

Annual Parish Meeting - Jan 29th

from your Interim

many years ago, I studied and eventually taught folk guitar. I collected many folk albums as I studied the various singers and their music. On one of my old Simon & Garfunkel albums is a recording called "7 O'clock News/Silent Night." They are singing the Christmas carol, "Silent Night" against a backdrop of an announcer giving the evening news.

One Christmas I was really struggling when I originally wrote this sermon (this is an excerpt from it) – which I gave several years ago. What could I possibly say about the beautiful passage from the Gospel of John read on Christmas Day? I kept saying to God, "I really need you to help me with this one, I'm completely blank!"

For some reason, I remembered this old recording, "7 O'Clock News/Silent Night" that I haven't listened to in over 20 years. But, what did it have to do with the Gospel reading from John? I dug out the old album and listened to it. It actually brought a few tears to my eyes. Were they tears for those lost "good old day"? (I really had enjoyed singing and playing back then!) Or . . . did it finally make sense to me?

They sang: "*Silent night, holy night, all is calm*" – slowly you become aware of a man's voice faintly speaking in the background as they sang – but you can't quite understand the words . . . "all is bright round von virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild."

The man's voice became louder and then I began to understand him: "Dr. Martin Luther King announced

plans to march in a Chicago suburb" "*sleep in heavenly peace*" "the National Guard will be called out if it is held." The news commentator then told of the murder of nine student nurses by Richard Speck. And they kept on singing: . . . "*sleep in heavenly peace.*"

The man's voice gets louder while they are singing – but never drowns them out. They seem to be competing for our attention. He talked about anti-Vietnam demonstrators and about the Viet Nam war. They sang of a silent, holy night and of heavenly peace. The commentator concluded the evening news, said good night and the song ended.

As I listened to it, I thought, "This is the world that this tiny infant came into. He came to bring life and He came to bring light into the darkness of this world. Even when all the terrible things we hear seem to be trying to drown out that message, nevertheless, it can still be heard.

I could hear Simon & Garfunkel singing "Silent Night" and it seemed really important to me to listen to it. I wanted to hear about that silent, holy night filled with heavenly peace. At the same time, I knew that what was being said by the commentator was also very real and very much part of the world I had lived in. We are born into this world and here is where we live.

There is so much darkness in this world. Many countries are at war or under siege by other countries or under selfish rulers who don't care about the lives of their people. There are people starving because of famine and droughts. Silent nights and heavenly peace are only dreams for them.

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SERVICES

Sunday: Holy Eucharist at 8:00am and 9:30am

Sunday School at 9:30am

**Wednesday: Bible Study at 10:30 am
Prayer/Healing/
Eucharist 12noon
and 6:30pm**

OUR VISION

All Saints' Parish is a welcoming Christian community whose fellowship reflects Jesus in the caring we have for every member. All Saints' has a desire to reach out to others through evangelism and service, while inviting spiritual growth in all our members by clear teaching about Jesus.

IN THIS ISSUE

**from the Interim • •
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I read through the gospel again. I stopped when I read this part: **“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!”** No matter how much darkness is in this world it cannot overcome the light which that tiny child brought into this world. God became one of us in this tiny helpless infant so that everyone – you and me – and all people – might know that God loves us and desires our love in return.

The only way we can experience that love – and God – is through God coming to us in this way. God has promised us life. It is a gift that God has chosen to give to us. We just need to reach out for it. That gift is Jesus Christ – who came to bring life and light – into this world. Nothing – not even the darkness of sin, or of war – can ever quench that light. Yes, there ^{is} much darkness here, but there ^{is} light and life in the midst of it. It is ours when we believe, when we trust, when we follow – the one who brought the light and life to us – God’s son, Jesus Christ. Only then will we truly know that heavenly peace. Only then will we truly experience that Silent Holy Night.

I pray that each of you will know that peace in this coming New Year.

Faithfully, Rev. Billie+



Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ~ Hebrews 10:23

Stewardship corner

The Cursillo movement talks about a “rule of life”, the things we do in the areas of piety, study and action to stay strong in our faith and serve our Lord. This concept is helpful, whether or not you’re part of the Cursillo movement. Each one of us has a pattern of Christian living, though we’ve probably never written it down. It includes our pattern of wor-

ship, our study of the Bible and other Christian books, and all we do to reflect Jesus in the world we live in. This month reflect on your own life. Then make a list of the things you do – daily, weekly, monthly, and even annually – to stay close to our Lord and show Jesus’ love to others.

