

# THE CARILLON



All Saints Episcopal Church, 8911 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, Ohio 44130  
www.allsaintsparma.org office.allsaints@ohiocoxmail.com 440-888-4055

## Welcoming the Stranger

Pastor Heather Hill, Rector

I wanted to share a few stories of experiences I have had visiting other worshipping communities, both good and bad. Before I moved to Ohio but after I had finished serving at my last parish, Dustin and I worshipped with two other Episcopal churches. We decided to go without any indication that we were priests (incognito—no collars, etc.) so that we could just participate and worship without drawing extra attention. We chose the first church because they worshipped in a higher style than we usually did and thought it would be an interesting experience. The second church we chose because it was not far away from where we were and they had a service late enough for us to sleep in a little. Before we went I thought that we would experience people being too eager for us to become involved. We were on the surface what many churches said they were looking for— a young couple who obviously knew and loved the liturgy.

Boy was I wrong! At both parishes nobody spoke to us except for the priest! (One of them knew me because it was not far from the parish I had been serving.) The first service we sat through not knowing much of what was going on, but no one offered help to understand. They worshipped in a very high church style and had extra special actions because a bishop was visiting that neither of us had seen before. The second church had worship similar to what we knew and we participated fully. The second one even had a time at the end for visitors to stand up and introduce themselves. The priest who knew me looked at me and I shook my head, "no." Dustin and I are both introverted and neither of us wanted to make a spectacle of ourselves. We just

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hospitality and Welcoming the Stranger in Our Midst	1
Holy Week Services	2
Outreach Projects	3
Youth Group: A New Journey	4
Finance Report	5
Weaving God's Promises	6
The Bulletin Board	7

wanted to worship. So maybe nobody said hello there because we did not stand up in front of 100 people we did not know to introduce ourselves. At the second parish we then spent 15 minutes wandering around trying to find a bathroom and still no one said hello or asked if they could help. Leaving the second week in a row with the only hint of welcome coming from the priests, I couldn't help but think that it's no wonder the Episcopal Church is losing members. I would not have returned to either place to worship.

In direct contrast to that experience was a worship service I attended recently at a convent in Tiffin, OH. I was attending a retreat there and as part of our schedule we had the option to join the sisters for Vespers, an evening prayer service. I enjoy praying with others in new ways so I went. Two of us from the retreat stepped into the door of the chapel looking around trying to figure out what we should do. Within a minute two sisters who had been sitting at different places in the sanctuary came over and offered to sit with us and help us through the service. Though a little unsure of being approached

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## Hospitality and Welcoming the Stranger in Our Midst

*Continued from Page 1*

and wanting to blend in the back (I was at a Roman Catholic convent and was not sure how they would greet me), I agreed. The sister handed us their prayer books and pointed to numbers on a wall. They were code to find the different parts of the service. She turned to me and the other retreatant at each turn of the page to make sure we knew where we were. I finally experienced how even a heart desiring to pray can have trouble navigating multiple pages throughout a book without a guide. After the service, the two sisters thanked us for praying with them and invited us to come to another service they had. It felt so good to be thanked for praying with them, especially because half the time I had no idea what was going on.

I share these experiences with you to help all of us to work together to be a church with genuine hospitality sharing God's love with those who honor us by praying with us. What can you do to help

someone who you do not recognize to feel welcome at All Saints? How can we as a community make it so everyone feels like they can be included in prayer at our church? The first steps are introducing ourselves to our guests, wearing our name tags so those who have attended a few times don't feel bad about not knowing people yet. How about our bulletin, our website, our building? Let's work together to welcome the stranger as a guest who honors us with their presence when they come to pray with us.



## Holy Week Services

I hope you will join us during Holy Week as we remember the last days of Jesus' ministry before his death and resurrection. Marking these days with worship allows us to enter into a deeper rejoicing come Easter.

### **Mundy Thursday 7 PM service**

During this service we reenact Jesus' last night with his disciples through washing each other's feet and remembering His Last Supper. Finally we strip the altar and prepare for the somberness of Good Friday.

### **Good Friday 12 & 7 PM services**

We recall Jesus' crucifixion and death through quiet

readings, prayers, and receiving communion from the reserved sacrament.

### **Easter Vigil (Saturday) 7 PM**

If you are looking for a way to sum up the entire history of God's salvation, this is it! We light the fire of salvation, recall the great deeds God has done throughout history (think great Old Testament stories), remember our calling in baptism, and finally celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

### **Easter Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 AM services**

We gather together to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and our salvation!

