

Saints *Alive*

At the "Little Brown Church"

Advent 2021



Rector Reflection



GOD IS IN THE MIDDLE

Dear Beloved;

Tchaikovsky, not the great composer, but my cat, needs to be in the middle of everything. Laying out paper to wrap a gift, suddenly becomes the best place to take a nap. Reading a book, the corner of the cover is the only place to rub whiskers. Need help with writing an Advent message, Tchaikovsky is there. And zoom...zoom was invented just to showcase him. He inserts himself into everything and anything.

That's what Christ does! Being in the middle of everything is the whole message of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Cycle.

God created us in the beginning and has been pursuing us since creation, longing to have a relationship with us. God tried covenants with Noah and Abraham. God even rescued our family when we were slaves in Egypt. God sent prophets to proclaim God's love. But nothing really got our attention.

Then at Christmas, everything changed. God came and got into the middle of everything. Jesus literally got in the middle of our flesh, in the middle of our lives.

The Incarnation, the enfleshing of God, this getting in the middle of everything, means wherever we are, whatever we are doing, Jesus himself is there with us. His presence transforms the mundane into the sacred, the unbearable to the manageable, the hectic...into the hectic but with God's presence.

As followers of Christ, we too are to get into the middle of everything and transform it. It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians adapted the Christmas tree. We transform the world by being holy people—by being kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people...no matter how maddening the holiday rush is or who "beats" us to a parking space.

This season let us practice transforming places and people. May we let the world know that God loved us so much God just had to get into the middle of honking horns, sugar plums, ribbons and bows, and us.

In Christ,

Rev. Michele+

***O Come All
Ye Faithful!***

Watch and wait
with your
parish family

December 17:
Fire Pit Friday
with caroling,
hot cider and
cookies



December 19:
Pageant with a
"greening of
the church"
party



More events on
page 2.

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**Annual Church Meeting
February 13, 2022**

Connor's Corner Outreach



This seems to be time of year when many organizations are looking for support. I heard on a news broadcast that The Salvation Army is looking for bell-ringers. I knew someone who used to do that and he really enjoyed it.

The Weymouth Food Pantry is adding to its Rockland warehouse and will become a regional food bank for pickup and storage for about 18 pantries on the South Shore, including Whitman and its surrounding towns while continuing its work in the Town of Weymouth. The new facility will have 4,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space and 355 sq. ft. of freezer and refrigeration, storing an estimated 160,000 pounds of perishable and non-perishable food. That's a 60% increase from the current location. While all food pantries are grateful for food donations, money donations are absolutely necessary to pay for most of the food that is distributed.

Please continue to bring your non-perishable donations for the Whitman Food Pantry to church and leave them in the baskets in John Matteson Memorial Hall (under the light switches).

A couple of years ago All Saints participated in an effort to provide new, white, cotton socks for the homeless clients at MainSpring House in Brockton. Dyed fabrics worn over a period of time can cause skin discoloration and even irritation. I shall be organizing another such socks drive in early 2022. More about that in a couple of weeks.

And thanks to Allison's organizational skills, two families with have warm clothing and toys for Christmas.

I am sure we all know of other organizations which do really good work. Toys for Tots began a generation ago with a hand-full of Marines re-finishing used toys. In 2020, the organization provided toys for seven million children.

As we contemplated our own Thanksgiving blessings, let us all now look to whatever we can do to help at least one other person.

Priscilla Connors



THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop remains very busy, exceeding expectations almost every week! Donations have been steady but we are always in the market for shoes and pocketbooks. We have had requests for snowsuits and ski pants this year. If your days on the slopes are over or if your kids have outgrown the above, we would welcome them.

Since we have been so busy, our foursome of Peggy, Ginny, Ann and Leslie are trying to avoid burnout so please consider helping if you are able.



FINANCIAL MATTERS

Our Stewardship Chair reminds us that, as we have returned to worshipping in our church building, we must keep the commitment we have made to maintain that building.

Our Treasurer asks that we keep up with our pledge promises as the church financial responsibilities continue. She expresses thanks to everyone for their continued financial support.

*Come to the Annual Church Meeting on February 13 and take part in the governance of our "Little Brown Church."



IN REMEMBRANCE

We remember in our prayers those we have lost recently:

Barbara Wick
Susan Loomis
Beverly D'Arrigo, former
parishioner

We hold their families in our hearts.



