

What's Inside...

Advent Programs ----pp. 2&3

Rector's Reflection ----- p. 3

Spirituality and ----- p. 4
Justice Awards

Books to Read & ---- pp. 6 & 7
Give

Francis Conference ----- p. 8

Irish Pilgrimage ----- p. 9

Warden's Report ----- p. 11
And more!

The Mission of All Saints Parish

is to be a Community — searching to know and accept God's purpose for us, uplifted by worship together, sustained by a sense of Christ being in our midst, and inspired by the Holy Spirit to become more than we are, here and in the world.

Statement of Policy

The policy of All Saints Parish is to welcome all people who seek the love of God, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or age. We welcome all people on the basis of our Baptismal Covenant in which we promise to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" and "respect the dignity of every human being."



THE ANGEL

comes suddenly moon-colored and as though asleep
into the darkness of God's dream;
the heave of his chest is like the working of the sea,
the sure lift of his knees is like the spring of oaks;
he is *still* there, between earth and heaven,
until—who knows, the moment of birth—
suddenly sunlit and as though waking
into the brilliance of God's dream,
the light in his eyes like the dancing of stars,
the swell of his voice like the lifting of mountains:
GLORY he says GLORY he says GLORY he says GLORY:

THANKS BE TO GOD!

David Evett

Christmas 1976

This poem and one other of David Evett's Christmas poems have been set for chorus by Nicholas White, Music Director of The Boston Cecilia, and will premiere at the Cecilia concerts on December 4 and 6. Illustration by Jane Gillette.

On the way to Bethlehem, into the mystery that is Christmas Becky Taylor

During the four weeks of Advent, our children in PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade hear this story unfold in their Godly Play classrooms. We offer excerpts of it here.

A King is coming. This king is a baby who was born in a barn. The King who is coming is still coming. This is full of mystery.

The Church learned a long time ago that people need to get ready to enter the mystery of Christmas. So the Church set aside four weeks to get ready. During this time, we are all on the way to Bethlehem. The journey was not just back then. It is also now.

During Advent, we remember the prophets who pointed the way to Bethlehem. "Stop. Watch. Pay attention," they say. "Something incredible is going to happen."

During Advent we go to Bethlehem with the Holy Family: the Mother Mary, the Father Joseph, and also their donkey. Mary was about to have a baby. It is hard to walk when you are about to have a baby. Sometimes she rode the donkey. She rode and walked with Joseph, all the way to Bethlehem.

During Advent, we go to Bethlehem with the shepherds. They were in the fields around Bethlehem at nighttime. Suddenly, there was so much light that it hurt their eyes. Then they heard singing in the sky! That scared them, until they heard the words of the song. Angels were singing, "Don't be afraid." (Angels say that because it can be scary when a messenger of God comes to you.) The angels sang, "We bring you tidings of great joy. A Child is born! Run to Bethlehem to see the Child who will change everything."

During Advent, we go to Bethlehem with the Magi. From far, far away they saw the wild star. They followed it to see where it was going and what it wanted to show them. It led them all the way to Bethlehem. They got there after the baby was born. That's why we remember them after Christmas, on the Feast of the Epiphany.

When you come to the mystery of Christmas, everything changes: it becomes the color of pure celebration. Christmas is when the baby is born, The Christ Child, the one we have been waiting for. This is amazing and wonderful. The light of Christ spread out to fill up the barn on the night he was born. It spread out beyond the barn, until people couldn't see it any longer. But it's still there. You can feel the Christmas light because anywhere you go, you are in it. Always.

Advent Retreat – ***Faith: A Mother's Story***

An Advent Retreat on Saturday, December 5, will open with *Faith: A Mother's Story*, a one-woman play created and performed by Olivia Woodford. The events surrounding the birth of Jesus are depicted through the eyes of the women who were around Mary during that time. Woodford, a nationally known actor and creator of sacred drama, presented her play *The Heart of the Cross* at All Saints as part of the Lenten retreat last March.

The schedule for the retreat is as follows:

12:30 -1:00 pm – Arrival and introduction

1:00 - 2:15 pm – *Faith: A Mother's Story*

2:30 - 3:30 pm – Time for reflection (the sanctuary and other spaces in the church will be available for a variety of ways to enter into the Advent season more deeply).

3:30 - 4:00 pm – Closing liturgy, led by the rector

The retreat is open to the public. Suggested donation is \$20; students and seniors, \$10.



Rector's Reflection: Stop and Wonder

Advent. When the ending and beginning collapse into one another. When the readings move between the little apocalypses—the stories of the coming of Christ at the “end” of it all—and the promises of Christ coming to “be with us” throughout it all. The stories of a promised child, a savior who will restore us, reconcile us—and not only us but all of creation—to the creator. The Alpha and Omega who always enables us to begin again.

