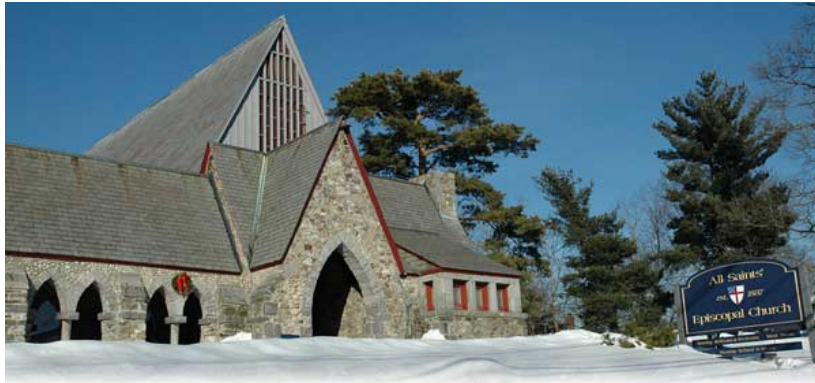


# All Saints' Episcopal Church

Chelmsford, MA



## 2011 Annual Report

January 29, 2012

**ALL SAINTS' PARISH ANNUAL MEETING**  
**January 29, 2012**

**AGENDA AND TABLE OF REPORTS**

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**Election**

**Finance Commission: 2011 Annual Budget**

**Additional Business**

**Adjournment**

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

All Saints' Church Annual Meeting  
January 30, 2011  
Parish Hall  
Rev. E. Tom Barrington, Presiding

Lunch was provided before the meeting by Maggie Marshall, Linda Cahill, Frank and Linda Ouellette.

A quorum of 48 attendees signed into the meeting.

Meeting called to order with a prayer at 12:20 pm by Rev. Barrington.

Tom began the meeting with a presentation on the Enyahera Parish of Kenya.

Acceptance of 2010 meeting minutes:

Dave Kuzara moved/ Barbara Lindberg seconded – motion carried unanimously

By acclamation, Patrick Blumeris was thanked for being the editor of Saints' Alive.

Chris Mills volunteered to serve in place of Carl Clark for 2011 Nominating Committee.

Edie Parekh nominated to serve as Deanery Representative in place of Carl Clark.

Derick Gates explained the by-laws of the Endowment committee, as approved by the annual meeting of a previous year.

Harry Taplin proposed a motion to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations for Vestry. Susan Gates seconded. Passed unanimously.

Tom introduced and thanked all present members.

Financial Report and Budget was presented by Scott Bempkins. Recognized Cynthia Bennett and Darlene Gossement for work throughout the year. Scott gave a report of the 2010 budget, and noted the pledging increase of \$11,000 over the expected amount. Made specific notes on the purchase of the piano, as well as the masonry and roof work in the past year.

Barbara Willman questioned the Receipts Summary. Derick Gates explained the organization of the report (specifically outreach). Tom referred the attendees to the page with the Outreach expenses outlined.

Chris Mills expressed his concern about the proposed budget, pointing out that there would be an unsustainable balance (from a year-to-year standpoint, it would only bring comfort for the 2011 financial year, but in 2012 the budget would not stand as it is now). Realistically, the growth of our expenses is too high. Tom acknowledged the difficulties, and explained that we would be using our own funds in order to come out with an even budget for this year.

Harry Taplin expressed the importance of fellowship events at All Saints'.

Scott Bempkins explained the rental, special projects, and fellowship events that we proposed to influence the budget. The idea of a large event is especially important in the coming year.

Paul Belanger questioned the endowment receipts for the 2010 financial year. Derick Gates explained that the Vestry was allowed to use ½ of the endowment fund, but that it did not necessarily *have* to be used. It needs to be used for capital purchases. It is noted that the use of the endowment funds, as pointed out by Chris Mills, may not be sustainable.

The improvements made to the building, as well as the costs necessary for those, were addressed.

Dave Kuzara questioned the budgeting for the fundraisers. Scott Bempkins explained the plans to do additional fundraisers in the 2011 year as compared to the 2010 year.

It is noted that specific questions can be forwarded to Cynthia Bennett.

Mike Thompson explained that on page 2 of the balance sheet, the Out of Balance number of \$5,508.94 actually equates as a \$0, and is a software error. Mike also acknowledged the difficulty of the budget, and spoke to the importance of fellowship in the upcoming year.

Barbara Willman spoke to the importance of Vestry participation.

Tom led recognition of Carl Clark for all of his work at All Saints'.

Tom also led recognition of the following as they step down from Vestry:

Chantelle Somers  
Connie Pawelczak  
Gail Laundry

Meeting closed with prayer by Tom at 1:50 PM.

Chantelle Somers  
2010 Youth Member of the Vestry, filling in for the Clerk

## RECTOR'S REPORT

2011 began with some mighty snow storms. The Narthex was dark because the glass wall to the Memorial Garden was completely drifted over. This happened three times in January. We also began the year with the sudden illness and death of Carl Clark. Both of these events, while difficult and tragic, brought people together and deepened bonds between one another.

I would describe 2011 as a year of challenges and rebuilding. It was a year when our average Sunday attendance reached a 25 year low at 152. This is a continuation of an 8 year decline. (In the early 2000's the average Sunday attendance was in the mid 180's.)

My Annual Address to the parish last year stressed the decline and challenged us to try to understand and address it. My inability to lead All Saints' into turning this around convinced me that the parish needs some new ideas, new perspective, and new clergy leadership. This being said, I also believe that All Saints' has begun this process. 2011 has seen a number of encouraging signs of the deepening and strengthening of our common life.

- Rebecca Haberl, our Director of Religious Education, has successfully brought together a dedicated team to start a Godly Play atrium. With a generous gift in memory of Dr. Mike Gilchrist, we have been able to purchase the materials for the Montessori-based formation program for children.
- We have formed a new Rite 13 class for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders and for the first time have a Journey to Adulthood group for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.
- The Vestry Retreat focused on building ways for All Saints' members to get to know each other better. While we have not gotten a Parish Life Committee up and functioning, the parish has, under leadership of the vestry, successfully introduced a number of activities. These include:
  - the Lenten Study program where various groups of parishioners talked about their life and faith in the real world. This included a panel of High School seniors, parents with young children, parents of school age children, empty nesters and those who are retired.
  - The introduction of the Sunday Forums
  - Working to clean out and run the estate sale for Carl Clark's house. Special thanks to Melanie Hickcox for heading this up.
  - Dining with the Saints' dinner, auction and concert for All Saints' Day
- Continuation of a number of very successful events including the St. Patrick's Day dinner, the Yard and Plant Sale, 4<sup>th</sup> of July fried dough booth, and the Gingerbread Village for Habitat for Humanity

Another great strength of All Saints' church is our willingness to partner with other churches, groups and programs. This has greatly expanded our abilities to join God in God's mission. Examples of partnerships include:

- The Eliot Church Feeding program with 25 other congregations providing a hot meal every weekday evening at Eliot church in Lowell

- The parish partnership with Enyahera Parish in Maseno Kenya with Jubilee Ministries of the Diocese of Massachusetts
- The mission trips to West Virginia and Maine with Central Congregational Church
- Collecting food on Sundays for the Chelmsford Food Pantry
- Joint confirmation class with St. Mark's Church, Westford
- Serving meals at the Chelmsford Table of Plenty at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
- Hosting the Chelmsford Art Society's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Art Show
- Providing meals for the Diocesan summer B-Safe program
- Working with the Chelmsford cluster of Refugee Immigration Ministry
- Hosting musical concerts by Westford Chorus, Illumination Opera Company and our own Christmas Lessons and Carols service.

