

Saints *Alive*

At the "Little Brown Church"

Summer 2021



Rector Reflection

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Tomato plants are about to bud and zucchini are sending forth shoots. Petunias are in full bloom and before long day lilies will be making their appearance. The gardening season is here. Soon we will be enjoying fresh picked green beans, sweet strawberries and an artist's pallet of flowers. Indeed, it is gardening time.

It is gardening time here in the church, too. Just look at the altar hangings and the vestment colors. They are green! Green the color of growth, the color of life, the color of gardens.

The seeds of faith were planted in us during Eastertide with shouts of "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" Tender sprouts grew with all the wonderful stories of his appearances. Now is the time for us to nurture and water our seedlings of faith.

The church helps us do that by giving us a very long growing season, so long in fact that it stretches from now until Advent! During this time, we will hear readings that will get us thinking about our mission and what it means to be a community of faith in today's world. Empowered, our outreach will blossom. On an individual level, we will have our own souls nourished and come to know Jesus in new and profound ways. Even if we have heard the stories a hundred times before, each year is fresh and a new opportunity to grow and deepen our roots in Christ.

Please join me this summer as we tend to our garden together. We will see the fruits of our time and enjoy a rich harvest.

In Christ,

Rev. Michele+

Who is Rev. Michele?

Read about our new Rector in the Saints of All Saints column in this issue of our newsletter.



S'MORES AND MORE

Watch for Fire Pit Friday fellowship opportunities over the next few months. Our first event, attended by some hardy parishioners this past Friday, is documented below.



Join us on Friday, June 18 at 6:30!

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A New Rector for All Saints!



CONNOR'S CORNER
IT'S ALL ABOUT OUTREACH

Many of our citizens have been vaccinated. Businesses are opening and re-opening, bringing back laid-off employees and looking for new ones. Students are returning to their classrooms. Entertainment and sports venues are opening with gradually increasing attendance.

One thing that is not changing is the continued need for the services of our local food pantries. I learned recently that food pantries are doing far more than many of us ever imagined. Some have gardens, staffed by volunteers, that provide fresh food for pantry clients. And even present cooking and gardening classes.

Food pantries are involved with grocery store chains in "food rescue" programs, saving good food from being wasted. Some pantries provide matching funds to supplement SNAP benefits that can be used at local farmers' markets. Television news programming has highlighted "drive through" pick-up that makes the process of picking up food contactless. Home delivery of food pantry orders is often available to neighbors who are home-bound by age or illness or disability.

We are all familiar with reduced-price and free breakfasts and lunches provided by school lunch programs to a number of students. Some food pantries, with the help of teachers, fill backpacks with nutritious food to send home with students who are food insecure.

And all this is done by volunteers who sort, pack and distribute the food to their neighbors. Local businesses, large and small, and even corporations make financial and in-kind contributions. Pantries apply for and receive grants to help support their services. Those services were in demand long before the pandemic and will continue to be in demand for a long time to come.

All Saints has a basket on the floor under the light switch in the church hall. Please place nonperishable food items in the basket as often as you can!!! There is no contribution too small to be of assistance to the many in need.

Priscilla Connors



The Thrift Shop is indeed open again!! We do insist that shoppers wear masks and sign in with a first name and telephone number should we need to do contact tracing.

We are able to take donations once again and seem to always have a need for women's shoes. Imagine, women like to buy shoes?

We are also in need of some help on Saturdays. If people would consider 2 hours (either from 10-12 or 12-2) one Saturday a month or even every other month) it would be most appreciated.

Thanks,
Les and Peggy



MEDITATIVE COLORING
with
Emily Baker

GOOD NEWS!

Meditative Coloring is starting up again. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2nd from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.

Everything needed is supplied; so there is no cost.

This is open to everyone.

Please join us. We look forward to seeing you.

Peace,

Emily Baker

Meditation
Mindfulness
Stress Release



MEET THE SAINTS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Michele Matott

Rev. Michele, as she likes to be called, graciously consented to an interview for this column. I found her smart, fun and easy to talk to. We are so happy to welcome her to All Saints Parish.



Rev. Michele grew up in Rochester, New York. From a very young age she felt a closeness to the Virgin Mary, although the Holy Mother was not a prominent presence in her family's Presbyterian denomination. This, however, did not dissuade her from an active church life and, upon graduation from high school, Michele entered the Presbyterian-affiliated Muskingum College in Ohio as a pre-med student. College is a time for exploration; so Michele investigated various Christian denominations. She was intrigued by the Roman Catholic faith, but it was the Episcopal Church that drew her. It was following an internship at the Mayo Clinic and an application to Columbia University's med school that Michele decided to forego a medical career and "find herself."

