

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2020



All Saints' Church Annual Report 2020

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Rector's Report
The Rev. Dr. Hugh E. Brown, III

A Sermon for All Saints Sunday, including the Rector's Annual Report to the Vestry and People of All Saints Parish, Princeton, on November 1, 2020

In the weeks and months following our last Annual meeting, the Holy Spirit, as always, blessed our parish family with inspiring and meaningful ministry events. On November, 17 of 2019 just prior to Advent, our All Saints Choir and congregation combined with the choir and people of Temple B'nai Shalom to sponsor a marvelous interfaith service. This included a "dialogue sermon" between Rabbi Eric Eisenkramer and Father Hugh and a memorable closing: a sung Interfaith blessing.

Advent brought our customary, lovely occasions of celebration. Our Outreach Ministry sponsored 15 HomeFront Families for Christmas and we prepared hundreds of holiday treats for the children of HomeFront. Our choir offered the beloved annual service of Lessons and Carols on December 22. Pastors Hugh and Elly Brown offered the Annual Rectory Open House following the Lessons and Carols service, featuring their array of more than 20 themed Christmas Trees, along with other festive home decorations, good food, and fine fellowship. During those Advent and Christmas months, Pastor Maddy Patterson and our Drama Ministry, along with our children, youth, and parents, coordinated our annual Christmas Eve Drama with Live Animals. Our All Saints Choir offered our traditional Festival Christmas 9:00 PM Christmas Eve service.

The season of Epiphany brought more inspiring ministry for our parish family! On February 23rd of this year, our All Saints Choir combined with singers from the Princeton and Westminster Choir College communities under the Direction of Kevin O'Malia, to offer a "Service of Remembrance." This extraordinary liturgy of Evening Prayer honored the legacies of late and esteemed Westminster Choir College faculty members Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt and Nancianne Parrella. The service included the magnificent piece, op. 9, by Maurice Duruflé.

The following weeks saw the beginning of Lent. There were substantive liturgical and education plans, including an inspiring Lenten Program on Story and Narrative featuring our Princeton Seminary Interns. The beginning of Lent also included an outpouring of parish financial gifts towards Episcopal Relief and Development. Lent brought a marvelous, day-long Vestry retreat with strategic planning for the Second Phase of our Capital Campaign: the renewal of our Kitchen and South Reception Room areas, and for upgrading our new member and communications ministries.

Then, during the week of March 9th, the world turned upside down. Our human family confronted a once-in-a-lifetime Pandemic of truly mysterious and deadly illness.

Diocesan Convention for Saturday, March 7 was cancelled. the Bishop and leadership of the Diocese of New Jersey closed all churches beginning March 15. We moved services and forums to Live-Streaming from our Church Sanctuary with just a handful of leaders. Then, for the sake of complete safety in keeping with the Bishop and Diocesan requirements, we moved all our worship to an online platform: Zoom. Holy Week and Easter were memorable, not only with our annual liturgies celebrating the atonement and resurrection of Christ, but more especially because this sacred time of our year also included our first venture into online liturgical life!

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The COVID-19 crisis continues to overturn economies, structures, organizations, and, most importantly, the lives of individuals and families. As of this writing, our nation has lost over 225,000 persons to the Coronavirus, millions remain out of work, a severe economic downturn has brought suffering to countless persons. This is perhaps the worst social outlook since the Great Depression.

The Pandemic continues as of this writing. Cases are surging throughout the nation and human family. COVID has disrupted the nation's leadership, as evidenced by a White House outbreak, such that even the President, First Lady, and the former Governor of this state are recovering from COVID illness. We are, as of this writing, in the evident truth of an autumnal wave of this dreaded COVID illness, with no end in sight to the close of this Pandemic.

And yet, And yet...

We are blessed. We are truly and profoundly blessed.

This is not simply my own preached word, it is your powerful witness in countless ways. In the words of our current Senior Warden in his Stewardship Letter: "My faith has deepened."

How can this be so?

No doubt, the community addressed by the Gospel of Matthew faced this question. They faced unrelenting persecution by their own faith community, the secular society, and the governments of their time. Their leader had been executed, along with a goodly number of his first disciples. They lived with a message that was, in the words of their first and most influential theologian, foolishness to some, a stumbling block and hindrance to others. They walked in faith that, somehow, their new life in the spirit was victorious over death and sin. That perhaps above all, hope was stronger than despair.

So— whoever is the author of the Gospel of Matthew — despite all the evidence — she or he proclaimed...

"Blessed are You."

"Blessed."

Translating this word, "blessing," in the original Greek is tough. In Homer's Greek, "blessing" described immorality- like the Gods of Mt. Olympus. The word "blessed" gradually took on a more secular meaning such as "how fortunate!" Or, a meaning such as "congratulations!" Or, in more American language, "how happy!"

Jesus most likely meant none of this when he proclaimed the paradoxical nature of blessing throughout the "prologue" to his inaugural address: The Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5 through 7. Jesus, in all probability, used a Semitic variation of The Hebrew word, "Ashre." Ashre is not primarily subjective; not about feelings or emotions at root. Ashre is more like Psalm 1.1; To be a "delight," or to be "blessed," is to "walk in the way of the Lord." Ashre, thus, is choice, behavior, and life. It is action, not feeling.

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Thus, according to the Psalmist, what is the meaning of *Blessing*? Is it none other than this assurance, promise, and steadfast divine gift: We are God's own! What is then, our greatest gift? We are God's! We are loved by God! Thus, we read, "blessed are the Poor in Spirit; for theirs is the Kingdom of God."

O people of God (!), we so often think our blessings are the things of materials prosperity, or the things of grandeur, or the things of power (as in competitive success), or the things we have achieved, or even more deeply, we think our blessings are deserved or earned. But one scholar translates the first Beatitude or Blessing in Matthew as such: "*Blessed are the Prosperous who regard themselves as if they are poor, remembering, in humility, their dependence upon God and their living in God's ways.*"

Matthew, no doubt, originally aimed this message at the affluent. Reminding his community of the prosperous and comfortable that true life is only with God, not with self-made merit. So also with the second beatitude, "Blessed are those who mourn." Likely, Jesus had Isaiah 61:1-4 in mind: good news is brought to the poor and to "those who mourn." There was much prosperity in the days of Jesus, but it was not equally shared.

God's delights, true blessings, are the ways of God, the ways of justice outlined in the Torah, and the life embraced by the Jewish Jesus. Those who mourn are the children of God who weep in oppression, but whose lives are in God's hands. A new day is dawning. God's Kingdom and God's reign are at hand.

