

# Saints Alive!

A NEWS BULLETIN OF EVENTS, PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY SERVED BY  
ALL SAINTS PARISH, BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 11, Number 3

December 2006

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### 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."

## CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES

### CHRISTMAS EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

3:40 pm **Music of the All Saints Schola**  
4:00 pm **Festal Choral Eucharist.** A family service for all ages.  
Celebrant: The Rev. Leslie K. Sterling  
Preacher: The Rev. David A. Killian  
10:30 pm **Choral Music for Christmas and Carol Singing**  
11:00 pm **Solemn Festal Choral Eucharist**  
Celebrant: The Rev. Leslie K. Sterling  
Preacher: The Rev. David A. Killian



### CHRISTMAS I, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2006

10:30 am Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols

### SCHOLA REJOICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE

*Our fabulous children's choir plus alumnae reunite on Christmas Eve for one of the most beautiful services of the church year. The pre-service music, beginning at 3:40 pm, includes anthems, handbell settings, and carol singing by the entire congregation. The 4:00 service includes the procession to "Once in Royal David's City," the Blessing of the Creche, plus more anthems and carols. All are welcome to come and worship the Holy Child. This year will be very special as we celebrate Schola's 25th anniversary.* — Keith Glavash

### MIDNIGHT MASS

*For many Episcopalians, there is no service of the liturgical year that can quite match the holiness, beauty, and intimacy of the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. At All Saints, our clergy and musicians put great effort into making that service the magical experience it always seems to be. As usual, the music will be provided by the extraordinarily fine adult Choir of All Saints, beginning with a half-hour of choral and congregational carols at 10:30 pm. The service of Holy Communion begins at 11:00 pm.* — Donald Teeters



**Poinsettias** decorating the church for Christmastide are given in the glory of God and in loving memory of those whose names are inscribed in the Book of Remembrance in the Resting Chapel. May we please have your contributions in memory of loved ones in observance of Christmas **by December 17**. Please make your check payable to All

Saints Parish, marked "flowers," and send the parish office the names of those to be enrolled in the Book of Remembrance. For information, contact Doreen Vittori at 617-566-5800.

**All Saints Parish**  
1773 Beacon Street  
Brookline, MA 02445-4299  
Tel: 617-738-1810 \* Fax: 617-738-7501  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00  
am-5:00 pm  
[www.allsaintsbrookline.org](http://www.allsaintsbrookline.org)

#### **Ministers**

The Entire Congregation

#### **Clergy**

The Reverend David A. Killian, *Rector*,  
[rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org](mailto:rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org)  
The Reverend Leslie K. Sterling, *Assistant Rector (Half-time)*,  
[amaleslie@earthlink.net](mailto:amaleslie@earthlink.net)  
The Reverend Kim Hardy, *Celtic Liturgical Coordinator*,  
[kimhardy138@comcast.net](mailto:kimhardy138@comcast.net)

#### **Priest Associates (Nonstipendiary)**

The Reverend J. John Keggi,  
[jjkeggi@earthlink.net](mailto:jjkeggi@earthlink.net)  
The Reverend Judith C. Stuart,  
[jlbstuart@aol.com](mailto:jlbstuart@aol.com)

#### **Pastoral Associates**

Becky Taylor, *Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries*,  
[reled@allsaintsbrookline.org](mailto:reled@allsaintsbrookline.org)  
Donald Teeters, *Director of Music*,  
[Dteeters@world.std.com](mailto:Dteeters@world.std.com)  
Keith Glavash, *Associate Director of Music*,  
*Schola Director*,  
[Glavieri.home@verizon.net](mailto:Glavieri.home@verizon.net)

#### **Vestry**

David Evett, *Senior Warden*  
Mark Berryhill, *Junior Warden*  
Kenneth Coleman, *Treasurer*  
Kate Norris, *Clerk*  
*Term ends 2007:* Cheryl Homer, Amy LaVertu,  
Jenny Outman  
*Term ends 2008:* Colin Johnstone, Susan  
LeClaire  
*Term ends 2009:* David Pfarrer, Roberta  
Schnoor, Susan Wheeler

