

# Saints *Alive*

At the "Little Brown Church"

Fall 2021



## Rector Reflection



Dear Friends in Christ:

Jesus met his disciples on a hill outside of Jerusalem. He is about to deliver his final message to them. He will hand his mission and his ministry over to his disciples. What are they to do when he is gone? Full of anticipation, the followers listen to these all-important words. Jesus simply says "Go."

Those words echo down through the ages to us today. Jesus tells us, too, to "go" and, more than any other time in the life of the church, we need to respond.

Not only are we needed now more than ever, but today, people are attracted to a church that is on the "go." People are interested in a church because of what it "does," not one that is merely surviving for itself, but a church that is actually changing the world. A growing and an alive church is a church that is impacting the community and making a difference in the lives of its neighbors.

All Saints Parish has a unique and enviable opportunity. Far from being discouraged that attendance has dropped and we are not the church of decades ago, we can instead seize the moment to be the church of today! God has brought us to this moment to hear anew the word of Jesus to "go." Go and change the world...go outside the walls of the church and continue Jesus' ministry of feeding, clothing, helping others. "Go" to a (post-)COVID world and continue Christ's mission TODAY beyond the walls of 44 Park Ave.

Over the next several months we will be exploring and discerning what our mission is and where God is calling us. We will do that through worship services, education, small group discussions and prayer. We will begin to focus in on what we are going to do to truly be impactful to our neighbors and how we are going to accomplish this. New opportunities will arise for each one of us to participate in this growing ministry.

We will be kicking off our "go" with the Animal Faire. The National Church and our Diocese have called us to be active in the care of creation. Our Animal Faire will be a fun and interactive way to raise awareness around God's creatures and to help the community get to know All Saints better. I am asking each of you to wear your t-shirt and come and greet our guests on September 25th. I will be asking you to help spread the word of our event. No matter our age, everyone can be a host and simply enjoy the day with our neighbors...and maybe even pet a rabbit!

The possibilities for All Saints are endless! The ministry and mission of Jesus is calling to us and; the reality is, we are needed now, more than ever. Join me on the road that lies ahead. Let us indeed hear Jesus cheering us on...and "GO."

Rev. Michele +



**9/12**  
**Registration & Ice Cream**

**9/19**  
**First Day of Sunday School**

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**September 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL ANIMAL FAIRE**

## FALL WORSHIP CALENDAR



### SEPTEMBER

- 12 Breakfast by Dan – between services
- 17 Fire Pit Friday – 6 p.m.
- 19 LEM Training – 9 a.m.
- 25 First Annual Animal Faire & Blessing of the Animals – 10 a.m. through Noon
- 29 Virtual Worship Service: St. Michael & All Angels – 7 p.m.  
Celebrate this lovely feast day from the comfort of your home.

### OCTOBER

- 18 Virtual Worship Service: St. Luke's – 7 p.m.
- 22 Octoberfest Fire Pit Friday – 6 p.m.  
Come for brats/veggie offering, sauerkraut, (ginger) ale and (root) beer
- 24 Being a picture of a loved one who has died to the service. It will be used for an altar of remembrance.
- 31 All Saints Day, transferred  
Dress up as your favorite saint for 10 a.m. Worship. (Some thoughts: bring an anchor to represent St. Nicholas, put an arrow in your sweater for St. Sebastian or St. Ursula, wear a lion costume to become St. Jerome)

### NOVEMBER

- 5 Pizza and Praise (contemporary music and prayer) – 5:30 p.m.  
RSVP so we know amount of pizza needed
- 19 Fire Pit Friday – 6 p.m.  
Mulled cider and cookies
- 21 Christ the King Sunday (Ministry Sunday)  
Return pledge cards and sign up for one of the many ministries of the church

## UPDATED COVID RESPONSE

Per Diocese and Massachusetts' guidelines, All Saints is now observing the following responses to the virus' surge:

Wear a mask to Sunday Services and Sunday school.

Observe social distancing.

Mask up when visiting the Thrift Shop.

Always keep in mind the safety of our seniors, young children and those vulnerable who cannot be vaccinated.