We have also continued to offer creative and vibrant worship opportunities. Besides Sunday services, we have had a full array of Holy Week services, including an innovative Easter Vigil, the monthly family service geared towards families with young children, and the weekly Noonday service. On Sundays we have recognized our mission initiative as well used various creative liturgies and music. We are blessed by excellent music and dedicated choirs under the direction of Maggie Marshall.

My decision to leave All Saints' after 12 wonderful years was influenced by the positive spirit and energy in the parish. I have always wanted to leave with things going well. Even though our attendance numbers have continued to be low, there is a positive energy in the parish. There are challenges ahead for All Saints' but nothing that cannot be worked through for the glory of God.

I leave with incredible gratitude for the love and witness you have given to me. I will hold all of you in my thoughts and prayers.

Faithfully yours,  
Tom

## SENIOR WARDENS' REPORT

2011 was a challenging year for me personally, with the impact of serious illness among my immediate and extended family taking a toll on my own ability to focus as well as my time availability. At the same time it has been my honor, privilege and pleasure to serve All Saints' as the Senior Warden of the Vestry in 2010 and 2011. I enjoyed working closely again this year with Reverend Tom, Junior Warden Liz Landers, and our 2011 Vestry members. This group, and so many other friends here at All Saints' have sustained me through these challenges in 2011 and I deeply thank each and every one of you – whether it was spending time with me, assisting in Vestry activities, fellowship activities, giving me encouragement and keeping me in your prayers.

We started off the 2011 year with sadness, due to the reoccurrence of illness and the passing of our cherished ASC parishioner, friend and Vestry member, Carl Clark. Carl's passing left many with a deep sense of loss, an increased sense and appreciation of our community, and a legacy locked in our memory. Carl was a unique person and made his mark on all who knew him. Carl left a very generous contribution to All Saints' in his estate and through the leading effort of Melanie Hickcox and a large team of Parishioners, we were able to realize significant benefit for the 2011 Operating fund fundraising, the ASC Endowment and a designated gift for the purchase of round tables in 2012 to make our Parish Hall more usable for large banquet type functions. This was one of Carl's passions here at All Saints'.

All Saints' Parish is and continues to be a vibrant and significant presence in our lives and in the greater Chelmsford area. Our financial diligence demonstrates strength for the Vestry and Parish and it is this very set of finances that fuels and enables our staffing, spiritual work, outreach, fellowship, and life as a Faith community.

I'm very proud of the 2011 Vestry as a working group. The group focused and worked hard at our monthly meetings and at a number of special additional meetings. The Vestry demonstrated, numerous times, the ability to discuss in a meaningful, sincere and non-judgmental way, a number of difficult decisions including how to deal with our 2011 finances.

We were privileged to have a young member, Matt Castle, join the Vestry again this year and maintain a tradition of a youth member on the Vestry, which was established several years ago. We all really enjoyed Matt's presence and his willingness to speak up and really take part in the activities of the Vestry. We truly thank and applaud Matt for his enthusiasm, contributions and gifts of his time and inputs during the first 7 months of 2011. As many of you know, after successfully renewing our July 4<sup>th</sup> Fried Dough Booth event, Matt headed off to an adventure in Japan, and while we miss him, we recognize that this experience is very important for him.

As a Parish, we continued to advance our mission-focus in all that we do as evidenced by the annual very successful Gingerbread Village, our participation in the Lowell Feeding Program, support for the Youth trips to Down east Maine and the West Virginia Work Camp; and in continuing our partnership with Nyahera Parish in Kenya as we continued to support their feeding program which provides a weekly high protein meal and education to more than 300 orphans. Our support and sponsorship of our own Christen Mills as a Seminarian at University of Virginia is another way we demonstrate our Faith Community to the outside world.

Our outreach and hospitality work in the Parish and in the community is important and meaningful work for Parish members and provides many benefits to those we serve. We need to continue to create a greater awareness of the vestry's work and continue the trend of broadening our event leadership from among the Parish membership, beyond the vestry. More involvement means less work for all! We saw some tangible results during this year in our fundraising and fellowship events and I hope that more members will volunteer to lead or participate in the groups that organize and make these events happen. These events represent great fellowship opportunities too.

Another significant new activity this year was the start of the Adult Forum, organized by Matt Hickcox, that meets after the 10 am Service. There have been a broad range of topics discussed and significant interest has been generated. I look forward to continuing increases in focus for Parish Life, New Member and year-long Stewardship efforts.

In closing, I want to say thank you to and again recognize Rev. Tom Barrington and his family for their dedication to All Saints'. I cannot say more than was said during the services on January 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. We WILL miss them and their presence and contributions to our community!

I wish the incoming new Vestry members and Officers the very best in 2012. This past year has been bright and the future will be brighter in our lives within this Faith community and in our contributions through sharing with the broader community.

*Respectfully submitted in Faith,  
Scott Bempkins,  
Senior Warden*

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

This has been a busy year with some high points and some low points. Rather than reiterate everything previously mentioned in the above reports, I am going to just mention a handful of things.

Last winter, our community was deeply saddened when Carl Clark lost his battle with cancer; our community rallied around him as his health worsened and then rallied again around each other in support after his death. He is still dearly missed. And due to Carl's generosity in designating All Saints' as a beneficiary in his will, our financial condition at the end of this fiscal year is in much better shape than it might have been without his help. The work and efforts of many, led by Melanie Hickcox and a small group of parishioners, paid off in a huge estate sale that raised over \$20,000 and is being split between the Endowment Fund, the Memorial Fund and the general operating fund. In addition, the ongoing work at Carl's house generated a lot of good fellowship energy and brought us together as a community.

The vestry had a wonderful retreat experience with Helen Daley last winter, focusing on enriching parish life and fellowship and strengthening connections within our community, not to mention extending a warm welcome to newcomers. We came out of that retreat energized and enthusiastic and were hoping that a Parish Life or Hospitality committee would result, but we were all too busy to get it off the ground; something I am personally hoping to work on after I have a chance to regroup.

The Godly Play program was launched in the fall and thanks to its dedicated leaders and a generous donation from the Gilchrist family in memory of Mike Gilchrist, it is continuing to grow. It is highly dependent on parental/parish involvement so if you have a leaning in that direction, please do ask about it. They always need "Door Persons", and training for more "Storytellers" will begin soon. The vestry experienced a Godly Play story from one of our own Storytellers (Katie LaRochelle) and it was wonderful.

Our once monthly Sunday afternoon family Eucharist services continued throughout the year and there is a small core of very dedicated families who thoroughly enjoy that service. I was privileged to visit one of those services and it was a wonderful experience, small and intimate and kid-friendly. I hope that we may see it continue when we have new leadership in place.

The vestry, with lots of help from others, held a dinner at the beginning of November, i.e. the Dinner with the Saints. I personally enjoyed working with many of you to help bring that together – it was a fancy, gourmet cooking contest, complete with prizes and a silent auction and it was not only delicious, it was a lot of fun. It highlighted for me personally, how extremely important it is to have more of these fellowship events.

And finally, Tom informed us that he would be moving on. As sad as we are to see him go, he planned the timing well, and we gave him a wonderful (and tearful) send-off. It is sad to see him go but it allows him to move into a new stage in his life and we will forge ahead and work to fill the hole that his departure has created. He left us at a time when the energy level in our midst seems to be on the upswing and his encouragement and vision helped to promote this. Our community is a strong and supportive one and as I write this, many of us just experienced an energized and uplifting Appreciative Inquiry workshop led by the Rev. Canon Cynthia Hubbard from the diocese; the vestry is working hard to find someone who is a good match for our community and will lead us forward.

