

Saints *Alive*

At the "Little Brown Church"

Lent 2021



Rector Reflection



ASH WEDNESDAY is on Feb. 17th. It has been almost a year since we closed the doors of the church building because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. I remember thinking, and probably saying, that it will just be for a few weeks until it is safe to go back. Little did we know!

It has been a long and sometimes difficult year. But hope is in sight as we begin to get our vaccinations. I pray that the numbers of cases and deaths will continue to decline, but there is no guarantee of that yet. We are not out of the woods yet! We all will still have to be very careful even after we get the vaccine.

This week the clergy and bishops had an abbreviated Clergy Day via Zoom. Our guest speaker was a clinical psychologist who was speaking about self-care.

She gave us 3 questions to think about:

1. What did you leave behind in order to be here?
2. What did you bring with you?
3. What did you lose when we began to shelter in place

In our small groups we talked about these questions and also about what we have gained. For many clergy the big loss was, of course, the loss of celebrating Holy Communion, the loss of socialization with the congregation, and face-to-face pastoral care. I won't share all that we discussed but I know that this loss of not sharing in the sacraments together and having time in person to socialize is common with all of us. We, too, like many of you, have experienced isolation and loneliness. Some more than others.

I would encourage each of you to take a little time between now and the beginning of Lent to think about these questions: What have you lost and what have you gained? Write them down. Put them someplace – perhaps in your Bible or Prayer Book. When the Pandemic is over, take them out and read them. See if you still feel the same then.

Last Lent I had encouraged you to read 1 or 2 books: The Book of Joy by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu, A Resurrection Shape Life by Jake Owensby (Bishop of Louisiana), and Waking up White, by Debby Irving. Alas, we never did find time to discuss them. (I, for one, like most clergy and parishioners, was busy learning new technology on the fly!)

If you haven't read them, I encourage you to pick one and read it this Lent. I also suggest another one that I just heard about: The Last Week, by Marcus Borg. It discusses what the Gospels really teach about Jesus in his final days. It sells for under \$10 and you can get the book or Kindle form. If anyone wants me to order a copy for them, let me know.

Peace and blessings to all. Rev. Billie+

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**



LENT
Pray + Fast + Give



HE IS
Risen

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**Zoom Annual Meeting
February 21st
Following 10 AM Service**

LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES - Wednesday, Feb. 17th

**12 Noon – Ash Wednesday Liturgy (via Zoom)
7 PM – Ash Wednesday Liturgy (via Zoom)**

On the Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday we will discuss the Gospel for the coming Sunday at the 10 AM Morning Prayer service.

On Fridays, beginning Feb. 26th, we will do an abbreviated Stations of the Cross and Compline at 7 PM – using two of the stations each time. All of this will be on Zoom.

Booklets for the Stations of the Cross are available in the plastic box on the porch outside the parish hall.

Lenten folders have arrived. We have some folders available in that box as well. Others will either be mailed or delivered.

From Bishop Alan concerning Ash Wednesday: *“While devoutly cherished, the imposition of ashes is an optional portion of the Ash Wednesday Liturgy, which includes in its richness the exposition of the Gospel; the powerful Lenten exhortation; and the penitential outpouring of Psalm 51 and the Litany.”*

(I liked his comment: “Ashes are a sign of our mortality, not the cause of it!”)

We will follow his guidance and, again, will not offer ashes this year because it involves personal contact and can't be done while social distancing. I have chosen not to offer them in “to go” packets to use at home for people to self-impose. A few churches will offer that, but it involves a lot of work and care to do it safely and then to deliver them to everyone. I don't think it would be safe or wise for us to attempt to do that. We love our neighbors by continuing to protect one another during this pandemic.

I hope that, if you are able, you will join us for one of the Ash Wednesday services on Zoom. If you are unable to do so, the service is in your Book of Common Prayer on P. 264. Other services are available – St. Paul's Cathedral, Washington National Cathedral and many other places if you have access to the internet. If you don't have this access and don't have a BCP, let me know and I will mail you a copy of the Liturgy to read at home.



THE SEARCH FOR A NEW RECTOR



NOTES FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Greetings to The Saints of All Saints,

God has a plan for us. The Search Committee has faith that He has made us wait for over two years so He could present the most compatible priests to our parish.

After proceeding through the interview process (which included attending both Zoom interviews and virtual services presided over by each candidate), we have narrowed the process significantly. Now we are diving deeper into the mutual discernment process by having more in-depth conversations and showing off our Little Brown Church, which happens prior to introducing a preferred candidate to the vestry.

We can see a light not far ahead of us and feel we are so close; thank you for having faith in us!



Your Search Committee

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

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."

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.

