



Saints Alive!

121 North Main Street, Attleboro, MA 02703

508-222-2233

December 2009

Minister's Message

Greetings,

We are in Advent. It is a time of renewal. It is a time of waiting. Waiting with Mary as she comes to the moment of birth. Will God really be there, supporting her, keeping his promises? Will he keep the ones he has made to us?

We will also be waiting for the ads to stop that drive us to spend more than we should. We will be waiting for the assault on our ears of Christmas music everywhere to stop!

Why don't we sing Christmas Hymns in Advent? So there is one place you and I can find a place of respite from the clamor of pre-Christmas hysteria. As we look for the second coming at the beginning of Advent and end with the Christmas Eve Service, we honor our faith and spirituality, we find room in our hearts for the coming of the babe of Bethlehem. And we take out time. For four weeks, with a new liturgy from *Enriching our Worship*, we will move closer and closer to the miracle of Jesus birth. We will remember that Jesus really is the reason for the season, even if others seem to have forgotten.

We start on Sunday, December 6th with St. Nicholas Day. With St. Nick himself, the brides he helped and the retelling of his story (complete with gold coins/chocolate).

On Sunday the 13th we are asking people for their filled out pledge cards. The Vestry has completed theirs and we hope this is an example of leadership. You can mail them or bring them in at any time before the 13th. The increase last year over the year before allowed us to be a Parish and move forward. We still are not totally self-sustaining and need every one's help in pledging whatever you can to keep us growing in faith, in spirit and financially. We will be having a Pot Luck luncheon to celebrate our community. During Coffee Hour and lunch Yvonne Dvoske will be helping our Diocese's Aids project in Africa by selling wooden animals and quartz jewelry made by the people of Africa. Come and see if you can find any Christmas

presents as you help the families and especially the children of Africa as they fight this terrible disease.

Sunday the 20th is the fourth and last day of Advent. We will be decorating the church after the service and getting ready for Christmas Eve. A member of the Altar Guild has been available each Sunday to collect names and money for the plants that add such beauty to our Christmas Eve service.

This year the Christmas Eve service will be at 5:30 PM in the hopes that we can have as many of our children present as possible, as well as our grown ups. We return to using the Book of Common Prayer. It is a wonderful service of Christmas hymns and lessons, telling the story of the foundation of our faith and the mystery of God coming into the world as a baby. We will not be having a Christmas Day service, but there are many in the area and I hope that you will find one that meets your needs.

Sunday the 27th continues the Christmas theme with more hymns and a time of gratitude for this past year and all that we have accomplished.

Many people have worked very hard to make this year a miracle. The Wardens, Vestry, those who faithfully prepare the Coffee Hour, the Fair, the Yard Sale, the Church School, the Altar Guild, this Newsletter. So many people working behind the scenes that we can only thank in response to all that has kept us going. We have indeed Pulled Together, we are learning that Together Everyone Achieves More. I am more grateful than I can say to you all for all you mean to All Saints, and all that you have done.

Phil and Raleigh and I wish you a time of joy at Christmas and the blessings of our Lord in the New Year.

Blessings, Bailey



Warden's Message

That best portion of a good man's life, His little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love. William Wordsworth – English poet (1770-1850).

Greetings. That quote fits perfectly for this past month. Pulling Together was the theme for the Fall Fair this year and everyone really pulled together. There was a lot of planning and contribution that went into the fair and the tremendous success showed that effort. From the planning committee to the cleaning and set up /take down. Everyone contributed in one way or another. Thank you Yvonne for chairing the fair this year- your hard work and tireless hours that you put in is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the many that donated baskets and helped at the fair that day. A big thank you was given on the 15th but for those of you that were not there that day – THANK YOU! The total sales this year is \$4500.02!! That is way over last year's fair of \$2800! **Together We Achieve More! AMEN!**

As we near the end of the year and the budget is being planned, we are thinking of what the New Year will bring. As we look to this past year, we can see the growth and tremendous joy that is the bulk of All Saints. The upcoming year will be even better. We look around on Sunday mornings and see new faces and families. What a joy. Attendance has been steady and increasing. The pledging increased. All of you have a part in that and all of you contribute to the success of this parish. Remember that. Your part, no matter how small or big, contributes to God's plan for us.