Blessed are you. How can this be so? The Pandemic has made our church and nation ever more aware of how sinful and unjust a society we endure. But even more so, the Pandemic has made us aware of hope for change! It has enlivened our imaginations to envision a new heaven, a new earth and how to work for it! Blessed is the one who walks in the way of the Lord.

"Blessed are those that mourn!" Our Seniors, our Veterans, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, police, emergency workers, workers in manufacturing industries giving their lives so we can have food on the table; all beloved by God and awaiting a new day. We don't need to live as if we are poor; as if we mourn. We do. All too often, we still do. But we are blessed. We are God's. We know the world has changed. We trust a new world is being born.

How have we been blessed without our parish family? Oh, my people, we are learning anew how much we are loved by God. Equally so, we are learning how much we know that live when we live in God's ways. We know those ways from Jesus: mercy, kindness, compassion.

How so?

***We are together as a parish family.** We have discovered that we can worship together, build community together, be a church together, pray together, be poor together, mourn together, and celebrate together. We might not have the grandeur of our liturgy or the awesome majesty of our building; or might we?

What does our Altar—our Glass Altar to the World—represent? Connection to creation, to the human family, to an inclusive and welcoming way of life. We have rediscovered, in these difficult times, what is essential.

Truly there is much *poverty* in what we have lost. Truly we miss, we *mourn*, gathering together in our beautiful sacred space with song, prayer, fellowship, and shared meals. Yet, we are blessed each Sunday morning with the great gift of online technology! We are blessed with the leaders in our parish family who make our new ways of worship possible. We are blessed when we see our faces on Zoom screens, hear our music live-streamed from our Church Sanctuary, exchange the Peace of Christ together, and share spiritual Eucharist together. We are blessed just to be together; to support one another.

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***We are creating new ways of ministry:** please read through the Annual Reports. Our common life together is not weaker, but stronger.

***We created ways to honor our graduates,** including “drive by” greetings to our graduating high school seniors and an online graduation blessing for our Princeton Seminary Interns.

***We have reached out to parishioners in need:** when COVID ravaged an entire family in our parish, we delivered meals, offered prayer, and offered other tangible forms of support. We have created a “Parish Delivery Ministry” to support those who need food and supplies.

***We have supported our parish seniors and those in danger of isolation through a parish-wide “Connection Ministry.”**

***On Palm Sunday, we organized a community of parish volunteers who delivered a Palm to each active member of our Parish family.**

***We created “Drive-By” Birthday celebrations to a parish senior celebrating her 90th Birthday, to another celebrating her “Centennial” Birthday, and to Pastor Elly for her 70th birthday.**

***Our Parish Stewardship, especially our financial giving continues to be strong.** We were very fortunate to attain a PPP Loan/Grant. Proof that we are indeed living by God’s grace alone by way of maintain our finances and property.

***We remember that we live with not only two national crises of pandemic and economic dislocation:** we are living with a third crisis of racial injustice. The police killing of George Floyd prompted a national reckoning of systemic racism, especially racism without our law enforcement structures and policing. This past August, our parish organized a series of Sunday morning Forums based on the Presiding Bishop’s Curriculum on racial justice entitled, “Becoming the Beloved Community.” These sessions were well attended and participation was strong. Certainly dialogue around antiracism is only one form of action, but it is a profound response to any crisis within religious community. We hope this dialogue continues.

The Jesus portrayed in Matthew offered the assurance and hope of blessing, not apart from suffering and crisis, not with hope for the afterlife alone, but in the here and now: within tragedy, among the lights of hope. Each and every day we envision and we witness the Saints of God. They are the everyday folks who truly bless our lives. Yes, they are health care workers, first responders and essential workers. No, they would not consider themselves heroes; they would not consider themselves superhuman or extraordinary. In the words of the philosopher Camus in his great work, *The Plague*, these folks are simply riven with “common human decency.” The refuse to bow down to pestilence. They are *healers*.

They are the likes of you and me: one was an ER doctor, one was an ICU nurse, one was an Amazon delivery worker, one was a grocer, one was a food worker, one was a teacher, one was a student, one was a lawyer/advocate, and one was a public health official. One brought a family flowers when they lost their beloved pet, one delivered a home-cooked meal to a recovering COVID patient at the Westin, one sang at the

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home of a graduating senior. One was a pastor who blessed the dying, and gave communion to one recovering from surgery on her back porch.

In closing, I offer appreciation to leaders and friends in our parish family who provide visible witness to the paradoxical gift of blessing in difficult times. We give thanks to our amazing and gifted staff: Our Music Director, Kevin O'Malia, our Parish Administrator, Sarah Nickelson, our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Maddy Patterson, our Sexton, Brian Kirby, our Treasurer, Gary Hefner, and our Web and Communications Director, Tommy O'Malia. We also give thanks to our gifted, professional Choral Staff.

We offer appreciation to our Wardens: to our Senior Warden, Charles Colagiuri, who has provided such inspiring leadership throughout this crisis, and to our Junior Warden and Property Chair, Roland Patterson, who has provided timely and gifted attention to numerous issues with our buildings and grounds assets during this crisis.

We give thanks to our Vestry colleagues. Each person has contributed so much: Howard Bellizio, Wendy Bond, Priscilla Bostock, Joan Jones, Steve Knowlton, Paul Murphy, Tony Pennino, Suzanne Thompson, Peter Travers. We especially offer or gratitude to those who serve on or parish Reopening Committee: Charles, Colagiuri (Chair), Howard Bellizio, Joan Jones, Roland Patterson, and Suzanne Thompson.

I offer my most profound gratitude to my clergy colleagues who have provided such deep commitment to our parish family: Elly Sparks Brown, Jack Belmont, Karl Morrison, Joan Fleming, Joy Kulvicki, and Maddy Patterson. We have been blessed with gifted Princeton Seminary Interns both this past academic year, and this current year. For the 2019-2020 years, we worked with Brooke Caton, Mackenzie Dull, Rachel Rim, and Jacob Zeller. For the 2020-2021 year we are most fortunate to have Elliot VanHoy. We offer our thanksgiving for the rich and varied ministry of our Postulant for Holy Orders in the Diocese of New Jersey, Rachel Douglass.

I also take this time to offer appreciation to so many other gifted lay leaders, remembering especially Judy Soncrant and our Altar Guild, Amy Johnson and our Flower Ministry, Randy Haase and our Ushers, Bob Bostock and our Sound Techs, our Lay Eucharistic Visitors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers, our Acolytes, our Mid-Week Group Ministry leaders, and so many others.

