



# All Saints Alive!

*The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church  
August 2022*



## Mother Bonnie's Corner

Beloved in Christ,

Summer is flying by! Our children will soon begin school, many of our teachers and staff members are already back, and although the summer heat continues, we too at All Saints are moving ever closer towards our program year. Both our adult and children's choirs resume this month, and plans are being finalized for our Fall Schedule.

So what about those fall plans? You can expect some new offerings, Christian Yoga; new ministries, Helping Hands; and new ways to serve, Getting to Know our Neighbors. There will be new opportunities, as we explore music options for our Sanctuary with an upcoming Road Trip to Canton, as well as returning classes, Education for Ministry and Episcopal 101. And we'll continue our many beloved annual events, including the Fall Women's Retreat, Ministry Fair, Fall Picnic, Blessings of the Animals, Marketplace, and so much more.

Yet for now, we're able to maintain some aspects of our summer routines. These long daylight hours can help us appreciate the wonders of Creation. Travel adventures continue, visiting extended family and spending time in those places we simply weren't able to enjoy the past couple of years. (Jess and I are also taking some time for one more visit to see the grands in NC before the pace picks up.) This slower time can renew us, body and soul, if we'll lean into our gratitude to God Almighty, for the abundance of blessings around us.

Yes, life can be complicated, with difficulties and discord in our midst, but with God's help, we can also clearly see the good, by recognizing, with intentionality, God's many and abundant gifts all around us.

Thanks to so many who have begun to send in pics for our All Saints Gratitude Journal.

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And if you haven't already, there's still time! **Our deadline is Sunday, August 7th, for receiving your final images (digital or hard-copy), so we can have a wonderful video presentation of our many blessings during our September Covered Dish gathering.**

I am so looking forward to experiencing that multi-faceted *Feast of our Many Blessings* with all of you, the Family of All Saints.

Peace,  
Mother Bonnie

## From our Deacon

I've been thinking about All Saints and how we support each other in the "workings" of the parish. It is glorious to witness how everybody comes together to meet new opportunities! I first recognized the blessing of All Saints during our adjustments during the early stages of the COVID lockdown and the dedication, creativity, and energy that was at work when we finally were able to gather for worship outside, which was, for me, a prime example.

An opportune experience, if you will.

Every aspect of worship was considered. A safe seating plan had to be figured out, new ways to communicate the liturgy had to be pondered, and how to have music, and share communion. Everybody came together! We used the talents we already knew we had and discovered new talents along the way. All were doing things **with** each other, while also strengthening our community. And once we had that first Sunday Eucharist – regardless of the weather – *we did not miss one single Sunday*. It was good and right!

Let me share a few thoughts on the **"witness"** of a community. Meeting an opportune experience *together* is a prime example of community at its best. The **with** of our shared time together in the world is the precise foundation that makes true community possible. Everybody has a very personal talent that makes the community complete. Some folks share the same talents, others may develop them. The point is that with each other, the common good and benefit of the community is possible.

Sometimes we may forget that we have talents at all. There can be lots of reasons that might happen. Perhaps there just isn't much of a sense of truly having somebody in our corner to encourage and support us. Or maybe it's because folks just want to make things easier for us and rush in *to-do* for us during our times of vulnerability.



## August Events

- August 7: Covered Dish
- August 8: Yoga class begins
- August 11: Adult Choir Rehearsal resumes on Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
- August 14: Children's Choir resumes on Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
- August 20: Celebrating the Saints, 11:00 a.m., Mary Christian's Home
- August 21: Road Trip to Canton-All Saints Music possibilities; Family Promise Evening Meal
- August 27: Women's Retreat

Or we may fall into believing that we don't have anything to offer, or possibly slip, due to unforeseen circumstances, into someone "to do for," losing the gift of being able to do **"with."** All these factors can affect community, for a community does needs everyone's gifts, for a strong foundation.

We have an opportune experience on the horizon. It is an opportunity to redefine community as we understand it right now.

