



The Rectors Ramble

This is one of my favorite quotes. I'm sure it has appeared in our Newsletter before, but the time seems right to re-run it.

"God loves small churches. God abhors small visions. There in a nutshell lies the dilemma of small churches, urban or rural.....Small churches tend to be obsessed with a vision to survive. Unfortunately, nowhere in the Bible does God call people merely to survive. God calls people to change, grow, journey to promised lands, die and be resurrected, but God never calls people merely to survive." -Thomas Bandy

The recent parish meeting to discuss the current situation with our finances was well attended and it yielded a renewed commitment to the ministry and life of our parish. But, as Mr. Bandy's quote reminds us we must not allow ourselves to limit our vision only to survival. God's vision for us is much bigger than that. We should be bold in dreaming for ourselves how we can be the Body of Christ in this place. Right now there is a lot of energy in "growing the parish". Jack Foster has taken the bull by the horns and invited a group to form that will brainstorm ways we can address growth in our parish. These are exciting efforts and positive, pro-active steps in a good direction.

However, we are feeling the need to remind you, that it is very important that all of us have a clear understanding of WHY we should grow the parish. It is not simply to pay the light bill, or the Co-Rectors. It is to reach people in our communities with the wonderful news of God's love in Jesus Christ. It is to worship God, to grow in our love for Him and to become better disciples. We should not want to "grow the parish" in order to assuage our deficit but rather to see lives transformed by an encounter with the Living God. Jesus said in John 12:32 " And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Jesus needs to be high and lifted up in our parish family. Our vision cannot center in programs alone. It cannot focus solely on the clergy. It cannot be supported only by what a few people are willing to do. Our vision must be of only one thing. Jesus. Nothing else matters.

It has been said that the job of the priest in a Christian community is to "tend the center". It is to always call the community back to the core, to God, to the source of all our life and remember who we are and whose we are. This feels like one of those times we need to do that.

I am reminded of a wonderful 17th century hymn by Georg Weissel:

*"Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates
Behold the King of Glory waits!
The King of Kings is drawing near,*

(Continued on page 2)



Take Notice...what's going on at the Parish.

(Continued from page 1)

Savior of the world is here!"

May this hymn be our prayer and the Apostle Paul's words our encouragement:

....."forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [we] press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13b-14 Amen and Amen.

See you Sunday! Rev.s Patti and Doug

Upcoming Calendar Events...

February 9 th	Vestry, 7pm
February 17 th	Ultreya, 7:30pm
February 17 th ~19 th	Renewal Weekend, Marist House

Consider This to Help With the Budget!

There are small things that can be done to help with our church family's deficit. One great way is via a "Faith Offering", those small green envelopes located at each pew. It's as simple as placing an offering within the envelope and placing it in the offering plate. You can mark your name on the envelope, if you so desire. This will enable our Assistant Treasurer to include those amounts as part of your end-of-year pledge report (for tax purposes). Or you can simply remain anonymous. Placing money in the plate is tallied as "Plate", and is not necessarily earmarked to go toward the deficit, whereas a "Faith" Offering goes 100% toward the deficit.

A couple of other ideas are mentioned in the Treasurer's Corner, but I'll go into a little more detail here.

Dottie Peterson has taken it upon herself to sell Hilliard's chocolate bars at coffee hour every week. She tells me that her goal is to reach \$100 every month. Every cent collected goes toward the deficit. Buy a candy bar at coffee hour, even if you don't eat chocolate. You can always give the candy away!

Another way that can help is to take all of your pop bottles and cans to the Recycle Center adjacent the fire station. All Saints has an account with them, and you can specify that you want your tally to be added to it. If many people within the Parish do this, it can certainly add up to a fairly significant number by year's end. The key is to bring the cans and bottles *each and every month*.

There are other ways to stave off the deficit. Many small things can add up to something significant, so don't discount any idea you may have. Talk with Doug or Patti, or any vestry member to get something going!



Take Notice...what's going on at the Parish.

All Saints' Parish Service Schedule:

Sunday:

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II, no music

9:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II, traditional hymns, as well as contemporary music.