I offer appreciation to two key lay leaders who are still moving plans for our Capital Campaign and Renovation Ministry for our Kitchen and South Reception Room areas forward, even in these crisis times: Bob Bostock, our Capital Campaign chair, and Paul Murphy, our Renovation Chair. As of this writing, we have raised almost 150,000 towards our Renovation. We have approximately 350,000 in our Renovation Fund. We received three major gifts towards our Renovation Fund since the start of the Pandemic! This demonstrates the commitment of so many within our All Saints parish family.

In the words of that beloved hymn for All Saints Day: *Yes, we sing a song of the Saints of God, patient, and brave, and true! For the Saints are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.* (The Hymnal, 1982, #293).

In the words of St. Francis, whose prayer has become our mantra during these times, *"Make us Instruments of your Peace; where there is hatred (and crisis), let us...sow love."*

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Acolyte Ministry Report *Sarah Nickelson, Parish Administrator*

Acolytes are the children and adults who serve the clergy during worship. The Crucifer is the person who carries the cross, and the servers wearing the red albs, are the torchbearers. Both torchbearers assist the member of the clergy who is setting the altar for the Eucharist.

We thank all of our Acolytes who were able to serve up until March, including our 2019-20 Seminarian Interns: Mackenzie Dull, Jacob Zeller, Rachel Rim and Brooke Caton as well as young parishioners: Kelechi Anyanwu, Muna Anyanwu, Ethen Michel, Lena Ondreyka, Carl Furmanski, Ellie Furmanski, Thomas Colagiuri and James Colagiuri.

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have not had the opportunity to worship in person since March, so this program has been put on pause until we meet again in the sanctuary.

Adult Christian Education Report *The Rev. Dr. Hugh E. Brown, III, Rector & Dr. Anthony Pennino, Chair, Christian Formation Ministry*

Adult Christian Formation

Given the context of All Saints Parish within a host of internationally regarded institutions of higher learning, our parish mission places Adult Spiritual Formation among our most valued and highly prioritized ministries.

We are blessed with an array of talented parishioners within the academy, the arts, and other diverse professions, blessed with educated and gifted clergy often with academic backgrounds, diverse professional experiences, and advanced degrees, and a host of annual Princeton Seminary Interns who bring manifold gifts and backgrounds.

Although a once in a life-time public health crisis transformed the means and deliveries of our programs of Adult Education beginning in mid-March of 2020, the quality, content and faith formation of our programs continued with energy, vitality, and high participation.

We continue to offer a strong Sunday morning Adult Forum. This year continued throughout the summer months, beginning in April of 2020: a "Virtual Coffee Hour with Movie Discussion/Reflection, four mid-week substantive faith formation groups of bible study and book discussion, a Lenten Program (though unfortunately shortened due to the COVID-19 Pandemic prompting church closure in March of 2020), and a 2019 Advent Women's Quiet Morning at the All Saints Rectory.

Adult Forum: 2019-2020

Our Sunday morning Adult Forum meets during the academic year at 9:00 AM; from November, 2019 through March of 2020, our Adult Forums met in the South and North Receptions rooms, or in the parish sanctuary; beginning in April of 2020, our Adult Forums moved to online meetings via a Zoom platform. We offered the following Forums over the 2019-2020 years since our last Annual Meeting:

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Our Fall, 2019 Series focused on the theme of *Culture Care*, based on work by All Saints Parishioner and internationally acclaimed visual arts and spiritual writer, Makoto Fujimura.

November 10: The Intersection of Jewish and Christian Liturgy and Music by our All Saints Church Director of Music, Kevin O'Malia

November 17: Congregational sharing of Creative Work and Experience, facilitated by Makoto Fujimura

November 24: Culture Care as Healing of Social and Political Discourse, by Makoto Fujimura

Our Advent Series, for 2019 focused on the theme of *Incarnation* and was taught by our four Princeton Seminary Interns.

December 1: Poetic Imagination of the Incarnation: From the Patristics to Post-Colonial Theology, by Brooke Caton

December 8: Jesus as Temple, His People as Temple: by Rachel Rim

December 15: God's Decision to Become Flesh, by Jacob Zeller

December 22: Incarnation, by McKenzie Dull

Our January Epiphany Adult Forums featured a variety of topics:

January 5: Poetic Imagination of the Incarnation: From the Patristics to Postcolonial Theology (Part II), by Brooke Caton, Princeton Seminary Intern

January 12: A Chaplain's View of the Incarnation: Becoming Wounded Healer, by MacKenzie Dull, Princeton Seminary Intern and Chaplain at Capital Health in Trenton

January 19: Building the Beloved Community: Martin Luther King, Jr, as Pastor to the Nation

January 26: Rediscovering the Essence of Faith, by Dr. Joseph Nyce, author of *Mary's Lament*.

Our February Epiphany Adult Forum series focused on the topic: *Scriptural Imagination: The Bible as Library*, and was coordinated by All Saints Parishioner and Princeton Seminary Student, Rachel Douglass.

February 2: Scriptural Imagination and Gender Issues, Part 1, by Rachel Douglass

February 9: Scriptural Imagination and Hermeneutics by Dr. Sally Brown, Professor of Preaching, Princeton Seminary

February 16: Scriptural Imagination, Prophetic Literature and Anti-Racism, by Dr. Brian Rainey, Professor of Old Testament, Princeton Seminary

February 23: Scriptural Imagination, Power and Culture, Part 2, by Rachel Douglass

Our March Lenten Adult Forum Series focused on the theme of Lament.

March 1: Prayer in the Hebrew Bible, the Divine-Human Dialogue, based on the work by Samuel Balentine, by Father Hugh Brown, Rector

March 8: The Character of Hagar in Genesis, by the Rev. Elly Sparks Brown, Priest Associate

(Forums moved Online as of March 15, 2020 with Church closure due to COVID-19 Pandemic)

March 15: Psalms of Lament: Towards a Kintsugi Theology, by Makoto Fujimura

March 22: Lament, Repentance, and Racial Justice, by Dr. Brian Rainey, Professor of Old Testament at Princeton Seminary

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March 29: James Baldwin, the Lamentation of Witness, by Dr. Anthony "Tony" Pennino

April 5: The Extravagant Tears of Jesus, by Makoto Fujimura

Our Easter/Pentecost Series focused on a variety of topics:

April 26: The Sophism of Faith as Beliefs; Love and Justice: by All Saints Parishioner and Author, Joseph Nyce

May 3: The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, by All Saints Parishioner, Jim Barringer