## Outreach Projects

Lisa Czerny, Outreach Committee

Thank you for supporting the Youth Group and their efforts toward the Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out, your contributions throughout the month of January brought in \$332! The Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out raised a total of \$1,636!!! The All Saints Youth Group baked 100+ cupcakes for the Norma Herr Women's Shelter, which they visited on Sunday, March 30th with the St. Peter's Youth Group, to deliver a donation of \$545 and to serve dinner & dessert. Be sure to check out the All Saints Episcopal Parma Facebook page for snapshots :)

**March:** Donations of \$100 will be given our All Saints Youth Group Brothers Keeper Mission Trip this July, Thank You!

**April:** Parma Council PTA Geranium Sale. All monetary donations in April will purchase Red Geraniums for Pentecost and other flowers for our church grounds. When we support this local sale, we support Scholarships for Parma City School Graduating Seniors. If you would like to order flowers for yourself, order forms are available and need to be returned with payment to All Saints by Sunday April 13th.

**May:** Join us Friday May 2nd 6-9pm here at All Saints for our Ears to You & American Cancer Society Relay For Life Benefit. We invite you to come create earrings to keep for yourself and donate. All supplies and assistance will be provided along with light snacks & refreshments. Donated earrings will be given to Ears to You which gives them to women and girls going through Cancer treatments. All other proceeds will be donated to the Parma Area Relay For Life through Team All Saints! Come Create, Take & Donate :)

**Parma Area Relay For Life** is happening at Tri-C Western Campus 3pm July 26th- 9am July 27th

Team All Saints has a goal of \$2000 and has raised \$792 to date! We're better together in the fight against cancer...

Join your neighbors and be part of Team All Saints!! For more information see Lisa Czerny, Sandy Kynerd & Joe Dmitruk

We would like to thank our parishioners who continue to help stock our cupboards in the hallway with non perishable foods and other needs such as toiletries. It is always helpful to have some groceries on hand for anyone who may stop in and need some assistance and Parma Christian Church is always very grateful and happy when we share these goods with them for thier pantries monthly distribution. Thank you to Susan & George for always offering to load their car and deliver our donations to Parma Christian Church, your help is appreciated!



## Jennifer's Recitals

Jennifer Bower, All Saint's talented organist, has two recitals scheduled this spring at Fairchild Chapel in Oberlin. Please plan to attend!

Tuesday, April 8 at 8:00 PM

Thursday, May 1 at 8:00 PM (harpsichord)

## Youth Group: A New Journey

Chris Crawford, Youth Group Leader, Acolyte Coordinator

As I look out the window at the mounds of white snow glistening in the fading sunlight, I am reminded that tomorrow's forecast calls for temperatures near 60 degrees, and that much of what I now see will soon give way to puddles, mud, and ultimately, fresh green grass. Spring is also the time for transitions in the life of the parish.

I am pleased to announce that I have recently accepted the challenge, and privilege, of leading our fantastic Youth Group as its members begin a new phase in their journey of understanding and exercising their faith. There are many projects and learning opportunities on our horizon, and many people to thank for supporting our efforts to date.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out. Contributions supporting the January Outreach project, which raised \$332, played a significant role in the overall project total of \$1,636 raised to support three local homeless shelters. Additionally, on Friday, March 28, Youth Group members baked, and decorated, over 100 cupcakes for the Norma Herr Women's Shelter. They then joined with the St. Peter's Youth Group to visit the shelter on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. While at the shelter, they volunteered their time to serve dinner,

and dessert, to those in need.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the March Outreach project, supporting the Youth Group's efforts to raise funds to off-set the cost of attending the Brother's Keeper Mission Trip, in Ripley, West Virginia. This summer, nine members of our Youth Group, and their adult mentors, will build on the experiences gained by those who attended last year. The trip lasts from Sunday, July 6 - Friday, July 11. During the next few months, the Youth Group will be planning various fundraisers to make this trip more affordable. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

In addition to the new meetings and projects being planned, our youth continue to explore the Episcopal Church in their Confirmation classes, and serve the parish as Acolytes, Nursery Care Providers, and in other capacities as needed.

With so many activities and opportunities to move forward on their faith journeys, please pray for the members of the Youth Group, and their families, as they continue to learn and grow as living members of the Body of Christ.

## Easter Egg Hunt!

ATTENTION ALL SAINTS CHILDREN ages 2 through 11: Join your Sunday school teachers and the Youth Group for our annual Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:30 worship service on Easter Sunday. We are praying for good weather so that we may hunt outdoors...but if our prayers are not answered, we will move the fun inside. See you there!