Once again I want to thank every single person on the counting teams (which are a mix of vestry members and non-vestry members) for their dedication. They have made my task very easy this year and it was great to have so many volunteers willing to do this job.

Finally, I have mixed feelings as I leave the vestry, but after a bit of a hiatus, I know that I will find another way to devote and focus my energy. And I know that I can count on the new vestry to support the energy and life in this parish community that I cherish so much. It has been a real honor and privilege to serve as your junior warden over the past two years, working with our former rector, Tom Barrington and our senior warden, Scott Bempkins and everyone on the vestry.

I look forward with anticipation and excitement to the time ahead and the opportunity to work with new leadership, both in the vestry and with our new interim rector (or priest-in-charge), as we all join in supporting our community and all our lives in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Landers

## **FINANCE COMMISSION**

As of this writing, the FinCom has not yet finished the audit of the 2010 finances that was started in April, 2010. Additional assistance from the parish to complete this work would be welcome. After soliciting budget requests from various Committee Chairs, the FinCom developed a draft budget for the year 2012, which was subsequently fine-tuned by the Vestry. Members who have served on the FinCom (including the Audit Committee) have included Cynthia Bennett, Connie Pawelczak, Paul Belanger, Melanie Hickcox, Scott Sanjurjo and Derick Gates. Darlene Gossement has provided superb support to the FinCom throughout the year. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

Derick Gates, Interim Chair

## **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

The Endowment Committee has had an active and productive year. Our primary responsibility is that of monitoring the results of the endowment fund investments at the Diocesan Investment Trust. We review the status of the fund quarterly and may recommend to the Vestry changing the allocation of stocks and bonds, depending on market conditions.

Besides that, we have been focused on giving visibility to the endowment fund and its purpose; you might say this is our “marketing” effort. The endowment fund was established in 1999, begun with remaining funds from the 1997 Stone by Stone Capital Campaign as well as bequests from the estates of Eleanor Parkhurst and Barbara Conlogue. The fund’s purpose is to preserve the heritage of All Saints’ by ensuring that our parish buildings and programs will be maintained for future generations. Since the fund was established, there has been an ongoing effort to raise parishioners’ awareness of planned giving as a way of making a lasting gift for the future of All Saints’ Church. The Anna Eliza Hunt Society recognizes those who have made bequests and encourages others to do so. Anna Eliza Hunt was a laywoman who was instrumental in the founding of All Saint’s Church in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. A brochure was created that provides information about the endowment fund and lists the names of those who have become members by making gifts to the fund.

This year our program plan included the publication of several articles in Saints' Alive and a specially-designated "Endowment Sunday" in October that included distribution of the updated brochure and a discussion on endowment at the adult forum. We also provided a new opportunity for remembrance giving to the endowment fund at Christmas. An important point to emphasize is that outright gifts to the fund are always welcome and no gift is too small. We have adopted the Hunt memorial window in the chapel as our endowment fund "logo" and created note cards imprinted with a color photograph of the window. I am pleased to say that we started the year with a plan and that we have accomplished what we set out to do. There is more to be done, but we've made very good progress.

The current committee members are Carol Cannistraro, Derick Gates, Paul Krenitsky, Barbara Lindberg, Jean McCaffery, Scott Sanjurjo. They are a faithful, committed group, and three of them – Barbara, Jean, and Paul – have been endowment committee members since the beginning, in 1999. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or wish to inform us of a bequest intention. We would welcome the opportunity to add your name to the membership of the Anna Eliza Hunt Society.

In Christ's name,  
Connie Pawelczak, Endowment Committee Chair

## **ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE - FINANCES**

The Endowment Committee continued to monitor the progress of the Endowment and track that progress on a spreadsheet so that the year-to-year progression could be graphed and analyzed. Based on this analysis, and the recovery of the stock market, in 2011 the Endowment Committee has recommended to the Vestry no shift in the investment of the endowment from approximately 40% bonds and 60% stocks. However, in response to stock market uncertainty, including the potential for downgrading of U.S. debt and the potential impact of the Congressional Supercommittee on the U.S. budget process, the Endowment Committee suggested that the Vestry change all new contributions and loan repayments to go exclusively to the Income (Bond) Fund until further notice. The Vestry has agreed with these quarterly recommendations and sent these instructions to the administrator of the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT).

At the discretion of the Vestry, up to one half of any yearly increase in the endowment may be withdrawn for capital and maintenance use, and the rest is to be re-invested. The year-over-year increase for 2010 had been \$23,930.48, and over the course of 2011 the Vestry voted to withdraw the maximum amount, \$11,965 to help pay for various capital and maintenance projects.

The five-year, \$26,000 loan taken in 2010 from the Endowment to help pay for major repairs to the Chapel and the Sanctuary continues to be repaid on a monthly basis, at 5% interest. This loan has been one of the better investment returns for the Endowment. A total of \$4,708.84 of principal has been repaid to date, together with \$1,179.56 in interest.

The value of the ASC Endowment began the year at \$198,947.41. At the end of 2011, after withdrawing the \$11,965 allowed by the 2010 increase, the Endowment investments stood at \$190,608.79. These investments, when combined with the outstanding ASC loan balance (\$21,291.16 in principal still to be repaid), total \$211,899.95, representing a 5.8% decrease in value over the course of 2011, mostly due to a decline in the stock market.

Derick Gates

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

2011 was a challenging year, organizationally, for B&G. Rev. Tom Barrington made significant efforts to organize and gel the group of volunteers, offering breakfasts on Saturday mornings for workdays. We had good turnouts at these workdays and were able to accomplish quite a number of tasks needing attention. Norm Douglas, Frank Ouellette and Bob Bishop have continued the work on the stone pointing repairs on and around the bell tower, and this has saved the Parish significant expense.

At the same time, we were unable to identify leadership to organize and focus this group on the many areas needing attention at All Saints'.

Matt Hickcox is organizing a 2012 group to focus on the various technology needs at All Saints'. This includes telephone and internet service, sound systems, computers, etc.



With the completion of their 3 year Vestry terms at the end of January 2012, Mike Thompson and Bob Bishop have agreed to take on the leadership of the B&G group and I am confident their leadership will increase the effectiveness of the overall group. Thanks to Mike and Bob for their lead.

We always welcome new additions to B&G so stay tuned for meeting announcements in the eBulletin and/or SaintsAlive!

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Bempkins

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **LOWER CHURCH SCHOOL**

This year was an interesting year for All Saints' Lower Church School. In January 2011, a combination of low attendance and teachers stepping down forced us to combine classes, going from four classes to three. Later in the year, we reduced our number of classes yet again to two and have stuck to two classes for children in grades pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> ever since. As attendance is forever variable, we have found that doing two classes well is far superior to doing four classes less-than-well. Deb Forsberg, Melissa Flewelling, and Elizabeth Danieli taught grades 3 – 6 using the Firelight curriculum and Rebecca Haberl and Collin Haberl taught pre-K to grade 2 using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd curriculum.

During Lent, Rev. Tom and Director of Religious Education, Rebecca Haberl, ran a Communion class that proved very successful. We had eight very dedicated and engaged students, ranging from grades 1-6. On the final class, we baked communion bread for our Special Communion service, which we held on Palm Sunday. Going forward, we are offering the class to children in grades 1-3 and holding our Special Communion service on the Sunday before Palm Sunday.

Later that Spring, Rebecca attended a training for a new program called "Godly Play." She fell in love with the method of teaching religious education and presented it to a panel of parents who agreed that they wanted it implemented for their children. During the summer, Rebecca Haberl and Katie LaRochelle worked on the logistics—ordering supplies, recruiting teachers, and making up schedules and policies. The program started up as scheduled in the Fall and became fairly successful. Attendance increased and, more importantly, learning deepened. The program continues to improve. Debbie Collins and Lissie Bates-Haus have become Godly Play teachers, in addition to Rebecca and Katie.