Advent is a liminal time—a time in between. It's a time to stop and wonder. A time to follow John out into the wilderness—that desert between what you know to be sure, and the darkness of the future. Between who you think you are, and who you are really being called to be. It's a time to take stock, to prepare—to repent, if that's what is required—and to really examine if and how you're doing the work God is calling you to do.

In Advent, just as we enter more deeply the darkness of the waning year, we're encouraged to wake up, to pay attention to what is really important, to wait and watch for the light that shines even in the darkness.

Advent is a wonderful time—or it can be if it's not completely swallowed up by the collective cultural rush to Christmas. Our consumer culture tries to blind and deafen us with an endless parade of all of the things we still don't have and probably can't really afford. But Advent is our countercultural response. Advent encourages us to focus on presence more than presents; calls us to live more fully into the relationship we already have rather than chasing those that might be. It invites us to stop and wait, to see and sense, to breathe and be; to allow the divine light to grow in and among you.

We have an abundance of rich and meaningful ministries to help you live fully into Advent here at All Saints: Evening Prayers, an Advent Retreat, Lessons and Carols, Alternative Christmas Markets, A Service of Solace and Remembrance (because for some of us this is not “the most wonderful time of the year”), and many others. I pray that you will take advantage of them, and that your preparations and celebrations will reveal new depths of God's love for you and for all whom you know and care for.

Peace and blessings,

Richard+

The Festival of Lessons & Carols

All Saints will celebrate the Advent season on December 20 with the Festival of Lessons & Carols, presented by music director Christian Lane and the choir. Music begins at 4:30 with the service at 5 pm. This traditional service intersperses Bible passages and appropriate carols, telling the Biblical story from the fall of Adam and Eve through the prophets who foretold Jesus' coming and the events around his birth, and ending with John's gospel portraying him as the Eternal Word made flesh.

The festival was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918, at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England, and continues to be held there to this day, usually broadcast through the BBC. It was planned by the Dean of King's, Eric Milner-White, whose experience as an army chaplain had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. He adapted the service from one drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, and used first in 1880. Benson's son later recalled: “My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop.” At All Saints, we honor this tradition by beginning with a young reader, continuing with various parish representatives and ending with the rector.

Since it began, the service has spread to churches around the world. But wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, its pattern and strength, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. “The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...” seen “through the windows and the words of the Bible.”

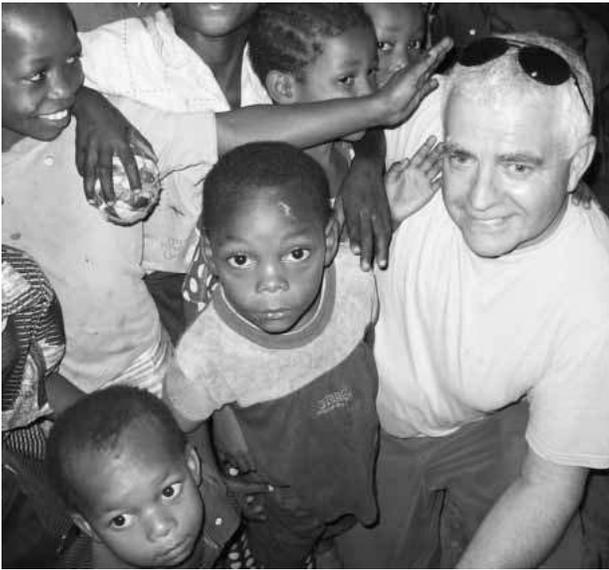
Come, and with heart and mind, follow where the story leads.

Information from the program for the Festival of Lessons and Carols, King's College Chapel, Cambridge.



Colin Johnstone: From All Saints to Tanga

Marianne Evett



Colin with children in Kizara.

"I always wanted to go to Africa," Colin Johnstone said. Although he has recently moved to Pennsylvania, he was back at All Saints on November 7 and 8 to receive the 2015 Spirituality and Justice Award honoring his work in Tanzania.

Since his first trip in 2007, he has been to Africa eight times (once, in January 2014, leading a group of 17 people from the Dioceses of Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Ohio) and become proficient enough in Swahili to preach. Through his fostering of relationships between All Saints, the Diocese of Massachusetts, and the Diocese of Tanga, he has helped provide equipment for a farm in Korogwe and a health center in Kazara; and supported a ministry to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, a tailoring school for women in Mgombezi, youth ministries of Holy Cross Parish Magila, and the building of a nursery school in Kizara named in honor of Bishop M. Thomas Shaw. He has nurtured personal contacts in the Tanga diocese and spread his lively enthusiasm through his work for the Episcopal Church here. He has served on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee, co-chaired the All Saints Mission and Outreach Committee and served on the Vestry.

