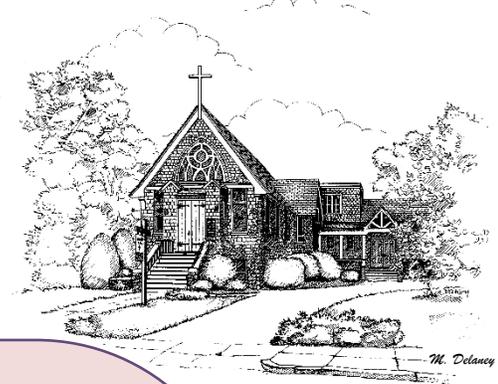


Saints *Alive*

At the "Little Brown Church"

March 2019



Rev. Dee Woodward

Rector Reflection

Please, Can I Have My Ashes?

This story comes to you from many years ago, back when I was a brand-new priest. I was Rector of Christ Church in Somerville. It was Ash Wednesday. The noon-day service had ended.

"We beseech thee, Almighty God, to grant us true repentance and thy Holy Spirit, that those things may please thee which we do on this day, and that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy."

"Those things which we do on this day?" The grace of my day would be to take the ashes to our dear Dorothy at Somerville hospital. So, I set off with Debby, our senior acolyte, and my prayer book and the ashes.

It all went normally, at first. We parked, entered and found our way to the recovery unit. It was a long hallway with curtained cubicles on one side. Dorothy was at the end. We offered the imposition of ashes, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We visited briefly then set out down the hallway.

From the behind the curtain we hear, "Sister, can I have my ashes." In very Roman Catholic Somerville, who else could I be?

"Remember you are dust..."

This repeated itself until we escaped into the lobby. But we couldn't make our way out.

"Sister, can I have my ashes." "Remember you are dust..."

So many asked. By this time, I was wishing that I had put the ashes in something more elegant than a baggie.

Eventually, another parishioner, named Grace, came through the doors, on her way to the doctor's wing. With her, we vanished up the elevator and into the waiting area, a room lined with chairs full of people. "Sister..." They were all mostly eager. They stood up.

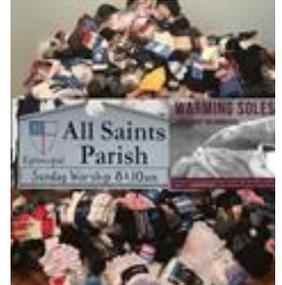
A man spoke up from the corner. "Are those Catholic ashes?" I had to confess.

"They are Episcopal ashes." A significant number of folks sat down.

Debby and I did finally make our way back to the car. We found ourselves smiling. It had been so unexpected.

Now we come to the question. Why did so many people wish to be told, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return?" Why would so many wish to have their mortality named? Why would so many find this urgent?

ALL SAINTS DELIVERS!



Many thanks to all who donated socks. They were successfully sent off to Big Brother and Big Sister!

Thanks to Leanne Trigler from Joy in Christ for organizing this outreach program!

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Rector Reflection cont. on page 3

All Saints Corned Beef Dinner, March 16 @ 5 pm



From the Deacon's Bench

with Deacon Phil Flaherty

Sometimes God's Wink is More of a Dope Slap

The midnight indigestion was unexpected. The antacid didn't do anything and by 3 AM it was getting worse. By 5 AM it was time to get up anyway. Sunday morning, gotta get up, get going, have to get to Whitman to open up, get everything ready for Sunday services. But this was no ordinary indigestion, it felt more like what folks describe when they talk about heart attacks; but of course, that can't happen to me, I'm way too young, only...going on seventy-one. Holy Moley, when did that happen? By now it hurts like hell and I'm thinking "this is the big one."

"Hey Connie, will you take my blood pressure? I think something isn't right" (I am quite prone to understatement). Blood pressure's through the roof. Hmm, I think this is serious. Time for a trip to the ER, but do we call 911 or drive? Let's drive, the sirens and the lights would wake the neighbors. So we drove, and of course that was a stupid "pig headed Irish" decision. By the grace of God I didn't die on the way (His choice not to issue a re-call notice) and it gave me a chance to call Dee on the way to say my Sunday plans had changed. I must say, the folks in ER registration are very accommodating when you say "chest pain."

