



SAINTS *Alive!*

a quarterly journal telling the story of All Saints Brookline

Volume 24, Number 1

Fall 2021

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Welcome to All Saints Parish!

As a community of faith, we:

- Welcome all seeking refuge, inspiration, and nourishing relationships with one another and with God.
- Provide a place devoted to creating beauty and experiencing God's grace.
- Empower people to act in service to others and to care for God's creation.

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."

Rector's Reflection

Living (and loving) the questions.

Fall has finally arrived, and it feels both familiar and strange. Kids have gone back to school. The choir is singing. The dining room is active with Breakfast Club and church school. The work of committees and meetings has resumed in full "program year" mode...but we are all wearing masks, the meetings are still (mostly) online, and there is the constant calculation of "risk assessment" that we are all making...do I feel safe doing this? Will I be able to attend that?



Photo credit: Barbara Macdonald

I can sense the urgent desire from all corners to just be done with this pandemic. I can also sense the exhaustion and the grief that eighteen months of crisis has brought to us. We are moving forward, but still uncertain about what the future holds. We are living our lives and practicing our faith, but always unsure if what we are doing is making any difference in the world.

In this uncanny season of uncertainty and busyness, I find myself longing — sometimes physically needing — to slow down. To stop, just look out a window and ask: out of the 10,000 things vying for my attention, what are the one or two things that God really needs me to be focused on. And so, I find myself turning — once again — to a set of questions posed several years ago by Parker Palmer. In a 2015 New Year's reflection (remember 2015?), he posed five questions that I am revisiting now, in this new time of uncertainty:

- How can I let go of my need for fixed answers in favor of aliveness?
- What is my next challenge in daring to be human?
- How can I open myself to the beauty of nature and human nature?
- Who or what do I need to learn to love next? And next? And next?
- What is the new creation that wants to be born in and through me?

I'm trying to slow down and allowing these questions some room in my soul. I encourage you to do the same.

We still face a lot of uncertainty, but as Palmer wrote: "If we wrap our lives around life-giving questions — and live our way into their answers a bit more every day — the better world we want and need is more likely to come into being." (Parker Palmer, *On Being, Five Questions for Crossing the Threshold*, 31 Dec. 2014)

May it be so.

Richard†

Welcoming: How to “How Do You Do” at All Saints?

Brad MacDonald

What do you remember about your first times attending All Saints Parish? How were you welcomed? Welcoming is fundamental to our parish identity. We greet visitors to our website: “Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here.” One of the prime tenets of our mission as a community of faith is to “welcome all seeking refuge, inspiration and nourishing relationships with one another and with God.”

So how do we go about bringing “welcome” into action?

First, let’s remember that welcoming is not only about newcomers. As we move into a new program year this fall many of us are returning to the sanctuary for the first time in eighteen months. “Welcome back,” we say, now hoping that our smiling eyes can convey the joy above our masks. We wear name tags to help with remembering and re-connecting. When we have the opportunity to meet newcomers, visitors, and seekers attending our services for the first time, how do we convey that we are a welcoming community? We recently asked the vestry, the welcome committee and parishioners for tips on the topic of welcoming. The responses are as varied as the personal experiences and personalities of our members and provide great insight.



Listening

We have as a parish engaged in a number of structured programs focused on listening to the stories of our community members: the Living Stones Listening Project, Courageous Conversations, From Many One: Conversations Across Differences. So we should be really good at engaging with others, right? Meeting a new-to-you person in the sanctuary or at social hour might not be so structured, but a key component for welcoming is listening. Express your genuine interest in them — “I’m glad to see you. Tell me about yourself.” Do more listening than talking — “What brings you here today?”

Balance

Give space to people to find out how they want to engage with our community. Feel for a balance between your enthusiasm about the many attributes of All Saints and not overpowering the newcomer. It’s not a selling job, but rather conveying your joy in your sense of belonging. Let the newcomer feel that and then find their own way. Some will be comfortable with that initial conversation, others will want to move to a deeper level of connection asking how they can become involved. Share what you have in common: the music, the space (the children’s area, the sanctuary art, the beauty of our gardens and yard, the Parish House and Guild Room), or your connection to a part of our community.

Personal

“All Saints is just us,” suggested a vestry member. Welcome is not a single act — it’s a process of finding a relational, interpersonal connection. Some are better at some aspects of that process. Hospitality is what genuinely connects us, be it through music, youth group education and formation, discussion groups, worshipping together. I recall that eons ago as a newcomer I was warmly met during social hour by Mary Dunlap. Her genuine interest in our young children, our shared interest in music and her introductions to others in the room, all expressed with good cheer quickly confirmed my sense that this community was a likely landing spot on our quest for a spiritual home.

