



*All Saints'*



*Episcopal Church*

*Chelmsford, MA*

## 2008 Annual Report

January 25, 2009

**ALL SAINTS' PARISH ANNUAL MEETING  
January 25, 2009**

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**AGENDA**

**What did we bring?**

**What did we receive?**

**How has God been present in the life of our Parish?**

Gathering and Signing in

Lunch

Opening prayer

Accept minutes from 2008 Annual Meeting

Presentations by Joyce Youngberg and Rohini Pola

Discussion on life at All Saints' Church this past year

Please break in to groups of two or three. Each person is invited to share with the others one experience you had at All Saints' this past year. Discuss what you brought to the experience, what you received and how God was present.

Questions on Annual Reports

Treasurer's Report

Election

Recognitions

Closing prayers

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 27, 2008**

Rev. E. Tom Barrington Presiding

Lunch was served first, courtesy of Carl Clark, Laura Marshall, Amy Hunter and Maggie Marshall. Many thanks to the four of you!

The 2008 Annual Meeting was called to order with a prayer at 12:20 pm in the Parish Hall by Rev. E. Tom Barrington.

**38 Total Attendees**

**1<sup>st</sup> Order of business**

- Review/Acceptance of minutes from 2007 Annual meeting (Clerk, Meredith McElroy)  
Derick Gates: moved; Lois Freeman, second; Unanimously accepted.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Order of business**

- Youth Group  
Video presentation: Nicole Sullivan  
This was a very upbeat view of the Youth Group, past, present and future.

- Fiona Vidal-White then spoke about the process and experience of rebuilding the youth group starting in the fall of October, 2007.

A Youth Ministry task force consisting of youth, adults and parents was formed and the first meeting was held in December 2007.

Based on parental inputs, it was noted that parents of youth are not necessarily the best Youth Ministry leaders.

The group is still looking for leaders of the Youth Ministry from the Parish.

- Fiona and members of the Youth Group then led an exercise on support of Youth Ministry. We brainstormed in groups of 2 or 3 to come up with five ways the overall ASC Parish might help/assist the Youth Ministry success (other than actually leading/running the Youth Ministry/Youth Group). Here is a sampling of the ideas identified:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1) Find more youth               | 8) Invite high school youth to help with lower grades  |
| 2) Find more leaders             | 9) Adults to help youth group                          |
| 3) Add outside church activities | 10) Have intergenerational activities                  |
| 4) Meet with other groups        | 11) Add organized youth attendance at community events |
| 5) Remind youth to attend        | 12) Add kid-friendly service music                     |
| 6) Supply food                   | 13) Offer more youth-led services                      |
| 7) Drive to events               | 14) Embrace talent sharing                             |

- Recognition of Youth Vestry membership:  
Becky Ricard for 2007 and Diane Coles for 2008

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Order of business** **2007 Parish Annual Report**

Sincere thanks to Brian and Amy Hunter, Darlene Gossement for the work in assembling and producing this year's report, and to Harry Taplin for the photos.

Rather than reviewing each individual report in detail during the meeting, it was decided that Parish members should review the reports, and the Vestry would review the reports at the next Vestry meeting in February.

Other additional notes:

- 1) The Greeters report was submitted on time by Katie LaRochelle, but was left out of the report.
- 2) Steve Grillo reports that the Stewardship Committee needs new leadership. Steve will continue to be a member of this group but not as the leader for 2008. Many thanks to Steve for the several years he has headed up this group and brought great energy to the group's efforts and positive results.
- 3) Dave Kuzara reports there are plans in the works with Central Congregational Church for a middle school youth invitation in August 2008 to Lubeck, Maine – more details to come.
- 4) Denise Sullivan identified that the Youth Group report is also missing.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Order of business** **Treasurer's Annual Report - Melanie Hickcox**

Melanie stressed the following highlights for 2007:

- Pledges are exceeding expectations
- Outreach \$ expenditures increased
- In 2007, overall, we ran a deficit of \$2,754, mainly utilities and office expenses.
- Pensions are added in the 2008 budget for Maggie Marshall and Bob Wilson
- Financial audits are caught up
- For the Youth Missioner we obtained a \$10,000 grant from the Diocese of Massachusetts
- We spent \$2,640 of this grant in 2007
- We have reduced the Special Project (fundraising) budget to \$8000 for 2008

- The Balance Sheet really still needs assistance from someone with accounting expertise
- Matt Hickcox asked a clarifying question regarding the plate to pledge receipts
- Steve Grillo pointed out significant progress for Outreach expenditures
- Lynne Grillo asked that the Parish recognize Melanie's significant effort and many, many hours spent on the financial accounting, including her hard work and focus – loud applause from the meeting body in support of Melanie.
- Matt Hickcox added that in addition to between \$6,000 and \$7,000 prior to the Parish Hall renewal, \$20,000 more was received and posted to the Parish Hall project, covering significant mortgage cost.
- Edith Parekh is picking up the Rental Coordinator position for 2008 but will need volunteers to assist in showing the facility to prospective renters.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Order of business**

Vestry Membership for 2008:

#### **Officers:**

Lois Freeman – Sr. Warden  
David Cahill – Jr. Warden  
Melanie Hickcox – Treasurer  
Scott Bempkins – Clerk

Carl Clark – 3 year Vestry position  
Nominated by Lois Freeman; Seconded by Maggie Marshall

#### **Continuing Vestry Members:**

Edith Parekh  
Harry Taplin  
Tom Decker  
Liz Landers  
Derick Gates  
Deb Dutton – 1 year position.

Carl Clark (new to Vestry)  
Diane Coles (new to Vestry)  
Scott Bempkins (new Clerk)

#### **Motion to accept full Slate of 2008 Vestry Members:**

Clem Cole so moved; seconded by Harry Taplin. Unanimously accepted

Tom Barrington recognized the current and outgoing Vestry members for 2007:  
Beth Anne Economou – 3 year position  
Kevin Meyers – Clerk  
Becky Ricard – Youth Vestry member

Thanks to Harry Taplin for the photo gifts for the outgoing Vestry members.

Motion to adjourn the annual meeting by Clem Cole; second by Beth Lucas.  
Unanimously approved.

Meeting closed with a prayer by Rev. E. Tom Barrington at approximately 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Bempkins, Incoming Clerk of the Vestry  
(substituting for Kevin Meyers, outgoing Clerk who did not attend the meeting)

### RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

One of the highlights for me this past year was the All Saints' Day service we had on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> with Bishop Harris. As long as I have been here I have wanted to have a big celebration on our Feast Day. What I have learned, sometimes the hard way, is that if we want to have a service or event that runs deep in the life of the parish and is transformational, it requires a core of people to put it on. It is not enough for me or for me and Maggie or Amy to say, "This will be great, just come."

When we have services or events that energize our community, it is because we have been able to build a coalition of folks who are involved in the planning and preparations, who are using their creativity and insights. More often than not these events result with people leaving energized and knowing that they have encountered the living God.

I realize that this might sound so obvious that it is trite for me to mention it. Even so, this past year, especially this past fall and winter we have experienced a number of services and events that were transformational for this congregation. What I find especially notable is that they happened one after another, without the laments of burnout and exhaustion because only a handful of people put them all on.

The All Saints' Day service involved the Worship Committee beginning to think about it over a year ahead of time. Then, Maggie Marshall and Melissa Flewelling went to a workshop at St. John's Church, Gloucester to learn about making All Saints' Day shrines. Some members here then worked with Maggie and Melissa to create shrines. Many people brought in pictures of saints in their lives. The choirs prepared special music. On November 1, about a hundred people came to the potluck dinner and about 170 people to the service. It was a wonderful night.

Just three weeks later the Church School sponsored the Indian Dinner. Thanks to Rohini Pola with help from Edith Parekh and many others, there was great food, dancing, music, and a fashion show. Those gathered had lots of fun.

