

The Outlook



Saint Asaph's Episcopal Church
www.saintasaphs.org



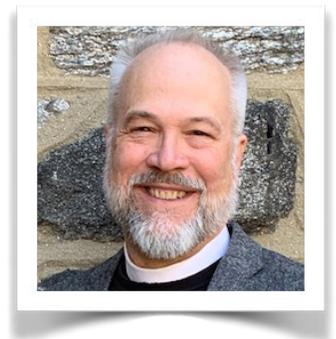
2020 Christmas Edition

Christmas Letter from Fr. Barry Harte

Dear Friends at Saint Asaph's,

Blessed Advent and a very merry Christmas to you all!

The vaccine for COVID has arrived in Philadelphia. We know that for many of us, receiving the vaccine is still months away and then there will be more waiting until enough of us have had the vaccine that we might be able to return to some sense of normalcy. Yes, nothing, I think will ever feel quite normal again. Masks may be a part of our everyday lives for some time. We will, however, in the near future, no longer have to worry about contracting COVID and ending up in the hospital. Maybe we will look a little differently at the way we chose to live our lives. I know it will be so good to gather together again, for fellowship and praying and singing! As always, keep wearing your masks, wash your hands and maintain proper social distancing.



For us, here at Saint Asaph's, for the very near future we will have many opportunities to be together on Zoom and Facebook.

The Tuesday/Thursday Compline at 9:00 pm will continue through Tuesday, December 22. This liturgy is brief and a lovely way to end the day, please join us. There will be only one Compline on Wednesday, December 30 and again only one for the first week of the new year on December 6th- the Feast of the Epiphany. Our regular schedule resumes the week of January 10th.

Wednesday, December 16th is the last of the Wednesday's with your priests for the year. Watch for information regarding a new discussion group with the Rector beginning January 13- our book will be Love is the Way by our presiding Bishop- Michael Curry. Some books are available in the office or order yours to have in time for our discussions.

Mother Barbara's discussion group continues through this Thursday and then takes a break for the holidays.

(Continued on next page)

Now as to Christmas Eve-

At 5:00 pm we will gather on Zoom for our first liturgy of the evening- this will be our Family Service with our virtual Christmas Pageant and story telling. Get your photo in soon to be part of the story! There will be carols and a candle lighting- be sure to have a candle or two at home ready to join us- I want to see candles in your zoom squares! The Eucharist will be celebrated. We will provide the sacrament to those of you who wish to drive to the campus immediately following the liturgy- this will be the only opportunity to receive the sacrament on Christmas Eve. As of this writing and weather permitting and no further increases in COVID, there is the opportunity to come to campus to join in a brief carol sing. You will have to reserve a spot with Roy Harker, our director of music as space is limited. When you arrive to receive Eucharist, you may just get to hear some of your favorite Carols. Please register for the carol sing. We are limited to the number that can gather. Also there will be no access to the building. The singing and distribution will end at 7:00 pm.



At 9:45 please join us again on Zoom. The prelude will begin immediately. Your staff will be here and celebrating the traditional Christ Mass with music and carols and sermon and Eucharist and candle lighting. Again, have your candle ready to join in the sharing of the light.

Christmas morning please tune into our Cathedral for the Christmas Day Mass with our Bishop.

To be sure, this year has been unlike any other in our lifetimes. May there never be another like it! But God has been with us all along. God is with us, Immanuel. This is what it is all about- our God is present, in the Christ Child, by the power of God's most Holy Spirit, in Word and in Sacrament, in the gathering of God's faithful people, even on Zoom and Facebook.

May the God of peace and love and joy sustain us in these days and bring us to the other side, out of darkness and into the light of God's marvelous grace.

Merry Christmas!

Barry+

Office Hours & Meeting Dates

Holiday Office Closing Schedule - December 25th, December 29th through January 1, 2021.

Next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2021 @ 7:00pm

St. Asaph's Zoom Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections will take place following the 10am service on Sunday, January 24, 2021. Committee leaders are requested to email their reports to the church office **by Monday, January 18th**, to ensure enough time for booklet preparation. Further details regarding the election and Vestry Candidates will be made available soon.

News From Our Vestry

From The Rector's Warden

December 2020



“Therefore keep awake!” Jesus says ... “And what I say to all: Keep awake!” The word is *gregoreite* in Greek; it’s the same word Jesus uses in the garden of Gethsemane when he asks his disciples to stay awake to pray with him. Prepare the way of the Savior.

This Advent season is like none we have ever seen. Rising Covid cases are forcing families and friends to stay apart – or to stay home together – to keep safe from this dangerous virus. We’re not gathering for holiday parties or to hear live the wonderful music composed for this time of the year. It feels like such a loss, just when we long to be together.

Yet we’re called to prepare, to stay alert to the coming of Christ. We’re told there is always hope: Christmas will come. The vaccine will be available, if not quickly enough.

So how do we stay awake during these times? What comes to my mind is creative hope. Creativity keeps fresh the goal of God’s realm on earth, as we find new ways to feed the hungry, reach out to each other, support the church, and gather for worship. Both the parish and staff at St. Asaph’s have been extraordinarily inspired as we adjust to this different time.

Think of the ways we’ve pivoted. Our virtual services, with images of each of us in our own homes, offer a moving intimacy in communion. They even bring in worshippers from beyond our geographic range. Roy has a variety of singers at services, and the sound gets better all the time. Pledging is coming in at almost normal levels, despite financial hardships. Discussion groups, Godly Play, evening Compline all bring us together in ways we never had considered before. If you picked up an Advent bag, you have a tiny Baby Jesus – a very tangible reminder of the coming Savior.

