



# All Saints Alive!

*The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church*  
*January 2023*



## Mother Bonnie's Corner

Happy New Year! After a wonderfully full Advent season and beginning of Christmas-tide, I look forward to 2023 as a time of both new opportunities and the chance to lean into becoming more of who we are as God's people at All Saints.

As I look at the past two months, I am truly thankful for Advent and Christmas seasons filled with the blessings of sacred worship: contemplative Noonday prayer, beautiful Lessons and Carols, a spirited children's choir, a precious Children's Pageant, and (a favorite of mine) sacred singing by candlelight on Christmas Eve. So many opportunities to gather in praise and thanksgiving for God's gift of life and love. I find so much hope for what our world can be — a place of mercy, justice, and peace — as we are strengthened by the Word, nourished at the Table, and grow in community each week.

And speaking of community, I'm so very grateful for our life together: our times of fellowship, food, and learning, from our Monthly Covered Dish Meals and Town Hall meetings, to Monday Book group, Education for Ministry, Inquirer's classes, and seasonal programs. These offerings provide a wonderful way for small and large groups to more fully come to know one another and the many ways we can lean into our love of Christ and one another, as the people of All Saints.

I'm always excited to see the many ways this community leans into our call to serve others. As I write this, I expect the Food Pantry will serve well over 200 families, including over 600 family members during the months of November and December alone. Breaking Barriers sits side-by-side with our Food Pantry ministry each week, providing assistance with obtaining critical government identification and distributing much-needed financial help for utilities through your generous gifts to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. And our faithful ECW has once again generously given \$10,000 in donations this year, through the Spring Wine and Cheese

## What's Included

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Wishing all our All Saints Family  
a blessed New Year!

Contact us: 478-923-1791  
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allsaintswr.org

and Fall Marketplace fundraisers. And good work continues in our support of local families through Family Promise and Westside Elementary.

As All Saints continues our efforts to work with the broader community, we have become involved with a new initiative to address homelessness in our area. A new Homelessness Coalition Initiative has begun, which includes Houston County city and county governments, local businesses, churches, and other non-profit providers, all committed to working together to address this important concern in our local community. Expect to hear more about how we can support this good work, as this winter there will be a community Warming Center.

**Save the Date for our Annual Meeting on Sunday 1/22/2023**, as we will be sharing more of what's been happening at All Saints in 2022 and our plans for 2023. I do expect that this year will be once again *be more* – more than we can ask for or imagine – as we strive to work together in community, putting our faith in our Risen Lord.

What a blessing to have the Spirit lead us to serve and welcome and share Christ's light and love in the world. And may you all have a blessed beginning of 2023, as we continue our faith journey together as the family of All Saints

Peace,  
Mother Bonnie

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## From our Deacon

I always seem to look back ahead when the New Year rolls around. All sorts of things come to heart and to mind as I look both ways. I ponder the opportunities that took me to new heights of tolerance, patience, and love. I think of those challenges that can slide into the new year – holdovers of some sadness, anxiety, and foreboding. And I recall all those wonderful things: births, tranquil twilights, exciting promise, true family times.



Funny thing about looking back. There's a batch of events that could lead to discouragement for tomorrow. But there seems to be a much bigger batch that leads to joy and a deep heart desire for more. And it's that batch, I definitely hunger for and hunker down to better understand how to bring more joy and heart into the new year . . .for it's these good things that excitedly have me looking ahead, lifting me up to a place of hope, joy, enthusiasm, and energy to keep it all going.

What does this have to do with All Saints?

Looking back I can remember a sense of uncertainty of what All Saints would look like post-COVID. Will we stay little or will we grow? Both seemed to have the same sense of mixed anticipation based on the same basic anxiety. And what happened?

We gave ourselves time. We prayed and talked with each other, expressing our concerns, hopes, and dreams. We shared ideas and explored new ways to be still and quiet, true and honest in our prayers, while listening for answers – answers that do come in their own time.

And the good people of All Saints kept right on being Church. Joining together in the intimacy of true worship, raising our questions and concerns in holy unity, and supporting and encouraging each other. Basically, being a true family.

We've seen folks come to join us. Some we've known well who had been away for a bit. Some who were new, looking for something unnamed but somehow knowing what "it" was. Our bonds grew, our commitments deepened, and new energy began to spur us on.

We began to know our neighbors better -- both the ones close by and throughout the Warner Robins community. And there's been more listening, sharing, suggesting, and beginning to work together. This growing sense of community is a blessing that will require some nurturing, patience, and gently assertive action . . . at least for now. Boldness will come. Boldness in Christ that will help us all to grow in our commitment to know and care deeply for all our sisters and brothers in our community. And it is good.