Deb Forsberg is teaching the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders using Firelight. Unfortunately, she is teaching alone; she has taken on the entire class load herself. We are hoping to get her some help in the coming months. Despite this, Deb's class is incredibly engaged and great learning is no doubt taking place.

During Christmas time, Rebecca Haberl and Emily Mills directed the Christmas Pageant. Lissie Bates-Haus helped out during rehearsals. The rehearsals were a lot of fun and acting out the Christmas story, which involved memorizing scripture from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, deepened the children's understanding of the birth of Christ. As always, the Christmas Pageant was a magical event, performed at the 4:00pm Christmas Eve service to a filled church.

All and all, 2011 was a year of change for the Lower Church School. This change has been mostly positive, as families become more involved and our number of dedicated volunteers increases. There is much to be hopeful for in the coming year. Our program is rebuilding successfully.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Haberl, Director of Religious Education

### **RITE-13**

Rite-13 is a two-year program in which our young people embark on a journey of faith and self-discovery. Being 13 is difficult! Our hopes as their leaders are that through this program and journey we give them the foundation to know who they are, be comfortable in that place, and to know that God knows and loves them. Our aim is to affirm their worth and their place in our church community and beyond.

January 2012 marked the fourth month in the first year of the two year program. Right now, it feels like a slow start since we hoped that the group would have become a more cohesive group. What we learned from the previous Rite 13 class, now the present J2A class, is that we just need to be patient, have faith, and let it evolve into what it needs to be by God for the kids.

So far the Rite-13 group has participated in an Overnight/Lock-In to kick-off the program where Rev. Tom took the kids through a brief Eucharist service using his "traveling altar," contributing to the Gingerbread event, participating in the collection for socks and gloves for a homeless shelter in Boston, and taking part in the Christmas pageant. We do plan one other Overnight/Lock-In before the end of this program year. The overnight is a great way for the kids to connect and to build community.

Rite-13 has an enrolled membership of approximately 16 boys and girls, with an average Sunday attendance of 7-8 every week. This group came from the Firelight group and has moved on to Rite 13. The Leaders are Mike Thompson and Joan Thomas, and we rotate leading the class every week. We meet every Sunday from 11:15AM – 12:00PM, leaving the service after receiving Communion. You may have noticed we sit together as a class during the service, which is important to the cohesiveness of our group. Our classes vary and cover a wide range of topics and we try to make it fun while slipping in God's love for them and everyone.

We need help desperately. We went from four leaders to two. That means only one of us can be there because typically one of us is tied up with personal plans at least one Sunday a month. If we could get a few helpers, people who can just be another warm body in the class, even for one hour a month that would help. This is a very important ministry. These kids are the future leaders of this church. It was so successful with the last Rite 13 group that they wanted to move on together as a group with the same leaders (which we were not able to do due to lack of volunteers) to J2A. That is a pretty good testimonial, in our opinion.

We do miss Meghan Sweeney, our Youth Minister, who had been a great help to us administratively last year, providing us with plenty of background assistance, keeping us organized and on schedule, while giving us ample amounts of support and invaluable input. We met on a regular basis, to plan our teaching schedule, Sunday curriculum and social events. If we could have another Youth Minister like Meghan, it would help a lot.

Moving forward into 2012, we have one year and six months remaining in this two-year program. We are in the process of planning a Rite-13 ceremony for the kids who reached 13 last year. We plan to have another Overnight/Lock-in this spring, hopefully one outreach event if we can get volunteers, and our classes continue to meet weekly, covering the Rite-13 curriculum.

Respectfully submitted:  
Joan Thomas  
Mike Thompson  
Rite-13 Leaders

## **POSTULANT REPORT**

2011 was another year of big changes for me. I began the year in Nagoya, Japan while I was serving as a Young Adult Service Corps Missionary of the Episcopal Church. I was accepted into Virginia Theological Seminary in March. I returned from Japan at the end of July and after a whirlwind three weeks moved to Alexandria, Virginia to begin my theological studies. I have just completed my first semester of Seminary and am excited to begin new classes shortly.

In Japan I took part in many different ministries in the Diocese of Chubu. As a part of my work each week I volunteered at a day center for the homeless, assisted the teachers of a Christian pre-school (in Japanese) three times a week, assisted teaching once a week in an afterschool English class for Japanese students and taught English classes at a school for Pilipino students who are not able to attend Japanese public school. I also helped wherever I could with special programs and events within the Diocese of Chubu. My year in Japan was such an amazing experience and I am so blessed to have been able to have had that opportunity.

In seminary I dove right into biblical studies by taking classes in the Old Testament, New Testament and Ancient Greek. I also have taken courses in Church History and Global Ecclesiology. My classes are fascinating, my classmates are fun and engaging, and overall seminary is a wonderful experience. I'm excited to use this time to explore all the different possibilities of my future ministry!

I wanted to use this report to again formally thank the congregation of All Saints' Church for their unwavering support and prayers over this past year. I know I'm not at All Saints' very much but I always feel so blessed by your support and encouragement! Thank you all so very much. Please know that All Saints' has been in and will continue to be in my prayers.

Peace in Christ,  
Christen H. Mills  
Postulant

## **DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE**

The Discernment Committee and Parish welcomed our Postulant, Christen Mills home from her year-long Young Adult Service Corps Missionary Program in Nagoya, Japan with a fellowship coffee hour this past summer.

The committee held a private luncheon with Christen to learn about her exciting experience and to offer support as she was readying to begin her studies at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia only a few weeks after returning home.

As it is the custom in our Episcopal tradition, that priests are raised up from the individual parishes, All Saints continues to have a very important role in supporting Christen. The committee, including Margie Lane, Linda Barrington, Lynne McSheehy, Derick Gates and Lynne Grillo thanks the vestry and the parish for its support and promotion of Christen toward the living out of her call. We thank you for your continued prayerful, emotional, and financial support as Christen continues in her (already) second semester this winter.

Prayer for Mission (from the Handbook for Parish Discernment Committees)

O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving, and healing your people and your creation. In your Son and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and likeness, through our prayer and worship of you and through the study of your scripture, that our eyes will be fully opened to your mission to the world. Then, God, into our communities, our nation, and the world, send us to serve with Christ, taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

In Christ,  
Lynne Miner Grillo  
For the Discernment Committee

## **WORSHIP COMMISSION**

The Worship Commission consists of the Rector, myself, Christy Brodeur, Ann Gilbert, Deb Forsberg, Rebecca Haberl, Liz Landers (later replaced by Sally Warren), and David Shochat. We continue to meet regularly to plan our regular worship services as well as special services like the Epiphany Service, Holy Week services, and the Blessing of the Animals. Tom Barrington was an energizing and inspiring presence who challenged us to think out of the box. We will miss him in this group, but are hoping to gain new insights from our Interim.

If you have any ideas for changes to our weekly worship, or special services that you would like to see happen or help to plan, please let any of us know.

Maggie Marshall, [maggie@ccc.com](mailto:maggie@ccc.com)

## **ACOLYTE REPORT**

### *Goals:*

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

### *Activities:*

While we continue to have a solid participation by our young people in all grades, this year we increased to 25 members of the team with 6 first year acolytes! Please remember that we can always use more help; we are in need of all age groups but grades 4-6 in particular. If your child is not part of this wonderful service and would like to be, or is even just considering it, please see Mr. Andrews or myself.

