



The Grapevine



God's Purpose at ASLC is to welcome and accept everyone, improving their lives by embodying Christ's love.

Volume 21, Issue 12

Mission: To be a family of faith, empowered by God, to proclaim Jesus Christ.

December 2018



Pr. Joshua W. Gyson

and the Prez says . . .

By: Paul Oldenburg

It's Advent and you know what that means. Pastor's gonna be talkin' about "Hopeful Anticipation" for a month. And that is true, I can assure you! But I do know how stressful this can be. It's something else to add you your already busy thoughts. It goes against how you feel too often this time of year when stress is building. And besides that, what does "Hopeful Anticipation" really mean to me when I just want this time of year to be over already. "I'm not too sure I have the energy to do that right now!" (This is going through my mind, too.) And so to help us with this, to help us get in the right mood for Advent... I'd like to share a real life story about how important "Hopeful Anticipation" was for us this past year at All Saints (and how it always will be).

This past summer a family in our congregation came up with a divinely inspired idea to build a library for A Brighter Community, a low-income preschool with which ASLC has a long history. And it seemed like a really interesting way to deepen this relationship. They brought the idea to me, I shared it with some Church leaders, and almost immediately the process of building this library became a reality. Many people donated books (I know you watched the pile grow). Others organized. A site visit was made. Measurements were taken. Installation dates scheduled.

In a relatively short period we had just about everything we needed to make this new ministry a success. And then one week before we were going to install this library into the school, the preschool director called and said that they now needed that room that was reserved for the library to be used as a pre-k classroom. All of this work seemed like it had led to disappointment, both by the school and the church.

We didn't know what to do, but what we didn't do was give up hope. Instead we decided to just wait and see what God was going to do. Our plans weren't happening. But we also realized that God must have been up to something when God started this ministry of building a library. So...the books sat. The decorations got dusty. For months we waited in hopeful anticipation that something was going to happen. And then it did. Completely out of the blue, the preschool director called and said that she really still wanted a library for the kids and that she was willing to think outside of the box. The room that we had reserved was a 'no go' still, but that wasn't going to stop us from helping these kids and moving forward.



God was up to something. Something better than we had thought. After a new site visit and new ideas and new dimensions, we all decided that this library was never meant to be hidden in a back room of the school. God had stopped us from such a mistake. God had been up to something. And our hopeful anticipation was fulfilled when this new idea came forward that the library should be in the entrance of the school. Instead of putting it in the back where it might not get used as much, this new library was going to be the focal point of the entrance at A Brighter Community. That way kids and families could take books home with them every day if they wanted. Taking a book and bringing

a book back would be as easy as ever. This way it would be used how we had hoped.

From the Pastor continued on Page 2

A new church year is beginning. We are anxiously anticipating Christ's coming. While waiting why not look at what is going on around us at All Saints.

Wednesday nights will be Advent Worship Services. These will help us along the path to Christ's coming.

The Out of the Darkness Walk on December 8th is another way for you to participate. You can show your support for those who are survivors of suicide attempts, and the families that lost someone to suicide.

Always a joyous time for our congregation is the Youth Christmas Program that will take place during worship on December 16th. Following worship will be a goodie exchange and cookie decorating. We will wrap up the day with caroling at Magnolia Manor.

There are so many ways to show Christ working through us helping those in need in our community. I'm sure we all will help those in need whatever way we can.

Peace,

Paul

From the Pastor continued from Page 1

This project of building a library at A Brighter Community was like a roller coaster. There were ups and downs, delights and disappointments. But through it all we continued to live in hopeful anticipation that God was up to something greater than we first imagined, and it turned out to be true! God has used us this year to reach so many people with the gift of reading, so many families in our community that would otherwise be limited to these resources. It is truly amazing how our living in hopeful anticipation mattered this year for us and for everybody. And so let's never forget that it always will, no matter how much work it is this time of year. "Hopeful Anticipation" is just a part of who we are.

Pr. Josh

A New Year on the Path

By Melanie Werner

Happy New Year! Although it seems that this may be rushing the season a bit, it is actually the beginning of a new church year. Advent starts our new year with a season of watching and waiting for the coming of Jesus. We don't do watching and waiting well though. At least I know that I don't! My Christmas decorations go up Thanksgiving weekend, including a manger with Jesus. In the past, I would wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas day, but my excitement for the season has overtaken my desire to be liturgically correct.

Yet there is something special about Advent that shouldn't be overlooked by our rush to get to Christmas. It can be a quiet time of reflection and somberness. A time when darkness comes earlier each night but is brightened a bit with each lighting of the advent candles. A time to slow down, take a deep breath and wait; wait for the change that is to come. Blessed Advent!

Meals on Wheels



MOW is a private non-profit community organization that provides hot nutritious meals on weekdays to the elderly and homebound. Volunteers are needed to deliver a route in their own vehicle which takes about an hour. Drop off is between 10 am and 1 pm depending on location. If you would like to help, please visit www.MOWTampa.org and click the green Volunteer button or call (813) 238-8410 to get started!