Jack Foster



Our 2012 Parish Pledge Drive

Thank you to all who have turned in their 2012 Pledge Cards! Your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing support of our parish! All Saints Parish makes a difference in so many people’s lives, and your financial contributions help make that possible. If you have not yet returned your 2012 Pledge Card, please do so. You may put your pledge card in the collection plate on Sunday, or mail it to the church. The vestry is in the process of working on the 2012 budget as well as making decisions about a Priest-in-Charge and to move forward needs to know what the pledge income will be.

Sr. Warden – Maureen Mahoney



Fundraising corner

Happy New Year. In the Year of Our Lord 2012, we are planning some old and new Fundraisers (see list to the right). Why don’t you write these down on your calendar or input into your iphone now so we all remember. (Yes, even I forget and have to keep looking them up.) Thanks be to God, in 2011 we made our \$6,000 Fundraising budget goal. We are always looking for new ideas and would like to do even better in 2012. We are counting on your help.

Peace, Dick Tingblad



*Annual Parish Meeting -
January 29th
10:30 a.m.*

THANK YOU!

The current pledge totals for 2012: 38 pledges totaling \$71,938.00 (last year the total pledge amount was \$97,198.00); 5 new pledges, 10 increases, 16 same, and 7 decreases. We still have 15 pledges from last year that have not yet pledged for 2012.

ALL SAINTS FUNDRAISING CALENDAR 2012

BREAKFASTS – Last Sunday of every month

FEBRUARY 11 – Trivia Contest and Potluck Supper 5-7

FEBRUARY 20 – Shrove Pancake Supper (Monday)

MARCH 10 ? – Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper

MAY 5 – Service Auction

MAY 26 – Plant Sale

JUNE 23 + 24 – Yard Sale

SEPTEMBER 22 – Rummage Sale

OCTOBER 20 – 2nd Annual Craft Show

NOVEMBER 17 Friday 4–8 + 18 Saturday 9–3 – Church Fair (wknd before Thanksgiving)

We are always open for new Fundraising ideas.

What's Up Vestry?

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER were accepted as printed/mailed.

AMENDMENT TO ANNUAL CLERGY ALLOWANCE WAS VOTED FOR BOTH 2011 AND 2012.

Whereas the Rev. Billie Mae Gordon is employed as a minister of the Gospel at All Saints Parish in Whitman, Massachusetts, which does not provide a residence for her, the Vestry resolves that of the total compensation of \$41,611 Per Year, including the amount of the Housing Allowance to be paid to the Rev. Billie Mae Gordon during 2011, that \$1,500 per month be designated as parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

TREASURER'S REPORT was accepted as printed. Pledges are at 91.3% but this amounts to -\$7,764 for the year short.

OUTREACH: We have given \$250 to the children in Haiti whom we sponsor as well as \$300 for Thierry's college scholarship. We have \$585.67 available. \$100 was given to the Whitman Food Pantry. Maureen, Dotty, and Dick were appointed as a committee to decide which charities would receive this outreach money for 2011.

PLEDGES FOR 2012: As of last Sunday December 4, we have received 19 Pledges totaling \$37,886. Last year the final total was 52.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Blue Christmas Service Saturday at 3, Christmas Eve at 5 and 7, Christmas Day (Sunday) at 9:30. New Year's Day is also Sunday. Rev. Billie will poll the 8:00 Congregation to see if they will attend. Otherwise she will just have a 9:30 on January 1. . . .

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:

- The old leak above the Sacristy stairs reappeared in last night's heavy (2") rain. Dorrie and Dave Greene will investigate the kitchen roof to see if it is full of leaves.
- Elevator is not working. Chip will investigate
- Buddy the Squirrel was removed from the Church to Skunk Hollow to get fat with the Tingblad squirrels. Old Buddy tried to chew his way out of the rear Parish Hall window and the sash will need replacement.

- We now have a plague of flies which Chip is eliminating.
- Bulkhead is very hard to open and may need to be replaced.
- Doorbell is still waiting for installation
- Solar light over Parish Hall door still needs a new battery.

