



The Rectors Ramble

Blessings for the New Year! Blessings also for the holy feast of Epiphany in which we celebrate on *January 6th*. Epiphany marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas and commemorates the arrival of the Magi to adore the babe of Bethlehem. In the Gospel readings on the Sundays that follow Epiphany we hear stories of "manifestation" where the power of God is seen and felt in miraculous and overwhelming ways. Ways that caused the disciples to drop what they were doing and follow him. In that sense, the light of the star that led the Magi to Christ continues to shine for us even though Christmas, as a season, is long over. Christmas becomes for us more than a season, but a way of life. It is the beginning of God's marvelous intervention into creation to redeem us.

God's generosity in all of this has been on my mind quite a bit. As you may be aware, beginning in February Doug and I will begin to serve St. David's in Halifax as "Co-Vicars" on a quarter-time basis. (Co-Vicar means that we are appointed by the Bishop, not called by the congregation) Last fall we began a discussion with the Rev.'d Wally Gober who is the current Vicar at St. David's. Rev. Wally is retiring and St. David's Executive Committee began the process of discernment of where to go next. That process led them to a conversation with the Bristol Cluster which ended in November with a mutual decision that St. David's would not join their ministry. At this same time Doug and I were in the process of looking for additional, very part time employment. Given our needs and theirs needs, it seemed right to begin a conversation about the possibility of our jointly serving St. David's. You need to know that before everyone said "Yes" to this arrangement, there have been numerous conversations, visitations and much prayer.

It is true, our serving at St. David's means a change at All Saints' in terms of seeing both of us on Sunday mornings. That is a loss to us and as many of you have expressed, it feels like a loss to you as well. But we want to offer both assurance and insight into our current circumstances. The first is the assurance. Doug and I are both still the Co-Rectors of All Saints', each serving equally one half the position. St. David's adds an additional 10 hours per week to one of us on a rotating basis. Secondly, I want to offer a couple of recent insights. Our relationship to Jesus Christ, serving and adoring him and telling others about him, is the core of why we exist as parishes. With this new arrangement comes new avenues for cooperative ministry between All Saints' and St. David's. We have had a firm conviction since the beginning that God is mightily at work at All Saints'. Now, we look forward to what new ministries await all of us as we move into the future that God has planned for us. Sure, there will be a time of adjusting. But with love and prayer we can do anything!

Another insight comes from a sermon I recently heard in which the preacher said the most encouraging thing. He said; "Our job in the church is not to have the best program, the best education, the best cre-

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

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dentials, the most noted clergy or the most wonderful buildings. Our job is not to have it all figured out. Our job is to **believe** in God. Our job is to believe that God will do what God has promised He will do. Jesus tells us plainly what our job is in *John 6:29* "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom God has sent."

So with this new year comes changes. Also new vision, new opportunities for ministry, new relationships. But mostly the new year brings an invitation to a deeper walk with Christ and a greater trust in our life together. It's scary and exciting. So let us be gentle with each other. Let us spend more time praying for each other. Most of all, let us have listening hearts so we may make ready response when the Holy Spirit moves among us.

Peace to you all! See you Sunday! Rev. Patti+

Prayer Line

All Saints' Parish is one of many to maintain a strong Prayer Line Ministry. If anyone wishes to add a name or concern to the prayer list, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Kathy Foster (508) 378-4818, or through E-Mail at FosterJK@juno.com. Take advantage of this powerful Ministry!



Pancake Breakfast

A savory pancake and sausage breakfast happens on the last Sunday of every month. Come join us for breakfast and a great time of morning fellowship at the Parish Hall, from **9-9:30am**. Hosted by Don McRorie, Ed Welch and others.

2005 All Saints' History Calendar

These great looking calendars are the results of Dick Tingblad's effort. They feature our rectors through the years. Not only do they look great, but they contain tidbits of historical info relative to All Saints', as well as many other interesting factoids.

For the small cost of \$5, you can grab one for yourself, or perhaps buy 2 and give one as a gift! All funds raised will be applied to this year's budget deficit.

Look for the calendars in the parish hall. Check them out next coffee hour! Thank you, Dick.



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

Adult Education Opportunity

On *Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm*, Rev. Doug will be offering a series of classes that will be helpful to those who have questions about different aspects of our life together at All Saints' and/or are considering what they want their involvement to be in this Parish.

The class sessions are as follows:

- *January 12th* - "How We Got Here"

Looking at the history of the Church and our own histories and how they have come together in this place called All Saints'.
- *January 19th* - "The Way(s) We Worship"

Looking at how the Book of Common Prayer is the foundation of how we worship, how we adapt the BCP to our local setting and how we can personally express ourselves in worship.
- *January 26th* - "Nurturing Our Relationship With Christ"

Learning about opportunities for growth through All Saints' and sharing what has made differences in our own relationships with Christ.
- *February 2nd* - "Choosing to Live Together"

Considering how we can express our commitments through baptism, membership, confirmation and contributions to our common life.