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

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)

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

To reach Senior Warden Regina Gurney, please call her at 781-335-5838 or email Regina at reginamg56@comcast.net

We all need prayer at this difficult time. If you need special help, email Pat Eunice and add your plea to the Prayer List at ja1aj2to3@aol.com





FEBRUARY EVENTS IN ALL SAINTS' HISTORY

February may be a dull month (except for Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day of course), but over the decades, a number of interesting and important events have occurred. Here is a list.

February 26, 1910 – The first Marriage in the All Saints congregation took place between Lewis Arthur Duntley (age 19) and Emily McCauley (age 19) with Frank M. Rathbone officiating.

January 5, 1925 – The vote to change the name of the corporation from All Saints Mission in Whitman, Mass. to All Saints Parish in Whitman, Mass. was legalized by a 2/3 vote as required by State Corporation Law. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts certified this in a document dated 24 February 1925. Rev. John Matteson is listed as President of the corporation and Jon Blamy as Senior Warden. Mr. Matteson's address is given as 16 Jenkins Avenue.

February 12, 1928 – The cement walk to the front entrance was poured at a cost of \$100. *(It's still there.)*

February 2, 1928 – The Luddy House at the corner of Washington Street and Myrtle Avenue was investigated for a Rectory at \$7500 plus \$1500 to finish three rooms. Bishop Babcock offered \$4000, \$500 from "a friend," \$500 from Rectory Fund, \$3500 from the Parish. The matter of an oil furnace was put on hold until the Rectory was settled. In December, it was voted to purchase the Luddy House for a Rectory. This was accomplished April 14, 1929. Rev. John Matteson was the first Rector to live in the Rectory.

February 9, 1951 – "Discussion of the possibilities of shortening the time required to serve Communion by having the Rector dip the Wafers for the Communicants. However, the matter was left entirely up to the Rector to decide." Question of eliminating Annual Diocesan aid and becoming a Parish and to assume the full salary of the Rector for 1952.

Friday, February 5, 1954 – Fu Ling the Magician appeared at Town Hall for the Parish House Building Fund. Admission: Adults \$1.00, Children 50 cents. (My Dad took me. It was great.)

February 12, 1954 – Good Friday 3-hour Services for the Town began at All Saints. The Townspeople would attend for as long as they could on their lunch break.

February 2, 1982– The Aumbry was installed, in memory of long-time Senior Warden Arthur O. Morgan, and given by his wife Madeline. The Bishop's Chair, which had formerly occupied that space, was moved to the side.

February 7, 1985 – The Newsletter was named "Saints Alive" as the result of a contest.

February 6, 1988 – The problem of switching to Holy Communion from Morning Prayer every Sunday resulted in a questionnaire. *(There was only Communion on the 3rd Sunday of the month.)*

February 23, 1992 - Voting age at Annual Meeting was lowered from 18 to 16.

February 3, 2000 – A loan was taken from the Diocese to finance the elevator (\$17,000).

From Church Historian, Richard Tingblad

EASTER BASKET RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Stuffed bunny who tells about Jesus, candy, Easter items, and other surprises. As with the Thanksgiving and electric heater baskets, just mail or bring your check to All Saints Church, 44 park Ave. Whitman 02382. We will create the number of tickets that you buy. Drawing will be held the week before Easter and we will notify you.

ONE - \$1

SEVEN - \$5

FIFTEEN - \$10



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

from Sarah Doyle and Kristen Brodeur, Directors



*Here a zoom, there a zoom,
everywhere a zoom zoom!*

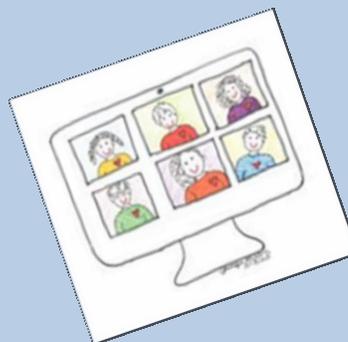
Zoom Sunday school is in full swing each week! The kids are super resilient and are sticking with us despite the challenges of almost a year on Zoom. As we enter the season of Lent, the kids keep us coming back each week, laughing, and remembering that despite the screen distance, we are able to be together during this difficult time.

In December, we had our own mini nativity play “Readers Theater” style, sang carols, and did everything we could to mimic the joy of the season from afar. The kids made cards for those who are especially lonely without visitors during this time at a rehab hospital and were able to spread a little holiday cheer. In January we completed an Epiphany Webquest, which allowed the kids to learn the story of Epiphany, as well as holiday traditions around the world. February will be a month of hope, creating origami doves with messages to inspire hope. The children will be encouraged to hand out the doves to spread positive messages.

Although we cannot yet be together and our fun Easter traditions will likely look very different this year, we will find ways to make it as special as possible and we know that we will be back together soon.