May 10: Literature and the Environment by Professor William Gleason of Princeton University and All Saints Parishioner and Princeton University Doctoral student, Kate Thorpe

May 17: All Saints Mission Trips and Outreach by Pastor Maddy Patterson, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry for All Saints Church

May 24: Requiem, op. 9, by Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986): A Retrospective, by Kevin O'Malia, Director of Music

May 31: *The Divine Comedy*, authored by Dante Alighieri by All Saints Parishioner and Princeton University Professor Emeritus of History, Dr. John V. Fleming

Our Late Pentecost Series covered a variety of topics:

June 7: Mental Illness, Chaplaincy, and Christology at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, by Rachel Rim, Princeton Seminary Intern, 2019-2020

June 14: All Saints' Church's Mission Trips and Outreach, Part 2, by Pastor Maddy Patterson

June 21: Cultural Care Journey—What is our Dream? by Makoto Fujimura

June 28: The Meaning of Love—The Apostle Paul and James Baldwin, by Dr. Anthony, "Tony" Pennino

July 12: Memory and History in Emilie Townes and Remembering American History, by Rachel Douglass

July 19: Beginning Courageous Conversations on Racism, by the Rector, Father Hugh Brown

July 26: A Good Old-Fashioned Virtual Hymn Sing with Director of Music, Kevin O'Malia

August 2 through August 30: A series, Courageous Conversations on Racial Justice, led by the Rector, Father Hugh Brown, and Based on the Presiding Bishop's Curriculum (the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry), *Becoming the Beloved Community*

September 13: The Origins of English Poetry and the Book of Psalms, by Professor John Fleming

September 20: Non-Violent Communication (Part 1) by Rachel Douglass

September 27: The Role of Imagination towards Culture Care, by Makoto Fujimura

October 4: Non-Violent Communication and Antiracism, by Rachel Douglass

October 11: Medical Trauma, Chaplaincy, and Prayer by Pastor Maddy Patterson

October 18: Candle in the Darkness—Baldwin's Quest for Hope in Tragic Times

October 25: A Conversation on Kintsugi Theology by Makoto Fujimura

Virtual Coffee Hour and Movie Conversation

We offer our appreciation to our Christian Formation Chair, Dr. Anthony, "Tony" Pennino for both inspiring and facilitating this new Sunday online program for our parish family. On most Sundays, beginning in late April of 2020, we have met following the Sunday service at 11:30AM, with time for coffee, fellowship, and conversation on the spiritual and faith dimensions of movies.

So far we have watched together and discussed a wide variety of movies such as *The Searchers*, *I-Robot*, *Harriet*, *Selma*, *Wings of Desire*, *13th* (A Documentary on Mass Incarceration), *I am Not your Negro* (a

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documentary on the life of James Baldwin), Doubt, and Brother Sun/Sister Moon. Attendance and participation have been very positive, discussions illuminating and lively. All are welcome to join us!

Other Highlights of Adult Education Programs: 2019-2020

Women's Retreat for December 7th, 2019, Mary Did You Know? led by Pastors Elly Sparks Brown and Joy Kulvicki at the All Saints Church Rectory, the Retreat focused on the theme of Annunciation
Lenten Program for 2020, March 1 through March 8, on the theme of Encountering Narrative Theology: The Power of Story. We were able to offer two sessions of this series. One session focused on Graham Greene's, *the Power the Glory, The Beauty of Obligatory Perseverance*, and was led by PTS Intern Jacob Zeller. The second session focused on the work, *Silence* by Shusaku Endo, and was led by PTS Seminarian Rachel Rim. Unfortunately, the series concluded with these two sessions due to church closure with the public health crisis and COVID-19 pandemic

Small Group Ministry

The Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study, co-facilitators, Peter Travers and Alan Dybvig, now meeting online via a Zoom platform
The Tuesday Morning Book Study, co-facilitators, Peter Traves and Alan Dybvig, now meeting online via a Zoom platform
The Wednesday Morning Bible Study, led by the Rector, now meeting online via a Zoom platform
The Thursday Afternoon Women's Bible Study, led by Caroline Walradt and now meeting via a Zoom platform

Altar Guild Ministry Report ***Judy Soncrant, Directress***

A small group of dedicated women continue to serve All Saints' Church by participating in the Altar Guild. Members serve at regular Sunday services, weekday services, special services and occasionally at weddings or funerals. Schedules are setup on a four-month rotation. Members are allowed to switch services according to their personal needs. The Altar Guild does not have regular meetings. Each week on a rotating basis, members are asked to perform additional duties in preparation for the Sunday schedule of services. The Altar Guild is also responsible for the care of the silver, linens and clergy vestments.

We are always interested in new members (youth included) for this service to God and our church, please contact me or any member of the Altar Guild. We are currently training new members. We have not participated in Altar Guild service since the church has been closed due to COVID-19. We are praying that this service will resume as soon as the church is opened for worship.

Centering Prayer Group ***The Rev. Canon Jack Belmont***

The Centering Prayer Group met on Friday mornings from 10:30-Noon in the Parish Library through the month of March. We gathered together as a support group to practice the ancient Spiritual exercises of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina.

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The first part of our time together was devoted to a 20-minute silent meditation called a "sit." As we attempt to clear our minds of all thoughts, we very gently use a sacred word we have chosen, inviting the Spirit to be present in that space.

After we completed our meditation, we spent time considering a passage of scripture by using the process of Lectio Divina, sharing our insights in the way God speaks to us through the passage we are studying. What we share with each other sometimes is personal and that remains in the group!

Both Spiritual exercises are easily learned and no expertise is needed to be part of this group. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have not been able to meet since March, however, all are welcome to join us when we are able to meet again in person. If you are interested feel free to contact Jack or Sandy Belmont (609-466-1665) for more information.

Communications Report *Paul Murphy and Tommy O' Malia*

All Saints' clearly needs to become more visible if we are to attract new members, the lifeblood of any church. Since last year a concerted effort has been made to revive our communications with the outside world, which had been moribund for some time.

Our first step was to upgrade and revise our website to introduce ourselves and our programs to the community. Tommy O'Malia, our talented Director of Online Media and Social Marketing, did a superb job of producing our new site, which can be reached at www.allsaintsprinceton.org. Tommy next linked the site to all relevant search engines so that seekers could easily find it. Prior to this, All Saints' did not even appear in Princeton Online's extensive church directory. We also have a modest advertising budget to maintain favorable listings in Google and Facebook.