#### **Parish Administration**

Mary Downes, *Office Manager*,  
[office@allsaintsbrookline.org](mailto:office@allsaintsbrookline.org),  
Anne Prensner, *Bookkeeper*,  
[bookkeeper@allsaintsbrookline.org](mailto:bookkeeper@allsaintsbrookline.org)  
Renato Dantas, *Sexton*  
Barbara O'Brien, Kristine Ruiz, Judy Thorne,  
Alex Bogushevsky, *Security Receptionists*  
Eileen Sweeney, Emily Smith, Megan Ryan,  
Elke Perkuhn, *Nursery Care*  
Damas Cleaning Services, *Janitorial*,  
[damascleaning@msn.com](mailto:damascleaning@msn.com)

#### **Saints Alive!**

David Killian, *Editor*  
Kari Hannibal, *Assistant Editor*,  
[kari\\_hannibal@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:kari_hannibal@hms.harvard.edu)  
Jean Knox, *Features Editor*,  
[Jean\\_knox@hmco.com](mailto:Jean_knox@hmco.com)  
Mary Downes, *Distribution*



## **From the Rector**

### **MANY THANKS**

Our Solemn Festal Holy Eucharist celebrating the 112th Anniversary of the founding of our parish on November 5th was a beautiful and moving event. Many thanks for the extraordinary music of our Choir and Schola, the beautiful decoration of our church by the Flower Committee and Altar Guild, the reverent ritual of our clergy and lay ministers on the altar, ushers, greeters, and all who prepared the worship. Thank you to Barbara MacDonald, Amy Sharples, and all who helped with the gala reception following the service. Thank you to all who prepared and participated in our 112th anniversary observance.

### **2007 STEWARDSHIP**

Many thanks to all who made a covenant commitment to All Saints for 2007. The response so far has been encouraging. We invite everyone who is nourished by this community to be a partner in the ministries and services of All Saints Parish by making your commitment now. If you need a stewardship brochure and pledge card, please call the parish office at 617-738-1810 extension 101.

### **ADVENT**

As we begin a new liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent, there is an invitation to change. We are called to become the unique persons God created us to be and to participate in God's mission in the World. What is God's mission? It involves treating all of God's creatures with love and respect and creating the conditions for all to live in freedom, dignity, and peace. It means living in harmony with God and God's creation. The season of Advent beckons us as individuals, families, and a parish to "welcome the Christ" into our lives and hearts. Please join in prayer at home and at church to make room for the Christ and to pray and work for peace in the world.

### **SPIRITUALITY AND JUSTICE AWARD**

For nine years, All Saints Parish has presented the annual Spirituality and Justice Award to persons whose notable commitment to justice for all of God's people is grounded in a deep spiritual life. Recipients were

- 1998—Bishop Barbara C. Harris
- 1999—Bishop Simon E. Chiwanga
- 2000—Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE
- 2001—Bishop Steven Charleston
- 2002—Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu
- 2003—Dr. Yang Jianli and Christina Fu
- 2004—The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas
- 2005—Bishop V. Gene Robinson
- 2006—Byron Rushing

As we honor these distinguished persons we draw strength from their example. They inspire us to renew our commitment to justice as an essential expression of our spirituality and faith. A \$500 gift is given to the organization designated by the recipient. In 2007, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Spirituality and Justice Award. Please see page 7 for nominating information.

### **CHRISTMAS**

I invite you to our Christmas Eve services at 3:40 and 10:30 pm. The 3:40 pm service will be especially memorable as we celebrate Keith Glavash's and Schola's 25th anniversary. Please join us also for the Service of Lessons and Carols on New Year's Eve at 10:30 am. Blessings to you and your loved ones this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

David

# GOOD NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Toni Jean DeLorenzo, LICSW**, MDiv candidate and participant in the Shalem Spiritual Guidance program, is available for individual spiritual direction. Monthly appointments may be arranged by contacting Toni at [tjsiliski@comcast.net](mailto:tjsiliski@comcast.net) or 617-620-7848.