We are located in a defined neighborhood, but we don't actually know our neighbors. And it seems like the right time we get to know each other: to talk together, find out what's going on, to learn about each others' strengths, and look honestly at what is getting in the way of the neighborhood being at its best. This kind of opportunity will give all of us another experience of building community – perhaps a newer, broader, more expansive one.

It won't happen quickly. It won't happen at all if we don't begin to trust and share with one other our talents, hopes, dreams, misgivings, and fears. But I look forward to the Spirit guiding us to use this time to hone the talents we know about and discover some new ones in our midst: an exercise in grabbing hold of a blessed, opportune experience **with** each other.

So do plan to join in the August Covered Dish and Rector's Forum, as we begin that journey of **Getting to Know our Neighbors.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
Deacon Barbara

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## New Possibilities at All Saints

*Your Vestry is beginning to explore new possibilities, as we plan for the future . . .*

### **Getting to Know our Neighbors**

While we await the closing on Holly House, we are beginning to explore possibilities for its use! Be sure to attend the August Covered dish for Holly House updates and an initial discussion about **Getting to Know our Neighbors.**

### **Potential for Music: A Road Trip to Conyers**

It's been a VERY long time since our beloved organ was installed at All Saints and today there are so many possibilities for expanding our music capacity. Join us on 8/21 for a *Road Trip to Conyers*: an opportunity to explore new organ possibilities, as we visit another church, and listen to a different type of organ.

### **New Ways to Welcome: Outdoor Signage**

For many years, All Saints has been known as *that pretty little white church with the red doors* on Watson Boulevard. And while that is true, we are so much more! Watch for more news, as we explore the possibilities of a new LED sign on Watson Boulevard to help us invite and welcome the community to events All Saints, from Sunday Worship, to Christmas and Easter services, to recitals, Food Pantry, Marketplace, and more.

# Year Round Stewardship: Alice and Flannery's Guide to Stewardship

by Mary Christian

In Alice Walker's short story "Everyday Use," a mother welcomes a visit from her smart and ambitious oldest daughter. The daughter, who had left home years before to attend college and escape her family's meager subsistence-farming life, is now enthralled with the house's worn homemade furniture. Decades-old hand-carved benches and butter churns she once thought embarrassing and ugly are now "lovely" and "artistic." Rummaging through her mother's trunk, she lays claim to two quilts, hand-sewn by her grandmother—quilts she had once refused to take to her college dorm room because they were too "old-fashioned." The mother, who in her younger days helped to sew the quilts along with her sister, remembers the clothes the various quilt squares came from, and the relatives who wore them. She says she can't give them away because she has promised them as a wedding present to her younger daughter, the shy girl who has never left home. The visiting older daughter becomes angry, protesting that her younger sister would be "backward enough to put them to everyday use," rather than displaying them on the wall as "priceless" folk art. She leaves the house in a huff, exclaiming that her mother and sister have no appreciation for their "heritage."

The story pushes readers to think about what it means to care for their history and culture, and so it seemed like suitable car reading to begin a day of literary travel. When someone in our All Saints book group suggested that we make a trip to Eatonton to see Alice Walker's childhood home, and then round the day off with a visit to Andalusia, Flannery O'Connor's farm in Milledgeville, I jumped at the chance. As an English teacher who has lived in Georgia for five years, I was a little embarrassed at not having visited before—it was about time.

So on July 9, off we went, six of us. The drive to Eatonton gave us time to finish "Everyday Use" and get about halfway through O'Connor's "Good Country People" (another tale of mothers and daughters with clashing values). We wandered through the Georgia Writers Museum, pausing over Walker's video interviews and O'Connor's childhood books, with her evaluations scrawled across the title pages. (She marked *The Water-Fairies* as "not a very good book," and *Alice in Wonderland* as "awful," but she liked Grimm's fairy tales.) We admired a Walker/O'Connor quilt made by my colleague Monica Miller and her students, featuring quotations from the two authors and nine-patch blocks of alternating purple and peacock-plume squares. Afterwards, we navigated the surrounding countryside to find Alice Walker's elementary school, her childhood home, and the Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church, where her family attended.