## Finance Report

Marcia Day, Treasurer

This is one of my favorite stories:

*It had been raining for days and days, and a great flood had come over the land. The waters rose so high that one man was forced to climb onto the roof of his house. As the waters rose higher and higher, a man in a rowboat appeared, and told him to get in. "No," replied the man on the roof. "I have faith in the Lord; the Lord will save me." So the man in the rowboat went away. The man on the roof prayed for God to save him.*

*The waters rose higher and higher, and suddenly a speedboat appeared. "Climb in!" shouted a man in the boat. "No," replied the man on the roof. "I have faith in the Lord; the Lord will save me." So the man in the speedboat went away. The man on the roof prayed for God to save him.*

*The waters continued to rise. A helicopter appeared and over the loudspeaker, the pilot announced he would lower a rope to the man on the roof. "No," replied the man on the roof. "I have faith in the Lord; the Lord will save me." So the helicopter went away. The man on the roof prayed for God to save him. The waters rose higher and higher, and eventually they rose so high that the man on the roof was washed away, and alas, the poor man drowned. Upon arriving in heaven, the man marched straight over to God. "Heavenly Father," he said, "I had faith in you... I prayed to you to save me, and yet you did nothing. Why?" God gave him a puzzled look, and replied "I sent you two boats and a helicopter."*

This story shapes my belief in God including the financial world at All Saints. God is not going to drop a ton on money on us, like raindrops. He does send us help; we just have to be able to recognize it. March we collected almost \$1000 more in Rentals than was budgeted. Why that month; why that amount? My only explanation is the above story. In

November, a very large check was to be written as payment for the bathroom work. I thought for sure we would need to borrow money; it had been authorized by vestry if needed. At the same time, one of the counters stated they were making a very large deposit that week, three fourths of the amount of the check written. We don't often have large deposits like that one, but we did that week. Why that week, why that amount? I have no answers except for the above story.

February Numbers: Income: \$8,775.95. Expenses: \$11,598.81. Difference: -\$2,822.86. Our pledge numbers were up, as was Room Usage and unfortunately so was our gas bill. Again, all bills were paid due to the carryover from December 2013. There were no unusual expenses this month.

A quick look at March (final numbers are not finished): March finances are looking pretty good. More details to come.

Easter is coming and that always helps with our bill paying; let us hope for a break in this cold weather and thus lower gas bills. We are also exploring signing on with a different gas company to help lower our gas bills somewhat.

God is very aware of us here on this corner of Parma; are you aware of all the opportunities He gives us here at All Saints and in our personal lives?

## Thank You!

Thanks to all who participated in our Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast. We served over 47 meals and made \$138 for our youth group and their summer mission trip fund. Good food, good fellowship and great fund raising. Thanks go especially to our super cooks and all our "cleaner-uppers."

## Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Weaving God's Promises

Sandy Kynerd

Holy Week is fast approaching and, although we are singing "Be Still and Know that I Am God" as our children's processional song, it seems as though we are racing through our studies because there is so much to cover in such a short time with our children.

There are still two ways in which we are able to slow down and "Be Still" before Holy Week begins.

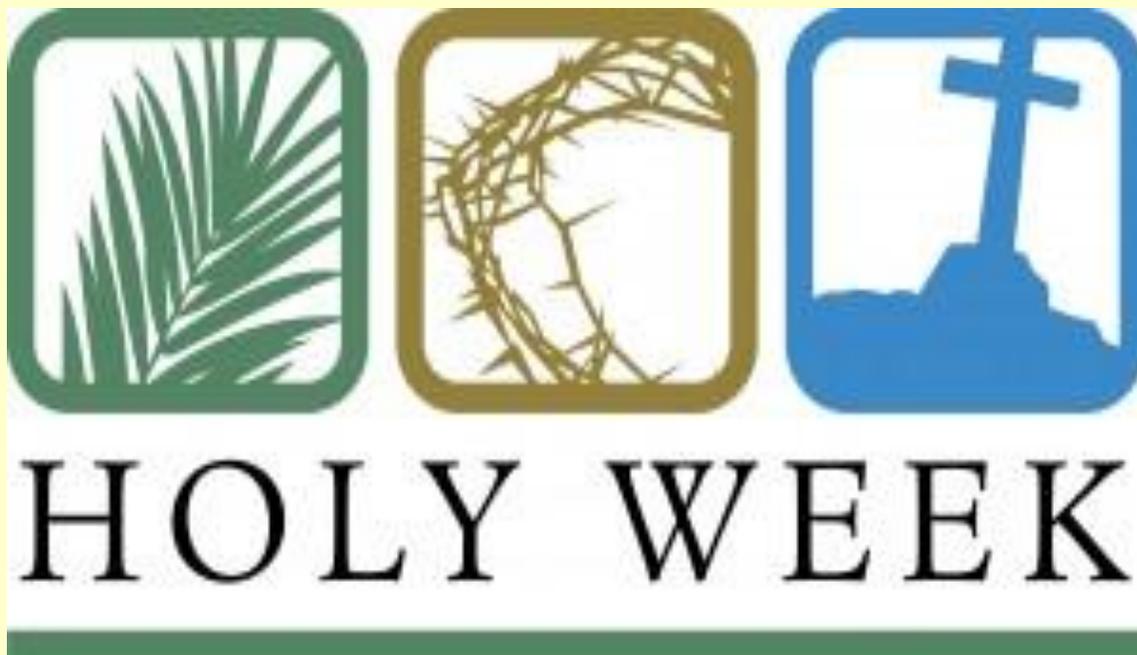
The first way is through The Children's Eucharist. Please be sure to join us on Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> immediately after our 10:30 service and show our All Saints Children how vital they are and how important the Eucharist is to all of us.