So thank you for your persistence and your creative hope as we move through this special season. May the Advent candles we light remind us to stay awake and to stay alive to that which binds us together, everything good and true and beautiful.

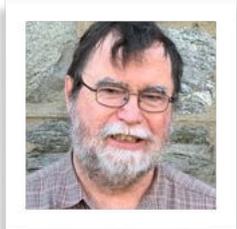
In gratitude,

Diana Post

Property News

Grounds Update

Submitted by: Steve Sheeran



During the past spring foundation shrubs and flowers were planted along the new fence that separates St. Asaph from the Bala Cynwyd Shopping Center.

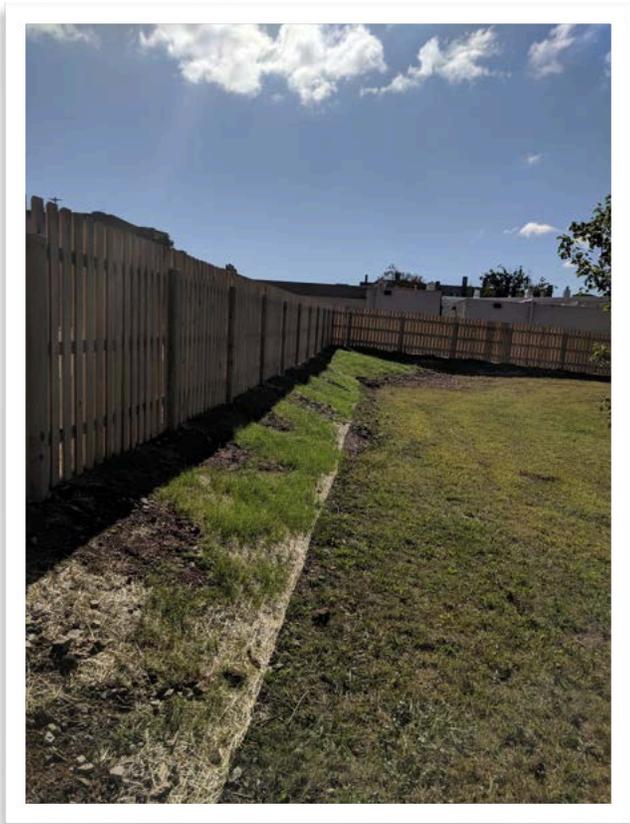


Photo of fence without plants



Photo of fence with the addition of plants

Back on June 2 a storm with wind sheer destroyed the American Elm in the inner circle that was planted as a Memorial Tree for Saint Asaph's 125th Anniversary back in 2013. In November the tree was replaced with another American Elm.



Photo of destroyed elm tree



Photo of replacement elm tree

Also, numerous trees on the church campus were transplanted to the lower field to start a green buffer between the campus and the Bala Cynwyd Shopping Center. A Red Oak and a Star Magnolia were donated by Frank Schmieder and Nasreen Malik (unfortunately the red oak was blown over during a thunder storm). The following were transplanted in the Fall: a White Oak donated by Alan Wood; an Atlantic White Cedar, Sorrel Tree, Sweetbay Magnolia and a Paperbark Maple donated by Steve and Pam Sheeran; and the following volunteers found on campus: a Red Oak, a Black Oak, a Pin Oak, a Tulip Tree, and a Northern Red Cedar.



Photo of White Oak

St. Asaph's New Sexton

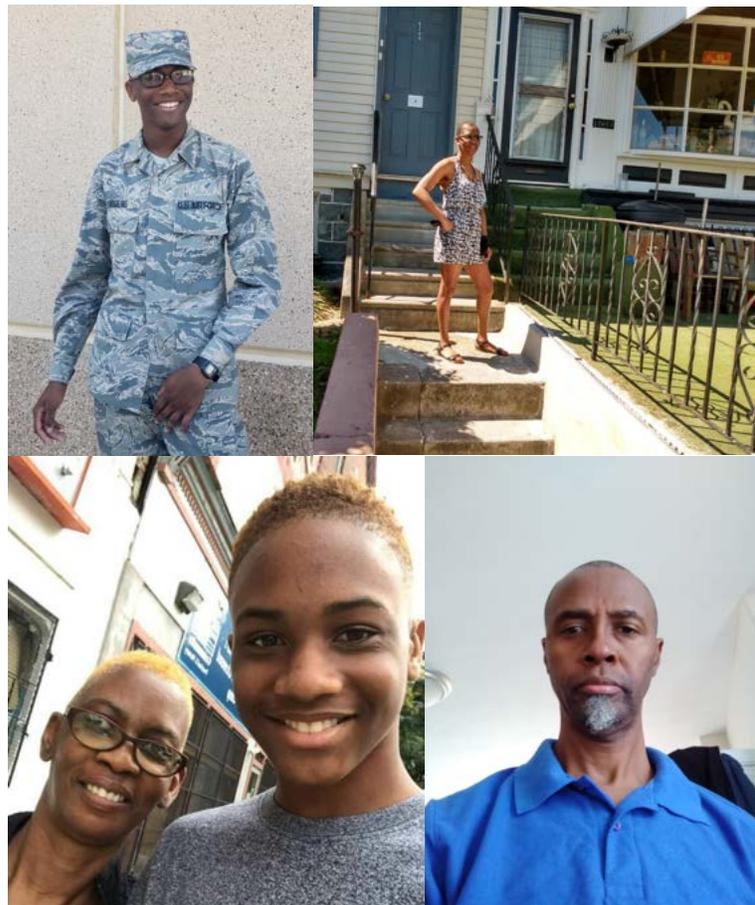


Meet Wade Rogers, St. Asaph's new Sexton. Wade was hired in March at the start of the pandemic lockdown so most of you have yet to meet him. He moved to Philadelphia from Trinidad and Tobago in 2019.