Another rainy half-hour brought us to Milledgeville and to Flannery O'Connor's farm. After exploring the out-buildings and trying to imitate the peacock's screams, we took a tour of the house, hearing stories about O'Connor's Catholic faith, her relationship with her mother, her hatred of classical music, and her efforts to live a productive life despite the debilitating Lupus of which she died at age thirty-nine.

As we drove back toward Warner Robins, one of our group commented on the awkward feeling of walking through a museum that had once been someone's home. "I feel almost like an intruder," she said, "going into these writers' personal spaces, seeing their kitchens and bedrooms and all the details of their personal lives, where they never invited me." I identified with the feeling she expressed, the sense of being a voyeur in these writers' intimate spaces. What struck me, though, as the contrast between special and ordinary that could exist in one object. A refrigerator can hold food to eat up this week, and also hold stories that get re-told for decades (O'Connor reportedly paid for her family's fridge by selling the film rights for one of her short stories, giving the producers complete

control over the screen retelling of her creation). Clothes can be things to put on in the morning or take off at night, or they can be things to hang on a mannequin in one room day after day as people come miles to see them.

The mother and daughter in Walker's short story quarrel over what it means to "appreciate" a grandmother's quilts. The mother has helped to sew them and knows the story behind every square, and also sees no problem with putting them on a bed to be used every night. The daughter insists that they should be hung on the walls and preserved as "priceless" artifacts, though she is hazy about the details of their construction. The story seems to encourage readers to sympathize with the hardworking, practical mother (perhaps it helps that the mother is the narrator, so it's her side of the story we read). When she hands the quilts over to the quiet stay-at-home daughter who will put them to "everyday use," it's easy to feel that the worthier daughter has won. And yet we, the readers, still make trips to walk through people's living spaces, to see objects that were once for "everyday use" now hung up on display. Perhaps a more useful idea to take away from the story is not the "either/or" choice of using or preserving, but the need, whether one uses or preserves an object, to honor the people who made it and the place it came from.

## Ministry Updates

### Adult Christian Education

#### **EfM REGISTRATION BEGINS NOW!**

*Looking for a way to connect your faith  
faith and your daily life?*

*Perhaps Education for Ministry is for you!*



**Every Baptized Person is Called to Ministry.** Education for Ministry (EfM) invites participants into a small, mentored group that provides the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened. We do this through developing what we think of as Core Practices.

**More than a Bible Study.** At its heart EfM is a program in learning to practice living in Christ. While we do study the Old Testament, New Testament, Christian History, and Christian Theology, we also examine our beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the traditions of our Christian faith. Together we learn to discern how we can carry Christ's love into the world in the various ministries to which we are called. Core Practices include:

- Living in Community
- Regular Prayer and Worship
- Theological Reflection
- Study of the Christian Tradition
- Vocational Discernment

**Enrollment is open through August 21.** A one-year course of study is \$325, plus books. And if you need scholarship assistance, please speak with Mother Bonnie. Consider joining us this Fall!

Contact Mother Bonnie, [rector@allsaintswr.org](mailto:rector@allsaintswr.org)  
or Marsha Buzzell, [marshap450@gmail.com](mailto:marshap450@gmail.com) for more information.

## Altar Guild

If anyone is interested in joining Altar Guild, please contact me. We are in need of a few more people on one team especially! This is a commitment to a few hours on Friday or Saturday every third week and cleaning up the altar on that Sunday. If you think you have the time and interest in this ministry, please let me know. You can visit one of the teams to see what we do and decide if it is for you.

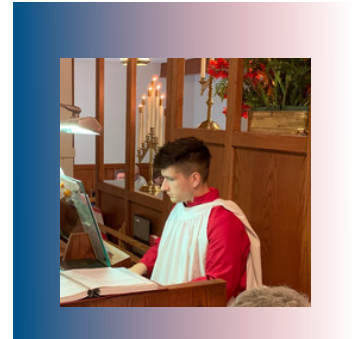
Linda Christie, 478-731-1341, lindaschristie@gmail.com

## Choir Resumes for the Fall

**Adult Choir** resumes on August 11th. Rehearsals will take place every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

**Children's Choir** also begins that following Sunday! All K-5th grade are welcome to join, beginning August 14th, at 1:30 p.m. We are looking forward to several children's concerts this fall and would love for your little ones to participate!