*Dreams, Desires and Thoughts toward Next Year:*

I offer our yearly appeal for the help with our wardrobe. The cassocks and cottas are quite expensive. We continue to send our thanks to Laura Geary, our dedicated 8 o'clock person that, mysteriously, seems to help clean, mend, and iron what we do have. I do need the team to help each other by remembering to rehang the robes and not toss them to the bottom of the cabinet – hint, hint.

We offer a silver cross to our 3<sup>rd</sup> year Acolytes that was funded last year anonymously, as well as give our first year Acolytes a wooden cross. We are still looking for some one with a solid woodshop to help replenish our wooden crosses cache; I am renewing that request but begging a bit now because I do not think we have enough for this year's new crop of 1<sup>st</sup> years!! So 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. The work is easily done by a teen, and we are able to get Boy Scout service hour time to help if I can find an adult to lead the project – hint-hint to our scouts in the parish.

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 so greatly enhances our parish life.

*Transitions:*

After 20 years, and with my own children beginning to “age out”, it seemed like a good time to start to train new adult leadership for the Acolytes. I offer a personal thank you to Bob Andrews, who stepped up this fall as the Assistant Acolyte Master. Starting with the new year, we have reversed roles with my assisting him.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Clement T. Cole/Bob Andrews  
Acolyte Masters

**ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild has the privilege of tending to the sacred spaces in which we worship. We are responsible for the preparation and the completion of every service held in the church and chapel including all Sunday, Wednesday and evening services, baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

This has been a year of transition for the Altar Guild. Liz Landers, who has served so well as Director for many years, stepped down in the summer. I am thankful for her support and her continued service as an active member of the Guild. We are especially saddened by the deaths of long time member Nancy Firth and bread baker Jim Rainville. I appreciate and personally thank all those who have participated in this ministry this past year and those who are joining us: Chris Baron, Dora Carr, Linda Coles, Esther Davenport, Carol Douglas, Melanie Hickcox, Liz Landers, Marilyn Livingston, Pam Meinhardt, Jean Rainville, Adrienne Spear and our bread bakers Clem Cole, Deb Forsberg, and Matt Hickcox. We have a few “stealth” members whose help is invaluable and appreciated also!

We are a group of dedicated parishioners who work behind the scenes caring for the sacred vessels and linens, securing the necessary articles to be used at any service, and cleaning the altar areas. Each Altar Guild member is part of a team which has responsibility for a two week rotation, four or five times each year. We all help prepare for Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas. The preparations are done reverently and prayerfully so that all services may proceed in reverence and beauty to the glory of God.

If you are seeking a quiet way to serve our community, please consider observing, perhaps helping. You may find it as rewarding and enriching as I do. Heartfelt thanks to all former, current, and future members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Warren

**MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT**

## MUSIC AT ALL SAINTS'

“For the common things of everyday, God gave man speech in a common way. For the deeper things men think and feel He gave the poets words to reveal. But for heights and depths no word could reach, He gave music, the soul’s own speech.” Unknown.  
In addition to the above quote is a saying that music is praying twice – once through the words, and again through the notes. All Saints’ is fortunate to have four choirs dedicated to glorifying God through music.

The first step in choosing the music sung and played at All Saints’ is to read the scripture for a given day. Then, using several planning tools, I select hymns and anthems that help to tie in all of the themes for the day. Sometimes, I am able to “hit you over the head” with a theme. Other days, it is a bit more oblique! I am fortunate to have all of you, a good singing congregation, since you have at least several hundred hymns in your repertoire.

I continue to be grateful to my volunteer support staff. Debbie Psilopoulos continues to do a wonderful job with the Handbell Choir, and it has been fun to watch them grow musically as a group under her leadership. Connie Pawelczak continues to play for the Junior Choir, and now accompanies the Children’s Choir on the Sundays that they sing. Leah Cole finished her long tenure as Children’s Choir accompanist when she left to attend college. Kathryn Chamberlain is my “pinch conductor” when my hands are tied to the keys and I have only eyebrows to conduct. Her willingness to do so means a higher degree of attention can be paid to dynamics, cutoffs, and the overall interpretation of a piece. Thanks to all of you.

I am proud of the world’s most dedicated Senior Choir. Every now and then, I try to add up the years of service in this choir. Doing a ballpark guesstimate, and including myself, I come up with 350 years. Perhaps we should be renamed the *Methuselah Choir!* In addition, this group of individuals is active in many other aspects of parish life. Your two wardens for the past few years have been choir members Scott Bempkins and Liz Landers. On any given Sunday, there are several choir members serving on the altar in many different capacities. This group not only sings, but also strives to serve God and our parish in many different ways.

My annual AAM conference was a road trip to Greensboro, South Carolina with my Gloucester colleague, and was a time of renewal and refreshment.

Our Children’s and Junior Choirs participated again in the Three Choirs Festival with Salem and Andover. It is always good for them to be part of a larger group, and it is a tradition that we all enjoy.

New members are always welcome in each group. If you join the Senior Choir, it doesn’t mean that you HAVE to become super involved in other activities; it is just a natural progression for some!

Here are the people that bring you music on a regular basis.

### Handbell Choir

Debbie Psilopoulos, Director  
Mary Bray – stepped down in September after many years of faithful service  
Joy Chadwick  
Elizabeth Danieli  
Dave Kuzara  
Trish Mescall  
Dee Miller  
Sean Seyffert  
Steve Sullivan  
Mike Thompson  
Sally Warren

Kathryne Danieli  
Lily Marshall  
Sarah Meinhardt  
Grace Mescall  
Maggie Mescall  
Sakhi Pola  
Emma Seyffert  
Abby Warren  
Emily Warren

### Senior Choir

Scott Bempkins  
Ron Cannistraro - stepped down in September after many years of faithful service  
Kathryn Chamberlain  
Betsy Eisenmann  
Bud Flumerfelt  
Erik Forsberg  
Lois Freeman  
Steve Grillo  
Matt Hickcox

### Children’s Choir

Miranda Garrigan  
Skyla Garrigan  
Elizabeth Meinhardt  
Hannah Seyffert

### Junior Choir

Connie Pawelczak, Accompanist

Melanie Hickcox  
 Liz Landers  
 Katie LaRochelle  
 Marilyn Livingston  
 Beth Lucas  
 Steve Marshall  
 Lynne McSheehy  
 Beth Pariseau  
 Connie Pawelczak  
 David Shochat  
 Adrienne Spear

Sally Warren  
 Linda Webb

Poinsettia Choir  
 Jen Barrington  
 Laura Chadwick  
 Leah Cole  
 Melissa Eisenmann  
 Deb Forsberg  
 Scott Sanjurjo

Thanks to all of you for making my job so easy. A special thanks goes to Tom Barrington, who was an incredibly supportive rector, boss, and friend.

Maggie Marshall

## 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 2011

The Mission/Outreach Team is charged with helping parishioners, both individually and collectively, to do God's work in the world around us. The primary role of the team is to coordinate with and support existing outreach programs and activities. We also educate All Saints members about the parish's Mission and help those interested in starting new Outreach activities. Our efforts are focused mainly in the areas of Environment, International and Housing. This report gives a brief overview of the Mission/Outreach activities participated in by parishioners in 2011. Details of each program have been submitted by the volunteers involved and can be found in separate sections of this annual report.

2011 has been a year of change for the Mission/Outreach Team. In January, Carl Clark, who had been a faithful member for several years, died. We all missed Carl's presence while, at the same time, celebrating the enthusiasm and energy he brought to us while he was here. Laura Marshall will be taking over as the chairperson of the group going forward. Dave Kuzara felt he had to step down as chair since he will be senior warden in 2012. The separate Environmental Stewardship group was disbanded due to lack of participation. Finally, the Hardisons, who had been running St. Philip's Theological College and the Mission Hospital in Maseno Kenya, are stepping down. Since they were the on-the-ground contacts to coordinate our Kenyan programs, we will be re-evaluating how best to continue our support of those programs.