Calendar of Events

December

- 05 7pm Virtual Advent Service
- 12 Advent Lessons and Carols
- 7pm Virtual Advent Service
- 17 6pm Fire Pit Friday with Caroling and hot cider/cookies around the fire
- 19 Pageant with “greening of the church” party - small sandwiches and fun provided
- 7pm Virtual Advent Service
- 24 4pm Intergenerational Candlelight Service
- 26 Christmas Lessons and Carols

January

- 2 Epiphany transferred
- 10 7pm Virtual Commemoration of William Laud

February

- 13 Annual Meeting



ANNUAL MEETING February 13. This is not a boring meeting! Yes, there is a small amount of business to do but the bulk of our meeting will be spent talking about our mission and growing the bonds within our own little brown church.

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE SUNDAY JANUARY 09.

Please send to the church office:

allsaintsparishrector@gmail.com



Rev. Michele and Marguerite will be on pilgrimage to the Holy Land from January 20 to February 03 with our former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold. Please keep them in your prayers.

Virtual Advent Services Sunday Evenings at 7pm

In this busy season take a breath and pause with us Sunday evenings at 7pm. Listen to scripture, enjoy quiet reflection and seasonal music. Be reminded of the true reason for the season and together we will prepare our hearts to receive our Lord in new and richer ways this Christmastide.

Advent Lessons and Carols December 12

What do you do when your parishioners are over imbibing at the local pub during holiday parties? You introduce a new service with a lot of music! And so Advent Lessons and Carols was born all thanks to Bishop Benson in England back in 1880. Since then, this service has become part of our Advent observance. Advent is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful expectation. This service is intended to be a time of spiritual preparation, as we watch and wait for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Through our experience of sacred Word and music, the story of the coming of Christ gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God’s message of love and redemption. The liturgy itself embodies the sense of Advent movement — through the cross procession and in the increasingly powerful prophecies and promises of Holy Scripture. May these words and this music propel us quietly toward the true joy of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm on the 24th

Start Christmas with us and celebrate this holy night with an interactive retelling of the story of Jesus’ birth and the wonderful music of the season. Luminaries will light the way, a sign that light has come into the world; and, during our closing prayer, we will light candles and carry the light of Christ out into the world. Like the wise men who brought gifts for the Christ child, please bring a non-perishable item to be donated to a local food pantry.

Christmas Lessons and Carols December 26

This service gives us a chance to sing all our favorite carols and to listen to how Matthew, Luke and John tell us different versions of what happened long ago. (Mark does not have a birth story!) Be sure to join us for this festive service.

The Feast of the Epiphany

The day when the wise men visited the Christ child will be celebrated on January 2. We will learn about the “chalking” of the doors and take home a bag to mark our own doors.

*From the Warden's Desk
with
Junior Warden Tom Rudolph*



Building & Grounds Update

Since the last *Saints Alive* newsletter, the following issues have arisen and been tended to.

Outside Church Sign:

The light on the sign has been repaired and the timer replaced.

Steps Leading to Sanctuary:

These were in need of repair and have been repointed and sealed. We are waiting for the repair of the railing.

Handicap Elevator:

Application has been submitted for the regulation two-year inspection. The charge for the inspection is approximately \$1300.

Yard Maintenance:

Following the recent nor'easter, limbs and branches have been cut up and moved. The lawn mower has changed places in the shed with the snow blower which has been started and readied for the coming winter.

It has been a pleasure serving you for the past five years. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Hopefully 'Rudolph' will have it easy these coming months 😊.

A WINTER RAFFLE!



Priscilla Connors has donated a large polar bear cookie jar (a bear, wearing a red scarf and carrying a decorated tree) to be filled with several dozen yummy homemade cookies, including Toll House! The cookie jar with cookies is the church advent raffle and will run through December. The winner of the delicious prize will be drawn on January 22nd.

To purchase raffle tickets, see Louisa Tingblad.

Thank you, Priscilla, for the raffle!

Do you have a pastoral need?

To reach our priest Rev. Dr. Michele Matott call - 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 reginamg56@comcast.net



Thank you, Rev. Michele, for your first 6+ months at All Saints Church!



Are you interested in keeping up with the church calendar year? If so, Barbara Wight has 2022 liturgical calendars for sale at \$4.00 each.

Calendars will be available in the church hall following services.

Do you have a prayer request?



If you wish to be added to our prayer list or if you would like to be a "prayer" to help others, please get in touch with Pat Eunice at ja1aj2to3@aol.com.