A short two weeks after this was the Gingerbread Village. A whole different group had been working to build the life-sized gingerbread house. I first heard the idea of building it from Laura Marshall. Then Joyce Youngberg brought in her incredible artistic and teaching talents to decorate it, and Dave Kuzara and a bunch of others built the frame and walls. I would stop by the church some nights and find a whole crew of adults, teens and children painting away. I truly knew something exceptional was happening when I was helping out the Sunday before the Gingerbread event and I introduced myself to a woman and her children who were affixing gingerbread bricks to the house. She identified herself as a member of Temple Shalom. Here she was, on a Sunday afternoon, at our church, working on the Gingerbread House.

If all of this positive energy was not enough, the stream of delighted people who came through our parish hall that weekend was breathtaking. Asking \$5 per family at the door, we raised \$2000. Yes, some gave more but even so, that is a lot of visitors. We raised money for Habitat for Humanity, we offered hospitality to many outside of our congregation, and we brought joy to virtually all who participated. Afterward, I heard words of excitement, I saw relationships within the congregation build, and I felt an enthusiasm grow for being a part of this Church.

A week after this event, we had a great Lessons and Carols Service, in spite of the snow. Then, record numbers came to the Christmas Eve services. On January 6<sup>th</sup> we had a beautiful and moving Epiphany service in the Chapel. On top of all this, we have ended the year exceeding our budget in pledge income and have a wonderful group for vestry, some continuing and some just coming on. Thanks be to God.

These successes have not happened by random chance. Behind these achievements have been the vestry, staff and parishioners diligently engaging in what it means to be leaders of a congregation. We have been challenging ourselves to be engaged in mission and to pay attention to those around us.

In the fall, under the guidance of Amy Hunter, the vestry participated in what is called Mutual Ministry Review. It involved looking at how things are going and how the vestry and the parish can move into the future. In the summery of the MMR Amy challenged the Vestry to look to a spiritual response to the challenges facing us rather than technical fixes. She asked us what actions we could take to lead and support this parish as a place where people come to experience God and to open their lives to being transformed by God.

The special programs and services we prepared, offered and experienced this past fall are a partial answer to that call. We have seen what we can do and how God can work through us.

As we enter into 2009, we do face some challenges. On the financial side we can be proud that we ended 2008 in the black and that our projected pledge income is up about 3%. However, other income is down and our expenses continue to go up. The vestry passed a balanced budget for 2009 but to do so we have had to freeze salaries and significantly cut money for programs like Christian Formation. We have committed ourselves to a major fund raiser in the fall, specifically organizing an auction for early November. Having this fundraiser succeed will require forming a committee this winter and drawing from a wide cross-section of the parish.

We have an extremely dedicated staff that works very hard, but sometimes they are pushed well beyond what we pay for. Our average Sunday attendance has gone down about 8% compared to 2007, even as our giving has gone up. The upkeep of our wonderful building continues to challenge us. The busyness of our lives and the economic uncertainties threaten to overwhelm us. These are indeed challenging times.

These are also times of great possibilities. In today's gospel we hear Jesus proclaim, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John hear the call and leave everything to follow Jesus. We here at All Saints' have heard that call and have been responding through worship, formation, pastoral care and mission. We can also hear it anew, stirring us in new ways.

The author Anthony Robinson writes that we have entered a new age in which the Church and the words of Jesus Christ can no longer be assumed to be the arbitrators of culture and society. Being a follower of Jesus, especially as a member of an established Protestant denomination like the Episcopal Church, has become a counter-cultural activity. This puts some demands on us. We need to know and understand our own beliefs. This does not mean clinging to dogmas for the sake of the past. Rather, we are asked to explore how we can take into ourselves the knowledge that the power of God's love, shown to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, has something to say about our individual struggles and the struggles of the world.

So what are we here at All Saints' doing about it? First and foremost, we gather to worship. We also engage in formation and participate in mission. In doing these things we try to bring our best, energizing our selves and others. This is a parish with incredibly talented and dedicated members. As we have seen this past fall and winter, as well as other times, there are amazing ways we can do our work. We have the talents to proclaim and live the Good News in dynamic and vital ways. To do so, it requires that many of us take a part and that none of us try to do it all.

My prayer is that in 2009 we may continue to gather to plan and implement the activities and services of this congregation. In doing so, may new relationships develop and new ideas come forth. Whether we are planning the St. Patrick's Day Dinner, the Lenten Series on Paul, services for the Holy Week, or youth mission trips, may we as individuals find others to share our excitement and insights. Then, I pray, as groups lay this ground work, may we as a community respond and engage. In doing so, we will be opened by the Holy Spirit to experience the living God and be transformed into the likeness of Christ.

Amen.

The Rev. E. Tom Barrington, Jr.

## **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

It was my honor and pleasure to serve as the Senior Warden this year. We had a wonderful Vestry this year, and everyone worked well together. We decided to start our meetings early with dinner. We took turns providing a simple meal, and had some time for socializing before the work of the Vestry began. We had the opportunity to invite different groups to explain their ministries and express their needs to the Vestry. This included the lower church school, the Thrift Shop, the lay associate, and other groups. This helped the Vestry to more fully understand the ministries and needs of the parish. We were fortunate to again have a youth member, Diane Coles.

This year we had both successes and challenges. The yard and plant sale were successful as new members joined with old in fellowship and work. The Gingerbread Village was again successful, inspired by Laura Marshall and many others. There were challenges in filling vacancies as the Vestry was 1 member short the entire year and another member dropped out in the fall. Tom and Amy's group on Transforming Church Culture explored reasons for this. Endowment, Stewardship, and Buildings and Grounds were without leadership as the year began. However, All Saints' again came together to keep the church going and we ended up having a successful, although truncated, stewardship program. A big thanks to Steve Grillo for his leadership and vision, not to mention his photographic and technical skills in creating a new "Body of Christ" portrait. A new Buildings and Grounds committee was formed under the direction of Deb Dutton. Although pledging increased, financial challenges were increased due to the lack of endowment money caused by the worldwide financial downturn, not to mention emergency repairs necessitated by floods, termites, etc. We continue to be blessed by the leadership of Tom and Amy, who along with Darlene and Bob keep All Saints' strong. Our music program is unequalled, thanks to the leadership of Maggie. We are blessed to have a strong church school program with many dedicated teachers. We were fortunate to again have a diocesan grant to support the youth program.

I look forward to another year of working with the wonderful and talented people who are members of All Saints' Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois S. Freeman,  
Senior Warden

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

First off, I would like to say it has been a pleasure to serve as Junior Warden this past year. Over the past three years, two on the Vestry and one as Junior Warden I have come to feel that I am a part of something very special. The All Saints' Community is something special. Prior to my serving, I was a stay in the background type of person. Now after serving on both the Vestry and being Junior Warden, and meeting the wonderful members of this parish, I feel blessed to be a part of it.

As part of the Junior Warden's duties, I was responsible for setting up the counter schedule. For those of you who don't know, the counters are a group of dedicated parishioners who stay after the service and count the collection money and record it. They then make sure it gets to the bank for deposit and close the Church. This is a great way for someone to start to get involved in the Church that does not require lot of time. And, we can always use some new people to help. So if you are interested, please ask one of the counters.

The Vestry has worked very hard this year. The meetings have been well attended and the more serious items have been discussed in an open and non confrontational manner. I do feel, however, that the next couple of years are going to hold some trying times for this parish. But I feel confident that the Vestry will meet these challenges.

Finally, fundraising and fellowship events have been plentiful this past year. From the yard sale and 4<sup>th</sup> of July to the Indian Dinner and the Gingerbread Village, there has been a lot of energy and commitment from members of the parish to see these events through. I can only hope that this will continue.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David M. Cahill  
Junior Warden

### **FINANCE COMMISSION**

The **Finance Committee** advises the Vestry and Treasurer on financial matters, with the goal of helping the parish to use its financial resources wisely. This breaks down into a number of tasks, including coordination of the annual financial audit, insurance reviews, and the production of a draft operating budget that becomes the basis for the final budget approved by the Vestry and presented at the Annual Meeting. The committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM, usually in the church office.

