



# All Saints Alive!

*The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church*  
*January 2024*



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## Mother Bonnie's Corner

Happy New Year to all the Beloved of All Saints! Like many of you, I always look forward to a new year and new possibilities!

I've been grateful for this past season's Scripture readings about prophetic voices reminding us to be faithful, fearless, and focused.

- We can be faithful, for God shows us what it means to be faithful. God faithfully sends us not only messengers of hope in every generation but has graciously sent us Christ Jesus himself to lead us in God's Way of Love.
- We can be fearless in striving to seek peace and justice in our corner of the world, for we are never alone. God's Holy Spirit is continually guiding us, showing us new ways to lean into loving God by loving our neighbors as ourselves and teaching us what it means to respect the dignity of every human being, for all are God's beloved.
- We can be focused as God's people on doing our part to shine Christ's light in the world. None of us can do everything, but all of us can do something. And as a community, we have so much to offer when we share our God-given gifts.

What am I looking forward to this year at All Saints? The blessing of our community continuing to discern God's will in this time and place. I look forward to all of us deeply listening with hearts and minds open to what's needed by those we currently know and also by those we may not yet know. I imagine the Spirit has more than a few surprises in store for us!

- This year we expect to continue the great start we've had in energizing programs for our young people, from Sunday School and Children's Choir to Vacation Bible School, Trunk-or-Treat, and the newly formed chapter of the Jr. Daughters of the King.

## ***Mother Bonnie's Corner – continued***

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- We'll continue our times of fellowship, food, and learning. Our monthly Covered Dish Meals, Town Hall meetings, and the Real Issues series are scheduled regularly over the next few months, so watch for our Spring calendar. Our regular programming also includes the Monday Book group, Education for Ministry, Inquirer's classes, seasonal programs, and retreats. And you can expect more of our "it's-all-about-fellowship" opportunities, from the Coffee Bar to Hymn Sings! All these offerings provide a wonderful way to deepen our relationships with God and one another. Challenge yourself to try something new this year, for joy could be right around the corner, as you explore something new.
- You can expect us to continue to explore our call to serve others. As I write this, our Tuesday Food Pantry has already served over 1300 families this year, 60% more families than this time last year. Similarly, Breaking Barriers, our ministry to assist those needing either utility assistance or help obtaining government identification, has served 20% more families through early December. I am so grateful for your continuing gifts to both the Food Pantry and the Rector's Discretionary funds, which sustain these vibrant ministries.

And speaking of gifts, we have so many ministries striving to support the wider community. Outreach continues to be an important part of our life at All Saints.

- Our ECW has done a marvelous job of continuing to support the broader community, once again sending funds to our local schools and local ministries. Despite having had one rather than two fundraisers in 2023, this creative group has managed to exceed their pre-COVID 2019 giving with gifts of \$9400 sent out to the local community.
- Our Order of the Daughters of the King has been actively working on a new project to assist the homeless here in Warner Robins by creating 200 care packages. Such wonderful things happen when hearts are opened to new ways to serve! I imagine this will be one of many new ways we discover to creatively work with the City of Warner Robins and others to help address homelessness in our community.
- And I don't want to fail to mentioning the Men's Group, who also used their fundraisers (Macon Bacon baseball and selling Boston Butts) to support your Rector's Discretionary Fund and the Food Pantry.

***Save the Date for our Annual Meeting on Sunday 1/28/2023***, as we will be sharing more about the past year and our plans for 2024.

What wonderful surprises await us as we continue our journeys to serve our Living, Loving God!

Blessings,

Mother Bonnie



## From our Deacon



As we begin 2024, there is good reason to look back at 2023 – and maybe even a little farther back – to remember some of our challenges and successes, not just at All Saints, but also in Warner Robins. The Food Pantry has steadily made improvements to our service as the number of families we serve has increased. Our Breaking Barriers ministry has helped folks obtain their vital records so that they can get jobs and safe housing, and assisted with utility payments. We also helped a family get the clothing and supplies needed for their children to start a new school in Warner Robins after a sudden emergency move from another town. There is a new homeless shelter opening, hopefully in April, and our DOK has begun to gather items for care packages items to assist those in need now. It has been a good year!

Now that we are entering 2024, there will be other opportunities for us to embrace our neighbors. While there's no way to know what opportunities will open for us to continue loving the folks in our community, we do know that when opportunities are placed in our path, we will continue to find creative to make Warner Robins more equitable for all of our neighbors.