Kipp Gill  
kippgill@yahoo.com



## Digital Ministry

All Saints is beginning to train volunteers to assist in the behind-the-scenes portion of our Sunday live-stream. "On-the-Job" trainings will take place during worship on Sunday mornings. **No previous experience required!**

This is a great way to learn a new skill while also giving back to your All Saints family. For more information, contact the church office or Pierce Christie.

## ECW – Annual Fall Women's Retreat

We are so fortunate to have the Reverend Shirley Porter coming to lead our August Retreat! I know I am excited to have her with us – it will be great to see her and hear about her "adventures" in Atlanta! The date for the retreat is Saturday, August 27th.

The topic will be "Martha and Mary" based on some excerpts from a recent sermon given at the National Cathedral. AND we will have "pre-work" to do! Text from the sermon will be shared so you can read it in advance.



We will follow our usual schedule:

- 8:30 am Gathering, Continental Breakfast, Name Tags
- 9:00 am Welcome and Prayer
- 9:30-noon Teaching and Small group sessions
- 12-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-2:00 Wrap up, closing prayer, Eucharist

We will be extending invitations to women at other churches in the Macon Convocation DOK groups as well as our own ladies at All Saints. Feel free to bring friends – we will have a sign-up sheet so we can have a number for planning food and for distributing materials. Plans for breakfast and lunch will be made at our August meeting – Tuesday, August 2nd at 10:30 am in the Parish Hall. We hope you will make plans to attend.

Linda Christie

*Food Pantry and Breaking Barriers ministries are open  
EVERY Tuesday Morning!*

## Food Pantry

Wondering what we do at the Food Pantry?

The Food Pantry is one of All Saints' longest-serving community ministries. We're supported by:

Our Volunteers

- Food packers, who can serve anytime, other than Tuesday mornings.
- Food distributors, who serve the local community each Tuesday, typically from 9-11:15 am.
- Helping hands who keep track of our inventory, purchase food, and restock our shelves, as needed.

Our many generous Donors

- Your donations to All Saints on behalf of the Food Pantry are the most effective way to support this ministry, as nutritious food can be purchased at the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank for about \$.19 cents per pound. For example, All Saints pays about \$5.30 per case for 24, 14.5 oz cans of green beans.
- Provide us with paper bags for packing and other non-perishable food items.

*How can you help? As a volunteer or a donor!  
If you're interested in this ministry please contact Dawn Ray, 252-876-2834,  
or Jess Underwood, 404-661-1150.*

## Breaking Barriers

And something "newer" on Tuesday mornings

During Food Pantry hours, we're also assisting in other helpful ways:

- Financial Assistance towards utilities and temporary housing. **Your donations to the Rector's Discretionary Fund are primarily used to help those in the community with the most need.**
- And with Deacon Barbara's guidance, we now also assist those who need to acquire important identification for stable employment and housing, including Government-issued ID cards, Social Security Cards, and Birth Certificates.

*How can you help? As a volunteer or a donor!  
If you're interested in this ministry, please contact Deacon Barbara,  
deacon@allsaintswr.org*



## Am I still on the call list?

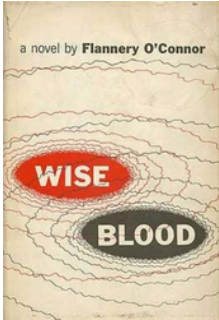


Prior to the summer months, All Saints was using a calling system regularly on Friday evenings, to announce our Sunday activities. We did take a break this summer, and will resume some limited usage in the Fall for big events.