**Have you been looking for a fulfilling, manageable, and periodic opportunity** to give something back to the church? The perfect activity for you is to become a social hour host. Set up is approximately 30 minutes before church; serving and clean up take approximately an hour following the service. All basic items are provided. You bring the cream and juice, and you are welcome to bring your own sweet or savory addition to the table. Your job is simple: make the coffee (directions provided), set out the cups, cookies, juice, cream and sugar, and pour the coffee. For more information, please call Barbara MacDonald at 617-731-1815.

**Parent/Child Playgroup** meets in the Parish Nursery on Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 pm. For information, contact Josie Petersen, [josie\\_petersen@hotmail.com](mailto:josie_petersen@hotmail.com), 617-277-9727, or Kari Haxhinasto, 617-738-4326, [kari.haxhinasto@gmail.com](mailto:kari.haxhinasto@gmail.com)

**New way to make a gift using your IRA!** Through December 31, 2007, individuals 70 ½ and over may rollover up to \$100,000 a year from a traditional or Roth IRA directly to charity without incurring tax liability. The rollover counts towards the IRA holder's annual minimum required distribution. Donors do not receive an income tax deduction for IRA rollover gifts. For more information, please consult your financial advisor.

**Automated Giving Program through ParishPay.** All Saints now supports automated giving through an online service called ParishPay, the nation's largest automated giving service. There is no cost to use ParishPay. You will no longer have to be concerned with missed offertory donations when you are out of town, on vacation or ill. Your automated contribution can easily be adjusted at any time. Special contributions such as Surround the Spirit can also be made through ParishPay. Access your

ParishPay account online and have reports automatically delivered to you via email. To learn more, email Anne Prensner at [bookkeeper@allsaintsbrookline.org](mailto:bookkeeper@allsaintsbrookline.org) or call Treasurer Ken Coleman evenings at 617-323-3913.

**The next social get-together** of the Gay and Lesbian Saints will be a holiday party at the home of Colin Johnstone and John Fong, in December. Please contact Colin if you would like to be included in the group, [DrCJVet@aol.com](mailto:DrCJVet@aol.com).

**Epiphany Dinner and Celebration** will be Thursday, January 4, 2007, 5:00-7:00 pm. Join us for Twelfth Night festivities, including:

- ◆ Dinner catered by V-Testa's
- ◆ Traditional King's Cake
- ◆ Magi procession and carol singing
- ◆ And much more fun for all!

\$5 per person/\$15 per household donation is suggested. Everyone is welcome! Please contact Becky Taylor, 617-738-1810 x 104 or sign up on the church bulletin board.

## Unemployment and Underemployment Spiritual Support Group

Are you currently on a quest for a new job as well as a supportive network? Come visit the Unemployment and Underemployment Spiritual Support Group, which meets on the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00-8:30 pm, on Dec. 5 and Jan. 2. Using an African method of Bible study, group members will reflect on how this week's gospel passage affects their lives today. The group will spend time checking in and sharing networking advice. Many members have found the group helpful in restoring and maintaining their cheer, hope, and perseverance through the job search. The group is a valuable caring resource for those who are in job transition. For more information, contact David Killian at 617-738-1810 x105, [rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org](mailto:rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org).

## Worship at All Saints

**Holy Baptism** will be celebrated next on January 7 at 10:30 am. To make reservations for baptism, please contact the Rector at 617-738-1810, ext 105 or [rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org](mailto:rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org).

**Healing.** All Saints Parish offers prayers for healing with laying on of hands every Sunday during the 10:30 am Holy Eucharist. You may request prayers for healing for yourself or others during the service.

**The Book of Intercession** is placed at the entrance to the church before the service. Please write in your prayer requests and thanksgivings for those who need our prayers. The Intercessor brings the book forward during the Creed and incorporates those requests in the Prayers of the People. There is also a **Parish Prayer List** posted on the bulletin board where you can add prayer requests throughout the week.

**Please notify** the clergy or parish office about births, birthdays, and anniversaries that you would like to have announced in the *This Week* Sunday bulletin.

**Newcomers.** If you are new to the parish, the Rector would like to welcome you to our parish. Please call the parish office at 617-738-1810 ext 105 to schedule an appointment.

