual director and poet. She will be in East Lansing to work with Canterbury/MSU students, and she will spend the forum time talking with us about how people - clergy, spiritual friends, wise teachers, spiritual directors - can help us in our relationship with God. The presence of "God people" in our lives can make a difference.

### **Places (Nov. 23)**

Some folks go away to a monastery. Others may have a bench near the Red Cedar. Some sit in the chapel. Others find God in the big sanctuary. There are certain places that are holy . . . because people have prayed there for years, or because you pray there every day. This session will explore some of those "thin places" where heaven and earth seem to touch each other with particular frequency.

## *'Bell Anthem' will be featured for Christ the King*

The All Saints Adult Choir will offer Henry Purcell's "Rejoice in the Lord Alway," also known as "The Bell Anthem," with bells and strings at the 10 a.m. Nov. 23 service.

"The outstanding string quartet that we had for the Good Friday service will be with us again for this Christ the King Sunday," announced Michael Crouch, minister of music.

"The anthem has been arranged for bells and strings by our own Don Hoopingarner. Also this Sunday the All Saints Children's Choirs will be singing as well."

The verse anthem derives its nickname from the downward scales at the

beginning, reminiscent of the peals of bells.

The words come from Paul's letter to the Philippians:

"Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men.

"The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving.

"Let your requests be known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Use of the word "alway" is from the King James Version of the Bible.

## What's new in Sheila's Corner?

### Occasional help needed

Sunday School is going great and the children are having a blast. We are looking for people to volunteer one Sunday to be a helper in the classes. We have three classrooms with six to 10 youngsters in each week. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Sheila Wiitala or contact her at [allsaintssheila@hotmail.com](mailto:allsaintssheila@hotmail.com).

### Bring home an Advent wreath

I have put together an Advent wreath kit for \$5. You can either assemble it Nov. 30 after church or assemble it at home. Please sign up with Sheila Wiitala, a limited number is available.

### Lending library

In the undercroft will be a library cart with assorted books on it for lending. The books include children's stories to ideas to do with your children at home. If you would like to borrow a book, just sign it out and return it when you are finished.

## **Begin Advent with a great Anglican tradition: Choral Evensong**

On Nov. 30, the First Sunday of Advent, All Saints and Canterbury/MSU will co-sponsor a service of choral evensong to mark the beginning of the season.

The service begins in semi-darkness, as the Advent wreath and then candles all around the church are lit. The prayers

and responses are chanted and the altar is blessed with incense. The All Saints Choir will offer the Ralph Vaughn Williams settings of the "Magnificat" and "Nunc Dimittis." C/MSU chaplain Sarah Midzalkowski will preach, and Pastor Kit will serve as officiant. The service will begin at 5 p.m.

# Outreach opportunities through All Saints

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us, and once again All Saints is preparing to assist Christian Services by providing 30 Thanksgiving baskets. Each basket is to be filled with enough goods to feed a family of four to seven people.

All Saints' parishioners can assist in many ways with this project. Look in future church bulletins for a list of items that will be needed.

You can donate as little as one item or you may wish to provide a whole meal.

Monetary gifts are always welcome or you may wish to donate your time by delivering a Thanksgiving Basket. Whatever you decide can help make a difference in someone's life.

Delivery date for our baskets will be Sunday, Nov. 23. Please plan to support this wonderful project. If you have further questions please feel free to call Neil or Carolyn Plante at 517-655-2893 or you may e-mail them at [neil.p@verizon.net](mailto:neil.p@verizon.net).

## All Saints authors offer a book sale for charity

Please join us during coffee hour on Sunday, Nov. 23, when several published writers from All Saints will sell the fruits of their creative labors in a book selling and signing event for charity.

Books make wonderful gifts. This event offers an opportunity to complete your Christmas shopping, support your local All Saints scribes and help support charitable organizations, all in one convenient stop. Plus, you can enjoy the usual coffee hour drinks and treats and the witty repartee of your fellow parishioners. You won't find ambience like this at the malls.

A portion of proceeds from the event, ably promoted by Bill Murphy, is to be gathered to help meet community needs.

## *Women's silent retreat offered in DeWitt*

St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt is hosting a silent contemplative retreat for women called "The Cup of Your Life" from Nov. 21 to 23.

The retreat offers the opportunity to connect with God in a quiet environment with a community of praying women. The weekend will provide opportunity for

silence, relaxing in a casual atmosphere, brief reflection sessions, time for creative pondering, ample time for rest, reflection, walking and prayer.

The cost is \$130. Reservations are due by Nov. 14. For more information, call the retreat center at 669-8321 or go to [www.stfrancis.ws](http://www.stfrancis.ws).

## Haiti Outreach Mission schedules March 2009 trip

At the annual meeting of the Haiti Outreach Mission in October, the member congregations decided that the annual mission trip would travel to Mirebalais from March 13-20, 2009.

While things are disrupted in Mirebalais after the hurricanes, it is expected that the medical clinic will be open, and that work can be done in the supported schools and at the HOM orphanage.

If you are interested in making the trip this March, please speak to Pastor Kit. Cost will average around \$1,200, and some support may be available. More details will be forthcoming as the trip plans develop.

