

Saints *Alive*

At the "Little Brown Church"

June 2019



Rector Reflection

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



As I begin to write, it is a Saturday and I have already packed up the Ginger Molasses Cake for tonight's pot luck. It is auction night at All Saints. I reflect on the many ways Whitman has wonderfully nourished me during my time with you as your Bridge Priest.

The words to use for this came to me on the following Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, from the Book of Revelation, read on that day.

"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might."

These words are sung by angels, before the throne of God. As I heard them, I thought they would do very nicely as a guide to my **Thanksgiving** thoughts. See, there is the first word already! I am beyond thankful for the gift of time with you at All Saints. Isn't it quite amazing how often God's **Wisdom** cares for us better than we could feebly imagine or desire? I know we have been pleased with our time together. I just hope you know and remember how much I needed also to be with you and what a **Blessing** you have been.

Yes, you have been a blessing in so many ways. Liturgy lies at the heart and center. To worship with you has been a treasured time of shared sorrows and joys, holy reflection and great delight. Our Lenten programs were rich with companionship for the journey. Easter was Joy. We baptized in hope and buried with confidence in God's grace. You are blessed with lovely worship space and in your sanctuary it has been an **Honor** to serve. Phil's presence has been an anchor for me. Priscilla has mastered the bulletin. I adore serving with the young acolytes, Logan, Leyla, Hannah, and Noah! And I am ever grateful to Craig Ahern for his talented and easy presence. My thanks to all who care for and serve at the altar of God's grace.

To play with you has been fun, like being with family; relaxed and enjoyable, whether making Valentine cookie jars, coloring in contemplation, or outbidding each other at the auction!

And then there is the food! The Eucharist nourishes us always. But OH, those parish breakfasts. The ultimate **Power** Parish Breakfast.

Seriously, there is a quiet and unpretentious power in the diligent yet gentle faithfulness abiding in the people of All Saints. I have yet to serve a parish where the people were not lovely. Yet each is lovable in its own way. It has been comforting to be in your midst; for you are a gathering of grace and care and safety. You live and love in deep respect for each unique individual. There is real power in that charism with which you are blessed; a community for which we are all thankful.

Let's see, what words are left? **Glory and might**. Well, I am tempted to begin by listing, in glory, the mighty leadership of All Saints. I could start with Regina, but where would I ever stop. I would have to keep on going and going and going until I reach "Z", because I realize there is no place to stop. All Saints is not a place where I would name the individuals. Because, from your first welcome, I saw that you were a gathering of leaders, a community of people who all know their tasks, their skills, their place and the gifts that they could offer. And I noticed that this happened at a level almost unscripted and organic. Is it perfect? No. Yet the body of Christ is served at All Saints with a fluid grace and competent generosity that is quite wonderfully remarkable. There is real power in this; this charism of generosity and welcome and shared purpose that sustains and nourishes and reflects the intentionality of Christ's loving presence in this place. You are a revelation indeed.

You are glorious people and you have mightily blessed me. Thank you.



FAREWELL

Rev. Dee

Join us to celebrate Dee's time with us after 10:00 AM service on June 9.

Deacon Phil

Come to coffee hour on June 30 to thank Phil for his 3 years with us as deacon and wish him well as he takes on a new diocesan role.

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RECEPTION for REV. DEE
June 9th
Following 10:00 AM Service



From the Deacon's Bench ***with Deacon Phil Flaherty***

As I sit down to compose this, my final All Saints newsletter contribution, the sun is shining, seemingly a rare commodity after a dim and rainy spring. I think that while we can easily associate sunshine with hope, we tend to associate cloudy rainy days with depression and despair. And yet rain is in the cycle of nature equally important as sunshine. It's a delicate balance, the right amount of sunshine and the right amount of rain. How we view these seeming opposites is the difference between optimism and pessimism. Is the glass half full or half empty? A balance of rain and sun is needed.