YES! of America

Are you still looking for a way to help out a family in need at Christmas time? Our families come recommended to us as a last resort and we personally pick items they are desiring under \$10 plus other things that are donated to fill a 13 gallon bag for each member of the family.

Volunteers are needed at our workshop office. Workshop items can be placed in our barrel, or give a monetary donation to YES! and they can do the shopping for you. And finally, pray with us to help give a hand up, not a hand out to so many in need.

Thanks for all you do and have done for YES!; it is greatly appreciated!

Brown Bags

On December 9th, we will be packing some extra bags for the families at A Brighter Community Preschool. These bags are in addition to our regular brown bag lunches, and include some much needed food staples for the entire family.

If you would like to donate items for these bags, please use the following link to our [online registry](#). Your donation will be sent directly to us. If you would like to help with the packing of the bags, please save the date.

"These are all of our children. We will all profit or pay for whatever they become." - James Baldwin

Christian Social Services

There are still a few C.S.S. Angels on the tree in the narthex. Simply select an angel, check out the gift suggestion, and purchase a gift. Please return wrapped with the tag securely attached by Sunday, December 16th, and place around the base of the Chrismon tree. A \$25 max per gift is suggested as each child will receive multiple gifts. Thank you for helping to support families in need this Christmas!

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for Me" (Matt. 25:40)

Free Little Pantry

The free little pantry provides an option outside of traditional pantries which run on limited hours and provide only food. Along with non-perishable food, this pantry also contains personal hygiene products and baby supplies such as diapers and wipes. Please place donations in the barrel in Malivuk Hall.

Mission Team Meeting

Because of Wednesday Advent worship, our next Mission Team meeting will be moved to Thursday, December 13th at 7 pm. As always, these are open meetings for anyone to attend.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January 2019 Grapevine is Monday, December 17th.

Faith Formation

Our last Faith formation class for 2018 will be on December 9th. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 27th. There is something for everyone from infant to adult. Nursery age to Pre-K will be in the nursery where they will hear a Bible study and have coloring time. Kindergarten through 5th grade will be in Classroom 1, learning to connect what they hear in worship with their everyday lives. Those in grade 6 to 8 will participate in Confirmation upstairs in the youth room. High School student will meet in the sanctuary and hear how the Bible stories connect with real life stories in the here and now. Adults will review the day's lessons in Malivuk Hall.

**Deacon Continuing Education Class
January 14th at 6:30 pm**

As part of the Deacon Continuing Education Classes, Pastor Josh will be doing a class on Ethics. Many people want there to be a single right answer to ethical questions, because they genuinely want to do the 'right' things. But often, there isn't one right answer—there are several right answers, or just some least worse answers—and we must choose between them. This class will give us an overview of Ethics, leading up to Christian Ethics, complete with case studies. If you are interested in this class, please let Pr. Josh know.

Music Notes

During Advent, adult choir practices will be held on Wednesday evenings after the worship service, around 8 pm.



There will be practice for the Youth Christmas Program on Saturday, December 15th at 9 am and the program will be part of worship on Sunday, December 16th. In 2019, youth music practices are January 27th and February 24th after Faith Formation with pizza for lunch.

If you have any questions about practices, or are interested in doing special music, please see Marcia Greensfelder.

Deacon Class

Tuesday, December 18th at 6:30 pm

We will be having a class on Luther's Spirituality. Anyone interested in the class is welcome to attend. There is a book that must be read ahead of time, so please see Pr. Josh for more information. If you would like more information on how to become a Synod Parish Deacon, please contact Pastor Josh for information on this program.

Annual Meeting

January 20th after Worship

The annual meeting is a time for us as a congregation to reflect upon the past year, and to look ahead into the new year together as we continue to strive to do God's work in the world. This is an open meeting with no set agenda.

Worship Time is 9:47 am

Acolyte: December 2: Aaliyah Caynor. December 9: Seannah McCarty. December 16: Nya Williams. December 23: Emma Gyson. December 30: Aishlyn McCarty.

Altar Guild: Set-up: December 2, 9 & 16: Cindy Kamp. December 23 & 30: Melanie Werner. Clean-Up: December 2, 9 & 16: Donna Bryant and Vi Ficarrota. December 23 & 30: Dorothy North and Ann Noya.

Assisting Minister: December 2 & 9: Mackenzie Gyson. December 16, 23 & 30: Anthony Williams.

Lectors: 12/2: Anthony Williams. 12/9: Paul Oldenburg. 12/16: Steve McCarty. 12/23: Suzy Tkacik. 12/30: Savannah Stewart.

Crucifer: December 2 & 9: David Sticklin. December 16, 23, & 30: Dave Sanders.

Ushers: December 2, 9, & 16: Pete Lacko, Paul Lunseth, James Shewbarran and John Stewart. December 23 & 30: The Walkowiak and Williams Families.

Projector: 12/2: Jasmine Chellarajan. 12/9: Hannah Brown. 12/16: Paul Lunseth. 12/23: David Walkowiak. 12/30: JB Williams.

Tellers: Larry Bryant and Maureen Sherman.

Greeters: December 2 & 9: Kathy Miller. December 16, 23, & 30: John Prox.

Communion Bread: Joan Morris.