# Parish Life November Events

Parish Life has had an exciting and full start, beginning with the golf scramble Sept. 28 at Indian Hills Golf Course – after being postponed due to monsoon-like conditions Sept. 14. The event saw sunshine, temperatures close to 70 degrees and 16 participants: **Brian Baker, David Baker, Kathy Burgess, Louis Burgess, Diane Cox, Steve Findley, Bob Kilbridge, Danny Kilbridge, Jim Lovitt, Jim Lynch, Eileen Marshall, Gina Mazzolini, Tom McKee, Doug Powe, Josh Powe and Dixie Lee Premer.**

Brian, Diane, Doug, and Josh turned in the lowest team score along with their Sponge Bob Square Pants yellow ball (which each player had to take a turn using) and their leftover string (10 feet of string was available for use to make a putt or improve the lie without costing the team a stroke). Other winners included David Baker and Dixie Lee for the longest drives, Josh Powe for sinking the longest putt, and Bob for the tee shot closest to the pin on hole eight. **Dick Johnson** graciously hosted the golfers and their families at the annual post-scrabble potluck. All in all, a great time was had by all.

## **Day of the Dead Celebration, 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1**

Join All Saints and the East Lansing community to celebrate the Day of the Dead with music, food, Mexican dance and more. The celebration is free of charge; donations of canned goods or cash for the Cristo Rey Community Center will be accepted. For more information on the gathering, see the article on page 2 of this month's *Messenger*.

## **Annual Progressive Dinner will be held Sunday, Nov. 16**

This event is a great way to gather with fellow parishioners and meet those with whom you share a pew every Sunday morning. There's no better way to interact with friends than over good food.

The progressive dinner begins in the church lounge with hors d' oeuvres hosted by **Jean and Alan Friend**. Soup and salad, the main course and dessert follow at three separate locations (to which you progress). Each host will serve six to 12 people. Hosts may indicate general availability for any course or specify a particular course they would like to serve. The course can be as simple or as complex as you like, using anything from paper plates to fine china, sit-down to buffet. Reimbursement is available upon request for those who wish it. Hosts will be contacted the week of Nov. 9 with the number of people to expect and, if they haven't specified a particular course, which one they will be serving.

All adults may sign up to attend the progressive dinner during coffee hour after the 10 a.m. service through Sunday, Nov. 9. Please contact Jean and Will at 349-4790 or [willjean-2@ameritech.net](mailto:willjean-2@ameritech.net) with any questions.

## **Coffeehouse! 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21**

This season's second All Saints coffeehouse offers the entire church family and community friends the opportunity to participate in group singing, listen to music and interesting readings (original and found), and/or offer a performance. You can sign up—or just grab a seat in the undercroft—when you arrive that evening. The coffeehouse is free and children are welcome. Coffee and popcorn provided; other snacks and beverages may be brought to share. There is generally a lot of good food available. We hope to see you there.

## **Second-Sunday Breakfast, 8:45-9:45 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 9**

Once a month, All Saints offers a hot breakfast to anyone interested in food and fellowship between the 8 and 10 a.m. services. Come and join your friends or meet someone new at the meal of the month. **Dan Chegvidden** and his crew will be cooking eggs and sausages. Croissants or Danish and juice will also be available, all for a very reasonable \$3. See you in the undercroft.

*Interested in assisting with Parish Life? Please call Matt Helm at (517) 337-0758.*

# NOVEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 MSU Football parking, CMSU 10 a.m. Advent House 10 a.m. James Thompson funeral  6 p.m. Day of Dead Fiesta
2 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. Youth Christian Ed classes 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU	3 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg.  7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. Book study 7:30 p.m. AA	4 6 a.m. Elections  12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	5   5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Adult class 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	6 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following Clergy Conference, Kit away 6:30 Bell Choir 6:30 p.m. ACLU 7:30 Adult Choir 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AIAnon	7  Clergy Conference, Kit away  1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	8 MSU Football parking, CMSU  9 a.m. Fall clean-up  Kit away
9 November birthdays Ingathering Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 8:45 a.m. Parish Breakfast 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed classes 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 Adult Forum 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU	10 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg.  12 noon MRC  5:30 p.m. Rite 13 6 p.m. Worship Comm. 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	11  12:15 p.m. Bible Study  7 p.m. ECW 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	12  9 a.m. Religious Advisors Ass. MSU  5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Adult class 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	13 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  Potters Guild Set Up  6 p.m. Outreach 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AIAnon	14  Potters Guild Sale  1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	15 Messenger deadline  Potters Guild Sale 9:30 a.m. Shawl Knitters 1 p.m. Ass. of American University Women
16 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School classes 10 a.m. Holy 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed classes 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU 5 p.m. Progressive Dinner	17 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg.  7 p.m. CCFC 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	18 8 a.m. Men's breakfast, Coral Gables  12:15 p.m. Bible Study  7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	19  5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 p.m. Children's Choir 6:30 p.m. Adult class 7:30 p.m. Debtors A 7:30 p.m. CMSU Board	20 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AIAnon	21  1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge  7:30 Coffeehouse	22 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Altar Guild Cleaning
23 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. Book signing 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed classes 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU	24 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg.  1:30 p.m. East Lansing Women's Club 5:30 p.m. Rite 13 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	25  12:15 p.m. Bible Study  6:30 p.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Vestry  7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	26   7:30 p.m. Debtors A	27 THANKSGIVING Office closed	28 THANKSGIVING Office closed	29
30 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU						

AA = Alcoholics Anonymous

ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics

AIAnon = Family and Friends of Alcoholics

MRC = Michigan Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

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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

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