In November, we said goodbye to Colette. Many were saddened by her leaving; and some felt, even if they didn't say it, abandoned. We all sensed a cloudy gloom in the air. Yet however saddened we were as individuals and as a parish, we kept on coming, being involved, being church, because her leaving forced us to realize that being church is much bigger than any one individual. Then Dee arrived, bringing a different kind of energy, a different kind of sunshine; and although we knew from the outset that hers would be a temporary presence, she provided a much-needed energy boost. Although we needed and appreciate Dee's contribution, the new reality of church life everywhere is that clergy transitions are becoming more frequent, the new normal. We need to acknowledge that the people in the pews are the church; it's the people together who collectively invite the Spirit of God to cause the sunshine to happen.

There's a saying that 80 percent of success is just showing up. In February, I was unexpectedly sidelined with health problems. I was sorely disappointed that there was so much to be done that I could not attend to, and yet I was encouraged that people "showed up" to cover my absence. They stepped in and parish life continued as usual. I saw a ray of sunshine in that. In the spring, we lost our beloved friend Sonny, and that left a sad and empty place at the table. Yet when reflecting on his life, it becomes apparent that he left us all a wonderful gift in his example of "showing up". What was important in Sonny's life was simply a desire to be here, not only for Sundays, but for every single church activity. Being here, showing up, was everything to him, and we should all realize how important showing up is to being church. We read in scripture, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18: 20). That was Jesus' way of saying "just show up." That's a ray of sunshine that Sonny exemplified.

Although from the outset in 2016 I realized (and hope I communicated that effectively to everyone) that my position at All Saints was a three year assignment; now with the finish line in sight, I face a sense of sadness in knowing I will no longer have this particular place to go "where everyone knows your name." In my new position as coordinator of the diocesan Elder Ministries project, I will not have the predictable comfort of a parish home base, but will be compelled to meet new faces every week in my travels, people I would otherwise never get to know. It's both scary, leaving this comfort zone, this patch of sunshine, and yet the challenge of pushing my personal boundaries offers a new energy. There's a certain wisdom in the diocesan policy set by Bishop Tom back in the early 90's when formalizing the diaconal ministry, that deacons be re-assigned every three years. It prevents complacency, in both the deacon and the congregation. I think that's an important thing to be aware of, both for individuals and communities too, the risk of getting too comfortable where we are.

I sincerely hope that All Saints, as a community, as the Body of Christ, will also resist complacency, push boundaries, keep trying new ways of being church in the world. When we begin to settle for just good enough, and hear ourselves saying "...because we've always done it this way," pretty soon every day is a cloudy day. We all need to continue to challenge ourselves, encourage new ideas, because that's where the sunshine is, and that's where Christ wants us to be.

RECEPTION FOR DEACON PHIL
June 30th following 10:00 AM Service
Come thank Deacon Phil and wish him
well in his new position as
Coordinator of Diocesan Elder Ministries

THE SEARCH FOR A NEW RECTOR

I met with All Saints Search Committee Co-Chairs Allison Akarsu and Rosemary Botelho to discuss the process – the charge to committee members selected to conduct the search and the procedure of finding a new rector for All Saints.

According to the co-chairs, the Search Committee has been charged with finding a new rector for our parish. Basically, this includes conducting a parish survey, organizing focus groups, and holding coffee hour meetings to gather information that describes who we are and what we are looking for in a leader. This information will be compiled into a parish profile which the committee will use to call and assess candidates. The Search Committee will select the best fit for All Saints and present their recommendation(s) to the vestry.

When asked for a timeline, Allison and Rosemary stated that they are hoping the church profile will be completed in the fall. The profile will then be sent out to candidates looking to serve in a parish like All Saints. The co-chairs are hopeful that the process will be completed by next spring. In expectation of that, they ask that parishioners respond to the survey, take part in focus groups when asked and attend the coffee hour meetings. Their idea is to gather honest comments about the wants and needs of our parish family.

