



All Saints Alive!

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
February 2024



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Mother Bonnie's Corner

We have been using Eucharistic Prayer D during the season after the Epiphany this year. I love this liturgy, and it contains one line that especially moves me: "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end."

This verse is from John's gospel, and within it is the true spirit of the season of Lent.

Lent can be a bit tricky. It's certainly a time when we're encouraged to do something the world does not do: to examine our lives through Christ's eyes, remembering our need to repent and renew our faith. Many observe a Holy Lent through a practice of prayer, fasting, and self-denial, as well as reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

Yet in our effort to humbly look at our lives and focus on all we've done and left undone, we may miss the real point and Lent's deepest revelation: the unrelenting, overpowering love of Jesus. We are all eternally and endlessly loved, known before we were even born, and blessed to be God's own beloved creation.

This Lent, may we strive together to find balance. May this Lent draw us all more fully into Christ's love, strengthening us to share his love with all the world.

Blessings,
Mother Bonnie

P. S. Sundays will be a bit quieter during Lent, as we strive for more moments of silence during our Rite I liturgy. We will also offer several programs, to help us all lean into a Holy Lent: our Thursday Evening Lenten video series, Letting Go; a Lenten retreat, Active Hope; Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays in the Sanctuary at noon, as well as some new Outdoor Stations of the Cross displays during Holy Week. Do join us.

From our Deacon



Half way through my 4th grade year, our family moved to a new house in a new neighborhood. In a matter of months, other families moved in with all their kids and by the time the new school year and football started, there were almost enough kids in 1st through 5th grade to fill two football teams. As the seasons changed, home plate became a permanent spot in our backyard. We had the best hill for miles on which to skateboard and have coast-cart races.

The hill flattened out for a good quarter mile, giving us plenty of room for various bicycle games, our favorite being our version of polo. In the summer, we would play all over the neighborhood (there were no fences) well into the night, and we had acres to play hide-and-seek. It was a wonderful world!

As good as all that sounds, there were times when everybody would get a little cranky with one another, and we needed to blow off a little steam. This was usually limited to summer when we were together ALL the time and settled by a good old-fashioned mud ball battle. (Which was quite raucous and expended much energy, which was the entire point, after all.)

When we were done and, once again, all laughing together, we made our way to somebody's backyard, turned the water, and hosed each other. Even if we weren't completely clean, we were always very, very wet.

I share this story because it seems to me that the world is there right now -- at the very edge of needing a major mud ball battle. Unfortunately, it isn't a bunch of neighborhood kids. It's mostly adults.

There are a lot of reasons that tensions among us seem to be building and building, and I'm not brave enough to even try and list the top ten. And although it might make an interesting news story, I'm also not going to suggest that a good old-fashioned mud ball battle would actually settle all our differences.

Instead, I am going to share some thoughts on what we can do to ease some of the tension, with a few things that don't take all that much time, energy, planning, or the need to create a detailed agenda. Actually, with just a little practice, these few small things could make a really big difference in somebody else's day.

I'm talking about going the extra mile by *doing the little things* -- and even trying to make doing these little things a habit -- all in the hope of helping us better cope with those things that divide and create hard feelings, because we can discover just how connected we all actually are.

One kind of "little thing" is that small kindness or wink of generosity that we can offer to total a stranger, for it can bring hope. Or maybe that phone call to someone you haven't seen in awhile, helping them to know that they're not alone, nor forgotten. Or calling someone you know is stuck at home, for whatever reason, and asking if you can pick up what they need from the store, because you're going there yourself.

You get the idea. My hope is that you've already started thinking about other kinds of little stuff that you might try. Some of you may even have started making a list of the places you

From our Deacon continued

go and the people who gather there, so you can plan some little kindnesses. Others may be considering an experiment with the small things. And the glorious truth is that little kindnesses can be more than a little contagious, because we can't help but want to pass it on!

There's actually a name for this kind of behavior: *ministry*.

Until we can act in the world the way God calls us to act with all our neighbors, we will continue to be surrounded by too much tension. But with God's help, we can be part of making our world better, one small act at a time, and doing our best to treat everyone with equity, dignity, and respect.

I have a coffee cup that makes all this pretty simple to remember. The very-pointed proverb on the side reads, "Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty." Maybe this can become a new Lenten discipline for us all.