His interest in Africa began when he was a teenager, growing up in England's beautiful Lake District. The child of a Scottish father who was killed in World War II, and an English mother, he was an ardent Anglo-Catholic ("I was an altar boy, a choir-boy – and much of it beats in my heart today," he said). His youthful imagination was fired by Fr. Trevor Huddleston, who founded a monastic community in Yorkshire and became a passionate leader in the anti-apartheid movement. "The anti-apartheid movement in Britain was very strong then," Colin said. "I persuaded my family to boycott South African goods. It was my first taste of activism." He was also influenced by the legendary missionary Frank Weston, Bishop of Zanzibar in the early 20th century, who thought an African church should have an African ideology, not a superimposed English one.

In 1967, however, after graduating from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Glasgow, he was offered an internship at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. "I came for a year, but then I kept staying on," he said. "I felt called to do it." He received his PhD there and joined the faculty. He also met Dr. John K. Fong, his partner for the past 45 years. They were married in 2004 and had a blessing ceremony in 2008, presided over by Bishop Shaw.

Ten years ago, he and John took early retirement and decided to move to Boston. They bought a house in Brookline, and Colin was attracted by the sign for Celtic services at All Saints. That service proved "not his thing," but the next Sunday, he was "totally entranced," he said. "It reminded me of an English church, with an emphasis on music and liturgy." The welcome was warm, and he soon was thoroughly involved.

This fall, however, Colin and John decided it was sensible to move into independent living and chose Kendal Crosslands, just next door to the farm outside Philadelphia where they had once lived. They moved on October 28. Colin will go back to Tanzania at least one more time, to see the Bishop Shaw Nursery School in action, and he hopes to help renovate the girls' school in Hegongo. He'll continue as a consultant in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

He is sad to be leaving. "An important part of my formation happened at All Saints Parish," he said. He was instrumental in revitalizing the Mission & Outreach effort here, along with Jenny Outman and Sue LeClaire, "Very few parishes have the kind of outreach that All Saints has," he added. "We are second to none."

2016 Spirituality & Justice Award

The All Saints Spirituality & Justice Award for 2016 will be presented to The Rev. Laura Everett on World Mission Sunday, February 6 and 7, 2016. She is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, the state ecumenical network of 17 Orthodox and Protestant denominations, congregations and individual Christians working together.

A graduate of Brown University, Laura received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. A pastor in the United Church of Christ, Laura blogs about denominational identity, Christian unity (and disunity), and social media at www.RevEverett.com and on Twitter at @RevEverett.



Saint of the Month – Frances Joseph-Gaudet

Nathaniel Harrison



“I felt that something must be done to stop this march to the prisons.”

Though the language here may be stilted, the passion underlying such conviction could easily be that of a modern-day militant working to end mass incarceration in the United States. But these are the words of Frances Joseph-Gaudet, an extraordinary 19th and early 20th century African American activist who devoted her life to improving conditions for prisoners, black and white, and to ensuring that indigent defendants before the law were treated fairly and humanely.

Frances, born in rural Mississippi in 1861 to a mother of Native American descent and an African American father, was also a committed Episcopalian. She has been designated a Holy Woman in the Episcopal Church, and we are called to honor and remember her life and work each year on December 30, her feast day.

When her marriage ended in 1888 because of her husband’s alcoholism, she was left to provide for three children. But, as she later wrote in her 1913 autobiography, “it was then that the Lord called me to the mission field, and in trying to cheer the broken-hearted I forgot my own troubles.”

In 1894, in New Orleans, she found her true calling after consoling a distraught woman whose son was bound for the local prison to begin a five-year sentence for theft. She persuaded prison authorities to let her lead prayer and hymn singing sessions behind the walls, convinced that redemption through faith is available to all. She wrote letters for prisoners, delivered messages for them and made sure they had decent clothes.

She was also an effective and energetic political activist, winning over prominent Louisiana government officials, sheriffs, district attorneys and court officers. Her campaigns bear a clear resemblance to the sort of action criminal justice reformers are engaged in today. She raised funds for indigent defendants, rallied support and gathered evidence for those unjustly accused, pleaded with judges to show leniency and to consider alternative sentences to incarceration in state prisons. Her agitation led to the establishment of the first juvenile court in New Orleans.

As her public stature grew she was named to a delegate to the international convention of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union in Edinburgh in 1900, after which she went on engagements in Belfast, London and Paris. Back home in Louisiana she raised funds to establish the Gaudet Normal and Industrial School for homeless children and those of working mothers in 1902. She eventually donated the school to the Episcopal Church of Louisiana. It was reorganized in 1954 as the Gaudet Episcopal Home, serving African American children age four to 16, but closed in 1966. Proceeds from the sale of the property still fund scholarships that are administered by the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana.