According to Junior Warden Tom Rudolph, who was asked to find a good cross section of our parish to serve on the Search Committee, he is happy with the results of his search. He feels the make-up of the committee shows the diversity of All Saints; multi-generational, recent congregants and those who were baptized here, different backgrounds, etc.



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."

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

Rosemary Botelho: bvcbosslady@gmail.com

Pat Delaney: designquilter@yahoo.com

Diantha Meagher: meags55@comcast.net

Maureen Murphy: maureen-murphy@comcast.net

Jim Walker: jlwjr77@hotmail.com

Alfonse Wildfred: 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)

SYRIAN REFUGEE MISSION



In 2018, All Saints collected fabric, sewing notions, a sewing machine or two, yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks for the Syrian Refugee Mission of NE (which lives at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beverly Farms) along with women's and children's clothing, stuffed animals and toys. Gail, Pam, and Terry at St. John's still remember All Saints bringing our contribution to them.

The Syrian Refugee Mission of NE works with NuDay Syria, the organization that "administers" two camps near the Turkish border in northwest Syria where there are about a million people, more than half of them children. Virtually all of these children suffer some form of PTSD. The best help for that condition in these camps has proven to be art therapy. This year, the Refugee Mission is collecting art supplies in addition to non-perishable foods and child-healthy snack foods. Clothing, gently-loved stuffed animals and toys are always needed.

The women and children in the camp live under the most rudimentary conditions, but some of the children are able to attend the elementary school and middle school set up with the help of the Refugee Mission. This year a small girls' high school opened, equipped with donated STEM kits. Some of the women in the camp gather early in the mornings to knit and sew for themselves and the children and to talk together, a welcome stress-management strategy.

A flyer was included in the Sunday bulletin a couple of weeks ago. More are on the tables in the church hall and the sanctuary. Two large, gray storage containers, which are well-labeled, are in the coat room awaiting your contributions. Toward the end of the summer we will again make the pilgrimage to Beverly Farms to deliver what we have collected.

Please help!

From the All Saints Church Archives



This metal plaque of DaVinci's "The Last Supper" was donated in 1979 by long-time Altar Guild member Vera Hall in memory of her husband Ralph. Look for the plaque on the right wall in the nave.

Thanks to Church Historian Dick Tingblad

HOW CAN I HELP?

If you would like to help in the Syrian Mission Project see the following list:

Nonperishable Food Items:

Dried lentils, peas and beans
Powdered milk
Cereal, protein bars
Rice, pasta and noodles
Boxed soup mixes
Raisins, nuts
Peanut butter in plastic jars
Powdered baby formula
MRE (meals ready to eat)

Art Supplies:

Plastic Collage
Colored feathers
Popsicle sticks
Paper punches
Mod Podge, scissors
Tissue, craft paper, colored cellophane
Pastel crayons
Collage art supplies



MEMORIAL BRICKS



We are adding remembrance bricks to our Memorial Garden!

Want to give a lasting memorial? Buy a brick and have it inscribed and placed in our garden.

Bricks cost \$50.00 each and can include up to three (3) lines of text and up to 20 characters each line, including spaces and punctuation. You may also include clip art.

To remember someone special, order a brick from Pat Eunice at ja1aj2to3@aol.com

Do you have a pastoral need?

To reach Deacon Phil Flaherty, please call him through June 30 at 617-257-8169 or email Phil at phil.flaherty@verizon.net.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

from Sarah Doyle, Director



SUMMER!!

I don't know about all of you, but BOY am I glad the year is (almost) over. As a teacher, I have been counting down the days since April vacation ended. By the time you read this, testing season in schools will be over (which means I'm breathing slightly easier!!) and the last few weeks of school are just the fun days! The fun continues downstairs in our little Sunday school room!