Wade lives in West Philadelphia with his wife, Cherry Ann of 13 years. Cherry works in the healthcare industry. His son, Aquilla graduated in 2019 from the U.S. Air Force Academy where he majored in Accounting, and is now serving in the U.S. Air Force in Colorado.

Wade loves cooking as his background consists of working in large hotels in Tobago. Also a bit of a green thumb, he's always helping Audrey Dempster with gardening, to beautify her back yard!

During his time at St. Asaph's so far, besides his normal cleaning duties, Wade has been very busy with painting, especial the Rectory's apartment and the Church's anti-sacristy area. He has also been instrumental in the grounds work done in the graveyard and the lower field by the shopping center.



Music & Fine Arts

Upcoming Music Events

Submitted by: Roy Harker, Director of Music and the Arts

Christmas Carolers Awake!



St. Asaph's is hosting a Christmas Carol Sing on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 6:00pm on the Labyrinth outside of the church. Come join us for a reading of traditional carols and anthems for the season led by our quartet. In addition to a mask mandate, this 30-minute outdoor event will require registration, since we are limited as to the number of people that may be present at one time in this location. If you would like to

join in, please write to Roy at music@saintasaphs.org to get on the list. Of course, this event is weather-dependent, and any cancelations will be announced as soon possible. Be sure to bring your Santa Hat to stay warm and a flashlight to read the music program!



An Organ Update

The organ that you hear each Sunday via our streaming worship services is still awaiting its final disposition. The pipework at the rear of the church – about 400 pipes in total – is still in Ohio. All of the restoration work is done, but Covid restrictions on commerce and travel between Ohio and Pennsylvania are still in place. We have no definitive word on when this restriction will be lifted, so no date for the installation and final tuning and voicing of the completed instrument has been established.

In the meantime, we are still able to enjoy the remarkable new voices of this instrument. I am greatly impressed with every nuance of sound, color, and expression that each voice offers. It is truly a joy to play. We all look forward to the time when we can all enjoy the full range of this new instrument in person. The organ community at large is also waiting in anticipation of what will be an instrument truly unique to our region.



Virtual Christmas Pageant

Submitted by: Mother Barbara Briggs, Associate Priest



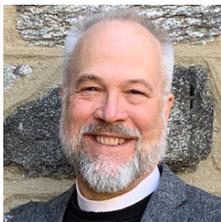
This Christmas Eve at 5:00PM we will present our first ever virtual Christmas Pageant! We are seeking photographs of you as a character in the story. Children and adults, alike, are invited to dress up and send a picture to Roy Harker at music@saintasaphs.org by December 20. The more participants, the merrier! Here are the characters in order of appearance: *Donkey, Sheep, Mary, Joseph, Baby, Jesus, Shepherds, Angels, Camels, Kings and The star.* Choose one and send your photo to Roy!

Adult Formation & Conversations

Bible Study with Mother Barbara

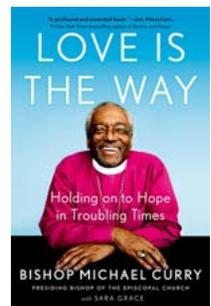
Tuesdays at 12pm you are invited to join a lectionary Bible study to explore the Gospel lesson for the following Sunday. We will read slowly through it together and explore questions, consternations, and discoveries.

Anti-Racism Discussion Group - Thursdays in January beginning at 7:30pm. Those who wish may join us for Compline at 9:00pm. *Sacred Ground* continues with Session 7. Please join us for an ongoing conversation about racism as we seek to undo racist behaviors in ourselves and in our world. All are welcome!



Conversation with the Rector Series

Join Fr. Barry on Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 – 7:00 pm: Beginning on January 13, 2021 for discussion on the book titled, “*Love Is The Way, Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*” by Bishop Michael Curry.



As the descendant of slaves and the son of a civil rights activist, Bishop Michael Curry's life illustrates massive changes in our times. Much of the world met Bishop Curry when he delivered his sermon on the redemptive power of love at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Here, he expands on his message of hope in an inspirational road map for living the way of love, illuminated with moving lessons from his own life. Through the prism of his faith, ancestry, and personal journey, *Love Is the Way* shows us how America came this far and, more important, how to go a whole lot further.

The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity.

Compline - Night Prayer

Tuesdays and Thursdays (Weekly) at 9pm

The offering of prayer late in the evening, by laity, religious orders or clergy, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote:



I lie down in peace and take rest my rest for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid. Night Prayer derives its content from the wisdom of the centuries in Scripture and above all in the psalms, but also from contemporary Christian experience of God. It celebrates the awareness that each of us who tries to pray is a part of the human whole. So we are taken over the threshold from daytime, not in a mood of self-centered spirituality, but as representatives of humanity, acknowledging our creaturehood

Youth Formation News

Children's Formation Curriculum

Submitted by: Mother Barbara Briggs

Join us Sundays at 9:00 AM Virtually for Godly Play. Email the Church Office at office@saintasaphs.org if you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive an invite.

