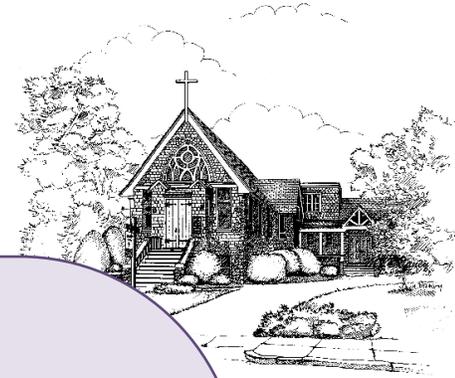


# Saints Alive

At the "Little Brown Church"

Advent 2019



## Rector Reflection

### ADVENT



*Advent is a season that can be really difficult for Christians. Stores are offering consumers all sorts of discounts to get you to spend early and spend much! I heard that \$500 million per minute was spent on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. I sure hope that was not true. Imagine what that amount of money could be used for – in helping those in need! I know stores are trying to make up losses for the year; but in the process, they are encouraging people to spend money they don't have - or can't afford - on things they may not really need.*

Advent means coming. We are reminded each year that the final coming of Jesus has not yet happened, but we continue to wait in joyful hope. We also wait in hope each Advent to celebrate the birth of that baby, God's Son, Jesus.

Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> is an arbitrary date chosen long ago. There were already many pagan festivals at that time. It was the darkest time of year. People needed to have celebrations in hope that light and life would return to the earth. Christians adapted this festival time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, who brought light and life into the world.

The prophets prayed, "O Come, Emmanuel: come dwell with us". And finally, that day came when Jesus was born and light shone in the darkness of the world. We continue to pray and hope for His coming once again.

The Advent Wreath probably also has its roots in pagan customs. They lit candles in hope that the short days of winter would once again turn to longer days for growing crops. The 1<sup>st</sup> Advent wreathes were surrounded by greens to remind people of the everlasting life found in Jesus. That green in winter symbolized that life continued even in the long winters. Today, often greens decorate the candle, and each Sunday another candle is lit to signify the next week of Advent. They can be blue or purple, with one rose candle.

Each week as we light another candle, we see more light that signifies light out of darkness, helping us to remember the one who brought light out of the darkness. There are different prayers and traditions to use – so I encourage you to try one of them this year. I have provided sheets in the parish hall for you to use with your wreathes at home.

Blessings and peace to each of you in the Advent Season and then a Blessed and Holy Christmas to each of you when Advent ends! I hope to see you and your loved ones at one of the two Christmas services on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Billie+



*Suggestion of something to do during Advent – read the whole Gospel of Luke – 1 chapter each day!*

### CHRISTMAS FAIR A SUCCESS!



Once again, the All Saints Church Fair proved itself a great fundraiser thanks to Dick and Louisa Tingblad and their cadre of volunteers. See report on profits and more pictures on the following pages.

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**Christmas Pageant!  
December 22  
at 10:00 A.M. Service**

## **A WORD ABOUT PLEDGING FROM REV. BILLIE MAE**

Often, when parishes are in transition, parishioners will decide not to pledge until the new priest comes – or even to cut their pledges. Please consider this – that the amount pledged by the end of this year determines how many hours your new priest will be hired to work. The diocese needs to know that figure before you start searching for a priest. If you cut back on pledging, then hours you can afford a priest will be cut.

I recently heard – at a meeting of interims and consultants – that one parish, upon hearing this, made a huge effort to increase pledging. They have pledged enough so far to increase from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  time!

So, if you haven't yet pledged, and are able to do so, please consider doing it soon. By pledging, you give the Vestry and the Finance Committee an amount to use for budgeting next year – including the salary and expenses for a rector. Every amount that each person gives helps.

If you can't financially at this time, giving of your time and prayers is also very valuable in the life of the parish. We each give what we can!

Blessings to each of you as you continue to consider how to support All Saints' in the coming year

*Rev. Billie+*



## **NEEDLEPOINT KNEELERS**

Members of the Altar Guild had seen, in various churches, needlepoint kneelers made by women in those parishes and considered the possibility that All Saints enter into such an endeavor. Through a generous donation by Ellen Stillman, the project got underway in November, 1984.

That dream became a reality on June 7, 1987 when the following women of the parish completed the kneelers at both the rail and in the choir stalls: Anne Bezio, Eleanor Dunbar, Vera Hall, Marilyn Lucas, Helen Mann, Linda Spear and Ellen Stillman.

The choir stall kneelers, which were much damaged, have recently been refurbished. The original foam filling had completely disintegrated and was crumbled. Pat Delaney volunteered to see if repair was possible. She removed the old filling, replacing it with new foam. The cushions have since been returned to the kneelers.

