

Stone Church

Newsletter for Advent, 2009

All Saints' Memorial Church in the Highlands of Navesink.

Advent at a Glance

Angel Tree

November
8, 9 & 10:00 a.m.



St. Nicholas Cookie Project

Sunday, December 6
12:00-2:00 p.m.



Live Nativity

Friday, December 11
Saturday, December 12
6:00-8:00 p.m.



Lessons &

Carols

Sunday, December 13
10:00 a.m.



Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 20
9:00 a.m.

Letter from the Rector

I recently heard someone comment that it was nice of the church to paint the Parish House in the colors of Fall. Perhaps, the commenter continued, we could consider something more festive for Christmas and then, something more bright and colorful for Spring? One can only smile when greeted with such tongue-in-cheek thoughts.

Whatever else the color of the Parish House may illicit in comments complimentary or otherwise, the shift in hue and tone has made an impact on how we view our parish home. The change in color has brought with it a change in perspective.

As we enter Advent and the celebration of the Nativity at Christmas, our perspective changes from the greens of

all those Sundays after Pentecost, to the blue of Advent and the gold and white of Christmas. These shifts within the church are meant to guide our senses to the new and emerging reality that each season with its colors represent. The anticipation of Advent and the surprise of Christmas are symbolized in our liturgies but most visually in the hangings, vestments and altar frontal. Something is different, we are meant to ask, but what does this difference mean?

Unlike the color of the Parish House, the colors of Advent and Christmas are more than a paint stroke deep. They signify not just a season that comes and goes, but the gracious actions and presence of a God who took human flesh in its fullness in order that we

might receive the gifts of faith, hope and love; the 'virtues' that lead us to our destiny in God's joy. We might say that the colors of Advent and the Nativity extend all the way down: through skin, muscle and bone, right into our very soul. That's how far God's life extends, and this is what we learn bathed in the blues of Advent and gold of Christmas.

How we receive the colors of these seasons will say something of the impact the story of God's arriving in Jesus has in our lives as individuals and as a community. I pray that you will find the hues of Advent and tones of Christmas wash over you, and that this will bring the change of perspective that God gives us in his Son. - Lyndon+

Christmas at All Saints'

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.

Eucharistic service appropriate for families with young children.

Thursday, December 24, 8:00 p.m.

Traditional service with Eucharist and choir. Preceded by Christmas Carols at 7:30.

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.

Traditional service with Eucharist and choir for individuals of all ages.

First Sunday in Christmas

Sunday, December 27, 8 & 9:30

Traditional service with Eucharist for individuals of all ages.

The Giving Tree

We will be supporting three organizations with our annual Christmas Giving Tree: St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Keansburg, CPC Behavioral Healthcare, and Bridge of Books. A Christmas Tree will be decorated with ornaments reflecting gift requests for families in need of assistance during the holiday season between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The instructions on the ornaments will indicate what the gift request, whether the gift should be wrapped, and what day we need to have it returned.

Thank you,
Abby Daly
Meg Hutson

Live Nativity

**Friday & Saturday,
December 11/12, 6pm-8pm**

The story of the Jesus' birth has been acted out for centuries by the faithful. This year, we will host a Live Nativity complete with a manger scene with animals, a narrated journey through the Nativity story, live music in the Church, and cookies, cider and coffee in the Parish House.

The event is free and open to everyone. Please make

sure to invite family and friends to join in the wonder and mystery of God coming amongst us as one of us.

If you would like to be involved, please call the Parish House at **732-291-0214**, or contact Dave Richie at djrrumson@aol.com

We are working on a flyer that will be available in the church soon for you to place in your local supermarket, coffee shop or wherever.

Get Involved

- Narrators
- Costumed actors: e.g. soldiers & shepherds
- Hospitality crew for the Parish House
- Welcome crew for the Church

All are needed for the Live Nativity. Any interested adults or youth, please give the Parish House a call.

St. Nicholas Cookie Project

**Sunday, December 6,
Following 10:00 service**

The St. Nicholas Cookie Project is a fun community event intended to link the timeless legend of St. Nicholas with the festive activity of holiday cookie baking.

