



The Messenger

January 2016

From the Resident Priest...

It's amazing that, in some very important ways, **all** days are the **same**.
Every one of them has twenty-four hours; every one of them operates on the same clock,
And moves without change from A.M. to P.M. No variation in that.

But, in spite of that, we have a way of seeing them differently, don't we?
We have the amazing ability to mark some of them as being different.
Birthdays, for example, are different from other days.
So are holidays – and anniversaries – and first days of school – etc., etc.
And there is some instinctive ability we all have to identify those “extra special” days.
We've actually just had a couple of them, i.e.,
Christmas and New Year's Day. Same number of hours; same progression of the clock;
Yet these are days very clearly like no others.

Well, there are some of those unique days stretching out before us right now.
They don't have special names of events or holidays attached to them, for sure.
But, in a strange sort of way, they are different too. They're the early days of a brand new year.
Truth is that sometimes they are viewed as *humdrum*, maybe *boring*,
Because they are a let-down after the holidays, or
They represent a time that doesn't have scheduled days off from work or school for a while
(Unless, of course, it snows – every kid's dream).
But they do have their own claim on being special
Because they are reminders of one of God's best gifts to us – **the gift of time**.

You see, turning the page to a brand new calendar reveals all those *clean* spaces –
All those blocks of available hours with which to work.
It's like getting a whole new start – having another chance to start over – receiving a new beginning,
That which is **the very essence of the way God always relates to us**.

So, it is a **gift – time** is a gift – one of those resources that the Creator has placed in our hands,
And of which we have been made stewards and caretakers.
That gift, combined with the peculiar talents and skills with which we have been graced,
Becomes the fuel and strength of our **discipleship**.

So, what does one **do** with that gift, that bonus?
Well, ignoring inflation, and forgetting for a moment the demise of the quiz show
In the wake of the scandals of people like Charles van Doren,
That's the sixty-four dollar question, isn't it?
What do I do with that precious gift?

In 2016 the answer **can** be, *use it to grow my discipleship*.
Use it in response to the *first and greatest commandment*:
To love God – by expanding my faith through learning and worship.
And use it for working at the second, which Jesus said is like the first,
To love my neighbor as myself – by time spent *giving of myself*.

Thanks be to God for the gift – and may we all use it wisely,

Epiphany – Shining Forth

On January 6, a weekday as it often happens, there is a festival day that has long standing in Christian tradition. It commemorates the coming of the “Wise Men” to the cradle of Jesus. That’s more than a scene from the old Sunday School Christmas Pageant with three young boys crossing the stage in their bath robes.

That event, as recorded by Matthew, is a particularly significant occasion in the story of Jesus’ incarnation. Those “Wise Men,” as they are known, represent a turning point in Christian history. They are, as Matthew tells it (2:1), “from the east.” That is to say, *they came from outside Israel*. They were, indeed, the first non-Jews to worship Jesus. They give fulfillment to God’s promise that Abraham’s descendants would be a light to the nations.

It’s important to recall that the travelers from the east were led by the brightly shining star that hovered over the place of Jesus’ birth. The name *epiphany* comes from the word that literally means “shining forth.” This ancient observance is often called the *Festival of Light*. In the early history of Christian worship, one of the first dates designated for the celebration of the birth of Christ was January 6. As the Liturgical Calendar developed the feast of Epiphany took on its own importance, and it ultimately became a Season. That season will vary in length each year depending on the date of Easter. If Easter comes early, the Epiphany Season is short; and if the Resurrection is celebrated later in the spring, the season is longer. Regardless of its length. There is always a common theme that runs through it – the *revelation of Jesus’ divinity* to the world.

Epiphany (the day itself) only rarely falls on a Sunday. Since weekday worship in churches is rather rare in our time and culture, this means that this Festival Day is not often observed. Just the same, it does mark an important event in the story of Jesus’ life and the Church’s teaching. This year, 2016, there will be five Sundays in the Epiphany Season, the last of which recalls the transfiguration of Jesus. It will be on February 7, the Sunday immediately before Ash Wednesday.

Outreach Committee

We will continue collecting for the Gifts for Life Program, part of Episcopal Relief and Development. The small tree in the Narthex has some unclaimed tags on it. Please feel free to take a tag, place a check or cash in an envelope and place it in the collection plate. In addition, the loose offerings for the second, (January 10), the third (January 17) and the fifth (January 31) Sundays will go to the All Saints’ Food Bank.

Thank you All Saints’ for your help.

Breakfast foods (oatmeal, grits, cereal)	Rice	Crackers
Powdered Milk	Canned Fruits	Snacks for Children
Instant Breakfast drinks	Canned & Boxed 100% Juice	Canned and Boxed Pudding
Canned Meats—Tuna, Chicken, Beef Stew	Flour, Sugar, Cooking Oil	Toilet Paper
Canned soups	Mayonnaise and Mustard	Female Hygiene Products
Canned or Dry Beans	Spaghetti Sauce and Noodles	Diapers (size 3, 4, & 5’s are most needed)
Sardines	Baby Food	Wipes
Peanut Butter & Jelly		

Annual Parish Meeting
Vestry Election
Sunday, January 17, 2016
11:00 A.M.