Who knows what we will be celebrating this time next year when we look back ahead? I have a hunch we will have much to celebrate in a year's time.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Deacon Barbara

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## From the Senior Warden

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January 1st is just one day on the yearly calendar, yet it is the day that we generally reflect on the year just past and the year ahead.

When I reflect on 2022 here at All Saints, I am amazed at how easily we slipped right back into so many of our "regular" routines after the many changes that were necessary during Covid. Thanks to our many volunteers, we were not only able to resume our regular activities, we were able to establish new programs.

This month we will be commissioning our new Vestry Members on January 15, 2023. Mary Christian, Leslie Tidwell, and Browyn Young have agreed to serve on the vestry. We are so thankful for their willingness to serve. At that time, we will also be giving a big thank you to Sally Engels, Marcia Fussell, Ellen Strait, and Susan Wynn as they roll off the Vestry. They served during a period of time that presented some very unique challenges and often stressful situations. We are so grateful for their service!

Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 22, 2023. Please take this opportunity to review all of the many programs and activities we had in 2022. It took the generosity of both the time and talent of our volunteers to make these successful. We hope you will look at these opportunities to serve and find just the right niche for you.



Speaking of volunteering and serving . . . The city of Warner Robins is in the process of assembling resources to help address the needs of the homeless. While the long-term goal is a shelter, the immediate need is to provide a Warming Center for the cold winter nights. We are so appreciative to our neighbor church, The Table at First Christian Church on N. Houston Road. They will be providing a temporary Warming Center for the homeless. The nighttime temperatures will determine when they are open. They are currently assessing the resources they will need. In the meantime, they will be calling on various churches for food and supplies. We will be creating signup opportunities when there is a need. Please watch for them, especially anytime the projected lows go in the twenties.

The 2023 calendar is quickly filling up with many activities, projects, and special events. All of these provide us with opportunities to serve and share our blessings with the community. As we look forward to 2023, let us rejoice in the many opportunities we have to serve God with gladness.

Shelley Strickland, Sr. Warden

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## January at a Glance

**January 2nd:** Monday Book Club resumes, 4pm

**January 9th:** Women's Interfaith Alliance (WIA) meets for a potluck lunch at noon at the Islamic Center of Middle Georgia in Centerville

**January 15th:** *Commissioning of our 2023 Vestry*

**January 22nd:** *All Saints Annual Meeting and Covered Dish*

**January 29th:** *5th Sunday with a Children's Sermon*

*Mother Bonnie will be on vacation 12/26 - 1/8.*

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

## And in February

- Watch for news on a Cathedral Bookstore visit on Sunday, February 5th
- Look for more news on Celebrating the Saints, as we recognize Frederick Douglass.
- Save the Date! February 21: our Annual Shrove Tuesday and Pancake Supper celebration.
- Ash Wednesday services on February 22, as we mark the beginning of Lent.

*And we'll soon be sharing information about our upcoming  
2023 Lenten Programs at All Saints.*

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# Year Round Stewardship: About Time

“Come on.” I paused in the turn lane, waiting for an opening in the traffic. I tensed and glanced at the clock. Errands to run, deadlines, appointments to get to, and again the worry of getting there late. Another day, in other words.

Then I started to notice what the radio was saying. The speaker kept using the words “time” and “clock” and “slow.” A scientist was explaining: “A lot of us grow up being fed this idea of time as absolute. . . . Real time is actually something quite different. In some of the odder corners of the universe, time can stretch and slow—and sometimes even break down completely.” She and other interviewees went on to talk about atomic clocks and gravity and black holes—about how distance and altitude can make time move faster or slower. At some point in the future, they said, as the universe expands, entropy may make it so that time has “no real meaning” and “no direction.” As I pulled into the strip mall and slid into a parking spot, other scientists were concluding that “space-time is doomed.”

I didn’t understand all of it, but in my frazzled state, I found these explanations oddly reassuring. (Hey, if time possibly does not exist, maybe I don’t have to worry so much about being late. I’ll just blame it on physics). For my highly unscientific brain, the statements were also dizzying. Like most people I know, I grew up thinking that to function as a human means, in large part, paying attention to time, and that time meant, simply, whatever the clock said (hoping that clock matches the one in the next room). Being at school before 8:15. Punching the clock before my 1:30 shift. Logging my 45 minutes of piano practice. Having my scholarship application in by November 2. Getting to the pharmacy before it closed at 9 pm. Now, more and more often, I’m the one enforcing time constraints. Which of my students are on time and which are late? Who has their quiz completed before September 9? Are we still rehearsing at 4:15? Go talk to tech support—their office closes at 5.

