



# ALL SAINTS' MESSENGER

LATE SUMMER, 2017

## New life and new programs at All Saints

As we begin our fall programs, I want to draw your attention to the new life that is bursting forth at All Saints' Church. Every time I have the chance, I tell people to come and see the good things that are happening. I hope you are telling people the same thing. Some of the new life can be seen in new coats of paint. Some of it can be seen in replanted gardens. Even more, it can be heard in the sounds of children in church. Our toddler group continues to grow, and we have received a grant to expand this ministry to other age groups. Our growth can be noticed in the fact that our Sunday attendance is up almost 25%. Look around—God's Spirit is moving among us in exciting and new ways! If you haven't been around All Saints for some period of time, I hope you find an invitation to stop in on a Sunday and see what is happening. If you are new to our church community, welcome!

Every event and program listed in this newsletter is an opportunity for a deeper encounter with God. Maybe it is through one of the ongoing ministries that continues to thrive. Maybe it is through a new opportunity to help those in need. Maybe it is through an opportunity for prayer or study. Be on the lookout for Jesus—he's busy all over the place, and especially at All Saints' Church. I hope you find somewhere to connect. If you have an idea, please let me know; I'd be glad to help you make it happen.

God bless you, and see you in church,

The Rev. JK Melton  
Priest-in-Charge

## Fall Events

- **September 5 at 10 am:** Second Chance Thrift Shop reopens.
- **September 10 at 10:30 am:** Blessing of the Backpacks  
Join us as we bless all of our students and teachers at the start of a new school year. We will also bless the school supplies gathered for local students in need.
- **October 8 at 10:30:** St. Francis Day and the Blessing of the Animals  
Our annual opportunity to bring pets to church. This popular day will feature a great celebration of St. Francis as well as pet blessings. If your pet can't come, feel free to bring a photo. Kids are also invited to bring special friends and stuffed animals for blessings, too.
- **November 5 at 10:30:** Feast of All Saints.  
We will celebrate the saints who have gone before us, and we will also recognize the 119<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of All Saints' Church. We are lucky to call all of the saints our patrons. Come celebrate with us!
- **November 11:** Angel Fair  
Our annual parish fair is a storied tradition that helps us reach out into the community. We'll have all sorts of things for sale! Be sure to mark your calendars and invite friends to come to this fun and festive fundraiser.

## Opportunities for Study and Prayer

This fall, two new groups are forming to engage with scripture and to engage in prayer. Those who are interested will determine the schedule. If you are interested, please email Fr. JK at [meltonjk@allsaintsharrison.org](mailto:meltonjk@allsaintsharrison.org) or call the church office at 914-835-4716.

- Reading Scripture can be daunting! To take out some of the challenge, we will gather to read through 25 Bible stories that will introduce us to the entire arc of the Scripture. What is more, if you cannot join us at our regular meeting time, we will create an electronic discussion space—maybe on Facebook or possibly through a blog on our website—where those who wish to participate but cannot attend can connect with these stories. Particular texts will be listed in the bulletin and in the email news (or you can buy a copy of *The Path: a Journey through the Bible*). The goal is to get a taste of scripture and gain some ideas about where we might like to read together next.

- Prayer Group Forming: There are many ways that we can approach prayer together, and this group will first choose a method. We might gather for the Eucharist, praying for healing for ourselves and the world. We might gather for Evening Prayer. We might come together to learn about prayer forms, especially contemplative forms of prayer such as the Jesus Prayer or Centering Prayer. At our initial meeting, we'll see what the group desires. Our first gathering will be in mid- to late September.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities—or just want to gather more information—please email Fr. JK at [meltonjk@allsaintsharrison.org](mailto:meltonjk@allsaintsharrison.org).



**Join us on Friday, October 20, at 7:30 pm as**  
*Rhythm Rising: Latin & Brazilian Jazz*  
**opens our concert season. Learn more about the band at**  
**[www.bongotomsmusic.com/rhythm-rising-band](http://www.bongotomsmusic.com/rhythm-rising-band)**

Concerts at the Saints returns on October 20. Partnering with the Harrison Public Library to become Community Concerts at the Saints, we are planning a new season of concerts that will be *free and open to the public*.

By combining the library's myriad of community outreach resources with All Saints' beautiful sanctuary, incredible Steinway, and phenomenal acoustics, we hope to connect with new and old friends through the powerful shared experience of live music.

## Choir Happenings

Want to sing more? This year, our choir will be a yearlong, open invitation to sing!

Feel free to sit with your family—we'll skip the robes and the processions. We will support the congregation by singing from the pew, and during the offering, we will come forward to sing. We will explore both of our hymnals for unsung gems.

So please join us on Sunday, Sept 10, at 10am (or any Sunday at 10am!), if you would like learn and sing through the hymns for the service. No experience required.

If you would also like to join us for festival Sundays, such as All Saints' Day, Christ the King, during Advent, or on Christmas Eve, we invite you to join us in the Choir Room after church for rehearsals on select Sundays throughout the fall. You can watch the bulletin and enews for rehearsal dates, or email Music Director Sara della Posta at [cornista@earthlink.net](mailto:cornista@earthlink.net) for more information.

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Looking to stay up to date? The announcements in the bulletin are always the best source of information, but be sure to subscribe to our enewsletter, sent most Fridays (email us at [office@allsaintsharrison.org](mailto:office@allsaintsharrison.org) and we'll add you to the list), and "like" us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/allsaintsharrison](http://www.facebook.com/allsaintsharrison)).