Parish member Phil Haberkern described his family’s experience, capturing the essence of “welcome” at All Saints: “We were welcomed by the rug. I very distinctly remember wandering into the big, old stone building and seeing the trappings of a very traditional, high church service. We had a two year old at the time, and we definitely wondered if we were in the right kind of place (coming as we did from a much more relaxed Presbyterian church in Princeton). But people showed us to the rug, came by and said hello, and nobody batted an eye when Ellie acted like a toddler during church. The blend of high liturgy and casual acceptance was great, and it was what brought us back. So, I would want to make sure that we continue to highlight that space of initial and continuing welcome to families who might be intimidated by the formal trappings of our worship services.”

The Way It Was: Live Streaming At All Saints

Nathaniel Harrison

“We managed to make something that works.” Indeed they did. The “something” that Richard modestly refers to here is in fact an inspiring technological triumph that enabled All Saints parishioners to stay connected to their liturgy and their community in the face of COVID. It was a team effort, harnessing the talent and ingenuity of a dozen or so people who, week after week, ensured that All Saints services were beamed into the homes of parishioners where they sheltered from the pandemic.

The first live-streamed service was on March 15, 2020, just days after Governor Baker ordered a ban on large in-person gatherings. Miles and Monica Burden, seated at a table just in front of the choir steps, operated a MEVO camera the church had recently purchased to live-stream monthly Compline services. The MEVO is a device that allows the user to live-edit a video event as it is underway. From then on the operation became increasingly complex, with the installation of additional cameras, microphones, mixing boards, ethernet cables and other devices. By October 2020, the nave resembled a TV studio – but it also allowed the familiar worship space to reach into our homes.

Not surprisingly, there were speed bumps along the way. “It was certainly frustrating when we lost internet,” Richard recalls, “when the sound didn’t work, when the cues weren’t picked up and there was dead air – but I never became discouraged.”

Communion was suspended, the traditional Sunday Eucharist replaced by Morning Prayer. The choir was deactivated but not so the music for which All Saints is rightly celebrated. Stephan Griffin was in place at the organ each Sunday, his robed soloists – notably Kira Kaplan, Emerald Barbour, Philippe L’Esperance, Nick Saxton, Andrew Miller, Charlie Evett and Elizabeth Swanson – stationed at carefully chosen locations around the nave. So too have been other members of the technical team, namely – and in addition to Miles, Monica and Richard – Bryce Mathieu, Bruce Keary, Rick Montross, Alan and Jack McLellan, Sam and Matthew Burfeind, Ruby Gage and Renato Dantas.

“I was not prepared for how complex it would be,” Richard says. “It sounds so simple to say: ‘Oh, just point your smartphone at the altar and stream it on the web.’ Pointing smart phone at the altar and broadcasting is certainly cheap and fast – but not satisfying in any real sense. Plus, we have an altar, and a pulpit, and a choir! We needed at least two cameras, and then better cameras, which meant having the internet bandwidth to accommodate it, which meant extra ethernet cables to hook it all together. Maintaining physical distance also meant we needed to mic things differently – which meant having a soundboard, extra cables etc. Having multiple cameras and mics then required a more robust software ... every problem pointed to a solution, which opened up a new problem ... in short, the complexity was a challenge.”

There have also been “questions of artistry,” Monica explains. “What camera shots do we use when, how do we manage the lighting, how much info do we need to put in the Facebook feed to keep people engaged.” It wasn’t until May 31, 2021 that a physically present congregation was again authorized. But live streaming will continue, although it will never be a polished production. “Knowing that we are providing a sacred space for people to gather and worship together both in-person and online, and that people are spiritually fed by both is all the satisfaction I need.” And the beneficiaries of all this effort extend beyond greater Boston. “It’s worth noting that we now have some far-flung people – my mother in California for example – who regularly watch online,” says Monica.

Richard, finally, is confident the success of the live-streaming procedure will not lead to a decline in in-person attendance. “I think if people don’t come back it will be for other reasons and not because they are satisfied with watching the live stream. I’ve also heard from many people who say that online church doesn’t really ‘do it’ for them. People want to be here. They want to see each other, they want to be in-person, and it’s a blessing to have the resources to be able to offer an online option in the way we do.”



Chorister Charlie Evett on the livestream software



Alan McLellan on the soundboard, Compline

The Choir Returns

Margaret Harrison

We're back—the volunteer members of the All Saints Choir!

The parish may feel some regret at the end of the pandemic all-professional music, which has been excellent, but the volunteers of the choir are delighted to be back. Stephan seems to be happy to see us, as well.