Pat reminds us that prayer is also said in thanksgiving.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL OFF TO GREAT START



Sunday school has been off to a great start this year. We have enjoyed getting the crew back together in person, and adding some new faces.

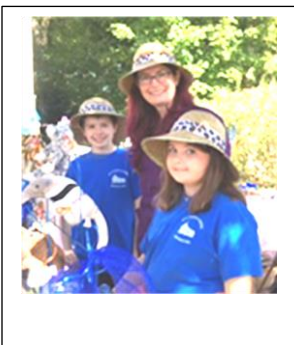
Due to many of our Sunday school aged children entering middle school, this year we adopted a new curriculum called Rite 13 from Journey to Adulthood. The two years of Rite 13 focus on recognizing the unique gifts that God has given us, celebrating our creative potential and learning to interact as a community of faith.

We have been working in Unit 1: "Laying the Foundation." This unit introduces the three themes of Journey to Adulthood:

Spirituality: Loving God
Society: Loving Neighbor
Self: Loving Self

We are looking forward to the annual Christmas pageant!

SUNDAY SCHOOL LENDS A HELPING HAND



Ben, Dr. Rosemary and Morgan Find Loving Homes for Stuffed Animals



Teacher Kristin with Help from Mom, Louisa Tingblad Directs Visitors to the Fun at the Animal Faire



Eli Evaluates Livestock at the Animal Faire



Leyla and Hannah with Allison, Barbara and Dave Discuss Sale Strategies at Harvest Fair



FUNDRAISING
with Dick Tingblad

**HARVEST FAIR 2021
HUGE SUCCESS!**

The church Harvest Fair 2021 was the best that we have had in the 14 years since the Fair came back to our church. We made \$2,812.56 and had more customers than in any other fair. Thank you to all who donated items, baked and made crafts. Thank you to all who worked (in order of when I saw them): Peggy Parrot, Matt Delaney, Linda Plasse, Marty Mulholland, Ginny Consolo, Marguerite McLaughlin, Tom Rudolph, Dave Wight, Mal and Regina Gurney, Jennifer Rudolph, Pat Delaney, Leslie Bresnahan, Priscilla Connors, Kristin Brodeur, Barbara Wight, Rochelle Morgan, Rosemary Botelho, Ben Botelho, Morgan Botelho, Ernie Morgan, Pat Eunice, Rev. Michele, Hannah Akarsu, Leyla Akarsu, Mahir Akarsu, Allison Akarsu, Rob Brodeur.

Thanks be to God and all of you,
Louisa and Dick

MEETING THE 2021 FUNDRAISING BUDGET
***ALL SAINTS CHURCH BUDGET: \$8000 FROM FUNDRAISING**
(Fundraising makes up about 7% of Budgeted income)

<u>FUNDRAISERS</u>	<u>EARNINGS</u>	GOAL \$8,000
<i>Ongoing:</i>		
Breakfasts (1st Sunday of every month)	\$162	
Penny Jar (in Sanctuary for spare change)	50	
<i>Trivias & Raffles:</i>		
Trivia Contest, Feb. 13	\$220	
Easter Basket Raffle	213	
Plant Sale May 22	440	
Summer Fun Raffle	190	
Yard Sale July 17	552	
Craft Show, October 23 (weekend before Halloween)	743	
Church Fair, November 20 (weekend before Thanksgiving)	2,812	
Total	\$5,382	
Plus: Thrift Shop, (Budget goal \$6,500)	\$3,826	

THANKS BE TO GOD AND TO ALL WHO CARE ABOUT *All Saints*



Pat & Kristin

Some of the Folks Who Made the Fair So Successful



Matt, Tom
Ben, Morgan
&
Rosemary



Ready to Open!



Pat & Dick



Regina & Rochelle

ALL SAINTS PARISH
WHITMAN
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2021



If you would like to order a poinsettia plant to decorate our Church at Christmas,
please fill out the form below and mail or pass it in no later than Sunday, December 19

Plants may be given in Thanksgiving or in Memory

Plants are **\$10** PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

I would like _____ (number of plants) in Red Speckled White (please circle one)
Colors are limited to what the supermarket can get.

Given in memory of _____

OR in Thanksgiving for _____

given by _____

OR

I will make a donation of \$_____ (in memory of my loved one(s) to help the budget. (Names will be still be listed.)

***PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "SAINT MARGARET'S ALTAR GUILD"
WE ALSO TAKE CASH.***

Plants must be picked up after the 4:00 Service on Christmas Eve. We are only having one 4:00 p.m. Service on Christmas Eve..