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

From the Senior Warden

A new year brings new opportunities to continue successful programs and to explore new ones. We can look forward to entertaining events such as the Wine and Cheese Tasting, the English Tea, and the Macon Bacon outing. We can also anticipate the solemn services of Lent, as well as the joyful services of Easter.



Meanwhile, our monthly potlucks and coffee bars will continue; these activities and others are possible through the diligence and commitment of our engaged clergy and our dedicated volunteers. There are many ministries that are seeking volunteers and many opportunities to become involved at All Saints. Please consider trying something new in 2024!

On a personal level, January 2024, has been a busy month for me as I learn my role as Senior Warden. I successfully chaired a called meeting of the vestry to discuss and approve the budget for 2024, and I assisted Mother Bonnie in hosting an orientation workshop for new vestry members. I realize that I have much more to learn, but I also realize that I have excellent support from the clergy and the congregation. Together we can fulfill the pledge we recited at the Commissioning of the Vestry ceremony - to perform the work of the vestry with "diligence, faithfully and prayerfully executing our duties to the honor of God, with a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration." I look forward to an enjoyable and productive 2024 at All Saints!

It's a new season. A perfect opportunity to do something new, something bold, something beautiful.



Year Round Stewardship:

Greeters and Friends: The Hospitable Hand

Deacon Barbara Windom remembers the day when, at age fifty, she attended her first Episcopal service. Having left another denomination years earlier, she and her daughter Sarah had decided to give church one more try at a Christmas service at Saint Francis in Macon. As the organ played and the robed procession marched through the nave, congregants all around her stood up and opened their books, as if they had been programmed. An abrupt thought came to her: “Uh-oh. What do we do now?”

Someone in the pew behind her must have guessed what was going through her mind. Suddenly an arm reached forward, holding a blue hymnal, finger pointing to just the right corner of the page. The two visitors took the book and began to sing with their fellow-worshippers. A few minutes later, as the priest began to read prayers, the same hand reached forward again, holding out a red prayer book, again opened to the page. “I never found out who that was,” Deacon Barbara recalls. But with the help of that hospitable hand, whoever’s hand it was, the Episcopal Church quickly became home.

The confused moment of “Uh-oh” is something many newcomers experience at a new church. And such moments, and the way churches respond to them, can make a big difference in a visitor’s experience with that church, and perhaps even their experience with God and religion more generally. I remember, at my first visit at All Saints in 2019, fumbling with my red and blue books and thinking, “I could never be an Episcopalian. I’m not a good enough juggler.” I didn’t know why some of the numbers in the hymnal had an “S” in front of them and some didn’t. And then I saw the note in the bulletin: “All who are baptized may come forward to receive communion.” Anxiously, I turned to my neighbor and asked, “I was baptized, but it was in another church, not Episcopalian. Is it ok for me to take communion?” The woman, who I later found out was named Stephanie, reassured me: “Of course, you’ll be welcome.”

During the past few years, All Saints has been finding ways to reach out to new people and help them through the “Uh-oh” moments. One such effort is the Welcome Station, which Marsha Buzzell and Danielle Christie set up in 2021. This station—a table and name tag board placed outside the church’s main entrance—is a place where Greeters can welcome people as they arrive. They hand out activity bags to children, with crayons, color sheets, and other Christian Education materials, and to adults they offer information about the church and its upcoming programs.

The name tag board, a prominent feature of the Welcome Station, has become a valuable help to newcomers meeting fellow congregants for the first time, and also to longtime members who have trouble remembering names, or who might have gone to church for years without knowing the names of the people in the next pew. Marsha recalls that some members initially resisted the name tags when they were introduced, saying, “I don’t need it,” or “Doesn’t everyone know my name here?” But for many, putting on the name tag has become not just a part of the Sunday morning routine, but a valued ritual of preparation, a mark of belonging in God’s house. “I have known some of these people since I was in sixth grade,” Marsha says, “and it’s an honor to have someone I know well come up and ask, ‘Can you put my name tag on me?’”

Candler seminarian Dominique Deming, who has been part of the All Saints family since 2020, sees the name tags as a concrete part of the church's mission to "welcome all people." Having grown up in a church where queer people were excluded and women were expected to keep silent, she knows what it's like to be in a space where "welcome" is more a word than a reality. The first time she picked up her tag at All Saints, she took out a pen and wrote "she/her" under her name. The following week, Danielle handed her a freshly-printed tag with her pronouns typed in. "It means so much," Dominique says, "to go to a church that honors people's identities, a church where I am seen."