He writes: “It was fantastic having folks back in the stalls on Sunday! Had you asked me on September 1st, I would’ve said the main objective for the adult choir this year is to get our musical feet back under us, but given the last two rehearsals, I think that will happen in no time. Most years, a choir roster stays fairly consistent throughout the season and it’s easy to plan everything over the summer, but that isn’t the case this year. We have 24 people starting the season and another 11 or 12 who hope to join later on. With that in mind, I’ve broken the year into 3 parts for planning purposes ... September - Christ the King, Advent - Epiphany, and Lent - Pentecost. As folks return, the repertoire will start to include pieces with more divisions, etc.”

Coming in the next months, the Evensongs are for:

Elizabeth Cady Stanton – October 24

Lessons and Carols – December 19

St. Joseph – March 20

St. Pachomius – May 15

And how do we volunteers feel about singing together again?

Laura Vennard: “It is an absolute blessing to sing with the choir again. With our first procession, singing “Ye watchers and ye holy ones,” I felt unbidden tears of joy interfering with the march to the altar.”

Honor McClellan: “So happy to be back singing with our wonderful group and Stephan! Mask singing is not easy, but well worth it for the privilege and presence of song with fellow choristers.”

Jack McLellan: “It’s been a surreal experience being in back in choir while the pandemic is still going on: much like ‘normal’ but with a new layer of complexity. But I am very glad to be able to sing and make beautiful music with this group once again.”

Barbara MacDonald: “Not having sung for so many months, I had some anxiety about returning to choir, not knowing if I could vocalize or sing the soprano part. But at our first rehearsal, after our initial warm-up and singing hymns and anthems together, I found my long lost voice, and the thrill of making music together as a choir was once again joy-filled and wonderfully satisfying. Not being able to sing together in the services during the pandemic was one of the losses that was most difficult for me.”

Lynne Montross: “I’m feeling very comfortable being back because we are all being careful around each other (good spacing and masking). Richard’s and Stephan’s leadership has made me feel confident that we are in good hands once inside the church.”

Denise Chew: “For me, Church choral music is prayer and worship. To live without it has felt like losing the primary language in which I know how to speak with God and ask for his grace. Its beauty is that it can only be done in community, which for me reinforces that worship is a community activity.”

Larry Coe: “After singing in choir rehearsals I am left with a feeling of peace.”

Margaret Harrison: “The pleasure of choir singing is partly the pleasure of acting in harmony with other people, seeing them regularly, engaging in a common effort with a director who is both amusing and demanding. It’s also the music itself and the words. The music and words run through my head during the week and deepen—‘Thou shalt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee,’ ‘My eyes for beauty pine, my soul for Goddes grace. No other care nor hope is mine; to heaven I turn my face.’ Stephan is starting us with relatively simple pieces like these, which are often those with important texts. He’s also introducing many new pieces, most composed recently.

We volunteers are impressed by our new section leaders, Kira Kaplan and Nick Saxton, and grateful to Emerald Barbour, Philippe L’Esperance, Andrew Miller, and Charlie Evett, who have made beautiful music for us during the pandemic. They must have enjoyed singing as an all-professional group, but they give every sign of satisfaction that we are back as a full (nearly) choir again.”

Editor – *Nathaniel Harrison*; Designer – *Page Elmore Evett*

Deadline for the Winter issue is January 31, 2022. Please send articles and correspondence to
office@allsaintsbrookline.org or harrisson@aol.com.

All Saints Parish Joins the Feed Kids MA Coalition

Wendy Wheeler

Today in Massachusetts, 1 in 5 households with children are food insecure, with Black and Latinx families disproportionately impacted. COVID-19 has shed a light on the state of hunger in our state and in our nation.

This was always a crisis. Too many people in our state were struggling to meet their most basic of human needs – food – even before this pandemic. And kids have always been one of the groups most impacted.

As we recover from this pandemic, we must recognize the importance of school meals. School meals can account for over half of a child's daily calories, especially for those who might not otherwise have reliable access to healthy food at home. Two of the biggest barriers that stop children from participating in school meals are the cost and the stigma of being singled out as needing a free school meal.

When kids are hungry at school, they cannot learn. Hungry kids cannot concentrate, have lower academic achievement, suffer cognitive and developmental impairments, exhibit more behavioral problems, have more absences, visit the nurse more often, and are at higher risk of obesity. Food insecurity is a crisis with health, educational, and economic consequences, leaving children particularly vulnerable to the long-term impact.

In light of this, All Saints has joined Project Bread's Feed Kids MA coalition, along with approximately 75 other organizations in the state. Feed Kids MA has gained state legislature sponsors for bills providing free meals for all students, regardless of need. As members of the coalition, we provide testimony at State House hearings and spread the word about the initiative on our website and social media. All Saints has had a longstanding focus on alleviating food insecurity, so joining the coalition was a natural step. For years we have been active supporters of the Brookline Food Pantry, this year raising over \$11,000 during our Lenten Fund the Food Pantry campaign.

