This is a difficult entry to write, as I know it is my last newsletter article. Part of the difficulty is, of course, that it makes me acknowledge that a big change is coming, and for all the preparations and decisions I have made in the last few months, I have not let my own mind believe in a real ending. I cannot love as I have loved here without every person, every relationship, every memory burning inside me in some living way. I have convinced myself that I carry you all with me, and telling myself that, given the ease of Facebook, that door of love can be held open wide.

Still I know, I am really leaving. In preparation for that, I relive certain memories because they are part of me. In my mind's eye, I can still see every member of the PW Bible study sitting around tables in the nursery, clapping because 3 year old Audrey was going around the circle, pronouncing everyone's name. I can see Karen Cowell teaching Audrey Sunday School using sign language she learned just for my baby. I can see Glenn Hendry Sr., trying to make me wear a Burger King crown, and MaryAnne dancing in her driveway with Audrey, both of them wearing flowers in their hair. I can see Sherrill Smith singing a solo in a Christmas cantata, and Mike up on the church roof, making me dizzy as I watch. I still picture Carole, down on her hands and knees, scrubbing the kitchen floor, I still hear Andy concluding his "reasons you should pledge to All Saints" with total laughter. I can still see Pete Rose "saving the bubbles" and Michelle Cobb -- well, I picture her everywhere, doing everything, for everyone, (usually accompanied by awesome food) because she is Michelle. Patty and Anne -- ok, there was that little thing of being followed into the church by a police car -- and Adam, allowing the kids to wrap him like a mummy in toilet paper. I think I will always picture Rita somewhere glued to one of our copiers (sorry Rita), and Mark, well perhaps I should be equally apologetic, I have a photo of you in a rainbow clown wig that I promise not to frame, but I will still always treasure. I could go on with every name...so if I didn't mention you, be warned, you are in me --probably featured in some moment when I found you wonderful, fun, smart and amazing but you didn't know I was watching.

And there are holy moments, too -- many -- most of which would be too personal to share, and some of which would wrongly break confidence -- those holy encounters are treasured up in my
heart remembering when the line between now and forever blurred long enough for us to work out the meaning of our callings, the answers to our problems and the hope in our despairing moment and the reason for our very existence. There is an awesome place in my soul that includes the names of some beautiful people who allowed me to walk with them right up to the gates of eternity: George Plotts, Bill and Polly Hogg, Glenn Hendry Sr., Winnie Boyd.

What can I say to you, my friends, my companions, co-workers, brothers and sisters, all? What can I say to the people who created a pastor, helped a single mother, redirected a wanderer, encouraged a learner and formed a leader, and with me, built a community of love? I find myself over and over falling back on the words of the apostle Paul: "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart [...] for all of you share in God's grace with me. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ -- to the glory and praise of God.

Leanne

Congratulations
Alanna Word and Glenn Morgan
on their recent engagement
Stephen Minister Schedule

May 6  Andy Moye
May 13 Earle Powell
May 20 Pam Moye
May 27 Sherry Word

Happy Birthday

May 16  Peggy Hearp
May 17  Paul Dye
May 23  Matthew Cowell
May 25  Gary Nearhoof
May 27  Laura Kroll

June 3  Jason Turner
June 8  Alyssa Word
June 9  Kevin Beasley
June 15 Sherry Word
June 19 Adam Bell
June 20 Nancy Dye
June 26 Cameron Ryle

Lunch Bunch Meets  
at the River Club  
on Bay Ave. Downtown  
Friday, May 18  
at 11:30 am

Join us for Leanne's last lunch bunch with us! 
Even if you don't ordinarily come to lunch bunch, consider whether you can come this time. The River Club serves a bounteous buffet with salads, entrees, desserts, and iced tea or coffee. Cost per person will be $17 (yes, it's a couple bucks more than when we went at Christmas time, but my Christmas gift to you was to cover the tip.) If you want a soft drink, that is $2 extra.

RSVP to me at pambmove@charter.net by Wednesday the 17th. If something comes up at the last minute and you cannot attend after all, LET ME KNOW by 11:00am the morning of the 17th....I will sign the tab at the River Club when I come in, based on the number of people I am expecting, so if someone doesn't show, I will have already paid unnecessarily. You can pay me in cash or by a check made out to Pam Moye, and the day of is fine.
Choir Practice
May 2, 9, 26, & 23
6:30 pm
The choir be on hiatus in
June, July, and Aug.

Adult & Children's
Sunday School Classes
Sundays, 9:45 am

Photo taken in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018 with Pastor Leanne Simmons at the pulpit and Elder Andy Moyle, Liturgist. The Easter lilies were given in honor of in memory of loved ones. Below (L) is the cross after the Friday Tenebrae service and on the (R) are some of the participants at the Maunday Thursday service.