In the spring, the committee reviewed the parish's property, liability and officers' insurance with our carrier, Church Insurance. The parish's property insurance covers all of our buildings and their contents at replacement cost, including all of our artwork and the organ. In addition, the officers of the parish and all volunteers are protected against claims arising from their work with the parish. The committee was satisfied with our coverage and recommended to the Vestry that it be continued with a slight upward adjustment in some of our liability coverage, which has been approved and implemented.

In September a group of volunteers that included Mike and Barbara Brodeur, Brian Hunter, Liz Landers, and Connie Pawelczak performed an audit of the 2007 parish operating books, as required by canon law and according to procedures defined by the diocese and national church. The audit, which has been submitted to the diocese, found the books in good order and with everything accounted for. The committee extends its thanks to the volunteers for their effort.

In the fall, the committee prepared the draft 2009 budget for the Vestry's review and completion. This budget has been a challenge to put together. The parish's expenses for 2009 are expected to rise modestly but our overall income is expected to be essentially unchanged from 2008. Income from Pledges has risen from 2008 but this is offset by an expected decline in Rental Receipts and by the expectation that there will be no income from the Endowment Fund due to poor economic conditions. This latter piece is especially unfortunate as income from the Endowment Fund is used to fund projects undertaken by the Buildings and Grounds Committee, which has identified a number of projects that need to be taken up immediately. The committee and Vestry worked together to trim some expenses and to identify new sources of income. (Please see the Treasurer's Report for more details.)

During 2008 the committee welcomed two new members, Dave Cahill and Omar Hernandez. Looking forward, 2009 sees the committee in need of new membership as two current members step down. Mike Brodeur, the current chair, and Bob Grimes have both decided to leave the committee.

Respectfully submitted by the Finance Committee:  
Mike Brodeur, Dave Cahill, Clem Cole, Kevin Davis, Bob Grimes, Omar Hernandez, Melanie Hickcox (Treasurer)

### **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

2008 saw the formation of a much needed **B&G Committee** and I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the committee members, Bob Andrews, Scott Bempkins, Norm Douglas, Steve Grillo, and Chris Mills for the donation of all their time, talent and efforts. During the year, B&G occupied themselves with various repairs and upkeep. Stone work, HVAC, lighting, electrical and grounds work are all a part of maintaining the physical and structural parts of All Saints' Church. In addition to the general maintenance and upkeep, some larger repairs and projects were completed. A critical window sill repair was done to the

Prodigal Son Chapel window, the Memorial Cross Garden was completed and I would like to send a special thanks to Jr. Warden Dave Cahill for all his help with that project. A flood presented itself in the Thrift Shop, a broken stained glass window was repaired in the chapel, and new casement windows were installed in the meeting room as a result of a very generous donation from Lois Freeman.

As 2008 has come to pass, I know that 2009 will bring with it its own share of maintenance, repairs and projects. We are hoping in the spring time to upgrade the condition of the front lawn and perhaps more of the grounds. There are a number of structural projects and building repairs that we need to address. We would like to see the Parish Hall Acoustics Project move forward. And, there are many other various projects of all sizes. Please know that we can always use more hands as we work to maintain and improve our church. Please watch for notices in the bulletin, participate during cleanup days and special projects, or consider joining the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Dutton

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION CO-OPERATIVE

Annual Report from **The Children's Christian Formation Co-Operative** (formerly known as the Church School): **We ask for your curiosity!**

Too often in community, we compartmentalize our commitments. "I work in the church school and I don't have time to be involved in Pastoral Care." It doesn't mean that you don't value the work of others- it can simply be that you only have so much time and energy to commit. But we are challenging ourselves and you all to be *curious* about the work of each other - if you don't know what is going on in the church school, find out. You can use the website, you could ask any of the teachers, or you could get to know a family and then ask the kids what they did this week. Often our classes will display their artwork- that can be a great opportunity to engage with the children of our church. To be curious is to care. It can take very little time but in its very act it is a statement of connection.

Here are some simple facts about the church school. Two years ago we responded to the challenge of recruiting a new director by rethinking the role and the burdens it can place on one or two people. We created **The Children's Christian Formation Co-Operative**. The CCF Coop at All Saints' is an open board of parishioners who participate in the planning and implementation of programming to support our children in faith. The CCF Coop provides programming for children grades pre-school to 6<sup>th</sup> grade on Sunday mornings starting at 9:30am and ending at the Peace – when we join the service of worship. We are an all volunteer staff that meets regularly. We believe deeply in the work we do sharing our faith with the children of All Saints'. The Christian Formation of our children is directly connected to our Baptismal Vows when we promise to support each other in our faith. Please consider how God might be calling you to support the Christian Formation of our children. Not everyone is called to teach or work in the program, but we invite all who wonder if they are called to contact us- we encourage your interest at any time in the program year.

Please see a listing of our programs at the All Saints' website: [www.allsaintschelmsford.org](http://www.allsaintschelmsford.org)

As our program year is only half way through, our report is necessarily incomplete. We submit a full report at the end of each program year. We would like to thank the Thrift Shop and Rev. Tom for their support of training of the teachers in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom. We would like to thank Trisha Blanchett for her leadership in the pageant. We would like to thank Rohini Pola for a wonderful Indian Dinner and fundraiser. We would like to thank all of the parents and volunteers who have made this program possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Marshall, CCF Coop Board Member

### ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND EDUCATION

This year I am grateful to Tom for introducing me to Anthony Robinson, a Seattle-area pastor who does congregational development work. This past autumn, Tom led a book discussion of Robinson's Transforming Congregations. I also heard Tony Robinson speak at a diocesan clergy day and I am presently reading a commentary on the Book of the Acts of the Apostles which Robinson co-authored. My gratitude in discovering this author and speaker and his words is his conviction that while these are hard times to be the church in this world and this culture, these are also wonderful times to be the church—because God is calling us to change and renewal and because the world and our culture are deeply in need of the message of hope in Christ Jesus which we are called to live and share. Here is a quote from Called to be Church: The Book of Acts for a New Day that I find both challenging and energizing:

*Congregations, like all other forms of human gathering and community, tend to lose sight of their core purpose, even if they honor it rhetorically. The core purpose of the church is to be a community that sustains continuous change and transformation as we grow in the likeness of Christ and image of God.*

Adult Formation has been steady and strong this past year, both in the continuing offerings such as Sunday morning Bible study and monthly *Prayer as First Resort* and in programs like last winter's *Connect?* or Tom's book study this autumn or Elphas Wambani leading classes about spirituality in community. When we think of "Adult Formation" we tend to think of our educational programs and offerings. This past year Tom's book study and the Vestry's work around Mutual Ministry Review helped me articulate for myself in a new way that formation is much more than education.

Looking at Christian formation as bigger than education, I find several things to be of note in the past year. First, I commend the Vestry for continued intentional work around what it means to be spiritual leaders. Part of that work has been for the Vestry to be community—by sharing a meal before their meetings and by inviting parish groups or representatives of groups to come and share how they are joining in God's mission. Such steps may seem small or even impractical, but I think they are an important piece of living into our core purpose of being community.

Last summer, Liz Landers, Carl Clark, Lois Freeman and I talked with all sorts of stakeholders in the Meeting Room—our Lower Church School, the Four Seasons Preschool, the Quilters, staff members—which led to the repainting and refurbishing of that space, as well as helping the groups sharing that space to communicate better with one another. Again, a seemingly small thing, but one very tied to how we are community and how we extend hospitality to others.

Finally, I have especially valued the role worship has played in formation this year. The Vestry has sought to be more intentional in its shared prayer life. The parish celebrated its feast day on All Saints with a wonderful service that drew together icons, music and even a bishop! Tom used worship to deepen his book study, and parishioners came for small, intimate services for The Longest Night (addressing grief during the holidays through prayer and worship) and for the feast of the Epiphany. We are shaped as Christians and Episcopalians and parishioners not only by, and not even primarily by, our education, but by our worship together and as we are community with one another. I am encouraged by both the efforts All Saints' has made in worship and community and the results of those efforts.

