

The MESSENGER

A Publication of
All Saints' Episcopal Church
Norristown, PA
October 2013



On Seeking God

A favorite writer, and one I'd recommend to everyone, is Kathleen Norris. In her book Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Grace, she writes about her experience preaching (she's a layperson) on evangelism. In her sermon she suggests that 'going up to people at a picnic and asking, 'do you know the Lord?' [is] a good way to get yourself stuck with a barbecue fork. And you would deserve it.' For Norris, evangelism is more a matter of, "Do not describe, present," and "show, don't tell." I thought you'd enjoy her subsequent conversation:

"As I was packing up in the deserted sanctuary, a young woman approached me, someone I had known casually for years, but had not seen before in church. 'I've just begun finding my way back to all this,' she said, 'and I think you can help me.' I was stunned: *me, of all people?* . . . She went on to say that she was longing for a relationship with God but didn't know how to go about it. How to pray, for example. Desperately, I tried to summon some bit of wisdom that Fr. Robert had imparted at the abbey in one of our late-night talks: remember that it's not a monologue, but a dialogue. A relationship; and like any real relationship, full of surprises.

She told me she didn't know how to get started, but her little girl seemed to talk to God all the time. 'There you have it,' I said, 'just imitate her.' And she laughed.

"I was being partly serious, I told her, because adult self-consciousness makes us more anxious than we need to be about 'seeking God.' . . . Just relax, I told her, don't worry, and if you begin to read the Bible you'll find that if you think you want to find God, God wants to find you even more. I admitted that the fits and starts I had spoken of in my sermon still plagued me, and that sometimes the only thing that got me into church on Sunday morning was the fact that I was preaching. . . . She told me that her renewed interest in religion had caused some strain in her marriage, as her husband did not share it. She seemed relieved to hear that I had had the same problem. . . .

"I told her that I had worried for a long time about what my religious conversion might do to my marriage. But I had held firm to the conviction that if the God of the gospels is real, and the commandment to love is primary, then my most intimate loving relationship would not be destroyed but enhanced by my faith. It had been a struggle, I said, and it took time, but my husband and I had worked

things out. That question: 'Why are you afraid?' was one that had been helpful, when I had remembered to ask it of myself during difficult times.

"I said that I was sure that the new pastor who would be coming in a few weeks would be glad to help her; more than glad. I knew from my own experience that just one person who is serious about reclaiming their faith, and willing to talk about it, can renew a pastor's sense of ministry. It validates what they do. This seemed welcome news to her, and we walked out of church together.

"I had been an evangelist, and in the conventional sense. It amazed me and still does."

pp. 302-304, Amazing Grace.

This is Norris's story. On September 15 I preached about sharing our 'spiritual autobiographies' – each person's story of their unique spiritual journey – with one another. Will you share yours with me? Let's have coffee, and explore together. (No homework needed!)

Mother Sandra+

(For those of you looking for "Where Are They Now: Part II," a few of our young adults have been difficult to reach; we'll print that in November's Messenger.)

Milestones

Births, accomplishments, graduations, the passing of loved ones, special joys or memories, etc.: let us know the latest news:

☆ Bev and Dick Kratz became great-grandparents for the fourth and fifth time during the summer season. They are happy to share about their additions to the family:

Payton Lea Alderfer, born May 1 to Megan and Brian Alderfer of Telford, joining her three brothers.

Paige Wilson Schultz was born June 26 to Lauren and Jeff Schultz of Harleysville.

(Megan and Lauren are the daughters of Dick's son and daughter-in-law, Dean and Debbie Kratz.)

All are doing very well!

The **MESSANGER**
is produced monthly by



All Saints' Episcopal Church
535 Haws Avenue, Norristown, PA 19401
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Submissions are invited and are subject to editing. Submit articles by email (preferred) to allsaints535@yahoo.com with Messenger typed in subject line or by fax: 610-279-3990 or leave in Messenger mailbox by church's main entrance.

Publication date: First of month
Deadline: 15th of each month

E-mail your milestones to allsaints535@yahoo.com with "Milestones" in the subject line, or drop a note in the parish office mailbox by the main entrance.