If time is a social construct and not actually real—well, where do we start? And after all the warnings we’ve all heard about being good stewards of time—well, how do we steward a resource that may or may not actually exist?

I may be overdramatizing a little. The physicists on NPR did acknowledge that most of the stretchings and slowings of time that we are likely to experience on this planet in our lifetime are tiny, too tiny to make much difference for day-to-day scheduling purposes. Social constructs may not be “real” in the sense of being scientifically verifiable, but they can be useful as long as everyone agrees to treat them as realities.

Even so, it does make one pause.

At the start of new years, people tend to think a lot about time and what we do with it. We send letters to our friends and work supervisors listing all the things we’ve done in the past year and our goals for the year to come. We make resolutions to spend more time exercising or praying or talking with family and friends—less time on TV or internet surfing or whatever kind of procrastination we may have fallen into. The solar system pictures I have seen have never suggested that there is a “starting line” or “finish line” at this particular

point in Earth's orbit around the sun, but for those of us who follow the Gregorian calendar, we have all collectively agreed to treat this point, the start of January, as a time to think, take stock, and make plans. We've been told that God is not bound by time. I do not understand this, any more than I understand why time might cease to exist if one gets too close to a black hole. But keeping this idea in mind might help me to keep a healthy tension in my perspective on time. Time is part of our experience in this world, and a tool that can help give our lives structure, but it is not the whole story. Maybe that's something to remember the next time I'm running late and stuck for too long in the left turn lane.

Mary Christian

1 <https://www.npr.org/2022/12/16/1139780043/what-is-time-physics-atomic-clocks-society>

## Family Promise *Update*

We will be serving dinner to the residents of Family Promise on Sunday, January 8, 2023 and Tuesday, January 10, 2023. We will again be sharing our days with Trinity United Church. They will cover Monday the 9th. Please watch for a sign-up opportunity on SignUp Genius.

In order to interact with the families residing in the Family Promise facility, volunteers must complete Family Promise Volunteer Training. Training is completed in one session. The next Volunteer Training will be at the facility in Perry on January 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please contact Shelley Strickland at [shelleykstrickland@gmail.com](mailto:shelleykstrickland@gmail.com).

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

*Do Join Us!*

### 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,  
*This month our location  
changes to O'Charley's on  
Watson Blvd*

# Epiphany Tradition: Chalking the Door



January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, sometimes called “Three Kings Day,” and starts the Season after Epiphany which continues until Ash Wednesday. Epiphany is an invitation to follow stars, listen to dreams, and step out of what we have always known, as we recognize Christ’s light in the world

The Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 2:1-12) tells us of the day the magi arrived in Bethlehem, directed by angels and guided by a star, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. Gold symbolized Jesus as a king. Frankincense and myrrh are sweet-smelling resins that were burned as sacred offerings and during burials. The magi then go home by another road. Little else is known about them, although a robust tradition has grown around them over time, including that the three were named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

A couple of years ago we introduced another Epiphany tradition known as “Chalking the Door.” This practice consists of marking a blessing in chalk in a specific pattern of letters and numbers, to invite God’s blessing on a home, church, or other entryways, as well as all who enter those doorways during the year. All you need is chalk and a doorway. The markings are usually made above the front door or main entrance, in this pattern:

22 + C + M + B + 23

The numbers change each year to reflect the new calendar year. The letters C, M, and B are given two meanings: the initials of the traditional names of the three magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, and the initials of the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means, “Christ bless this dwelling.” The + signs are for the Cross of Christ.

**This year, All Saints will be offering chalk packets with instructions so you too may “chalk the doors” of your homes. Chalk packets will be available following our Sunday worship on January 1st.**

Seeing these symbols can help remind us that our homes and all those who either dwell there or visit are God’s beloved, to be welcomed into our homes and hearts. With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the written symbols sink into our hearts and manifest in our words and actions.

*Here’s a prayer you may choose to use, as you use the chalk to bless your home:*

*O God Among Us, may we be visited by angels, may we follow stars, may we bring the gifts we have to offer. May we embrace the journey and travel in love. May Christ bless our homes and find a home in our hearts throughout the year. Amen.*

*Adapted from article by Building Faith, a Ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary*

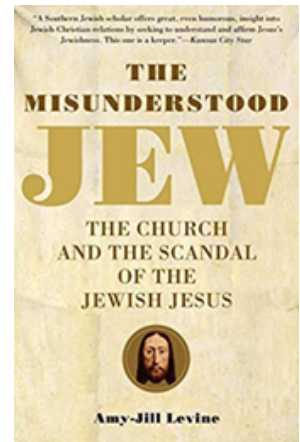
[https://buildfaith.org/handout-for-epiphany-at-home/?mc\\_cid=57a6013384&mc\\_eid=d2e220464f](https://buildfaith.org/handout-for-epiphany-at-home/?mc_cid=57a6013384&mc_eid=d2e220464f)

# Save the Dates! January Happenings

## Monday Book Club Resumes January 2nd, 4pm

The Monday Book group is currently reading Amy-Jill Levine's  
*The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal  
of the Jewish Jesus.*

As we restart in the new year, we'll be discussing Chapter 2.  
All are welcome to join this small group meeting via Zoom.  
Please contact Mary Christian for more details,  
missshake@gmail.com.



