



All Saints Alive!

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
December 2022



Mother Bonnie's Corner

Be still and know that I am God.

This verse from Psalm 41 is near and dear to my heart: a verse I routinely use to prepare for contemplative time: a time I set apart to quietly sit with God. To help create an inner quiet space, I silently repeat this verse in a set pattern several times, while intentionally slowing my breathing and closing my eyes. Here's my repetitive pattern of praying this verse:

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

This practice helps to create a stillness within me, allowing me to stop my more active self and simply open my heart to God. Stillness isn't natural for me (nor is patient waiting), but this rhythm of repetition does help me settle in and begin my time sitting with Jesus.

Finding time to simply be with God is important and can be especially meaningful Advent. This season is all about waiting and anticipating, as we count the days and weeks until we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent is also a time when we acknowledge that great waiting for Christ's second coming in Glory at some future time that only God knows.

How will you spend this season of waiting for our Lord and Savior? I do want to encourage everyone to intentionally find some quiet time to simply rest in Christ. But realizing that quiet time can be hard to find with all the preparations and planning that is always part of our December lives (and especially for those with active kiddos!), be at peace knowing that God knows us all fully and completely. I do imagine God also delights when our waiting is passionately active and hopeful, as we excitedly anticipate the good things to come.

What's Included

- Mother Bonnie's Corner
- From our Deacon
- From the Senior Warden
- December at a Glance
- Year Round Stewardship
- Upcoming January Events
- Family Promise Update
- New Vestry Candidates
- Christmas at All Saints
- Weekly / Monthly Calendar
- All Saints in Pictures

May this Advent and Christmas season be a blessing to all, as we joyfully anticipate the coming of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus

Contact us: 478-923-1791
office@allsaintswr.org
allsaintswr.org

Here at All Saints, we will have several offerings to help us lean into the Advent season, in community:

- Every Wednesday, 12–12:30: Noonday prayer. Take a break and join us for this time of prayer and quiet contemplation Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.
- This year's Advent program includes Evening Prayer at 5:45 pm, a light potluck dinner at 6:00 pm, and a program from 6:30–7:15 pm discussing one of our Advent themes. Watch for a SignUp Genius each week, as we gather for prayer, food, and fellowship.

And within this newsletter, you'll also find the schedule for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. May this Advent and Christmas season be a blessing to you and to all your family, as we prepare to receive God's most blessed gift of Love into the world.

Peace,
Mother Bonnie

From our Deacon

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Prayer For the Human Family, BCP 815)



This is one mighty prayer! It lays out for us what the Kingdom of God means; how it will live and move and have its being. It occurs to me that we pray this because we have an inkling of what God envisioned when God created and realize it isn't yet so. It's still in progress and we are the ones called to help do that building, and we are asking for God's patience and understanding as we do our best to live into God's dream for creation.

It can be powerfully overwhelming to even imagine what God's Kingdom could ever be. There may be a sense among us that all this is much hard or that we can't possibly do our part. Certainly not all at once, in the blink of an eye. And that is true. However, we can help build the Kingdom of God one small step at a time. We just have to imagine the next step, be creative ourselves, and take that first, small step.

And this small step doesn't necessarily have to be some big, dramatic, newsworthy event. It can be something small, manageable, and honest.

A few months back, some of us were talking about our All Saints ministry of "Getting to Know Our Neighbors." That discussion led us to think of a fun event that could include our closest neighbors' families. While we consider our church to be a safe place, our neighbors along Cherokee Street just plain don't always have that same sense of security.

I've driven along Cherokee, from Hickory to Holly, and a few streets beyond. Not just on Sundays, but pretty much whenever I'm here. It has given me opportunities to see the broader neighborhood on most any day of the week and any time of the day. What I don't see is kids riding their bikes around, skateboarding, skating (yes, kids still do that) – kids out and about in the neighborhood, just being kids. But I do see kids playing in their own yards under the watchful eye of an adult.

As then as I walked the neighborhood and had some of those not-so-formal discussions, my thoughts were confirmed. The people who live along Cherokee and beyond don't feel there is a level of safety that permits kids the freedom to roam, even a little. Families don't feel comfortable expanding their children's play territory beyond their own supervised yards. This sense of insecurity is all around us, and we can't pretend the world is like the one in which we grew up. Sadly, it just plain isn't so.