Our print advertising program was revived last Advent, with ads in local newspapers in Princeton and four surrounding communities. It was necessary to expand print coverage as over half of our parishioners and prospects live outside of Princeton Township.

Plans for 2020 were ambitious at the start. Our advertising budget was increased to achieve more online and print exposure. Links were established to all local editorial desks to gain free press coverage of church events and achievements. A direct mail campaign to families moving to the area was planned in detail.

Then the pandemic struck and our programs came to an abrupt halt. There is no point in inviting people to a church that is closed. We hope to resume as soon as conditions permit. All Saints' has a compelling story to tell and we plan to tell it as loudly as possible.

Community Formation & Fellowship Report *Joan Jones*

It has been a quiet year for the Holy Hosts due to the pandemic and I think all of us miss gathering for fellowship. We did have a lovely reception for the wonderful Duruflé Requiem in February. We also were able to host two Lenten lunches and celebrating a big birthday at one before we had to quarantine. While we have not had our usual hospitality events, we have been formulating some new ideas for our coffee time after

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church and welcoming new people to our wonderful parish family. You can look forward to our new round tables and chairs for the South Room upon returning. I also wish to thank the Gough's for donating some snazzy Holy Host aprons embroidered with our church logo and a name tag as well. Let's look forward to 2021 filled with many gatherings.

Flower Ministry Report

Amy Johnson, Chair

We are thrilled to announce that the Flower Committee is flourishing from the support of Liz Colagiuri, Jessica Knowlton, Joan Jones, Heide Ratliff and Pam Muscente who are serving faithfully with the Committee. We now have beautiful arrangements of flowers for our Altar area on most Sundays! (excluding Advent, Lent, and Holy Week)

We welcome new members who feel a call to the ministry of beauty for our Altar and Sanctuary. Our procedures remain largely unchanged from recent years with Flower Committee members creating altar arrangements most weekends from cut flowers delivered to the church on Friday by the Pennington Market Floral Shop.

The color and type of flowers are selected by the Floral Shop most weeks, reflecting what is in season and the best value, but the chair places specific orders to honor memorial or other special requests and for certain dates in the Church calendar, (e.g., all white for All Saints' Sunday, red for Pentecost, etc.).

Following Sunday services, Flower Committee members takes down the altar arrangements and the flowers are made into smaller arrangements. These are then placed in the Chapel and/or breezeway and delivered to parishioners who are convalescing, grieving, or observing a memorial, birthday, anniversary, or birth either by committee members or by clergy staff when making pastoral visits.

In addition to making the altar arrangements for each week of the Church year (except during Lent and Advent when there are no flowers on the altar), Committee members also plan, order, purchase, create and coordinate the floral decorations of the Church for Easter and Christmas. During the pandemic we have provided flowers only intermittently, for various occasions and as requested.

At Easter and Christmas, separate appeals are made for donations by parishioners to mark memorials or thanksgivings. We received \$3200 from this year's appeal in early spring (just before COVID hit). This income covers most of the cost of decorating the church for these holidays with flowering plants, greens, and cut flowers. We also often receive in-kind donations of greenery, especially at Christmas. Donors are then invited to take the live, potted plants home following the holidays.

Lay Pastoral Care Ministry Report

Father Hugh E. Brown, III, Rector, Wendy Bond, Chair

All Saints Parish is blessed with a team of clergy who offer a variety of ministries deemed, pastoral care, such as pastoral calling to our homebound, hospitalized, ill, and those in need; taking Holy Communion to our hospitalized; offering the sacramental rites of Healing, and Ministry at the time of death.

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But, in keeping with the Episcopal Church teaching that ministry is the work of all (!) the baptized, we also include a significant lay ministry with pastoral care at All Saints Church.

We have three licensed and trained parishioners for the Ministry of Lay Eucharistic Visitor. These are the lay folks who take Holy Communion to our sick and homebound parishioners: Tony Beesley, Judy Soncrant, and Caroline Travers.

Our Princeton Seminary Interns are licensed by the Diocese as Lay Eucharistic Visitors. This past year we were blessed to have Brooke Caton, MacKenzie Dull, Rachel Rim, and Jacob Zeller as Eucharistic Visitors. This coming year we will be fortunate to have Elliot VanHoy also trained and licensed as a Eucharistic Minister. We are blessed to have our Postulant for Holy Orders, Rachel Douglass, as a resource for Lay Eucharistic Visiting ministry and pastoral care.

The Episcopal Church also unites liturgy and pastoral care. Prior to the beginning of the Pandemic, when we were able to meet in person, we offered the Sacramental Rite of Healing on Sundays following the 10:15AM service. As with so much of our common life, the Pandemic crisis prompted new ways of creating pastoral ministry for All Saints Church.

We have been blessed by two new ministries during these crisis times. These two ministries partner with the Rector and Clergy to insure pastoral outreach to our congregation:

*A "Delivery Ministry" to ensure parishioners (especially those at risk of isolation) have access to food and supplies. We have been blessed a committed team of parishioners for this ministry including Howard Bellizio, Jim Barringer, Charles Colagiuri, Beth Farris, Joan Jones, Steve Knowlton, Warren and Josephine Moo, Pam Muscente, the Ondreyka family, Heide Ratliff, Anna Shields, the Travers family. Thanks to this ministry, for example, we were able to ensure food deliveries to a family in our congregation deeply impacted by COVID, especially when two members of the family were recovering and isolating in a local hotel prior to their ability to return to their home residence. As this family has an aging, senior parent with special needs, this was particularly needed.

*A "Connection Ministry" to ensure that all parishioners, but especially seniors and those at risk for isolation, have regular contact with a member of our parish family. We are very fortunate to have the following parishioners volunteer for this ministry: Jim Barringer, Joan Fleming, Joan Jones, Steven Knowlton, Joy Kulvicki, Pam Muscente, Kevin O'Malia, Amy Ondreyka, Heide Ratliff, Judy Soncrant, Caroline Travers, and Joy Zumbrun.

Our Rector, Father Hugh, also offers the ministry of Spiritual Direction as a trained and certified Spiritual Director for the Diocese of New Jersey. Father Hugh offers his training in Social Work to offer resources, especially mental health resources and referrals, to our parish family.

Our goal for pastoral care for All Saints Parish is to offer the healing and transforming love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Lectors Ministry Report

Liz Colagiuri, Chair

The Lectors are parishioners who read the first two lessons of Scripture at the 10:15 a.m. service each Sunday and at special feast day services. We have 22 readers, who are each scheduled to read three or four times throughout the year. This ministry has been altered slightly to fit our Zoom needs! Parishioners on the Lector list are contacted during the week to serve as participants in the services. A special thanks to all who brave the new waters of technology!

