



## *E-Messenger, January 18, 2024*

*Come and worship  
Rejoice in fellowship  
Love and serve the Lord!*

Dear All Saints' Family,

It is hard to believe that we are talking about the Annual Meeting again. Each year we hold the Annual Meeting on the last Sunday of January. This year we will meet after the Service on Sunday, January 28th. Please mark your calendar and join us. Your voice and vote are so important.

Thank you, Tom for leading us in gentle exercise last Sunday with humor and lots of encouragement. Thank you too, for adjusting to coffee hour style Movement for

Life, and readily adapting to using a microphone for instruction! We will come up with some dates for a few sessions in February, not during coffee hour but perhaps right after. More information to come. Tom is reaching out to St. Elizabeths and others in the neighborhood to join us.



In our Wednesday Faith Inquirers group we are reading the Book of Numbers. Chapter 6 includes the beautiful "priestly blessing" that I'm sure you are familiar with. I asked two of our participants to do a little research on the 1979 discovery of two ancient scrolls inscribed with this blessing. Here is what Agnes and Becky shared with us yesterday, including the singing of the *Fiddler on the Roof*

*Sabbath Prayer!*

"The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them,

The Lord bless you

and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn his face toward you

and give you peace.

This ancient priestly blessing is given to Moses by God to speak over his brother, Aaron, the high priest, Aaron's sons and the people of Israel around 1,400 – 1,200 B.C. They were in the midst of a challenging time of wilderness wanderings in preparation for their entrance into the Promised Land.

This beautiful blessing has been sung and passed on from generation to generation in Jewish homes and synagogues for over 3,000 years. Christians have also spoken this blessing from the early days of the church to the present day for 2,000 years.

This blessing is also the oldest surviving biblical inscription in existence today! In 1979, Dr. Gabriel Barkay and his archaeological team discovered what is now known as the Ketef Hinnom Silver Scrolls just outside the old city of Jerusalem. These two tiny silver scrolls about the size of a cigarette found in a collapsed tomb were carefully unrolled and analyzed. Written in paleo-Hebrew were the words of the Aaronic blessing from Numbers 6:24-26, something scholars have declared to be one of the most significant biblical archaeological finds in history! These scrolls which also had verses from Deuteronomy written on them date to the 7th century B.C. of the 1st Temple Period.

This archaeological discovery points to a much earlier date for the writing of the Torah and helps affirm Jesus' statements of the Mosaic authorship of the Law as found in the New Testament.

The above taken from "The Blessing", A 3,000 year-old song and oldest surviving Biblical inscription by Joel Woodruff, Ed.D. President, C.S. Lewis Institute

Below taken from Wikipedia about The Priestly Blessing.

- The text of the Priestly Blessing is also used by Jewish parents to bless their children on Friday night before the Shabbat meal. It is usually prefaced, for boys with a request for God to make the children like the sons of Joseph—Ephraim and Manasseh—who are remembered because they never fought with each other, according to tradition. For girls the traditional request is God to make them like Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, the Matriarchs of the Jewish people. Similarly, some rabbis will say the blessing to a boy at his bar mitzvah or to a girl at her bat mitzvah.

*Fiddler on the Roof Sabbath Prayer*

May the Lord protect and defend you.  
May He always shield you from shame.  
May you come to be  
In Israel a shining name.

May you be like Ruth and like Esther.  
May you be deserving of praise.  
Strengthen them, Oh Lord,  
And keep them from the strangers' ways.

May God bless you and grant you long lives.  
(May the Lord fulfill our Sabbath prayer for you.)  
May God make you good mothers and wives.  
(May He send you husbands who will care for you.)

May the Lord protect and defend you.  
May the Lord preserve you from pain.  
Favor them, Oh Lord, with happiness and peace.  
Oh, hear our Sabbath prayer. Amen.



(wikipedia photo)

Peace and blessings,  
Julie

All are warmly welcome to join our Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist at 9:30 am. If you wish to join via Zoom, here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85484006164?pwd=ZzAvZVFUM2pKek0rMGVzMFFEc1FiUT09>

You will find the Sunday Service program [here](#).