All of this new "knowing" about our neighborhood led a small group of us to restart Trunk or Treat. Once word got out, there were about half a dozen All Saints folk who signed up to decorate their trunks and fill them with treats. Halloween was closing in and we spread the word through announcements. Flyers were printed up and distributed to our neighbors along Cherokee Street by walking along, being seen, and leaving the flyers in mailboxes. As we walked, we began to see in new ways, too.

The Sunday before Halloween two ladies who live just across the street came out to speak to us. We shared that we were inviting folks to Trunk or Treat so the kids could have fun in a safe way. The ladies were delighted and agreed to let folks know. It was a brief GOOD talk!

Early Halloween evening, as I drove to All Saints, I wondered how many trunks would arrive at All Saints. Then I wondered how much loot would be in the trunks. After that, I began to wonder if any kids would show up and would they have fun.

When the appointed time arrived, it was a glorious sight! A dozen or so Trunks were decorated and LOADS of candy were blended into the decorations. All Saints Trunk People were in costume, in good cheer, and having fun!

We built it! And they came!

The interesting thing is, very few cars actually pulled into the parking lot. Most folk walked into the parking lot. Granted, they might have driven over and parked in one of the next-door lots, but they walked to Trunk or Treat at All Saints. The kids were having so much fun! The adults were having a blast! Trunks needed to be restocked. And even the last child, about 20 minutes after we had planned to stop, received treats that had escaped into the depths of the decorations!

Why is this important?

We've extended our sense of welcoming, with no strings attached. Our neighbors and those they invited have caught a glimpse of All Saints as a welcoming, fun, safe, and respectful place. We're creating that space and sharing it, *living into the prayer **For the Human Family***, with our lives.

A first small step. And with the guidance of the Spirit, we'll continue on to the next step.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Deacon Barbara

From the Senior Warden

So much occurred over the last month! Our Stewardship Campaign was very successful. Thank you to all who submitted a pledge. As you are probably aware, costs have risen in so many areas. We are very blessed to have so much support from the members of our Parish as we budget for the next year.



Our new tshirts arrived! The new logo looks great on the gray and red shirts. There are still shirts available in both short-sleeve and long-sleeve styles.

The Friends Project kicked off with several parishioners volunteering. Basically, they will be helping new members and visitors with their first services in the Episcopal Church. If this sounds like something you might like to do, we are still accepting volunteers.

Trunk or Treat was a great success. We had an opportunity to meet some of the neighborhood families. A big thank you to all of you that showed up in costume to share snacks and fellowship with our neighbors.

The GIPL Energy Grant application has been submitted. We should hear back from them soon. Our last grant was approved, so we are anticipating a positive response.

The calendar is FULL in December 2022. Starting on December 1st we will begin our Thursday Advent program: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Why cook when you can join us? Evening Prayer is at 5:45 pm followed by a Light Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm, and the program from 6:30-7:15 pm. This program will continue on December 8, 15, and 22.

We are so excited to have Marketplace on Saturday, December 3rd. The parade will be passing by the church that morning. So, come enjoy a front-row seat as the Christmas Parade returns to Watson Boulevard. You can shop the many vendors in addition to the ECW room full of goodies. Lunch and baked goods are available. We need a lot of helpful hands before, during, and after the event. Please check the sign-up sheets, and see if you can find the job for you. Also, please share this event with your friends and neighbors. We are hoping for a good turnout to help us raise funds that we will use to support various community nonprofits.

We are excited to host the Women's Interfaith Alliance on Monday, December 5. There will be a potluck luncheon and a program. If you have never attended one of their meetings, please consider attending. We hope to see a lot of you at the meeting.

On December 11, we will have Lessons & Carols and Vestry Elections. In addition, the monthly covered dish has been moved to the 11th.

A wonderful All Saints' tradition will occur during Sunday worship on December 18th. The annual Christmas Pageant will be presented starring our All Saints' young people.

Mother Bonnie often reminds us to take some time to simply *Be Still*. I hope that you will make time between decorating, baking, shopping, and wrapping to *Be Still*. As we say goodbye to 2022, we can all reflect on the many blessings we have here at All Saints. Also,

we can all look forward to the New Year and the many opportunities that we have to further our mission in both our church and in our community.

As we remember the true meaning of Christmas, let us celebrate this joyous occasion while spreading joy, harmony, and the message of Christ. Merry Christmas!