Sunday School: ages 0-18

Wednesday:

12:00noon: Holy Eucharist Rite II, healing service

6:30pm Holy Eucharist Rite II, healing service



ALPHA NEWS...

As of this writing, the winter Alpha course is in full swing. The Holy Spirit Retreat is scheduled for March 10 & 11. It's not really a retreat, but rather videos, discussions, and prayer on the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If you took the Alpha course and missed the retreat, or would like to repeat the retreat experience, see Jack Foster.

Lay Eucharistic Minister Schedule

	<u>8am</u>	<u>9:30</u>
5th	Carolyn Adamson	Pat Eunice
12th	Don McRorie	Kristen Tingblad
19th	Carolyn Adamson	Chip Durant
26th	Carolyn Adamson	Maureen Mahoney

Officers of the Church

Co-Rectors: Revs. Doug & Patti Hale

Wardens:
Chad Wohlers, Dave Frazier

Treasurer: Carolyn Adamson

Asst. Treasurer: Ernest Morgan

Clerk: Richard Tingblad

Saints' Alive Writer/Editor/Publisher:
Dave Frazier
(daveartfrazier@aol.com)

Your Vestry:

Dorrie Bazan (Greene)
Cheryl Belcher
Marsha Corliss-Beaulieu
Jack Foster
Maureen Mahoney
Ted Putur
Louise Quilty
Louise Tingblad
Dotty Wilhelm

Sexton

Dot Peterson

Church Office Hours

(781)-447-6106

unless preempted by another obligation:

Tues & Fri. 9am-12noon

Weds. 9am-10:30am

Senior Youthgroup Leaders

Dave and Sue Frazier

Junior Youthgroup Leaders

Maureen Mahoney
Chip and Jolene Durant



Take Notice...what's going on at the Parish.

Spiritual Gifts Class Opportunity

Have you ever wondered what God most intends for you to contribute to the life of Christ's Church?

Have you ever felt that the way you serve in the church just doesn't seem to fit who you are?

Have you heard other Christians talk about spiritual gifts and wished you knew what they were talking about?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions then have we got a class for you!

During the Season of Lent, an adult bible Study class on Spiritual Gifts will be held on Wednesday evenings to address such questions. The classes will be held at **7:00 to 8:30 pm from March 8th through April 12th**. This class will be taught by Rev. Doug.

The Bible Study will look at the nature and purpose of spiritual gifts within the context of the life of the Church. Insights on the various gifts will be gleaned from a variety of scripture passages.

All participants will receive a questionnaire as a tool for identifying their own particular spiritual gifts. They will be invited to share their own experiences of how they have seen these gifts at work in their own lives. There will also be discussion about how they have seen these gifts at work through other people.

The goal is to help every one better understand how they and other people can most effectively serve within the mission of the church, while affirming and supporting who they are.

Come on Wednesday evening, starting **March 8th** and see what it is all about. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to talk with Doug. *Keep your eyes open for an opportunity to sign-up.*

Prayer Line

Kathye Foster maintains a very strong prayer line ministry via E-mail and snail-mail for All Saints' Parish. If anyone wishes to add a name or concern to the prayer list, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Kathye **(508) 378-4818**, or through E-Mail at *fosterJK@juno.com*. Take advantage of this powerful Ministry!

A Quick Punny...

Two chefs in Boston who were competing for the title of "Finest Fish Fryer." Their talents were about equal, their dishes equally excellent.

However, at the last moment one of the chefs glazed his entry and won the title. "Alas!" lamented the other, "There but for the glaze of cod go I!"



THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER *(because stewardship is more than once a year)*

[From the Rectors...]

I recall a conversation in seminary about how a pastor would deal with the situation of when someone came to the church asking for assistance and you knew, you just knew that the person asking for assistance was being dishonest. Our mentor walked into the room and interrupted our conversation by saying; "If you're not getting ripped off at least half the time you're being too tight with your money!" That silenced all of us because we knew he was right. Jesus calls us to a life of generosity, a spirituality of giving, always ready to demonstrate compassion. Let us each pray for the grace to generous and giving not only with our money, but with our love and compassion for others.