Frances Joseph-Gaudet died on December 30, 1934. The following Collect is to be used on her Feast Day:

Merciful God, who raised up your servant Frances Joseph Gaudet to work for prison reform and the education of her people: Grant that we, encouraged by the example of her life, may work for those who are denied the fullness of life by reasons of incarceration and lack of access to education; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Note: “Saint of the Month” will be a regular feature of *Saints Alive!* Frances Joseph-Gaudet will be in the Lent Madness bracket this year.

Diocesan Convention Report

Richard Burden

The Diocese of Massachusetts held its 230th diocesan convention on November 13 and 14 at the newly renovated Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Attending on behalf of All Saints were Dorothea Haas, Colin Johnstone, Jim Daniels, and The Rev. Richard Burden.

Friday night following the call to order, a festive Eucharist was held to rededicate our Cathedral and to officially seat Bishop Gates. On Saturday we held elections for diocesan offices, heard reports from various diocesan ministries and learned about the listening process for reviewing our mission strategy. Every three years we are canonically obligated to look at our diverse forms of worship, our life-long formation in the faith, our service in the community, and the sustainability of our finances, our buildings and our personnel resources.

Beginning in December and continuing through April, a listening team appointed by Bishop Gates will invite input through surveys, large forums and smaller targeted meetings. This data will be compiled for diocesan review in the spring; then, a strategy team appointed by the bishop will identify priorities to be presented at convention in 2016. Your input is needed! Please plan to attend one of the Mission Strategy Events, and check the DioMass website for information about the on-line surveys and call-ins. All of this information, as well as a full report on actions taken at convention is available at www.diomass.org.

A Book List for Christmas and Beyond

Christmas is a time for gifts, and the New Year is a time for resolutions. This list of books that especially interested or inspired some members of All Saints Parish may help you with either – a gift for someone special, a book for you to look into as you begin 2016.

AnneMarie Ellis: *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*, by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Doubleday N.Y., 1992.

This book was given to me as a gift from the brothers at The Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge. It is a spiritual reflection on the painting of the Prodigal Son, by Rembrandt that is in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia. Nouwen asks the question of himself and the reader, “Who are you? Are you the son, the elder son or the father?”

Marianne Evett: *The Givenness of Things*, by Marilynne Robinson. Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2015.

Robinson has plumbed the depths of the human spirit in her novels, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Gilead* and its related novels *Home* and *Lila*. “In her new essay collection she trains her incisive mind on our modern predicament and the mysteries of faith. Her book is a call for us to find wisdom and guidance in our cultural heritage, and to offer grace to one another” [from reviews].

Kim Hardy: *Going Up the Holy Mountain: A Spiritual Guidebook*, by Gary Hastings. The Columba Press, 2015.

“This book is primarily about a real mountain of rock and scree, Croagh Patrick in the west of Ireland. The origins of the pilgrimage and how it is traditionally done are explained, and other ways you might use the mountain as a spiritual resource are suggested. It can also be about any other mountain, or hill, or special place we use to do a pilgrimage, growing in spiritual maturity as we progress towards God.” [from the cover].

Margaret Harrison: *The Art of Fielding*, by Chad Harbach. Little, Brown & Co, 2011.

Although set in the milieu of a college baseball team, Harbach’s book appealed to this non-baseball fan. Its greatest strength is its rounded, appealing characters, many of whom are young and looking for their places in the world. Harbach has invented a famous Hispanic shortstop who has written a book of philosophical advice to shortstops, and quotations from this book appear from time to time throughout the novel, as well as intriguing references to Melville’s *Moby Dick*.

Nathaniel Harrison: *Zealot: the Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*, by Reza Aslan. Random House, 2014.

A fascinating, provocative, and meticulously researched biography that challenges long-held assumptions about the man we know as Jesus of Nazareth. Aslan takes a hard look at the historical Jesus and explains why the early Church was reluctant to portray him as a political revolutionary.

Mary Urban Keary: *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*, by Katherine Boo. Random House, 2014.

The true telling of children’s lives in the slum villages of Mumbai. “Garbage pickers and petty thieves, victims of gruesome injustice. Ms. Boo draws us into their lives and they do not let us go. This is a superb book.” (Tracy Kidder)

Jean Knox: *Citizens of London: the Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour*, by Lynne Olson. Random House, 2010.

Olson focuses on three individuals—Ambassador John Winant, journalist Edward R. Murrow, and businessman Averell Harriman—to tell the story of America’s reluctant entry and subsequent engagement in WWII in Europe. The narrative is gripping and inspiring, filled with fascinating details about famous and unsung heroes of the time. As we confront our fears about the state of the world, I found it helpful to read about another time of intense fear, when no one knew what the future had in store.