# Coming Soon!

## August 7: Covered Dish and Rector's Forum

Join us after Sunday Worship on August 7th for our monthly Covered Dish and Rector's Forum. Our program will focus on **Getting to Know our Neighbors**, and will be led by Mother Bonnie and Deacon Barbara.



## August 15: Monday Book Club

The Monday Book Club resumes on August 15th, with Flannery O'Connor's novel *Wise Blood*. All are welcome to these weekly Zoom meetings from 4:30 to 6 pm. For more information, contact Mary Christian at [chrismae@alumni.iu.edu](mailto:chrismae@alumni.iu.edu).

## August 20: Celebrating the Saints: John Bunyan

We'll be celebrating one of the saints, John Bunyan, on Saturday, August 20 at 11 am, in Mary Christian's home. Join us for Morning Prayer, followed by brunch, reading, and discussion. *Watch for a SignUp Genius!*



## August 21: Family Promise



**In addition to our Sunday afternoon Roadtrip to Conyers,** we will be assisting Family Promise with an evening meal. *Watch for a SignUp Genius.*

## Monday's, August 8th – 29th: Christian Yoga

Time Duration: 4 sessions/1 hour per week, at 6:30 p.m.

- Learn some benefits of yoga
- Learn some basic to intermediate yoga moves
- Focus on slow, deliberate, stretch moves
- Positive thoughts, prayer, and music are incorporated
- Improve focus and meditative abilities

*\*Yoga Mat and yoga strap needed*

If interested, please email Stephanie Johnson at [skaiglerjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:skaiglerjohnson@gmail.com) or contact the church office and/or plan to meet for a brief meeting after Sunday's, July 31st, service.





# The Saints Among Us

*Something new, as we recognize special events in the Community*

Congratulations, Dominique and Taylor! We'll miss you!

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**Dominique Deming** has been a part of our All Saints family for the past two years, joining not long before the COVID lockdown. She's been active in the Monday Book Club, EfM, attending our Celebrating the Saints events, and helping with our new Digital Ministries. She was even received into the Episcopal Church during her relatively short time among us! Dominique will be moving to Atlanta this month, as she begins a new journey as a seminarian at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

**Taylor Irwin** has been our Parish Administrator this past year, helping us with our All Saints communications and many other "duties as assigned." She too will be heading to Candler, as she too pursues a Master of Divinity.

*I did not realize when I accepted this position at All Saints all the many benefits that would come to me. From the lessons I have learned from Mother Bonnie and Deacon Barbara, to the jokes and good conversations I have had with Mr. Jess, to so many sweet moments in between. This past year I learned from this parish what being an Episcopalian can look like, and I liked it so much I decided to become one myself! I am grateful to All Saints and look forward to visiting you all again soon.*

Taylor



My cat, Jo, and I in matching shirts for school!

*And while we say goodbye to these two blessed members of All Saints, we also welcome two who are taking new roles in our Community.*

Welcome, Debra!

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Hi! My name is **Debra Bruner-Smith**. I am a Postulant for the Diaconate which is a fancy way of saying that I am in training to become a Vocational Deacon. I have been assigned to All Saints for about 6 months. I am so glad to be here and thank Mother Bonnie for her guidance! My home parish is St. Francis in Macon. I have been married to my husband, Doug, for almost 25 years. We have two children, Jessica, 23, and James, 19. We live in south Monroe County. I am originally from Pennsylvania but have lived in Georgia for almost 25 years. I am an active member of Daughters of the King and serve as the Diocesan vice president. I look forward to getting to know all of you and learning more about All Saints. Thank you for your support!



Debra

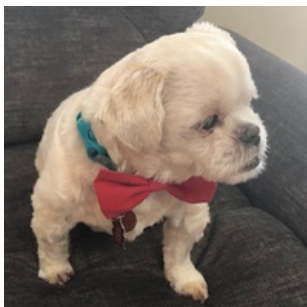
Welcome Back, Linda!!

**Linda Gerdes** is not a new face, but instead is a happily familiar part of our All Saints family. Linda will be re-joining us as the Parish Administrator and there will be opportunities to join her in the office as part of our Helping Hands ministry.