Shelley Strickland, Sr. Warden

December at a Glance

- **Thursdays in Advent** : December 1, 8, 15, 22
- **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**: Join us for this year's Advent program, with Evening Prayer at 5:45 pm, a Light Potluck Dinner at 6:00 pm, and Program from 6:30–7:15 pm
- **December 11**: Advent Lessons & Carols and Vestry Elections, plus Covered Dish and Town Hall
- **December 18**: Christmas Pageant during worship
- **December 24**: Christmas Eve Services
 - 5:30 pm: Family Christmas Eve service
 - 8:00 pm: Choral Program, followed by 8:30 pm Festal Holy Eucharist
- **December 25**: Christmas Day worship at 10:15 a.m.

Year Round Stewardship: *Reasonable*

During Advent, we wait. Wait for the coming of Jesus. Wait for Christmas. Perhaps wait for other things—for healing, for rest, for a time with loved ones, perhaps for some news.

It's one thing to wait for a thing for four weeks. If we're used to fasting and waiting through Advent every year, and then celebrating the end of the wait on Christmas Eve, the wait can feel like a matter of routine, something you know will soon be over.

It's a good way to teach the kids the value of "delayed gratification"—like saying, "No, wait until after supper, and then you can have a cookie. Wait until your homework is done, and then you can go out and play."

But what about the times when the wait doesn't end on schedule? Ever since the pandemic began, the church calendar hasn't seemed so predictable. We fast from in-person worship, from potlucks, from choir, from seeing each other's noses and mouths—and a year later, the fast continues.

In Advent 2020, the waiting seemed especially long and tense. We were waiting for vaccines to be ready. Waiting for it to be safe to go to big family gatherings again. Waiting for life and holidays to be normal (i.e. non-pandemic) again.

In 2021, for a while, we thought "normal" was going to happen. We got vaccinated. We masked. Eleven days before Christmas, I got my Covid booster shot, looking forward to flying out west, hugging my parents and grandparents (in some cases, for the first time in two years), cooking and eating meals with people I love, watching my little cousins opening presents under the tree. It all felt real—the hope, the expectation of long-deferred desires fulfilled.

Then, a week later, I woke up to catch my flight to Denver to visit my Grandpa. I had a sore throat, and was coughing and sneezing. I thought it was just a cold, but I took a Covid test. Positive. (Apparently I got exposed before the booster antibodies had a chance to kick in.)

So for the second year in a row, the Advent waiting didn't end on Christmas Eve. I was still waiting and watching and longing. Waiting for the ten days of isolation to be over. Watching the thermometer. Longing for hugs. Longing to just not be alone.

I know plenty of people last year went through the same thing, or worse, with illness or disrupted holiday plans. My symptoms never got beyond common cold symptoms, and I had a lovely, safe, comfortable home to quarantine in, and plenty to eat. So I knew I had a lot to be thankful for.

Still, it wasn't the Christmas I had hoped for—waiting, mourning in lonely exile here.

A week after Christmas, I celebrated New Year's Eve with a negative Covid test, and two days later, I was back in church singing with the choir:

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
They are ever praising you.

That morning, Psalm 84 felt more festive than any Christmas carol.

I've been thinking back to the long Advent waits of the past two years, and also thinking back to others who have waited. During Advent, we read passages from Old Testament prophets who told their hearers to "prepare the way of the Lord" because "unto us a child is born." They didn't know when the wait was going to end, but they kept watch. After Jesus ascended to Heaven, his followers remembered how he had said, "I will come again" and "Some of you who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom." As years went by and disciple after disciple died, I'm sure many wondered: "When? How long?" One might say that the long, indefinite Advent waits of the past few years fit into a tradition that dates further back than any official season on the church calendar.

I often get frustrated when a wait doesn't end on schedule. But then, if it's following a schedule, maybe that's not really waiting, at least not the same sort of waiting, not the sort of patience God may ask for. I thought about this when I was looking over C. S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters* recently. The demon *Screwtape* advises a young fiend about how to tempt a human into anger and impatience in the midst of an air raid during World War II: "[T]he thing to avoid is the total commitment. Whatever he says, let his inner resolution be not to bear whatever comes to him, but to bear it 'for a reasonable period'—and let the reasonable period be shorter than the trial is likely to last." In the past three years, we have all been forced into waits that don't follow a calendar, through circumstances that pay no attention to our ideas of "reasonable." But perhaps our ideas of "reasonable" were due for a reassessment anyway. Maybe that is part of what it means to be stewards of our time, of our lives, and of the lessons life offers.