We are wrapping up the program year in our little brown church. So many things have changed this year. It has been an emotional year for everyone. We have said many goodbyes and cried many tears. We aren't quite finished with our goodbyes as we say farewell and thank you to Reverend Dee and Deacon Phil. The children have felt the emotion of the adults this year and I have been so proud of their maturity and honesty as they go through these changes. More changes are due in the next year as we welcome our interim priest this summer.

The overall age of our group has shifted significantly. Instead of the oldest kiddos being the cute and sweet second graders, our second graders are now the youngest in the room! This means we are on the brink of something that I as an elementary teacher consider terrifying: MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!

I kid of course! However, the fact remains that most of our kiddos will either be in or be very close to middle school next year. In keeping with the increased maturity of our group, the focus and style of Sunday school lessons have shifted as well. Instead of craft-based activities, lessons are more "talk based". We are spending more time diving into and discussing the bible, building beliefs and asking questions.



As most of you know, the biggest change in Sunday School going into next year is that I am not going to be alone in the adventure. Over the past several months, it became clear that my life is getting very busy. To ensure that the children are given the energy and commitment they deserve, I asked for the position of Sunday School director to be split between two people. I am THRILLED to share that Kristen Tingblad Brodeur has agreed to join me! Starting next year, the two of us will be sharing the responsibilities and joys of the kiddos and I cannot wait to share these amazing kids with her.

See below for some important dates. Please note, after the last week of Sunday school, there will be NO childcare (nursery or Sunday school) during the summer. As always, the children are welcome and encouraged to come up to the big church!



- May 19 - Sunday School and Nursery
- May 26 - Kids Service - No Sunday School/Nursery
- June 2 - LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
- June 9 - Official End of the Program Year - Celebration in Church

Have an amazing summer everyone! Kristen and I will see you in September!

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST

Ernie Morgan, Dan and Donna McElroy make up a breakfast crew serving French toast, waffles, eggs to order, bacon, sausage and potatoes between our services every first Sunday of the month.

This best breakfast in town asks donations of \$5 and has so far this year raised \$488.25. Thank you Dan, Donna, and Ernie for breakfast; thank you to Logan for taking orders.

Please welcome our new interim priest, Rev. Billie Mae Gordon, who begins serving our parish June 23 and will stay with us until a permanent rector has been called to All Saints.

MEET THE SAINTS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Allison Akarsu and Rosemary Botelho



Allison Akarsu and Rosemary Botelho have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the All Saints Search Committee. Neither would have taken this on without the other ("I'll do it if you do it with me," they chimed) nor without the calming support of their husbands. Both having young children, they rely on their partners to help with the tug of war of school, work, family...and now their role as co-chairs in a search for a new parish priest.

Rosemary and Allison said that their individual strengths complement each other. They were both eager to point out the other's positive traits. Allison praised Rosemary's delegation expertise and Rosemary called Allison a "do-er, she gets things done efficiently." They are both Gen X, described as active, happy and achieving a work-life balance. They may not see themselves as such, but what they have agreed to do for our parish puts them right there.

"Why do this?" I asked. "We have young kids; it is their future" they said. This is another trait of Gen Xers. They are not "helicopter parents" but are "stealth fighter parents." Obviously, an attribute that will work on the Search Committee.

ALLISON AKARSU (nee Wight)

Allison grew up in South Weymouth, attending local schools and then going off to college at Maine Maritime in Castine, ME where this modern young lady met Mahir Akarsu through the internet. Mahir was connecting with Maine Maritime students in preparation for a stint as an exchange student from the Turkish Maritime Academy.

Although they have been together for nearly 20 years, Allison says the journey was not an easy one. There were immigration issues – they were separated for two years waiting for Mahir to get permission to come and marry Allison. Even when Mahir made it to the U.S. on a fiancé visa, he was required to marry within 90-days or be sent back to Turkey. This meant he and Allison had a ceremony before marrying again four months later, most attendees at the big celebration never realizing they were already husband and wife. (Interesting note: Rev. Patti Hale officiated the wedding at Holy Nativity in So. Weymouth.)