COUNTERS: Barbara asks again that Counters put Altar Guild flower money in her mailbox and not in the deposit. She also asks Hall Renters pay the \$75 fee and the \$25 in case of cleanup fee by separate checks, or as cash for the \$25 part. . . .

excerpts from the December Vestry minutes

Your word is like a lamp for my feet and a light for my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

Christmas History

Immediately following our celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ – known more commonly as Christmas Day – there follows several observances of saints in the Church. Here is a bit of background on each of them, taken from Holy Women, Holy Men:

DEC. 26TH IS OBSERVED AS THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR IN THE CHURCH. Stephen was very likely a Hellenistic Jew. He was one of the "seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3), who were chosen by the Apostles to relieve them of the administrative burden of "serving tables and caring for the widows." Stephen was the first so named. We traditionally consider him and the others as doing the work and ministry of a deacon in the Church. Stephen also preached and performed miracles. These activities led him into conflict with some of the Jews, who accused him of blasphemy. He was brought before the Sanhedrin where his powerful sermon before the Council – recorded in the 7th

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Rudos ... to the Vestry on their diligent Priest-in-Charge search!!

OUR DECISION MAKERS

Interim:
Rev. Billie Gordon
Sr. Warden:
Maureen Mahoney
Jr. Warden:
Dorrie Greene
Treasurer:
Barbara Wight
Assistant Treasurer:
Dave Greene
Clerk: Richard Tingblad
Vestry: Carol Casieri
LeaAnne Doyle
Chip Durant
Dave Frazier
Warren Phillips
Judy Veazie
Herb Wick
Dotty Wilhelm

REV BILLIE'S SCHEDULE

(Please check the Master Parish Calendar for any conflict..)

Sun.: 7am–12noon
Tues.: 8am–12noon
Wed.: 10:30am–7pm
10:30am Bible Study
12:00noon Prayer
Group/Healing/
Eucharist
6:30pm Prayer Group/
Healing/
Eucharist
Thurs.: 8:am–12noon

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chapter of Acts – so enraged its members, that, without a trial, they dragged out of the city and stoned him to death, thus making him the first martyr in the Church.

DEC. 27TH IS OBSERVED AS THE FEAST OF SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST. John and his brother, James, were called by Jesus to be “fishers of men”. With Peter and James he became one of the inner group of three disciples whom Jesus chose to be with him on several important occasions, including in the Garden of Gethsemane. If he is the John identified as the “disciple whom Jesus loved”, then he clearly had a special relationship with his Master, including given the care of the Mother of Jesus at the Cross and being the first to understand the truth of the empty tomb. John was exiled to Patmos where he experienced the visions recounted in the Book of Revelations. It is believed that he died there at a very old age – and one the only one to be spared a martyr’s death.

DEC. 28TH IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS. Herod the Great was appointed by the Romans in 40 BC as King over the Jews and ruled in peace in Palestine for 37 years. His ruthless control was recorded by the Jewish historian, Josephus, who describes him as “a man of great barbarity towards everyone”. Herod continually feared losing his throne. When the 3 Wise Men (Magi) came to him and reported the birth of an infant King of the Jews (Matthew 2) this caused him fear and anger. Although it is not recorded in secular history, the story of the massacre of the Innocents is totally in keeping with what is known of King Herod’s character. He ordered the slaughter of all male children under the age of 2 in Bethlehem and the

surrounding region. No one knows how many were killed but the Church has always honored these innocent children as martyrs.

DEC. 29TH IS THE FEAST OF THOMAS BECKET, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, 1170. His life and death “have intrigued scholars and church people for centuries. Was he a politician or a saint? or perhaps both?” King Henry II appointed him Chancellor of England. They become close friends and then eventually Henry secured his election as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. Becket was reluctant but as the Archbishop he changed “from a patron of play actors and a follower of hounds, to being a shepherd of souls.” “He also defended the interests of the Church against those of his former friend and patron, the King. The struggle between the two became so bitter that Thomas sought exile at an abbey in France.” He returned 6 years later to a fragile reconciliation, which quickly broke down. “In a fit of rage, the King is alleged to have asked his courtiers, “Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?” Four barons, taking the king’s words as an order went to Canterbury Cathedral and struck down Becket with their swords. Later, monks would find him wearing a hair shirt under his elaborate robes. He said as he died, “Willingly I die for the name of Jesus and in the defense of the Church.”

DEC. 30 IS IN HONOR OF FRANCES JOSEPH GAUDET, EDUCATOR AND PRISON REFORMER. She was born in a log cabin in Holmesville, Mississippi in 1861, of African American and Native American descent. While still a young woman she dedicated her life to prison reform. She was a delegate to the international convention of the Women’s Christian Temperance

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

05 Daryl Smith
06 Dick Corkum
10 Pam Nawrocki,
Bob Taylor
11 Hanna Brown
12 Charles Lucas
14 Mike Fuller
18 Steve Verrill
20 Matthew Bunar
23 Kathye Foster
26 Marilyn Inglis

SNOW DAYS!!