I got another booster shot about a month ago, and my tickets are booked to see my family out west. I'm hoping this will be the year when the Advent wait will end on schedule, and that I'll get to enjoy the family time that hasn't happened during the past two Christmases. I do hope for that. But these past two years have been a reminder that God is bigger than the calendar, and so is the hope God gives.

Mary Christian

Upcoming January 2023 Events

- **January 15:** Vestry Commissioning
- **January 22:** All Saints Annual Meeting and Covered Dish

Mother Bonnie will be on vacation 12/26 - 1/9.

Father Gary Abbott will be serving at All Saints on Sunday 1/1 and 1/8.

Family Promise

All Saints was proud to be a sponsor of the recent Family Promise fund raiser, Jazz in the City. The event was the first fund raiser since before covid began. This fund raiser was a very successful Sold-Out event.

We were scheduled to prepare and serve dinners during the first week of November. However, it ended up being a week that there were no residents at Family Promise. This is good news! Several families "graduated" at the same time. They were able to transition out of Family Promise and into their own home. One mother and daughter moved during the days we had been set to do dinner. Instead of preparing meals, we were able to send a congratulatory card and gift certificate. I had spent time with this family and can only imagine their sense of joy and pride their first night in their new home. They worked so hard to save the funds needed to start over.

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to prepare and deliver food. The sign-up filled up so quickly! We will probably not be on the schedule again until the new year. In the meantime, I hope you will reflect on how fortunate we are to be able to work with this worthwhile agency. Thank you all for your support. You helped to create a new beginning for several families in 2022.

Thursdays in Advent
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
December 1, 8, 15, 22

Watch for a Weekly Sign Up Genius!



Join us as we discuss four Advent themes
5:45 pm: Evening Prayer
6:00 pm: Light Potluck Dinner
6:30-7:15 pm: Program and discussion



The Ladies of
All Saints ECW Invite you to their
HOLIDAY Marketplace
Saturday, Dec 3 2022

9:00-2:00pm
Start your holiday shopping with us!



*Bake Sale
*Lunch
& much, much, more!

Craft items from church members
PLUS
Vendors selling Candles, Jewelry, Soaps, Clothing, Craft, Gifts, and all manner of items!

All Saints Episcopal Church
1708 Watson Blvd. Warner Robins, GA 31093
Ph: 478-923-1791

(Note: A limited number of Vendor tables available @ \$40 (inside & outside areas available - contact Linda Christie (lindachristie@gmail.com))



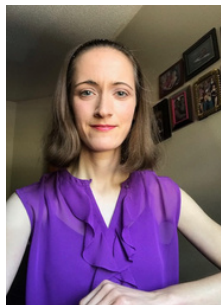
Women's Interfaith Alliance
of Central Georgia

Save the Date!
December Luncheon/Meeting
December 5, 2022
12:00 - 1:30
at All Saints!
Potluck luncheon

New Vestry Candidates – 2023

This year, we have three church members who have agreed to serve God and the people of All Saints through Vestry leadership roles.. Vestry elections are on Sunday, December 11th.

Mary Christian



I began attending All Saints about three years ago. As a college English teacher, I was drawn to All Saints because this church helped me find ways to use my passions for reading, writing, and teaching as ways to love God and neighbor more effectively. I was confirmed and became an official member in August 2021. During my time here, I have been active in the food pantry, Family Promise, the choir, and the Monday Book Study group. This past year I have begun contributing a monthly stewardship column to the church newsletter, and I've also helped to organize Celebrating the Saints events, especially for those who have served God through poetry and storytelling.

Leslie Tidwell



My spiritual journey began as a teenager at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Racine, WI. My father made it clear that as long as I lived under his roof, I was expected to attend church every Sunday. Despite my objections, protestations, and insistence that I was agnostic, Carl Tidwell had the last word. St. Luke's is a prominent church perched on the corner of downtown Racine, almost occupying the entire block. The bells chimed on the hour.

Attending church took on a new significance when I became an acolyte. I came to love the liturgical seasons, the colorful vestments and the ceremony of high church.

Once I left home, my journey took many detours and interludes as I researched different faiths and beliefs. Now, in my fourth year of Education for Ministry, I realize that the Episcopal church has everything I was seeking. That's why I made All Saints my church home.