### Environment

- ◆ The recycling drop-off for compact fluorescent light bulbs was available in 2011 and will continue into the future.
- ◆ This year we investigated putting solar panels on the link under a program offered by DCS Energy. This program would have allowed us to put up solar panels with no capital expenditure by the church. Unfortunately, the program was scaled back abruptly and we lost the opportunity to participate. We will investigate this again in 2012 if the program is renewed.
- ◆ Although the separate Environmental Stewardship group was disbanded, the Mission/Outreach Team will continue to help parishioners be good stewards of God's creation.

### International

- ◆ We continued our support of Enyehera subparish in Kenya. We collected money for a "Harambe" (fund drive) that they held to raise money for a new Church building. We are looking for ways to keep our communication with Enyehera parish open now that their rector has been re-assigned.
- ◆ All Saints' supported the Mothers Union Orphan Feeding Program for another year. Due to the Hardisons' departure, the diocesan Jubilee Committee is no longer recommending donations to this program.

- ◆ Parishioners volunteered at the “Celebration of Life” food booth at the Lowell Folk Festival. This raises money for Mustard Seed International which runs orphanages in the Caribbean, Africa, and South America. The parish also gives direct financial support to Mustard Seed.
- ◆ All Saints’ continued our involvement with the Chelmsford/Lowell chapter of Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM).

### **Housing**

- ◆ All Saints’ has been very involved with the Greater Lowell chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Among the ways we were involved with Habitat are:
  - We are a covenant church with the Lowell Habitat chapter which means that we pledge to support it with prayers, donations and volunteers.
  - We send a representative to the monthly meeting of the chapters Interfaith Committee. Through this committee, we have been involved in the planning for an Interfaith Build that will kick off in 2012.
  - Reverend Tom continues to serve on the chapter’s Board of Directors.
  - The church held its sixth annual Gingerbread Village to benefit the Lowell chapter of Habitat for Humanity. This event was put on in close cooperation with the local Habitat affiliate and had involvement from many of its covenant churches.
- ◆ In partnership with Central Congregational Church we sent a group of high school youth and adults to the Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp in Huntington, WV to help repair homes.
- ◆ Also in partnership with Central Congregational Church, All Saints sent youth and adults on a mission trip to repair homes in northern Maine.
- ◆ All Saints supported the Merrimack Valley Housing Partnership with a financial contribution.

### **Other**

- ◆ We celebrated particular Outreach programs through periodic articles in Saints Alive and by recognizing programs and volunteers in the worship service.
- ◆ All Saints’ collected Christmas presents for the children of prisoners through the Angel Tree Ministry.
- ◆ We collected food for the Chelmsford food pantry. Melissa Flewelling has taken on coordinating this ministry with monthly articles in the e-bulletin and Saints Alive. This included preparing Thanksgiving dinner boxes. Participation in this ministry has increased significantly.
- ◆ Table of Plenty is a feeding program every Tuesday hosted at First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Chelmsford. Maggie Marshall has coordinated volunteers.
- ◆ The parish supplied meals to the needy in Lowell through the Eliot Church feeding program. Esther Davenport continues to coordinate. We have four teams that prepare a meal once a month at All Saints and then brings and serves the meal at Eliot Church. The Penny Basket and the bottle returns raised money to support the Eliot Church feeding program. The Thrift Shop and individuals also financially support this ministry
- ◆ We participated in the Diocesan B-Safe program by preparing and delivering lunch for about 150 children and staff on two days in early August.
- ◆ 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.

### **Mission/Outreach Team**

Laura Marshall  
David Shochat  
Lois Freeman  
Edie Parekh  
Dave Kuzara

### **WEST VIRGINIA WORKCAMP**

Every year, over 250 youth and adults from various states and denominations gather at camp Asbury Woods outside of Huntington, WV to participate in the “Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp.” The workcamp’s goal is to make the homes of needy people in the Huntington WV area warm, safe, and dry. Typical workcamp projects include repairing and replacing roofs, walls, windows and floors, painting homes and adding skirting to trailers. Each year, All Saints’ Church and Central Congregational Church rent vans and bring youth (ages high school and above) from both parishes to this event.

All Saints' and Central Congregational churches sent 22 people to the WV Workcamp during June 18 - 25 2011. Of these, 5 adults and 4 youth were from All Saints. Prior to going, the group held a variety of fundraisers to help defray the cost. There was a dinner in Feb, a "Dining to Donate" event at Chilis in June, a car wash in April and a talent show in May. The group also sold "Workcamp Shares" as a way of soliciting donations. Once we got to West Virginia, we joined other groups and were broken up into 30 different work crews of 4 – 6 people each. Each work crew went to a different site to help homeowners with tasks such as painting, building decks, roofing, re-skirting trailers, and re-building rotted floors. We arrived back in Chelmsford late Saturday night after driving all day. The next day, Sunday, we spoke at services at both churches to describe our experience to both parishes.

Thanks so much to everyone who supported this effort. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Dave Kuzara  
Mission/Outreach Team

## **GINGERBREAD VILLAGE**

This year's Gingerbread Village Display was the 6<sup>th</sup> year that All Saints has hosted this holiday fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity. We had wonderful energy and work from the parish community, in particular from:

Lois Freeman, Mary Woodward, Deb Forsberg, Linda Cahill, Dee Miller, Linda and Frank Ouellette, Laura Geary, Diane, Adolf and Sean Olbert, Ethan and Steve Marshall, Denise Seyffert, Pam, Sarah, Elizabeth, and William Meinhardt, Karen, Ned, Skyla, Miranda and Cole Garrigan, Shelli Turocy, Jennifer Dowd, Laura Geary, Leslie, Hugh, Gabby and William Stafford, Derick and Susan Gates, Jen Barrington, Tom Barrington, Amy and Brian Hunter, Sheila Demers and Skyler J., Karen Kowalski, Carol Cannistraro, Barbara Willman, Tricia Mescall, Margie Lane, Esther Davenport, Maggie Marshall, Dave Shochat, Harry Taplin, Melanie Hickcox, Edith Parekh, Bob, Laura, Ethan and Emily Andrews, Mike and Alex Thompson, Becky, Paul, Paul and Sammy Malone, Dave Kuzara, Nik Bates-Haus, Rohini and Sakhi Pola, Darlene Gossement, Bob Wilson and to all the Gingerbread Builders, Gingerbread Supporters, and visitors to the event- THANK YOU.

With 94 houses entered, we raised \$3,077.00 – this is our biggest amount raised yet for Habitat through small donations at the door and raffle ticket sales. We had tons of visitors, raised awareness of Habitat's mission, and opened our doors to the wider community.

All Saints' fundraising efforts, the Kitchen, Cookie Walk, Gingerbread Man Decorating and the Holiday table earned \$2030.00 for the All Saints' General Fund.

Congratulations to Linda and Frank Ouellette, Katie Iovanna, St. Mark's Youth, The Schubert Family, Chelmsford Girl Scout Troop 66495, and the Meinhardt Family for their award winning entries. Our mystery judge was unaffiliated with our event. Each year our mystery judge looks for something different: this year's judge took into account the sincere use of candy. ALL of our entries were beautiful and award winning.

Thank you finally to the Vestry and Tom Barrington for their support of this holiday outreach event.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Marshall

## **ALL SAINTS' THRIFT SHOP**

The original mission of the Thrift Shop was to support Christian education and youth programs in the parish. While we continue to support the youth of ASC, we have expanded our mission to include community outreach, and capital improvements to the Church property. The outreach money is raised from the profits generated by selling gently used clothing on consignment and from donations. All clothing that is not sold is donated to a local charity on a monthly basis.