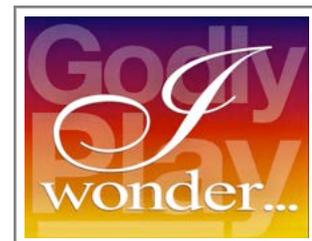
The Godly Play® method is a curriculum of spiritual practice exploring the mystery of God's presence in our lives. How exciting is it that God is inviting us into—and pursuing us in the midst of—scripture and spiritual experience? Godly Play practice teaches us to listen for God and to make authentic and creative responses to God's call in our lives, so it is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance.

Godly Play is an amazing way for adults and children to experience God's presence, love, and grace.

- ❖ Godly Play values process, openness, discovery, community and relationships.
- ❖ Godly Play models the worship life, stories, symbols and rituals of Christian congregations.
- ❖ Godly Play allows practitioners to discover relevant and personal theological meaning.
- ❖ Godly Play nurtures participants to larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering and play.

Whether you are teaching it or are a class member, you get to:

- Engage your innate spirituality.
- Deepen your understanding of religious language.
- Make meaning of the Biblical stories.
- Discover more about yourself in relationship with God and others in community.



Here at St. Asaph's we are deepening the Godly Play experience by making our own story-telling materials and integrating some of the materials we already have. Sometimes this means creating new story-material to go with the lessons appointed for the day, and sometimes it means sticking to the schedule in the Godly Play curriculum.



New Advent Candle Stand - We thank Bob Ranando very much for the gift of our new Advent Wreath which is dedicated in honor of the members and hard work of our Altar Guild. Many thanks to Bob for his good shepherding of our Altar Guild. The new smaller wreath allows us all to share in these coming weeks that our celebration of the birth of Christ is soon upon us. Thank you!

News From Our Members

What Have You Been Up To?

Members have been invited to share what they've been doing, reading, learning, creating during these days of limited access to what was our "daily norm." It is always wonderful to learn new things about our members and to welcome any good news they have to share. See our recent submissions:

Andrew McDonald

Andrew MacDonald and Angus here,

What have I been up to? I have been figuring out what to do. As you all know, Ethan passed and I am alone with Angus (my furry friend). As the restaurant industry has fallen amid Covid-19, I needed to find another path.

In eight grade , when I was singing with St Asaph's choir, I also took a test at Bala Cynwyd Middle School. The results were that my friends should become doctors and lawyers and I should become a truck driver (I did not like that result at the time).

So here I am. I graduated Allstate Career School! I have obtained a class A CDL drivers license, and I am going to drive across the lower forty-eight and see America! Angus will stay with a family in Ardmore for the beginning, six weeks or so (andI will miss him , greatly) but then Angus will go with me on in the truck. If you believe that dogs like car rides, I believe that Angus will really love Truck rides! " I like big trucks and I can not lie".

I will continue to attend church service via Zoom. And I ask any of you that "Facebook" to friend me on that platform. It could be a good way to stay in touch.

I am glad that I found a new path, but I am a little scared of the future. In any event, it will be interesting. At least I will not be in this apartment, hiding from Covid. I will be busy again driving across the U.S.A and and learning about and seeing a lot of new things.

I plan to share many of my new experiences on Facebook.

I send my love to all of the folks at St. Asaph's.



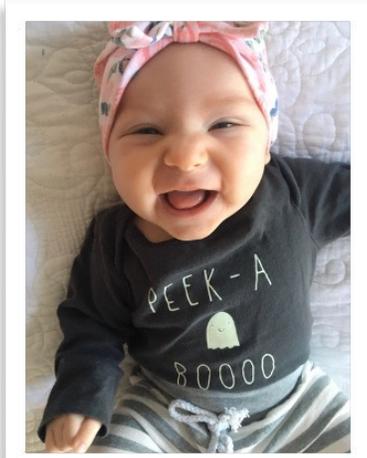
Steve Chawaga – Legal Aid

Steve Chawaga has completed his first year as founder and director of Episcopal Legal Aid, which brings free civil legal aid services to communities around the Diocese that lack equal access to justice. Partnering with churches, schools and other institutions that provide free meals or food boxes, Episcopal Legal Aid creates a pop-up office while the distribution is being made. This enables clients who would have difficulty traveling to a legal aid office, or who are not comfortable sharing their problems, a safe space where they can get help. Episcopal Legal Aid held 50 clinics and served over 200 clients in its first year. For more information or to support Episcopal Legal Aid, you can go to www.episcopallegalaid.org.

Steve Chawaga
Executive Director, Episcopal Legal Aid
610-709-6665
schawaga@episcopallegalaid.org



The Novo-Chawaga Family



Laurie Novo and Steve Chawaga welcomed their first grandchild on June 28. Lily Novo Chawaga was born to their son Peter and daughter-in-law Jessilyn. Peter, Jessilyn and Lily have recently moved to Kentucky, where Peter edits an on-line journal and Jessilyn will be working as an architect. Lily expects to work on her standing and walking skills.

Virginia Powell



Dear Friends,

I'm in the process of making the Peace Lessons for the small children available online—to start in January. This past week I sent out a mass email to the parents/grandparents of children I've been working with, both here at St. A's and at Bala House, to inform them of the opportunity and to sound out interest levels. In short, the plan is that I would go on Zoom or a similar platform to demonstrate the lessons, one per week, to the adults, which they could then administer to their child. Please let me hear from you if you've received one of the emails!