I am a physician, currently working for the Veterans Health Administration. My children, Preston and Jolie, are students in Houston County schools. My mother is the Venerable Archdeacon Janet Tidwell. I was the coordinator for the Warner Robins Path to Shine program from 2017 to 2019. I consider serving on the vestry committee a new adventure on my journey of faith and ministry.

Bronwyn Young



I am a "cradle Episcopalian" and have been a member of All Saints Church for many years. My family and I moved to Warner Robins in 1975 and almost immediately became active in church life. My two sons grew up in All Saints and I became happily involved in the EYC, assisting Art Christie in many joyful meetings and adventures with the youth of the church.

After major life changes, I moved with my new husband to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, in 1994. Upon his death in 2014, I returned to Warner Robins and All Saints Church and was asked to teach Sunday School to middle and high school

students. I taught classes every Sunday until the pandemic ended that endeavor.

Currently, I participate in Foyers and assist with the Wine and Cheese event; my job is to help with the silent auction. (Always fun!) Professionally, I have been an educator for 40+ years, largely at the secondary and community college levels. I have just recently retired from Georgia Military College with the intent to travel, paint, work with rescue dogs, and become more involved with activities at All Saints. I like the direction our church is headed and would enjoy being a part of its future. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve on the vestry and would offer my skills and talents to support the congregation's goals and ministry.

Christmas at All Saints

Poinsettias - 2022

The Altar Guild invites you to help make All Saints beautiful with poinsettias and greenery for Christmas. If you wish to contribute, please complete the form below and enclose a \$20 donation. The form may be placed in the Sunday plate or mailed to the church office. Please note "poinsettias" on your check. The deadline for notices to be included in the Christmas bulletin is **Sunday, December 18th**. Please print your message below as you would like it to appear in the Christmas bulletin.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Given By: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____



Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve
Family Service: 5:30 pm
Choral Program: 8:00 pm
Festal Holy Eucharist: 8:30 pm

Christmas Day
Sunday, 12/25 10:15 am
In-person and livestream

Offerings of flowers for Christmas is a blessed way to join in the festive celebrations at All Saints.

All Saints welcomes all to our Worship and Fellowship Events

*** Please note that for December, the Men's Group will not meet.*

All Saints Calendar

Weekly

Sunday

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

Monday

Book Club: 5:15-7pm
EfM: 6:30-8:30 pm

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: 12:30 pm

Monthly

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

Do Join Us!

116th Annual Council

Our diocese took place November 11-12 and your attendees from All Saints were Judy Reynolds, Libbet Turner, Deacon Barbara, and Mother Bonnie. This was our first in-person Annual Council since 2019, with about 500 Episcopalians gathered on the campuses of Holy Innocents in Sandy Springs, sharing time together in worship, fellowship, doing the business of the church (reviewing and passing budgets and resolutions), and Diocesan youth and others working on a service project to feed 10,000.

Our Diocesan Missioner for Congregational Vitality, Sally Ulrey, presented the results of a review of 2021 parish parochial reports and a diocesan-wide survey which has helped to identify priorities to help parishes in leadership development and to discern the next steps to more effectively engage with their neighbors. All Saints is actively involved in two of programs – the College of Congregational and Formation for all the Baptized – to assist us in our endeavors and I look forward to our continuing involvement in the future.

There was also recognition that all of our parishes have seen a drop in their in-person Sunday attendance post-COVID, but the parishes that seemed to do better than average have similar experiences: a willingness to experiment with alternative ways of gathering; listening deeply to members to understand their needs; small groups that took responsibility for group member's well-being; having an outward focus towards the needs of their neighbors; and using a team approach to ministry. At All Saints, we're actively engaged in many of these areas -- both during and since Covidtide -- and my hope is that we will continue this good work in the future.

For more details on Annual Council, including access to Bishop Wright's sermon, here's the link: <https://episcopalatlanta.org/news/regathering-adapting-and-experimenting-are-themes-of-116th-annual-council/>.

Mother Bonnie+



Our saints from All Saints at Annual Council Worship



All Saints in Pictures



**5th Sunday in October.
Our Childrens' Sermon and a few of the many costumes at Blessings of the Costumes**



We celebrated Clergy Appreciation Day, thanking Deacon Barbara, Archdeacon Janet, and Mother Bonnie during our November Town Hall



If you haven't yet joined us, as we *Celebrate the Saints*, do join us when we gather again in the new year!

We celebrated the gifts of CS Lewis during our November gathering, with worship, readings, discussions, food and fellowship!



Trunk or Treat 2022!