The needlepoint design is a hymn that is very familiar to all of us, "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God." Check out the kneelers for yourself.

*Thanks to Dick Tingblad and  
Pat Delaney for this article*



## **OUTREACH CONTINUES AT COLONY HOUSE**

For a number of years, Pastor Caroline of Joy in Christ brought communion monthly to all who wished to receive it at Colony House in Abington. Upon her retirement, our own Deacon Phil continued that outreach effort, adding a monthly dementia-friendly Song and Prayer service based on Rev. Colette's book *Remembering Me*.

While Colony House's patient population is no longer in need of Song and Prayer at this time, the communion service is continuing thanks to Rev. Tim Rogers of St. John's Holbrook/Joy in Christ. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, Marilyn Webb of St. John's and I joined him and Colony residents and staff for an informal, interactive Thanksgiving celebration and communion service.

We will repeat the communion service with caroling on an advent theme at 10:15 A.M. on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and ask that All Saints' help swell the ranks of carolers at this service. The Colony residents enjoy visitors so much and the event would be a chance to wish our friend and resident John Morgan a Merry Christmas.

*Thank you, Priscilla Connors*

# THE SEARCH FOR A NEW RECTOR



## NOTES FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee has been working diligently in transforming the information from our group meetings and the completed surveys into a parish profile.

At this time, we have a rough draft and are working on editing the profile in the hope of getting it sent to the diocese by early January.

We are grateful to all of our fellow parishioners who have offered feedback on the church's future direction. We are all anxious to find our next rector, and we appreciate your support and patience as we work systematically through this important process.



## Your Search Committee

Diantha Meagher, Jim Walker, Rosemary Botelho, Pat Delaney, Allison Akarsu  
(missing from the photo: Maureen Murphy and Alphonse Wilfred)

A final word about the search and the Search Committee's work from Co-Chairs Allison Akarsu and Rosemary Botelho: "Be patient; we are working in the background. We want to get it right."



## CHRISTMAS ELVES NEEDED

Allison Akarsu is looking for help on Sunday, December 8, following the 10:00 A.M. service. We will be wrapping presents for the families we are supporting this Christmas. Please stop by and get and give a little Christmas spirit.

## All Saints Search Committee

Please see the list below of the members of the Search Committee and the emails for each member. If anyone would rather speak to one of us over the phone, please reach out to Pat Delaney at 781-878-3125 (or 617-733-9410) or Jim Walker at 508-942-4856. We plan to have at least one of us available at coffee hour each week should anyone have anything to discuss in person. The Search Committee will be putting together a survey as well as holding small group meetings to get everyone's input in the process of choosing a new rector for our parish.

Allison Akarsu: [awight6180@yahoo.com](mailto:awight6180@yahoo.com)

Rosemary Botelho: [bvcboss lady@gmail.com](mailto:bvcboss lady@gmail.com)

Pat Delaney: [designquilter@yahoo.com](mailto:designquilter@yahoo.com)

Diantha Meagher: [meags55@comcast.net](mailto:meags55@comcast.net)

Maureen Murphy: [maureen-murphy@comcast.net](mailto:maureen-murphy@comcast.net)

Jim Walker: [jlwjr77@hotmail.com](mailto:jlwjr77@hotmail.com)

Alfonse Wilfred: [runner4life42@aol.com](mailto:runner4life42@aol.com)

## Prayer for the Search Process

Almighty God, look graciously on the people of All Saints.

Be with us and lead us as we seek the next rector for our church.

We ask your direction and guidance for those who shall choose our new spiritual leader; that we may receive an upright and faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.

Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in all our deliberations. Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process. Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us.

Come Holy Spirit.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Edited from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Terre Haute, Indiana)

## PICTURES FROM RECENT EVENTS



## From the All Saints Church Archives



The large Manger scene was made by Mrs. W. C. Hamilton of Hamilton's Paint Store in Whitman in the 1940's. Ernie Morgan remembers seeing the rubber molds which she used to cast the figures.

From Church Historian, Richard Tingblad

## DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER



**Dec. 1 – 22:** Season of Advent

**Dec. 4, 11, 18:** Bible Study 1-3 P.M. with Rev. Billie

**Dec. 15:** Pageant rehearsal after church

**Dec. 22:** Intergenerational Christmas Pageant at 10 A.M.

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 & 7:00 P.M.