Thanks, and PEACE,

Virginia Powell

Zabeth Teelucksingh

Last chance...🎄 A Very English Christmas 🎄 Selling homemade holiday treats to benefit St. Asaph's! 🕊️

🥧 Mince pies - Small pies in short-pastry filled with candied and spiced mince-meat- a dried fruit confection (no meat!). Moist and delicate, ideal for holiday snacks or with a cup of tea.

- Sold by the dozen
- 1 dozen large pies \$30 (3 inches)
- 1 dozen mini pies \$25 (2 inches)
- **No orders after December 21**

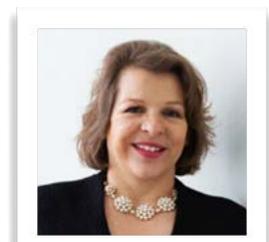
🌟 All proceeds to go to the church of Saint Asaph's 🌟

🕯️ Email Zabeth Teelucksingh at zabetht@gmail.com for orders and questions.

🕯️ Payments by Check made out to the church or by cash

🕯️ Order and porch pick up at my home, close to Bala Elementary school

🕯️ Deliveries available for those with mobility impairments



Carolyn Blacker



Hi there!

I have spent the pandemic working on a couple of very large pieces and I've attached 2 images of the same piece above. They are large hand sewn quilts, with hand dyed fabric and this one depicts a young man - Zyrell - who I met in a Philadelphia homeless shelter but now lives with his grandmother in North Philly. The lockdown and in particular lack of in person schooling has been incredibly difficult for our inner city youth, many of whom do not have access to Wifi or a device for on line classes.

I will be having a "works in progress" exhibition at Muse Gallery Philly in January and I'll be at the gallery every Friday and Saturday during that month, working, and people are welcome to stop by. Masking and social distancing protocols will of course be in place!

Also, if anyone needs anything - errands, shopping, anything at all - I'm available to help and want to help! I go to the stores every week so it's no bother at all.

Many thanks,
Carolyn Blacker

Bill Severson and Joanne Behm during the Pandemic!



Bill in gondola ride to our lodge, Pipestem State Park

Bill's business, Wren Fellini Framing in Bryn Mawr, was required to shut-down completely during the earliest months of the pandemic.

Nevertheless, Bill went to work every day, though all the doors were locked and no business was being transacted. He used that time to clear away some of the backlog of framing jobs for customers and was ready to reopen his shop gradually as non-critical businesses were permitted to open their doors once again. Though everyone must wear masks and maintain social-distancing, Bill's business is fully up-and-running now.

Every morning at 7:40 a.m., Bill meditates on-line with an international meditation organization, Self-Realization Fellowship. Depending on the day, there are between 500 and 1000 people meditating together these zoom sessions. He also meditates with friends who belong to the local Philly affiliate of SRF on Wednesday evenings -- a much smaller group!



Joanne on hike at Chief Logan State Park

Joanne has been going to work at St. James School, either virtually or in-person, throughout the pandemic, working from home from March through early September and now back-to-school on a schedule of Mondays/Wednesday/Fridays in her solitary school office (with adjoining private bathroom!) and Tuesdays/Thursdays working from home. Effective with 'summer school' in July, all students returned to campus with socially-distanced protocols in-place and these became the model of how students returned to campus in September. I appreciate all the thoughtful and planful safeguards that the school has taken to ensure the safety and healthy well-being of all the students and staff. All of us were utilizing the school facilities with an abundance of caution -- and the School has experienced no COVID outbreaks or problems. In mid-November, the School voluntarily opted for the students to begin learning in an all-virtual mode due to the rising numbers of cases in the city of Philadelphia, particularly in the zip code where St. James School is located.



View from our lodge balcony, Pipestem State Park (W.V.)



Tygart Lake State Park (West Virginia)

Other ways that Joanne and Bill have kept busy:

- Socially-distanced walks with friends,
- Weekly zoom calls with a group of other couples on Wednesday evenings,
- Avidly checking out books, audio-books, and movies from the Narberth Library,
- Participating in the free film-discussions through the Bryn Mawr Film Institute,
- Cleaning out the garage in readiness for a new garage door to be installed!
- Home repairs/home improvements (new lighting and wiring installed, new kitchen sink faucet)
- Clutter-clearing (still a lot more to go!)
- Two week-long socially-distanced trips (June & September) to several spectacular state parks in West Virginia.
- Loving our cat Sonsie (Scots Gaelic word for "plump and juicy" as in a haggis.)



Sonsie

The Guisinger Family



Alexandra, David, Oliver, and Simon and all their pieces of luggage returned from Berlin at the start of August. We had a wonderful time, even with COVID upending our Spring. We are now trying to make good on a promise to explore PA as enthusiastically as we did Germany so you will find us in the woods or on a bike path most weekends. Simon is expanding his cooking skills. Oliver is pursuing old and new interests at LM High School as a 9th grader. He participated in his first debate competition wearing a jacket on top and sweatpants below. David and I are just trying to survive teaching online.