And as long-time partners with St. Stephen's Youth Programs through their B-SAFE and B-READY programs, All Saints stepped up during the pandemic to provide groceries to the families in those programs, 75% of whom had at least one person in the family lose a job due to the pandemic. Over the course of the pandemic, All Saints members purchased about \$1,000 per month of groceries for those B-READY families.

Contact Outreach chair Wendy Wheeler to learn more or go to feedkidsma.org.

The Reverend Barrett P. Tyler: All Saints' Second Rector

The Reverend Barrett P. Tyler, war hero and missionary, came to All Saints in March 1920 following his recovery from wounds suffered while serving as a US military chaplain in France during World War I. He was the church's second rector and a graduate of Yale Divinity School.

Father Tyler, born in Rockville, Maryland, the son of a Methodist minister, was a chaplain assigned to the US Army's 325th Infantry division when he sustained severe injuries at the battle of Saint-Juvin in northeast France in October 1918.

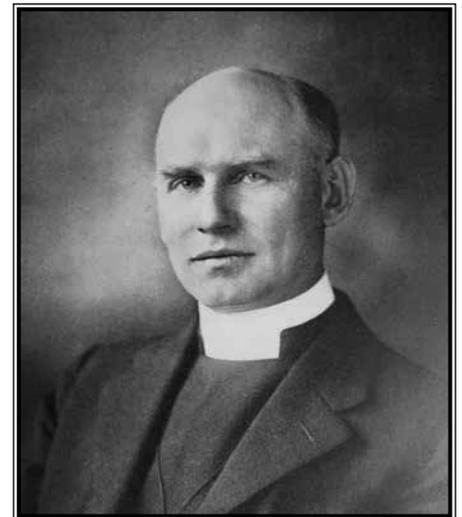
He was cited for heroism by General John J. Pershing in March 1919.

Father Tyler would preside at All Saints until February 1932 when he left Brookline for St. Michael's Mission, an Episcopal Church mission in Ethete, Wyoming, established in 1887 to serve the Arapaho and Shoshone people of the West River Indian Reservation.

During his tenure at All Saints, the chancel, east transept, resting chapel and Sunday School rooms in the basement were built – in 1925 – at a cost of about 132,000 dollars. Four years later the church established an endowment fund, inspired in part by interest expressed in purchasing the property from an outside party.

"When we were starting the Endowment Fund," Father Tyler recalled in an address given in 1934 to mark the 40th anniversary of All Saints, "I received a letter one day in the mail which spurred us on to action. 'Gentlemen, if your church property is for sale, kindly let me know your price.' No, it was not for sale and we began to see to it that it should not be for many years to come."

While Father Tyler described Brookline as a "delightful home" for him and his family, he was eventually called away by a desire to serve as a missionary. "I tendered my resignation on February 1, 1932," he said in his 1934 address, "and in September of the same year I became your missionary at St. Michael's Mission – at least I like so to consider myself, for while with you we liked to call ourselves a missionary parish ... how could I better justify this name than by becoming one myself?"



Stewardship 2022: Celebrate Community And Connection

The coronavirus changed all of us at All Saints and challenged us to adapt creatively to new circumstances. With diligence, perseverance, and the support of our members with whom we engage. To mark this engagement, we have chosen Celebrate Community and Connection as the theme for this year.

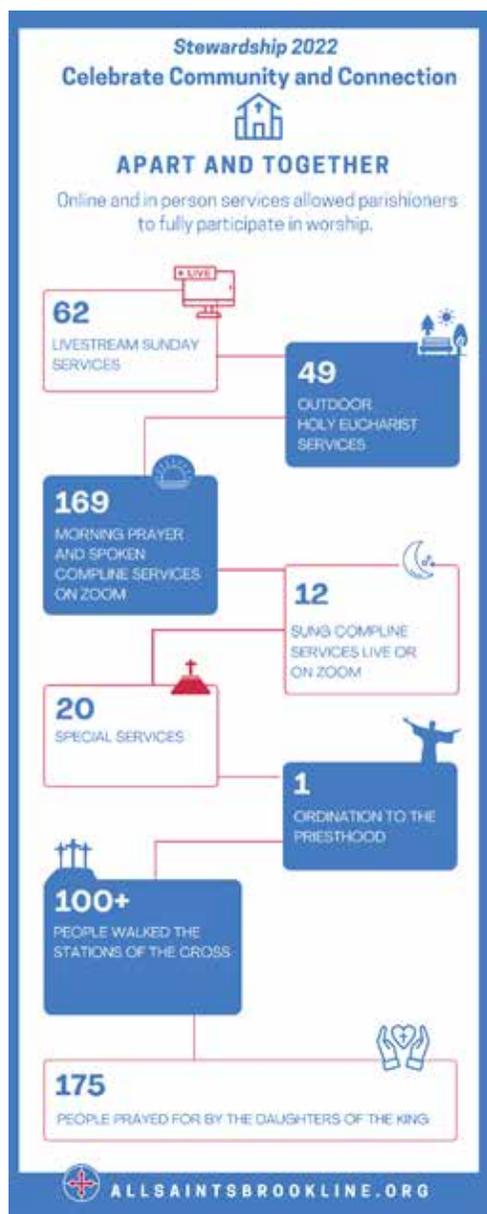
This past year, we sought to expand our awareness and understanding of systemic problems faced by so many. We gave generously to the Food Pantry, St. Augustine and St. Martin's parish, the B-SAFE summer program for children, and Crossroads Shelter.