My goal for the coming year is to continue to offer the programs that are working, to partner with Tom and with parishioners to offer events and programs which educate and equip parishioners for mission and ministry, and to be a gadfly here about the importance of naming and pursuing our core purpose.

I close with the question I offered to the Vestry in October as we reflected upon the findings of the Mutual Ministry Review:

From Anthony Robinson's presentation to the clergy of this diocese: "A key challenge facing congregations and leadership today is the need to restore spirituality to religion and to church, that is,

focusing on relationship with a living God, sharing the God message, and speaking ‘less about us, more about God’ or ‘less anthropology and more theology.’

*What if our diminishing numbers, our busy schedules, our individualism and our lack of sense of purpose and vision call for a spiritual response rather than a technical fix? What might the focus of this parish and its leadership (both clergy and laypeople) be in the next year if our purpose is to be a place where people come to experience God and to know Jesus Christ and to open their lives to being transformed by God? What actions would we take? What would our priorities be?*

in the peace of Jesus Christ,  
Amy Hunter  
Associate for Adult Christian Formation and Education

### **YOUTH MINISTRY TASK FORCE**

ASC-Y (or All Saints Church Youth – aka “youth group”) has two classes running this year. There is the Jr. ASC-Y class for those in grades 7-8 and the Sr. ASC-Y for those in high school, or grades 9 – 12.

While we are still trying to figure out which curriculum works best with our youth, we have been meeting most Sundays from just after receiving communion until 12 noon. While it has been a bit challenging since we have to deal with sports schedules and some of the teens working, we are at least there to hold a class for those that show up.

A few of the things we have done this fall are: sponsored a spaghetti supper to help raise funds to go to NYC (along with the Jr. ASC-Y class); a trip to New York City to visit the Cathedral of St. Paul the Divine; for Thanksgiving, the youth each donated a non-perishable food item and cash, so that we were able to provide the Chelmsford Food Pantry with a “Meal in a Basket” – enough food to provide a family with a complete dinner, from a gift certificate for a turkey, many vegetables, stuffing, juice, and dessert; and we purchased a box through the Salvation Army which supplies many of the same things we put into the basket, to help people in need.

On February 15, Adrienne Spear and Denise Sullivan plan on leading a fun trip for the senior class into Boston to Emerson College to experience an event called “X-Dance” (you can find info on this by visiting [emersonstage.com](http://emersonstage.com)).

Also, on February 24th, with the help of the Junior Class, we plan to host the (previously) annual SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER! Please keep your eyes open for further details on this event as they become available – tickets will be sold in advance.

*Adrienne Spear, Denise Sullivan, Brian Hunter*

### **DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

In 2008, a discernment committee was appointed by Rev. Tom Barrington, with the Vestry’s consent, to work with our parishioner Christen Mills to explore her potential call to ordained ministry. Our committee members are Margie Lane, Linda Barrington, Lynne McSheehy (scribe), Derick Gates and Lynne Grillo (chair). With Christen, the committee has met together using a very structured exploration plan and specific well-guided directions received at the Diocesan Discernment Day in February, 2008.

We continue to work and expect that in the spring of 2009, Christen and the committee will discern if Christen is being called forth in the process. If so, a recommendation would be made to the Vestry with the intention that they formally nominate her to the Bishop for admission to postulancy for Holy Orders. If accepted, Christen would continue the process with entering Seminary in the fall of 2010. (If Christen and committee conclude that there is not a call to ordination, the committee will close its work and inform the Vestry.)

It is the custom in our Episcopal tradition, that priests are raised up from the individual parishes and brought forward to the Bishop. We at All Saints' are blessed to have someone in the process of considering this call. We ask the whole congregation to join in prayer and support as Christen and the committee move ahead praying, working, clarifying and most of all listening to God in this very sacred process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynne Miner Grillo

### WORSHIP COMMISSION

2008 was a year, I feel, of revitalization for the Worship Commission. This group is responsible not only for the content of our Sunday worship services, but also for planning and creating any other special worship opportunities throughout the year.

Our meeting format has changed to include dinner and fellowship before we begin our planning session, and this has worked well. Our next meeting is February 2 at 6p.m. and we are always open to new members.

Leap Day gave us the opportunity to celebrate the "first" anniversary of former Minister of Music, Wayne Ashford's death (2/29/04). This special evening began with a service of choral evensong with my colleague, Mark Engelhardt, assisting as organist. After this service, we had a concert in celebration of Wayne's life.

We were on cruise control for the spring and summer, and then had a wonderful Creation Sunday on October 5 when we celebrated the many years of service that Liz Marshall has given to All Saints', including positions as Choir Director, Senior Warden, Search Committee member, Handbell Director, and Environmental Stewardship member.

**Our Creation Sunday 2009 will be another Blessing of the Animals service, and we are looking for volunteers to coordinate this event.** We have the liturgy developed in 2007 by Shelley Kesselman, but need people to review the liturgy, and also deal with the logistics of this very special day which will be celebrated on October 4.

We held a successful "Wake the Dead" workshop in October and many people enjoyed the opportunity to make a shrine in memory of a loved one. Many thanks to Melissa Flewelling for her work on this project!

On the first Sunday of Advent, we made a change that was probably transparent to most of you by switching to the *Revised Common Lectionary* as our schedule for each week's Scripture readings. We had been using the lectionary provided at the back of *The Book of Common Prayer*, but made this move to bring us in line with the rest of the Episcopal Church. For more information, you can either speak to Tom or take one of the trifolds at the back of the church entitled *In the Beginning was the Word*.

For me, the two personal worship highlights of the year were Bishop Gayle Harris's All Saints' Day visit to us and the Christmas pageant. The All Saints' Day service was an uplifting celebration of our life as a parish family, and a very fitting observance of our *name day*. The pageant, an exuberant exercise in controlled chaos, had a huge number of shepherds, angels, and animals of all ages, and it was wonderful to see the whole sanctuary filled with children.

If you have any questions about this commission, please speak to either Tom or me. We'd love to have you join us!

In Christ,  
Maggie Marshall

### ACOLYTE REPORT

#### *Goals:*

Provide support to the celebrants during different services throughout the year, and help to lead the congregation during those services. As we have before, we serve the parish on Sundays at the 8 and 10 AM services. We also serve as well at other events such as the recent service of *Lessons and Carols*, and all of the Christmas and Holy Week services.

#### *Activities:*

I am pleased to report we are 29 Acolytes strong so we continue to have a solid participation by our young people in all grades that are able to be part. The Thrift Shop continues to support and to reward our three-year Acolytes with a silver cross. We also give our first year Acolytes a wooden cross, although this year I must make a special request. Our multi-year cache of wooden crosses is almost gone; thus anyone that has a small jig or band saw and would be willing to make a number of them again for us – please see me (It takes about 1-2 minutes per cross after set up time).

#### *Dreams, Desires and Thoughts toward Next Year:*

Once again I offer my yearly appeal for the help with our wardrobe. The cassocks and cottas are quite expensive. We continue to seek a “sewing pattern” for same, but have not yet found a suitable one. A special word of thanks to Laura Geary – who is an 8 o’clock person that mysteriously, seems to help clean, mend, and iron what we do have.

While we had originally planned to do the Acolyte Festival in October, the Acolytes chose to go to NYC with the Youth Group (*i.e.* Tom and I felt that one road trip for the year seemed enough). I would consider a return to the Washington DC area in October 2009 for the National Festival if we can find funding and the kids once again ask again if we can make the trip.