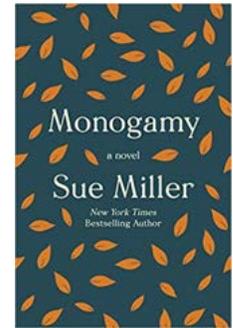
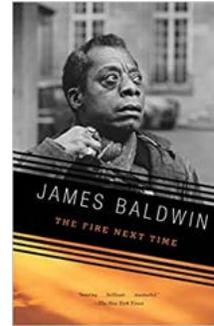
Club Events & Other News

Book Club

Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 PM via Zoom. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 4th and the book will be, "The Fire Next Time" by James Baldwin

Monday, February 1st - Monogamy by Sue Miller

Monday, March 1st -(TBD)



Outreach

St. James Christmas - Book Donations

Thank you so much to everyone who purchased a book for a student during the St. James Christmas Book Drive. There will be a drop off point on Saturday, December 19th from 12-3pm here at St. Asaph's Church. The West Entrance church door (facing Conshohocken State Road) will be open with a box to leave your gift. Please be sure to wrap your books and attach the name of the student on the outside, for easy distribution. This also allows us the ability to confirm that a book is received for each student as planned. Again, many thanks for your generosity!



Feast Incarnate Dinner

The Feast Incarnate is a year-round food outreach and hospitality ministry for the food insecure, including those affected by HIV/AIDS. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer. Details to follow soon.

Upcoming date: Tuesday, January 25, 2021.



Food Pantry Donations for Eldernet & North Light Community Center in Manyunk

We always welcome food pantry donations of protein (tuna, peanut butter) and other non-perishable items. Please be sure and check the expiration date on any items you donate. The collection of breakfast bars & protein for Philadelphia Public Schools & for ElderNet, and North Light thank you for your support.

Stewardship

Stewardship

Submitted by Mary Allen (for the Stewardship Committee)



Pledges for 2020 are being accepted! It is most helpful to have our pledge total for next year early so the Vestry can budget realistically and responsibly. No pledge is too small, but it is great if everyone who comes regularly pledges at least a minimum you can afford. It's always allowed to exceed your pledge! The current pledge total is near \$255,000.

- Thank you, Mary Allen

2021 Stewardship Request

We have heard inspirational talks from fellow parishioners; now we need to hear from YOU!

We hope you have been praying about your own donation to St Asaph's and can fill out your pledge card for 2021. The card is in the letter everyone should have received. If you did not get your letter, please contact the parish office, and we'll get one out to you right away. Every pledge is important!

You have three options for reporting your pledge amount: **Do not start paying until January!**

Please remember that monthly payments are most helpful.

#1. Fill out the 2021 pledge card that arrived with your letter and mail it to the Office.

To pledge online: Go to <saintasaphs.org>; click on the **DONATE** option and choose **2021 Pledge**.

#2. If you wish to pay by credit card, fill out the amount and continue to fill in your credit card information. Click on "I am not a robot" and submit. Continue scrolling to fill in the pledge card at the end.

#3. ***Our preferred paperless option:***

Fill out the electronic pledge form at the end.

This option requires you either to write your checks or to arrange for automatic payments from your bank.

Please remember that we are here for you and will be happy to help you navigate the web!

We are grateful especially for the pledges already received, and we hope this will remind all of you that we need to hear from you as soon as possible. Your Vestry is working on the budget for 2021 and needs to know how much to count on for pledge income.

St Asaph's Church is the tie that binds us all to one another in God's love.

Mary Allen <marydallen@gmail.com> Diana Post <dianapost@mac.com>

Stewardship (Continued...)

I was just talking to Joan Frank and with her permission, wanted to share the lovely note she sent. So here it is.



*Nov. 11
Dear Mary,*

Pledging to St. Asaph's Church has given me great pleasure through the many years I've been a parishioner. My family and I have a host of memories; fellow members, ceremonies, our wonderful priests, the glorious music under Roy's direction and Lynda's [sic] care for each of us.

I send blessings on all who worship at St. A's and hope, come spring, that Nate and I can worship with you. As Jesus said, "It is the spirit that gives life."

*Sincerely and with love,
Joan Craig Frank*

I had the pleasure of meeting Joan and her husband, Everett Frank, when we first came to St. A's in the year 2000. She was always kind and gracious, and beautifully turned out, usually wearing a lovely scarf designed by her daughter, who is still designing scarves in NYC.

It was working with Everett on Stewardship which planted the seed for my devotion to the annual pledge drive. He taught me how important it is to learn to be a joyful giver, especially to a cause you believe in. Everett was also a member of the vestry, probably many times! Unfortunately, Everett died many years ago, but fortunately, they had moved out to White Horse (where Marshall Nelsen lives,) and Joan soon became close friends with the man she mentions in her note, Nate. They have come together to St A's several times in the past, but Joan no longer drives, and White Horse is pretty far away.

You can see from her note why she was beloved at the St A's community, and she has continued to pledge faithfully. Isn't it lovely that she says, "Pledging ... has given me great pleasure"?

A propos of Joan's remarks, it gives ME great pleasure to prepare the annual pledge drive for St A's, most especially because you are all such loyal givers and understand the necessity of raising money to support the building, the property, and the staff, who all support us. Thank you all for your generous contributions, and I chose the word generous carefully to acknowledge that whatever the amount, it comes from your heart. Thank you for the love you give to this place to create this community.

Joan's blessings are good for all of us!