We would welcome others! Advent Lessons and Carols on December 22 provides a great opportunity to try it out – we will need nine readers that day. I would also like to thank the larger group of parishioners who help us “speak in tongues” on Pentecost and who take a part in the Palm Sunday reading of the Passion.

If you would like to become a lector, please send me an email at lizcolagiuri@gmail.com. I must sheepishly confess that someone approached me at the end of a service during the summer to express interest and I cannot remember who it was! If you would be so kind as to send me an email, I will gladly pencil you into the schedule.

Music Ministry Report

Kevin O'Malia, B.M., M.M., Director of Music

This annual report finds us in unprecedented times in the new normal of programming during a global pandemic. This year, we have had to ‘reinvent the wheel’ in how we reach our parish and beyond with respect to our musical offerings. As we approach this new paradigm, we are reliant on social distancing, safety, and prudence in keeping our program alive, remotely, through technology. To this end, I would like to thank and acknowledge my husband, Tommy, who has assisted us greatly through online marketing, live streaming, recording, and circulating musical material to our church, community, region and world. Furthermore, through the live streaming, we are reaching a larger audience in other states and countries. This silver lining has made growth and connectivity possible in very difficult circumstances. We aim to continue this programming and growth through this year and into the future.

Before the pandemic, we performed a service of remembrance to the legacies of Westminster Choir College distinguished faculty, Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt and Nancianne Parrella, who made indelible marks in the world of music for decades. They both were connected to All Saints' Church in several ways. On February 23, 2020, we offered this service, with readings, hymns and a complete rendering of Requiem, op. 9, by Maurice Duruflé, to a full house. We also collected seed money for future choral scholars from high school and college, in their names. With an audience of 150, and a combined choir of 45 singers from All Saints' and the Princeton and Westminster communities, we raised \$1,600 for these choral scholarships. Furthermore, the program was professionally recorded by John Baker, and aired in retrospect on WWFM Radio. We plan to release a CD of this performance, which will further endow these choral scholarships.

From March 15, our programming changed utterly. In our COVID-world, we have had to seek alternative ways of reaching the congregation. This has included:

- Our choral staff singers have served as cantors, leading congregational song in the sanctuary. I have served as the organist, and Tommy has been recording engineer. These services have taken place via Zoom.
- We held our first successful hymn sing in August on Zoom. These will continue once per semester, remotely. It met with success and good feedback.

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- Adult forums will continue, once per semester, presented by the music department. These sessions are academic, participatory, and engaging, featuring music as a historical practice, programming in liturgy, and the place of congregational song in the Holy Eucharist and Daily Office.
- Outdoor choral recordings with All Saints' Parish Choir. We've had two sessions, both of which were socially distanced, safe, and fully masked. This has provided the opportunity for our choir to reconnect in a socially responsible and safe way, and also to record anthems and motets fit for use in services this year.
- Use of choral recordings from previous years, fitting with themes and style of the liturgy for which they are used.

Moving forward, we will continue to employ all of those points above this year with respect to programming. We also plan to fundraise and market including:

- Salon concerts from our staff singers. Twice per year, each staff singer will perform a concert recorded in our space, with myself accompanying on piano and organ. These will be released to the community for a small ticket price of \$15. The platform will invite the friends and family of each performer to offer tickets to their own family and friends. The funds raised will be split between the staff singer and the church (as both the soloists and the church are in need of financial assistance this year). This platform will draw funds and attention to our program to another market entirely, and thus will facilitate growth potential.
- Other ensembles and performers from the local and regional community will also record and release these programs.
- I myself will play several organ recitals and a silent movie in an effort to fundraise. I will donate the entirety of the proceeds to the general operating budget.
- These salon concerts will occur biweekly, and will continue as long as the pandemic lasts.

It was also very saddening to postpone our residencies at St. Thomas Church in New York City (June 28) and St. John the Divine (July 19) until the pandemic abates. We are in touch with both venues, and plan to sing when COVID has passed.

Lastly, a word of personal thanks. Thanks to my fellow staff: to Fr. Hugh for being an inspirational leader and great pastor, to Sarah, Maddy, Brian, Gary, Tommy, Elly, Karl – thank you for being a supportive staff in this difficult time. Thanks to the vestry and wardens for their vocal support of our music program, and to the parish of All Saints' – for your participation and advocacy from afar. Furthermore, to all of you, who are praying for me as my mother is in hospice – thank you and God bless! We plan to come out of this pandemic stronger and more connected. Thank you for prioritizing music as essential at All Saint's Church. I will, with God's help, continue to be the best steward I can be for our parish!

Outreach Ministry Report

Suzanne Thompson, Chair, & The Rev. Dr. Hugh E. Brown, III, Rector

All Saints Parish is a Jubilee Ministry Center of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey and the Episcopal Church. Our most significant areas of the 2020 Operations Budget, outside of staff salaries and benefits, are in the areas of Outreach. Our Outreach Budget includes a significant gift/tithe of operating income to the Diocese of New Jersey of \$56,000. It also includes a \$5,000 line for other Outreach projects. We have Outreach Reserve and Mission Funds, and the Rector's Discretionary Fund which provides several thousand dollars of annual crisis assistance and other outreach on behalf of our parish family.

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Our Outreach Ministry has long-term partnerships with the following organizations: Arm in Arm, HomeFront, NAMI, Princeton Community Housing, The Trenton Area Food Kitchen, Religious Ministries at Penn Medicine, Princeton Hospital Center in Plainsboro, and Womanspace. In December of 2019, we provided significant financial support to NAMI, to HomeFront, and to Arm in Arm. In addition, we support several major Diocesan Projects through the ministry of our Rector, Father Hugh, including the Annual George E. Councill Memorial Golf Tournament to support Trinity Cathedral on October 26th and the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse which included the coordination of a workshop on the Opioid Epidemic on October 3. All Saints Church also supports Father Hugh in his clinical social work role at Penn Medicine/Princeton House Behavioral health-with Fr. Hugh practicing this work on several days of the month.

Due to the possibility of Covid transmission and state mandated stay at home restrictions, our outreach has been limited to more financial giving over the past year. However, we do highlight the following Outreach Projects, among many, for our parish family:

*Homefront Christmas project for 15 children and teenagers

We provided requested gifts for Dec 2019 holiday and delivered them to the Homefront site.

*Homefront school backpack project for 15 students.

In August 2020, volunteers shopped for backpacks and school clothing and supplies that were then delivered to Homefront for distribution.