We exercised prudence in continuing the necessary repairs and upkeep of our beautiful buildings. We upgraded the audio system and the church school and monthly in-person hikes. We met safely outdoors for many Holy Eucharists, and now have happily – and carefully –

“The many paths we’ve found towards celebrating community and connection have allowed us to grow as a parish and provided new opportunities. We have learned that some of our members are comfortable re-gathering in person and some would like to stay connected through virtual means as broadly as we can.”

As we continue to support God’s mission through the work of All Saints Parish for 2022, we hope that all will join with us in making a difference.

The All Saints Parish Stewardship Committee members are Kari Hannibal (Chair), Ethan Avery, Margaret Harrison, Henry Kettell, Barbara ...



Wendy Wheeler

... and inspiration, we were able to sustain our programs and even find new ways to connect with parishioners and the community during the 2022 stewardship campaign.

... and supported food-insecure families and the unhoused through gifts and food donations to the MANNA program, the Brookline Food

... and installed video to broadcast our services online. Parents and children connected with one another through weekly innovative online – resumed in-person worship indoors.

... opportunities to reach out to those in our community and beyond” said Brad MacDonald, All Saints Senior Warden. “This fall, we’ve ... Whether it’s participating in outreach activities, meetings, or joining in worship, we are striving to support our community connec-

... a pledge of financial support.

... Barbara MacDonald and Wendy Wheeler.

Stewardship 2022
Celebrate Community and Connection



OUR BUILDINGS

When our buildings were closed, we made available online worship and our spaces.

CHURCH SANCTUARY

Restored and painted sanctuary walls.
Installed cameras and microphones for live-streaming services.
Received "Gifts for God's House" from generous contributors.

COMMUNITY SPACE



PARISH HOUSE

Upgraded fire alarm system.
Re-tiled bathroom floors.



Stewardship 2022
Celebrate Community and Connection



SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

Parishioners met virtually for spiritual growth and connection while the parish buildings were closed.



15 Spirituality Book Group discussions
34 Men's Book Group discussions

Living Stones Listening Project
Small Group Conversations

32 participants
2 events with 16 people at each



From Many, One: Conversations Across Difference



60 participants held 1:1 conversations at 3 events of 20 people each. They asked specific questions about love, loss, hurts, and dreams and listened with open hearts.

Courageous Conversations

Over 30 participants learned about racism and held one another accountable to anti-racism efforts at 11 events.



All Saints Choir Stayed Connected

7 music history presentations and 28 online social gatherings



Stewardship 2022
Celebrate Community and Connection



FAMILY MINISTRY 2020-2021

We offered a variety of innovative activities to support continued engagement with children, youth, and families.

45 children and youth actively participating through the systems.



<p>Church School Classes over Zoom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary - weekly • Middle School - weekly • High School - biweekly • 9th Grade girls group - biweekly 	<p>6 Family Worship Events</p> 
<p>Spooky Saints Spectacular</p> <p>9 Spooky Stations 34 Attendees</p> 	<p>Thanksgiving Pies for the Brookline Food Pantry</p> <p>16 Families Made 61 Apple Pies</p> 
<p>Good Friday Stations of the Cross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Stations created • 11 young people contributed artwork & recordings • 60 people walked the stations in-person and online 	<p>6 Family Hikes</p> 

New Events Inaugurated

- Monthly family hikes
- Monthly family worship
- Spooky Saints Spectacular (All Hallows Eve)
- Feast of St. Nicholas clothing drive
- Multimedia Stations of the Cross
- High School World Religions discussion series

ALLSAINTSBROOKLINE.ORG

Michael Thompson, All Saints Seminarian, Practicing Attorney

Interview conducted by Tammy Hobbs Miracky

As part of his preparation for the priesthood, Michael Thompson is serving as seminarian at All Saints this year. He will be working primarily with family ministry and participating in worship leadership. In the following interview you can learn more about how Michael came to discern his vocation for ordained ministry and what he looks forward to at All Saints.