One of the things that I've learned during my time at All Saints is that there are no coincidences. While continuing the ministries we already have, opportunities present themselves to do things in new ways to benefit new people. I've seen this happen consistently. While we were running a Drive-thru Food Pantry during COVID, we were presented with the call to just listen and pray with the folks who came to us for food. Word must have gotten out, because folks still come to All Saints to be heard, and respected, and to have someone simply listen and pray.

We've also developed good relationships with people in the community who offer other services. It's been such a blessing to see doors open and people working together to build up Warner Robins as a part of God's kingdom dedicated to loving and serving all God's people. This network of ministries also seems to understand that there aren't really any coincidences, but simply opportunities to grow in ways to love our neighbors.

I mention all of this because I know that folks have unique perspectives and insights into distinct challenges and opportunities in our community. Do share that knowledge with one another! And I also invite you to share your concerns and information with me, so that we can discern in community whether what may have seemed like a coincidence, could possibly be another opportunity to answer God's call. Working together, we can continue to make great strides towards a more respectful and equitable world.

And that's what builds God's kingdom.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

Deacon Barbara



# A New Year, A New Vestry

*It's such a blessing having such wonderful people willing to serve.*

## From the Senior Warden

As your new Senior Warden, I must reflect on my first year as a vestry member. It has been and will continue to be a learning experience, and I view my position as Senior Warden as both exciting and challenging. I have "big shoes to fill"; Shelley Strickland has been an outstanding Senior Warden and will serve as a role model as I transition into this leadership position.



First, allow me to share some personal information. I am a "cradle Episcopalian" and have grown to love and appreciate my religious heritage. The opportunity to serve All Saints Church is both appealing and daunting. As I try to mentally prepare for this challenge, I think about the advice my late husband (a former Marine) frequently offered. He said, "Be aware of your surroundings" and "Pay attention." This is good advice for many situations and certainly for the one I am currently undertaking. I will make a conscious effort to pay attention to the needs of this congregation, to listen to the concerns of all parishioners, and to respond to every situation in the most appropriate manner available.

Second, All Saints Church is thriving; our leadership is exceptional, and our congregation is caring, friendly and generous. 2023 has been a very successful year for All Saints. The summary reports (in the upcoming Annual Meeting Report) will clearly document the strides we have made, as well as the growth we are experiencing and anticipating. As the vestry Christian Education liaison member, I am delighted that both Sunday School and Vacation Bible School have restarted. We have an enthusiastic group of young people and a supportive group of parents. Of course, these two programs have been successful because of talented teachers, parents, and parishioners; with continued support and enthusiasm, I will work diligently to maintain and expand Christian Education.

Last, all vestry goals for 2023 have been fulfilled. We have a new directory, modern signage, a delicious coffee bar, and thriving ministries. I am looking forward to establishing new goals for 2024 and welcome suggestions from the congregation. The clergy, vestry, and parishioners working together will continue to make All Saints Church a healthy, effective parish. I am excited to serve as Senior Warden in 2024!

Bronwyn Young

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*A warm welcome to this year's Vestry, who will be commissioned during our January 7th worship service. Liaison roles will be assigned during our January Vestry meeting. And a huge thanks to our outgoing members, who have served so faithfully.*

### **2024 Vestry**

2022 Class: *Completing their term 1/1/2025*

- Linda Christie, Judy Reynolds, Anne Sanders

2023 Class: *Completing their term 1/1/2026*

- Mary Christian, Leslie Tidwell, Bronwyn Young

2024 Class: *Completing their term 1/1/2027*

- Lillian Burton, Rachael Heidler, Roland Leach

### **Outgoing Vestry Members**

Barbara Attaway, Shelley Strickland

### **Non-Elected Officers**

Co-Treasurers: Mike Tarnoff & Beth Wood  
Clerk: Linda Gerdes



# Year Round Stewardship: *Men's Ministry*

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The fourth Thursday evening of each month is a special time for many men at All Saints—it's time for the monthly Men's Group gathering at O'Charley's at 6:00 pm. These get-togethers allow the men of the church to build fellowship and a sense of camaraderie. Gene Soles comments, "It's good to see everybody. I get to know people a little better, talking about things other than church." Jimmy Eubanks, who has taken the lead in rebuilding the group after the Covid lockdowns, adds, "We have some good laughs and enjoy each other's company. We have a fun time. We have some funny men in the church."

