



All Saints Alive!

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
November 2023



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Mother Bonnie's Corner

I've recently had the privilege of serving as the Spiritual Directory at Fall Happening, our Diocesan high school youth retreat. For those of you unfamiliar with Happening, this retreat is part of our Anglican tradition: a retreat led by youth for youth, with the support of lay leaders and clergy. Happening is all about growing in faith and better understanding how to walk in Jesus' Way of Love. Lives are deeply impacted . . . not only for those candidates attending for the first time but also for the teen team and adults who are blessed to be a part of this community.

I'm always struck by how quickly our youth *get it* . . . their openness and deep desire to explore the beautiful truth of Christ's unconditional love for ALL of us, despite them facing the reality of both difficulties and doubts. Our youth have this remarkably resilient ability to open themselves into leaning into the possibilities of something more: more than the masks worn daily; more than "Keeping up with the Jones"; more than looking out for only themselves. And that was this weekend's theme, **Something More**.

In keeping with that theme, this weekend's key song was **More**, by Phish. As we sang those lyrics as a community, I was reminded of the Psalms, when God's people would cry out in despair and mourning, but then turn towards praising God with renewed trust and hope that God's Kingdom will come, in God's good time. When we sang this song, the energy in the room would palpably rise during the chorus, as everyone sang and danced, embodying the words of the refrain:

*I'm vibrating with love and light
Pulsating with love and light
In a world gone mad a world gone mad
There must be something more than this*

This is our reality today. Yes, there's darkness, despair, and menace out there. There's too much divisiveness and that crazily, self-destructive unwillingness to find common purpose. Yet there's nothing on this earth -- no powers,

Mother Bonnie's Corner - Continued

nor principalities, nor oppressive structures — that can overshadow Christ's light. There is hope, for Jesus shows us His Way and we live in Him when we seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves, and striving for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being.

The call to action for Christ's own is a REALLY tall order. Frankly, far too big an ask for any of us as frail, fragile, flawed humankind. But all is possible, with God's help, and even our most fragile hope can soar when lifted up by the power of the Spirit!

May you positively vibrate and pulsate with love and light, for we too have an opportunity to be something more in the world, carrying Christ's light and love into the world.

Blessings, Mother Bonnie

P. S. I truly give thanks for each and every one of you, the beloved of All Saints, and I pray that, with God's help, we will continue to grow as individuals and within community, into that uniquely beautiful creation that God has created to be.

From our Deacon

I was looking at my calendar for the next few weeks and was rather taken aback by all the things I have scheduled! At that point I figured I might better look at the next few months. As I expected, there is a fiercely packed list of events, appointments, and responsibilities ahead of me. It's all good, but there is a lot going on! And there are still a few more things that I know have to be scheduled!! As I sat in front of the reality of November and December, it struck me that we are all in the same place. It would be very easy to be overwhelmed, and honestly, I imagine we are all in the same boat!



That is just how it is this particular time of year. We all tend to scramble to fit everything in: regular living stuff, extra shopping, special plans to spend time with family, parties, church, and community. Need I say more?

All this said, I'm still acutely reminded that some folks are not only gearing up for the excitement, but also anticipating disappointment, too, in all that's ahead of us.

There are sisters and brothers who will be especially challenged to find times of joy and peace in their lives. Some are facing tough challenges, wondering how they will maintain a safe place to live, plus handle some "special-ness" for their children this season, while still putting nutritious foods on their table.

There are also those members of our community who will be working longer, more demanding, and stressful hours in order to make all that "special-ness" possible for everyone else. And I'm afraid that in our current world, they too often bear the brunt of the frustrations and disappointments of their customers . . . simply "taking it" because it's an unfortunately routine part of the job they need so very much.

I bring all this up to remind myself and my All Saints family that as Christ's own, we have vowed to treat each other respectfully. This isn't just a promise to our parish family: it's a promise to

From our Deacon- continued

our entire family, even the family we may not know. And I find that it isn't necessarily all that hard to forget this vow, when I myself am hanging on frantically to the knot at the end of my rope!