*We created several "Drive-By" celebrations: One Parishioner for her 90th Birthday; another Parishioner for her 100th Birthday at the Windrows Retirement Center; one of our Priest Associates for her 70th Birthday; and two of our High School Graduates.

*We had significant and successful fundraising drives for Episcopal Relief and Development (for relief with a host of terrible natural disasters this past year), and Arm in Arm, raising thousands of dollars of each agency.

*We partnered with Jovenes In Action, the Young Adult Ministry of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Trenton, to collect non-perishable foods for some of the most at-risk families needing food security assistance during the COVID-19 Crisis.

It is difficult to predict what we will do in the next year--due to the continuing threat of COVID transmission. However, be assured that All Saints Church will continue to respond to this national crisis and Pandemic, among other needs within the human family, community, and nation, in myriad ways.

Prayer Chain Ministry *Sarah Nickelson, Parish Administrator*

The Prayer Chain is a network of members who offer their prayerful support to members of the parish and their families in critical need. For example, the group may pray for a sick parishioner, a family member preparing for surgery, or a recent birth in the family. Parishioners who wish to have the Prayer Chain offer intercession on their behalf may speak to any member of the group or to the church office. To keep the number of requests manageable, intercession is limited to parishioners and their families. Also, after one month, prayers are cycled off the chain unless an extension is requested.

Our prayer chain has been essential in bringing comfort, community, solidarity and God's peace to our congregation throughout this year marked by multiple global crises. Father Hugh has added a weekly communication of prayer requests to the literature that is sent digitally to our active members.

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Princeton Theological Seminary Ministry Partnership Report *The Rev. Dr. Hugh E. Brown, III, Rector*

We are very fortunate to have a rich and varied ministry in partnership with Princeton Theological Seminary. Through the past 13 years of my ministry at All Saints Church as Rector, we have formed 32 students for ministry leadership in the Church. This includes not only our Princeton Seminary Intern program, but also our connections with PTS faculty, staff, students, and resources. For example, Professor Gordon Graham of PTS served as a Priest Associate and coordinator for our Adult Forum and Arts Program for five years prior to his retirement from Princeton Seminary in the summer of 2018. We also involve Princeton Seminary faculty in our Adult Forums and Christian formation programs.

We have been blessed to sponsor two graduate students at Princeton Seminary for Ordination to the Episcopal Priesthood. Father George Rambow was ordained Priest at All Saints Church in February of 2019 and currently serves as a Priest in the Diocese of Mississippi, and Father Luke Zerra was ordained this September of 2020 in Pittsburgh, PA where he serves as a Priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. We are also currently sponsoring Rachel Douglass, who has attained Postulancy for Holy Orders, for ordination. Rachel served as our PTS intern for the 2018-2019 academic year through the Teaching Ministry Internship program at PTS.

Although the COVID-19 Pandemic deeply impacted the ministry of our PTS Interns for the Spring Semester of 2020 over the final month of ministry from mid-March through mid-April, with Field Education formally suspended at Princeton Seminary as of the second week in March, I am pleased to report that we were able to bless and finalize the ministry of our interns as they completed their year of ministry with our All Saints Parish family. Our Interns for the 2019—2020 academic year, Brooke Caton, MacKenzie Dull, Rachel Rim, and Jacob Zeller, offered a wide variety of ministry from liturgical leadership and preaching, to teaching (especially for our Sunday Adult Forums and Lenten Program), to youth and children's ministry, to pastoral care, and to fellowship and outreach. We were able to include our interns in offering final sermons, classes and also farewell blessings, as they concluded their Field Education Commitment. Brooke Caton and Jacob Zeller graduated from Princeton Seminary this past Spring, Brooke now serves as Director of Christian Education at an Episcopal Church in Virginia, and Jacob, for a non-denominational church in Illinois.

This year, we are blessed to have Elliot Vanhoy as our Princeton Seminary Intern. Elliot was also active in the parish this past academic year and confirmed at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton in November of 2019. Despite this time of crisis and pandemic, our partnership with Princeton Seminary continues with depth and power.

Property Report *Roland Patterson, Chair*

The highlight of the year has been the purchase of new appliances for the kitchen including round tables, a new range, microwave, and freezer. During the shutdown for COVID, lawn and grounds maintenance was deferred to save money, but was partially resumed to improve appearances for the outdoor services (Evening prayer and a wedding). Thankfully maintenance for the rectory has been very low. To prepare for safe reopening of the church for PLC and AA groups, repairs were made to the ventilation systems and measurements taken for airflow to ensure compliance with air quality standards.

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Building Assessment & Long Term Planning

The Entech Engineering Building Assessment for the Church building and rectory has been the guide for most projects. This assessment includes a priority list of deferred maintenance and capital improvements. The highest priority item is replacing and updating the boilers and heating control system and the first step will be an HVAC analysis and plan by an outside contractor. The report is available to anyone who might be interested to see.

2020 Maintenance Highlights

Many items in the Entech Building Assessment have been fixed or partially fixed and we have been hard at work taking on tasks as they come. A few highlights are:

1. Repainted benches in peace garden
2. Air circulation fan for sanctuary and undercroft was not working – replaced freestat and opened fresh air vents to maximum
3. Replaced filters in heating/ventilation system with MERV 13 to filter particles with virus as suggested by CDC.
4. Measured airflow in undercroft and sanctuary. All rooms but one, have above minimum of 3 air changes per hour.
5. Inspected and cleaned sewer lines from church to street
6. Started replacing rotten fencing on west playground
7. Cleaned gutters and roof drains
8. Replaced one entrance light with brighter LED to reduce energy use. Replaced 22 other burned out floodlights in sanctuary.
9. Received material kit for new shed
10. Replaced batteries in CO alarms and emergency lights
11. Pump and valve repairs for the hot water heating system
12. Repaired and replaced bathroom plumbing fixtures that leaked
13. Removed dead trees and limbs hanging over driveway.

We are open to any new members who would like to lend their talents to this extremely important committee.

Future Projects

Renovate the south end of the classroom wing including kitchen and reception room.

Replace outdoor signage

Assisted listening devices for PA system.

Tool shed removal and replacement

Covered access to building from vehicles in driveway

Sound System Ministry Report *Charles Colagiuri, Senior Warden*

Every Sunday, a member of small, faithful band of sound techs makes sure our sound system is up and running during our 10:15 service. They were: Tony Beesley, Charles Colagiuri, and Lois Lavery up until we needed to pivot online due to the COVID pandemic. we are now using the sound system to enable social distancing during the live stream thanks to Tommy O'Malia's expertise. We are always looking for additional people to serve as sound techs. While the system looks complicated, it is really very easy to use. No technical expertise is required. If interested in participating in this important ministry, please talk with anyone you see sitting at the sound board in the back of the nave. We would be delighted to have you join us.