Communion Wine: Glenn and Jean Ploeckelmann.

~ ~ ENABLERS ~ ~

**Chrismon Tree Decorating
December 1st at 9 am**

What better way to get into the spirit of the season than to come help decorate the church for Advent? It is also a good time to hear about why the tree is a Chrismon tree, not a Christmas tree. And, why the decorations are all white and gold, instead of the many colors found on a lot of trees.

**Out of the Darkness Walk
December 8th at 10 am**

When you walk in an Out of the Darkness Walk, you join the effort to raise awareness and funds that allow the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss. A group from All Saints will be participating in the walk taking place at Al Lopez Park on Himes Avenue.

**Goodie Exchange & Cookie Decorating
Sunday, December 16th**

What a busy, fun-filled day at All Saints. Not only are the C.S.S. Angel gifts due, but the Youth Christmas Program will take place during Worship. We will also do a Goodie Exchange/Cookie decorating after worship, followed by caroling at Magnolia Manor.



To participate in the exchange, just make a batch of whatever goodies you want, bring an empty container, and we'll swap them so everyone goes home with a variety of treats! After the exchange, we will decorate cookies together to take home.

By noon, we'll head over to Magnolia Manor, which is right down the street, for Christmas Caroling with the residents, many of whom don't have relatives who live locally. They especially enjoy seeing kids.

What a great way to spread Christmas joy!

Mission Team Installation

Members of the 2019 Mission Team will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 6th.

The Season of Advent

We are all familiar with advent calendars, where you open the door and get a treat. Well, this year we are going to try something new, a reverse advent calendar. You start with an empty basket and then every day from **December 2nd to Christmas Eve** you add something to the basket, then bring it with you to worship. You can put a tag on the basket for CSS, Free Little Pantry, or YES! What a great way to help a cause as you remember and count down to Christmas. Any questions see Cindy Kamp or call the church office.



**Christmas Eve Worship
Monday, December 24th**



**Family Candlelight Service at 5 pm
Candlelight Services at 8 and 10 pm**

Sign up in the narthex to sponsor Poinsettias to decorate our worship space during Christmas. Each poinsettia is \$8 and payment can be included with your offering.

Labyrinth Work Dates

December 29th and January 5th from 9 am until noon

The Second Sunday meal was a huge success, raising all the funds needed to start our project! In December, we will begin to stake off the area in preparation for two scheduled work dates, December 29th and January 5th. Work will begin at 9 am and will wrap up with lunch served at noon. We hope you will be able to come out and help!

Book Club



For our next Book Club is on January 4, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the home of Marcia Greensfelder. We will read [The Mystery of Julia Episcopa](#) by John I Rigoli and Diane Cummings. It's Book 1 of The Vatican Chronicles and has two intertwined stories set 2000 years ago AND in modern day. Please bring something to share and your favorite beverage.

Winter Fest—Florida Style!

All Saints will be holding a Winter Fest on February 23rd for the whole community. There will be tables available for crafts, and a bake sale. There will also be food, fun, and games for the children. It will take many hands to make this a fun, successful day. If you have ideas, or are able and willing to help, please see David Sticklin, Duncan Engel, or Melanie Werner. Watch the bulletins, newsletters and Facebook for more information to come.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, differently-abled or anything that too often divides us.

Our unity is in Christ.

Recycling Tips!

From Thanksgiving through the end of the year, the amount of trash generated in the United States goes up 25%. Here are some tips to consider when recycling holiday papers and cards:

- The materials that go into making some wrapping paper result in it not always being accepted for recycling:
- Wrapping paper is often dyed, laminated and/or contains non-paper additives such as gold and silver colored shapes, glitter, plastics, etc. which cannot be recycled
- Some wrapping paper is very thin and contains few good quality fibers for recycling
- A lot of wrapping paper has sticky tape attached to it which makes it very difficult to recycle. Before recycling, remove any sticky tape and decorations such as ribbons and bows as these cannot be recycled.
- Wrapping paper can only be recycled if it passes the scrunch test - simple paper wrap can be recycled but foil or glitter-decorated paper cannot and needs to go in the general waste.
- Most cards are paper based and can be recycled, along with their envelopes, either in your household recycling collection, at local recycling points such as household waste recycling centers or at collection banks in supermarkets.
- Any embellishments such as ribbons or glitter cannot be recycled so should be removed first by simply tearing off that section.



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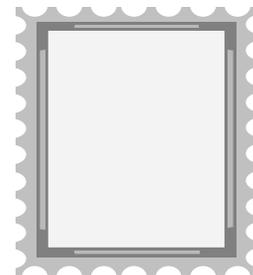
PastorJosh@allsaintstampa.org
office@allsaintstampa.org

Mission Team

Pastor:	Joshua Gyson
President:	Paul Oldenburg
V President:	Cindy Kamp
Secretary:	Nicole Aiello
Treasurer:	Anne Sylvester
Emma Brown	Larry Bryant
Larry Hickman	Heidi Lacko
Rob Sabatini	Anthony Williams

Donation Options

- ♥ Sunday Offering Plate
- ♥ On-Line Banking



Meets 2nd Thursday of the month!