Small acts of human kindness don't take an extraordinary amount of time, or money, or a degree in Social Work, Psychology, or Pastoral Care. Just a few kind words. "I appreciate you being here. You make it possible for me to be here." Or when you're standing in line and the person in front of you spews out their frustration — not because the one serving has been disrespectful or argumentative -- as they're simply doing their jobs, serving us. Perhaps you could take a moment as the line shifts ahead, and say a few words of encouragement . . . something like, "You know, you didn't have that coming. You are courteously offering good service and I appreciate you being here."

What I'm suggesting is entering this upcoming season of gratitude and thanksgiving by leaning into those sacred gifts of Peace, Joy, and Love. There is plenty for everybody. We just have to gift it!

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

From the Senior Warden

October was such an eventful month here at All Saints! It took so many hands to make it a very special month. A huge thank you to everyone that contributed to the success of Marketplace 2023. There were so many tasks that needed to be done, and the members of All Saints completed them all. The event was enjoyed by our congregation, the vendors, and the public.



The All Saints Directory was also distributed in October. Once the data was collected, Linda Gerdes and Mother Bonnie very quickly created the format and got it ready for the printer. They did a wonderful job! If you have not gotten your copy, it is available in the basket on the table in the office. They are in alphabetical order. It is our hope that this new Directory will help you make connections with your fellow parishioners.

Looking to the future.... Anytime you have a change in your personal data, please let the office know. If we keep the data in the computer current, the next directory will be a much easier job.

I am so grateful to all those who served our families in Family Promise in October and throughout 2023. We probably will not serve again until after the first of the year. If you might be interested in hosting dinners at Family Promise, please contact me.

Please be sure to mark all the November events on your calendar. It promises to be another busy month filled with meaningful opportunities to worship and connect here at All Saints. This church and its people are always at the top of my "Thankful for" list. Praying that everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

"I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well."
Psalm 139: 13

Shelley Strickland

Year Round Stewardship: Seek and Serve Christ in . . . Who?

“Hello! Welcome! We’re the Episcopal Church! Take some water! Would you like a brochure? Bring your pets to our Blessing of the Animals next weekend!” It was a bright, hot September afternoon at Macon Pride. Along with Kipp Gill and various volunteers from St. Francis, Christ Church, and St. Paul, I was busily spreading love and swag at the Episcopal booth in Third Street Park. The street was full of pulsing pop music and cheerful people—dog walkers, parents with bubble-blowing kids, couples in t-shirts that said “Love is Love” and “Kindness Looks Amazing on You.”

After about three hours, during a lull in the action, I sat back with a bottle of water, catching my breath, along with a couple of other volunteers. Suddenly, a voice above me said, “I have a question.” I instinctively began to stand up, preparing the invitation spiel that had become almost automatic by now. As I started to stand, I looked up and tensed slightly. The man wore jeans, a red-plaid flannel shirt, a rattlesnake hat that said “Don’t tread on me,” and a stern, grim face. I thought back to the little group of men I had seen earlier in the afternoon, standing on the street corner with a sign that declared: “Homosexual Desire is Never Love.” I braced myself.

He took aim and fired his question at us: “Does God change, or is he the same yesterday, today, and forever?”

I’ve been through this kind of debate more than a few times with friends and family and in the church where I grew up, and I wasn’t relishing the prospect of having it again. In my experience, such exchanges seldom change anyone’s mind, and they generally leave all the participants drained and resentful. But there I was, sitting under a row of Episcopal banners that said “God is Love” and “We Welcome all People.” You can’t very well tell someone to get lost if you’ve spent the afternoon announcing that you “welcome all people.” So I answered the question as honestly as I could: “I don’t know if God changes, but from what I’ve seen in the Bible, God’s way of presenting himself does change.”

He blinked and said rather crossly, “Ok, I’ll give you that. But does God change?”

Again, I thought honesty would be best. “I think there are many things I don’t completely understand about God.” If I acknowledged my uncertainty, might he be more willing to consider the possibility that he too might not have everything figured out—and the possibility that this might be ok?

When we imagine God looking and sounding mostly like ourselves, and when we feel called on to defend our view as the one right view of God, we often shut out the voices of those unlike us. Many people struggle with the idea of a God who would celebrate at a Pride festival. Some have a hard time imagining God calling women to preach or lead, or taking on human flesh as a dark-skinned Middle Eastern man. My afternoon at Macon Pride forced me to recognize that I find it hard to “seek and serve Christ” in confrontational snake-hatted men who whip out complicated theological questions and demand definitive one-sentence answers. But that doesn’t let me—or any of us—off from trying.