The Thrift Shop Board looks to the Rector and the Wardens to advise them when and where there are needs, either within the Church or in the community. As members of the board we prayerfully consider all requests for funds. Please contact the Board Co-chairs if you would like to learn more about the giving process.



The Thrift Shop is open 3 days per week, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 o'clock to 3 o'clock from September until June. A volunteer commitment is for one two and a half hour shift *once a month*- consider joining our ranks! It's fun and thrifty!

Respectfully submitted,  
 Laura Marshall and Becky Malone, Co-Chairs  
 Maggie Marshall, Treasurer

### **2011 Giving for Thrift Shop:**

Granted to the All Saints Community:

All Saints Outreach:	\$ 500
All Saints' feeding program	\$1,500
All Saints General fund	\$1,500
Rector's discretionary fund	\$ 500.
Tom's gift	\$ 250
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Total given to ASC	\$4,250

Granted to the Greater Chelmsford Community:

Sun Santa	\$150
Life Links	\$100
House of Hope	\$100
Salvation Army	\$100.
Table of Plenty	\$250
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Total given to the community:	\$700

### **2012 Thrift Shop Board Members**

Carol Douglas, Carol Cannistraro, Barbara Willman, Vi Flumerfelt, Margie Lane, Laura Marshall, Becky Malone, Maggie Marshall

### **PASTORAL CARE**

Pastoral Care is a group of parishioners who visit and share Communion with those who are unable to attend church. Many visits are on a regular basis and some are on a short term basis as the need arises. We meet monthly with the Rector to discuss the needs and concerns of the members. Eighty- three home Communion were administered this year.

Many thanks to Deb Forsberg and her group for continuing to make the Prayer Shawls which are blessed at a Sunday service. Due to their endeavor we and other parishioners have been able to distribute them to many individuals.

Pastoral Care's goals for 2012 are to:

- continue to take care of those we are visiting regularly
- take better care of those who may need visits for a short time
- find out who else needs to be visited
- have better coordination with Prayer Shawl Ministry
- communicate better with Laura Marshall about those receiving meals
- have the Rector visit shut-ins we visit more often, at least twice a year
- recruit and train three more visitors

Pastoral Care is a small group and we welcome anyone interested to join us. Presently we meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am in the Blue Room. We plan on returning to evening meetings in April.

Our group includes Tom Barrington, Cina Baker, Joan Dechane, Lois Freeman, Ann Gilbert, Ed Gilbert, and Ann Kirk.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Ann Kirk

### **ALL SAINTS' FEEDING MINISTRY**

The year has gone smoothly with a dedicated group of people comprising four teams continuing to provide meals on the second Wednesday of each month for the St. Paul's Feeding Program. The numbers of people coming to be fed continues to climb. From the 30 or so people who attended when the ministry first started, the numbers have swelled to well over 100.

The ministry has grown from providing meals 2 nights each week to covering 5 nights, Monday through Friday. This means additional rental fees, and additional costs for supplies needed in the dining room. All Saints' recently sent a check for \$2000 to cover our share of the above expenses for the year. We continue to be funded primarily by the Thrift Shop which provides \$1500 each year. Additional funds come from the Penny Basket, Bottle Returns, and private donations. We are very grateful for all of these donations.

Other churches in the area, one school, and several businesses provide meals for the rest of the month.

This is a much needed service that we are helping to provide. If you would like to be part of this ministry, talk to me. We need people to help with cooking, serving, and shopping. We also need money to help with the funding of the ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Esther Davenport

### **GREETERS PROGRAM**

The Greeting Team's mission is to welcome parishioners, old and new, to All Saints' on Sunday. Beyond just a warm and welcoming smile, greeters provide a *Welcome to All Saints' Church* pamphlet to first-time visitors. The pamphlet gives an overview of the church history, as well as current offerings and logistical information to facilitate newcomers' visits. Whenever possible, greeters introduce themselves to new visitors, answering any questions they might have and introducing them to the Rector. Reconnecting with new visitors after the service is greatly encouraged.

Our current team includes Lynne McSheehy, Bruce Bray, Deb Dutton, Barbra Lindberg, Kathryn Chamberlain, Carol Cannistraro, Linda Cahill, Midge Wilson, and our newest greeter, Pam Meinhardt. Thank you all for your continued commitment to our greeting team!

As part of the Greeters Program, I create nametags for parishioners to facilitate the learning of each other's names, which will hopefully create a greater feeling of family within the parish. I continue to customize nametags, using a symbol that represents a favorite ministry at All Saints' or a personal hobby. I hope to extend this ministry until every parishioner wears a tag every Sunday, especially as we welcome a new Rector.

In the upcoming year, I hope that our important ministry will help ease the transition from Reverend Tom to our new leadership, as I'm sure we'll be welcoming some new faces. Please contact me if you'd like to know more about becoming a greeter. I hope that greeters will provide newcomers with a connection to All Saints' that makes them want to keep coming back.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie LaRochelle  
Greeters Program Coordinator

### **ANGEL TREE PROGRAM**

We often speak of Angel Tree in the weeks leading up to Christmas each year, but the program begins long before that. Churches wishing to participate by providing gifts for children with incarcerated parents register with the national Prison Fellowship organization many months ahead. Prisoners apply for the program through their chaplains during the summer, providing contact information for their children's caregivers. Often the process of strengthening the relationship between the children and the absent parents begins just with the fact that the mom or dad is taking action to reach out to the child. Once we have contacted families to discuss Angel Tree, the program moves into a more visible phase when parishioners select gift requests from the small tree in November. When the gifts are brought in to church in December, they are sorted and labeled with personal messages from the parents

in prison, and then several gifts per child are delivered to the homes of the caregivers along with information on All Saints and an invitation to join us for worship at any time. We write to the prisoners and let them know whether we were able to reach their families and what gifts we are providing in their names.

For Christmas 2011, All Saints' was able to serve 9 families and 20 children, figures similar to recent years. In our service to these families, we may witness both some of the joys and challenges of their lives. Every participating family expressed delight and happy thanks for our assistance, even though some parents and children alike were struggling with circumstances such as serious illness, the aftermath of becoming homeless, and the pain families often experience when a member is absent. One mother wrote to us saying: "We thank God for blessing us with Angels like you....from the bottom to the top of our hearts we thank you for your genuine gifts." She expressed her determination to stand firm in her faith despite the difficulty of the family's situation.

Warmest thanks to the many parishioners who brought in wonderful gifts and to Darlene Gossement, who fields all sorts of calls from Angel Tree families, often at the last minute. Very special thanks to Melissa Flewelling, Diane Olbert, and Kevin Ackert for working on the in-gathering of presents. Much gratitude to Kevin, Melissa, and Mike Thompson who faithfully delivered gifts.

Stephanie Ackert  
Angel Tree Coordinator

### **BOTTLES AND CANS REPORT**

Some time in the early 90's All Saints started to collect bottles and cans for recycling and redemption. This effort has been on-going since then with records being kept since 1998. Since that date, we have earned \$3027.60. While not a life changing amount, it has been a consistent income for the Church and now for the feeding program.

This year's income was \$190.95 or 3,819 cans and bottles. In addition to the funds, there are that many bottles and cans that have been recycled rather than ending up in the landfills.

If you haven't been contributing your cans and bottles to the church, please consider it. It's easy, saves you time and is a very worthwhile effort for the church's feeding program.