These monthly gatherings, besides encouraging fellowship, also offer a time to discuss group business and plan special events for service and fundraising. One favorite annual event is the Macon Bacon baseball game, a fundraiser that enables the group to contribute to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, helping Mother Bonnie to meet needs as they arise in the community. Another recent fundraiser, the Boston Butts, involved selling delicious smoked pork butts to church members and friends.

The past several years have required the Men's Group to adapt to changes both in their circumstances and in their membership. Jimmy recalls that in pre-Covid days, the group had a "job jar," where members could request help with yard and home repair tasks. This was especially helpful for women who lived alone. These days, Jimmy admits, the group usually has to turn down requests for such help, because, as he puts it, "our biggest problem is our age." Despite this challenge, the group continues to look for ways to assist the church and the community, especially through fundraisers and financial support.

For men in the church who would like to get involved with the Men's Group, Jimmy concludes: "All men are welcome. We can always use more men."

Mary Christian

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## **Help us Keep our Instruments Tuned!**

You may have noticed some 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.

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# 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:

23 + C + M + B + 24

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 December 31st.**

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)*



# Parish Life at All Saints

## ECW – Episcopal Churchwomen

We finished up 2023 with a Saturday meeting and welcomed several “working” ladies. Everyone had a great meal and our donations for this year were approved. This year we are donating \$9,400 to organizations in our community. This is going to 15 schools, the volunteer medical and dental clinics, our Rector’s Discretionary Fund, the church’s Family Promise fund, and the Halo Group. A full list will be posted on the bulletin boards. We also gave the Food Pantry a donation in November.

We will hit the ground running in January as we prepare for our Wine & Cheese Tasting Party, on February 9th. *You can start now by gathering donations for the Silent Auction.* These can be items from stores, antique items, themed baskets, etc. If you have any questions, talk to Mary Mantiply, our Silent Auction Chair. Tickets will be available in January.

Thanks for all your work this year. Hope all had a wonderful Advent, as we look forward to a blessed Christmas and New Year.

Linda Christie  
ECW President

## HALO

Helping **A**chieve **L**ife **O**utcomes by  
Having **A**gape **L**ove for **O**thers

### PLASTIC BAGS FOR HALO

Thanks to everyone who has brought in bags for the Halo “weavers” to use in making mats for the homeless. You have gotten them very well stocked up! They are moving to a new location sometime between now and the first of the year so we will halt collecting bags for now. Once they get set up in their new facility we will see when they need more bags. Thanks again!



## Commissioning of a Pastoral Leader

*Saturday, January 27th, 2:00 pm*

*Cathedral of Atlanta*

We’re so pleased to announce that Paul Davison will be commissioned by Bishop Wright as a Pastoral Leader. This marks the completion of the final course Paul has taken, as he has participated in FAB, Formation of All the Baptized, a program offered through the Diocese of Atlanta.

A huge congratulations to Paul on this wonderful achievement!  
*All are invited to attend this service.*

# January at All Saints

January 7th



## Baptism

We welcome  
Castiél Ramon Flores  
and  
Camila Flores  
into the  
Body of Christ,  
through the  
waters of Baptism



## Epiphany Stars

Today we pass out  
*Star Words*,  
remembering the star  
that led the magi to  
Jesus, and joyfully  
anticipating God's  
presence in our lives,  
shining a light in the  
darkness.



## Vestry 2024 Commissioning

This Sunday we will  
commission our new  
2024 Vestry and thank  
those who have  
selflessly served the  
past three years. Do  
join us in prayer and  
thanksgiving for our All  
Saints leaders.

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January 21st

## *New Possibilities:* Prayer Team Ministry

*For where two or three are gathered together  
in my name, I am there among them. MT 18:20*

This past year, Mother Bonnie offered a weekday Eucharist which included time for individual prayers for healing. While this service was appreciated, not many attended.

In 2024, we will explore including healing prayers periodically during our Sunday worship services. To do this, we would need a group of prayer team ministers, to assist with this effort during a Sunday service.



## ***Wondering if you're called to be a part of a new Prayer Team Ministry?***

Join Mother Bonnie in the Parish Hall on Sunday, January 21 after worship,  
to learn more about the possibilities.

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# One Night only - All Saints at the Movies

Tuesday, January 23rd, 7 pm

GTC Galleria Mall

Adults \$13, Senior/Children \$9

*I'm excited to share the news of a new inspiring movie, A CASE FOR LOVE, with an important message not only for the world, but for All Saints.*

A CASE FOR LOVE tells inspiring stories of Americans: prison inmates, politicians and celebrities, the common public, and the military. It explores the role of unselfish love, and whether or not this is a solution to the extreme societal and political divide facing the U.S.