Although we sample a few of our delicious cookies, the bulk are packed, blessed and given away to special

friends of the All Saints' community.

This year we are asking that each participant bring \$2.00 or 2 food or toiletry items as admission to the event. Toiletries will be given to The Center in Asbury Park while canned items will be delivered to the Atlantic Highlands Food Pantry. Any funds gathered will be used to purchase additional food and toiletries for these

important ministries.

If you would like to assist in any way with this exciting and unique project, please contact Amie Flowers Shakespeare at

732-291-2299

In the meantime, please remember to RSVP and return all baking donations taken from the St. Nicholas board by Sunday, November 29.

Annual Christmas Pageant

**Sunday, December 20
9:00 a.m.**

Seeking actors and actresses, narrators and stage hands for an annual tradition...the Christmas Pageant presented by the children of All Saints' Church! Children of all ages are welcome to participate. There will be an initial interest meeting/sign-up for parents and children held on Novem-

ber 22nd. Please refer to the following rehearsal and performance schedule for tentative dates and times. All participating children will be expected to attend all rehearsals since this is a group effort! If you're an adult or older teen/Youth Group member and would like to assist at rehearsals, with costumes or help to plan the "after-party", please contact Diana Grover @ (732)872-0695.

Rehearsals

Sunday, November 22: Initial meeting

Saturday, December 5: morning rehearsal

Sunday, December 6: song rehearsal following Sunday School

Saturday, December 12: morning rehearsal

Sunday, December 13: song rehearsal following Sunday School

Saturday, December 19: morning dress rehearsal

**Sunday, December 20: Pageant Performance
9:00 a.m.**

And Now a Word from your Deacon

I saw this bumper sticker on my way to work one day: "Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming! Everyone look busy." This sentiment seems to have become the norm for how we spend our time during Advent in preparation for Christmas. Signs of the holidays are put up in stores earlier and earlier every year to remind us to buy before it's too late. Advent has become, to many, little more than the shopping time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We sometimes miss the sacredness of the season of Advent in the midst of preparation for Christmas. We have to be reminded by other bumper stickers to "Keep Christ in Christmas".

As we enter into a new church year with the onset of Advent, I look forward to the changes in our liturgy. I especially look forward to spending this season with the good people of All Saints' and discovering how Advent is observed here. There are so many activities and events planned for the rest of the year that I hope I can keep up.

I have been celebrating with you for almost six months now, and it feels as if I have been with you forever. You have all made me feel like one of the family and are so very patient when I forget names. Your love for the Church, for the buildings, for each other, and for Our Lord is palpable. During this time of upheaval as the restoration projects take hold, it is refreshing to see open communication and respectfulness, despite differences. The way in which we respond to these initial projects shapes our responses for the future. We are off to a great start.

We are also off to a great start with the Youth Group. Our 2009-10 school year inaugural event was well attended and our next "God, pizza and a movie" nights will take place on November 14th and December 5th at 6:30 in the Parish House. Youth in Middle and High School are invited to attend. Of equal importance, adults are encouraged to attend. It is of critical importance that we show our Youth support and

interest in their lifelong formation as Christians. Forming the bridges between the Outreach Committee and the Youth Group is our next call to duty.

Please do not forget that Advent should be for us a time of preparation of our hearts, minds, and souls for the coming of Christ. We need to not only prepare to remember the birth of Jesus, but we must also prepare for the return of Christ in all of His glory. Give to the needy, feed the poor, cloth the homeless, make amends. If Christ were to come during *this* season, let's make sure we have our best foot forward. My version of the bumper sticker would be "Jesus is coming! Everyone get busy!!"

- Rose

A Note from Your Senior Warden

Did anyone know that the word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning "coming?" As we continue ticking off the days on our calendars, we must be reconciled that this busy season is definitely coming--whether we are ready or not! Actually, Advent can be a reflective time in our church calendar as we prepare in joyful anticipation for the celebration of Christ's birth. Advent can also provide excellent opportunities to become

more involved in our church life as we serve others in need and gather in fellowship. We look forward to the Live Nativity and hope that you will consider volunteering for this new Advent event.