#### *Thank You:*

As a final note, I would like to continue to thank all of the Acolytes and their families for their commitment in giving us their time and talents, since their service to us all so greatly enhances our parish life. As always, if you or someone you know is interested in joining us, please speak to Tom or me.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clement T. Cole  
Acolyte Master

### ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL REPORT

Once again, the Altar Guild has had a busy year. Our membership now consists of seven solid teams of two or three people each, who rotate two weeks at a time, to set up the altar space for all of the various worship services. For our biggest services, at Easter and Christmas, we work together as a group to prepare the altar. This is a peaceful and rewarding way to contribute to the All Saints community and each team covers approximately two weekends per quarter; I think I speak for all of our members when I say we enjoy this opportunity tremendously. If anyone is interested in learning more about what we do to provide this service and support to the All Saints community, I urge them to speak to any one of our members.

While trying to keep this report brief, I would still like to personally thank all those who have helped to maintain our worship spaces and perform this ministry: Chris Baron, Dora Carr, Joan Clement, Esther Davenport, Aline Davis, Carol Douglas, Nancy Firth, Melanie Hickcox, Marilyn Livingston, Jean Rainville, Adrienne Spear, Peggy Vogler, Sally Warren and Barbara Willman. In addition I would like to also thank our two communion bread bakers, Clem Cole and Amy Hunter.

For those who are seeking a way to serve the community in a quiet way, or for those who would like to help provide communion bread (usually once per quarter) by being part of our bread-baking team, please

let me or one of the other altar guild members know. In the meantime, I thank everyone mentioned above for another wonderful year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Landers

### MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT

I am proud to say that this is my 24<sup>th</sup> annual report as your Minister of Music! I have served under three rectors, several interims, and seen the church go through some very hard times. I am happy to be enjoying a period of relative stability, and receive a lot of support and encouragement from Tom, Amy, and Darlene. One of this year's biggest changes was the retirement of Liz Marshall as the long term volunteer handbell choir director. Liz spent many years nurturing and growing this choir, and we are very grateful to her! I am fortunate that Ellen Jewart, a musician with many years of experience, was willing and able to step into these shoes as our new handbell director. Ellen has many long-term members as well as some new faces in the bell choir, but could use several additional members to fill out the choir, which meets Thursdays from 6:30-7:30p.m.

Our youngest choir, the Children's Choir, welcomed three new members in the fall, and is the biggest it has ever been, as well as the most seasoned. As a result, we are branching into two part music and even singing in different languages. Their enthusiasm and openness to music of any kind is a delight.

The Junior Choir, a very seasoned group of treble voices, is preparing to say good-bye, very reluctantly, to Julia Teele and Diane Coles, our first two to graduate out of this choir. So far, they are ignoring my requests to go to a very local college and continue to live at home. ☺ This past year, we again joined ranks with Christ Church, Andover, to sing at each of our churches. In 2009, we will team with Christ Church for the third time as well as Grace Church, Salem, for a service of choral evensong.

The Senior Choir is the musical backbone of worship at All Saints'. I have not done the math recently, but I can say with assurance that the number of years of combined service to this choir is well over 200! Perhaps we should rename ourselves the *Methuselah Choir*.

We are in the process of growing our Brass Choir, which made its debut for our All Saints' Day celebration. Our thanks to Scott Bempkins, Leah Cole, Mark Fosberry, and Steve Grillo for their special music on that very special occasion. If there are other brass players out there who would like to join this group, please let me know. The next time this group will play will be on Easter, April 12.

I continue to be active in the Merrimack Valley chapter of the American Guild of Organists as well as the Association of Anglican Musicians, and enjoyed my annual conference of the latter group which met this year in Houston. I get both collegial support as well as many good ideas from my involvement in these organizations.

All Saints' had great representation, once again, at the Choir Camp held at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center. I was again on the volunteer staff for the week, and had Leah Cole, Matt Cole, Lily Marshall, Emma Seyffert, Chantelle Somers, Abby Warren, and Emily Warren with me, and they did All Saints' proud!

The music program benefits greatly from the volunteer services of Leah Cole, Ellen Jewart, and Connie Pawelczak. I could not do my job without them, and hope that you appreciate them as much as I do! As always, all of the choirs welcome new members, so please let any one of us know if you have questions or an interest.

In Christ,  
Maggie Marshall, Minister of Music

### MISSION/OUTREACH TEAM

#### All Saints Mission Prayer

*Lord, Help All Saints' Church to do your will in the wider world around us. Strengthen us in your efforts to help those who are poor or vulnerable and to remember that "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for Me." We ask that you give the parish the wisdom and courage to help the parish discern, define and act upon our mission to be Christ's representatives to all nations. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen*

#### Mission/Outreach Events in 2008

The Mission/Outreach Team is charged with helping parishioners, both individually and collectively, to do God's work in the world around us. In 2008 we continued our efforts to celebrate one Outreach program each month through articles in Saints Alive and by recognizing programs and volunteers in the worship service. Some examples of programs that were celebrated in this way are: the Nyahela Parish Partnership, the St. Paul's Feeding Program, the West Virginia Workcamp and Mustard Seed Ministries.

We continued to focus our efforts in three main areas: Environment, International, and Housing. In addition to the programs sponsored directly by the Mission/Outreach Team, there were a large number of ongoing Outreach programs that are run by their own dedicated teams of volunteers with little involvement from the Mission/Outreach Team. Many of these programs are described elsewhere in this annual report. These programs are included here to try to give a full accounting of all Outreach activities going on in the parish.

#### Environment

- ◆ We worked with the Worship Commission to sponsor a Creation Sunday liturgy on Oct. 5. We also distributed a packet that included practical tips on reducing energy use and living in a more environmentally friendly way. The packet included a summary of the environmental positions and policies of both presidential candidates.
- ◆ Participated in the national 350 Rings Campaign – a call to action to address global warming by ringing our church bell 350 time on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Through Bob Andrews participated in the Diocesan Energy Summit: *Savings, Sustainability and Spirituality*, a summit on church-based efforts to manage energy and environmental issues.

#### International

- ◆ We sent members to attend the Congregational Resource Day/Global Mission Day event sponsored by the diocese at Bentley College in Sept. This was a great chance to connect with other parishes that have sponsored global mission trips and to learn from their experience.
- ◆ We continued our parish partnership with the Nyahela sub-parish in Kenya. Communications are ongoing and in January, 2009 a packet of letters and greetings was hand-delivered to Nyahela parish. This packet was carried by a college student from Chelmsford who was participating in the annual mission trip to Maseno for young adults sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.
- ◆ All Saints supported the Mothers Union Orphan Feeding Program for another year at one parish in Kenya.
- ◆ We supported the Mustard Seed Ministries with a financial contribution. This organization runs orphanages in many impoverished countries around the world.
- ◆ We donated money to the Chernobyl Children Project. This is an organization that brings children from Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine who have been affected by the Chernobyl disaster to the United States for medical care and respite.
- ◆ Through the Chelmsford/Lowell chapter of Refugee Immigration Ministries (RIM) we are helping to support a refugee from Sierra Leone.

#### Housing

- ◆ The church held its third annual Gingerbread Village whose proceeds benefit the Lowell chapter of Habitat for Humanity. The Outreach Team helped to construct a walk-through gingerbread witch's cottage to go with this year's "Hansel and Gretel" theme.

- ◆ We supported the Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership with a donation.
- ◆ We sent a group of high school youth and adults to the Cabbell-Lincoln Workcamp in Huntington, WV to help repair homes.
- ◆ Collected blankets as part of the Judy Keen Memorial Blanket the Valley Drive for the City of Lowell's Hunger/Homeless Awareness Week.
- ◆ Collected food for the Chelmsford food pantry.

### Other

- ◆ The parish collected Christmas presents for the children of prisoners through the Angel Tree Ministry.
- ◆ All Saints supplied meals to the needy in Lowell through the Eliot Church feeding program.
- ◆ The Penny Basket effort raised money to support the Eliot Church feeding program.
- ◆ The All Saints' Thrift shop donates much of their proceeds to parish and community outreach programs. In addition, it provides a valuable community service by offering extremely affordable quality clothing.
- ◆ The parish contributed money to Esperanza Academy, a no-tuition private school for girls in Lawrence.