**Readings for Sundays:**  
**December 3:** Psalm 50; Zechariah 14:4-9; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-31. **December 10:** Psalm 126, Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-6. **December 17:** Psalm 85; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-9; Luke 3:7-18. **December 24:** Psalm 80; Micah 5:2-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-49.

*As a spiritual practice, we recommend that you read these lessons prior to the Sunday worship.*

## **All Saints Heritage Society**

is made up of members of All Saints Parish, as well as friends, who have named the parish in their wills. Such bequests allow the Parish to survive financially. Parishioners are encouraged to become a member of the Heritage Society by using this wording in their will: "I hereby devise and bequeath to All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02445, the greater of \$\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ percentage of my gross estate, to be used in such manner as determined by the Vestry." New members are welcome. Please contact Hugh and Mary Dunlap at 617-232-6409 or [fritz-hugh@aol.com](mailto:fritz-hugh@aol.com).

**Donation of Stock** is most welcome. You must have held these securities for one year or longer to receive the special advantages of charitable income tax deduction for the full market value of the shares. Please send your stock to Charles Schwab and notify Anne Prensner, bookkeeper, at 617-738-1810 x106 or [bookkeeper@allsaintsbrookline.org](mailto:bookkeeper@allsaintsbrookline.org).



## **Carol Singing**

Many parishioners have requested "old fashioned carol singing" of the glorious Christmas music so dear to us. We will sing Christmas carols during the social hour after the 10:30 am service on December 17. If you can accompany the carols on a musical instrument, please call Tom Bridge at 617-926-8289 or Mary Downes at 617-738-1810 x 101.

## **Advent Wreath Making**

One way to participate fully in the season of Advent is to make and use an Advent wreath in your home. On **Sunday, December 3**, everything you need to make a wreath will be in the dining room, immediately following the completion of the 10:30 am service. Advent wreath-making is a terrific activity to do with other people in your household, and a great way to meet other people at All Saints. If you already have a metal wreath base from previous years, please bring it. If you don't have one, you can purchase one that day, along with candles for each of the four weeks of Advent. Light refreshments will be served. Question? Call Becky Taylor, 617-739-1810 ext. 104 or email [reled@allsaintbrookline.org](mailto:reled@allsaintbrookline.org).

## **THANK YOU TO . . .**

- All who participate in so many ways to make our parish vital and nourishing.
- Our Priest Associates, The Reverends John Keggi and Judith Stuart, who serve "non-stipendiary," i.e. at no cost to the parish.
- Donald Teeters, Keith Glavash, our choir, and Schola, for their beautiful music throughout the year.
- Becky Taylor and all of the parent volunteer teachers, youth, and children in our church school.
- Marianne Evett and Jeff Hickey, co-chairs, and the Stewardship Committee, volunteers, and everyone who helped with this year's stewardship educational effort.
- Kari Hannibal, Jean Knox, Mary Downes, and all who contribute to *Saints Alive*.
- Renato Dantas and the Property Committee for their huge commitment and work to keep our building attractive, clean, and safe for our parish and over 500 non-parishioners each week.
- June Santosa, and the Garden and Grounds Committee for their work throughout the year to keep the grounds of our parish so attractive.
- The Nominating Committee for their diligent work interviewing candidates for parish leadership positions.
- All our acolytes and Meg Bridge, Coordinator, our Ministers of Ceremonies, and Becky Taylor, for our altar acolyte program.
- Chuck McVinney, Susan Wheeler, Brad MacDonald, Dorothea Haas, Susan Cleaver, Kendrew Caporal, and our dedicated corps of ushers and greeters.
- Kate Norris and all who lead our dynamic Beacon Street Fellowship.
- The Rev. Kim Hardy, AnneMarie Ellis and all who contribute to the beauty of our Saturday Celtic Holy Eucharist.
- The Rev. Leslie Sterling, Mark Berryhill, and all who prepare our Sunday 6:00 pm Episcopal Evening Eucharist.
- Doreen Vittori for scheduling and distributing memorial flowers; Diane Powell and the volunteer flower arrangers.
- The Altar Guild for preparing our services throughout the year and caring for the vestments and vessels.
- The volunteers who conduct Bible study and worship at Goddard House and the Pre-Release Center in Mattapan.
- AnneMarie Ellis for the African Team Ministries craft table.
- Susan Wheeler and Christine Westphal who help with the start-up baskets for those leaving shelters.
- Chris Newth, the Art Committee, and the artists who display their creative arts in the Guild Room each month.
- Mary Downes for all her work in the parish office.
- The Ministers of Healing, Chalicers, Acolytes, Lectors, Intercessors, and Ushers.
- June Santosa, web sexton, for her work on the All Saints website and the All Saints Weekly E-Newsletter.