Poor Dee, I had given her the quick tour of the church the first day she arrived at All Saints, but as with any job, one doesn't absorb much on day one orientation. So, sorry Dee to have left you to figure out where the light switches were. And you did. And after such a harrowing start of the day, Dee showed up at the hospital to let me know everything went OK. Thanks, Dee, that helped me to relax. And in the following weeks, Priscilla, who had promised to learn how to put together the weekly bulletin, was suddenly learning on her own under pressure, and Barbara was right there to help with the printing. Dee and I had recently been discussing getting volunteers to serve at the altar at the 8 AM service, and suddenly this was brought to the fore, as Herb Corliss learned how to be crucifer on the fly. That's God's Grace under Pressure, a nudge and a wink.

And it was God's nudge and dope slap to me: "let go, let God," and that usually means make room for the People of God to jump in and help. Funny thing, Connie has been saying to me for a while "you can't say yes to everything." I remember hearing that from other deacons too. At some point, the hamster wheel just won't spin any faster, and something has to give. And it did. Even Jesus had to get away from the crowds once in a while, although I don't think he would have considered hospitalization to be a quality vacation. I recall the words of a pastoral mentor that seems counter intuitive to anyone who believes they are called to serve, when he said, "in ministry, saying 'Yes' to God means you also need to learn to sometimes say 'No', and there are two ways of saying it. There's 'No', and there's 'Hell No.' That is by way of saying that within the Body of Christ, there are plenty of other willing bodies ready to share the load, to get the job done, because that's what the Body of Christ is.

I'm still here, grateful for the prayers and support of everyone, and I take comfort in knowing the good people of All Saints are standing strong and ready to jump in whenever a need arises. My little "vacation" has allowed some time for introspection, evaluation of priorities, and where my energies may best be spent. It's a work in progress. I'll be here at All Saints for a while yet, and hope my final exit will be more measured and graceful. Until then, as Star Trek's Mr. Spock would say, "Live long and prosper".

Deacon Phil

All Saints Lenten/Easter Program



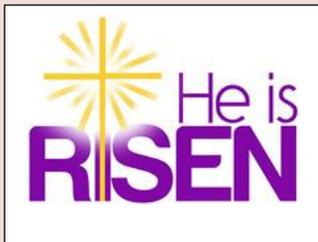
March 10 - April 7: **God Winks at You Conversations**
Book discussion following Sunday 10 am service
Request book through Rev. Dee
Location: All Saints

March 13 – April 10: **“Deep Within Lent: A Journey for your Heart”**
A joint series with Joy in Christ
Wednesdays: 5:30 pm soup; 6:30 pm service
Location: Joy in Christ, Abington

March 21 – 24: **Cursillo Retreat**
Program of spiritual enrichment
Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of MA
Held at LaSalette Retreat Center, Attleboro, MA
See Rev. Bob or Deacon Phil

March 29: **Stations of the Cross**
5:30 pm
Location: All Saints

April 14 – 21: **Holy Week**
April 14, **Palm Sunday**: services @ 8 am & 10 am
April 18, **Maundy Thursday**: service @ 7 pm
April 19, **Good Friday**: services at 12 noon & 7 pm
April 21, **Sunrise Service**: Still in planning stage
(Contact Rev. Dee or Deacon Phil for info)
Easter services, All Saints: 8 am & 10 am



Do you have a pastoral need?
To reach The Rev. Dee Woodward, please call her at 617-417-4799 or email her at dmwoodward123@gmail.com
To reach Deacon Phil Flaherty, please call him at 617-257-8169 or email Phil at philflaherty@outlook.com

Rector Reflection, cont.

I do not think it is simply that "ashes" were an obedience to which they had been trained. I believe, that deep, deep down...

