

SAINTS Alive!

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISH

All Saints' Church

Chelmsford, MA

Fall 2013

From the Priest-in-Charge

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
³ a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

This is the last edition of Saints Alive as a printed newsletter.

Through the years Saints Alive has chronicled the life of All Saints' Church, announcing births and deaths, buildings and dances, agreements and disagreements. It has kept us on the same page as we sought to fulfill our ministry and mission.

For the past 10 years we owe a great debt of gratitude to Patrick Blumeris for producing Saints Alive month after month, year after year. This has been a crucial instrument in the life of our parish.

Now, however, we find, like every national and local newspaper has found, that people read what is on their smart phone and computer and not what comes by way of the Postal Service. In the months ahead we will be focusing our parish communication on the weekly e-bulletin which, it turns out, is what

most people read. We are blessed to have the e-bulletin to communicate every week the events and happenings of the parish. I am grateful to Darlene, Cina Barker and Trina Teele for giving us such a bright, attractive, and effective communication instrument and we now welcome Melanie Hickcox to this team. (If you have an article for the e-bulletin, e-mail it to Darlene by Wednesdays at noon at aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org).

Of course, not everyone uses the computer and receives the e-bulletin. If this applies to you, please fill out the included sheet and mail it to the church, so we can send you the e-bulletin by snail mail. Most likely, we will be sending you a compilation of e-bulletins once/month.

It is certainly too soon to say whether or not Saints Alive is being postponed or ended. Times may change again and we will have to change with them if we wish to make known the many things God is doing through All Saints' Church.

But one thing doesn't change: nothing gets read unless you choose to read it. We hope you will read the e-bulletin so you can keep up with what your parish community is doing and get involved where the Spirit is leading you. If you are not receiving the e-bulletin please let us know!

"For everything there is a season" but the love of God is with us in every season, calling us to know Christ and to make Christ known.

Peace,
Bill

Thank You Note

The church lawns have been well maintained this summer, and this is in no small part thanks to the efforts of Chris Mills who has been seen mowing the lawns fairly frequently, as Barbara Willman reported recently. Thank you, Chris!

The Abundance of God's Gifts

I am writing this reflection to share with you some memories of our Belarusian son, Sergey, and to relate them to this stewardship time of year, when we think of giving back as thanks for all that we receive from God.

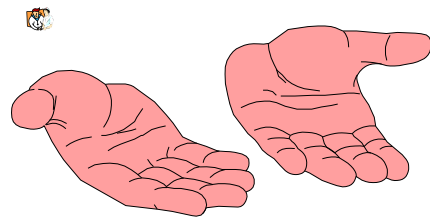
Sergey lost his lifelong battle with cancer on October 1, 2013, just one month shy of his 24th birthday. Sergey came into our lives in 2002 through a medical fresh air program called the Chernobyl Children Project – a Boston based project with Floating Hospital as its base. Through this privately funded project, over 100 children came each summer for one month. These children were scattered through the greater Boston area, and came to homes in pairs so that they would have at least one person to talk to. They were from the Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia – from the areas that had been affected by the April 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

St. Mary's, Chelmsford, had been active in this program for a while and was looking for other churches to join them; Clem and I each read a blurb in our Sunday bulletin and thought the same thing – let's go for it. Our initial intent was to bring a different part of the world into our home for our 9 and 6 year old children to experience. We also wanted Leah and Matt to realize that compared to most others, they had an amazingly rich life, and good health, to boot! The children that arrive for the month come with a bag the size of an overnight bag, and 2/3ds of it is filled with gifts for the host families. So, literally, these children arrive with little but the clothes on their backs.

July 2002 brought us Sergey and Natasha. Sergey had first been treated for cancer at age 12. Although he had not been born at the time of the Chernobyl disaster, he was being raised in an environment that was still contaminated – soil, air, and water. Most children in the project come for one time only, but Sergey's type of cancer was of special interest, and the Boston doctors wanted to track him, so they asked him to come back in 2003. That July, we had Sergey and Dimitri, and another wonderful time. The doctors asked to see Sergey yet again, so 2004 brought us Sergey and Vova. Sergey had made it known that if he returned in 2004, he would like to see NYC, so we had a family road trip to the Big Apple. Highlights included seeing the Statue of Liberty and taking them to see Blue Man Group.

In 2004, the Boston doctors felt confident that Sergey was stable and that they did not need to see him the following year, so we decided to take a break from hosting.