Katherine Kominis: *The Reluctant Saint, Saint Francis of Assisi*, by Donald Spoto. Penguin Compass, 2002.

This biography is written from authoritative sources and portrays Saint Francis as a human being who is transformed into a spiritual leader in a troubled time. The context of Italian history and culture is especially well done, as is the necessary change of the Franciscan order from a small to an established religious institution.

Christian Lane: *First Nights: Five Musical Premieres*, by Thomas Forrest Kelly. Yale University Press, 2000.

An intriguing look at five of western classical music’s most influential pieces, including Handel’s *Messiah*, by exploring what it might have been like on opening night. Harvard music professor Thomas Kelly’s text is a delightful and easy read.



Sarah Leinbach: *Swann's Way*, by Marcel Proust, translated with an introduction and notes by Lydia Davis. Penguin Books, 2004.

Not the whole seven volumes of *Remembrance of Things Past*, for I haven't yet finished it myself. But the first of the seven is one of my very favorite, most beloved books. His writing – the long, long sentences, clause after clause, which you think might wear you out – instead lifts you high, loving those lines which carry you to a place unlike any other. And often make you laugh.

Ed. Note: the translation above is the most recent; earlier versions are by C.K. Scott Moncrieff, revised by Terence Kilmartin and then by D.J. Enright.

Janelle Mills: *The Fire Next Time*, by James Baldwin, Vintage, re-issue 1992 (orig. pub. 1962).

I recently read this book for the first time. I was blown away by how much in these two essays still resonates today. Not much has changed since Baldwin wrote in 1962. Anyone interested in race relations in the US should give this a read. Baldwin also spends time looking at religion and its role in the civil rights movement.

Jean Stringham: *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, by Atul Gawande, M.D. Metropolitan Books, 2014

Dr. Gawande is a surgeon and bestselling author who works and lives in the Boston area. He writes about how doctors are trained to extend life with various procedures that in the end may extend suffering and take away quality time that patients can spend with their families. This book is very readable and popular.

Peter Stringham: *The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible*, by Charles Eisenstein. North Atlantic Books, 2013.

In a time of social and ecological crisis, what can we as individuals do to make the world a better place? This inspirational and thought-provoking book serves as an empowering antidote to the cynicism, frustration, and paralysis so many of us are feeling, replacing it with a reminder of what's true: we are all connected, and our small, personal choices bear unsuspected transformational power.

And one more as lagniappe: *Barchester Towers*, by Anthony Trollope, edited by John Bowen. Oxford World's Classics, 2015.

It's the 200th anniversary of Trollope's birth, and Oxford is reissuing all the novels in superb paperback editions. Time to discover (or re-discover) that he has Jane Austen's witty take on society along with a deep understanding of the complexities of the heart. *Barchester Towers* proves that the church as an institution has not changed much in 150 years – and will make you smile.

Children's books for Christmas

This wonderful set of children's books was selected from the Church School library at All Saints by Becky Taylor.

Little One, We Knew You'd Come, by Sally Lloyd-Jones

A beautifully illustrated book with what Publishers Weekly describes as a "soothing, lyrical text." Both the words and the pictures depict the love that surrounded the newborn Christ Child – the love of his parents, the animals in the barn, the angels, the shepherds, and the Magi, as each come near, to hold and be close to him.

Song of the Stars: A Christmas Story, by Sally Lloyd-Jones

This beautiful book begins with the words, "The world was about to change forever." All the nonhuman parts of creation come alive with excitement and joy: the wind, the sky, the water, and all the plants and animals. "It's time!" Animals large and small hurry to the manger to worship and adore the Christ Child.

Humphrey's First Christmas, by Carol Heyer

This sweet story is told from the point of view of the camel that carries the Magi's gifts on the long journey to Bethlehem. The new blanket he receives as they start the journey is his most cherished possession, but becomes the gift he gives to the Christ Child. The illustrations are so much fun!

How Many Miles to Bethlehem?, by Kevin Crossley-Holland

Described by one reviewer as "a mysterious, sophisticated interpretation of the Christmas story," this book is a feast for the eyes. Each character in the story of the Nativity introduces the next one: Joseph, the innkeeper, the ox and donkey, the shepherds, the wise men, King Herod, the mother Mary, and finally, the Christ Child himself who assures the reader at the end of the story, "I will never leave you."

The Francis Factor – a Conference Report

Sharon Siwiec

Sharon attended a conference – “The Francis Factor: How Saint Francis and Pope Francis are Changing the World” – sponsored by the Center for Action and Contemplation, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, from August 30-September 2, 2015.

“God is Love.” These words have served as a basic tenet of my own faith since I was very young. I was raised a Roman Catholic, but at the age of fifteen I walked away and did not return to church until I came to All Saints Parish twenty-three years ago.