### Plans for 2009

In 2009, the Mission/Outreach Team will continue the programs it has supported in the past and its efforts to help the parish at large focus on its mission to serve Christ in the wider world. One area of increased emphasis will be to work closely with the Nyahela Parish Partnership program. The Parish Partnership team hopes to send several individuals on a mission trip to Nyahela sub-parish in Kenya in late 2009. This will require broad support from the parish to make this a reality. A Mission Trip Committee will be forming shortly to plan this trip in detail. Please consider being a part of this effort when more details are announced.

### 2008 Expenditures

Organization or Project	Amount Spent	
	From Budget	From Donations
Creation Sunday Materials	\$ 64.77	
Mustard Seed Communities	\$ 500.00	
Merrimack Valley Housing Project	\$ 400.00	
Refugee Immigration Ministry	\$1020.87	
Chernobyl Children Project	\$ 500.00	
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell		\$2662.12
Support for churches in Kenya		\$5171.00
Esperanza Academy		\$ 410.00
Episcopal Relief and Development		\$ 770.00
<b>Total</b>	\$2485.64	\$9013.12

### Mission/Outreach Team

Dave Kuzara  
 Liz Marshall  
 David Shochat  
 Carl Clark  
 Laura Marshall

### REFUGEE IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (RIM)

The Chelmsford Cluster of the Refugee Immigration Ministry hosted two clients this past year: Mariatou from Sierra Leone and Rosine from Rwanda. Mariatou was granted assylee status in the Spring of 2008. She is currently living on her own and working. The Cluster has continued to support her financially and by helping her to better understand and live in our culture. Rosine was accepted as a client in the summer of 2008. She has been living with David and Doreen Rinas. David is the Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church

in Chelmsford. Rosine was been granted asylee status in early January, 2009. She is beginning the process of finding a job and her own place to live.

The Chelmsford Cluster of RIM consists of All Saints' Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church of Chelmsford, Christ Church United in Lowell, and we have recently been joined by the First Congregational Church of Billerica. All Saints' participation has included the Rev. Tom Barrington attending the monthly meetings of the Cluster, financial contributions from the outreach committee, hosting a concert by *Spirit Fiddle* in the Spring and visits by Rosine to All Saints'. We have also had individuals offer to help with job hunting and providing clothing and housing necessities to the RIM clients.

In 2009 we are planning a pot luck dinner on Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM as a celebration of Rosine achieving asylee status. As Rosine transitions to living on her own, I anticipate that RIM will be sponsoring new clients. If anyone would like more information about RIM, would like to serve on the RIM Committee, or if anyone would consider sponsoring an asylee seeker in their home, please speak to me.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Tom Barrington

### **ALL SAINTS' SOUP KITCHEN MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT**

All Saints' continues to support the Soup Kitchen at Eliot Church in Lowell. This ministry started at Saint Paul's Methodist Church and was moved to Eliot Church when Saint Paul's had to close its doors several years ago. We have four teams who take turns providing meals on the second Wednesday of each month. With the worsening economy this ministry has become more important than ever. When we started helping with this program, we were told that about 30 people needed to be fed, and now we are told to expect as many as 100.

We are supported financially by a twice a year donation of \$600 from the Thrift Shop and whatever money is collected from the Penny Basket in the narthex. When the Korean Church rented the Chapel, they generously donated \$50 each month, but now we have lost that significant donation. The financial donations are important to help with the cost of renting Eliot Church and for buying supplies needed for serving each meal. These include plates, flatware, paper cups, napkins etc. All Saints' contributes \$1000 each year to help with these costs.

If you have any interest in helping with this ministry by cooking or serving speak to Esther Davenport.

Respectfully submitted,  
Esther Davenport

### **GREETERS PROGRAM**

The Greeting Team's mission is to welcome parishioners, old and new, to All Saints' on Sunday mornings in the Narthex. Greeters have a *Guide to Your First Visit to All Saints'* pamphlet that they can give to first-time visitors. Whenever possible, greeters introduce themselves to new visitors, answering any questions they might have. Reconnecting with new visitors after the service is greatly encouraged.

I also create nametags for all parishioners to facilitate the learning of each others' names, which will hopefully create a greater feeling of family within the parish.

In the upcoming year, I hope that we can continue our important ministry and possibly even add some new greeters to our team as we did this year. I hope that greeters will provide newcomers with a connection to All Saints' that makes them want to come back to visit again. I would love to see every parishioner wearing his or her nametag every Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie LaRochelle  
Greeters Coordinator

### PARISH PARTNERSHIP

The partnership between All Saints' Church and Nyahela sub-parish of the Diocese of Maseno North Kenya was established in 2007 by a vote of the Vestry. The development of this partnership is in response to the Diocese of Massachusetts Jubilee Committee to help end world hunger and poverty. We have made a commitment of \$4000.00 for 5 years to the Mothers Union Orphans' Feeding Program which provides a hot meal each week to orphans of the parish. We are now entering our third year of this partnership and at the end of five years we will reevaluate the program and decide whether or not to continue the program. In addition to financial help, we are working at developing a deeper personal understanding with our Kenyan brothers and sisters in Christ. During the past year we have done the following to foster these goals.

- We raise the \$4000.00 for our commitment to the Orphans' Feeding Program
- Raise another \$1500.00 in response to a request from Nyahela for emergency funds.
- Our Church School children wrote letters and drew pictures of their lives to send to the children in Nyahela. These were delivered and the children of Nyahela sent pictures of their lives in response. Some of these drawing with translations are on display on the bulleting board in the area outside the church office.
- This January, we sent more letters from the church school, members of the parish and a poster of the Body of Christ to Maseno. These were hand delivered by college students on a mission trip to Maseno through the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.
- We have invited the rector of the Kenyan Church in Lawrence to speak to our Parish Partnership members.
- Elphas Wambani, a student from Kenya at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, has been giving classes in spiritual development after the Sunday service. There will be four of these classes and they have been rewarding and well attended. All members are encouraged to join us at the upcoming classes.

### ANGEL TREE SHINES BRIGHTLY

Imagine yourself unexpectedly caring for children whose mom or dad is in prison, a situation surrounded by shame, hurt and often financial difficulty. Over the years, All Saints' has been able to help many families in these circumstances through Angel Tree, a program that matches churches with families of incarcerated parents who have applied to participate through their prison chaplains. Parishioners purchase and deliver gifts to these families to support these caregivers, who are often grandparents, aunts, and uncles, and especially to renew or strengthen the bond between the child and the absent parent. We write to the prisoners to offer our prayers and to let them know how we have or have not been able to serve their families.

This is a project that often ends up needing some flexibility and ingenuity at our end. Sometimes my files from previous years help us find someone whose registration form has come to us with inaccurate information. Some families, beset by daily crises or embarrassed at their situations, only decide to participate at the last minute. Special thanks go out to parishioners who responded to the late requests this year. All Saints' successful service to 18 children for Christmas 2008 was made possible by the incredible generosity of many parishioners, beginning with those who contacted families for gift suggestions, continuing with others who fulfilled the gift requests and volunteers who sorted, wrapped, and tagged gifts with personalized messages from the absent parent, and finally those who made home deliveries to the families. I really appreciate all the effort that parishioners put into this, especially at this very busy time of year.

It might be easier to provide gifts for children at a shelter, but the special meaning behind helping families in these sad circumstances makes it all worthwhile, I believe. I hope that you will remember these families in your prayers throughout the year, but will also reflect with joy on the contributions of all church members who support this and all the other outreach projects of All Saints'.

In peace,  
Stephanie Ackert, Angel Tree Coordinator

### **BOTTLES AND CANS REPORT**

Thanks to all of you who have contributed your bottles and cans, we were able to raise \$143.75. I have been doing this for 11 years, during which we have raised a total of \$2414.15! While \$143 doesn't sound like much in this day and age, remember that the cost of the effort is \$0. Please keep those bottles and cans coming! It's found money for the Church.