Could you give us a brief summary of your professional life?

I completed my Bachelor of Arts degree at Harvard College and my law degree at Harvard Law School. I became interested in politics at an early age, and, at one time, was very interested in running for office. I later determined that my talents would be best used elsewhere.

Given my love of politics, I spent my summers in college interning in Washington, D.C. The summers after my freshman and sophomore years, I interned in the D.C. office of then-Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. I had a really neat intern job. I worked with the senator's executive assistant, so I sat in an office right outside of Senator Clinton's personal office, would see her regularly, and was one of those people you see on CSPAN appearing behind the senators when they were in committee meetings handing them things.

Here's a funny story. I once had to get a binder to Senator Clinton as she was traveling between meetings. There were a couple of challenges. First, she walks fast! Second, it's tricky to "chase" a former First Lady with Secret Service protection. I'm happy to report that I found her and managed to catch up without raising the Secret Service's suspicion – at least as far as I know.

I went straight from college to law school, and began my career in the Boston office of Foley & Lardner LLP, a Milwaukee-based national full-service law firm. Two years ago, I changed firms, and, in January of this year, I was named a Partner. Currently, I work at Prince Lobel Tye LLP, a midsized Boston law firm. My legal practice is business litigation, which includes contract, unfair competition, merger and acquisition, and many other kinds of disputes. In my secular professional life, I am also a mentor and programming board member for StartOut, an organization that helps LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses.

Why did you decide to study for the priesthood?

I felt a calling to ordained ministry from a relatively young age, but, in college, figured that I couldn't pursue both ordained ministry and law. So, I chose law, and I thought that was the end of it.

Part of what helped with that decision was that I grew up in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (a Methodist denomination) and could not be openly gay and an ordained minister. In college, I attended the non-denominational church on campus, which I didn't realize at the time drew some of its liturgy from the Prayer Book. My husband Patrick was raised Roman Catholic, and so when we were looking for an affirming church, we ended up "in the middle" in the Episcopal Church. I haven't looked back since.

The Episcopal Church brought me affirming theology along with more traditional and beautiful liturgy, which I loved. I became more and more involved in the leadership of my sending parish, Trinity Melrose, having served as a lay eucharist minister, vestry member, warden, clerk, and worship leader (leading Morning Prayer). Despite getting more involved, it wasn't enough. There was more that I wanted to do. I felt God calling me to greater leadership in the Church through service and celebrating the sacraments. I describe this part of my journey as an example of God's patience and persistence. God would sort of tap me on the shoulder occasionally and ask, "Are you ready to do what I'm calling you to do, yet?" I answered no ... until I answered yes. From that point, I began to feel more whole: rather than have my "church" life cordoned off from the rest of my life, both came together into one life.

I began the process of discerning a call to the diaconate for no other reason than that's all I thought I could do. How could I practice law and meet all of the requirements necessary to become a priest? How could I practice law and be a priest? Surely, I had to choose, right? After some more patience and persistence on God's part, I asked the Canon for Ordained Vocations if becoming a priest and continuing to practice law was even possible. The response was that it would be challenging, but it was possible. From there, my own discernment, discernment with Patrick and my discernment committee determined that I was called to priestly rather than diaconal ministry.

A big part of my calling is to help heal the division between the Church and historically marginalized communities, focusing on

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Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Vibrant Voice For Women's Rights

Roberta Schnoor

In her lifetime, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was no one's idea of a pious, saintly woman. The founding philosopher of the American movement for women's rights, Elizabeth was brilliant, fearless in her views and could turn her sharp wit equally easily towards humor or withering critique.

Her life spanned almost the entire 19th Century, during which period the accepted view of women's roles underwent significant changes. Her strength was in her fierce drive, not just for the demand for women's suffrage, but her efforts to loosen the laws of marriage and divorce and her opposition to the prevailing view of women's roles held by organized religion.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in 1815 in Johnstown, New York into a family of established respectability and community leadership. Her formidable intellect was apparent early on. Her father, a lawyer with conservative views, nonetheless permitted Elizabeth to attend a local co-educational academy. She excelled there, particularly at mathematics and languages, and was an outstanding debater, often besting the male students. Colleges at the time did not admit women, but she continued at a seminary in Troy run by Emma Willard and her father lent her law books as she relished debate with his clerks. By her own admission, she valued sharp, rational debate and theory.