Annual Meeting. The By-Laws of All Saints' Church provide that "an annual meeting (be) held during or near the third week of January." That document also indicates that the "purpose" of the meeting will include "electing a Vestry," and "considering business that might be brought before the congregation."

In accordance with this directive the Vestry has announced that the Annual Meeting this year will be held on Sunday, January 17, at the time of the 11:00 A.M. Service of Worship. The election of Vestry members to serve three year rotations will be held at that time. Those nominated are Sue Hodge, Amanda Scanlon and Rae Mitchell. (Biographical sketches of them are printed on the reverse side of this page.) It should also be noted that nominations from the floor are in order. Note also that such nominations are valid only if the consent of a nominee is given and if the nominee meets the guidelines stated in the By-Laws for Vestry membership qualifications.

Vestry Installation. The newly elected members of the Vestry will be installed at Worship on Sunday, January 24 (11:00 A.M.) At this time they will be asked to affirm their commitment to fulfill the responsibilities to which they have been elected. At the same time, the congregation will be asked to commit their support for the leaders installed. And all will pray together for the guidance and support of the Holy Spirit for the leadership they provide and for the faithful ministry of All Saints' Church.

A Pot Luck Lunch will follow the 11:00 Service on **January 24** as a way of celebrating the start of a new Vestry Year, and another opportunity for congregational fellowship. All members of the parish (and guests also) are invited and urged to participate. Please join us!

Most sincere gratitude is expressed to the three "retiring" Vestry members as new ones are elected. Mike Scott, Chris Canady and Bobby Barnes have all more than fulfilled their commitments to serve All Saints' in these leadership roles. They were always present and always participating, and they gave great support to the work of the congregation on every level. Their three years of service saw a share of hard labor and important decisions that were crucial in the life of this congregation. They have contributed greatly to the development of new spirit and positive direction as this community of faith has worked to meet new challenges and renew its vision. We are grateful for their service and blessed by their work among us.

Additional gratitude is expressed to others who have been important to the life of All Saints'. We have been richly blessed by the leadership of Ginny Orvedahl as Senior Warden this year. Her gentle, yet dedicated style, and her absolute commitment have been infectious. We are thankful for her labors. Likewise, Jack Barber as Junior Warden has taken on a wide variety of matters in the church's property, and has done so with skill and faithfulness. No expressions of gratitude can be uttered without including Danita Barnes. What she has brought to the music of All Saints' is beyond praise. Her gifts as an organist are astonishing each time she sits at the keyboard; and the vitality she has brought to the Handbell Program and the Choir are both marvelous and exciting. We are also fortunate to have the work of Jan Murray. She faithfully keeps our facilities clean and neat, and she does it always with a great sense of pride in her work and an equally great sense of humor. Day to day at All Saints' has the wonderful sense of care and keeping brought by the hands of Vickie Irby. She keeps us straight in many ways and we are always indebted to her for her commitment to many different roles. Finally, we are always totally unaware of the incredible contributions Tony Short makes to this church's daily life. As Financial Officer he has enormous responsibility, and he handles it all with skill and grace. Few churches have anywhere near such a blessing as Tony. Many, many thanks to all of these folks.

Nominees for 2016 Vestry Elections

Sue Hodge

A member of All Saints Church since 1992, being confirmed, married and raising six children in our church—currently working on second generation. Have experience in most areas of church: Vestry, Young Leader, Sunday School Teacher, Hospitality Committee, Parish Life, Outreach, ECW and currently coordinating Kitchen and Bereavement activities.

I have served for 8 years on the Board of Boys & Girls Club of Halifax County, currently serving my fourth year as Board President. I am involved with numerous youth organizations, trying to provide some leadership /mentoring and stability for youth with a difficult path to adulthood.

I want to provide my talents and focus on issues which will shape our parish in the future, understanding that circumstances may require potential changes.

Rae Mitchell

I have been a member of All Saints Episcopal Church for 26 years. The order of service comforted me immediately and I wanted to become a member. The Book of Common Prayer provides a logical pathway for the progression of my faith. All Saints was peaceful and welcoming. I will work to ensure that our Church continues to be a place of worship and refuge for others as it was for me.

I worked in public education for 39 years as a teacher and as a Director of Programs for Students with Disabilities in North Carolina and Virginia. Throughout those years I worked to help parents become effective advocates for their child and to assist teachers to unlock the potential in every child.

I have served as a member of the Altar Guild, the Worship Committee and I enjoy singing in the choir.

Amanda Scanlon (aka Mandy Scanlon)

Moved to Roanoke Rapids, NC with her family May 1995. She, along with her husband and son, was baptized at All Saints Episcopal Church February 18, 1996. She has been a member of the ECW and DOK. She volunteered as a Sunday school teacher for a few years and learned to serve treats to the kids to have a great attendance and happy class. In the last few years, she has participated in the hand bell choir at All Saints. Within the community, she has served as a soccer coach and Cub/Boy Scout leader. She also served the community as a speech-language pathologist providing services to people in nursing homes, hospitals, schools, clinics, and within her private practice. If selected to serve on the Vestry, she will do the best she can with the best interests of All Saints in mind.