We are looking for vestry members this upcoming year. A nominating committee is being formed. To "run" a successful church, there has to be a successful Vestry. The priest doesn't do it all, even if we think she does (although Bailey does do a lot!). Together the Wardens and Vestry plan and follow through the parts that make the whole of the church. Please consider taking a part in that growth. We need you.

December 6 we will celebrate St Nicholas Day, what a special Sunday that will be. There is a special gift to us all on that day. As you listen that day, relate to how you are a Saint Nicholas. We all have special gifts we give to others selflessly.

Take a look outside. See any changes? Other than the weather, we have a big one out in the front of the church – a new sign. It looks beautiful! A big thank you goes out to Saint David's parish, which recently closed their doors, they donated their sign which we had painted to read All Saints and it now hangs proudly in front of the church on North Main Street. When you

walk or drive past, take a look.

The weather will be changing soon enough, and Christmas will be here sooner than you know. With the hustle and bustle of shopping and wrapping, remember why we celebrate Christmas and all its glory. Christ is a part in all our lives.

December 13th after church in the parish hall, along with coffee hour, there will be wooden animals for sale. Thank you to Yvonne Dvoske and Cindy Akers for manning the table. All proceeds from the sales go to fighting Aides in Africa.

Lastly, as a prayerful reminder, the pledge cards are due in by December 13th. ..but you are a chosen people...a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

Cathy and Dee

Bishops Vestry

Interim Priest: The Rev. Bailey O. Whitbeck
(617) 969-8892

Email: Bpwhitbeck@rcn.com

Co. Warden: Dee Scott

(508) 639-9509

Email: Deidrescott@comcast.net

Co. Warden: Cathy Lavoie

(508) 226-4866;

Email: redandread@aol.com

Treasurer: Terry Edwards

Clerk: Roberta Todd

Vestry: Kathryn Dollar Teresa Taylor
Cynthia Akers

Diocese Delegates: Yvonne Dvoske Barbara Dykas
Alternate: Deidre Scott

Deanery Delegates: Yvonne Dvoske Barbara Dykas
Deidre Scott Michael Lavoie

Council of Churches: Ruth Gower Yvonne Dvoske

Church Office Email: secretary2@verizon.net



Our **Quilting /Crafters Circle** will be meeting on Tuesday, **December 8th** from **6:00- 7:30 pm**. Join us for some fellowship and to work on a great mission project. If you have any questions, contact Brooke Wolosewicz 508-226-2309.

Altar Flowers

Anyone wishing to give flowers for the Altar on Sunday can sign up for a specific date on the flower chart in the Parish Hall, call the church office or contact Ruth Gower at 508-222-0963.

Healing Intercessor

On the first and third Sundays, a Healing Intercessor will be available at the side altar for the laying on of hands for healing. You may pray for yourself or pray for others; your prayers can be general or specific and will be kept confidential. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please speak with Rev. Bailey.

Coffee Hour

Come join us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service. Please wear your nametag. If you do not have one – see Mike Lavoie.

Wanted!

Fred Brewer, the organist is looking for a group of volunteers interested in singing during the offertory on Sundays. If you want to find out more about the All Saints Choir, please speak to Fred on Sundays!

EUM Training

If anyone is interested in Eucharistic Ministry Training, please see Dee Scott for more information.

Attleboro Area Council of Churches

Boxes of cereal and juice boxes are being collected by the Attleboro Area Council of Churches. If you can donate to this on-going project, please bring the items to church and leave them on the pew in the back of the church.