Birthdays (October)

- 1 Ralph Hockridge
- 2 Marcia Carneavale
Cindy Durante
Harry Reese, Jr.
- 5 Joseph Gelet
Dominic Kerr
- 6 Jason Atkins
Kelsey Griffin
Austin Taylor
- 7 Alyssa Jones
- 9 Audra Ritter
- 12 Jackie Koffke
- 13 Chuckie Faulkner
- 16 Fr. West
- 18 Jean Dean
Michelle Shilling
- 19 Mara McCarraher
- 25 Amanda Nelson
Harry Reese
- 31 Alan Hill

Anniversaries (October)

- 3 Meredith & Sean
McCarraher
- 5 Joanne & Bob Heisler
- 7 Marge & Butch Kinsey
- 23 Lois & Tim Byrne
Debbie & Rob Taylor
- 26 Audra & John Ritter
- 31 Kathryn & Joe
Gallagher

Best Wishes!

Worship Opportunities

SUNDAY MORNINGS

8 a.m. Eucharist

9:45 a.m. Sunday School*
(1st and 3rd Sundays only)

9:45 a.m. Youth Forum+
(3rd Sunday only)

10 a.m. Choral Eucharist
Rite II, including music, except on 3rd Sundays (see below).
Child care is available for children 4 and under, 10 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (If your older child wants to attend, please ask the volunteer on duty.)

11:15 a.m.

- Coffee, tea and hospitality
- Adult Forums
 - Kaleidoscope Bible studies
 - Topical adult forums as scheduled

3rd SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH:

9 a.m. Rite II Eucharist with
opening & closing hymns

9:45 – Youth Forum+

10:30 a.m. Contemporary
Eucharist in activity room

*Beginning October 6
+Beginning October 20

Reminder:

Third Sunday of the Month
October 20



By Deb Porcelli

A big thank you to the Pie Festival Committee, all those who came out to help at the festival, and all who ventured out to support the festival and all it represents!

The gorgeous day which God had made was enhanced by the fun and fellowship of all who attended. There was lots of activity throughout the day.

The pie contest brought out our celebrity guest judges who had a very hard job tasting all the delicious entries. The moon bounce and Pie-In-the-Sky games readily caught the attention of the younger set. The Pie Walk provided an opportunity to dance off a little of the pie calories consumed.

The Valley Forge Highland Band entertained us both outside and in the activity room. Lots of festival goers shopped in the Second Time Around Shop. Grandma's Attic gave the opportunity for someone's discarded treasures to find a new home. Lunch was enjoyed by many as All Saints' cooks showcased some favorite recipes. And last but not least, the bake table provided a means of extending a fun day by taking home a sweet treat to share. All Saints' bakers are truly awesome!

Congratulations to the two pie contest winners from ASC: Carley Harrity and Kathryn Gallagher. LET THEM EAT PIE.

Reflections on Homecoming Sunday

Our Homecoming picnic after church on September 8 reminded us of the warmth, comfort, and loving feelings in our community.

We returned home after our summer activities to reconnect with our church family.

God's arms and ours, too, were wide open that day, welcoming this beloved flock back together with burgers, hot dogs, and some yummy side dishes & desserts.

Even more important, we had fun, reconnected, told stories, celebrated our ministries at ASC, and watched our children play.

We were happy to see everyone and we look forward in seeing you this fall. Make plans to join the All Saints' family for lots more exciting and faith-filled activities in the upcoming weeks and months. Remember to mark Sundays on your calendar.



To see more photos go to: www.allsaintsnorristown.org



Recollection of Good Times at Cape May

By Phil Gottshall

Great fun, great fellowship, and great conversations were had by all at this year's retreat. Four members from All Saints' and one from St. John's gathered at Holiday House in Cape May, New Jersey. We plan to go again next year (September 2, 3, 4, 2014), and ALL are welcome.

The weather was perfect, and the ocean was nice once you got in. It was very calm this year. Mother Sandra brought supplies so we could paint our own 'God Box.' A God box isn't anything fancy. We painted it as we wished. What was important was what we placed in the God Box. We individually hand wrote requests on behalf of someone at the moment. It was a simple act of just writing down a wish or a concern, placing it in the God Box, and thus relinquishing control to a higher power, relieving our own mind. It was a wonderful exercise.

