

Saints Alive!



121 North Main Street, Attleboro, MA 02703 508-222-2233

December 2010

Minister's Message

Interim Priest: The Rev. Bailey O. Whitbeck

Advent Greetings,

Advent is a time of waiting and expectation. We know that our Lord was born many years ago, and yet, each year we prepare again for the joyous time of Christmas. We are in an in-between time- we know what has happened and yet we are full of expectations. Children want to know what Santa will bring them. Adults are hoping they can give their children a good Christmas; that jobs will continue or be found; that rents and mortgages can be paid; that gas prices will level off. How can we be joyous when all these thoughts are swirling around us? How can the birth of one small child make any difference in our lives?

Yet that is what this season is all about. In the midst of our darkness, a bright light shines, the light that is our Lord Jesus. Each week we light another candle on the Advent wreath as we push back the darkness of the shorter days and move closer and closer to the light of new life and hope.

This will be a busy Advent for us. We will still be an oasis from the crowded stores and the worries of the secular world, but we will also be sharing in getting to know each other better and to understand more fully what it takes in money and people power to sustain the life of a parish. The Vestry will be in charge of the sermon on December 5th and share the budget outline for next year and where our pledges fit in.

December 12th will have two focuses. First St. Nicholas' day and the gifts he brings us each year. Then we will have a guest Christi Humphrey, who will help us learn how to be a community of ministers. This is an approach to being a parish that will compliment our Advent theme of Re-store, Re-new, Re-energize which will be our theme for all of next year.

December 19th we will have a baptism, which is a wonderful way for me to celebrate 30 years of ordained ministry. It is the 4th Sunday in Advent and a joyous way to look forward to the birth of our Lord.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5PM for young families and those who do not want to drive at night. It will be a Festival Service for all ages with lots of Christmas carols.

December 26th we will have a service at 10AM and hope as many of you as can be there will come. There will not be a service on Christmas Day. Check with other churches in the area if that day is part of your religious observance.

I carry the image of a small child, standing on tip toe in church to read the Christmas story, full of hope and excitement and expectation. May we emulate that child and be full of hope and expectation. As we reach out to each other we can greet the New Year full of new understandings and a sense of belonging.

Phil and I, the Vestry and staff all wish you a blessed Christmas.

Rev. Bailey



Our Newsletter: Saints Alive!

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 January issue of Saints Alive is December 20th.

At a Glance...

Don't forget that boxes of cereal and juice boxes are being collected by the Attleboro Council of Churches. Items may be left on the pew in the back of the church.
Thanks!

Mondays at 7:00 P.M.: Bible Study Guild Room.

Sunday, December 5, 2010: Vestry Presentation at the 10:00 Service.

Sunday, December 12, 2010: St. Nicholas Day.

Wednesday, December 15, 2010: Vestry Meeting 6:30 P.M.

Friday, December 10: Last day to contribute to Christmas is For Kids.

December 19, 2010, Baptism and celebration of Rev. Bailey's 30 years of ordained ministry.

December 24, 2010: Christmas Eve Festival Service for all ages, 5:00 P.M.

December 26, 2010: 10:00 A.M. Christmas I, Deacon's Mass and sermon by the Rev. Ron

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: the true meaning

People often think of The Twelve Days of Christmas as the days preceding the festival. Actually, Christmas is a season of the Christian Year that lasts for days beginning December 25 and lasting until January 6 – the Day of Epiphany – when the Church celebrates the revelation of Christ as the light of the world and recalls the journey of the Magi.

From 1558 until 1829 people in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During this era someone wrote ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’ as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without risk of persecution. The song has two levels of interpretation: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the church.

Each element in the carol is a code word for a religious reality.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus Christ.
2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels.
5. The five gold rings recall the torah (Law) the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represent the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit.
8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the spirit (Gal.5).
10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the 12 points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

There you have it, the HIDDEN meaning of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” and the secret behind the song.

(This appeared in ‘Brigada Today’ from the e-Prayer list) By Rowland Croucher and others



Christmas is for Kids

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.

Beginning Sunday, November 28, 2010, and continuing until December 10th, Cindy Edwards & Caitie Medeiros will be collecting donations for “**Christmas is For Kids**” Drive. They will collect new toys, clothing or cash for a general donation. Please don't wrap the donations. You may give your donations to Cindy on Sundays or drop them off to Robin at the church office during the week. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

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.

Church Calendars

Church calendars are now available in a basket on the Parish Hall counter. There is a manila envelope in the basket for calendar donations. Thank you!

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.

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.

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!

Christmas Flowers

Advent is a time to prepare for the glory of Christmas. To order your memorial or remembrance flowers for the altar (\$15.00), please see Ruth Gower during the coffee hour after the service, through the church office or call Ruth at 508-222-0963 by December 19, 2010.



December Birthdays Happy Birthday!

Martha Lingard	12/01
Robin O'Neil	12/02
Jane Merkle	12/03
Jamie Haines	12/04
Ellen Parker	12/05
John Lingard	12/05
Thomas Hyland	12/06
Theresa Hyland	12/06
Dustin Medeiros	12/07
Pat Clapp	12/15
James Askew	12/19
Marian Cote	12/20
Michael Lavoie	12/22
Brandy Leary	12/23
Tim Vickers	12/23
Teresa Taylor	12/26
Chris O'Neil	12/26
Jenna Haines	12/27
Adrian Askew	12/28
Eli Askew	12/28
Kim Askew	12/29

Anniversary of Rev. Bailey's ordination 12/19/1980

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

Prayer List

Please pray for all those on our prayer list. Jim, Priscilla, Joyce, Mel, Bowie, Peg, Marion, Pam, Deb, Patricia, Edward, Brendan, Janie, Yvonne, Pat, Lillian, Eldon, Wendy, Art, Paul, Harold, Gloria, Ruth, Judy, Pauline, Jim, Filiberto, the Cole Family, Bobby, and Helen.