*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Make His paths straight.  
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.  
(Isaiah 40:3,5)*

**A EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS**  
Music from England, Germany, France, and more.  
Cecilia's Popular Seasonal Tradition Expands to Three Performances

Friday, Dec. 8, 8pm  
Church of the Advent  
30 Brimmer Street, Boston

Saturday and Sunday,  
Dec. 9, 8pm & Dec. 10, 3pm  
All Saints Parish  
1773 Beacon Street, Brookline

Benjamin Britten **A Ceremony of Carols**  
with soprano Jessica Cooper, alto Marylene Altieri  
& harpist Barbara Poeschl-Edich

John Tavener **Annunciation** and **The Lamb**  
Francis Poulenc **Gloria** from the Mass

Anton Heiller **Zwei Geistliche Gesänge**  
Two Sacred Songs for solo soprano, with organist  
Barbara Bruns plus more seasonal treats

The Boston Cecilia  
Donald Teeters, Conductor

Tickets \$40, \$25, \$15. Call (617) 232-4540 or visit [www.BostonCecilia.org](http://www.BostonCecilia.org)

# Parishioners' Forum

## MELCHIOR

Afterwards, while the servants readied the horses,  
we talked a little with the shepherds —  
tried to talk — a few just boys, the rest  
had minds as arid and dull as the stones  
on their Judaeen hillsides.  
Marginal men, I think, too limited  
even to be farm laborers, hod carriers —  
the Scythian blockhead who guards my door  
has twice the brains of these. Hard to believe  
they should have been the first to hear God's word.  
We had our little star (fifty years of bending over books  
to learn to read that sign); they got a whole sky  
alive with angels, enough to daze all Rome.  
Hard to believe the child, of course:  
Messiah, says the star; by-blow of a country trull,  
the gossip snorts. Well, Herod cared enough to send troops  
after both us and the babe. "Thank you," was all the mother  
said,  
without astonishment, when we laid the gifts  
at his feet. She never took her eyes from his face.  
The man — a carpenter — said even less than she.  
Just stood there with his big hands on her shoulders,  
the left thumbnail huge and black, like a rotting plum.  
Not what we expected. The smell! I stopped  
a mile out of town to change my robe,  
escape the reek where one of those hill men,  
speechless with the need to speak, put his hands,  
still stinking from the sheep, on my breast.  
His face was as dark and seamed as a mountain ledge,  
the beard like furze, three or four stumps for teeth.  
Yet in his eyes the star shone on,  
innocence, like the woman's, as deep and calm as a well,  
in his ignorant voice the music of the spheres:  
"Peace," he said. "Peace. Peace. Peace."  
—David Evett

## THAT ALL THE WORLD SHOULD BE TAXED

Insult to injury, that is—  
business is slow, the sun low,  
the most cheerful housekeeper keeps an eye  
on the oil-jar, draws the shades;  
everything draws in, a universal wince—  
you're drawn, you trudge  
down the long curve to the dark hinge  
of the year, just trying to cut losses,  
and now this call.

The soldiers are blowing into their cupped hands.  
Census they said (sense-less?)—  
stand up to be counted out, told off.  
In their warm rooms the rich check for their purses with an anx-  
ious hand.  
Even Zacchaeus, the tax-gatherer, smiles too much—  
afraid he might come up a little short?  
And the poor carter with the broken-down beast,  
the dream-merchant poking in his bag of toys,  
the small-town artisan, his patient, pregnant wife—  
they shrink into a corner of some old house or barn

and wait for the call.