Just drop off any returnable bottles and cans in the closet off the Parish Hall next to the kitchen. I pick them up once a week.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Douglas

### **DIOCESAN CONVENTION LAY DELEGATE ANNUAL REPORT**

At the annual diocesan convention, we as a parish are represented by our parish priest and two voting members of the parish. Resolutions are introduced, suggesting changes to our diocesan organization structure, new projects, or, most important for most parishes, our diocesan budget.

In November 2008, All Saints' Chelmsford was represented by Tom Barrington, Lynne McSheehy and Patrick Blumeris. The convention was held at the Resort and Conference Center in Hyannis, Cape Cod, and there was even overflow from the Center to hotels in the immediate vicinity.

In recent years, there have been guest speakers (bishops from around the world) and Tom Shaw has led the gathering in contemplative meditations and discussions. Bishop Shaw led the congregation in a contemplation of which Person of the Trinity we pray to and explained that in the dance of life, he felt he was being passed from Jesus to the Holy Spirit. He explained that he had discussed this "To whom should I pray?" with colleagues when he had been a young monk; one of them had suggested that people might find themselves being passed from one Person to Another over and over, during the course of a lifetime of communion with God in Three Persons.

The convention followed a few weeks after the 2008 Lambeth Convention, for which all dioceses had been asked to prepare brief video profiles of their dioceses. Convention attendees were given a copy of the Massachusetts DVD and the guest speaker the Rt. Rev. Suheil Duwani, Bishop of Jerusalem, brought with him a similar DVD that was shown during the convention.

Bishop Duwani has a diocese of 27 parishes in 5 countries, concentrated in and around Jerusalem. His diocese is well-respected among the Jewish and Moslem communities in the region, and has even donated land for the creation of a mosque.

The "diocesan business" items of the convention included the passing of a budget in which the conscious effort to develop fall-back funding had met almost immediately with a global unraveling of confidence in businesses and, in numerous prominent cases, in the businesses themselves. There was the creation of Fall River's Church of the Holy Spirit, created from three smaller parishes (Episcopal Church of the Ascension; St. John's/St. Stephen's Episcopal Partnership; St. Mark's) that were being combined. The sequence of votes was chosen to allow for all three parishes to vote throughout the convention, before being subsumed at the end of the convention into a new parish.

**Seven other resolutions** covered:

- Immigration
- Transgender rights
- Slavery and reconciliation
- Nonviolence
- A feast day for Saints Andronicus and Junia (two resolutions, one to send a resolution to ECUSA, the other to continue the Massachusetts trial status for the May 17 feast-day)
- Support for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

**Immigration:** The diocese is to teach clergy and parishes about immigration laws and policies; choose to use “immigrant” or other terms, rather than the dehumanizing “alien” when describing foreign-born people, and encourage the general population to follow suit; acknowledges and supports the church’s provision of protection from detention and deportation, and access to legal help, for immigrants; encourages our congregations to consider sponsoring refugees and asylum seekers in appropriate situations.

**Transgender rights:** The resolution supports new laws to prohibit discrimination based on one’s gender identity, and treats violence inflicted on the basis of a person’s gender identity to be a hate crime; directed the secretary of the convention (Mr. Leon A. Brathwaite II) to make passage of this resolution known to Massachusetts-elected politicians both in Boston and in Washington; adds “gender identity and expression” into our diocese’s statement of inclusivity.

**Slavery and reconciliation:** The diocese acknowledges and affirms the national ECUSA statement that slavery was a sin; acknowledges that ECUSA bishops repent for our complicity in the institution and join them in our own repentance; report up to ECUSA that DioMass has established a system to document how the Diocese of Massachusetts benefited from slavery; called on individual parishes to document how they have benefited from slavery, reporting back next year (November 2009); vow to become a strong anti-racist diocese working for healing and reconciliation; aim to develop ways to deepen our engagement with the legacy of slavery and discover further ways forward; plan to study and implement how the church can repair the breach both materially and relationally to achieve spiritual healing and reconciliation that will lead us to a new life in Christ. This resolution was a major part of the content of break-time meetings at the conference: the Massachusetts involvement in slavery was not so much that slaves worked here (although they certainly did) as it was slave labor often created wealth that entered parish finances.

**Nonviolence:** the Diocese would develop a community of practice tasked to design curricula and plan events for our congregations, related to the spirituality, history, and practice of peacemaking and nonviolence in the Christian tradition, reporting back to the Diocese in November 2009.

**Feast Day Proposed for Saints Andronicus and Junia:** Two separate resolutions were offered and accepted: that the diocese should recommend to ECUSA that the 17<sup>th</sup> of May should be regarded as a feast day for Saints Junia and Andronicus; and that the diocese of Massachusetts should continue to commemorate these Biblical characters on May 17<sup>th</sup> on a trial basis, as we have done now for two years.

**Support for the Diocese of Jerusalem:** DioMass pledged support for the diocese of Jerusalem through prayer and participation; resolved to support the Home for the Elderly in Beir Zeit over the coming year; to inform our members about the facts in Jerusalem regarding Israel, Palestine, Gaza and the West Bank; and pledged to continue talks with Jewish leaders, and initiate talks with Muslim leaders, to reach a common statement of principles on the future of Israel and Palestine.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Blumeris

### SAINTSALIVE ANNUAL REPORT

SaintsAlive is the All Saints’ Parish’s monthly newsletter. It is used to circulate news of the parish among parish members and to interested parties too far away to stay in touch in person. Sometimes, we hear from people who’ve moved away from Chelmsford but want to stay in touch. The newsletter is compiled with valuable editorial help from Amy Hunter and Darlene Gossement, and just as valuable printing-and-mailing help from Darlene Gossement and Margie Lane.

This review covers the 2008 issues, with attention to editorial (my) content, and to articles about programs that are otherwise not in an annual report.

We extended the December 2007 “Christmas” season into **January 2008** with a commemoration of Phillips Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts for the last 18 months of his life. With training and work

experience in Philadelphia, Bishop Brooks nevertheless had solid ties to the Merrimack Valley. More widely, he is known for the Christmas carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”.

In **February**, the rector explained the Millennium Development Goals, which have been espoused by the UN and set in motion to make the developing world less impoverished. This work complements our parish’s work with Nyahela sub-parish in Kenya. Our help for the many orphans is the visible way that we are helping to fulfill the Millennium vision that was developed in the 1998 Lambeth conference.

Other February editorial content included a “for our communities” article, based on a service in “Starting the Day” by J.T. Hilton, in which Zechariah (Ch 2) looks forward to a new Jerusalem.

The **Masonry Report**, which had been omitted by mistake from the compiled January 2008 Annual Report, was included in the **March 2008** SaintsAlive issue, and was added to the January 2008 report (after the January 2008 meeting). Norm Douglas had submitted his report in good time, but somehow it was omitted from the printed copies at the time of the annual meeting.

Also in **March**, Fiona Vidal-White reported, for the Youth Task Ministry, that Godspell-watching had gone well. She appealed for increased adult participation in this ministry, listing a few items that had been raised in the recent (January) parish meeting, as ways to help. Brigitta Goliber reported on a February 14 fundraising activity that had taken place at the high school, when the American Heart Association had sponsored a “Jump Rope for Heart” event. Jumping was a term used in a different article, as one RIM-sponsored asylum-seeker learned that she had been granted this legal status, and had been “jumping for joy”.

There was an article related to the value of even the asterisked verses in hymns in the hymnals.

**April:** The signature quilt project was introduced and explained to the parish. The quilt would provide a means for parishioners to (a) leave a lasting “testament” to their membership in All Saints’ at the time of the quilt’s creation (begun in 2008) and (b) potentially help to fund the necessary sound-muffling additions to the parish hall.