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Treasurer's Report Gary Hefner, Treasurer

To say that this has been a challenging year would be a bit of an understatement. Due to the Coronavirus lockdown some of our sources of income either dried up completely or were greatly reduced. Loose plate stopped completely; rental income was reduced substantially; non-pledged income is well under budget; pledged income which was over budget most of the year is now under budget by over \$28K. Total Operating income is now under budget by over \$90K. Some of our shortfall to date has been covered by the PPP loan from the Federal Government which we expect to be forgiven.

We realized early that this year would be a challenge and began conservation of our expenses. All expense categories with the exception of utilities are under budget. This includes staff expense even though all employees have been paid in full throughout the pandemic. Total Operating Expenses are under budget by over \$41K.

Even with the well managed expenses our total expenses exceed our total income by over \$44K which is currently covered by the PPP loan. We will need pledge income to come in on budget through the remainder of the year if we are to cover our expenses.

Trinity-All Saints' Cemetery Report Lisa Crane, Cemetery Administrator

The Cemetery is located adjacent to All Saints' Church, is owned and operated by Trinity and All Saints' Episcopal Churches. A Committee, consisting of seven members (three appointed by the Rector of each parish, and one joint chairman) administers the affairs of the cemetery.

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Graves are sold on the basis of perpetual care.

Clear rules and regulations ensure that their appearance will be preserved.

The original cemetery layout offered approximately 1,120 graves to the parishioners of Trinity and All Saints' Churches. Graves are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$2,200 each. Each grave may hold up to 4 cremation burials or one full vault and one cremation burial.

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT *October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020:*

Total Revenue \$57,926 including an unrealized gain on the Diocesan

Total Expenses: \$23,085

NET Revenue less Expenses: \$34,841

Trinity-All Saints' Cemetery is a private, religious cemetery available only to the parishioners of Trinity and All Saints' Churches. Parishioners of Trinity and All Saints' Churches are invited to visit the cemetery or inquire about plot purchase. For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Cemetery Manager at 609-924-7757.

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Tuesday Morning Men's Group *Peter Travers & Alan Dybvig, Co-Chairs*

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study:

The men of All Saints' are invited to join our Men's Bible Study group, which meets every Tuesday morning, to discuss both the philosophical and practical aspects of our faith. We are meeting now on a temporary basis via Zoom. We just finished the genealogy of the patriarchs, Genesis 22-50 and found it so interesting, we'll next going read Genesis 1-21. After that, on to Exodus. Our group excels at offbeat, wide-ranging and entertaining discussions. If you have any questions about the group, please contact Alan Dybvig at alandybvig@verizon.net or 609-947-2565, or Peter J. Travers at pjtray@chasefield.com or 908-672-6060. Please contact Peter if you'd like to join the Zoom fun.

Tuesday Morning Book Study: It immediately follows our weekly Bible Study, at 8:05 a.m. also via Zoom. We try to find books of a secular nature that explicitly or implicitly treat biblical themes. For example, previous books have included Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*, Erasmus's *In Praise of Folly*, Wendell Barry's *The Way*, Shusaku Endo's *Silence* and most recently Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. We've just started Dorothy Sayer's *The Mind of the Maker*.

Rector's Wednesday Morning Bible Study *The Rev. Dr. Hugh E. Brown, III, Rector*

Until the beginning of the Pandemic in March of 2020, and the closing of All Saints Church for worship and meetings for the foreseeable future, our All Saints Parish Wednesday Bible Study, led by the Rector, met in the parish library at 10:15AM; we preceded the Bible Study with a mid-week service of Holy Eucharist at 9:30AM in the Sanctuary entrance Chapel. We also met once per month at the Stonebridge Retirement Community in Skillman, NJ. In March of 2020, our Wednesday Study moved to the online Zoom platform and we continue to meet via Zoom at 10:15AM most Wednesday mornings.

We concluded a study of Paul's *Letter to the Romans* in the late Fall of 2019; then as is our tradition, studied the birth narratives of *The Gospel of Matthew*, Chapters 1 and 2; and *The Gospel of Luke*, Chapters 1 and 2 in December of 2019. Beginning in January of 2020, we embarked upon a study of *The Book of Genesis*, concluding in June of 2020. Unlike in previous years, we continued our study throughout the summer and started the Book of Exodus in July of 2020. We are now continuing the study of Exodus as of this writing in the Fall of 2020.

We are an inclusive, diverse group of seekers and learners! We welcome all viewpoints, theologies, spiritualities and politics! (that is "biblical politics"). Please join us!

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Women's Fellowship Report

Judy Soncrant, Directress

A group of devoted women meet for fellowship and book study, Wednesday at 5:00 pm at Stonebridge. We start with Compline and end at 6:00 pm.

We recently completed: **Why Religion?** by Elaine Pagels and **Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith** by Anne Lamot. Due to COVID-19 we have not met since March 2020. We will resume as soon as it is safe for all.

All women of the parish are welcome!

Youth & Children's Ministry Report

The Rev. Maddy Patterson, Director

We have continued to offer Sunday school at 9 a.m., from September last year until early March 2020. We also have a program during service for the first 45 minutes, for young people who would like to hear a children's sermon and study the Gospel interactively, in conversation with the leaders.

This year we were admirably supported by Kenzie Dull, until the church closed. This gifted seminarian made the space warm and welcoming for the students.

We've continued intergenerational drama ministry, in the fall, and switched that to radio theatre when the church closed its doors to in-person worship.

In late fall last year we added two soft spaces for families with small children - we removed a pew to make room for small desks, crayons, stuffed animals and rugs to make the space inviting for young people and their parents and grandparents. The small nursery was moved from the undercroft to the main church level last year, to facilitate parents' participating in the service while having their kids close by. Eva Ondreyka and Faith Falkowitz alternated weekly to provide nursery care and did a great job.

In November during NJEA convention, we took 10 people, 5 youth and 5 adults, into NYC to join YSOP (Youth Service Opportunities Project), a Quaker organization, to work in soup kitchens and in food banks to help serve the needy. The program is supported also by speakers and by time for reflection on our experiences in the field. It was a great experience for all participants.

Special thanks to our vestry liaison, Priscilla Bostock, whose training in early education makes her an invaluable resource for suggestions and new and creative ideas.