And that's the wonder of it: just when the world closes  
like a fist—no talking, please, just pay—  
at the point where our instincts mutter to us  
to roll up with our noses in our navels saving body heat,  
shutting out the darkness with our own dark thought,  
the giving starts.

That's grace. Some call sounds and all over town  
there's stretching and rustling,  
folks brushing the straw off their clothes,  
looking out into the gray morning, the soldiers  
blowing on their hands.  
The lamps are lit;  
the mother takes her baby in her arms.  
Let the giving start!  
—David Evett

## THE CARPENTER

He liked to get up early  
so we went down about five  
to check on him  
and he was gone.

It wasn't the least bit frightening.  
He looked so peaceful  
that we just had to know  
the Good Lord had taken him home.

He was a carpenter,  
a builder and a repairer.  
He built good houses  
and beautiful stone walls.

He put new shingles on a roof  
to keep out the rain,  
and through fine workmanship  
brought beauty to homes.

He taught me how to hang wallpaper  
and to build bookcases.  
The straight lines were easy  
but the corners and curves more difficult.

He said not to worry about mistakes.  
Things can always be fixed.  
He knew that through making mistakes  
we could learn to get things true.

And when he could no longer hold a hammer  
he came up with projects for me.  
I did them, not always graciously,  
but then he told me I had done well.

And in those last few months  
we built together  
using the tools of that master carpenter  
some two thousand years ago.

*This poem is for my father-in-law, Ray, who  
lived with us for his last eight years and  
then died peacefully in his sleep at age 101.*

— Harold Petersen, November 2006

## Book Marks

*The following books are not specifically about Advent, but are top-notch spiritual reading for any season. Each is a series of essays, so they can be read in short chunks, making them well suited to our busy lives in December. Each book has a distinct and different voice.*  
—Jean Knox, editor

### **Dakota, a Spiritual Geography** by Kathleen Norris

When poet and former New Yorker Kathleen Norris decided to move into her grandparents' farmhouse on the Dakota plains, she didn't plan to stay for long. But the landscape worked its magic on her, teaching her how to be fully present and open to its stark beauty. Her subject matter includes revisionist story telling, blunted dreams, monastic communities and — interwoven among them—the wide open plains. She offers a kind of poetic geography lesson, drawing her wisdom from local farmers, Native Americans, ministers, churchgoers, and Benedictine monks. As winter sets upon us in New England, Kathleen Norris can encourage us to explore our own spiritual geography. *A Cloister Walk* by the same author is equally good.

### **Plan B** by Annie Lamott

This recent collection of essays is classic Lamott: funny, irreverent, and rich with spiritual insight. The essay topics range from how to communicate with her moody teenage son to what to do about her mother's two-year-old ashes. (Her mother is a major figure in the book.) Lamott's political rants can become tiresome, but her humor and fresh perspectives on religion and life make her good company. If you haven't read *Bird by Bird* and *Traveling Mercies* by Annie Lamott, read them first and in that order. *Bird by Bird* is probably her best book.

### **Gift from the Sea**, by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Fifty-one years ago, while vacationing on Florida's Captiva Island, Anne Morrow Lindbergh wrote these short and visionary meditations on love, security, and human relationships, taking her inspiration from shells she found on the beach, from the rhythms of the ocean, and from other writers, including William Blake and Rainer Maria Rilke. Her prescription for finding simplicity and inner grace is just as helpful today, and the need for it even greater. The book's fiftieth anniversary CD includes an introduction by Anne's daughter Reeve.

