***Priestly Perusings***

The Holy Spirit is in charge of forming the spiritual life of every Christian, beginning at Baptism. Unlike the usual grade-based education process which takes place in schools, such formation (or shaping or molding) of the faith of a person is not something from which we ever “graduate,” but a process which begins at Baptism and continues beyond the grave, where (as one prayer in the Burial Office puts it) we continue to grow from strength to strength in the service of the Lord. We are on the cusp of another new season of the year; while the civil calendar begins in January and the Church Year calendar begins on the first Sunday of Advent, we all know, deep in our hearts, that the only calendar that really affects our lives is the school calendar! Just about every person under the sun is affected by the beginning of the school year. If you are not a student or a teacher, you are certainly aware of the change in traffic patterns brought about by the addition of school buses to the roads! As this school year begins, I invite your prayers for the safety, wisdom, dedication and perseverance of those who teach and those who learn. Not least in your prayers might be the formation of spiritual health and growth for all of us, rooted in the discipline and practice of common prayer. Most all of our various ministries at All Saints’ - many of which have been in hiatus over the summer - will be resuming, A new addition to the fall season (moved from the spring) will be the All Saints’ Annual Charity Golf Tournament on September 10! The Women’s Group and the Men’s Card Night return. Bible and book studies for adults will be offered. I look forward this year to seeing whole families serving together as ushers, to seeing more of our youth involved in some of our liturgical ministries in addition to service as acolytes – perhaps as lectors (readers), ushers, etc. It would be superb to have a youth representative to the Vestry (which meets on the third Tuesday evening of the month) and a Youth Delegate to Diocesan Convention; those young people would have seat and voice, and, even though unable to vote, would learn a great deal about the way the business of the Church works. New Choir members are always welcome; if you feel called to that ministry, please speak to Roberta Stocksdale, our Organist/Choirmaster. There is always a need for new teachers and aides in the Church School; if you feel called to that very important ministry, please speak to Lead Teacher Rhonda Mazur or Lead Toddler Teacher Donna Lydem. Making use of the gifts you have received to glorify God and build up the kingdom in our corner of the world is a Christian privilege, as well as a responsibility, and good stewardship of God’s blessings. Let us begin this fall with hearts renewed and voices raised in praise of the God from whom all blessings flow!

Faithfully,

*Susan+*

**THE ECUMENICAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS** will take place at **1 PM on Sunday, Oct. 2** on the Wolcott Green. You are encouraged to bring your vaccinated pets – all creatures great and small! – to this brief service for a blessing by yours truly or Fr. Donovan of St. Pius X, or Pastor Sue Strachan of the Wolcott Congregational Church. *No rain date is scheduled.*

**THE CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CONNECTICUT will take place Saturday – Sunday, November 19-20. For the first time, the Convention Eucharist will take place at the Convention Center in Hartford, on Sunday, November 20, at 10:30 AM. The Preacher at that “Celebration of the Spirit” will be our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry!** Bp. Curry is one of the world’s great preachers, and it is our privilege to welcome him to Connecticut. All Episcopalians in the Diocese are invited to attend, and, to that end, we are exploring the possibility of renting a bus for those from All Saints’ who wish to attend. More information about the bus will be forthcoming. If you are planning to attend the Eucharist, you are asked to register online at the ECCT website [www.episcopalct.org](http://www.episcopalct.org) ***and also to sign up on our own bulletin board***, so we know which members of All Saints’ will be attending. There is no cost to register, but the Bishops’ Office would like to know how many to expect and we need to know how many will be interested in bus transportation. The plan for that Sunday morning is to offer a service of Morning Prayer at All Saints’ for those who are unable to attend the Convention Eucharist.

**We have received information from the Bishops’ Office that Bishop Laura Ahrens is scheduled to make her Visitation to us on Sunday, JUNE 18, 2017. CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION will be be offered as part of that Visitation.** Our current Youth Confirmation Class will be preparing for this throughout the coming Church School Year. If you or yours is desirous of being Confirmed or Received at that time, please let Susan know soon. An adult Inquirer’s Class will be offered in the spring, for those interested in preparing for these rites.