Use the sign-up sheet on the soda machine to let us know you are interested in coming, or talk with Rev. Doug.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" BIBLE STUDY

This course looks at how Handel's Messiah uses scripture to tell us about who Jesus Christ is and how his life and death make a difference in our own lives. These scriptures were selected to make an impact upon our understanding and the music was composed to touch our hearts.

Participation in this class would make an excellent devotional practice during the season of Lent in preparation for our embracing Easter. Sign up on the sheet hanging on the Soda machine along with those who have participated in the Advent portion of the study.

The study begins on *February 9th* following the Ash Wednesday service. Please sign up by *January 26th* so that the study guide, which costs \$20, may be ordered for you. You will also need a Bible and a complete recording of the Messiah.

If you have any questions, please speak with Rev. Doug or with one of the people who have been participating in the Advent portion of the study.



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

AN ARTICLE FROM CAROLYN ADAMSON...

In 2003 I met a young man named Justin; he was struggling in a world that for him had been chaotic and filled with instability. He had come to a point in his life where he wondered if it was all worth it, and so as a social worker, I began to try to make his life better. I grew frustrated as multiple agencies, for various reasons, said they could not help. I remember thinking, "Justin has so much potential, if only he had a stable family to guide him." During that time he moved around, staying with various family members and friends, as well as at the MainSpring shelter. I finally had to stop my work with him without finding any services for him at all. He eventually moved into a rooming house in Brockton. During that time I never stopped praying that he would find the stability he so needed. Justin continued to stay in touch and always looked to me for guidance.

In the spring of 2004, my life was feeling quite out of control, and coming from a family where all decisions are made carefully and control is key, the realization that I needed to give up control was most difficult. Yet as I began to really focus "letting go and letting God" I found that answers came to me in ways they had not before. I also found an inner peace and strength that came with those decisions, rather than the anxiety that accompanied so many decisions made out of a need for control. As I worked on allowing God to guide me, I came to realize that He was telling me that the family I so wanted Justin to have was my own. And so for all of you at All Saints who are wondering about that young man now joining my family at church, his name is Justin Hunnewell and on *December 27, 2004* I will be legally adopting him as my son.

Birthdays!

January:

2	Matt Livrago, Paul Spink
6	Dick Corkum
7	Debra D'Antuono
8	Robert D'Antuono, Mildred Inglis, Stephen Foster
9	Laura Cantoni
10	Pam Nawrocki, Gary Santtiello, Matthew Walbourne
11	Hanna Jane Brown
12	Charles Lucas
14	Mike Fuller
20	Scott Armstrong, Dan Andrade, Matthew Bunar
24	Kathye Foster
26	Marilyn Inglis, Rose McCabe

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 Beauleau
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



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...

The Alpha Corner

*** Next Alpha Program Rescheduled ***



Due to a scheduling conflict, our next Alpha program has been rescheduled to begin in April. The Celebration Dinner introducing Alpha will be held on Sunday, April 3, and the course itself will start a week later. Please be thinking of people you may want to bring to the dinner to learn more about Alpha. Thanks.

Officers of the Church

Co-Rectors: Revs. Doug & Patti Hale

Wardens: Chad Wohlers, Ed Welch

Treasurer: Helen Brown

Asst. Treasurer: Ernest Morgan

Clerk: Richard Tingblad

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

Your Vestry:

Ellin Duffy
Norma Gardner
Jack Foster
Dave Frazier
Maureen Mahoney
John Morgan
Karen Phillips
Ted Puter
Dottie Wilhelm

Church Office Hours

(781)-447-6106

Doug or Patti will be in the Church Office (unless preempted by another obligation):

Mon.-Fri. 9am-12noon

Senior Youthgroup Leaders

Dave and Sue Frazier

Junior Youthgroup Leaders

Maureen Mahoney
Chip and Jolene Durant



The Fish Net

Gifts: Given and Received

By Ted Puter, Jr.

Where do I begin? Having received so many gifts over the years it's impossible to know what to say first. So I'll start by sharing with you Webster's ideas about what is a gift. He says that a gift is *'something that is bestowed voluntarily and without compensation; the act, right, or power of giving; a talent, endowment, and aptitude.'*

I like the part about 'giving voluntarily and without compensation!' To me, that means that a person's heart is in the right place when they give a gift. But you know, our hearts also need to be in the right place when we receive a gift. It's important to let someone feel our love in return when they give to us, just as we feel their love when the gift is given. It's a two-way street... 'gift giving and receiving.' And a wonderful thing when it happens. I've always felt so thankful when someone gives me a gift, and not so much for the present itself (although I've received many nice gifts and am grateful for them), but because it says to me that they have been thinking about me and that they really care about me. And that feels great! It's really the love in their heart that is being extended. Many times the main focus is on the 'thing' wrapped inside the beautiful paper and bow (the wrapping itself is a gift, since many people spend a lot of time trying to find the right paper design, colors, and styles to fit the person and occasion).