### **The Lemon Tree** by Sandy Tolan

This is a powerful, well-crafted story to come out of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Lemon Tree refers to a tree in the backyard of a home in Ramala, Israel, once owned by a Palestinian family forced to leave after Israel gained its independence in 1948. A Jewish woman named Dalia, and her family of Holocaust sur-

(Continued on page 7)

## Seminarian's Reflections

In his sermon at All Saints, Rabbi Waldoks spoke about Sabbath keeping. He stressed—as Becky Taylor had in her sermon the week before—the necessity of taking “time out with God.” He talked about the Sabbath as the indwelling Presence of Shekinah, the feminine aspect, or bride, of God. The Sabbath service involves the wedding song, imaging the profound meaning of being One. In this time out of our ordinary lives we praise the Lord, expanding our consciousness and creating a space that allows us to hold opposites together. This happens only when we contemplate, and so only when we make the time. He stressed both that time is our greatest commodity, and so, how important it is for us to make and honor the time and space for God on a regular basis in our lives. In such contemplation, we hear God still calling our world into being. We touch eternity and the world of Peace.

At the luncheon following the service, we discussed Sabbath keeping and how we give time to God. Many of us at my table felt that we can do this while doing other things—that amidst our daily hubbub and frantic pace we can create a still center and have our time with God as we move through our daily life. Reflecting on this, I now question our capacity to do this—unless we also make a regular time in which we devote our entire attention to God. Such a spiritual “practice” grounds us in God—so that we are, then, able to keep company with God as we move through our daily hubbub.

When I am walking outside in nature alone, I love to notice and taken in, deeply, the beauty in the particular—and the divinity towards which it beckons me. When I am walking with a friend—which I equally love to do—it seems I must make a choice. Either I miss the fullness of appreciation of what I notice when alone on the one hand—or, if I let myself be absorbed in nature, I am not fully attentive to what my friend is saying, and thus miss the deep relational connection between us, on the other hand. By the same token, it seems that our belief that praying to God all day long while doing other things is as good as taking a real time-out alone with God is an example of our culture's addiction to multi-tasking.

I do pray while driving and doing other things. But I find that I also need regular

times when I give God my full, undivided attention. It is in these prayer times that I reach the Shabbat experience Rabbi Waldoks describes. If time is our greatest commodity and we are stewards of God's creation, then we must also be responsible stewards of our time. Taking the time to give to God, as well as keeping it on a regular basis—especially when I don't have it—is, for me, an expression of my priorities, of my ordered loves. It is putting God first in my life. I often don't do this. However, when I don't make the time, everything feels more chaotic. When I do take the time, my life is more focused and centered. I am more able to shed what encumbers me. That shedding, in turn, helps me to perceive divine order and feel in relationship with God.

Since I have been at All Saints, I see a culture in which people seem productive, purposeful, busy, and often overloaded. A striking number of people I have met here have specifically warned me about saying yes to too many things—about getting too busy with “all good things.” At times, life here seems like a wonderful buffet with which it would be so easy to overstuff myself. It strikes me what a radical, nourishing spiritual practice it might be here to keep the Sabbath in the way that Rabbi Waldoks described.

I am reminded of Mark 1.35, “In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.” Jesus had spent the evening before healing many people who were sick or possessed with demons. While he was praying, alone, then next morning, his disciples “hunted for him.” There was, as always, more work to be done. But Jesus had simply taken time out—by physically removing himself—for solitude and prayer. Afterwards, the disciples find and tell him that everyone is searching for him (implying that he has been gone awhile). Jesus then responds with renewed vigor, “...let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do” (Mark 1.38). If Jesus could not, or chose not to, sustain his ministry without taking time out with God—giving God his full, undivided attention—I wonder why we all seem to feel that we should be able to do so.

— Toni Jean DeLorenzo

# Outreach Opportunities

**The All Saints Mission & Outreach Committee:** Contact Sue LeClaire, Chair, for more information at [sleclaire@comcast.net](mailto:sleclaire@comcast.net).

**Greater Boston Interfaith Organization:** For more information, call David Pfarrer at 617-731-8472 or Sarah Leinbach 617-277-0233.

**Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)** is responding to victims of Hurricane Katrina, and the needs of those affected by wars around the world. Learn more and please donate online at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org).

**Recycling Old Cell Phones.** We are still collecting phones as an on-going fundraiser for the Journey to Adulthood program. We don't need accessories—no earpieces or rechargers. Thanks!

**Food Pantry.** Please remember to bring canned or packaged food to the basket at the entrance of All Saints for the Brookline food pantry at St. Paul's Church. For this and other ways to help, please call 617-566-4953.