April 2006 was the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, and the project wanted to bring Sergey and another child back to take part in commemorations here. Sergey was loved by everyone, his treatments were regarded as a success, and he was a true poster child for the program. Since he was to be with us for just a week, I lined up things that most 16 year olds love, including a ride in a fast car (thanks, Steve Grillo), a ride on a BMW motorcycle, and lots of good food. While here, he was examined by the doctors at Floating who discovered that his cancer had returned with a vengeance. There was a quick huddle at Floating, and then the doctors there offered to treat Sergey for free if he was willing to stay on. He called his mom, Nina, and they had a long discussion, with his agreeing to stay IF his mom could come over, too. So, overnight, Clem and I became the parents of a child with cancer who was here for an open-ended stay. The Cole/Marshall family took this life changing event in stride, because we were all totally devoted to Sergey.



By this time, Sergey's English was passable, and we had no trouble understanding each other. His mom, Nina, did not speak one word of English, but we all managed, with Sergey as the go between. Our family could not have provided the care Sergey needed for the 5 months that he was here without the incredible amounts of help we received from friends, neighbors, and the All Saints' community. It truly took a village, and we had a wonderful group of caregivers.

Sergey and Nina's whole stay coincided with the steady decline and eventual death of my dad, so the summer was an incredible balancing act for me, and I will admit that at times, I thought that I would crack under the pressure. As Leah said, in a talk she gave at the All Saints' annual meeting in 2007, "While Sergey and Nina were here, my family did

God's work. We put someone else's lives in front of ours, and made them our top priority. We made sure all of their physical and emotional needs were met, and that they were as comfortable as can be with their surroundings. Looking back on this summer, at all of the good and bad times we had, I see why God's work is so hard. God doesn't ask whether it's a convenient time for you, he just gives a task to you, without much warning, and without an instruction manual. God's work involves a lot of ups and downs, and is stressful all around, but it is also very rewarding."

Sergey had chemo throughout the summer, and surgery at Floating in the fall. Tom Barrington was on sabbatical at the time, so my clergy friend, Miriam Gelfer, came and stayed with Clem, me, and Nina at the hospital on surgery day. We knew that it was intensive surgery that had a 30% chance of death on the operating table. The surgery was successful, and Sergey and Nina stayed for a month longer so that Sergey could get his strength back for the long journey home.

After Sergey and Nina went home, as we were riding back from the airport, we all agreed that if given the chance, we would do it again in a heartbeat.

Although Sergey did lose his lifetime battle with cancer, we were able to help him add 7 more years to a too-short life.

Doing God's work can indeed be hard work. We gave Sergey and Nina so much, but we got much more back in return. This experience was permanently life changing for my whole family. It helped to teach my kids empathy, and to put the needs of others first. It taught us that by taking a chance – in this case, listening to God's call to help – we could enrich our lives by helping others at the same time.

Rest in peace, dear Sergey, and thank you for making our lives so much richer.

*In Christ,
Maggie Marshall*

Now, where were we?

In the September issue of SaintsAlive, which did not reach you (it was a crazy time in the parish office), I looked back to articles that had been published 15 years ago, and despite the many changes in the concerns of the times, one month ago we were still wrapping up the new church hall addition.

The "Renovation" had been a big deal in the parish. We had already built the new nave and sanctuary, using rocks from our own yards, but we still needed a "Renovation" for the new parish hall and office complex.

Taking into account the changes in costs of living, we were reminded, the cost of the hall ought to have been a very easy addition for us to make, compared to the new nave. That's where things stood about 15 years ago. About 12 years ago, we broke down the old parish hall, using a fair amount of our own labor, and the current parish hall and office complex were erected in its place.

In the echoes of that "Renovation" effort, however, are real echoes that have reverberated through the years, with a half-life around a half-second. We had experts measure how quickly the sounds wither away in that hall, and the resounding response ("too slowly") has been the reason there is such a great noise from even a small group when we get together in that space. Over the summer, however, **Steve Grillo** and **Susan Gates** worked to silence these sounds by finding the funding for a noise-reduction project in the parish hall.

A month ago, when I wrote about this, we were not quite done with the cost-collection project. Within a week, however, with lucre located, we were in a happier situation, and my appeal for help (which you did not read) would have been redundant.

Remember to thank Steve and Susan when next you see them!

*Patrick Blumeris
Editor*

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop fall hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10-3. The Thrift Shop welcomes your gently used seasonal clothing during the first two weeks of each month. Staffed completely by volunteers, the Thrift Shop operates on a consignment basis, has been in business since 1957, and has generated thousands of dollars to support the community at large as well as our own parish.

New Coffee Hour Coordinator Needed

In a few weeks I will be stepping out of the role of coffee hour coordinator. If

this vital ministry is to continue as it has since time immemorial, we'll need a new volunteer. It's not a difficult job and I will be happy to train and overlap with anyone willing to take it on. This is an ideal ministry for the newcomer seeking to get more involved.

Please Email me at chrismills53@gmail.com with any questions or to indicate your interest.