## THRIFT SHOP



### Updates:

1. The Thrift Shop will be closed from August 29<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> for vacation. We are once more requiring all to wear masks as the COVID numbers continue to rise in the community.
2. When we resume hours, we will be accepting donations for spring and summer clothing as it is time to refresh our stock.
3. We are also still looking for volunteers to work for 2 hours on a Saturday every month or every other month. Please contact Leslie or Peggy. (781-447-6106)

Thanks to those who continue to help us keep the Thrift Shop afloat!



It seems not so long ago that many folks thought the pandemic might be on the wane. Grocery stores had reduced, or eliminated entirely, “senior shopping hours.” Masks were needed only in close quarters, and not at all for the fully vaccinated. Workers were beginning to return to their offices; companies and businesses were hiring. Summer camps opened and concerts were rescheduled.

Then came the Delta variant and many bets were off. Charitable organizations have put some planned activities on hold and have scaled back or postponed others. The one thing that has not changed is the continued need on the part of local food pantries. When I walk up the stairs from the church basement into Matteson Memorial Hall, on my way to the sanctuary to put out the Sunday bulletins, I have to smile. The basket for donations to the Whitman Food Pantry is always full. Just one more expression of the large heart of our parish.

With schools re-opening, a number of school systems have reduced the price of breakfasts and lunches and expanded the number of students eligible for free meals; a few are even providing free meals to all students. Some schools have volunteers packing food into backpacks 🎒 on Fridays for children to take home for weekend meals. Volunteer help is always needed. Check with the schools in your town.

Food pantry directors continue to emphasize that the need is especially for monetary donations. Food pantries have to pay for the food delivered to them by sources such as The Greater Boston Food Bank. And the number of people coming to food pantries remains at all-time high levels.

*Priscilla Connors*

### Do you have a pastoral need?

To reach The Rev. Dr. Michele Matott, please call her church office at 781-447-6106 or her mobile at 401-837-5657. You may also email Rev. Michele at [allsaintsparishrector@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsparishrector@gmail.com)

To reach Senior Warden Regina Gurney, please call her at 781-335-5838 or email Regina at [reginamg56@comcast.net](mailto:reginamg56@comcast.net)

## THE NOW NORMAL



Rev. Michele Serves Communion

## NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

As our personal expenses have increased, so have church expenses. We thank you for keeping up pledges so that we are able to maintain our parish financial health.



*All Saints Treasurer & Vestry*

## From the All Saints Church Archives



In response to Rev. Michele's sermon on *The Last Supper* on August 15<sup>th</sup>, here is a depiction of the famed masterpiece. This was given by Altar Guild member Vera Hall and is displayed on the west wall of the sanctuary.

From Church Historian, Richard Tingblad

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

from Sarah Stewart and Kristen Brodeur, Directors



Sarah and Kristin are so excited for a new Sunday School year to begin, **in person** at All Saints! We are currently exploring new programming that will support our growing children and their spiritual growth. Sunday School will take place during church each Sunday, with the children joining their families for the Eucharist as in the past, except the last Sunday of the month where the children will be in church.

(Please bring a mask!)

### Save the Dates:

- Sunday School Registration (and ice cream!): After church Sunday, September 12th
- First Day of Sunday School: Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>

Backpacks have been blessed!



We are also looking for volunteers to assist in the classroom this year. Feel free to contact either Sarah ([sarahdoyle1214@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdoyle1214@gmail.com)), or Kristin ([kbrodeur1102@gmail.com](mailto:kbrodeur1102@gmail.com)) for more information. We are looking forward to a great school year!



## FIRST ANNUAL ANIMAL FAIRE September 25

Teddy Bear Clinic



A fun, community-oriented animal faire is planned for September 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 12 noon on the All Saints' grounds. There will be pony rides, a stuffed animal adoption center, a teddy bear clinic, petting zoo and more for our parish and locals to enjoy.

Please volunteer to help out, invite your neighbors and friends, and enjoy our place in the community.



## ***FROM THE WARDEN'S DESK***

***With Senior Warden Regina Gurney***



All Saints Church has supported St. Paul's Cathedral's MANNA APPEAL with clothing and monetary donations. Some excerpts from a letter received by Regina from Rev. Jennifer McCracken, Head Pastor to MANNA follow.