REMIND APP

<https://www.remind.com/join/3g3c48> or
text the code @3g3c48 to the number
81010



**Zoom Sunday
school rocks!**

FROM GRUMPY TO HAPPY WHEN THE JOB'S DONE



FROM THE WARDEN'S DESK

With Senior Warden Regina Gurney



It has been a year since we heard about COVID-19 and how bad it was. It was scary to think that there was no way to treat it or no vaccine to protect us from it. Thank God for helping the medical world which soon learned the best way to treat it and for those who have come up with a vaccine to protect us.

Now here we are a year later and things are starting to look better as a vaccine has been found to protect us and the new household word is Zoom. Because of Zoom we can have our church services each Sunday. Dick held basket raffles at Christmas and will be holding Trivia on it. Between Zoom, our computers, calling people and snail mail we have been able to keep in contact with the parishioners. It has been busy for us; and we are looking forward to the day when we can meet at church again. It still will be a while before we have the permission to have church services at All Saints. I think it will be around June or July; and perhaps we will have a big celebration the first time we are together. Our Thrift Shop will then be open and our programs will start up.

I know you are wondering about how the search for a new Rector is doing. The Search Committee has been working on it; but because of all the COVID restrictions it has slowed the process down. They have had a few inquiries, but because of travel and meeting restrictions it has been hard to follow through. It is getting closer; so, keep praying for the committee and the right priest for our church.

Last month I sent out an email for donations of warm jackets, boots, white sox, etc. for the homeless men and women around the Boston common and our Cathedral. I received 17 bags of clothes from you that I will deliver to the Cathedral group Manna. Manna helps by providing clothes and boxed meals and by holding services for the homeless. As most places that usually provide clothes for the homeless are closed because of COVID, the Cathedral group is an important resource. Along with the clothing, I will be giving them a donation from All Saints to help with the food. Thank you for helping with this project. I am so proud and thankful for your help.

I am now looking forward to spring; and hoping that we will be able to start gathering at the church come June or July. I pray that Jesus will bless you and that you all will keep well.

Peace and prayers,
Regina Gurney, Senior Warden

NOTICE OF ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The **Annual Meeting** will be on February 21, 2021 right after our 10AM service (about 10:40). Rev. Billie will send out the information to join us on *Zoom*. You can sign in for the service or just after the service. I hope to see all of you. Have your coffee or tea and whatever you want to eat ready as there won't be Pot Luck. 😊🥰

Even though we have not been able to meet at church because of COVID, our by-laws say we need to have an annual meeting once a year. So, please mark your calendar for Feb. 21st or put this on your refrigerator so you won't forget. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

Regina Gurney, Senior Warden



CONNORS' CORNER
IT'S ALL ABOUT OUTREACH

MANNA (Many Angels Needed Now and Always)

Priscilla Connors

Regina has described the clothing contribution that All Saints Parish has made to a program based at the Cathedral called MANNA. The following description is part of a much longer article written by the Dean of the Cathedral on June 27, 2020, which appears on the Cathedral website:

“MANNA (Many Angels Needed Now and Always) is a ministry of and with the homeless community in downtown Boston. Through Manna, we seek not only to welcome folks across differences of class, wealth, culture, race, and mental ability, but also to empower all people to claim their place as essential members of our community. We all have gifts to give and to receive. We need each other...”.

All the long-standing efforts of the Manna staff have been modified to bring them into compliance with CDC and other public health requirements. Monday lunch is still being offered, but with individually prepared meals., which cost more to provide. A weekly worship service on Mondays after lunch by, for, and with the homeless community, also continues. A Christian meditation group of between 12 and 20 people meets weekly. It is the first such group in the U.S.

Manna supports and encourages The Black Seed Writers Group of homeless, transitional and recently-housed folks who meet weekly and whose work is featured in THE PILGRIM, a five-year-old magazine. And two days a week, the Manna Micro Library is open from 9AM to 3PM offering books free of charge without requiring ID or proof of permanent residence.

Details of these and other Manna programs appear on the Cathedral website along with links to podcasts and articles.

Priscilla



Although the Thrift Shop remains closed, Peggy and Leslie are servicing referrals from the Whitman Food Pantry and have had at least one family in to shop.

Both ladies have been busy, however, cleaning, painting and reorganizing the shop this fall and winter. Peggy and her son Michael made repairs to the space; hung a cabinet and door; and spruced up the place!

At this time, they are accepting donations from parishioners and are in need of children's clothing, especially for boys.

Leslie states that they are eager to re-open but feel that, until she and Peggy are vaccinated and more in the community are protected, it remains unsafe to do so.

Both Leslie and Peggy thank All Saints for all its support.

I say “Thank you, Ladies!”



The church building may be closed, but it must be heated and cleaned; and our small staff must be paid. We are nearing the end of our rector search and must keep up funding to bring in a new priest.

Please support the fundraisers we are still able to run and keep up your pledges by leaving them in the mailbox at the church or by mailing them to All Saints at 44 Park Avenue, Whitman.

Thank you for your continued support,
Barbara Wight, Treasurer