Anoma first told me about Fr. Richard Rohr, a Franciscan friar and the founder of The Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) last June. I started reading his wonderful daily meditations online, and through this I learned of this conference. One thousand people, mostly of the Catholic faith, attended. My participation proved to be a reaffirmation of my faith, but also opened the door to experiencing a faith of a deeper nature.

The resort where the conference was held was located on reservation land in the foothills of the Sandia Mountains, along the Rio Grande, and is actually owned by the Tamayame People who have lived on this land for centuries. The hotel resembled a pueblo dwelling.

In this age of cynicism and secularity, it was heartening to be with people whose traditional faith still served as a guidepost. Yet I could see they were embracing their faith in a new and more life-affirming way, likely as a result of Fr. Rohr’s teachings. People traveled from all over the world to attend this conference. Besides Fr. Rohr, the speakers were Ilia Delio, a Franciscan sister and scientist, a brilliant, informed speaker; and Shane Claiborne, one of the founders of The Simple Way, a faith community in inner city Philadelphia. He writes and travels extensively speaking about peace-making, social justice and Jesus.

The lessons we can learn from Saint Francis and Pope Francis were central to this conference, that is, Jesus did not want us to worship him, but to follow him, to emulate his life. In the “Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home,” his Encyclical on the environment, Pope Francis mentioned St. Francis often. How Saint Francis lived his life, and the Pope’s encyclical are examples of spiritual ecology. This joins ecology and environmentalism with the awareness of the sacred within creation.

Sr. Ilia Delio quoted the Jesuit priest, philosopher and scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin extensively in her talks (as did Pope Francis in his encyclical). Both addressed the environmental crisis in our midst that will necessitate the evolution of a planetary religion. While people will be able to adhere to their individual faiths, what needs to evolve is a mass cooperation based on deep faith to begin to heal the planet. In this planetary religion, evolution is described as a rise of consciousness that will lead to a new life that is greater than it is now. Our understanding of God will deepen as we deepen our self understanding.

In spiritual ecology God, consciousness, and love are defined as the same thing. Simply put, “God is love.”



Brookline Sister City Project

Carol Piñero and Peter Stringham

Since 1987, Brookline has had a close relationship with Quezalguaque, Nicaragua, a rural town near the Pacific coast. All Saints parishioner Jean Stringham was their treasurer when they built the first health center in the town in 1990. Over the years, Brookline has delivered hurricane relief supplies, built and renovated two health outposts, and constructed a small school and a large, well-stocked library. Becky Taylor led a team of All Saints teenagers to Quezalguaque to plant a garden behind the library one summer. Peter Stringham has been involved with a health team of the Sister City for the last 10 years.

Almost every summer, groups of public health students have traveled to Quezalguaque and helped study and publicize an alarming epidemic of chronic kidney disease, common in young male sugar cane workers in the Pacific coast countries of Central America. Now three international teams are working to find the cause of the epidemic.

Brookline residents support art and music programs, the health system, and a mobile library program as well as a school for mentally challenged youth. Teachers like All Saints parishioner Carol Piñero have done training for the high school English teachers in Quezalguaque, and the Sister City board has helped the town to build three computer classrooms.

The residents of the town, in turn, give much back to Brookline visitors, who are impressed by their wisdom, generosity, and optimism during annual visits. They show us a slower, more connected society that tries to look out for all members of their community. Many Nicaraguans see themselves as having poets’ souls that are in sync with the deeper rhythms of the earth.

Brookline Sister City Project thanks All Saints for its continued support of this worthy town.

Return to Ireland – A Pilgrimage

Nadira Yankana

My second pilgrimage to Ireland, out of all my travels, was my most soulful journey.

Along Ireland's west coast, we were in the mountainous areas of Connemara, then flew to Inis Mor, the largest of the Aran Islands. A pilgrimage here is an extraordinary experience. It speaks to all people and all levels of faith. I am always moved by the gentleness of faith that exists in Ireland's culture, people, ruins and beautiful landscapes. God exists here in every way.

Our guide was legendary mountaineer Con Moriarty, and it's a pleasure to be a pilgrim with him.

When Con speaks about landscape, sacred ruins, Celtic spirituality, the shaping of Ireland's religions or its road to independence, it stays with me. Combine that with the gentle ministry of The Rev. Kim Hardy and an exceptional experience unfolds. Spiritually I come home to my most authentic self when in Ireland.

I have many wonderful memories, some on my own and some with our group. On this trip I climbed Diamond Mountain in Connemara, my first mountain climb ever in life. We also took a nice group hike near our lodge to a hilltop monastery associated with a sacred well for St. Patrick. We visited Clonmacnoise, the monastic community founded by St. Ciaran, where I saw my first High Holy Cross.

