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Welcome to the Episcopal Church in Bay Head

For All the Saints



Stewardship news

The Envelope, Please

Thank you to the 68 saints who have returned their pledge cards for 2022! That's more than half of the cards that were sent out. To date, 40 percent of returning pledgers have increased their pledges in 2022, and we have six first-time pledgers. There's still time to make your pledge for 2022. Contact the Church Office for another pledge card. The envelopes will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks. And if you still need to pay up your pledge to get tax credit in 2021, you have until **January 15** to make out your check (remember to back date it) and send it in.

Paul Hamelberg



The Rector's Corner

Reflections by the Rev. Kathryn King

Family gatherings often bring about storytelling. Like the wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree, the recounting of these stories wraps all those present into the loving gift that it is to be part of a family. Revisiting the stories renews our bonds with each other and grafts new members and the next generation into the legacy. Words and phrases become touchstones and can open a door that floods us with memories—some joyful, some less welcome, but all are stories of our lives.

In the King family, there is an oft-told story about me at age seven or eight. As the stars became visible at the end of a full Christmas day of family, presents, traditions, and barely containable excitement, I was discovered sitting at the bottom of the stairs leading to the second floor. Just a dozen hours earlier, I was with my sisters at the top of these stairs waiting for our parents to give us the word to come down and round the corner that would reveal the delights of tree and chimney. Now I was sitting at the bottom of those stairs with favorite gifts on my lap, a toe popping out of my Christmas tights, and tears rolling down my face. No sobs, just silent sadness. “We had to wait *so long*, and now it’s all over,” I explained.

It was my experience of the archetypal child’s view of Christmas. In my teens, I came across for the first time, the poem



“The Work of Christmas Begins” by Howard Thurman (1899–1981), which appears on page 2. Along with “In those days a decree went out” and “O come, all ye faithful,” the words “When the song of the angels is stilled” are among

my adult touchstones to incarnating the 12-day season of Christmas that has just passed. I think that Thurman masterfully draws together the cosmic grandness and the earthly simplicity that open the flood gates for us, and then with precision, make the turn to draw us into what must follow for those who have truly journeyed to Bethlehem in heart and soul.

(continued on p. 2)

Epiphany meditation>>> (cont. from p.1)

When the song of angels is stilled....

Like the Magi who, after encountering the Christ, go home by another way, we too go away transformed by our sojourn to the stable and the Light of the World who is now eternally grafted into our lives.

In the nearly two months since we first worshiped together I have lost count of the number of times the phrase “once we get through Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we will ...” has been uttered.

The learning curve has been steep, but it has been a joyous climb. And now, like “the work of Christmas,” our work begins anew: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to teach the nations, to bring Christ to all, and to make music in the heart. On Sunday, January 16, the creche and greens will all be carefully tucked away and we will encounter an adult Jesus who ventures out to find his cousin John on the banks of the Jordan River, to begin his public and adult ministry and to incarnate the second half of the poem. It is our gift to God to do the same.

Faithfully, Kathryn+

The Work of Christmas

When the song of angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost.
To heal the broken.
To feed the hungry.
To release the prisoner.
To teach the nations.
To bring Christ to all.
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



A view from the pew >>>

Memory, Grace, and Gratitude in 2022

We're only a week into 2022, and it's already clear we won't be resuming a “normal” life just yet. On the upside, though, it's a good excuse to abandon the usual resolutions. You know, the ones that writer Anne LaMott says reflect “the fierce belief that you should diet, and/or join a gym, because you are disgusting or at least disappoint as is.” As she observes, we're all feeling “done” (“like an overcooked rump roast; just ‘done’”) with the pandemic. But I found hope in LaMott's recent post on Facebook about how to move past this mindset. Her strategy is to “remember to remember.” In light of what we have been through and are still facing, she advises, we might stop to “remember we are alive. We remember the old tried and true things that always bless us—gather if we can, pay gentle attention to others, get outside even in the cold and wet, send money to the poor (and to NPR). We remember to give thanks that, after so much has been taken from us, so many blessings remain: the frost on the Irish green grass...a long hot shower..., and oh God, am I grateful for indoor plumbing.... We say thanks over and over for everything that still works, all that we love, views that still blow us away. Gratitude is the fountain of youth. ... I will remember that grace finds us exactly where we are but does not leave us where it found us....” So, today I give thanks for All Saints and the many friends Steve and I have found here since January 1994; that Kathryn answered the call to All Saints and rekindled our spirit of joy; that we have continued worship and fellowship safely during the past two years; and I have faith that we will continue to do so—with old *and new* friends.

Meg Beresik

Open House Postponed

The Epiphany Open House, originally scheduled for Sunday, January 9 following worship, is postponed for everyone's safety due to the surge in COVID cases. The Rev. King will continue to watch the case numbers and diocesan guidance as she plans to hold this celebration at a later date—perhaps at Easter when we can gather inside and outside the Rectory. Watch this space for updates!

Chalking the Door with 'Holy Graffiti'

Sunday, January 9, All Saints will observe Epiphany with the chalking of the Church doors. The Rev. King plans to distribute kits to each household so that parishioners can write the inscription (referred to as 'holy graffiti') 20+C+M+B+22 over the doors to their own homes. But what does it mean?