Later, some of us hit the shops in Stone Harbor and Washington Square in Cape May. One night we went to The Lobster House for dinner. We also went to the Pilot House to see the beautiful aquariums to round out a good day. Jo Anne Tempest led Compline; Mother Sandra conducted Eucharist on the last day and blessed our God Boxes. Our retreat wasn't over yet because we stopped at the Cape May County Zoo to see the new baby buffalo and snow leopard baby twins. We all returned from the retreat rejoicing in the time spent together. Please consider coming with us next year.



Day of Fun for Acolytes & Nursery Helpers October 13, 2013

This summer's outing to Dorney Park didn't materialize, due to overbooked schedules. We're definitely on for Sunday, October 13. All youth and chaperones will gather in the chapel for Eucharist with Mother Sandra at 9:30 a.m., and then we'll all head out to Dorney Park (which opens at 11:00 a.m.).

All acolytes and nursery helpers who have served in the past year are eligible to attend. Registration and medical forms can be found in the vestibule, and will need to be returned by October 6. The cost to attend for each participant is \$15 plus spending money for the park. (Some financial assistance is available; contact Mother Sandra.)

We could still use some chaperones and drivers; please let Mother Sandra know if you would like to help out (443-797-2360 or 484-416-0797).

Bible Reading Every Day: Teach Us to See

By Mary Beth Mucher

At the parish Homecoming Day picnic I had the pleasure of playing Hedbandz™. The gist is that you randomly pick a card, don't look at it, display it on your headband, and then ask questions until you guess what's on it. One of our five-year-old members showed an uncanny guessing ability. Am I a princess? Yes. Am I Ariel? Yes. Two questions and she was done. She chose another card. Am I a person? No. Am I a fish? Yes. Two questions and she was done again. Did the child have ESP or could she somehow see the card through her forehead?

It reminded me of a story I read recently in 2 Kings 6:8-23. The king of Aram was ticked off because every time he attacked Israel, they seemed to anticipate his plans and were one step ahead of him. The king started to suspect his generals of being double agents, but actually the source was a prophet named Elisha (a former student of Elijah), who always knew what Aram was up to and warned Israel. The Aramean king figured he would fix that, and sent an army to capture Elisha.

Early one morning, Elisha's servant got quite a shock as he saw that enemy troops had surrounded them. He ran to Elisha and asked, "Alas, master! What shall we do?" Elisha calmly answered, "Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them." The Bible doesn't tell us what the servant was thinking, but I imagine it was something like, "Boss, with all due respect, I know you haven't had your coffee yet and might not be thinking too clearly, but it's just you and me here."

But "then Elisha prayed: 'O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.' So the Lord opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha." The Aramean army didn't see God's army. They also didn't recognize Elisha. It reminds me of a Jedi mind trick from Star Wars™, only instead of Obi-wan Kenobi telling the stormtroopers, "These aren't the droids you're looking for," it's Elisha telling the Arameans, "This is not the way, and this is not the city; follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." Elisha led them right to the Israelite king, who fed them dinner and then sent them home.



It's tempting to have a chuckle at the Arameans' expense, except that I can't help wondering if I see any better than they did. Or am I more like the servant, seeing the problem but not seeing that God is providing an answer? On the encouraging side, Elisha didn't laugh at his anxious servant. He comforted him, explained the spiritual reality to him, and then prayed that God would enable the servant to see for himself. And this I believe is God's offer to each of us. If we ask God to open our eyes and teach us to see, then he will reveal himself to us more and more. And as we learn to perceive God's presence, his power, and his goodness, we can live peacefully assured that no matter how big a problem might come against us, God is even bigger and God is for us.

****For Bible-reading resources and suggestions, visit our Bible Reading Every Day (BRED) web page at <http://allsaintsnorristown.org/bible-reading-every-day> . There you will find recommendations from members, daily reading plans, and other information to help you get started. Comments, questions, positive or negative reactions are all welcome.**

Treasures Bless All Saints' and Community

Remember the Second Time Around Shop any time of the year, especially when remodeling, redecorating, and cleaning out (moving, downsizing), etc. The shop will welcome your treasures year-round! And in return these treasures will bless another! Check out the great deals each Wednesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Perfect for the savvy, economical shopper!