Elizabeth married Henry Stanton in 1840 and they had seven children. At the time of their marriage, Henry was a well-regarded anti-slavery speaker, though he was not, and never became, ardent for the cause of women's rights. With her strong oratorical and writing gifts, Elizabeth became increasingly well known among other women's rights advocates. She established a connection with Susan B. Anthony who became her closest friend and life-long comrade in the cause.

In 1848, Elizabeth was one of the main movers behind the Seneca Falls Convention, held in that town largely because her family was residing there at the time. She was the primary author of the convention's Declaration of Rights and Sentiments, modeled on the Declaration of Independence.

Of all its resolutions, the demand for women's suffrage was the most controversial. To many Quakers and others involved in the causes of abolition and women's rights, political participation was considered an anathema. But times were changing. Frederick Douglass, the only man to speak out at Seneca Falls in favor of women's suffrage, had also begun shifting towards a pro-voting position.

In the years before the Civil War, the anti-slavery and women's rights movements were deeply connected. When war arrived, Elizabeth saw it as "a simultaneous chorus for freedom," with the emancipation of enslaved people paving the way for the emancipation of women.

After the war, Elizabeth expected that men backing the expansion of rights for the formerly enslaved would give support to women's rights and universal suffrage as well. This was not to be, for a host of reasons. After offering equality under the law to all "male citizens" in the 14th Amendment, in 1869, the Republican Party in Congress passed the 15th Amendment protecting the right of suffrage regardless of race, but not sex.

Elizabeth's initial response to this intense disappointment was to reach for the moral high ground, urging that this was the hour for the nation to settle the rights of all citizens. However, her oratory and writing, always vivid and sharp, was deeply disparaging of Blacks and others, responding to what she -- at least at that moment -- saw as a zero-sum struggle for rights between disadvantaged groups. Her harsh utterances took many aback and created a personal rift with Frederick Douglass that was repaired only many years later.

In the final decades of the 1800s, Elizabeth remained focused on women's suffrage and rights, founding with Susan B. Anthony a newspaper, *The Revolution*, as well as another organization for the cause. The 19th Amendment extending the vote to women was not passed until 1920.

Throughout her life, Elizabeth looked upon organized, orthodox religion with great distaste. In her view, church teachings were one of the pillars oppressing women. Determining to loosen the prevailing orthodoxy, Elizabeth in her later years embarked on a reinterpretation of biblical texts that would shed new light on women's role and status. The first volume of *The Women's Bible* was published in 1895, the year Elizabeth turned eighty. Largely received as more polemical than scholarly, the *Women's Bible* was nonetheless an astonishingly ambitious undertaking, reflecting Elizabeth's deep passion to shake the foundations of the world in which she lived to make an equal place for women.

Continued on page 10

Michael Thompson Interview continued from page 8

people of color and LGBTQ persons. I feel that a key aspect of my calling is both to embody that the historically marginalized have a place in the church and to make space for those people in the church. As I told our Bishops during postulancy interviews, the work of that reconciliation is important and so is my embodying that reconciliation as a half-Black, half-Puerto Rican gay man celebrating the sacraments. I guess they liked something about that.

What have you noticed about All Saints in your time here and/or what are you most excited about this year?

My first interaction with All Saints was meeting with Tammy over Zoom, and she made me feel, “Wow. This place is really special and active and focused on community.” When I first visited All Saints in person, the first thing I noticed was the beautiful church building, beautiful grounds, and seemingly perfect neighborhood. These are all wonderful gifts, but as I dug in, I saw so much more.

I did not specifically look for a seminary placement focused on family ministry, but I am so happy that this opportunity came along. I experience All Saints as a faith community focused on supporting and building up both its internal church community and the wider community. All Saints public worship is beautiful and meticulously planned, but that’s not where things begin and end. I see you all on Sunday mornings – particularly those Sundays as in-person worship returned – just so excited to see one another. I see the genuine and enthusiastic engagement at coffee hour, and I see how excited parishioners are to engage in the various aspects of family ministry. You all embody community. This year, I am incredibly happy to contribute what I can to All Saints’ worship life, and to serve the community however I can. I’ve enjoyed the discussions I have had, and look forward to more. I hope that folks will come to see me as someone they can reach out to if they need to talk through personal problems, spiritual wonderings, or just fellowship. I am also really excited about the family ministry at All Saints. The message I needed most growing up as I tried to figure out what a relationship with God even meant was that I was okay and loved by God just as I am. That doesn’t mean that God likes everything I do, but one of the cores of Christian belief is that God made us as we are and loves us as we are. So, I am really excited to live into that and convey that message through the various activities both within and outside of family ministry.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton continued from page 9

Despite her disdain for conventional religious practices, Elizabeth did attend services at Trinity Episcopal Church in Seneca Falls. She preached homilies and delivered political speeches from pulpits across the country.