How Do I Contact the ASPC Prayer Chain?
Elder Debbie Rose is managing the prayer chain for our church. If you have a prayer request, you may contact her at allsaintspcusaprayervalchain@gmail.com.

Check Out Our Website:
allsaintscolumbus.org
Find Us On Facebook at:
allsaintspresbyterianchurch
Easter Egg Hunt
March 31, 2018

Above, the sanctuary is ready for Easter Sunday.

On Saturday, the children enjoyed finding hidden eggs.

Adult Sunday School Class and Disciple Class
Sunday school classes led by Rev. Dr. Simmons continue at 9:45 AM each Sunday.

On Sunday afternoon, May 6th, at 5:00 pm, Rev. Simmons will present "The perils of Shape Shifting Harry Potter and Christian Fundamentalism."

Andy Moye, Christian Education Chair
Columbus Christian Preschool Sunday
April 15, 2018

Photo above and below right courtesy of Janie Nichols.
Photo below taken from Facebook

ASPC Newsletter
Deadline

If you have anything you want printed in the June issue of the ASPC Newsletter, please submit it to Jean Clemmons by Thursday, May 24th. You may email her at jeanclemmons60@yahoo.com.
Fish Fry
Saturday, May 5
4:00 pm, eat at 4:30 pm
at the home of
Mike & Sherrill Smith
6224 Fox Chapel Dr.
Come for the food and
fellowship. Bring a side or
dessert if you wish or just come
to have fun.

Photo taken at the 2016 Fish Fry

Godspeed to Chick, Barbara, Jeff, and Susan
Chafin
who will be leaving Columbus and All Saints at the end of April. Their new address will be:

24 Ironstone Ct.
Fredericksburg, VA 22405
Home # 504-370-8242
Cell # 706-566-0801

We will miss them, but are assured that God will be with them and direct their paths as they make
their new home with extended family. The movers will be coming to move them on April 30.
Pastor Transition Update

by Kathy Tessin, Transition Team Chair

The Transition Team has met twice since the last newsletter was published, continuing to make detailed plans for the continuity of all aspects of the life of our church family -- worship, adult and children's Christian education, congregational care, fellowship, mission and outreach, and the day-to-day administrative activities that are necessary to sustain the life of a church. We continue to have dialogue with potential interim minister candidates, and feel confident we will be able to identify the right candidate and finalize the decision with the Flint River Presbytery this summer.

All Saints met as a congregation on April 8th to vote on the recommendation of the Session to honor Reverend Dr. Leanne Simmons' request to be released from her terms of call effective May 31, 2018, in order to formally accept a call from First Presbyterian of Bismarck, North Dakota. We thank all members who were able to be present for this difficult vote, and for supporting Leanne's discernment to move in new personal and professional directions in life.

This congregational vote was also necessary for the Presbytery to initiate their exiting process that leads to permission to proceed in forming a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) after June 1. The PNC will take the "baton" from the Transition Team, and proceed with our discernment process of identifying what All Saints Presbyterian needs in the future to move forward with God's purpose for us in Columbus. The PNC also conducts the formal pastor search and call process for the congregation.

To begin initiating closure with Pastor Leanne, and starting the thought processes to move forward, Executive Presbyter Deb Bibler and a representative from the Flint River Presbytery's Committee on Ministry attended the April 17, ASPC Session Meeting to conduct exiting interviews. The purpose of their visit was to engage the Session in a series of questions guiding us to reflect on Pastor Leanne's ministry at All Saints and ways that experience can inform our future.

So what will occur in May with the transition? The Team hopes to begin formally interviewing a candidate or candidates for an interim minister, and to finalize the transition plan on paper. But the most important activity will be to care for each other and Leanne as we celebrate Leanne's contributions over the years as pastor spouse and congregation member, pulpit supply, and over the past six years as our called minister. Plans are being made for a dinner for Leanne, and a celebratory service on Sunday, May 20, will be conducted for Rev. Simmon's last time in the pulpit. We need to give ourselves time to reminisce, celebrate, and grieve change -- we all must allow ourselves this time in order to move forward. And by leaning on God's support and guidance, we can take comfort that His will will be done during this transitional time for All Saints Presbyterian.
Sunday evening, April 22, Pastor Leanne led the Disciple Class with a Lecture on "Moral Courage and Harry Potter." This was presented at the recently held Celebration of Faith. Seen in the photo to the right of Pastor Leanne is "Dobby" a character from the Harry Potter series.

Photo above and to the right courtesy of Kathy Tessin.

Photo courtesy of Andy Moye.

Mother's Day
May 13

Why not give mother an All Saints Cookbook? "Recipes From the Heart" are available for $12 and can be seen on a display table in the hall.