Mahir works in the Maritime Management industry for Clean Harbors. Allison received her degree in International Business and Logistics, and works for the Department of Labor with the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a Grants Financial Analyst. She enjoys cross stitching, reading and catching up with Netflix on the train to work. Allison and Mahir have two daughters, Leyla and Hannah. Allison is involved in the girls' activities as a volunteer at her girl's school and as a Girl Scout leader. She believes that her busy life makes her a better mom who wants her girls to become strong women.

Allison's wishes for her family and All Saints center on "better than" consistency. She wants her family to continue in the loving three-generational homelife they enjoy but prays for a healthier lifestyle. For her church family, she hopes for the same multi-generational parish with increased membership, especially younger families, and one that is open to some change.

ROSEMARY BOTELHO (nee Rudolph)

Rosemary grew up in East Bridgewater, attending local schools and then going off to college at The University of New Hampshire in Durham. Upon graduation, she completed her career goal at Tuft's Veterinary School in Boston and Grafton, MA. During all of this educational experience, her future husband, Steven, was by her side. Steve, from Rockland, met Rosemary through mutual friends while they were still in high school. Following her graduation from Tufts, Rosemary and Steve were married at the Church of the Holy Nativity in South Weymouth by Rev. Dana Boynton of All Saints.



By keeping up with your pledge during the summer, the Treasurer will be able to pay church bills.

If more convenient, you can mail your pledge to the church at
44 Park Avenue
Whitman, MA 02382

We appreciate your stewardship.

Barbara Wight, Treas.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to be added to our parish prayer list, please contact Pat Eunice.

If you would like to pray for those in need, contact Pat.

Pat can be reached at
ja1aj2to3@aol.com



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

with Dick Tingblad

Our annual auction raised \$573.00 and the plant sale (this year combined with a yard sale and bake sale) earned \$508.00. Thanks be to God. And, thank you to all who helped in any way. With more help we can raise more money for All Saints' budget.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14: Spaghetti Supper with Leslie Bresnahan coordinating
This is a new event. Please get in touch with Leslie to assist.

October 26: Annual Craft Show with Dick and Louisa Tingblad coordinating

This event, of outside crafters and artisans renting out tables to sell their creations, is always held the weekend before Halloween. Should you know someone who qualifies (no flea market dealers) please refer them to Dick and Louisa.

November 22 and 23: Annual Church Fair with Dick and Louisa Tingblad coordinating

Always held the weekend before Thanksgiving, this Fair is a sale of creative items made by our parishioners. Please work during the summer on Christmas decorations, knitted and sewn items, crafts, woodworking, candles, etc.

Peace to all and we look forward to worshipping with you this summer,

Dick and Louisa Tingblad

SAINTS OF ALL SAINTS, Cont. from page 6

Rosemary grew up in the family of All Saints and remembers the church school inhabiting multiple classrooms with several teachers. She also fondly recalled experiences in a youth group, the Christmas pageant and as an acolyte. She specifically mentioned how during coffee hour the "church kids" walked to the center to get a snack which they would share in the Sunday school classrooms. Rosemary was nostalgic about those days; and, when asked about her goals for our church, she said she would like to have more of that community feeling she had as a child, bringing families together for activities.

Steve is a history/government teacher at Whitman-Hanson Regional High School and Rosemary is the veterinarian/owner of Bridgewater Veterinary Clinic. Although Rosemary says "work is my life" with a smile, in her spare time she enjoys reading, cooking (she is a modified vegetarian), yoga and getting a massage. Rosemary and Steve have two children, Ben and Morgan, and enjoy time as a family reading aloud, playing board games, watching movies and going on vacation. She and Steve also coach Morgan's softball team, the Halifax Spirits.

Rosemary's hopes for her future to include continuing as a veterinarian and having time to give back by engaging in community service as a family.

Both young women have much to offer our parish, by co-chairing the Search Committee of course, but also by being who they are - involved moms, strong career women, leaders.