Following her death in 1902 she was designated a “holy woman” by the Episcopal Church in the United States, with her life and work recalled each year on July 20.

Her legacy, while not easy to capture, may lie in her tremendous momentum: her lifelong sense of urgency and commitment to a radical transformation in women’s lives, a cause which was for her a moral absolute.

A Collect for women’s rights activists Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia Bloomer, Sojourner Truth and Harriet Ross Tubman

O, God, whose Spirit guideth us into all truth and maketh us free: Strengthen and sustain us as thou didst thy servants Elizabeth, Amelia, Sojourner and Harriet. Give us vision and courage to stand against oppression and injustice and all that worketh against the glorious liberty to which thou callest all thy children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Choose Your Own (Church) Adventure

Tammy Hobbs Miracky

On any given Sunday, All Saints children and youth may engage in a variety of activities. They might participate in church school, serve as an acolyte or sing with Schola. They may want to be with their grown-ups for worship, or they may prefer to learn and play alongside other children and young people. They may be part of a family of early-risers, or they may prefer to linger over their breakfast in a relaxed setting. They might want to create art, listen to and tell stories, build Lego creations, or use their time together to serve our neighbors beyond the walls of All Saints. Ideally, our approach to church school would feel welcoming and supportive for the broad variety of children and youth in our community.

As we began to plan for a return to in-person church school this fall, we realized that the children themselves had offered a clue for how we might proceed. Students in the elementary class, which met by Zoom at 9:30 am each week, often brought their breakfast to the screen with them. Over time, they began to call themselves “the breakfast club,” and an idea was born.

The core of our church school program this year is the Breakfast Club. The Breakfast Club offers a shared meal over a thirty-minute window to accommodate different arrival times; a relaxed, comfortable space for children to participate in church school stories, art projects, and activities; a flexible schedule to enable participation in worship, Schola, or the acolyte ministry; and the opportunity to design the curriculum to fit with the liturgical calendar and themes.

Through the fall, the children will focus on the topic of saints, with older students leading the preparation for the Spooky Saints Spectacular and the younger students creating frames for photos of their loved ones to be included in the altar of remembrance for All Saints Day. The students will then turn to Jesus’ commandment to love our neighbors as they prepare for Thanksgiving pie-making by decorating pie boxes and creating hand-made cards to accompany each pie. They will then lead a parish-wide clothing drive, collecting winter clothing for the MANNA community as part of the family chapel celebration of the feast of St. Nicholas.

In other ways, we are incorporating our pandemic learning into this year’s plans. We continue to offer a monthly family chapel as well as a community hike each month. While these events are designed with children in mind, all members of the All Saints community are warmly invited to join. If you would like to learn more or find out how you can participate, please be in touch with Tammy (Family Minister) or Michael (Seminarian).



Left: Children in the Breakfast Club prepare bagged lunches for the MANNA community, September 26, 2021

Right: Langdon Chapel decorated for the Spooky Saints Spectacular, October 31, 2020
Photo Credit: Tammy Hobbs Miracky

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allsaintsbrookline.org

Worship Schedule

For more information see our website:
allsaintsbrookline.org.

Livestreamed service of the Word – Sundays at 10:30 am

Online Morning Prayer – Wednesday at 7:00 am

Online Compline–Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 8:00 pm

Online Centering Prayer – Thursdays at 6:30 pm

Pastoral Staff

The Rev. Dr. Richard Burden, Rector

The Rev. Anoma Abeyaratne, Priest Associate

The Rev. Tammy Hobbs Miracky, Family Minister

Dr. Stephan Griffin, Music Minister

Michael Thompson, Seminarian

Parish Administration

David Bliss, Parish Administrator

Sue Poon, Evening Office Manager

John Plonowski, Bookkeeper

Renato Dantas, Sexton

Ruby Gage, Webmaster

Alexandra Geoly and Alex Poon, Security Receptionists

Dates to Remember

November Events

2 Tuesday 7:00 pm Women of the Bible

7 Sunday 10:30 am All Saints Day/Gift Sunday,
7:00 pm Choral Compline

14 Sunday 2:00 pm Community hike, TBD

16 Tuesday 7:30 pm Courageous Conversations

21 Sunday 21 12:00 noon Pie Making

28 Sunday 12:00 noon Advent Wreath Making

December Events

5 Sunday 4:00 pm Family Chapel—St. Nicholas,
7:00 pm Choral Compline

7 Tuesday 7:00 pm Women of the Bible

19 Sunday 1:00 pm Community hike, TBD,
5:00 pm Lessons and Carols

21 Tuesday 6:30 pm Service of Solace and Hope

24 Friday Christmas Eve 3:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 10:00 pm

25 Saturday 10:00 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist



All Saints Parish