Christmas Flower Memorials

Advent is here and it's time to sign up for your **Christmas memorial flowers**. A member of the altar guild will be available during Coffee Hour each Sunday through December 20th to take your order. Contact Ruth Gower, 508-222-0963, or the church office, 508-222-2233. Donation \$15.

Saints Alive Newsletter

Welcome to The All Saints Episcopal Church monthly newsletter! We are hoping that by creating this newsletter the lines of communication will remain open and everyone will feel a stronger connection to our community of faith. We encourage all members of the church to contribute to this endeavor. Please leave your news or announcements in the mailbox labeled "Newsletters" in the hallway or email to secretary2@verizon.net.

Deadline for the December issue of Saints Alive is December 23rd!



Dates to Remember

Monday, December 7th & 14th – Bible Study, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, December 8th –
Quilting/Crafting 6:00-7:30 pm

Sunday, December 13th – Ingathering of Pledges
Procession and Blessing of the gifts –
Signs, Hymnals, Books of Common Prayer -
From St. David's, Halifax,
Potluck luncheon to follow. Please bring your favorite dish and share in the joy and fellowship.

Wednesday, December 16th – Vestry meeting

Sunday, December 20th – *LAST DAY TO ORDER A CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL*

Thursday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm

Sunday, January 10th – Visit by Bishop Cederholm

December Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

December 1st: Martha Lingard
December 2nd: Robin O'Neil
December 3rd: Jane Merkle
December 5th: John Lingard
Ellen Parker
December 6th: Diane Thomae
December 7th: Dustin Medeiros
December 17th: Mark France
December 19th: James Askew
December 20th: Marion Cote
December 22nd: Michael Lavoie
December 24th: Barbara Moehle
December 26th: Teresa Taylor
December 26th: Chris O'Neil
December 28th: Adrian Askew
Eli Askew
December 29th: Kim Askew

Birthday Prayers

BCP Pg. 830

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, whose love has kept me through another year. Thank you for all that you have given me. Help me to use my life rightly, that I may grow braver, kinder, wiser, and truer year by year. Help me to conquer my faults and live more to thy glory. Grant me thy grace to help all those around me and to show love for others. Be with me step by step all through this new year, and keep me safe until the end. In Jesus' name. Amen

Pulling Together Fair

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU,
THANK YOU!!!!**

for "**PULLING TOGETHER**" and making this a wonderful fair of fellowship, fun and of course a lot of work. Thank you, Matt & Teresa, and the lunch crew for the hot dogs, meatball subs, and chili – even the leftovers were delicious on Sunday. Thank you, Cathy, for your Chinese raffle, we all got to be a winner with your prizes. Thank you, Becky, Elaine, Suzanne, Barbara for your wonderful work on the plants, crafts, knits, and jewelry. Thank you, Roberta for all your work on the raffle box numbers, tickets, posters, lists, and basket wrapping, and thanks to your help, Ruth, Sylvia, Judy, Karen, and Merry. Thank you, Martha, Sandra, Pat, and Marion for the coffee and bake shop; it sure smelled good in there. Thank you, Kim and Shirley for This and That shop and Marion and Pat for afternoon takeover. Thank you, and sorry you only made it out of Grandma's Attic for lunch to Dave and Beth. Thank you, to Cindy and Barbara and the group of young church children for our children's room. Thank you, to Jim and Phil for bringing in all that Grandma's Attic stuff on Monday. Thank you, to all who set up and cleaned up and Thank you to the three who stayed so late to count all our daily funds, Dee, Karen, and Roberta. Thank you, Dee for cashing all day. My final THANK YOU is to all the good people who came out in that nasty weather to make our fair so successful and to all of you who donated your time, talents, gifts, and fellowship in any way to help us PULL TOGETHER for yet another year.

THANK YOU ALL, Yvonne Dvoske

If you have any suggestions or ideas to make next year work better or any input to what worked or what didn't, let me know so we can get started on an early fair for next year.

The result of PULLING TOGETHER was \$4500!!!!!!