Still interested in the sciences, the co-ed took classes at Columbia including one in the New Testament and fell in love with the Gospels. She talked to her parents, consulted a favorite professor about choices and was confirmed at St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York City. She became a member of the Episcopal tradition. Upon the suggestion of the professor, Michele began classes at Union Theological Seminary, across the street from Columbia University, and after one year applied to Union's Master of Divinity program thinking she might become a pastoral therapist. However, during seminary, a calling to the priesthood became evident. She knew in her heart that this is what she was meant to be.

There are many steps to follow, requests to make, approvals to be granted – a protocol – in becoming an Episcopal priest. The seminary graduate found that, by not following procedure, acquiring an internship would be difficult. However, Rt. Rev. George N. Hunt III, Bishop of Rhode Island, took on the renegade Michele Matott, sending the intern to St. Mary's Church in Providence under the supervision of Rev. Bob Duffy, a priest who did not approve of women's ordination. Michele, the affable rebel, was able to change Rev. Bob's views on women in the church and he soon became an advocate for the ordination he was so against. He so strongly believed in the young priest-in-training that he spoke at her ordination to the priesthood in 1993.

After ordination, Michele was an assisting priest at Grace Church, Providence and also served as chaplain at a home for abused children and at St. Elizabeth's, a local nursing home. It was during the interview for the position at St. Elizabeth's that she met Marguerite McLaughlin. They became friends and, when Rev. Michele was called to St. Thomas Parish in Rhode Island, Marguerite went with her. Marguerite felt called to become a priest, as well, and was accepted to the seminary. However, together they decided they were called as a family into church leadership and would follow that path. Marguerite withdrew from the seminary. Rev. Michele and Marguerite have been together for 20 years, as a married couple for 16.

I asked Rev. Michele about her ministry passions. She said she wants her parishioners to know religion, faith and that church is fun. She likes to use visuals to make the liturgy POP and make scripture come alive. If you were at the Pentecost service, you saw an example of that – a bubble machine outside, egg noisemakers, Holy Spirit dove pins and pennants. Our new priest considers herself a liturgy educator and hopes to incorporate interactive retreats to strengthen relationships with God and a program, such as "Inside Scoop," which prepares parishioners for the weekly lessons.

About Rev. Michele's family: besides her helpmate and wife Marguerite she has four children (Noelle, MacGregor, Jacqueline, and Trevor), several grandchildren and three cats. She enjoys crossword puzzles, cooking (especially anything chocolate and Sunday dinners) and downhill skiing.

When asked about All Saints and why she felt called to us, Rev. Michele said that our profile was different from anything she had seen (thank you Search Committee!). She also said that our church family seemed diverse, open and exciting. Our physical plant is great and she loves the thrift shop. She spoke about "asset mapping," a term used to coordinate the gifts of a parish with the needs of a community. She hopes to expand on that model.

Rev. Michele said that she is delighted to be here and that our parishioners have been very nice. We are delighted to have you, Rev. Michele, new Rector of All Saints Parish in Whitman.

THE SEARCH FOR A NEW RECTOR



NOTES FROM
SEARCH

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

mittee

Thank you to our fabulous Search Committee for a job well done!

Allison Akarsu: awight6180@yahoo.com

Rosemary Botelho: bvcbosslady@gmail.com

Pat Delaney: designquilter@yahoo.com

Diantha Meagher: meags55@comcast.net

Jim Walker: jlwjr77@hotmail.com



Your Search Committee

Diantha Meagher, Jim Walker, Rosemary Botelho, Pat Delaney,
Allison Akarsu



SEARCH COMMITTEE: FINAL REPORT



Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

It is with a full and humble heart that I submit the search committee's last piece for the newsletter. Our over two years' of effort and prayerful seeking has finally come to fruition with the welcoming of the Reverend Dr. Michele Matott and her amazing and talented partner, Marguerite!

As a committee, we were in unanimous agreement that "Rev" was presented to us by God in our time of need. We are so excited to make this journey with her and our church family!

A special thank you to Allison Akarsu, my co-chair and sanity-saver, as well as to the rest of the committee - Pat Delaney, Jim Walker, Diantha Meager - for sticking it out to the end.

Respectfully submitted by,
Rosemary Botelho.

**Blessing of the
Backpacks
and the
School Year**



Bring your school supplies and backpacks, and if you are not in school bring whatever you carry to work or for play, for the annual blessing of the backpacks on Sunday August 29.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS
from Sarah Doyle and Kristen Brodeur, Directors



Wow, what a year it has been! Although we have enjoyed meeting with the kids (and family pets) on Zoom during the 20-21 school year, we are so happy to be back with our All Saints' Family! Recently the children have written a welcome letter to Reverend Michele and created a goodbye slideshow for Reverend Billie. To celebrate the end of the school year, we will be having a **pizza party after church on June 13th!** We are looking forward to the summer vacation, and beginning the new Sunday School year in church.



YOU ARE INVITED!