Prayer and solitude are important to me as a pilgrim. At Lough Inagh Lodge, I loved starting my day with a stroll down the path leading to its lake, grabbing stones to do a "letting go" ritual. Our lodge had beautiful sitting rooms with comfy chairs, so in the evenings I would cozy up to the fireplace lit with peat moss and enjoy my book on Celtic sacred spaces, pure heaven for me.

At St. Brigit's Garden, a Celtic-inspired garden representing the seasons, I was moved by the trees where people attach wishes and prayer cards; there I tied ribbons intended for my friend's mother and my loved ones that have passed. I wanted my ribbons in a special place on this journey.

We had an amazing walking tour with archaeologist Michael Gibbons on Omev Island, a tidal monastic isle. It was unique because we had to wait for the tide to flow out so we could walk across to the isle and return before the tide returned. In our time with him, he gave us a glance into his world.

Time spent in the Aran Islands made a great finale. At our communion service in Inis Mor, we stood near the cliffs, facing the ocean and sun. On this day I read the lesson, which happened to be the Lord's prayer. Afterwards, we hiked along the dimpled stone slabs by the cliffs to behold the famous "Wormhole," a natural stone pool that ocean waves crash into and ebb out. It's easy to feel God's presence here through the earth, water and sky.



All Saints parishioners on pilgrimage. From left: Roberta Schnoor, Nadira Yankana, Bill Schnoor, Kim Hardy.



My most lasting memory happened on my last morning at Inis Mor. My room's bay window lit up with an unusual white glow, waking me around 4am. I sat up in bed, and in my window saw my first eclipse of the moon. It was unusual because there was a small light on the high corner, which lit the horizon with a soft, luminous gray. I had never seen anything like this; it was magical. Turns out that rounded light was Venus. Now I know what is meant when people say, "the stars are aligned." I took it as the most perfect sign that I was meant to be here in this time and place.

Nadira Yankana went on the first All Saints pilgrimage to Ireland in 2014; she returned this year on the pilgrimage October 3-10, again led by The Rev Kim Hardy, Celtic Liturgy Coordinator at All Saints, and her husband, The Rev Frederick Moser. Parishioners William and Roberta Schoor and Karen Keating also went on the pilgrimage.

Introducing Rob Hillman and Jim Mitchell

Margaret Harrison

Rob Hillman and Jim Mitchell, together with their daughter Katherine (now 9) and the family dog, Roman, moved to Brookline two years ago after living in New York City for nearly 20 years. In the process of looking for a church, they found All Saints.

“When we moved to Brookline, we found All Saints to be very welcoming and comfortable. It was most like the church we had come from,” says Rob, who has now become a Church School teacher here. In New York, they were members of St. Ignatius of Antioch on the upper West Side of the City. Katherine and Jim were both baptized at St. Ignatius, and Jim and Rob were also married there.

Katherine is in the fourth grade at the Driscoll School in Brookline. “As Katherine got older,” says Jim, “we wanted to raise her among family. We moved here so we could be closer to Rob’s parents and his sister.”

Rob grew up in the Boston area and went to college here before moving to New York. Jim is from Louisiana, where his father still lives, and has family in Seattle and Dallas. Though geographically separated, Jim and his family make sure that they see each other regularly, including taking a vacation together every year or two.

Rob works in investment banking. Jim worked in various capacities for Columbia University in New York, and now is a director of corporate operations for a consulting firm based in Boston.

Do they have time for weekend activities? “The work and school week is fairly hectic,” says Rob, “so on the weekends we just spend time together, cooking or running errands, juggling play dates, or simply spending time with extended family.”



Jim, Katherine and Rob

photo by Jean Stringham



Four new vergers were installed on All Saints Day, November 1. From left, Bonnie Randall, AnneMarie Ellis, Sue LeClaire and Maggie Hogan. Photo by Rick Montross.

From the Editor

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. I continue to be delighted by all the good ideas, good writing and willingness to share ideas, experiences and interests. But then that’s All Saints. Thank you!

Secondly (and more personally) I want to thank the parish for the beautiful ramp that makes the Parish House accessible to everyone. It is elegant as well as perfectly built, with a gradual slope that is very easy for anyone with a walker or wheelchair. Everyone here is unfailingly kind and eager to help, but it is a relief to be able to enter and leave the building on my own. Thank you!