Deep, Deep Down...

We all know who we are. We know we are God's beloved. We know we are loved and we wish nothing more than to walk in that love. We know that our mortal bodies have been, once and for all, redeemed by God's Son. And we love God back, and we love God's Son back. We wish to walk in that love. There is no treasure more dear to us than that pure and holy joy. And we know that Easter awaits and we wish to begin our holy journey toward his resurrection and ours, bearing the humble and honest integrity of the ashes. This is our confession. This is our invitation to join the journey. These are the ashes of truth, which will set us free.

I have, ever since, offered these precious ashes from a simple pottery bowl. I learned that lesson. And I, and we, remain ever grateful for the words of Ash Wednesday, "Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made. You have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality that we may remember that is it only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life." AMEN

All Saints Prayer List

Pat Eunice is now coordinating the weekly prayer list. If you wish a loved one or other special intention included, please contact her at ja1aj2to3@aol.com

Baptism of Rowan Grace Murray



A Parishioner's note: "State of the Art" at All Saints Episcopal Church

Well, our dreams and wishes for skilled restorations of our two historically notable and beloved John LaFarge windows are finally close at hand—and, it has been a long-time coming! You have probably noticed that the windows were recently removed for restoration and repair. Admittedly, the plywood panels in their place may leave something to be desired from a fine arts perspective, but it should not be long, now.

The Martino Stained Glass Studio was awarded the bid after extended discussions, considerations, and reviews with several studios. Michael Martino, with over 35 years in the art of stained glass restoration, was trained in Milan, Italy under Maestri Lindo and Alessandro Grassi. Mr. Martino is well-known in the stained glass field and highly-respected for impressive designs, repairs, and restorations completed throughout the New England area. We have been assured that the damage in these John LaFarge masterworks will be stabilized and the areas of the windows that were altered in unsatisfactory repairs over 50 years ago will be appropriately addressed.

It has been nearly 20 years of research, interview, discovery, fundraising, and seeking guidance since people involved in the restoration of these windows at All Saints have been attempting to move the preservation forward. The one person who spearheaded this effort at the very beginning was Helen Brown. Helen, we recognize the many ideas, contributions, and support that you provided for us, and we sincerely thank you from the bottom of our hearts. I am not sure it never would have happened without you!

You are invited to spend some personal time examining the windows and sharing in the light and warmth they generate once they are returned to their frames at All Saints Episcopal Church. Take comfort in the knowledge that the windows were created by a distinguished and world-renowned artist in 1883 as a loving memorial to two younger sisters, Anna and Clara Mason. And, though they began their life in the family chapel in Cambridge, they have shared a place in the lives of parishioners at All Saints Episcopal Church for over 100 years. If there is a lesson to be learned by us, as guardians of John LaFarge's memorial art, it should be that this should be how we, too, would like to be remembered—as one sharing our life and love in our Christian family with others.

by Matt Delaney

*John LaFarge Stained
Glass Windows
at
All Saints Church*



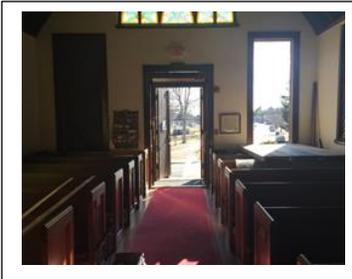
REMOVING THE WINDOWS FOR RESTORATION



Careful Removal



Off to the Studio for Repair



Waiting for Return



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS *from Sarah Doyle, Director*

Hi everyone!

I was hoping to be able to say “Happy Spring,” but we all see how that turned out.

Sunday School numbers are starting to pick up and we are back in full swing of not-really-spring and Lent. It has been a busy few weeks downstairs in our little brown church. We created hallelujahs to bury, Logan was recognized for his work as a scout, and we eagerly look for the arrival of Easter! The Valentine’s Day party was a big hit and a lot of fun! Thank you so much to Rev. Dee for putting that on for the kids!!

This message is not long because there is not a lot of new and different to report but the fact remains that the kids remain a constant source of love and joy in the church.