Inspired by the teachings and writings of our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, a film documentary team travels across the U.S. interviewing everyday people, striving to live their lives selflessly. Stories include racial justice, military, foster care, sexual trafficking, love and loss and others as well-known figures including Pete Buttigieg, Al Roker, Sam Waterston, Becca Stevens, Russell Moore, John Danforth, John Clyburn, Kelly Brown Douglas and Jon Meacham weigh in on the issue.

I hope that we can watch this movie together! Take a moment today and watch the trailer and let us know you'd like to be a part of the attending group by contacting the church, [office@allsaintswr.org](mailto:office@allsaintswr.org), 478-923-1791, or signing up on Sunday mornings.

Mother Bonnie+



## Children's Sermon and PJ Sunday

Don't miss this special family-focused service with a children's sermon by Mother Bonnie . . . and yes, **ALL** are encouraged to have some fun and wear their PJ's to church

Sunday,  
January 28th



## Annual Meeting and First Potluck of the New Year

Do join us as we recap 2023 and share some of the possibilities of 2024, as we gather for food and fellowship in the Parish Hall, right after worship.

**A New Offering at All Saints**  
beginning January 23rd

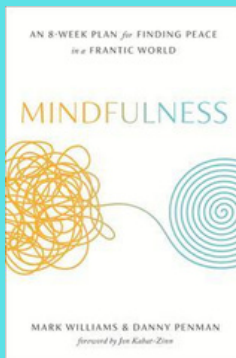
# Mindfulness

*an eight-week introductory course*

taught by Jason Hobbs, LCSW, MDiv

Mindfulness is a mental technique for focusing your awareness on the present moment. Participants will learn to use a variety of techniques to “shift” away from thought patterns that contribute to anxiety and depression. Mindfulness techniques have been used to treat a variety of difficulties such as depression, anxiety, chronic pain, and substance abuse.

- **When:** Class begins Tuesday, January 23, 6:30PM to 7:30PM, continuing every Tuesday for eight weeks through March 12, 2024.
- **Where:** Parish Hall at All Saints' Episcopal, 1708 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins.
- **Cost:** Fee for the class is \$135 if you register before December 22, 2023. After December 22, the fee for the class will be \$150.



We will be using a book entitled *Mindfulness: An Eight-week Plan for Finding Peace in a Frantic World* by Mark Williams and Danny Penman. Purchase of the book will also enable you to download an audio version of the exercises so that you can practice at home.

For more information or to register, contact Jason at:  
Phone: (478) 953-0088  
Email: [jasonhobbsslcsw@gmail.com](mailto:jasonhobbsslcsw@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://spring24mindfulness.eventbrite.com>



***You may recall that Jason led our recent Real Issues Speaker series on Mental Health. I'm thrilled he's offering this program at All Saints!***

***Mother Bonnie***

# Happenings at a Glance

During January . . .

**January 1st:** *Happy New Year!*

**January 7th:** Baptism of Castiél and Camilia Flores, Vestry Commissioning, Sunday School restarts, Coffee Bar after worship

**January 14th:** Ministry Head Calendar Meeting after worship

**January 21st:** Prayer Team Introductory Class and Coffee Bar after worship

**January 23rd:** *A Case for Love*, All Saints at the Movies, Galleria Mall, 7 pm

**January 28th:** Children's Sermon, PJ Sunday, Annual Meeting and Potluck

And in February . . .

**February 5th:** Women's Interfaith at All Saints, Noon

**February 9th:** Wine and Cheese: *Save the Date*

**February 13th:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**February 14th:** Ash Wednesday: Noon, 7 pm

**February 24th:** Celebrating the Saints: George Herbert

**February 25th:** Monthly Potluck and Real Issues Series: Inclusivity Part II

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## All Saints Calendar

### 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

All are welcome  
to Worship  
and  
Fellowship  
Events

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

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# All Saints in Pictures



Ladies Lunch Bunch  
at the  
McFall's home



Gathering in Community: Real Issues Speaker Series,  
*Talking about Inclusivity*



Advent at All Saints,  
with Coffee Bar Fellowship







Annual Christmas Pageant

Helping our neighbors: by creating 200 care packages for our homeless brothers and sisters in Warner Robins

*Thanks to all who supported this DOK and Jr DOK project, including local airmen, family, and friends.*



Christmas at All Saints