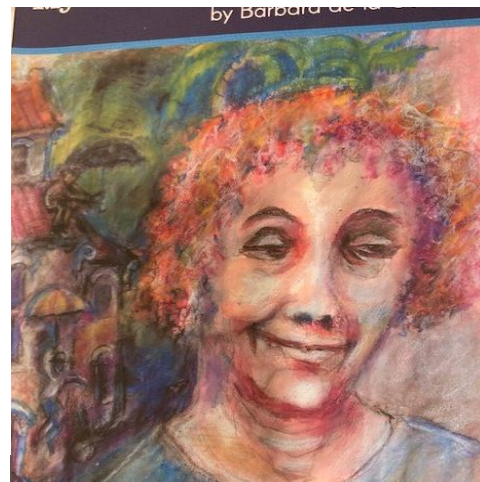


[For an Epiphany blessing, chalk the door with 'holy graffiti' – Episcopal News Service](#)). The article revealed that **20+C+M+B+22** itself refers to the year (2022), the cross (+), and the names traditionally assigned to the kings/magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar) who brought the gifts to the newborn Jesus.

C+M+B also evokes the Latin blessing “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” which means “May Christ bless this dwelling.” This blessing is intended not only for the building but the people who live there or enter it.

This will be the first year we chalk the doors of All Saints, which we will do with a short prayer, and likely the first time any of us will chalk the doors of our homes. As we do, we should be mindful that as the chalk fades we must engrave this blessing on our hearts. The chalking is, as Bishop Scanlan of Central Pennsylvania says, “a totem to remind us, coming and going, of our faith.”

Although an ancient practice followed in many countries, chalking the door has only been officially recognized by the Episcopal Church since 2018. You may remember the Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg introducing us to the tradition last January in Zoom Coffee Hour (for details, see her ENS article from 2020, which can be found at



Book Club Meets Jan. 18

On December 18, at 7:30 p.m., the All Saints Book Club resumes its monthly meetings via Zoom. This month our discussion will focus on *My Name Is Henrietta Rose*, a new novel by parishioner Barbara de la Cuesta. The author will be on hand to answer questions and offer insights into her writing process.

Barbara's painting of her title character is shown on the cover. Feel free to listen to our discussion (even if you haven't read the book)!

Contact Phyllis Kata or Meg Beresik for the Zoom link.

Women's Guild News >>>

Soup Luncheon Canceled

The Women's Guild planned to hold their first meeting of 2022 on January 18 at noon in Bristol Hall. **The meeting has been postponed** due to the surge in COVID-19 cases.

Attendees were to be treated to the soup luncheon and an afternoon of cards or board games at a later date. **Please check the weekly announcements for updates about the February meeting!**

Dottie's House

Since 2001, Dottie's House in Brick has been serving women and children survivors of domestic violence. The organization helps women find affordable housing and full-time employment and provides supportive counseling to women and children.

In your packet of pledge envelopes you will find one for the week of February 6 dedicated to Dottie's House.

Please give what you can.

Phyllis Kata, Outreach



Looking ahead

Keep up with the latest service schedule and events at All Saints by visiting our parish website: www.allsaintsbayhead.org.

January Service Schedule Updates

Note that we have resumed social distancing and pre-registration for in-person worship. If you plan to attend service in-person, please RSVP by noon on the Friday prior to the service.

Sunday, January 9: The Feast of the Epiphany (Observed)

9:30 a.m. Festal Holy Eucharist with Narrated Epiphany Observance and Chalking of the Doors. Take-home Epiphany House Blessing kits will be provided to each household. For those worshipping virtually, the Rev. King would be happy to come to your home to offer the blessing (outside your door) and guide you in chalking the door. Contact the Church Office to reserve your kit and/or schedule her visit.

Sunday, January 16: The Baptism of Our Lord (Observed)

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with renewal of Baptismal Vows

Sunday, January 23: The Third Sunday of Epiphany & Annual Parish Meeting

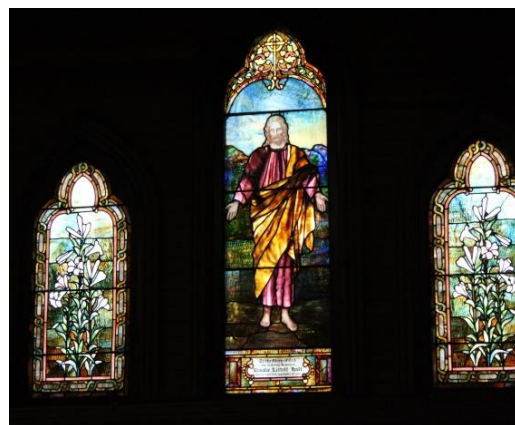
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist abbreviated to accommodate Annual Meeting, which is tentatively planned to be held via Zoom. Please check the weekly announcements and parish website for updated information.

Sunday, January 30: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Please send your photos of *worship and parish activities* from Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany to the Church Office (admin@allsaintsbayhead.org). We'd like to include them on our website!



Celebrating our saints >>>

Birthdays:

1/1: Cindy McGlynn

1/5: Betty Miller

1/6: Wendy Johnson,
Keith McBride

1/9: John Copman,
Juliet Rose Wentworth

1/12: Holly Canales

1/13: Susan Morales

1/16: Dede Pickering

1/19: Ted Griffin, Hannah
Infantolino, Pat Trunkwalter

1/20: Dick Creek, Skip Knapp,
Josh Yersin

1/21: Paul Hamelberg

1/23: Bruce Bossidy

1/26: Daniel Canales

1/29: David Kellogg, Chad
Newsome

1/31: Julie McBride

Anniversaries:

1/3: Priscilla Hiby

1/12: Ellen Ehrman,
Cindy & Jonathan McGlynn

1/25: Julie & Paul Chowansky,
Linda & Bill Gyurko

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www.allsaintsbayhead.org