Bring on spring!!
Sarah



Logan and his parents, Ethan and Kim along with Deacon Phil, help us celebrate Scout Sunday on February 3



Meet Rev. Dee Woodward

Friends,

Jim and I are honored to be with you at All Saints as you begin your search for a new Rector. Soon, the Diocese will offer to you a “permanent Interim” (now there is an oxymoron for you!) to serve you during this time of transition and discovery. Until then, I, Dee, will be your “bridge priest” and I am indeed glad to be with you.

Here is a bit of background. I was ordained in this Diocese in 1987 where I have served ever since, except for a season in the Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand. I’ve had just about every title they could think of: Deacon, Rector, Consulting Priest, Priest-in-Charge, Interim, as well as coverage for sabbaticals, maternity leave, and medical leave. For the past 12 years, all of my positions have been transitional appointments. I really love the challenge of new situations and the great joy of coming to know the body of Christ afresh each time I am invited into a new parish. Joining here with you at All Saints is no exception. You totally ROCK, besides being so amazingly faithful in your own unique ways.

So, I happily drive down from our boat, Fintry, in East Boston where Jim and I and our cat, Marmalade, live. Our three married children also live in the Boston area with our three grandchildren. It is a blessing to have them so close.

Here are some other credentials briefly: BA in Ancient and Medieval Culture from Brown, M. Div. from Gordon-Conwell, Honorary alumna of Episcopal Divinity School (where I oversaw Field Education).

From Dee+ who is so glad to be with you.

May Lent bless us and may Easter amaze us.



From the Senior Warden's Desk with Regina Gurney



The saying is that "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." Well the first part is true and I hope the second part will be true. I would like to believe it but I'm a little skeptical; I guess I will have to keep the Faith.

When Rev. Colette told us she was leaving, most of us thought "what will happen now?" My answer was "It will be alright, just have Faith." Jesus had a plan for All Saints and that will lead us to a new rector, the one He will pick out for us. So far everything is moving in the right direction.

First thing was getting a bridge priest assigned to All Saints Parish. The Diocese assigned Rev. Dee Woodward to us and she has been wonderful. If you haven't met her yet, please introduce yourself to her. Rev. Dee has joined right in with our programs and events, and shared some of her ideas with us. Her stay with us will be until May when she and her husband leave to sail their home (a 79 ft. ship) to Fairhaven. The Diocese will then assign us a priest in charge who will be with us until we find a new rector.

In January the Diocese appointed a Transition Review Consultant, David Richardson, to our church. His job was to make sure we are financially stable and that our church and grounds are in good condition. This is an important step towards a new rector. For the past few months myself, Tom Rudolph and Barbara Wight have met with David and have given him all the reports he has asked for. In the next few weeks he will be sending in his final report to the Bishop. We have seen the report and it looks fine.

Last week they assigned Bob Malone to our church as a search consultant and he will be with us during the rest of the search process. Bob will be our support during the search and answer any questions we have. I will be getting together with him shortly.

Our next step will be putting together our search committee. Their job will be to prepare a questionnaire and to send it out to the parish. This won't be happening right now, but I wanted to let you know what will be happening. I urge you, when you get the questionnaire, please fill in your answers and bring it to church or mail it to the church. The committee will then make a profile from the answers. This report would then be available for us or any priest who might be interested in our church.

In closing I ask that you, our parishioners of All Saints, continue to come to church and support our programs and events. We want to continue to have a church full of love, support and faith. This is what a new rector will be looking for. Hebrews 11:1 says; "Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it." So, keep the Faith, continue to pray for the priest that God will choose for All Saints and know that it will take time but it will be worth the wait.

Peace and prayers,
Regina Gurney, Senior Warden

A Little Glimpse of Meditative Coloring



Meditative coloring begins with a prayer followed by a quiet time of music and reflection, next a bible lesson. Then, there is time for quiet coloring with background music. After 30 minutes, we share thoughts followed by a closing prayer.

