Dear Families:

In class today, we studied a message in the Book of Joshua. The passage tells of how the Israelites had a hard time of following God's rules. They were so ungrateful and disobedient, that God made them wait forty years to arrive in the promised land after He had freed them from slavery in Egypt. When the time came, the Israelites had to cross the Jordan River to enter the land that they were promised. How could they cross an entire nation over this rushing river? God said, "Trust me." He told the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant into the middle of the river. He didn't say why, or what would happen. It must have been a hard thing to do: completely trust that God would do something to keep you and the Ark from being swept away. But they trusted God, and in they went. And as soon as they entered the river, God rolled back the waters, and everyone crossed on dry ground!

We all have our own Jordan River to cross that will get us into God's promised land. Like the Israelites, we must trust God. God has a plan. We know that He does, He's told us. We may not see how it could ever happen. We may not be able to see around the obstacles on the journey. But as one of my favorite preachers used to say, "Obey God, and leave all the consequences to Him." As long as we trust God and do what He tells us, His will is done. And despite our failures, sins and imperfections, God can use us to accomplish great things! What a great message for All Saints Day!

We celebrated All Saints Day upstairs with the congregation this morning as well. We learned what it means to be a Saint, and that we are saints if we remain faithful to God, despite how scary our Jordan Rivers look. We also participated in communion this morning.

Hard to believe, but Christmas will be here before we know it! Today the class also continued preparations for our pageant, which will be held during worship service on Sunday, December 20. We hope you can join us for our special celebration of Jesus' birth!

Thank you for joining us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director