We will put snow cancellation notices on Channel 7 and 56. We will also try to change the machine at the church. For snow cancellation, you may also visit <http://www.whdh.com> or register to get Snow Day Alerts via email for All Saints Parish/Whitman.

KUDOS!!!

... to Jeff Roderick for installing the doorbells beside the front and back doors of the Parish Hall.

... to the Altar Guild for all the extra work during this Holy Season

... to those munchkins who helped the Altar Guild decorate and undecorate the Parish.

... to the choir for the beautiful anthems and time spent practicing.

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Union in Edinburgh, Scotland. Gaudet worked to rehabilitate young Blacks arrested for misdemeanors or vagrancy. Her efforts helped to found the Juvenile Court. She was deeply committed to good education, purchased a farm and founded the Gaudet Normal and Industrial School which eventually expanded to over 105 acres.

DEC. 31 IS IN HONOR OF SAMUEL AJAYI CROWTHER, BISHOP IN THE NIGER TERRITORIES, 1891. He was ordained as the first African bishop in Nigeria. His gifts were many: a skilled linguist who helped to translate the Bible and BCP into Yoruba and other West African languages. He founded schools and training colleges, where he encouraged the study of the Gospel, traditional subjects, and farming methods that allowed students to raise basic crops and cotton as sources of income. As a child he had been captured during a Nigerian Civil war and sold to Portuguese slave traders. The ship was intercepted by a British anti-slavery ship and its human cargo taken to Freetown, Sierra Leone, a haven for freed captives. There he was educated at a Church Missionary Society school, baptized and became a teacher there. His leadership skills caused the CMS to send him to England to a training college. He was ordained a year later. He made many missionary trips to the interior of Nigeria where he encountered Muslims. He was known as a "humble, patient listener and a thoughtful, non-polemical partner in dialogue. The British tried to keep missionary activity solely under the control of white clerics, who subverted Crowther's authority, which he patiently endured, while continuing his expansive work among Africans. He is the most

widely known African Christian of the 19th century.

I hope that this bit of history in our church was enlightening to you! The week after Christmas is a time when we are all still in the Christmas Spirit or preparing for the New Year – but I think it is important to notice some important people in the life of our Church who are honored during this time.

I will be off on my annual 8-day retreat, beginning January 5th and returning January 13th. Please pray for me as I will also continue to pray for you. My prayer is especially that this New Year will bless you with a priest-in-charge – one who will walk with you on your journey of faith to know Jesus more fully in your lives – and guide you faithfully in the coming years. Peace and love and blessings to each of you as we enter 2012.

Rev. Billie+



Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ~ Hebrews 10:23

Please join us for the
Annual Parish
Meeting
January 29, 2012
10:30 am
Your input is
important!

EPIPHANY

By the time you receive this, we will be entering a new (secular) year. On January 6th – the Church celebrates “the final and grandest day of the Christmas season” – the feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. All Saints’ will observe it on Sunday the 8th with Lessons and Carols at the 9:30 AM service. At 8 AM there will be a service of Morning Prayer. Epiphany is the day when we remember the visit of the Wise Men from the East. They followed a star as they traveled bearing gifts to Bethlehem where they would worship the new king. “Epiphany” (Greek) means “to show forth” or “manifestation”. This feast celebrates yet another manifestation of God to the gentiles. The gifts they brought to the Christ child were frankincense, to honor God come as a child, gold to signify his royalty and myrrh foreshadowing the death of Jesus Christ. (Worship Without Words)

Rudos to all who helped make The Annual Women's Christmas Party Great Fun ~ You Are Awesome!!!!

All Saints' Parish
44 Park Avenue
Whitman, MA 02382

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

allsaintswhitman.com

POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL

All Saints' Calendar!

REMINDER!! Please remember the Whitman Food Pantry. You may drop off a non-perishable food item at anytime. There are baskets in the Sanctuary at the pulpit and also in the Parish Hall.

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

January 29, 2012

10:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST—Now being served the last Sunday of every month between the 8:00 and 9:30 services (approx. 8:45am). And please don't forgot to make a donation to help defray the cost.

VISIT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE: allsaintswhitman.com