[From an anonymous source...]

The theme this month is stewardship of time. I heard a nun once talk about "buying up the fragments." Hmm, now what could she have meant? Each day we have small bits of time too short to do anything. You may be stalled in traffic, in the doctor's waiting room, a grocery store line, the bathroom, waiting for a phone call, or the like. Consider what you could do during those moments - pray for a friend in need, meditate on a Bible passage, listen to a Christian song, plan a church school lesson, think of a shut-in who needs a call, just talk to God for a minute . . . The other day I took the T to Boston, and prayed for a list people in need as we moved from station to station. What can you do today to "buy up the fragments?"

LET'S WELCOME OUR GUESTS!

Each of us needs to take stock of our "welcoming skills". Here is a list of ways each of us can be more responsive to those who visit us on a Sunday morning.

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Introduce the guest to the people around you.
3. Invite the guest to fill out one of our pink information cards.
4. Introduce the guest to Rev. Patti or Doug before or after church.
5. If appropriate, show the guest what facilities are available; e.g., restrooms, nursery, classrooms, etc.
6. Share your hymnal, bulletin and Prayer Book with a visitor.
7. Unobtrusively help the guest follow the order of worship.
8. Invite the guest to fellowship time.
9. Escort the guest to fellowship time, offer coffee, something to eat.
10. Introduce your guest to others during fellowship time.

* * * Cardinal rule: Do not to speak to someone you know until you have introduced yourself to someone you do not yet know! * * *



Fish Net...Dave Frazier

Who We Are:

We strive to be a company of diverse people working together to produce food.

We strive to be honorable people.

We strive to be a faith-friendly company.

What We Do:

We feed our families, the nation, and the world with trusted food products.

We serve as stewards of the animals, land, and environment entrusted to us.

We strive to provide a safe work environment for our Team Members.

How We Do It:

We strive to earn consistent and satisfactory profits for our shareholders and to invest in our people, products, and processes.

We strive to operate with integrity and trust in all we do.

We strive to honor God and be respectful of each other, our customers, and other stakeholders.

I saw a link on my AOL main page that would lead me to a website having a bunch of prayers that could be used as Grace before a meal. Upon clicking it, I found myself at the homepage of Tyson Foods, a fairly large national corporation. The preceding clauses above are the Core Values of the company. Upon reading them, I was refreshed to see that they so openly honor God ...*we strive to be a faith-friendly company...we strive to honor God.* In this age of politically correct behaviors, and the demand by some that '*the Christians refrain from pushing their God onto us and our children,*' it is wonderful that a large and well-known corporation would have so prominent an inclusion of God in their corporate world. One might wonder if their HR Department is continually fielding concerns from non-Christian sectors as to the corruption such corporate values will have on the families that eat their chicken pot pies.

While on the subject of political correctness, I wish our kids could openly pray in school. I wish that others would not see this as a threat to the stability of the world with which they are familiar. Our children spend more than half of their young and impressionable life in school. I could never understand how my prayer is damaging to the psyche of another individual. This very country in which we live is one that was built on the ideals of many different individuals, and those ideals allowed for the tolerance of many individual's freedom to live. It is one of many reasons that this is such a strong country. One that is capable of catering to the many, in their own core values, morals and ethics, and yes, their religious beliefs and upbringing. It is not a one-thought society that cannot accommodate an individual with a unique situation. To the contrary, this country is very accommodating, moreso than many other countries in this world. It is great that I can declare myself a Christian man, and raise my family as Christians, openly and without fear.

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THE TREASURER'S CORNER

...Carolyn Adamson

I took over as treasurer at the beginning of last year, and it has been quite a learning experience for me. I want to be able to share some of what I have learned with the entire congregation, so we can all have a better understanding of All Saints' financial situation.

As you know, we had a special meeting on Sunday, January 8th to review our fiscal problems. Due to running deficit or "faith" budgets for a number of years we have nearly depleted our reserves, so some difficult decisions will be facing us in the coming months. The vestry did vote for another deficit budget in 2006 but after that ***all our reserves will be depleted*** unless other monies come available. Our primary hope is that we will sell some of our land, and this currently seems promising.