## All Saints' Toddlers

Our toddler group is busy making plans for the fall. The group is working on the final details—so be sure to watch the enews and bulletin announcements as dates are finalized. To make sure you stay up to date, you can also email the Rev. Canon Heather Melton (revhmelton@gmail.com). Each event listed below is a time for families to come together, toddlers and infants to play and learn, parents to talk, and time to gather around the table for food.

- **September:** Toddlers are very curious about the world around them and many of them are like magpies, picking up all sorts of treasures when they are out in the world. In September, we will make God Boxes, small wooden boxes that they will be able to decorate and then take with them to put inside all kinds of things they find that remind them of God.
- **October:** We are planning a toddler sized trick or treat festival! Each family and some other special guests will set up “booths” in the Rectory yard for the kids to play a game or trick or treat without a lot of walking.
- **November:** We'll gather and talk about gratitude in advance of Thanksgiving. We'll have a fun gratitude scavenger hunt, craft and lesson for the kids. It should be a simple and low-key way to help get your kids ready for the holiday and give you some ideas for traditions you might want to start around your Thanksgiving table.
- **December:** We'll have a visit from and talk about St. Nicholas! The Meltons know an amazing Santa, who has offered to come to All Saints to visit the children.

Always feel free to invite a friend or tell a neighbor about us. We are always glad to welcome more families!

## First Steps Grant awarded to All Saints

Congratulations to us! The Diocese of New York annually awards grants for programs that to help parishes grow. These grants are ideally “seed money” so that a program can get rolling. We applied for funding to build our Toddler Group and to expand the model to other age groups, and the Diocese awarded us \$1,500. This is a nice vote of confidence from the Congregational Vitality Team for the efforts that we are undertaking at All Saints' Church.



## Call for faith formation volunteers:

We want to start some opportunities for faith formation for our elementary school students, and our middle and high school students. Thanks to our First Steps Grant we have some funds available, but we need a couple of people to take the lead. You won't be alone, and there is a lot of support, but we do need a couple of people to help out with the organizing. If you are interested—in helping organize or even just participating—please email Fr. JK (meltonjk@allsaintsharrison.org).



## Webster Avenue Nursery School

Our very own Webster Avenue Nursery School is busy gearing up for a new school year. We are following and sharing a recipe for a successful school year with our young students. You'll notice cupcakes and more appearing on the walls of the Nursery School hallway, as we welcome our new and returning students to a new school year.

The school has a strong enrollment again this year, but there are still some openings left. *Hurry fast*—and tell your friends if you hear of someone looking for a last-minute nursery school placement.

- Our morning 3 year old and 4 year old classes are full.
- Our afternoon 3 and 4 year old classes, which meet Monday through Thursday, *still have space available.*

Enrollment for 2018-2019 is right around the corner. Enrollment for returning students and All Saints' families begins in mid-November. Enrollment opens to the wider community in late November.

If you are interested in afternoon classes for this year, registration for next year, or any other information, please call our Nursery School Director, Eileen Mauro at 914-835-4504 or email at [websteravekids@gmail.com](mailto:websteravekids@gmail.com).

Please keep all of our students (and the teachers!) in your prayers throughout the upcoming school year!

**School starts  
September 6!**

## Mission News—opportunities to help those in need

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” – Jesus (Matt. 25: 40)

### Supporting Harrison Food Pantry

All Saints' Church has long supported the Harrison Food Pantry. We have a great history of gathering non-perishable goods for those who are hungry. The Harrison Food Pantry serves approximately 120 families, which equates to 325 individuals. One third of their clients are senior citizens. What is more, 90% of those who receive SNAP benefits (formerly called Food Stamps) run out of funds by the 21st of the month, which can make for a difficult end of the month.

In addition to our ongoing collection of non-perishable foods, we will have one food focus every month to help us more intentionally reflect on hunger. This fall we will gather:

- September: Peanut Butter
- October: Juice Boxes (100% juice) and Milk Boxes
- November: Cooking Oils: Canola, Olive, Etc.
- December: Pasta

We may not be able to end hunger, but we can do something to help those who are hungry.

### Annual School Supply Drive

Our Annual School Supply Drive continues through September 10. We are gathering a variety of supplies to help students in the area who would otherwise struggle to buy school supplies. If you need suggestions, you can find an Amazon wish list here: <http://a.co/2TgNWO3> (but shop where you like!). Otherwise, please bring pencils, notebooks, and even backpacks. You may drop off school supplies at All Saints on Sundays (or the Rectory side porch anytime).

### Dinner @ Noon at the Carver Center

We will continue our participation in Helping Hands for the Homeless and Hungry's "Dinner @ Noon" program that occurs on Saturdays at the Carver Center. We will join in rotation with several religious groups to provide a hot meal for those who would go without. We always need folk to prepare and serve food. For more information, please contact Jim Anderson ([janderson10528@gmail.com](mailto:janderson10528@gmail.com)) or Eileen Simon ([eileensimon10543@yahoo.com](mailto:eileensimon10543@yahoo.com)). Fall dates for All Saints' Church are September 30 and December 9.

*As you shop for those in need, please pray for them, pray for the poor, and pray for all of us who seek to help.*

## ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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