The greeters welcome new arrivals as they prepare to walk in. Another new ministry, the Friends, helps to orient them once they get inside. This team, started by Judy Reynolds and Deacon Barbara in 2022 and now headed by Bronwyn Young, has designated members who sit with any visitors who would like a companion, helping them find their place in the hymnal and prayer book and inviting them forward at communion time. (Bronwyn comments, "If I were in a brand new church, I'd be terrified, probably wouldn't even go up for communion.") Friends answer any questions visitors may have and encourage them to come to potluck or coffee bar or whatever post-church fellowship activities may be happening. In short, the Friends do for All Saints visitors what the unidentified arm did for Deacon Barbara at her first visit at Saint Francis, smoothing the transition from "stranded visitor" to "connected newcomer."

Some visitors, of course, may not want to be sat with, either because they're already familiar with the liturgical routine or because, for whatever reason, they prefer not to interact at that point. The Friends respect people's preferences and allow space for those who want it. People who prefer not to go forward for communion or stay for potluck aren't pressured to. Thinking back to her early days at Saint Francis, Deacon Barbara recounts, "I knew it was a good church when I had been away for a few weeks, and then when I came back, the people said, 'We hope you were having a good time.' There was no judgment or accusation. Nobody said, 'Where were you?'—which was what I was used to hearing at my old church." Part of welcoming people into church, she says, is being willing to "go at their pace." But for those who are ready for more connection and participation, the Friends are there to make it easier.

With nine Greeters and seven Friends, both ministries would love to have more team members. "It's not a big time commitment," Bronwyn says. "Being a Friend, you just come for the service when it's your day, and be available for visitors if there are any." Deacon Barbara adds, "We'd especially love to have families with children involved as Greeters or Friend teams. When children come and visit, it makes a big difference if another child says hello." For church members of all ages, greeting and befriending those who come through our doors is a good first step in showing God's grace and hospitality in our community and in the world.

Mary Christian



Help us keep our Instruments tuned!

You may have noticed the new signs on our doors in the Sanctuary and the Parish Hall, with friendly reminders to keep these doors closed. Temperature and humidity changes "shock" our pianos and organ, and affect the tuning. ***Please help us keep our instruments tuned by always shutting the doors behind you.***

Parish Life at All Saints



DOK Rededication

February 4th, during worship

The annual renewal of vows for our All Saints chapters of the Order of Daughters of the King

Sr. Daughters: Mary's Heart and Martha's Hands
Jr. Daughters: St. Thérèse of Lisieux.



February Luncheon/Meeting

Monday, February 5, 2023: 12- 2 pm

Here at All Saints!

WIA offers an opportunity to build relationships and learn more about different faiths, as we come together to explore our spirituality in a context of love, compassion, cooperation, and community service.

Join us this month at All Saints

Questions? Please contact Mother Bonnie

SILENT AUCTION—HELP NEEDED!

We need everyone to help with the Silent Auction held in conjunction with the annual Wine and Cheese Tasting fundraiser to be held Friday, February 9. ECW can use your help with the following:

- Solicit donations from any merchants you may frequent. Letters of Introduction and Appreciation will be available in the church office or by email from Mary Mantiplay (mantiplay123@cox.net) or from the office (office@allsaintswr.org). Please stress that this is a fundraiser to benefit local schools and charities.
- Donate quality items for bid and/or to be included in baskets. The Silent Auction Team will assemble the baskets and price items for bid. Items may be left in the ECW room or the church office.
- Bring in empty baskets you may have so that we may fill them with goodies for bid.

We need ALL items brought to the ECW room in the Parish Hall NOT LATER THAN MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5—earlier if possible.

Thank you so much for helping to make this fundraiser a success. And don't forget to buy your tickets!!

Mary Mantiplay

ECW – Episcopal Churchwomen

All the news this month is about our upcoming Wine and Cheese Tasting and Silent Auction, held Friday, February 9th at 7 pm. There are many ways you can help the ECW with this event, including the message from Mary Mantiply about the ways you can assist with the Silent Auction. This is a big part of the night and we need lots of great items to provide a great auction!

Tickets are on sale now for \$30 each. They can be purchased in the office and from Sheila Freeman. This is a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day (especially since it falls on Ash Wednesday)! Get your tickets early and invite your friends.

All Saints is hosting the Women's Interfaith meeting on Monday the 5th so we will not begin setting up the Parish Hall, ECW room and Choir room until after this event.