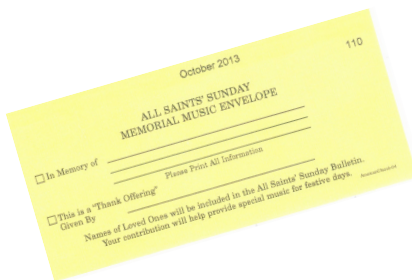
Pictured above: Betsy Gottshall brings in a car full of treasures from her card club friend who was so thoughtful in sharing her overabundance of blessings with the Second Time Around Shop.

Sharing Your Voice and Gifts for the Lord!

By the Music Department

The choir is back from summer hiatus. We welcomed new alto section leader, Regina Pierce, on September 8. Weekly choir rehearsals are held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., except for the Thursday before the third Sunday of the month. We also meet at 9:20 a.m. for a short rehearsal before the service.

If the Lord is leading you to sing, please come and give it a try!



Memorial Music Fund

God has given us music to praise His holy name. Judging by the hymn singing at All Saints', we love to do just that. At certain times of the year – Easter especially – we seek to enhance the presentation of praise with special musicians.

Your gifts and contributions to the **Memorial Music Fund** are acknowledged each year on All Saints' Sunday, celebrated this year on November 3. Specially printed yellow envelopes are found in your personal box of offering envelopes and in the church's lobby beneath the parish bulletin board sign-up area. Your envelope and contributions will be happily accepted (via the offering plate, mail, or in person) through Sunday, October 27. Honor or remember those who made – or continue to make – a difference in your life. Make a gift of any size!

Thank you for your support in the past and future.

Attention Sr. Youth Group



Come enjoy the outdoors inside!

Where: **Philadelphia Rock Gym**
122 Mill Road E-520, Oaks



When: **Sunday, November 3** (12 p.m. – 2 p.m.)

RSVP: charri77@yahoo.com or 610-306-9419 (call or text) to let us know that you will be rock climbing, by Saturday, October 19.

Cost: **\$5 each**

Bring a bagged lunch to church.

We will eat at church and then head to the rock gym.

Pick-up is at Philadelphia Rock Gym.

Please fill out the online waiver at www.philarockgym.com.
Click on the PRG Waiver link on the right of the web page.

The Gym recommends wearing non-restrictive, athletic clothing, and sneakers.



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~~Newsletter~~
DEADLine

Tuesday, October 15

Caring for Creation: **Tips for October**

There are many things that we can do to help our planet. Both big and little things make a difference.

- ☺ Recycle all recyclable material
- ☺ Reduce the waste that we create
- ☺ Turn off lights and electronics when leaving a room
- ☺ Completely turn off water faucets and fix drips
- ☺ Make a compost space in your yard
- ☺ Support local businesses
- ☺ Plant a tree or garden



FUN RECYCLING FACTS

- It takes 90% less energy to recycle aluminum cans than to make them from raw material.
- The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle could operate a 100 watt light bulb for 4 hours.
- Throwing away one can is the energy equivalent of pouring out six ounces of gasoline.
- The United States currently recycles 50% of all paper, 34% of plastics drink containers, and 45% of aluminum cans.
- If all Americans recycled their Sunday papers, the country could save 500,000 trees.

Data from Green Coast Recycling



Let us pray for: Earth and unity

"Let us seek to know the Lord, whose coming is sure as dawn, who descends like the rain, spring rain renewing the earth." Hosea 6: 3

Creator God, we thank you for creating such a wondrous and magnificent home for us. We repent all our sins against creation. We now ask for your guidance in restoring the face of the earth.

"O, my merciful Savior, you know my weakness. Assist me with your powerful grace."

-Catherine McAuley, Sisters of Mercy

Blessing

Peace be to this community. Amen.
Peace be to this land. Amen.
Peace be to this people. Amen.