Peace and love, Mary (Allen)

News from the Diocese of Pennsylvania



"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Video message available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLTJREGfxFg&feature=youtu.be>

Advent is that long twilight where darkness fills our days, and reminds us to prepare for the new light that will change the world. The past ten months have lengthened our journey through the long night. Yet despite the apparent gloom, we hold fast to the hope found in Jesus Christ. The truth found in the manger allows our vision to focus on the faintest glimmer of light slowly rising over this distant horizon. The hope of Christmas found in the reality of the coming Christ child enables us to envision what William Wordsworth described as a world "apparell'd in celestial light" with "the glory and freshness of a dream."

The light of Christmas is breaking over the horizon, and at the same time, the end of this long journey shimmers in the distance. COVID will end, and we must faithfully step into a new and changing world with courage and resolve.

This is the once in a lifetime opportunity for the Church and our diocese. We are a strong, historic, and resilient diocese, and we have demonstrated our faith during this long journey. We are revolutionary, one people, one diocese, one love and we are stronger now than we were on March 1st of this year. We must approach the waking day with optimism and the chance to go deeper in faith, imagining a new world, all while building a stronger and life-giving church. We must and we will.

From the depth of my being, I believe in this family we call The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, because I believe in the promise of Christmas and the coming of Jesus Christ. God loves us with an eternal love beautifully manifested when Jesus took upon himself our nature to share in our joy and pain. This knowing allows us to dream, and when we dream, we have hope, and hope does not disappoint.

Let us step forward into this Christmas and each day ahead with a Unity of purpose and no fear of failure, because Christ is with us.

(See next page)

The birth of Jesus signaled to all of creation that our relationship to God, one another, and the world is forever changed. The knowing that God walks with us empowers the timidest souls to proclaim the goodness of life. Throughout time, when darkness and gloom have seemingly overshadowed the light of life, we look toward the miracle in Bethlehem. Our ears once again hear the words: "Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

As a people of God, we cannot approach the next few years seeking only to survive; we must strive to thrive. Imagine a church filled with life, doing those things we believe impossible, building, growing, and transforming the world around it. From the manger, Jesus is powerfully calling us to himself and shining the light of hope into our darkness. Let us look at 2020 as a gift, for it is was a time of trial, prayer, and preparation. Now, we are awaiting the birth of our Savior. Each day forward, we have the opportunity to tell the sacred Story, ever ancient and ever new, to a world desperately seeking meaning. A revolution of the heart where we will reform and renew our faith and Church. We must also do something that Episcopalians tend to shy away from – the Holy Spirit moving, guiding and propelling us forward.

In the coming months, I will call for this historic and revolutionary diocese to focus on three brilliant rays of light. They are Mission (proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ), Service (strengthening our churches, serving the community and building up our society), and Poverty (addressing it in all its forms- economic, physical and spiritual.) It has become clear that many have never heard the Good News as proclaimed in The Episcopal Church's authentic voice. As one people and one diocese, we will lock arms and touch the world in His name and lean into a world where people are frightened and suffering. Our work as followers of Jesus Christ will come to life through the efforts of faithful people who believe from the depth of their being in the indescribable love and power of Jesus Christ.

Let us hope upon hope, for we are the last, best hope in the world right now.

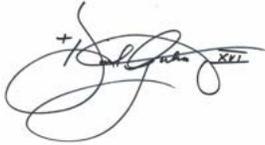
From out of our faithful ministries, I know that something extraordinary will emerge. Christmas is the time to understand our purpose as a people and as a Church. I ask you to take a few moments this Advent and shed a few tears for this past year. Then I ask that you kneel beside your bed and offer gratitude unto the Lord for the promise that is found in the manger. For this promise, this truth, will guide us into the future. As one diocese, formed in the One Love of God, we step forth out of the darkness with a unity of purpose and no fear of failure. Let us lean into what awaits, proclaiming, "We can, and we will."

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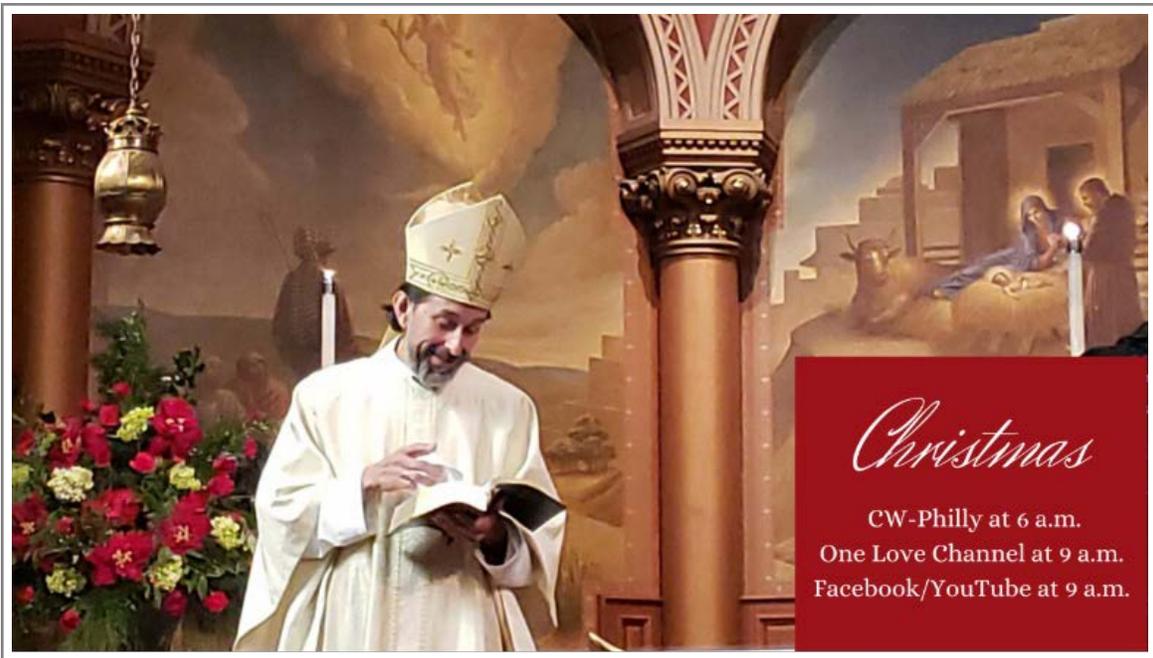
A new star is rising, angels are singing, shepherds lead to a sacred and unique place. We rejoice and kneel beside the manger, all while taking great comfort in the knowledge that the Lord is with us. Let us open our eyes in faith that we may see it flickering, just on the edge of the horizon. For unto us, a child will be born.