From Kevin Walker, Black Seed Writer:

*...for the past grueling fourteen months, thanks to staff, volunteers, interns and Reverends of the entire MANNA community, the homeless have had a place to go, something to do, something to eat, and something to wear out of the freezing cold and dismal rain.*

*When the city of Boston dropped the ball for all the homeless, who literally had nowhere to 'shelter in place,' the MANNA staff ensured the continuity of their program for over a year without missing a beat.*

*The entire staff of MANNA never closed their doors and were always there for us! If nothing else, all of us homeless must show gratitude that MANNA was there for us during one of the most damaging periods of Boston history. This salient fact should be borne in mind and appreciated by all the homeless who benefitted from the largess of the MANNA staff – THANK YOU!*

Kevin's gratitude is heartwarming, especially given the trauma the community has endured Over the past year and a half. It feels important to extend this heartfelt gratitude to all of you who helped make Kevin's gratitude possible. Without your generosity of spirit, and your financial contributions, we wouldn't have been able to offer the abundance Kevin speaks of in his reflection.

With your help, we were able to feed three times the amount of people we served pre-COVID – roughly 200-250 people per day. Thanks to you, essential clothing items such as socks, underwear, long johns, coats and toiletries arrived in droves to provide warmth, comfort and dignity for our unhoused siblings. Your financial assistance helped us hire additional skilled and loving staff to provide sanctuary and accompaniment for the steadily growing numbers of tired traumatized, worn out and vulnerable people who came to our door. While the increase in need was, at times, terrifying, it was beautiful to see our communities come together to help meet that need...

Please know our deep gratitude for all the ways you have loved us, too. If you are able to continue your support, in-kind or financially, we would be most grateful. Unhoused people are still unhoused, pandemic or no pandemic, and we need your help.



MANNA community receiving a blessing as they start The Walk for Hunger from St. Paul's Cathedral  
Photo by John Lane



## **FUNDRAISING NEWS**

with Dick Tingblad

We have done well at fundraising during this summer, and are hoping to do the same during the autumn.

The Summer Raffle made \$190. Ginny Consolo won. The Yard Sale was a big event and earned \$552.

Now we are gearing up for the Craft Show on October 23. For the first time ever, we have all of our 14 tables paid for, more than 2 months ahead of time. We still have room on the lawn. At this event, we rent tables to crafters and artisans who sell their own creations. We get \$30 per table and also request an item which we raffle off. The kitchen sells coffee and doughnuts and a simple lunch. This will be our 10th yearly Craft Show. We need everyone to come and look around on the day of the show. We hope for a big turnout from the public as well; and, for this reason, we advertise in the following ways: church sign, posters in all area towns, Whitman-Hanson Express newspaper, Buzzaround online newsletter, Craigslist, FestivalNet and Facebook. The crafters need to see a big crowd or they will not return. Usually, the church earns about \$800 from this event.

On November 19 and 20, we hope to have our 110th Church Fair. At this event, we ask all of you to make items for us to sell, such as: Christmas and Thanksgiving decorations, knitting, sewing, crafts, etc. We also need baked goods, jewelry, antiques and collectibles, yard sale items, and Harvest Soup. We do not rent tables at this one; everything we sell is for All Saints. Therefore, we need people to set up on the days before the Fair, work at the Fair, and put things away after the Fair. We want to see every parishioner at the Fair, if only to shop or eat lunch with us. We hope for a big turnout from the public as well; and, for this reason, we advertise in the following ways: church sign, posters in all area towns, Whitman-Hanson Express newspaper, Buzzaround online newsletter, Craigslist, FestivalNet and Facebook. Usually, the church earns about \$2,000 + from this event, which is our biggest fundraiser.

In addition, we will be having a Fall Raffle which will start soon and will be drawn just before Christmas. This will be a Lego collection valued at \$300 which was generously donated to All Saints.

Peace

Louisa and Dick Tingblad

### ***THE FIRE PIT AWAITS!***



#### **Fire Pit Friday Dates (6 p.m.):**

- September 17 – Last s'mores of the summer!
- October 22 – October Fest! Brats/Veggies with sauerkraut, (ginger) ale and (root) beer – Jawohl!
- November 19 – Stay warm with mulled cider and cookies

### **ON HOLD**



Meditative Coloring and Senior Lunches have been put on hold until the COVID-19 surge has abated.

Please contact the church at 781-447-6106 for updates. Or, contact Emily Baker for information on the coloring program at 781-871-2115 and Regina Gurney for information on the senior lunches at 781-335-5838.