Meditative Coloring is held in 5-week increments about four times a year. All coloring pages and colored pencils are provided. Got to go – time for me to color.

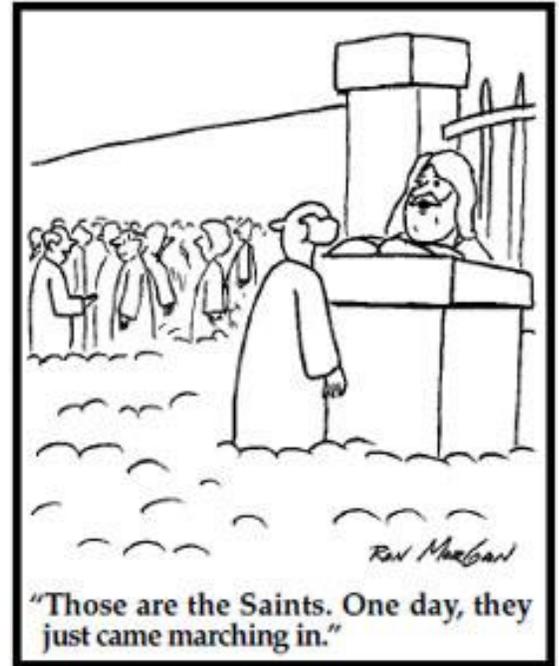
Emily Baker

ALL SAINTS FLEA MARKET

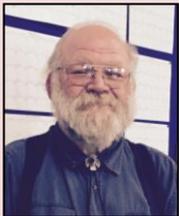
Saturday, April 6, 2019
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Church Hall

We have so many wonderful and different vendors this year who are all excited to show their crafts, treasures and yard sale finds. Please come and have fun! And bring a friend!

Linda Hyman, spearheading the flea market is asking for volunteers to work in the parish kitchen. Generously, Linda is offering a plant for each helper. Contact her at (781) 447-2854 or (339) 788-0994.



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com



ALL SAINTS, WHITMAN FUNDRAISING CALENDAR 2019 with Dick Tingblad

MEETING THE 2019 FUNDRAISING BUDGET

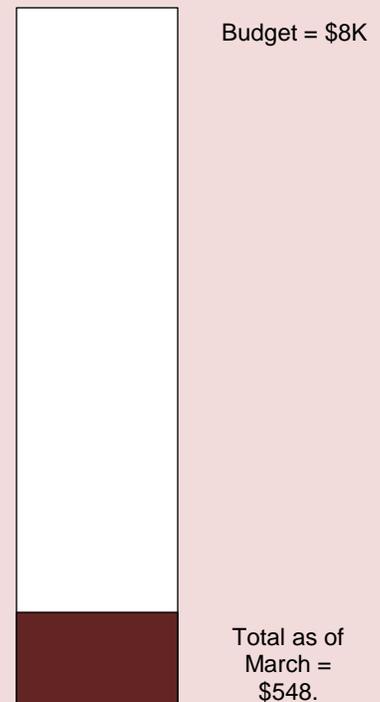
All Saints Church budget 2019 requires \$8000. From fundraising.
Fundraising comprises 7% of the budgeted income.

FUNDRAISERS 2019

EARNINGS

Monthly Breakfasts (1 st Sunday)	\$ 90
Penny Jar (in sanctuary, for spare change)	
Trivia Contest, January 26	\$ 43
Winter Yard Sale & Cookie Contest, February 9	\$355
Corned Beef Supper, March 16	
Flea Market, April 6	
Auction, May 11	
Plant Sale, May 25	
Public Breakfast	
Craft Show, October 26 (tables already reserved) (weekend before Halloween)	\$ 60
Church Fair, November 22 and 23 (weekend before Thanksgiving)	

Dick's Fundraising Thermometer





Kevin at Work

MEET THE SAINTS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Kevin Fennessy

If you haven't met Kevin Fennessy, he is easy to spot at All Saints. A big man with a bigger heart and an easy smile, Kevin is often found on the church grounds tending the lovely back garden or building and maintaining the facility itself. Kevin is also on our church vestry. He was surprised when asked to serve perhaps because of his Irish-catholic upbringing and perhaps because of the round-about way he came to be a member of All Saints.