October 2013

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

2

3

4

5

10AM-2PM
Second Time
Around Shop

11AM Bible Study
w/ Lunch
6:30PM Choir
Rehearsal
7PM N.A. Mtg

Rector's Day Off
7:30PM N.A. Mtg

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

PENTECOST 20
8AM Rite I
9:45AM Sunday
School
10AM Rite II
11:15AM Adult
Forum
12 Sr Yth Grp
Glass Fusing

Parish
Administrator's
Day Off
8PM VF Highland
Band

10AM-2PM
Second Time
Around Shop
5:30PM Wardens
Meeting

6:30PM Choir
Rehearsal
7PM N.A. Mtg

Rector's Day Off
7:30PM N.A. Mtg

4-6:30PM
Bread of Life
Community Cafe

Parish Administrator
Continuing Ed – Oct 8 & 9

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

PENTECOST 21
8AM Rite I
10AM Rite II
*Acolyte/Nursery
Helper Dorney
Trip
11:15AM Adult
Forum

Parish
Administrator's
Day Off
8PM VF Highland
Band

**MESSANGER
DEADLINE**

10AM-2PM
Second Time
Around Shop
7PM Vestry
Meeting

11AM Bible Study
w/ Lunch
7PM N.A. Mtg

Rector's Day Off
7:30PM N.A. Mtg

9AM Good Noise
Band Practice

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

PENTECOST 22
9AM Rite II
9:45AM Sunday
School & Yth
Forum
10:30AM
Contemporary
11:30AM Adult
Forum

Parish
Administrator's
Day Off
8PM VF Highland
Band

10AM-2PM
Second Time
Around Shop

6:30PM Choir
Rehearsal
7PM N.A. Mtg

Rector's Day Off
7:30PM N.A. Mtg

4-6:30PM
Bread of Life
Community Cafe

27

28

29

30

31

PENTECOST 23
8AM Rite I
10AM Rite II
11:15AM Adult
Forum

Parish
Administrator's
Day Off
8PM VF Highland
Band

10AM-2PM
Second Time
Around Shop

6:30PM Choir
Rehearsal
7PM N.A. Mtg

Serving for the Glory of God

Date	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Acolytes	Anthony Nero, Eryn & Emma Griffin	Donna Penman, Alyssa Jones, Austin Taylor	9:00 Diane Mullen	Victoria Batten, Eryn Griffin, Emma Griffin
Altar Guild	Susan Cohen, Patty Gelet, Susan Dean	Susan Cohen, Nicole Gelet	Susan Cohen, Diane Mullen	Kathryn Gallagher, Mary Jane Daley
Bulletin Assemblers	Marilyn & Jack Clemson (10/4)	Marion Shupe, Phil Gottshall (10/11)	Donna & Bob Penman (10/18)	Mary Jane Daley Kathryn Gallagher, (10/25)
Coffee Service	Joanne & Bob Heisler	Marilyn & Jack Clemson	Karen & Jack Spottiswood	Prisca & Beville Jones
Counters	Betsy & Phil Gottshall	Joanne & Bob Heisler	Betsy & Phil Gottshall	Betsy & Phil Gottshall
Eucharistic Ministers	Susan Dean, Carley Harriety	Bill Koffke, Victoria Batten	9:00 Diane Mullen 10:30 Donna Penman, Austin Taylor	Adrian Griffin, Eryn Griffin
Greeters	Gelet family	Susan Dean	9:00 Joanne & Bob Heisler 10:30	Marilyn & Jack Clemson
Intercessor	Cornelia Hoffman	Laurie Sawyer	9:00 Kathryn Gallagher	Dale Kerr
Lector	Kelly Griffin		9:00 Diane Mullen 10:30	
Nursery	Stephanie Flood, Eryn Griffin	Nina & Andrew Ely, John Paul Batten	9AM Karen & Emily Spottiswood	Lois & Shannon Byrne
Presenters	Susan Cohen, Mary Jane Daley	Marilyn & Jack Clemson		Susan Dean, Jean Dean
Server Reader (8 a.m.)	Viviann Harris	Viola Van Der Meulen	N/A	Kathryn Gallagher
Ushers	8:00 Wayne Kinsey 10:00 Nina & Nelson Schrock	8:00 Tom Stout 10:00	9:00 Betsy Gottshall 10:30 Judy Baca	8:00 Nick Durante 10:00 Donna & Bob Penman

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The Rev. Sandra L. Etemad, Rector, The Rev. Geoffrey G. West, Associate Rector

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OCTOBER 2013



All Saints' Mission Statement

*Proclaim the Gospel and God's love, provide for Christian worship and fellowship,
strengthen community spirit, nurture growth in Christian faith and values,
and share our resources to serve others.*