The second way is through the "Childrens' and Family Way of the Cross" which we will hold immediately following some healthy snacks after our 10:30 service on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Our All Saints Youth Group will be helping us as we follow Jesus through Holy Week. Starting from Bethesda to

Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the Cenacle as we celebrate the Eucharist as Jesus did on Maundy Thursday with his disciples, family and friends at His Last Supper. We will visit the Garden of Gethsemane to Pray and then to Gabatha (The Stone Pavement) where we wash our hands as did Pilate. We will then help Jesus carry His cross to Golgotha, stopping to meet the women who wiped Jesus' face with a soft cloth. We will visit Jesus' Tomb and finally we will Light Candles as we "Celebrate our Risen Jesus". This is one of our most memorable 'Hands On' experiences and will be for our children and all who come along with us to follow Jesus. This all takes place right here in our All Saints Atriums, halls, Narthex, Library and Sanctuary. We hope you will attend.

God's Peace and Blessings!!!

Sandy Kynerd, Jan Fritzsche, Lisa Czerny



## The Bulletin Board

**Communion:** Gluten free communion wafers are now available please speak with Pastor Heather if you would like to receive one.

**Lenten Soup Suppers** will be held every Wednesday through April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the church hall, followed by a program in the South Room.

We are going to finish the trilogy by Adam Hamilton using The Way. Each week our video takes us to a site where Jesus ministered. We will see the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Samaria, etc. Then we will read and study the gospel story that took place at that location.

Please sign-up to bring bread or soup and mark your calendars for April 2 and 9 to join us for this journey through the Holy Land.

**November Outreach Project:** Funds will be raised for the All Saints Youth Group's Youth Brothers Keeper Mission Trip to West Virginia.

**Palm Sunday** this year is on April 13<sup>th</sup>, starting off **Holy Week**. **Easter Sunday** is on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter Lilies** can be purchased for the church until Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Healing Oil & Prayers** are available on Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> at both services.

The **April Vestry meeting** will be one week early (Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm) due to this year's Holy Week calendar.

**Maundy Thursday** service is on April 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**Good Friday** services are on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

**Easter Vigil** service is on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

The next **Senior Dinner** will be on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

**Parma Council PTA Geranium Sale** is in April. All Outreach monetary donations during the month will be used to purchase Red Geraniums for Pentecost and other flowers for our church grounds. The proceeds of the sale will support scholarships for seniors graduating from Parma City Schools. You may also purchase flowers for yourself.

An **Ears to You** and **Relay For Life** benefit will be held in May. More details to come!

The **Youth Group** spring calendar of meetings and Confirmation classes is posted on the church bulletin board.

The **Flower Chart** has returned to its spot in the short hallway leading to the narthex. A vase of flowers is \$25. Write your name in the appropriate spot on the chart. Flowers may be given to the Glory of God, in honor of someone living, in loving memory of someone who died and/or in thanksgiving for someone or something; circle the correct phrase and complete the box. A rose may also be placed on the altar when a baby is born. Cost of the rose is \$5 to \$8 (depends on the season).

**Sunday Nursery:** A Nursery Committee met a few weeks ago and decided to try to have the nursery staffed by volunteers for a few months (our previous nursery sitter has a new job). Please speak with Pastor Heather if you are interested in volunteering or have any comments or questions.

The **Homeless Awareness Sleep-Out** raised a total of \$1,636!!!

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8911 West Ridgewood Drive  
Parma, Ohio 44130

**Phone:**  
440-888-4055

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**E-Mail:**  
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**All Saints  
All Welcome**

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*We're on the Web!*

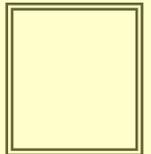
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