Kevin and his Shed

Kevin's parents emigrated from Ireland to Boston by way of Canada and raised six sons in Dorchester, all of whom were educated in catholic schools. He said his mother insisted they attend mass every Sunday, say prayers every night, serve the church as altar boys and devote their lives to the Virgin Mary. He has kept that promise.

Kevin married his high school sweetheart Patty, a nurse at Beth Israel Hospital who is also involved in the merger of BI with Leahy Clinic. Patty and Kevin have three sons, Tom, Chris and Michael, and are blessed with, as Kevin says, "five beautiful grandchildren we can hold in our arms and twins we hold in our hearts."

Kevin's education included attendance at Iona College, Boston State and Bridgewater State College where he completed his Bachelor of Arts degree. He also received an Associate's degree in paralegal studies from Quincy College and a certification as a substance abuse counselor from UMass Boston. His career has been as varied as his studies. Kevin spent many years in construction as a laborer, eventually working on the "Big Dig." He has also done stints at the Attorney General's Office of Public Charities, making use of his paralegal degree, and at High Point in Plymouth working with those suffering from substance abuse. His original plan was to study law and become an attorney. Although this did not work out, I think you can see that Kevin has kept his focus on others, working in the helping professions much of his life.

Kevin is still helping others. During our worship-sharing with Joy in Christ in Abington, Kevin came to know Michael, a young parishioner at that church. Kevin has become a friend to Michael and Michael has learned skills from Kevin. Kevin is also open about his being a recovering alcoholic, almost eight years now, he says. He states he owes his sobriety to the help he received from others, crediting Rev. Colette, Deacon Phil and our church family particularly, and offering to "pass it forward" by helping others. Anyone is safe asking me questions or just talking, he says. Kevin states that he shares this because "alcoholism and drug addiction is a very misunderstood and stigmatized disease."

Kevin said that Jeanni Foley suggested he try All Saints "a really cool church with a great pastor." That pastor was Rev. Colette Wood. Kevin said she became his friend and, like us, he misses her and the love and friendship she offered. He feels that his faith in God was made stronger by this friendship with Colette. She taught him to leave things in God's hands and He will take care of us. And that is how Kevin sees our church's future, especially in its search for a new priest. He does hope to see our church continue to grow, adding more young people to bring in "innovative ideas."

Kevin sees his own future, once Patty has retired, in a warmer climate for part of the year and then "just settling back and watching our children's children grow up healthy and happy," reading and studying history and maybe writing that book inside him.

I hope his dreams are fulfilled, but not too quickly. Kevin is an important part of our parish and we are not ready to say goodbye just yet.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. BOB OUTMAN-CONANT

On Sunday, March 10, Rev. Bob shared the 45th anniversary of his ordination with us at the 10:00 am service. At communion, he used the chalice his parents had given him to commemorate his graduation. Congratulations, Rev. Bob.



Easter Memorials



All memorial plants need to be paid in advance.
Therefore, please complete the following form by **April 10, 2019**
and return with your check made payable to: ***St. Margaret's Altar Guild.***

Mail to:
St. Margaret's Altar Guild
All Saints Episcopal Church
44 Park Avenue
Whitman, MA 02382

OPTIONS:

1. Easter Lily @ \$14.00
2. Daffodil @ \$14.00
3. Hyacinth @ \$14.00
4. Tulip @ \$14.00 Circle: RED or PINK
5. Instead of flowers, I wish to donate \$_____ to All Saints Parish in memory of my loved one(s).
(The names of your loved ones will still be listed on the Easter bulletin.)
 I will bring flowers on my own.

(Please PRINT clearly)
In Loving Memory of:

Given by:

Telephone Number: _____

Email: _____

PLEASE TAKE THEM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.