Any and all help beginning at 2:30 on Monday is welcome! We need to put up tables, bring out card tables, arrange the choir room and ECW room for Silent Auction items, etc. It would be great to get this done on Monday.

Tuesday we will finish set up and put on tablecloths, wall lights, fix tea lights on tables, etc. Wednesday will be a "finishing up" day so that we can have Thursday off to cook things at home. Friday will be cooking at the church and final touches.

We will meet at 5 pm Friday to prepare for our guests.

Any help on any of these days will be greatly appreciated! This is one of our two fundraisers for the year that helps us raise money to donate to organizations in the city. If you have any questions contact Linda Christie, Sheila Freeman, Mary Mantiply or Sally Engels.

Thanks in advance for all your help!



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 13th 5:30 pm

All are welcome for this traditional meal
with plenty of activities
for the young and young at heart!

Ash Wednesday at All Saints February 14th

Something new . . . Ashes to Go: 7:30 am – 8:30 am

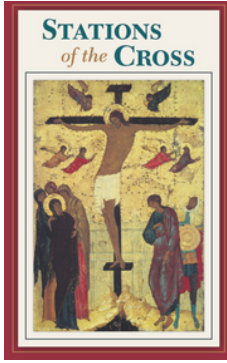
*An offering to the wider Warner Robins community,
with an offering of the imposition of ashes in our parking lot*

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist: Noon & 7:00 pm

*Traditional Ash Wednesday services in the Sanctuary,
as we strive together to begin a Holy Lent*



Lent at All Saints



Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays, Noon

Feb 21 - Mar 20

Join us in the Sanctuary each week, as we walk together the Way of the Cross

Lenten Program: *Letting Go*

Thursdays, 5:45 - 7:15 pm

Feb 22 - Mar 21

We gather for a simple potluck and a Video discussion series

Watch for a weekly SignUp Genius



Active Hope

A Lenten Workshop on Sacred Activism

Active Hope is a participatory workshop designed to help you transform fear and despair into inspiration and a sense of empowerment.

In pairs and small groups, you will have a chance to connect with each other and process how you are feeling during this extraordinary moment in time - filled with incredible advances and also a convergence of crises.

We will learn about creative ways that we can participate as individuals and/or a group to help contribute to a regenerative future. As an added bonus, you will be eligible to fill out a brief application to be considered for a mini-grant to help make your idea(s) a reality.

This workshop is led by Beth Remmes who is the Coastal Outreach and Climate Resiliency Coordinator for Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, and a Facilitator for The Work that Reconnects, on which this workshop is based.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND

9:30 AM: CHECK-IN AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

10 AM - 12 PM: WORKSHOP

RSVP by 2/23: 478.923.1791 or office@allsaintswr.org



And what about our

OUTDOOR

Stations of the Cross??

Watch for more news about our outdoor Stations offering this year, with new display stations.



Celebrating the Saints:

George Herbert

Saturday, February 24th, 11 am

All are invited, as we recognize George Herbert, a 16th-century parish priest, writer, and poet. Two of his poems are well-known hymns: "Teach me, my God and King," and "Let all the world in every corner sing."

Our potluck brunch and discussion is in the Parish Hall. *Watch for a SignUp Genius!*

A New Year and a New Beginning . . .

**Monthly Potluck and
Real Issues Speaker Series**

Sunday, February 25th

Can we Talk?

Conversations about Inclusivity PART II

February marks our return to the *Real Issues Series*, with a second installment of *Conversations about Inclusivity*, that we began with Leslie Tidwell and Mother Bonnie in November. Join us as we discover how we as Christians can grow our capacity to converse about today's challenging issues, for our ability to do this does make a difference in today's divisive world!

Once again, we'll be opening our hearts to more fully hear other voices, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Holy Week and Easter



March 24th: Palm Sunday Worship, 10:15 am
*Worship begins outside
with incense*

March 28th: Maundy Thursday Worship, 7 pm
includes optional foot-washing
Keep Watch with Me vigil
*sponsored by the DOK,
9 pm - 11 am*

March 29th: Good Friday
Stations of the Cross, Noon
Good Friday Worship, 7 pm

March 30th: Holy Saturday
Worship, 10 am

March 31st: Easter Day
Easter Vigil, 6:30 am
Breakfast, 9 am
Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 am
Easter Sunday Festal Worship,
10:15 am, *with incense*

***Consider experiencing the Triduum this year:
one continuous service, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday,
and the Easter Vigil.***

During the first quarter of 2024, All Saints will be hosting dinner three times at the Family Promise Center in Perry. Please watch for a SignUpGenius for meals and hosting opportunities on February 4th and March 10th and 12th.