*Picture it, a little white church with red doors in Warner Robins. The year is 2010. The word is out that they need some volunteer help in the office. Down the road is an ambitious woman working on the base that needs to do community service to get that elusive promotion who just happens to be a parishioner. She is accepted as a volunteer, gets that promotion, and in 2012 becomes All Saints' Parish Administrator! After a year set back with illness, I'm baaaack!*

For those that don't know me, I am a 4th generation cradle-Episcopalian. My husband (who passed away in 2012) and I joined All Saints in 2001 after moving here from Texas. Coming from a military family, my relatives live all over the US, so I call All Saints my family and my home. I could not have come so far without your love and support.

Linda Gerdes



Starting in September, drop by the office and say hi to Freeway the Episco-pup, and !!



## Helping Hands Ministry

All Saints is looking for office volunteers  
Wednesday and Thursday mornings

All Saints is thrilled to have Linda Gerdes return to the Parish Administrator's role at All Saints! To support Linda in her continuing recovery, we are beginning a new Helping Hands Ministry of office volunteers who can assist on Wednesday and Thursday mornings for an hour or so with some basic office work, including making copies and filing; answering the door, as needed; assistance with carrying a few items to the Sanctuary (bulletins, flowers, etc.); and other assignments as required.

If you would like more information or potentially interested in volunteering for this ministry, please contact Linda Gerdes or Mother Bonnie.

# All Saints Calendar

## Weekly

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### Sunday

Worship 10:15 am in-person and online  
Children's Choir: 1:30pm

### Monday

Book Club: 4:30-6pm

### Tuesday

Food Pantry: 9:30 - 11am

### Wednesday

Noonday Prayer: 12-12:30pm

### Thursday

Choir Rehearsal: 7:30pm

### Friday

Shawl Ministry: 10-12:30pm  
ECW Luncheon: 1pm

## Monthly

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### 1st Sunday

Covered Dish and Rector's Forum  
after Sunday Worship

### 1st Tuesday

ECW Meeting, 10-11:30am in the  
Parish Hall

### 4th Thursday

Men's Group Meeting, 6:30-8pm,  
Tap and Pour on Moody

*All Saints welcomes all  
to our Worship and  
Fellowship Events*

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## Pilgrimage: *What is it? And why should I go?*

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Pilgrimage is a wonderful half hour of quiet, prayer and contemplation in the middle of the week. It is a great source of renewal and peace. And it is one of the least attended of our services!

I encourage you to give it a try and experience this wonderful time of quiet and community in our sanctuary. There are prayers and scripture readings from the Book of Common Prayer's Noonday service, plus a time to lift up your personal prayers during a time of silence. It is a brief moment during the week to stop, be quiet and still, and talk to God. Take advantage of it! I do think you will find it a special time in your week.

***Come on Wednesday at noon and be refreshed!***

Linda Christie

# July in Pictures

## Literary Trip to Eatonton and Milledgeville



The travelers outside Alice Walker's home church, Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church. Anne Sanders, Rebecca Balkcum, Chi Cheung, Margaret Rodeheaver, and Mary Christian.



The peacocks of Andalusia farm, either kissing or sharing an insect snack.



Andalusia farmhouse, Flannery O'Connor's home.

### **And please do remember your pledges!**

All Saints encourages you to keep-up-to date with your financial support as you enjoy your summer events. As a friendly reminder, there are various ways you can give, even if you are away.

- You can mail your check to All Saints Episcopal Church, 1708 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins, GA 30193.
- Or give online at [www.allsaintswr.org](http://www.allsaintswr.org). Click on the "Connect" menu option, then "Give" to be able to give.
- Online through Realm. And if it's more convenient to give through Realm directly, please contact the church office for an account setup.
- Online banking. Go to your bank's online banking system and set up All Saints as a payee.

If you have difficulty using the online options, please do contact the office at 478-923-1791 or [office@allsaintswr.org](mailto:office@allsaintswr.org).