We also remember and pray for all our men and women in the military, and for all those who strive for justice and peace throughout the world.

Prayer for the sick:

Prayers Old and New

O Lord, who does feel the pain of the world: Look upon all sick and suffering persons; especially..... Enfold them with thy love, that in the midst of pain they may find thy presence; to doctors and nurses grant tender hearts and healing hands; and give health again in body and soul, for thy tender mercy's sake. Amen.

The Song of Mary Magnificat

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed;
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit,
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever will be for ever. Amen.*

BCP p. 91 & 92

From the Catechism... p. 861, 862 BCP

Q. What is the Christian hope?

A. The Christian hope is to live with confidence in newness and fullness of life, and to await the coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purpose for the world.

Q. What do we mean by the coming of Christ in glory?

A. By the coming of Christ in glory, we mean that Christ will come, not in weakness but in power, and will make all things new.

Q. What do we mean by the last judgment?

A. We believe that Christ will come again in glory and judge the living and the dead.

Q. What do we mean by everlasting life?

A. By everlasting life, we mean a new existence, in which we are united with all the people of God, in the joy of fully knowing and loving God and each other.

Q. What, then. Is our assurance as Christians?

A. Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Why We Celebrate

**Why do we celebrate
Jesus' birth at Christmas,
when we don't even know
when he was born?
It was necessary and inevitable
that we select a date
to celebrate an eternal miracle—
the coming to earth
of God in human form...Jesus,
who changed the entire world
with his message of love,
forgiveness, humility and peace.
Christmas is an obligatory
and indispensable holiday
to mark the end
of guiltless, self-centered selfishness,
and the beginning of service
to God and to our fellow man.
That is worth celebrating.
May you have the most blessed Christmas
ever!**

By Joanna Fuchs



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 Bailey Whitbeck at the parish office.

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 7:00 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.

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.

Property and Grounds

Property and Grounds are responsible for the care of our Church building and grounds which include, but not limited to, maintenance, minor repairs, grounds care. Contact Mike Lavoie.

All Saints 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.*



Senior Meals

Sturdy Memorial Hospital has hot senior meals available for \$4.50 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4:00 – 5:00 P.M. in their cafeteria. For more information call Sturdy Hospital at 508-222-5200.

Free Family Dinner

The Attleboro Area Council of Churches through its FOOD “n” FRIENDS program will be offering a FREE family dinner each month at the Family Café at the Evangelist Covenant Church, 841 North Main St. (route 152) Attleboro on the last Wednesday of every month at 5:30 P.M. and also at Living Waters Church, 15 John Diestch Blvd., North Attleboro on the last Saturday of every month at 6:00 P.M. Crafts and activities will be available for children. Walk-ins are welcome but advance notice is helpful. Call 508-222-2933. Adults must be accompanied by a child under age 28.

All Saints Episcopal Church Contact Information

Interim Priest: The Rev. Bailey O. Whitbeck
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Email: Bpwhitbeck@rcn.com

Deacon: The Rev. Ron Tibbetts
(774) 210-0284 cell (508) 695-2225 home
rontibbetts@yahoo.com

Warden: Dee Scott
(508) 639-9509

Email: Deidrescott@comcast.net

Treasurer: Barbara Boynton

Clerk: Roberta Todd

Vestry: Kathryn Doller Teresa Taylor

Cynthia Akers Cathy Lavoie

Scott McDonald

Diocese Delegates: Marian Cote Martha Lingard

Alternate: Barbara Dykas

Deanery Delegates: Yvonne Dvoske Marian Cote

Deidre Scott Martha Lingard

Barbara Dykas

Council of Churches: Ruth Gower Yvonne Dvoske

Church Office Email:
secretary2@verizon.net

DECEMBER 2010

				1	2	3	4
					Church of God 7-9 pm Boy Scouts	Church of God 7-9 pm	
5 2 nd Sunday after Advent 10:00 am Service Rev Bailey Healing Station Vestry Presentation Rev. Bailey	6 Bible Study Guild Room 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	7 Church of God 7-9 pm	8	9 Church of God 7-9 pm Boy Scouts	10 Church of God 7-9 pm	11	
12 3 rd Sunday after Advent 10:00 am Service Rev. Bailey Guest: Christi Humphrey	13 Bible Study Guild Room 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	14 Church of God 7-9 pm	15 VESTRY MEETING 6:30 PM	16 Church of God 7-9 pm Boy Scouts	17 Church of God 7-9 pm	18	
19 4 th Sunday after Advent 10:00 am Service Healing Station Holy Baptism Celebration of 30 th anniversary of Rev. Bailey's ordained ministry	20 <u>JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u> Bible Study Guild Room 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	21 Church of God 7-9 pm	22	23 Church of God 7-9 pm Boy Scouts	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Festival Service 5:00 p.m. Church of God 7-9 pm	25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	
26 First Sunday after Christmas 10:00 am Service Rev. Ron Tibbetts	27 Bible Study Guild Room 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	28 Church of God 7-9 pm	29	30 Church of God 7-9 pm Boy Scouts	31 Church of God 7-9 pm		HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SUNDAYS

Church of God
2 – 5 pm

DECEMBER 19TH – LAST DAY TO ORDER CHRISTMAS
MEMORIAL OR REMEMBRANCE ALTAR FLOWERS

Saturday, January 22, 2011
Church of God - wedding
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.