**BECOMING A MEMBER OF ALL SAINTS’** is really very simple. If you have been Baptized with water in the name of the Trinity in any Christian tradition, all you have to do is register your Baptism with us – this makes you a member of All Saints’ Parish, but Baptism makes one a Christian; it does *not* make you an Episcopalian! If you are already a Confirmed Episcopalian, please just ask Mother Davidson to request your Letter of Transfer from your former parish. In order to become an Episcopalian, you must be Confirmed (for those who have been raised in most Protestant traditions, as well as other Episcopal churches) or Received (for those who have been raised in the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox Churches) by a bishop in the Episcopal Church. Preparation for Confirmation/Reception of adults is offered through Inquirers’ Classes (one will be held at the convenience of those who sign up). For more information on all of these, and to apply for Baptism of adults or children, please speak to Mother Davidson. While celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is a joyous event possible on any Sunday of the Church Year (except during Lent) the Prayer Book suggests five occasions on which Baptism is particularly appropriate, and one of those is All Saints’ Day (this year, All Saints’ Sunday is Nov. 6).

**COMMISSIONING OF CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS and CHOIR** will take place on **Sunday, September 11**, as they begin their ministries for the program year.

**ACOLYTE TRAINING FOR NEW CRUCIFER/SERVERS AND TORCH-BEARERS will take place early in the fall.** Adults and children ten years of age and up are encourage to sign up on the bulletin board if you are interested in joining this ministry which is so important to our liturgical life!

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

 It becomes obvious that stewardship is everything we do after we say, “We believe.” Servanthood ministry is the essential way we are true to God and ourselves in our words and actions. To be a steward is to act faithfully by being the children of God we say we are.

 Together, we are, as the Body of Christ, the stewards of all of the gifts of God. Then, stewardship is the main work of the church. If everything we do after we say we believe is a correct reflection of our human nature in the light of the resurrection, then stewardship is the central activity of the church. We are the Church because we are stewards.

The Rev. Ronald L. Reed

Scripture tells us that God first placed human beings in a garden to practice stewardship: cultivation, tending, toiling and caring for God’s garden (Genesis 2:15). From the opening verses of Genesis, God blesses and calls all of creation to be fruitful and flourish. As God’s stewards, it is our highest privilege to use the gifts that have been entrusted to us – relationships and resources – to ensure that the entire created order reaches its potential of life abundant.

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

As of this writing, all looks in order to have a successful tournament at Hawk's Landing Country Club in Southington, on September 10. We have a full slate of golfers participating; and the donations received to date have exceeded expectations, thanks in large part due to the efforts of Red Smith. The only hope now is to be blessed with good weather.

Note that this year's tournament is being dedicated to the memory of our long time committee member, Maurice St. Pierre. For the last 16 years, Maury worked tirelessly to ensure our tourney was a success. He will be dearly missed.

**SUNDAES ON SUNDAY**!

The first day of church school will be Sunday, September 11th. We’ll celebrate with ice-cream sundaes after the service, so bring your sweet tooth! Church school kids may bring a photo or souvenir from summer vacation to share.

AJ Perras and Jackie Pineau will be leading the confirmation class this year. Rhonda Mazur will be teaching the middle school class. Donna Lydem and assistants will be in charge of the toddler division.

We are excited to get started! If you have interest in teaching or would be willing to be on call as a substitute, please contact Rhonda. See you September 11th!

~Rhonda (860) 583-8584 home

 (860) 995-8918 cell

**TAG SALE/BAKE SALE**

We are having a tag sale/bake sale on Saturday, September 24th from 9:00 to 2:00.  We need help setting up on Friday evening, helping out on Saturday and cleaning up at 2:00.  A sign-up sheet will be posted.  If any of our youth are available from 2:00 – 3:00, we could really use your help packing up. Ending at 2:00 will give us time to get everything to the transfer station before 3:00.  **We need a commitment from someone with a truck or trailer that can bring the left over items to the transfer station.**  We are also asking The Eagle’s Nest to come before we end to take what they can use. Please help us with donations, your wonderful baked goods and whatever time you can give.

Reminders:

No clothes or electronics

Newspapers and plastic bags are needed.

Baked goods can be brought Friday night or Saturday morning.