**Dec. 29:** Holy Eucharist at 8:00 A.M. Lessons & Carols at 10:00 A.M.

**Dec. 25 - Jan. 1** Rev. Billie will be on vacation

## Help Request from Priscilla

Being, to paraphrase Winnie-the-Pooh, a bear of declining brain, I need everyone's help to make our Sunday bulletin as informative as possible. Please, send me an email or a text with any information you think would be advantageous to include in the bulletin. Even if you tell, and even if I write it down, please follow-up with text (617-909-9001) or email ([ppcpnors@comcast.net](mailto:ppcpnors@comcast.net)). I need all the help I can get.

I would like to include things like specific text references for Bible study, theme subjects for meditation and coloring sessions, activities taking place during Sunday School classes. I would especially like to know about temporary changes, like the closing of the Thrift Shop prior to a holiday, a vestry meeting date change. And if anyone is considering forming a new activity: a book club, knitting group, whatever; please allow me to help with your recruiting efforts by including that information.

My goal is to make the events page something parishioners can slap up on the fridge at home with a magnet and refer to as needed. I would like to fill an 8-1/2 by 11 page and make the font large enough for us to read without our reading glasses on Sundays and to see from half-way across the kitchen during the week. There is no activity or event in our parish too small to omit from our bulletin! And if you see a mistake anywhere in the bulletin, please tell me!

## Do you have a pastoral need?

To reach our interim priest Rev. Billie Mae Gordon call 617-584-2737. Or email her at [billiemaegordon@gmail.com](mailto:billiemaegordon@gmail.com)

To reach Senior Warden Regina Gurney, please call her at 781-335-5838 or email Regina at [reginamq56@comcast.net](mailto:reginamq56@comcast.net)



**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**  
*from Sarah Doyle and Kristen Brodeur, Directors*



How is it already December? The beginning of the year has flown and we have had an amazing start to the new Sunday School year. We are in a very busy time of year in the church and the Christmas season is truly upon us. In this busy time of year, I look to the kids to see the true joy of the season. We are all so busy, spending money, planning parties, cooking, decorating, while they are just excited for the big day and their excitement is contagious.

Our theme for December in Sunday school is that **Jesus is the greatest gift of all**. Our kids are a truly wonderful group of kids. When we asked them what the greatest gift was, not one of them mentioned a video game or toy. After the initial response of “my mom” (which got a big “aww” from the adults in the room), they all agreed that Jesus was truly the greatest gift of all. They all know the Christmas story well and are able to share why it is such a special time of year.

Sunday school will be very busy for the next few weeks. Kristen and Sarah will be teaching together for the month as we prepare for the Christmas Eve service. We have begun learning the song “I Saw Three Ships,” including sign language! We are hopeful that everyone, even our nursery friends will join us in singing at the 4pm service on Christmas Eve. We understand that this is a very busy time of year; so for your reference, a few dates to remember are included below. We look forward to seeing everyone through this advent season!

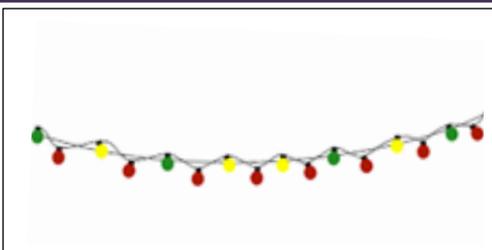
Merry Christmas!  
 Sarah and Kristen

**Important Dates:**

- December 8 - Sunday School and Nursery
- December 15 - Sunday School and Nursery
- December 22 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL: Pageant, nursery will be available if needed
- December 24 - Children will sing at 4pm service, please plan to arrive by 3:30
- December 29 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - Enjoy vacation week

Know a child who might enjoy being with our great kids and learning about Jesus?

Contact Sarah Doyle or Kristen Brodeur  
 at All Saints  
 781-447-6106  
 Leave a message, they will get back to you.



**Intergenerational  
 Pageant on December 22**



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

*with Senior Warden Regina Gurney*

*Luke 21:1-4 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "I tell you the truth," he said. "This poor widow has put in more than all the others. All of these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she, poor as she is, gave all she had to live on."*

First, I want to thank those who have already sent in their pledges. No one wants to hear the church ask for money, but here I am asking for your pledge. Most of our church's budget is covered by your pledges.

What if we understood that the money we give to the Lord, the more we receive in turn. Perhaps we could skip buying one cup of coffee and a donut during the week and give that money back to the Lord. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, the point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in the heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Our pledges help All Saints Church continue to be here for all of us. Our pledges help to pay for a rector, to keep the lights on, to have a warm church in the winter, for the upkeep of the building and many other things. God has blessed us with a beautiful church and a wonderful faith community and we are stewards of its care.

Why do you pledge? I pledge because I love Jesus and I love coming to this beautiful church. Where else could I hear beautiful music and meet with so many Christian friends – friends that really care about me and all of you. So, stop and think – why do you pledge?