## Women's Interfaith Alliance January 9, 12:00 - 1:30<sup>th</sup>

Meet at ICMG, Islamic Center of Middle GA,  
2501 Elberta Rd, Centerville for this month's  
potluck luncheon and program.  
*Please, no pork or gelatin.*



## Vestry 2023 Commissioning January 15

Servant leadership is key to our life in community as Christ's own. This Sunday we will commission our new 2023 Vestry and thank those who have selflessly served the past three years. Do join us in prayer and thanksgiving for our All Saints leaders.



## Annual Meeting January 22

Do join us for the first potluck of the new year, as we talk about 2022 and what's to come in 2023. We'll be gathering in the Parish Hall, right after worship.



## 5th Sunday at All Saints January 29

Don't miss this special family-focused service with a children's sermon by Mother Bonnie.



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# ECW News

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The good news – Marketplace is done! And it was a success! Even with a busy schedule and a Christmas parade to deal with, most of our vendors had a good day.

Our Bake Sale had tons of wonderful goodies and the presale of cakes and pies was a grand success. Thanks to Sheila Freeman and Lillian Burton for being so generous with their time and talents.

And our new soup sale was a grand success! Thanks to Sally Engels for making SO MUCH soup! Everyone raved about it!

Thanks to all who donated to our ECW room and who helped make craft items. If there is anything that you donated that did not sell, you may get it back if you want.

***We will be clearing the ECW room after Christmas. Until then all items are half-price!***

Looking back on 2022, it was wonderful to be back to normal with our activities! We look forward to a great year in 2023.

The ECW voted to distribute \$10,000 from our funds. Below is the list of donations:

## **Title I Elementary and Middle Schools**

\$400 was sent to each school, for the Principal's Discretionary Fund, to help families in their schools that are in need.

CB Watson Elementary  
Centerville Elementary  
Eagle Springs Elementary  
Miller Elementary  
Northside Elementary  
Parkwood Elementary  
Pearl Stephens  
Russell Elementary  
Shirley Hills Elementary  
Westside Elementary  
  
Huntington Middle  
Northside Middle  
Thomson Middle  
Warner Robins Middle

## **Other Organizations**

Cherished Children Daycare	\$400
Volunteer Dental Clinic	\$400
Volunteer Medical Clinic	\$400
The Halo Group	\$400
Rebuilding Together	\$200
HARPS (animal rescue group)	\$200

## **All Saints Ministries**

Family Promise	\$400
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$2,000



## MARINATED CHINESE VEGETABLES

1 can English peas, drained  
1 can Chinese vegetables,  
drained  
1 (6 oz.) can sliced water  
chestnuts, drained

1 ½ c. chopped celery  
1 sliced red onion  
1 thinly sliced carrot

### Sauce:

1 tsp. salt  
1 c. Crisco oil

1 c. sugar  
¾ c. apple cider vinegar

Combine all vegetables together and mix well. Combine sauce ingredients and stir until sugar is dissolved. Pour sauce mixture over vegetables. Refrigerate overnight.

*It is important in Georgia to plant English peas before the weather gets too warm, no later than March 1.*

Myrtle Russell

## Parish Life

### Something New!

Wondering about some of those home recipes for those goodies served at our Covered Dish Luncheons?

Here's one from Dara West, who had several of us ask about her recipe.

This one comes from the new cookbook of *The Master Gardener's of Central Georgia*.

## A New Year's Prayer

Almighty God who makes all things new, as we begin this new year, help us to live each day to your Glory. Open our eyes to see your many blessings around us. Open our hearts to your Loving Spirit, that we may ever grow to trust in you and your tender mercies. Guide us to love our neighbors as ourselves, treating all with dignity and respect. Lead us, Heavenly Father, to serve you in all that we do. We lift up this prayer in the most Holy Name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## All Saints in Pictures

### Women's Interfaith Alliance at All Saints





# The Advent Season

## Wreath Making, Children's Choir and the Christmas Pageant