However, I want everyone to be aware that there are small ways we can all contribute to All Saints. Please consider the following:

Take your cans and bottles to the Temple Street redemption center next to the Whitman Fire Station. Let them know you are donating the proceeds to All Saints. They have a special fund set aside for us.

Dot Peterson has been selling Hilliard's chocolate. If you are interested in selling a box yourself, please see her.

Small things like this may not cure the deficit, but they can help. Please also consider other ways to fund

Junior Warden Quick Notes...

The monthly update...

- The furnace that supplies heat to the downstairs classroom area has been repaired, and the heat has been restored. The problem was a device called a "primer" had cracked and burnt out. This is a common problem, and is considered maintenance. Getchell Plumbing, a local company, took care of the job. Total cost was \$94 parts and labor, which was a reasonable charge in my opinion.
- A leaking toilet in the upstairs bathroom has been repaired. I replaced three gaskets that were leaking due to deterioration. I also added some gasket tape to the hose connections, as they were leaking as well. If the leaks develop again, I will tweak the gaskets to ensure they are seated properly. Hopefully the leaks are all gone.

In next month's newsletter, I will be outlining the plans I have for the spring. If anyone has any concerns or ideas relative to our church home, I really would like to talk to you. I welcome your comments. Thank you.



February:

- 1 Warren Phillips
- 3 Kyle Armstrong, Liz Putur
- 5 Nancy Bunar
- 6 Sean Powers
- 8 Danielle Johnson
- 10 Cheryl Belcher
- 14 Jonathan Tillson
- 16 Audrieana Casieri
- 19 Marsha Bealeau
- 20 Ellen Stillman, Jeff Phillips
- 21 Joseph Livrago Jr, Jullian Boyd
- 23 Keith Fuller
- 24 Mark Livrago
- 25 Norma Gardner
- 26 Michael Eunice
- 27 Erin Dyson
- 28 Sarge Johnson

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March

- 2 Jeff Nawrocki, Zachary Brown
- 3 Ernie Morgan
- 4 Tammy D'Antuono, Rosemary Rudolph
- 5 Kenneth Williams
- 9 Christopher Veazie
- 10 Eleanor Corliss, Tim Nawrocki,
- 12 Adam Churchill, David Dyson
- 13 Matt Delaney, Alexandra Tillson, Sheila Foster
- 14 David Frazier
- 15 Pat Eunice
- 16 Eleanor Dunbar, Anne Bezio, Lindsay Kelliher
- 20 Laura Andrade, Rachel Burbine
- 21 Kelsey Birk
- 22 Lauren Frazier, Pat Delaney
- 23 Robert Bezio

Fish Net...Dave Frazier [continued]

(Continued from page 6)

So why is it so harmful to a non-Christian child if my child says a quiet prayer at the beginning of the school day? Why is it so harmful that a prayer is said before a college football game?

Certain groups put much effort into promoting the removal of wording within our legal tenets, such as the Constitution of the United States, that pays homage to God. I feel that not only would we do a disservice to those that formed this country around those very tenets—after all they felt strongly enough about including God in their thoughts to the point of writing it as part of the documents—we would truly be weakening the very structure of those tenets. On the most base level, if it becomes so easy to rewrite the laws of the world by hiring a savvy lawyer, what hope do we have as a society? With morals and ethical behavior becoming muddier as time rolls on, we become one of those science fiction B-movies where everyone is killing one another for a gallon of water. As a Christian I feel a great security in placing my foundation for a great country firmly upon God. I want His name on the tenets by which I live, or the money that allows me to buy the securities of this world. Other Christians understand my thinking, having experienced the love of God, and the security of His name, but how does one convey this to others when others are looking to knock God from the Heavens and trample Him underfoot?

So where does this leave the Christian in this world? Personally, I try to keep my hope not of this world, but of the one that God promises to us. As a Christian I am taught to shine with Christ's light and to represent Christ in this world to the best of my God-given gifts. Part of my Core Value is to continually try to do just that. If that isn't politically correct, well, I was never a very political person anyhow.

All Saints' Parish
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