**Dr. Yang Jianli** is now in prison at Beijing City Chao Yang District Nan Dou Ge Zhuang # 1A, P.O.Box 2357 - 15, Beijing, Postcode 100023, P.R. China. For more information and updates on Jianli's case, go to [www.yangjiali.com](http://www.yangjiali.com) or contact Susan Cleaver at 617-734-1889.

**Goddard House Ministry.** You are invited to take part in the worship service for seniors at Goddard House. For more information, please contact Christine Jugueta at [christine-jugueta@yahoo.com](mailto:christine-jugueta@yahoo.com).

*(Continued from page 6)*

vivors from Bulgaria, moves into the house. The two families meet and tell their personal stories, providing a beautiful and natural way for the reader to learn the history of the conflict. A tense friendship develops, highlighting some of the challenges of identity and culture that must be negotiated as part of any successful peace process. —from Lisa Henderson

**Hope Was Here by Joan Bauer** (Newbury Honor Book for young adults)

This is a great story of hope—where it comes from and how it is nurtured. It follows the story of a teenager who has many reasons to despair: abandoned by her mother, she lacks a permanent home, and doesn't know who her father is. Instead of giving up, she finds hope—lots of it—working in a diner in the Midwest, volunteering for a political campaign in the face of crooked politicians, and coming to terms with her past. It's a quick, powerful, and very satisfying read.

—from Lisa Henderson

## ALL SAINTS SPIRITUALITY AND JUSTICE AWARD 2007 - Tenth Anniversary Year -

### *Nomination Form*

**Background:** All Saints Parish annually presents the Spirituality and Justice Award to persons whose notable commitment to justice for all of God's people is grounded in a deep spiritual life. The presentation of the award is a special time each year as All Saints Parish lifts up an outstanding person for recognition by the community. As we honor these distinguished persons we draw strength from their example. They inspire us to renew our commitment to justice as an essential expression of our spirituality and faith. A \$500 gift is given to the organization designated by the recipient.

**Guidelines for nominations:** Individuals may be nominated from all faith traditions. Nominees should have significantly contributed to the furtherance of justice and whose work has been informed by their own deep spirituality. Please provide information about the person you are nominating in the space below and send to: Rector, All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA 02445 by February 1, 2007 or fax: 617-738-7501 or email: [rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org](mailto:rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org).

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why this person should be considered for the Spirituality and Justice Award:

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Your email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**December 2006  
Saints Alive !**

Visit us on the web at  
[www.allsaintsbrookline.org](http://www.allsaintsbrookline.org).

Articles for the January-February  
2007 issue should be sent by Decem-  
ber 1, 2006 to [kari\\_hannibal@](mailto:kari_hannibal@hms.harvard.edu)  
[hms.harvard.edu](mailto:hms.harvard.edu).

**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

(Child care during the 10:30 am  
Service)

6:00 pm "Episcopal Evening"  
Eucharist

**Wednesday**

6:15 pm Celtic Holy Eucharist

**Things to Remember**

<b>December 2</b>	<b>Men's Group meeting 8:00 am</b> <b>Women's Book Circle, 8:30 am</b>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Advent Wreath Workshop after 10:30 service</b>
<b>December 5</b>	<b>Unemployment Support Group, 7:00 pm</b>
<b>December 13</b>	<b>Vestry Meeting, 6:45 pm</b>
<b>December 16</b>	<b>Men's Group meeting, 8:00 am</b>
<b>December 17</b>	<b>Carol Singing after 10:30 service, noon</b> <b>Christmas memorial flower contributions due today</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist, 3:40 pm and 10:30 pm</b>
<b>December 31</b>	<b>Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols</b>
<b>January 2</b>	<b>Unemployment Support Group, 7:00 pm</b>
<b>January 4</b>	<b>Epiphany Dinner and Celebration, 5:30 pm</b>
<b>January 14</b>	<b>Pulpit Exchange</b>
<b>January 21</b>	<b>Rite 13, 10:30 am</b>
<b>February 4</b>	<b>Annual Meeting, noon</b>