



*All Saints' Episcopal Church
282 Bound Line Road P.O. Box 6015
Wolcott, Connecticut 06716
Church Office Telephone: 203-879-2800*

Priestly Perusings,

Dear Parish Family,

Jerry and I wish to thank you for your beautiful card and very generous Christmas gift of two gift certificates to Wolcott's Mona Lisa restaurant. We are very much looking forward to using those in the near future! Thank you, too, to all whose ministry made the Christmas celebration at All Saints' so beautiful and meaningful: to all the Acolytes; the Altar Guild; to George Giblin, the Choir and instrumental musicians; Lectors, Counters; to the children and teachers of the Church School for their excellent presentation, "The ABCs of Christmas," and to all who joined us to sing "glory to the newborn King!" Over the course of the three Christmas Eve/Day services, 93 people worshiped the Word-made-Flesh at All Saints'! By the time you read this, the Twelve Days of Christmas will be over, the Biblical "wise men" will have come and gone on the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6), and we will stand with Jesus on the banks of the Jordan River, ready to recall our own Baptisms, with joy and wonder in the mystery of our membership in the Body of Christ. Baptism is a commission for ministry; may yours in the coming year be fulfilling to you, benefit the community, and glorify God.

Faithfully,
Susan+

The sympathy of the parish is extended to Virginia Ferranti and her family on the recent death of her daughter, parishioner

Gail Elizabeth Capozzi.

A Requiem Eucharist in thanksgiving for the life of Gail was held at All Saints' on Wednesday, December 29.

May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace.

Emergencies

In the event of a pastoral emergency (such as a death in the family or a trip to the hospital), or a personal or family crisis, please do not hesitate to call your priest, no matter the day or hour. **Susan's home phone is 860-201-4283 and cell phone is 860-806-4284.**

You may also call the **parish office (203-879-2800)** and leave a message.

You may also e-mail me at motherdavidson@gmail.com or at the church:

allsaintswolcott@att.net. I generally read e-mail late morning and late evening. – SLD+

Office Hours

With Bible study now scheduled on Wednesday evenings, Mother Davidson plans to be in the office on Wednesdays, beginning at Noon, and on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 10 AM – 4 PM, unless out on a pastoral call or at a Diocesan clergy meeting. Please feel free to call or stop by – you would be most welcome!

Pledges for the Year 2011

Thank you to all those who have already returned their pledges of time, talent and treasure to support the ministry of Christ at All Saints' in the year 2011. If you have not yet had an opportunity to do so, will you please consider joining us in providing resources to help further that ministry grow and thrive in the coming months? It is never too late to make a pledge!! Please see Kathy Newvine for a packet of materials or pick one up in the tract rack near the entrance to the church or Andrews Hall. Pledges may be adjusted (either down or up!) at any time, by contacting Mother Davidson or Treasurer Red Smith.

Webmasters at Work!

We are grateful to Vestry member Bill Rinkavage for designing our website (www.allsaintswolcott.org) before his December retirement and move to South Carolina, and equally grateful for the ministries of webmasters Michael De Negris, Lorraine DiMauro and Stacey Pratt, who have offered to maintain that website for us and keep it up-to-date. Our site is linked to the website of the Diocese of Connecticut, through which you may find many other links to items of interest on a diocesan, national and international scale. We are very close to “going public” and should be up and running in the next week or two.

Pastoral Visits

Expect a call from your new Priest! It is my hope, over the next several months, to have an opportunity to visit personally with all members of the congregation; no agenda - just so we can become better acquainted and I can hear your hopes and dreams for this wonderful place. So don't be surprised if I call to set up an appointment for a relaxed visit with you at your home, your place of work (if that's possible), or over a cup of tea at the parish office, if that's better for you. SLD+

Bible Studies

The Wednesday evening Bible study group is engaged in a year-long overview of the Bible, using a curriculum titled “Discovering the Bible.” This method is produced by the *Kerygma* program (*Kerygma* is a Greek word which means “the message”), and is a basic

way of looking at themes which occur throughout the Bible, encompassing the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Apocrypha.

Another opportunity for a **daytime, short-term study of Scripture** will take place during Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9). Stay tuned for further information! A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

Are you sure you're really a member of All Saints'?

Often, persons think that regular attendance at a church is sufficient to make them members. Not so in the Episcopal Church, which tracks her members very carefully, recalling Jesus' prayer to his Father "that not one of them be lost." In order to be officially a member of All Saints', all that is required is that you register the date and place of your Baptism with us; that information will be entered into the Parish Register. (For reporting purposes, it would be helpful if you could do that by January 1.) You may also ask for your Letter of Transfer to be sent from another Episcopal church, or become an Episcopalian through Confirmation (for those coming to the church from a Protestant tradition) or by being Received into the Episcopal Church (for those coming from the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox traditions). If you or yours is interested in becoming a member of All Saints', please speak to Mother Davidson. An Inquirer's Class will be forming soon for those who desire Confirmation or Reception into the Episcopal Church, as well as for those who would like a "refresher" on the Episcopal Church.

The Annual Meeting of All Saints' Episcopal Church will take place on **Sunday, January 23**, immediately following the Sunday Eucharist, and be **followed by a potluck lunch** (the sign-up sheet from the earlier planned potluck remains in effect!). The agenda of the Annual Meeting includes the election of three new Vestry members to succeed those who are retiring: **Brad Renner, Bill Rinkavage, and Red Smith**. We are grateful to them for their ministry! (Note: Red Smith will remain in the office of Treasurer, though his Vestry rotation expires.) Vestry members are elected to serve three-year terms, renewable after one year intervals (Canon I.7; Parish By-Law 1). By Canon, ***those eligible to vote in the Annual Meeting*** are Confirmed adult communicants aged 16 and over who for the past six months have been "faithful in attendance at the services of the Church unless for good cause prevented, faithful contributors to its support, and faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God." (Canon I.6) ***In order to be eligible for nomination***, persons must be members of the parish at least 18 years of age, in accord with the above requirements.

A suggested resolution for the New Year (consider it a New Year's gift to your family): Plan your funeral! A rubric in the Book of Common Prayer (p. 445, at the end of the service of Thanksgiving for the Birth or Adoption of a Child) reminds us that part of our duty as Christians is to be good stewards of all our resources, including our bodies; prepare a will (*while you are in good health!*) including a bequest to your church, if you are able; assign advance directives for a time when you are unable to make decisions for yourself – a "living will," power of attorney, and medical power of attorney; and sit down with your priest to plan the details of your own funeral service, with copies of all of

these documents distributed, as appropriate, among your next of kin, your attorney, your doctor and your priest. It will be a tremendous gift to your family, who will then not be forced to make important decisions in haste, in a time of crisis.

Church School

Activities for the journey of confirmation, regional Lock down Retreat for the Middle school students is being planned for February 4, 2011 at All Saints Church. Regional Family and Youth Eucharist Workshop Hosted by Saint Paul's in Woodbury. This is a day activity for families hearing and participating in the first Eucharist with hands on activities for adults and youth.