As we enter Advent, a season of anticipation, self-examination and renewal, and look toward the birth of Christ at Christmas, I wish you all peace, joy, and many blessings. - **Marianne**

Editor – *Marianne Evett*; Assistant Editors – *Nathaniel and Margaret Harrison*; Designer – *Page Elmore Evett*

Deadline for the Spring Issue is **January 25**. Please send articles and correspondence to office@allsaintsbrookline.org or mbevett@gmail.com

From the Wardens

These past 2 years at All Saints have been filled with property activity - the renovation of the rectory, the replacement of the stained glass window in the sanctuary, the addition of the accessibility ramp, and of course all of the regular maintenance issues. None of these things would have been possible without the support and commitment of the whole parish. As we now reflect on our hopes for All Saints in this coming year, we have been moved time and time again by how blessed we are. We wardens are in the privileged position of seeing the members of this community, near and far, show up and come through for us all.

So as we move away from the big (and necessary) property focus of the past few years, our hope for 2016 is that we come to know each other better. Let's focus on how we can learn from each other and support each other, and how we can grow our community, both physically and spiritually. This invitation is also intended for our extended community - the Korean church members (who joined us in donating turkeys for Aidan's mission project), the various music organizations that bless our space with their lovely sounds, and all of the other groups who gather at All Saints.

We have an amazing new choir director in Chris and look forward to working with him to enrich our already wonderful music and liturgy. Mission and Outreach are continuing to grow our relationship with important partners such as Crossroads, B-SAFE, and El Hogar, and are working to establish the new baby boxes initiative, helping new mothers in the Boston area.

Our question for the coming year is how can we continue our successes and find ways to build upon them? All Saints has so much to give and now it's time to open our doors and our hearts and see what happens. The stewardship theme, *Let Your Light Shine*, keeps reverberating with us. We hope that all of you will join us for the Annual Meeting on January 31st as we discuss more about how we can share this tremendous, glorious light beyond the walls of our church.

"No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5: 15-16.

Rite 13 Sunday: January 10

It is a longstanding tradition at All Saints Parish to recognize those members of our congregation who are celebrating their 13th birthdays in any given year. This milestone birthday marks the beginning of the journey through the teen years into young adulthood. On January 10, with a special ritual during the Holy Eucharist, we will celebrate with Miles Burden, Tyson Klaus, and Brandon Lowe. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they receive one of God's greatest gifts, the transformation from childhood to adulthood.

Around the Parish

Eugenia Coleman & Michael Keveny were married on October 10.

Eleanor Marie Cox was baptized on November 1.

Lisa Feltner was elected District B representative to the Watertown City Council on November 3.

Millicent Holder displayed and sold the jewelry she makes at the Brookline Senior Center's Holiday Crafts Fair on November 13 and 14.

Linda Cutting Whited's first children's book, *A Is For Always*, a book about adoption with illustrator Judy Pelikan, will be published by Familius Books in 2017.

And new grandchildren! Larry and Doris Coe's daughter Julie has a son, Miles, born April 13; their son Peter has a son, Jamie, born August 11. Both families live in Manhattan.

Katie Gressle's new grandchild is Chloe Marguerite Capalbo, born August 29 to her daughter, Anna, and her husband, Matthew. Chloe joins brothers Luca and Leo.

Brad and Barbara MacDonald now have 5 grandchildren (Daniel has two children and Helen has three). The newest addition is Helen's daughter, Charlotte Dillon MacDonald Greer born on July 9.

If you have news you'd like to share in Saints Alive! Please contact Marianne Evett at mbevett@gmail.com.

Janelle Mills and Wendy Wheeler



Photo by Jean Stringham

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www.allsaintsbrookline.org

Worship Schedule

We join together in Prayers for Peace and Healing for all of God's people throughout the world:

Saturday 5:00 pm Celtic Holy Eucharist

Sunday 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, with Prayers for Healing

Monday & Wednesday 7:30 pm (11/29-12/23) Evening Prayer

Please note: **The Nursery is open every Sunday from 9:00 a.m. - Noon.**

Clergy

The Rev. Richard Burden, Rector

The Rev. Anoma Abeyaratne, Priest Associate

The Rev. Kim Hardy, Celtic Liturgical Coordinator

Pastoral Associates

Becky Taylor, Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries

Christian Lane, Organist & Director of Music

Emily Howe, Schola Director

Parish Administration

Pam Igelsrud, Parish Administrator

Sue Poon, Evening Office Manager

John Plonowski, Bookkeeper

Renato Dantas, Sexton

Alexandra Geoly, Elizabeth Adams, Security Receptionists

Erika Anderson, Dayva Frank, Nursery Care

Dates to Remember...

November 29 – Advent Wreath Making

December 5 – Advent Retreat With Olivia Woodford

December 17 – Service of Solace and Remembrance

December 20 – Lessons & Carols

December 24 – Family Service (Schola) – 3:30 pm music; 4 pm service. Late Service (Adult Choir) – 10:30 pm music; 11 pm service

January 6 – Three Kings Party

January 10 – Rite 13

January 31 – Annual Meeting