-Chris Mills

“One Sparkling Knight” All Saints Film Premiere & Gala Dinner



The ASC production crew has been working behind the scenes on the details of the big event and we are pleased to announce that tickets will be on sale beginning this Sunday, October 6th after both the 8 AM and 10 AM services!!

Date of Event: Saturday, November 2, 2013

Location of Event: All Saints Episcopal Church
Film Premiere – Sanctuary Meet the Director
Reception/ Dinner / Dessert Auction – Parish Hall

Purchase a ticket for \$40.00 per person to attend the Movie Premiere followed by a Catered Reception and Dinner, Dessert Auction along with Entertainment....OR....

Purchase a ticket for \$5.00 per person to attend JUST the Movie Premiere

Formal Attire / Adult Only / Cash Bar

Dinner seating is limited to 100 people so be sure to get your tickets early!

SAINTSAlive!

I've had a few concerns...

Wrapping up a decades-long endeavor is not easily done. This is a final issue of SAINTSAlive!, and Bill Bradbury has suggested I write about the time I've been the editor. There will be no better occasion!

When the previous editor of SAINTSAlive!, **Scott Bempkins**, announced that he needed to step aside, there were a few issues that he still edited before I mentioned to the rector at the time that I believed I could pick up that mission. I was a brand new

parishioner, with no history of writing for a church newsletter. I was more concerned about accidentally offending people out of my ignorance. How easily, I wondered, could I upset people because of things I might write? This was my **First Concern**.

Soon, however, I developed an understanding of a well-oiled machine in which my function was to accept articles, edit them, arrange them on the pages of the newsletter, and send over my draft to **Amy Hunter**, who, with her ecclesiastical training, language training, and ten-word title (“poet” is easier to remember), would ensure that nothing too controversial would get by. She and I would agree on the words we needed and then our Parish Administrator **Darlene Gossement** would accept the issue for printing. **Margie Lane** helped prepare the paper copies for mailing. Somehow, between the third Sunday of the month and the end of the month, the issues were prepared and delivered.

Occasionally, the deadline stretched out to the first few days of the next month, but those occasions were few and far between! What I didn't realize at the time was how new many of us were in our positions. In time, Amy left the parish and **Maggie Marshall** picked up the role of copy-editing (and “conscience” in case I said something too crazy). On occasion, when Maggie could not check my work, **Rebecca Haberl** stepped in... and all the time, **Darlene** was producing copious quantities of

paper that she and **Margie Lane** continued to sort, address, and mail out to the whole congregation. This included finding ways to get the newsletter out, even during Darlene's visit to her daughter studying overseas; even in the aftermath of Margie's apartment burning down.

Previous editors had pointed out (in the back-issues I inherited) that their job was not to write the newsletter, but to edit the incoming announcements. Somehow, it often seemed easier to prepare an editorial to fill that empty space than it was to hunt for appropriate artwork. I must admit, I've used a few favorite sources to fill in those gaps, too.

Another danger with editorial writing for a church publication is simple: you can easily be accused of saying one thing and doing another: my **Second Concern**. A rector reminded me that priests face that "hypocrisy" issue all the time!

There have been other concerns, too. When I found myself in hospital with an unsettled appendix, I was asked about my church affiliations. Is there anything we should tell your church? "*The parish newsletter will be a little late this month.*" The **Third Concern** was all about deadlines, and this one never went away!

There was a **Fourth Concern** about sharing too much from my own past. Many of my editorials told about things that happened to me in Harare or Marondera in Zimbabwe, a long time ago. The concern was that readers would start to ignore the whole issue as just so much irrelevant African stuff with limited meaning for them today. The alternative has been to copy over the rubric from a prayer book or a hymnal, or even from the Bible, and hope that it is found relevant. Although we've had access to a monthly newsletter for newsletter preparers, I've found the contents seldom matched the mood of the times or the needs of the parish. This is understandable: that newsletter is prepared this month so that editors next month will use it for the following month's church newsletters. All the same, perhaps I'm just too picky.

A **Fifth Concern** has been with being accessible. How do we reach people and how do people reach us? More than once, a whole issue has been prepared before I realized that somebody actually did send in an article on a greeting card or even typewritten on a sheet of paper: we are moving to an age when it is becoming easier and easier to overlook the paper copy that comes in delivered by

hand or by mail.

I have never known exactly what the newsletter will look like: important announcements often find their way into the newsletter through **Darlene Gossement**, and our five (possibly more?) former SAINTSAlive! Editors still in the parish are adept at getting the message through the system even after I think I'm done for the month! As a result, having current information in the newsletter has never been a concern: somehow, Darlene has made sure that the latest important news finds a spot in the issue.