Over the past few months, we have been quite involved in the physical needs of our church campus. We have invested in a new kitchen in the rectory and made other necessary repairs. As we all know, work

is well underway in the Parish House to rebuild the porch, replace rotted wood on its exterior, fix leaks in the roof, and paint it. Many of you have graciously sponsored the landscaping around the Parish House. Much of this brick and mortar work hopefully will be coming to a close in the coming weeks.

In addition to the physical needs of the church, we are also busy meeting some of our social and spiritual needs.

Continued , pg. 4. . .



“In addition to the physical needs of the church, we are also busy meeting some of our social and spiritual needs.”

Our Sunday School continues to expand and now we are in the process of forming a Youth Group. Also, we now are blessed to have a strong women's group working to assist in many different aspects of church life. The Outreach Committee has offered several groups financial assistance to help support their efforts in the community. We look forward to our celebrations for All Saints' and the re-dedication of our Parish House. I hope you and your family take time to reflect and enjoy this wonderful time of Advent.

- Scott

A Note from Your Junior Warden

The Parish House projects that began with painting the building and repairing the side entrance porch are nearly complete. In the process siding on the back side of the building, repairs to the large chimney and siding and structural work to the side porch vestibule needed to be addressed. Along with this additional work, the overgrown landscape and exterior light fixtures will be replaced. This increased the cost to the original project substantially, however, the additional costs have been supported by an additional donation by the All Saints' Memorial Landmark Trust, the Shaheen family of Builders General Supply and parishioners who have adopted landscape items and period light fixtures. This level of giving has kept the costs to the church's operating budget to a minimum. The vestry is grateful to everyone's support, donations and patience. In a time of economic challenges, members of our parish continue to support the overall life of the church. Future repairs to the Parish House

will include areas of slate roof repair and the addition of copper gutters to prevent future deterioration of the wood siding and side porch. Thanks to all of the contractors who have worked diligently over the last month.

The Rectory kitchen is essentially complete as of this writing. We await the final choice of tile and paint color. The space has truly been transformed, fitting for a family in our present day. Not only does the kitchen space look and function beautifully, but it has maintained a warmth as the days and nights have cooled, thanks to an abundance of insulation in the walls, ceiling and floor. Thanks to the contractors who completed the work quickly and to budget and to the Shakespeare's for their patience as work progressed.

Tickets are currently being sold for the diamond and platinum pendant necklace, proceeds that will benefit the continued restoration of the church and buildings of the All Saints' property. The

necklace was donated by Joel McFadden Designs of Red Bank and the design was inspired from the cross on our church alter. It is quite a beautiful piece. The raffle will be drawn on, November 1, 2009, All Saints' Day. Please support this raffle event as you may.

The Cemetery survey proposal has been received by a prominent multidisciplinary engineering firm. We are awaiting word as to how much if any of the surveying fee will be donated through their own foundation. This work is critical to be completed so that corrective work can take place throughout the cemetery and around the All Saints' campus buildings.

- Mike

What All Saints' Gives to Me

Of all the wonderful activities, ceremonies, events and celebrations which take place at All Saints, the most important one for me is the Healing Eucharist on Wednesday mornings. Just a few people attend, so it feels like praying in a private chapel. I am able to speak briefly to my Priest and ask him to bless the person or situation which is closest to my heart at the time. This healing interchange does

something to me and for me. It moves me. I can't tell you how or why, but the experience gives me a greater sense of connection to my Source or Creator. And when this connection is really there, I can feel the harmony within my own spirit. It changes my day. It allows me to interact differently with others. It creates feelings of optimism and joy. It gives me a greater sense of trust when I am

believing that God is in charge and everything is alright in my world. I feel the alignment of my own spirit and the God-force within --- all this from the simple act of participating in a service which asks for the healing of many people and situations. Anything which brings me into greater alignment with my Source, be it reading, meditation, trusting prayer, gatherings with like-minded others, or

this simple, quiet experience in church, is that which I choose to include in my life. It makes me feel good. And my belief is : that is why we spirits are in this physical life experience --- to know joy and to know God -- - for to me they are synonymous.