Most blessed Christmas, my dear family, and may the Holy One bless you and our diocese.

Your brother in Christ,



The Rt. Rev. Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez
XVI Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania



Save this link to join in for the Christmas Day Service:

<https://episcopalpa.online.church/>

AmazonSmile Purchases Donates to St. A's

Submitted by: Andrew MacDonald

Church of Saint Asaph is set up to receive 0.5% of purchases made through AmazonSmile. What a great and easy way to make a donation to Saint Asaph's if you're already making those online Christmas purchases! So just a refresher on how it works.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. Once you sign in using your usual email and Amazon password the next screen will allow you to select "Church of St Asaph" as your organization to receive the donated percentage of your purchase.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. The site will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, they may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details. **Remember, only purchases made at smile.amazon.com, (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app,) generate AmazonSmile donations.**



Remembrances



Birthdays In December

Frances Quinn, Barbara Rideout, Chris Dennis, Diana Post, Shellie Camp, Jeff Moodie, Nicky Garvan, Lauren Powell, Marlene Milner, Mark McCormick, George Milner, and Bruce Labaw.



Those Who Need Our Prayers

We pray for Adrienne, Aloma, Lois Arias, Adam, Kara Barrett and Will Barrett, John Barrett, Marti Barrett, Fran Bellino, Matt Briggs, Christopher Browne, Chris Carey, Ward Carey, Bill Clayton, Christopher D'Amelio, Kara DuBois, Constance Gallagher, Max Gravenstein, Roy Harker, Eleanor Harte, Frances Hauser, Ronni Kaspern, Jeanne Khan, Katherine Kurtz, Marty Lange, Mary Chris Lindsay, Mack, Trevor Marsh, Doris McCormick, Mary McGowen, Betty Misinay, Jessi Mitchell, Maritza Mueller, Kathleen Murphey, Keith Nelsen, Richard Palladino, Patricia Poisson, Judie Rabenold, Ed Renaud, Dori Roper, Molly Rossi, Chris Sheeran, Sonya Singer, Betty Smith, Joe Stanzione, Peter Vilter, Wally Waldron, Doris Weimar, Geraldine Williams, and Henry L. Williams Sr.

We pray for all victims of war throughout the world, for those civilians who have died whose names we do not know, for our enemies, and especially for our service men and women who have died.

Those who have recently died in the parish: Henry Burns (Connie Stelzenmuller), Carolyn Langfitt, Betty Misinay (Stevie Graves), Dee O'Sullivan (Zabeth Teelucksingh), Scott Shore (Stephanie Shore) Margaret Stineman (Peggy Stineman), Karen Love (Jay and Susan Love), Dorothy Kruschwitz (Anna Kruschwitz & Linda Sterthous) and Jean Biegalski (Trevor Marsh).



If you are new to our community and would like to be added to this contact list to receive updates on our programming events, etc., please email to office@saintasaphs.org your contact information.

Come Worship With Us

Sunday Liturgy Schedule

10 am, Parish Eucharist (*Live via Zoom or stream on Facebook*)

Prefer to receive a paper copy of *The Outlook*? Email the church office at office@saintasaphs.org

Parish Staff

The Rev. Barry J. Harte, *Rector*
rector@saintasaphs.org

The Rev. Barbara Briggs, *Priest Associate*
associate@saintasaphs.org

Lynda Staton, *Parish Administrator*
office@saintasaphs.org
Hours: Mon-Fri, 9a-3p
610-664-0966

Roy Harker, *Director of Music & the Arts*
music@saintasaphs.org

Steve Sheeran, *Youth Formation*
youth@saintasaphs.org

[https://www.facebook.com/
SaintAsaphsBalaCynwyd](https://www.facebook.com/SaintAsaphsBalaCynwyd)



Vision & Mission

The Church of St Asaph is called to be a **progressive Christian community.**

- We welcome everyone to God's table.
- We stand with those in need and advocate for the poor, the sick, the friendless and the marginalized.
- We make children central to our life as a community.
- We celebrate the presence of God with joyful, engaging and inviting worship.

CHURCH OF SAINT ASAPH

A Parish of The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
27 Conshohocken State Rd, Bala Cynwyd, Pa 19004

www.saintasaphs.org

610-664-0966

Worship Helpers Needed!

Dear Friends,

Would you like to be a reader during our online 10 AM liturgy via Zoom? We are always grateful to have new volunteers. Please email or call the Church Office to add or subtract your name.

Thank you,

*Lynda Staton, Parish Administrator
Church Office*