**All Saints Church
 June 13, 2021
 Following Church
 Service
 Sunday School Pizza
 (the best kind!)**

Zoom Sunday school was fun, and all the animals were thrilled to have us home Sunday morning; but we can't wait to take our first group picture at the church!

CALENDAR OF SUMMER EVENTS

Sunday School Pizza Party – Sunday June 13, following 10:00 am service

Fire Pit Fridays – 6:30 pm on Friday nights once a month: June 18, July 16, August 20

Juneteenth Celebration – during and following 10:00 am service on June 20

Church Yard Sale – July 17

Blessing of the Backpacks – Sunday August 29 at 10:00 am service

Do you have a pastoral need?

To reach the Rev. Michele Matott on her cell at 401-837-5657. Or email her at allsaintsparishrector@gmail.com

To reach Senior Warden Regina Gurney, please call her at 781-335-5838 or email Regina at reginamq56@comcast.net



Financial Matters

We are coming into the season of school breaks and summer family outings. Treasurer Barbara Wight would like to remind parishioners that, if you are away, you can mail your pledge to All Saints Parish, 44 Park Ave., Whitman 02382.
Thank You

FROM THE WARDEN'S DESK

with Junior Warden Tom Rudolph



Welcome to our new rector, Rev. Michele.

While we were not meeting face-to-face, we were still busy (with our dancing shoes on) keeping our church home looking occupied and maintained. Thank you to all who raked, weeded, planted, mulched and mowed.

Additionally, the east side of the church hall has been stained. The windows were reglazed and cracked glass replaced.



Now that we have regathered for on-site services, it is even more important that our physical plant look well-groomed.



Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom Day, is a holiday that commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in June 1865, and more generally the emancipation of African-American slaves throughout the Confederate South. Celebrated on June 19, Juneteenth is recognized as a state holiday or special day of observance in most states. In practice, the Emancipation Proclamation only freed persons held in Confederate States who were either behind the Union lines or close enough to take advantage of the Union advance. Therefore, the news and practice of freeing enslaved people moved slowly.

The date marks the moment when the news of the end of the Civil War and the complete emancipation of all slaves was announced in Galveston, TX on June 19, 1865, over two months after the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia. We mark this moment as a Church not only as the end of the institution of American slavery, but also in the spirit of reconciliation and new life as we journey together towards togetherness and community.

Traditionally red foods are eaten (red to remember the history of slavery) and African American music is played. As we strive for justice and peace and reconciliation, **we will honor Juneteenth on Sunday June 20th. Our service will feature special music (*Lift Every Voice and Sing, Let Us Break Bread Together on our Knees, and Swing Low Sweet Chariot*). Following a joy-filled service we will serve pink lemonade and strawberry shortcake. Please be sure to join us for this celebration.**

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECT UPDATE

(Yes, it is June. However, Allison Akarsu received a lovely note from the Friends of the Homeless which she wished to share with the parish. You can see the note to the right.)

From Allison:

I want to thank all the saints of All Saints who made this year another successful Christmas for our outreach project with the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore. We were able to help two families with seven total family members have a great Christmas. I couldn't do this without all of your support. ♥



SUMMER FUN RAFFLE



Louisa has put together another fun raffle basket, pictured above. The winner of the raffle will receive:

- Beach chair
- Beach towel
- Picnic basket
- Sun lotion
- Root beer (4)
- Citronella candle
- Gift certificate for ½ gallon Peaceful Meadows ice cream

See the form below to learn how to purchase tickets for the raffle. Or, come to the church, see the prize “basket” and enter to win in person.



FUNDRAISING with Dick Tingblad

Thanks be to God; the 20th annual Plant Sale has earned \$385 for the budget. Thank you to all who donated plants, especially Regina and Mal who grew tomatoes in their dining room. Thank you to all who worked: Regina and Mal, Tom and grandson Ben, Louisa and daughter Kristin, and to Rev. Michele and Marguerite who dove right in and joined the crew.

We have also earned \$145 on our Summer Basket so far, with the drawing to be on July 4.

Look for a Yard Sale in July as well.

Our 10th annual Craft Show is planned for October 23. (2020 would have been the 10th.)

November 19 and 20 are the dates for our Church Fair; and, on that subject, we should all be making crafts during the summer for that event.

Peace
Dick and Louisa

RAFFLE TICKETS

ONE -- \$1 SEVEN - \$5 FIFTEEN - \$10

To purchase tickets: We will not have real tickets. Choose how many chances you want, PRINT AND FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW, enclose the money or check in an envelope, and mail it to Church (44 Park Ave. Whitman 02382) or drop it off in the outside mailbox. Louisa and I will type your name on slips of paper the appropriate number of times (one, seven, fifteen, etc.) and put them in a bowl. We will draw the Basket winner on July 4th, and we will call the winner.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS YOU WANT _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____



PRAYER LIST

Add a name to the prayer list at Pat Eunice's email: ja1aj2to3@aol.com