In addition to hosting meals, we periodically make a contribution to help with the cost of utilities at the Center. The Center is quite large and includes several small apartments for the residents. We are starting a program to help cover these costs. If you are interested in helping, we will be distributing empty prescription bottles that are just the size to hold about \$10 worth of quarters. If you would like to participate, simply get a bottle and begin filling it with quarters. Whenever your bottle is full you may bring it to the office or put it in the plate on any Sunday. This is an opportunity for all church and family members to give support to this wonderful organization.

A reminder that in order to share meals with the Family Promise residents, you must first complete a short training session. The next training session is on March 4th at 6:00 pm at the Center in Perry. If you are interested in attending the training, please contact Shelley Strickland at shelleykstrickland@gmail.com.

All Saints Calendar

All are welcome
to Worship
and
Fellowship
Events

Sundays

Adult Choir Rehearsal: 9:15 am
Adult & Children Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship: 10:15 am, also live-streamed
Children's Choir Rehearsal: 15 minutes after worship

See weekly
eNews for
details on
upcoming
events

Weekly

Monday

Book Club: 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Tuesday

Food Pantry: 9:30 - 11am

Wednesday

Noonday Prayer: 12 - 12:30pm

Thursday

Choir 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Friday

Shawl Ministry: 10 - 12:30pm

ECW Luncheon: 12:30 pm

Monthly

Sunday

Covered Dish and Rector's Forum
 Regularly Scheduled Coffee Bar
 Bi-weekly D&D, 1 pm in Youth Room

1st Tuesday

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

4th Thursday

Men's Group, 6:00-7 pm, at
 O'Charley's on Watson Blvd

Happenings at a Glance

During February . . .

- February 2nd:** Deadline for purchasing Wine & Cheese tickets!
- February 4th:** DOK Dedication during Worship
- February 5th:** Women's Interfaith at All Saints, Noon
- February 9th:** Wine and Cheese: 7 pm
- February 13th:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- February 14th:** Ash Wednesday:
– Ashes-to-go 7:30 – 8:30 am
– Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist: Noon, 7 pm
- February 18th:** Coffee Bar, D&D
- February 22nd:** Lenten Supper/Program. 5:45–7:15 pm
- February 24th:** Celebrating the Saints: George Herbert
- February 25th:** Monthly Potluck and Real Issues Series: Inclusivity Part II
- February 22nd:** Lenten Supper/Program. 5:45 – 7:15 pm

And in March . . . Save the Dates!

- March 3rd:** Lenten Retreat: Active Hope, 9:30 am – Noon
- March 7th:** Lenten Supper/Program. 5:45–7:15 pm
- March 9th:** Hunger Walk, here in Warner Robins!
- March 10th:** Monthly Potluck and Real Issues Speaker Series, welcoming Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright, as our Speaker
- March 14th:** Lenten Supper/Program. 5:45–7:15 pm
- March 21st:** Lenten Supper/Program. 5:45–7:15 pm
- March 23rd:** Palm Cross Workshop and Parish Workday, 9 am
- March 24th:** Palm Sunday Worship, 10:15 am
- March 28th:** Maundy Thursday Worship, 7 pm
- March 29th:** Good Friday
– Stations of the Cross, Noon
– Good Friday Worship, 7 pm
- March 30th:** Holy Saturday, 10 am
- March 31st:** Easter Day– Vigil, 6:30 am; Breakfast, 9 am; Egg Hunt 9:30 am; Festal Worship 10:15 am
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All Saints in Pictures

Baptism at All Saints

We welcome our two newest members into the Body of Christ, through the waters of baptism: Castiél Ramon Flores and Camila Ricole Flores, children of Carlos and Courtney.



2024 Vestry Commissioning



We welcome and bless our new Vestry leadership

L-R: Bronwyn Young, Leslie Tidwell, Rachael Heidler, Lillian Burton, Roland Leach, Linda Christie, Judy Reynolds. Mary Christian, Anne Sanders

And a huge thanks to those who recently completed their Vestry term of service: Barbara Attaway and Shelley Strickland.
(Not pictured)