Carol Douglas

### **PENNY BASKET REPORT**

WE ALL DID IT in 2011!!! This was our best offering since 2002, bringing in \$260.00 in donations for the year 2011. As many of you know, the little white Penny Basket in the Narthex supports the St. Paul's Feeding Program. In these times of higher grocery prices, it's wonderful to see all those pennies, silver, and sometimes green money in the basket, all waiting to be wrapped. The teams from All Saints' that feed usually over 100 people once a month, look forward to the extra for their budget. As Esther Davenport could tell you, the teams exist because of the donations from the Thrift Shop, the Penny Basket and the Bottle Return Project, all banding together to supplement this program.

Some of you may be interested to know that since we began feeding the homeless in 1990, we have contributed \$3536.50 through the Penny Basket alone. That's a lot of pennies! Special thanks to all who support this ministry and to Barbara Lindberg for picking up the pennies periodically when the basket is thankfully getting full and to Barbara Waldron for faithfully wrapping all the pennies. To everyone, please continue your support. On a Sunday morning, I would invite you to empty your heavy pockets and pocketbooks of all those pennies and silver into the Penny Basket in the Narthex. This is one painless way to help feed deserving people who really look forward to our healthy and nutritious meals. Little by little we can have another banner year in 2012, with all your help.

With many thanks,  
Barbara Willman

### **PRAYER AS FIRST RESORT**

A small group of All Saints' members continued to meet (on second Tuesdays at 7:30 pm) during 2011 to consider how prayer can be the first resort rather than the last resort in responding to all sorts and conditions in our lives.

As a legacy of Amy Hunter (former Associate for Formation), this team continues to flourish in learning about prayer and prayer practices to enrich our lives. Among the topics we have considered and pondered this year were joy, forgiveness, intercession, and thanksgiving. We explored the prayer practices of the "Jesus Prayer" and the "Prayer of Jabez." We even explored some people of the Bible like Photina (the woman of the well – wow, did you know she had a name?).

We value this opportunity to meet together regularly to grow in our own personal prayer lives and to share with one another. We welcome and invite all who feel called to join us.

In Peace,  
Lynne Grillo and Deb Dutton

## PARISH OFFICE

There are so many facets to being a parish administrator: a clerk who answers the phone and emails, orders paper and supplies, schedules yearly inspections of our alarm systems and elevator; a communicator who helps to compile and disseminate information to the parish through bulletins, emails, and newsletters; a calendar keeper and scheduler who tries to keep our building busy while adding to the income of the parish (a rental coordinator is desperately needed!) to name a few. However, I feel the two most important aspects of my job are to be a central point of communication and a welcoming presence to those for whom I am the first contact with All Saints'. I was gratified this year when a new parishioner told me that my "excellent directions to the church" were much appreciated and added to the positive experience they had when they first encountered our All Saints' community.

While technology has made many jobs in the church office easier, the volume of work just seems to grow every year. I want to thank the many people that helped with this in the past year; Margie Lane, Jen Barrington, Leah Cole, and Laura Geary. I want to express my gratitude to our past treasurer, Cynthia Bennett, who did so much to get our financial reporting in line. I especially want to thank Maggie Marshall and Liz Landers for editing and compiling the Annual Report.

There will be new challenges in 2012. I will miss Rev. Tom who made working here so enjoyable. The environment of respect and cooperation among the staff is a testimony to his leadership. Having said that, I am looking forward to welcoming a new rector and helping with the transition that brings.

There are always things to be done in the office. If you can spare some time to help out, please contact me by phone or email.

Respectfully,  
Darlene Gossement, [aschurch@gis.net](mailto:aschurch@gis.net)

## SAINTSALIVE!

The SaintsAlive! parish newsletter is issued 11 months of the year. It serves to encourage parishioners in their parish lives. For some, a scheduling announcement concerning programs proves most useful; for others, the points of view from parishioners, especially from the rector, form the most important part of the newsletter. SaintsAlive! allows the parish membership to gain a greater sense of who we, as a community of Episcopalians in Chelmsford, are.

There have been a few themes in 2011. Among them:

- The death of Carl Clark in January, with the ensuing wrapping-up of an estate, and the loss of the idea that he might be among the group when next members of our parish visit Kenya. In a very short time, he had become a well-known fixture in the All Saints' community, and he had hoped to be on that next trip.
- "Once Upon a Long Ago," a series of quick-reads intended to tell the sweep of the Old Testament from Joseph's coat of many colors to the rebuilding of Solomon's temple after the return of the remnant from exile in Babylon.
- Part 2 of Christen Mills' sojourn in Japan, where her web entries and letters to the parish formed a true "constant contact" with Chelmsford.
- The High School Youth Group activities, reliably reported by Megan Sweeney, until her return to studies in Boston.
- "I choose Sunday School": a series of articles from Rebecca Madden (now Rebecca Haberl - congratulations Rebecca!) that tweaked

at the priorities of parents and younger people alike, reminding us that a little Christian education is no bad thing, and that it does need some deliberate planning ... just like the soccer or football programs that compete for that precious Sunday morning time! This theme from Rebecca was overtaken in November and December by reminders to support and help the Pageant.

- Seasonal programs such as Laura Marshall's summer-time Harry Potter-based Hogwarts' School of Witchcraft and Wizardry session(based on "The Gospel According to Harry Potter"), the annual pie-baking workshop with Esther Davenport's assistance and Liz Landers' leadership, and the gingerbread village (another huge effort by Laura Marshall, with help from many of the parish bakers).
- Promotional articles and reviews of the new program of Christian forums that have been organized by Matt Hickcox.
- The pending (announcements since October) departure of Tom Barrington from All Saints' Church.

The newsletter is compiled almost exclusively from e-mailed contributions to [saintsalive@yahoo.com](mailto:saintsalive@yahoo.com). As editor, I gather these into a draft which is sent to a "copy-editor" who, since Amy Hunter's departure, has been Maggie Marshall. Maggie, being tied to the parish as Minister of Music, often has insights beyond avoiding sentences that begin with conjunctions: whole articles on occasion need to be added, to explain how services will be scheduled around holidays such as Ash Wednesday, Easter weekend, All Saints' Day, or Christmas. In 2011, these tweaks included details of how we would be scheduling plans for Tom Barrington's "good-bye" service. As if that were not enough, Darlene Gossement in the parish office often receives articles that absolutely need to be added, way after my so-called "final" draft is prepared. Darlene and Margie Lane somehow manage to get a draft from Maggie and me and turn it into a final printed article, along with announcements about Christmas poinsettias or Easter lilies, in time for people to read about the current month's news on, or often before, the first of the month.

Articles for SaintsAlive! are always welcome at [saintsalive@yahoo.com](mailto:saintsalive@yahoo.com).

Respectfully, Patrick Blumeris, Editor, SaintsAlive!

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Nominating Committee to the Annual Meeting of the Parish of All Saints  
For January 29, 2012

The following is the slate that the Nominating Committee presents to the Annual Meeting:

Sr. Warden	David Kuzara
Jr. Warden	Eric Forsberg
Treasurer	Melanie Hickcox
Clerk	Cina Barker

Vestry	
3 yr term	Sean Seyffert Steve Marshall Rohini Pola

2 yr term	Darren Collins
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1 yr term	Barbara Lindberg
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Diocesan Convention Delegates	Lois Freeman Christopher Mills
Alternate	Adrienne Spear

Deanery Representative	Paul Krenitsky Dee Miller
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Endowment Committee – 3 yr term

Paul Krenitsky  
2 yr term  
Scott Sanjurjo

Nominating Committee

Joy Chadwick  
Steve Sullivan  
Deb Dutton

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Bishop  
Esther Davenport  
Lois Freeman  
Paul Krenitsky  
Sean Seyffert  
Adrienne Spear  
Harry Taplin  
Michael Thompson