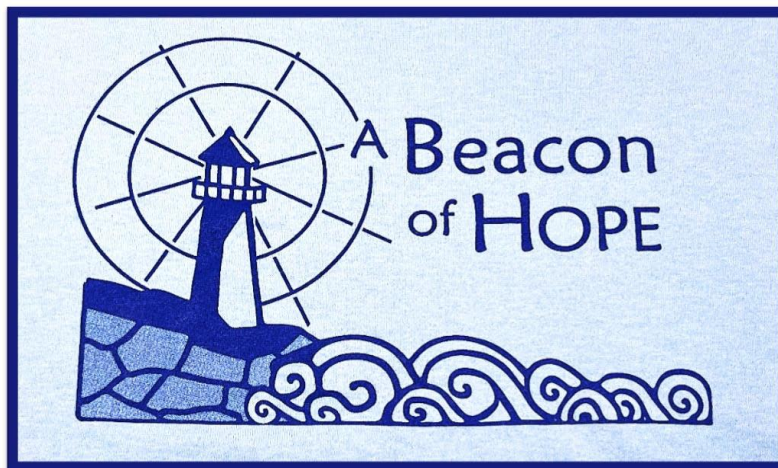
## *Stewardship - Pledges*

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).*

A huge thank you to all who have submitted pledge cards. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, you may drop it in the collection plate on Sunday.

In the Spirit of Love,

Charles M. Smith, III  
Stewardship Chair and Junior Warden



## *Outreach News*

**Next Outreach Meeting: January 21st**

**Outreach Food Collection:** Each week All Saints' collects food to be distributed monthly to food pantries in our area. We welcome donations of any pre-packaged, non-expired food. Thank you for your generosity!

- January: Canned pasta
- February: Peanut butter



### *Wednesday Noonday Prayer and Faith Inquirers/Bible Discussion*

Join us for Noonday Prayer and conversation about scripture and everyday life. We are reading beginning the Book of Numbers. Please read Chapters 8&10.

If you wish to join us via zoom, here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82955504419?pwd=Si9tTzVFbTR4K0ZjTy9jNVdkRFhuQT09>

## *Upcoming Events*

**January 21:** Outreach Meeting

**January 24:** Noonday Prayer/Faith Inquirers in Rose Hall

**January 24:** Choir Practice

**January 28:** Annual Meeting after the Service

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## *PRAYERS*

We pray for fellow parishioners Derek, Gus, Marie, Trish, Victor, Rose, Susan, Gloria, and Theo; and for Dorothea Evans Gordon, Clarence Scott, Germaine, Naida Thomas, Merynn Flynn, Barbara K., Lusaynie Sirleaf, John Flinton, James, Rachael, Eva McBorrow, Jennifer, Carla, Sawyer L., Philletta Payne, Elizabeth Pacek, Frances Fisher Tait, Yonghee Joe, Kerry DelaGaza, and Nancy Pollard.

We pray for all who work for peace and members of our armed forces especially Hannah Makuch.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS AND MINISTRIES

***January 21, 2024***

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5,10 Deidre Greelish

Response: Psalm 62: 6-14



Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Marybeth Hanavan

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Prayers: Eric Hirsch

Chalice: Bill McBorrough

Acolyte: Tom Hobin

Coffee Hour: Marybeth, Linda, and Anne

***January 28, 2024***

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:15-20 Barbara Badio

Response: Psalm 111 Barbara Badio

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Tom Hobin

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Prayers: Wilmar Jennings

Chalice: Marybeth Hanavan

Acolyte: Eric Hirsch

Coffee Hour: Marybeth, Linda, and Anne

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**Websites:**

**All Saints' Memorial Church**  
**Diocese of RI · The Episcopal Church**

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**The Vestry:**

**Senior Warden**

Musa Goll

**Junior Warden**

Chip Smith

**Treasurer**

Becky Silliman

**Clerk**

Pattie Marshall

**Finance Chair**

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