**Annual Parish Meeting, Vestry Election
Sunday, January 17, 2016 - 11:00 A.M.**

Interested in Daughters of the King?



“With heart, mind, and spirit, uphold and bear the cross.” Those words are engraved in Latin on the familiar silver crosses that are worn by Daughters of the King at All Saints’ and express the essence of the quiet, but bold ministry of this community of the Episcopal Church.

The Order of Daughters of the King (DOK) is a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of Prayer, Service, and Evangelism. An Order is a community under religious rule that requires its members to take a lifelong vow to follow the Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service. The Mission of the Daughters of the King is to extend Christ’s Kingdom through Prayer, Service, and Evangelism.

Women of the Order are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with the Episcopal Church, or churches in the Historic Episcopate. The national DOK membership includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic churches worldwide.

The Laura June King Alston Chapter of Daughters of the King at All Saints’ Church was established in 2009 with 12 charter members. We have about 15 active members now who usually meet on the first Sunday of each month, except during the summer months.

Membership is open, but a process of discernment and education is required before a Daughter takes the vow and is inducted into the Order. Anyone who is interested in learning more about Daughters of the King and possibly joining the order should contact our chapter president, Pat Barnes, our chaplain Rev. Fred Eichner, call the church office or any Daughter at All Saints’.

The motto is an important reminder to Daughters of the mission and focus of the Order:

For His sake

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do.

Lord, what will you have me do?

As our chapter president often reminds us, we raise one hand in prayer and thanksgiving and extend the other hand in service. We extend both hands in welcome to anyone who feels called and inspired by our mission and message.

Val Short

Scripture Readings and Server Schedule

January 3 -Second Sunday after Christmas

8 am Chalice & Lay Reader: Robbie Stewart

8 am Lector: Sally Hardison

11 am Chalice & Lay Reader: Scott Barber

11 am Lector: Bill Hodge

Jeremiah 31:7-14 God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion, Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

Psalm 147:12-20 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion.

Ephesians 1:3-14 In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

John 1:1-18 John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

January 10 Epiphany 1 Baptism of our Lord

8 am Chalice & Lay Reader: Joanne Parrott

8 am Lector: Ginny Orvedahl

11 am Chalice & Lay Reader: Chris Lehman

11 am Lector: Kathy Hodge

Isaiah 43:1-7 Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring them home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

Psalm 29 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

Acts 8:14-17 Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God

was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

January 17 Epiphany 2 Parish Meeting

8 am Morning Prayer:

8 am Lector: Julian Gardner

11 am Morning Prayer : Ashley Brooks

11 am Lector: Rae Mitchell

Isaiah 62:1-5 The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride; and the people are called to the celebration.

Psalm 36:5-10 We feast upon the abundance of your house, O Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing one another's spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

John 2:1-11 Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

January 24 Epiphany 3

8 am Chalice & Lay Reader: Robbie Stewart

8 am Lector: Sally Hardison

11 am Chalice & Lay Reader: Patricia Barnes

11 am Lector: Diane Sawyer

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that the joy of the Lord is their strength.

Psalm 19 The teaching of the Lord revives the soul.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

Luke 4:14-21 Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

January 31 Epiphany 4

8 am Chalice & Lay Reader: Joanne Parrott

8 am Lector: Ginny Orvedahl

11 am Chalice & Lay Reader: Ashley Brooks

11 am Lector: Mike Scott

Jeremiah 1:4-1 God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word in the midst of the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

Psalm 71:1-6 From my mother's womb you have been my strength.

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Christians in Corinth prided themselves on their spiritual gifts. Paul reminds them that God gives us many gifts through the Holy Spirit, but the purpose behind all of them is love, the kind of love that God showed us in Jesus Christ.

Luke 4:21-30 People in Jesus' hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God's prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

January 31 Epiphany 4

am Chalice & Lay Reader: Inez Gardner

8 am Lector: Julian Gardner

11 am Chalice & Lay Reader: Scott Barber

11 am Lector: Tony Short

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Publications can be found on our
website at www.allsaintsrr.org
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Please email the office at
allsaintsrr@gmail.com
if you wish to receive this
publication in the future via email.



Bible Study

After a Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year's break from our sessions
the group study of First Corinthians will resume

on Wednesday, January 20

The group returns to the conference room, lower level of the office building
and meets at 6:30 P.M.

This session will consider Chapter 10 in the study book
that focuses on Chapter 12 in First Corinthians.

The completion of this series will bring us to the season of Lent.

We'll pause once again for a mid-week Lenten series,
then in the spring hold another Bible Study.

**All members of All Saints' are urged to consider reserving Wednesday evenings
for participation in adult study.**

**It is an opportunity for growth in faith, and yet another chance to gather
with fellow believers.**

Details of the studies will be announced.