- Elizabeth Dean



“The Advent season is a great season to become involved in helping those in need”

Outreach News

The Outreach Committee wishes to extend to everyone at All Saints' our warmest wishes for a blessed and fulfilling Advent season. We are grateful for your ongoing support of our programs and projects that allows us to assist various groups within our community who need a helping hand. Most recently, we have been able to provide financial assistance to several groups that are in the frontline, so to speak, in working with people who have become casualties from the recession and loss of jobs. The groups we have been able to assist include, Lunch Break, Love, Inc., Family Promise, St. Mark's Kitchen and Pantry, and the Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. The committee is looking forward to providing hands-on assistance to some of these groups in the near future, so stay tuned for information on these projects. As for our ongoing Outreach programs, we continue to provide food items for the Atlantic Highlands Food

Pantry following their suggested weekly guidelines for donated shelf items. Another ongoing project is our support of Christ Church-Middletown's Family Promise program. We provide a single dinner meal and conversation for families who stay at Christ Church during their rotation with other area churches and synagogues. We are also pleased to provide ongoing assistance to a young student in Nicaragua, Mariacruz Nazarena Montalvan Velas, through the Christian Relief Program. We recently requested and received approval for Maria to attend tutoring sessions to assist her in her mathematics and science classes. She delights us with her hand-written cards, pictures, and thank you notes which we post on the Outreach bulletin board in the Parish House.

The Outreach Committee is always ready to hear suggestions from you regarding these and other vitally important community programs. If you have been thinking

about joining our motley crew, by all means, stop by our next meeting and see what we're all about—the time and place will be listed in upcoming church bulletins. The Advent season is a great season to become involved in helping those in need, and what better time could there be to serve?

- Barb

Save the Date:

Saturday,

February 20

Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts

With Constance White and Katherine Young from The Ministry Institute.



Nota Bene / Note Well

Candlelight Concert

Invitations have been mailed for the 28th Annual Candlelight Concert on **Sunday, November 8th at 4:00 pm.** The afternoon of chamber music will feature five professional musicians performing an all-Schubert program, including the famous "Trout Quintet." Everyone is invited to a reception in the Parish House following the concert. Admission is \$20 and there are varying levels of sponsorship.

Extra invitations are available at the back of the church and in the office. Please respond by October 29th to assure a seat.

For more information, please call Judith Stanton at 732-212-9505.

Harvest Homecoming

On **November 22**, after the 11 o'clock service, we will hold our second-annual Harvest Home Gathering. Parishioners and friends are invited to bring a breakfast

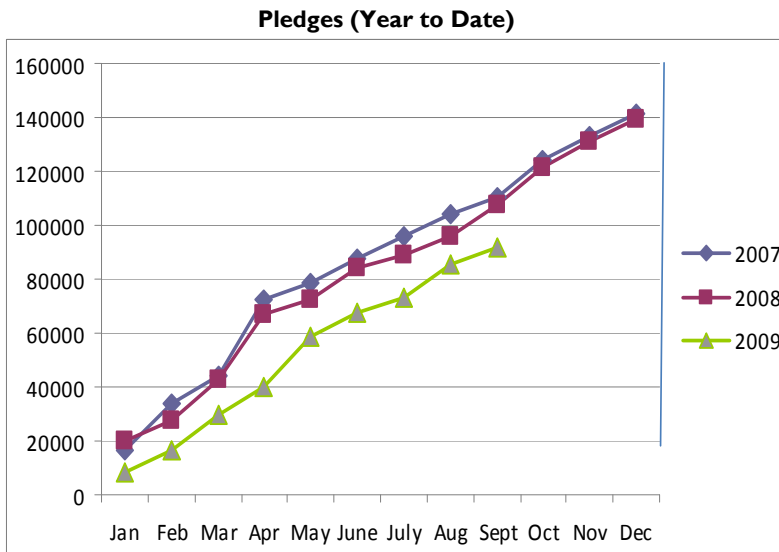
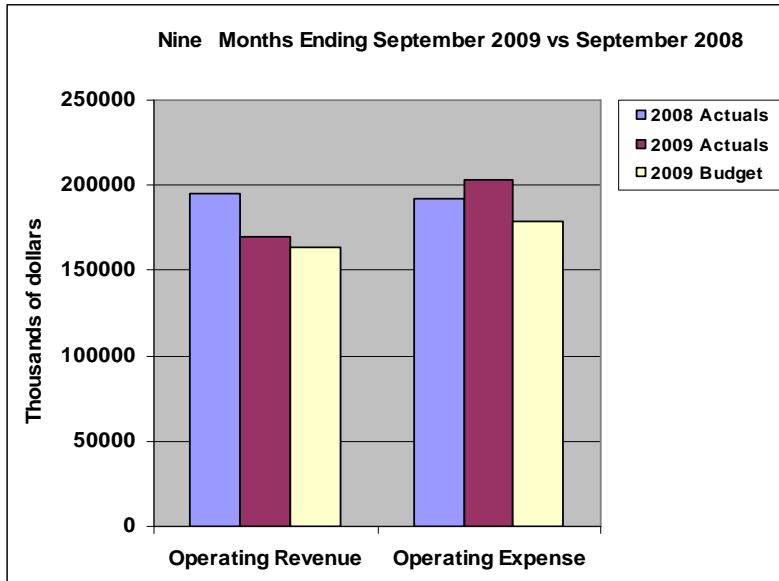
bread, tea cake or other similar item, if they desire, to present as a symbol of their "harvest" to share with everyone.