All Saints Vestry member Leslie Tidwell began thinking about struggles with inclusion in church settings during her final year in the Education for Ministry program (EFM), as she read of Christianity’s role in the growth of slavery in the Americas and the spread of European colonization in much of the world. She began to notice the masculine pronouns and

Year Round Stewardship - continued

descriptions applied to God in many church services and the pale, Anglo-looking pictures of Jesus that dominate so many icons and stained-glass windows. More and more, she thought of how these words and images have been used to justify segregation, patriarchy, and other abuses. This coming month, on November 12, she'll be sharing some of these ideas as part of our church's Real Issues speaker series, in a presentation titled "Can We Talk? Conversations about Inclusivity."

As an African-American woman and a physician, Leslie has long experience with systems that silence and exclude. "In medical school," she recalls, "some of my professors didn't seem to think that I should be a doctor. And some of my patients have questioned whether I'm smart enough to treat them." Many of her patients have their own stories of struggle against exclusion. In her years of obstetric practice, she worked with many patients who faced workplace discrimination due to pregnancy or who lived with the ostracism that still so often comes with being a single mother. They often struggled to meet their own basic needs and the needs of their families for simple things such as food, medical care, and housing. Now, as a gynecologist at the VA, she cares for female veterans who have suffered Military Sexual Trauma (MST). Along with giving patients the best physical care she can, she feels called to make sure her patients' voices are heard in a healthcare system that often overlooks the vulnerable.

When I asked Leslie what she thought we as an All Saints family could do to build a more inclusive culture in church and in the wider community, she acknowledged that our church leaders have taken a number of positive steps in the past few years in our worship services and other activities. "I've appreciated the gender-diverse language that Mother Bonnie uses in the liturgy, sometimes referring to God as 'she' and as 'Mother,' as well as 'Father.' In sermons, she and Deacon Barbara often highlight the stories of women in the Bible. And it's been good this year to see the Celebrating the Saints events for women and for people of color—for Frederick Douglass and James Weldon Johnson and Pauli Murray. We really are a diverse church, and programs like this help to reflect that. Our church has done some good things, inclusivity-wise. Now I think we need to work on doing more things like that."

As we work to build our church into an inclusive and equitable spiritual home for all of us, we are better prepared to live God's love in our daily life and work, recognizing God's presence in all the humans we meet, including those most unlike ourselves, those whom we find most difficult to love. For more ideas from Leslie about inclusivity and the tough conversations it requires in church and in other settings, head to the Parish Hall after church on November 12. Hope to see you there!

Mary Christian



Unfortunately, scam attempts continue, both by email and text.

Please know that neither Mother Bonnie nor All Saints Episcopal Church would ask you for gift cards.

Please be diligent, and as always, contact the church office or Mother Bonnie if you have questions.

Parish Life at All Saints

All Saints Day Choral Evensong

6:30 pm, November 1, 2022

Reception to follow



All Saints Day Sunday Worship

November 5th, 10:15 am

Worship includes our remembrance of loved ones who have gone before us, on this, our Pastoral Feast Day!

Parents, arrive early, so our children can join the procession.

Don't Miss
the Film Screening of
The Philadelphia Eleven

November 5th
Douglass Theater

Reception 4:00 pm
Film Viewing 5:00 pm
Panel Discussion 6:30 pm

*Tickets available thru Eventbrite
or by contacting
the Church Office*

**Tickets Are
available
NOW!**



Scan the QR
Code for tickets
and more
information



November Luncheon/Meeting

Monday, November 6, 2023: 12:00 - 2:00 pm.
Islamic Center of Middle Georgia,
Centerville, GA

In difficult times, it's even more important to come to know our neighbors. 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.

Questions? Please contact Mother Bonnie



Mid-Week Healing Service
Join us on November 8th at noon for
Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayers
*Please note the date change to the
2nd Wednesday this month*

Sunday, November 12th

During Worship

Honoring our Veterans

Prayers for all who have
served our Nation



After Worship

**Monthly Potluck and
Real Issues Speaker Series**

Can we Talk?