But the gifts that I think are best are the ones that are 'un-wrapable'. Gifts like a smile (especially one that is received by another person and felt in their heart), music, sunshine, kindness, tears of joy, quiet time, hope, life, peace, family, freedom, rainbows, sharing, laughter, generosity (when giving with the right intentions), a new and compassionate heart, friendship, courage, righteousness, hugs, shelter, relationships, a promise kept...don't these all really move you? The best part of it is that they all can be given and received!!! We need to feel God's love when these things are present in our lives. When we do feel His love for us, these gifts, either given or received, make the world a more beautiful place.

Think about the sacrifices that are made when a gift is given. The hard work and savings that go into it when a material gift is given. We all know those times. But what happens when we give of ourselves? When we give a piece of ourselves to others, for their benefit? That is a most wonderful thing! Whether it be service or sacrifice, when we do it God is present in our lives.

Lives. Life. That is a most precious gift. We've all received it, and we're here now because God gave us our lives so that we may also be a gift to others. And so that we may have a relationship with Him. We didn't earn it. We can't buy it. We shouldn't boast or feel a sense of accomplishment about having it. It is given to all of us out of love! And the greatest gift of all, is Christ Jesus. Born some 2000 years ago so that we may receive the gift of having a relationship with God, thru Jesus, and the promise of eternal life. Jesus gave His life up for us, so that our sins can be forgiven and that we may be purified by our Heavenly Father every time we go to Him, thru Christ, and lay down our sins and burdens. Jesus was wrapped in a

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The Fish Net...*continued*

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blanket, laying in a stable, with stars shining brightly in the sky. A beautiful light...a gift to the world!

What gifts are we going to give others in need? I have the good fortune to teach 3rd and 4th graders about God, about creation, about Jesus' life and leadership. And in the process read and study the Good Word and share it with others. This has been a gift to me. I can also give my business talents (talents given to me by the Lord) to those in need of my services. We all have been given gifts, different gifts, by God to share with others who need our help. No gift is too small or inconsequential. God loves it when we recognize the gifts that He has given us, and especially when we use them properly and with our hearts in the right place. As it is written in Psalms 92:1: "It is a good thing to give. Thanks unto the Lord..."

Wow, are we rich when we realize how precious all the gifts are that we have! Especially when we stop, or slow down to recognize and appreciate them. "How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given!"

What does the future hold in store for us? Are we going to receive a gift? Give a gift? Or be a gift? I pray that God will open our hearts to do all these things...with a loving heart. Remember to give thanks for the greatest gift of all, Christ Jesus, through whom eternal life is received...

Peace and Love to All, Always,

Ted Puter, Jr.

[ed note: I truly appreciate Ted sharing this piece with us. It is his gift to us, in his sharing of his thoughts.]



Senior Youthgroup to Attend Youthquake 2005

The Senior Youthgroup is making the trek to Youthquake 2005 this year! On *Thursday, January 14th*, we will load into a 15-passenger van, point its nose southwest, and start to log the miles. This is a long trip for us, about 15~16 hours to Asheville, N.C., nestled in the mountains.

I'm very excited to be making the trip. The Youthgroup has made the trip for the past 5 years, with the exception of last year (we could not arrange any funding...and parents could not spare the cost). I have truly seen them grow from this gathering, and they are looking forward to once again sharing time with their peers and God. We have a couple of new members to the group going, and we have a couple of friends of the group going as well. I think it's great that these guys think enough of the trip to promote it to their friends!

This is a very expensive trip for us to take, costing each person about \$180. Some of us have three of these tabs to pick up, making it quite a financial hardship. It has been argued that we shouldn't devote so much effort to this trip each year, given the lengthy drive and the expenses involved. Personally, I feel that the effort is justified. Having a teenager involved in the group, I can attest that it is hard enough for them in their environments now-a-days, let alone trying to nurture some kind of relationship with God. The world tends to trivialize their problems, labeling them as 'teen angst'. ***How can somebody argue that a gathering of teens in a safe Christian environment, with the sole purpose of allowing teens to develop their relationships with God, be not worth the effort?*** These guys need as much effort from loving, mentoring adults put into their lives as is humanly possible. This will be my forth trip to Youthquake, and I have seen the positive, spiritual growth. I have seen the relationships grow, amongst themselves and new Christian friends met there. Personally, I feel teens need a limitless supply of love and effort injected into their lives. I feel these guys are worth it.

As I had mentioned, this is a very expensive trip. With 13 people going at a cost of \$180 each for Youthquake and the van rental costs, that's an astounding \$2340 to fund this trip. ***I am extending an invitation to those of our Parish to help support our Youthgroup. We would truly feel blessed if anyone was to donate any amount toward this trip.*** I know that we are constantly approached for donations to this or that, and it grows difficult to give to everyone. But I am asking you to support our Parish Youthgroup. Any donations you feel in your heart to extend our way would truly be appreciated by us.

Please see me (Dave Frazier) if you have any questions, concerns, or if you would like to know more about Youthquake. **Any donations can be given to myself, or placed in the collection basket, or sent to the church. Please make sure to mark the donations for Youthquake, or Senior Youthgroup.**

Thank you for any consideration...

Dave Frazier