Advent Study

Jesus is not Santa Claus (and other lessons for Advent) every Monday in Advent (beginning Nov 30th). We will meet in the Rector's Study (2nd floor of the Parish House) at 7:30pm

**All Saints' Memorial Church
September 2009 Financial Snapshot**

	<u>\$</u>
Operating Revenue:	
Pledges	5,857
Other Income	<u>2,971</u>
Total	8,828
Operating Expenses:	<u>(16,404)</u>
Net Income (Loss):	<u><u>(7,576)</u></u>





202 Navesink Ave
Navesink, NJ 07752

Phone: 732-291-0214

Web:

www.allsaintsnavesink.org

E-mail:

office@allsaintsnavesink.org

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday, 10am-3pm

Last but not least

A special **“THANK YOU”** to all the sponsors of the *Parish Landscaping Project*. We could not have managed without their assistance:

Meg Natter in memory of Gloria Netter
Michael K. Parmelee in memory of Ann & Donald Parmelee
Caroline Huber in memory of Michael Huber
Louise Seitz in memory of Harold Seitz
Mary Lou Stong in memory of Michael Huber
The Sannelli Family
Francesca Pippin in thanksgiving for Eleanor Linley
The Bowdens for past and present Family
Dorothy & Dick Openshaw in remembrance of Dick & Ann Stone
Ibby & Dan Hertz in memory of Dick Hued & Margaret Weil
Elwood & Judy Baxter in memory of Rosemarie & Bill
Janet Gardiner for Margaret Taylor
Andy & Pat Walsh
Pamela Loxton in memory of the Loxtons
Linda Ward in memory of George Rader
Lyndon & Amie Shakespeare in Thanksgiving for
our Grandparents
Ester Mushman in memory of Paul Mushman
Reta Fleming in memory of George Fleming
Ibby & Dan Hertz in memory of Isabel Beadlestone &
Elizabeth Hertz
In memory of Fred & Hilda Rollar from the Roberts & Peters Families
In memory of Jeff by Suzanne & Eric
In memory of Gerald, Margorie & Pamela Schleeper
Marie Russo in memory of Joseph A. McKenna
Lois Young in memory of Ray Young

Congratulations and Thanks!

We congratulate Cathy Sullivan for winning the Cross pendant. Our thanks go to all who assisted with the wonderful celebration of All Saints' Day, and for your support through purchasing raffle tickets. At the time of print, you helped us raise close to \$4600. Thank you!

From the Office

Announcements for the Bulletin or the Web side need to be at the Church Office by Thursday the latest so they can be included in the bulletin and posted for the weekend on the Web side.

After November 27th the Church Office will be open Monday through Friday from 10AM to 3PM, however the office will be closed Thursday Nov. 26th and Friday Nov. 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.