There was editorial content related to Ephesians Chapter 5, in which Paul frowns on frivolity. I was impishly taken to task for this article, by a parishioner who was not-so-clearly not joking!

**May:** Editorial content included a section on Samuel anointing David, and an article on genuflecting during the Creed, and how this might be all the way through to the Ascension.

**June:** The Korean congregation left us this year. They invited us to hear their guest preacher Tom Barrington at their new location at the Hanwoori Evangelical Church of Lexington at the First Baptist Church, 1580 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington.

The occasion of June 18 (Bernard Mizeki’s Feast) was noted with a page on healings by Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, and (less miraculously) Bernard Mizeki. Mizeki’s insistence, while mortally wounded, on baptism for his wife and child is a happy coincidence in that the birth of John the Baptist is commemorated just a few days later, on June 24, and this formed the basis of a separate editorial article.

**July/August:** Episcopal Relief and Development wrote to enlist help for the people of Sudan, and their letter included a statement to the effect that the Presiding Bishop had requested our prayers for this war-torn nation.

There were many articles announcing news related to youth activities in the parish. Sadly, some of the announcements heralded a wrapping-up of Fiona Vidal-White’s time with us.

In a “Pre-Collect Collect” some words of Thomas à Kempis (feast day July 25) were recalled. In support of Tom Shaw’s news about happenings in the Diocese of Harare, there was a short profile of their bishop, Sebastian Bakare, and a note explaining that the church’s hard times in Zimbabwe include hard times in the

Diocese of Manicaland, another diocese where Rev. Bakare has served as bishop. Interestingly, Bishop Peter Hatendi, retired former Bishop of Harare, has been called out of retirement to help with work in the Diocese of Manicaland, where a similar struggle between a discredited rogue bishop and the Anglican Province of Central Africa is playing out.

The life of Sister Labouré, who died on June 2, 1986, was reviewed: she was a Roman Catholic nun who worked at the Emerald Hill Children's Home, an orphanage in Harare, Zimbabwe. Emerald Hill is a beneficiary of the work of the Mustard Seed Communities. Naomi Parekh preached on July 13 on her work with Mustard Seed Communities in Jamaica, and the unstated theme "waste not, want not" remained with this listener.

**September:** This issue looked back to a news-filled summer, and forward through harvests and Holy Cross Day ("Come see the All Saints' Cross in the cloister garden"). The **looking-back** included retrospectives of the recently deceased: Mildred Loving (argued to the Supreme Court that her mixed marriage and those of others should be respected); Irena Sendler (saved many Jewish children during World War 2); John Templeton (used his wealth to support scholarship in science, religion, and their intersection); Levy Mwanawasa (worked to root out corruption in Zambia). **Looking-forward** was to school again, at a time when many are beginning, or contemplating, returning to school, as well as the one-grade-up K-to-12 back-to-school crowd.

**October:** This issue was, for the editor, full of time-travel. It was written towards the end of September, with the Feast of St Michael approaching. It was intended that St James should be featured prominently. The announcements about our All Saints' celebration (November 1, with Bishop Gayle Harris) extended the "span" of the issue. After all, if you want people to be present for November 1<sup>st</sup>, you can't really expect them to "read all about it" in a November issue that might not reach them until November 2. James's message to do more than say soothing things to help the starving might have had a more prominent place in the issue, but "All the Saints" needed to be accommodated. The range of "Saints" (from a missionary candidate for Roman Catholic canonization who had lived with lepers in Hawaii, to St Michael, a leader in a heavenly army) was briefly reviewed. There was a fair amount of uncivil political discussion on the airwaves, and it was possible to pull various themes together in an entreaty for civility, based on James's reminder that God made every one of us, in His likeness.

**November:** There was a profile of St Andrew, and an article on Mission (with the illustration from Zimbabwe, of Shearly Cripps' willingness to support a bereaved and impoverished family with the gift of the shirt off his back). Towards the end of the issue was an article on November 11 (Veterans' Day; elsewhere Armistice Day) and a call for peace.

The **December** issue had short filler articles that told how Hannah's son Samuel was born; how a happy Mary rejoiced with as she sang the Magnificat; how the old man Simeon sang the Nunc Dimittis when he saw the infant Jesus being brought to the temple, and recognized Jesus as the Messiah.

In **January 2009**, there was an article from George Martin, one of my high-school teachers at Peterhouse in Marondera, Zimbabwe. I had assisted at the service in the late 1970s in which he was ordained. George prepared the article as the "meat" of a sermon he was to deliver on Christmas Day, at the school chapel at Peterhouse, and at the chapel at a nursing home across town in Marondera. Although it was an Advent/Christmas message, it was broader in that it united the church throughout the world as we look up and see God's creation through the wonders of the night sky. It was telling that George did not preach at All Saints' Church in Marondera: this parish building appears to be in the control of priests answering to the disgraced former bishop Nolbert Kunonga. The two chapels where George preached are five miles or more apart. Now in his early 70s, he has been using a bicycle to commute (car theft is rampant and petrol is hard to find, expensive, and rationed). I cannot say how he covered the distance: my previous message from him had been to say that his bicycle had been stolen by a soldier who demanded all George's foreign currency (there were no British pounds, South African rand, or US dollars in the house at the time): inflation in Zimbabwe is so great that in the last year something like thirteen zeroes have been taken off the face value of the Zimbabwe dollar, three of them since the bicycle theft four months ago. These re-valuations make it possible, barely, for Zimbabwe's banking system to "function".

There has been considerable editorial content derived from Zimbabwe: this is in part due to my having a growing concern for the country, even as my number of personal contacts there is shrinking. Tom Shaw's recent focus on the Anglican church there, particularly the Diocese of Harare, has helped raise the subject at a time when it becomes easy for me to imagine a reader rolling their eyes and saying "Zimbabwe again: what's with this editor?" The answer is a personal history that will not disappear quietly!

Timing and attention to deadlines have remained important. Often, however, frantic event-planners slip in last-minute announcements that just cannot be ignored. These often lead to fresh new articles (or seasonally appropriate collects and thoughts from the BCP), added to fill new partial pages in the growing draft issue. Somehow, Darlene Gossement makes sure that paper copies reach our mailboxes. In my case, that mail delivery is usually before the first of the month, and it often includes pictures that underscore the themes being addressed. Darlene has a huge talent for finding the right pictures to go with articles, and making the available spaces work for the pictures she selects.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick Blumeris  
Editor, SaintsAlive

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following nominations to the parish of All Saints' for its approval:

Sr. Warden	Lois Freeman <sup>1</sup>
Jr. Warden	Scott Bempkins <sup>2</sup>
Treasurer	Melanie Hickcox <sup>1</sup>
Clerk	Derick Gates <sup>3</sup>
3-year Vestry	Mike Thompson
3-year Vestry	Sean Seyffert
3-year Vestry	Bob Bishop
2-year Vestry	Cynthia Bennett
2-year Vestry	Andrea Bray
1-year Vestry	Edith Parekh <sup>4</sup>
Convention delegate	Lynne McSheehy <sup>1</sup>
Convention delegate	Patrick Blumeris <sup>1</sup>
Convention delegate alternate	Laura Geary
Deanery Representative	Lynne McSheehy <sup>1</sup>
Deanery Representative	Carl Clark <sup>1</sup>
Deanery Representative	Liz Landers <sup>1</sup>
2009 Nominating Committee	Richard Coles
2009 Nominating Committee	Brian Hunter
2009 Nominating Committee	Dee Miller

<sup>1</sup> Indicates a continuation of service.

<sup>2</sup> Was already the clerk, but is continuing on as Jr. Warden

<sup>3</sup> Was due to cycle off Vestry but has agreed to become clerk

<sup>4</sup> Was due to cycle off Vestry but has agreed to continue

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Coles	Brian Hunter
Esther Davenport	Dave Kuzara
Deb Dutton	Edith Parekh
Derick Gates	Marilyn Livingston
Matt Hickcox	