We need your help to keep All Saints flourishing and to find a new rector. We need your help to keep sharing the compassion of Jesus Christ throughout All Saints, our community and our world. If you haven't sent in your pledge, please do it now. We need you to help keep our "Little Brown Church" growing.

*Regina*

### ***Want to be an Acolyte?***



Rev. Billie is looking for and will train anyone interested in serving on the altar this fall. Young people of the parish are especially encouraged to serve as acolytes.

Interested? Call or speak to Rev. Billie about it.

617-584-2737 or  
billiemaegordon@gmail.com

### **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Prayers of thanks for blessings, intervention in times of trouble, health issues, etc. are included in an ongoing prayer circle.

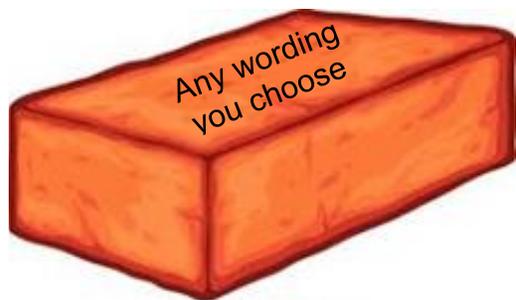
If you would like to have prayers said for you or would like to be a member of our prayer group, contact Pat at ja1aj2to3@aol.com

### **Need Help?**

Every Tuesday at 7 P.M. – **AA** in our church hall  
Every Wednesday at 7:30 P.M. – **AI-Anon** in our church hall  
Last Wednesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. – a **Service of Healing & Recovery** in our sanctuary



*Add a Brick  
to the  
Memorial Garden*



*Contact*

*Pat Eunice at  
617-921-1809*

*Leave your name and  
number and Pat will  
contact you.*



**All Saints Thrift Shop**

Lots of warm clothing in stock!

Hours:

Wednesday: 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Saturday: 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.



**FUNDRAISING**

**Results of Church Fair and Craft Show**

by Dick Tingblad

To all the Saints at All Saints,

Thanks be to God. The **Church Fair** made \$2,382, which was \$604 better than 2018. 132 people from the Towns came, as well as 18 from the Parish (not including the following who worked at the Fair). Grand total Fair attendance was 170, which was 10 more than 2018. The Thrift Shop made \$284.

Fair Workers (alphabetical), Thank you

Mahir Akarsu, Emily Baker, Steve Baker, Bob Bates, Ben Botelho, Kristin Tingblad Brodeur, Priscilla Connors, Kathrene Corliss, Ed Donadio, Jeannie Foley, Robert Keene, Rev. Billie Mae Gordon, Regina Gurney, Mal Gurney, Susan Loomis, Dan McElroy, Donna McElroy, Marty Mulholland, Bob Outman-Conant, Peggy Parrott, Jennifer Rudolph, Tom Rudolph, Bob Taylor, Jim Walker, Herb Wick, Barbara Wick, Barbara Wight, Dave Wight, Phyllis Wilkie

Thank you, thank you to all who worked, donated items, shopped, baked, made harvest soup (we will need more to make soup for next year). Thank you to my wife Louisa, who works all year planning and making baskets for the Fair. The Fair is a team effort, and All Saints has a great team.

We were blessed with good weather and a day of fun and good feelings. God bless all of you.

Peace  
Dick T.

To All the Saints at All Saints,

Thanks be to God, our 9th annual **Craft Show** made \$935 for the Church budget. We had 14 unique and wonderful Crafters and Artisans. There was fine October weather.

Thank you to all of you who came. We had 23 workers and another 12 came from the All Saints Family. Another 68 customers came from the Towns.

Thank you to all who worked:

Barbara and Dave Wight	Bob Outman-Conant
Dan and Donna McElroy	Ed Donadio
Herb and Barbara Wick	Kim & Logan Peterson
Mahir, Allison, Leyla, Hannah Akarsu	Mal and Regina Gurney
Peggy Parrot	Phyllis Wilkie
Priscilla Connors	Rev. Billie Mae Gordon
Susan Loomis	Tom & Jennifer Rudolph

Thank you to all who donated wonderful baked goods and supplies for the Kitchen.

Thank you to my dear wife Louisa for straightening out the goofs I make when planning the table setups.

Peace, Louisa and Dick

ALL SAINTS PARISH  
WHITMAN  
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS 2019



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 December 16

Plants may be given in Thanksgiving or in Memory

Plants are **\$14** PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ (number of plants) in Red Pink White (please circle one)

Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** in Thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

given by \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

I will make a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or more, 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"***

***Plants must be picked up after the 8:00 or 10:00 Service on the Sunday following Christmas.***