All Saints Episcopal Church Mission Statement

We are one with the Spirit
We are one with the Lord
We are a renewed community
of Faith;
A nurturing family called to share the Lord's
message of
Love, Compassion, and Peace

All Saints Ministry Opportunities

Acolytes

We are thankful for our acolytes, including crucifiers, who assist at the altar on Sunday mornings. If you have a child in 6th grade or older he/she are able to serve in this ministry. For more information contact Kevin Lingard.

Adult Choir

Fred is trying to get together a group to sing at services. Contact Bailey Whitbeck or Fred Brewer.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild sets up the altar for Sunday worship services for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Training is provided for those who are interested. Contact Ruth Gower.

Bible Study

Bible study is held on Monday evenings at 7:15 in the Guild Room. The Bible is explored in depth. Contact John Blenkiron.

Fellowship

Coffee Hour is held after services on Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall. Please wear your name tag – or see Mike Lavoie if you don't have one.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Lay Eucharistic Ministers are those that help our priest lead Sunday worship services. Duties include administering the chalice during the Holy Eucharist. If interested Bailey Whitbeck at the parish office.

Lectors

If you don't mind reading in front of others, this ministry is for you. Lectors read the appointed lessons during the Sunday Worship Service. If interested contact Mike Lavoie.

Nursery

A safe and caring environment is provided for children through the age of 3 during the 10am service. Contact Cindy Akers.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee has the task of educating and inviting parishioners to give back to the Lord a portion of what He has given us in appreciation and thanksgiving for His blessings. Contact Kathy Doller.

Ushers & Greeters

Ushers and Greeters greet parishioners and guests and perform various functions during services. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Jimmy England.



MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR

December Prayers

Advent Prayer:

O God, may we simplify our lives that we be not so concerned with unimportant things that we miss the real thing. Open our eyes to him who is already among us, and who will come again into our midst on Christmas, that we may see his brightness. He comes as a gift for which we are joyfully thankful. Help us to prepare ourselves so we may be saved from meaninglessness and sin. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Christmas Day: December 25th: BCP Pg. 212

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ; Grant that we, who joyfully Receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

For the New Year: January 1st

O God, Father and Creator: I thank you for all the joy of the year ending; for the things I have learned, the fun I have had, and the love that has been shown me. I ask you now to go with me into the New Year. Let me feel your presence, and teach me to depend on your help. Help me to be more like Jesus Christ in the coming year than ever before.

Symbols of the Season

As we prepare to prepare to accept the new birth Christ seeks to bring us at Christmas, let us remember the signs of God's journey with His people. Use your imagination and think of ways to represent the symbols. Let us with joy decorate.

Light: *"In him was life, and life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*
John 1:4-5

Stars: *"Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."*
Matthew 2:2

Water: A source of life. *"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit."*
John 3: 5

Bread & Wine: Basic elements of God's provision for us.

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35

Hearts: Represents God's love for us and our love for God and for each other.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40

DECEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			Rev. Bailey in office	Boy Scouts		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
ADVENT 2 10:00 am Service Sunday School Healing Station St. Nicholas Day	Bible Study 7:15 pm with John Blenkiron Cub Scouts	Quilting/Crafting 6:00-7:30 pm	Rev. Bailey in office	Boy Scouts		Christmas is for Kids Deadline Anawan Council Boy Scouts 9-12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
ADVENT 3 10:00 am Service Sunday School Ingathering of Pledges	Bible Study 7:15 pm with John Blenkiron Cub Scouts		Vestry Meeting 6:30pm Rev. Bailey in office	Boy Scouts		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
ADVENT 4 10:00 am Service Sunday School Healing Station	**No Bible Study Cub Scouts		Rev. Bailey in office	Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm	The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Christmas Day	
27	28	29	30	31		
CHRISTMAS 1 10:00 am Service Sunday School	No Bible Study Cub Scouts					** Bible Study will begin again on January 11th, 2010!!