The **GREATEST CONCERN**, however, is laid bare in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians: If I use flowery, even angelic, phrases, but don't do it for the right reasons ("If I have not love") then I might just as well be a vuvuzela (all noise and no heart – Paul used cymbals to make his point; I trust that you will forgive a southern African a South African noisemaker as a substitute!) Many insights have helped keep me "honest" in this regard. And side discussions with many people who have sent me articles for publication, or asked for clarification about a given announcement. You have all helped with this **GREATEST CONCERN**!

It has been an exciting time, facing deadline after deadline, updating prayer lists and contact lists and trying to find timely updates for the month ahead.

I recently received a thank-you note on your behalf from **Mary Woodward**, who is on the Vestry, for work on SAINTSAlive! Thank you for your thank you: thank you for your trust over ten years.

Now that we are moving away from paper, we need to focus on the next big thing that's replacing this newsletter: our weekly e-bulletin.

For all my themed articles on the "Saints" those revered, notable, long-ago people in the calendar in the prayer book, we need to recognize the Saints all around us, helping to make the little missions of our lives work in our own small corners of the world!

Those of us who end up making announcements in the no-longer-experimental e-bulletin will need to remember the editors, and pray that any similar **CONCERNS** that they (**Cina Barker, Melanie Hickcox, Trina Teele**) might have will be addressed, as you, the Saints of this parish, have helped me with mine.

Patrick Blumeris, Editor

A Collect for Those who Influence Public Opinion seems especially relevant here:

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age
by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those
who speak where many listen and write what many
read; that they may do their part in making the heart
of the Church wise, our mind sound, and our will
righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayer List Fall 2013

In the Sunday Bulletin we list those with more acute needs. SaintsAlive carries a list of more “on-going” concerns to bring to God in prayer.

We will keep the description you provide as general or specific as you indicate. We encourage you to clip out these names and keep them in your prayers.

If you would like your name to be added or removed from any of the prayer lists, please contact Darlene in the Church Office.

Those who are at home, in nursing homes or living with chronic illnesses

- Eleanor Ferreira at home
- Chaz Freeman, Lois Freeman’s son
- Al Gorham, at home
- Lillian Doris Johnson, Loisann Grant’s mother, at D’Youville Manor
- Evelyn Kacavas at home
- Bailey and Janet Laughlin at Newbury Court, Concord
- James Maguire, great-grandfather of Ethan Flewelling
- Phyllis Page, at Chelmsford Crossing (from Amherst, MA)
- Gladys Stephens, Palm Manor Nursing Home

Vestry Members

Linda Cahill	Steve Marshall
Darren Collins	Frank Ouellette
Melissa Flewelling	Rohini Pola
Paige Flick	Sean Seyffert
Mary Woodward	

Dave Kuzara, Senior Warden
 Erik Forsberg, Junior Warden
 Melanie Hickcox, Treasurer
 Cina Barker, Clerk

Parish Contact List

(All phone numbers are area code 978 unless indicated)

Church Office.....256-5673
 Senior Warden.....Dave Kuzara...617-515-6708
 Junior Warden.....Erik Forsberg.....486-3858
 Treasurer.....Melanie Hickcox....448-0931
 Clerk.....Cina Barker.....603-888-4243
 Acolyte Director.....Bob Andrews.....244-0163
 Altar Guild.....Sally Warren.....256-2708
 Buildings & Grounds
 Bob Bishop.....692-4727
 Mike Thompson....617-293-7733
 Coffee Hour.....Chris Mills.....448-5811
 Endowment.....Scott Sanjurjo454-8937
 Finance Interim.....Derick Gates.....250-1569
 Handbell Choir Debbie Psilopoulos..256-0797
 Music Minister.....Maggie Marshall....251-1296
 Outreach.....Laura Marshall.....256-1460
 Parish Life.....Liz Landers376-1079
 Pastoral Care.....Ann Kirk.....251-4547
 Religious Ed
 Director.....Laura Marshall.....256-1460
 Shawl Ministry.....Deb Forsberg.....256-5673
 Stewardship.....Steve Grillo448-2746
 Thrift Shop.....Laura Marshall.....256-1460
 Rite 13 Director.....Joan Thomas.....640-1789
 J2A.....Denise Seyffert.....692-6986
 Webmaster.....Richard Coles.....256-1311
 Web site.....www.allsaintschelmsford.org
 Weekly Bulletin.....Trina Teele, Cina Barker,
 Melanie Hickcox ...256-5673

Submission



... for the weekly e-bulletin is every week, with a noon deadline on Wednesday for publication in the e-newsletter on Thursday (the next day). Please leave your articles in the church office, or send them via email to aschurch@allsaintschelmsford.org. Thanks.

All Saints’ Church



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Fall 2013

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Wednesday noon

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Office Phone: (978) 256-5673
Cell Phone: (774) 451-7413

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Minister of Music: Maggie Marshall
Director of Religious Ed: Laura Marshall
Youth Ministers: Joan Thomas,
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