Conversations about Inclusivity

All are welcome to our newest *Real Issues Series*, as Leslie Tidwell and Mother Bonnie help us discover how we as Christians can grow our capacity to converse about today's challenging issues.

Yes, we face divisiveness today, but we can each make a difference! We'll explore together the keys to respectful communications, increasing our capacity to listen, while opening our hearts to more fully hear other voices, as we explore the topic of inclusivity.

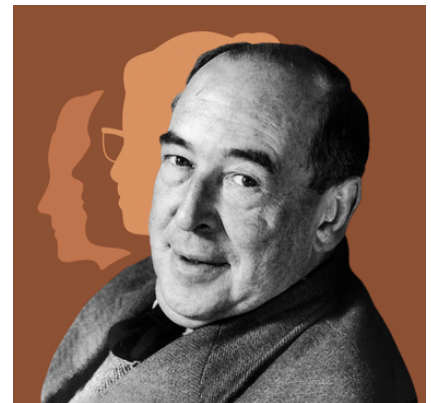
Save the Date!

Celebrating the Saints: C.S. Lewis

Saturday, November 18th,

11 am - 2 pm, Parish Hall

Another opportunity to learn about the saints who have walked among us! Check out our weekly eNews for more about this upcoming event



Thanksgiving Eve Worship
November 22nd, Noon

All are welcome as we give thanks and praise to God first,
before our Thanksgiving Day gatherings.

Advent: November 26 – December 24

Sunday, November 26

Thursdays, beginning November 30th

• **Before Worship:**

Advent Wreath Workshop:

- 9:15 am in the Parish hall
- Watch for news on pre-ordering your Advent Wreath supplies in an upcoming weekly eNews

• **During Worship:**

Children's Sermon

- Welcoming all children to help Mother Bonnie reflect on Sunday's gospel

Something new, as we come together to reflect on the Advent season through poetry, prose, and music

5:45 pm *Evening Prayer*
6:00 pm *Light Potluck Dinner*
6:30 pm *Program and discussion*



Watch for updates in upcoming bulletins and weekly eNews.

Fall at All Saints

Sunday Mornings

Sundays, after Worship

Adult Choir Rehearsal: 9:15 am

Adult & Children Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship: 10:15 am, also live-streamed

1st Sunday: Covered Dish and Rector's Forum

Other Sundays: Coffee Bar and Fellowship

Bi-Weekly: D&D, 1 pm in Youth Room

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

1st Tuesday

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

1st Wednesday

Holy Eucharist with healing prayers, Noon in the Sanctuary
Note date change in November

4th Thursday

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



Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Updates

ECW begins the month with our regular meeting on November 7th at 10:30. Hope to see you there!.

Marketplace

October was a very eventful month for ECW. Our annual Marketplace was held on October 14th and was a great success! We do not have our final numbers yet, but they will be available soon. A huge thank you to all who participated and contributed their time, talent, and treasure to create a great event for both our congregation and the community.

It was a wonderful day thanks to everyone who turned out to help. It takes lots of people to move tables and chairs outside and put up tents at 7 am!! Just want you to know that your efforts were really appreciated by our vendors too. One vendor sent a very sweet note – part of it I want to share with you.

"I just wanted to send a thank you for allowing me to take part in your event yesterday. You did an amazing job! I have done so many craft shows, market days, etc. and I have to say yours was by far one of the most organized, vendor-friendly, and most fun. The church members were so helpful. I cannot thank them enough for the assistance they gave me afterwards, with getting my stuff out to my truck."

So, know that all your hard work and helpfulness were really appreciated by lots of people!

Pampered Chef Sale

Many of you may be aware that ECW sponsors an annual online Pampered Chef sale. The proceeds of the sale are used to order Pampered Chef items that will be used to create some of the auction baskets for our Wine and Cheese event. The sale is currently available online at: <https://www.pamperedchef.com/party/allsaints2023>

This link will take you to the All Saints "party." If you are on the main Pampered Chef page, click on "Find a Party." In the host area, type Shelley Strickland and it will take you to the All Saints page.

- If you wish to receive your order before Thanksgiving, please place your order before November 14, 2023.
- If you want your order before Christmas, please place your order before December 18, 2023.
- *If you spend \$90, you will receive a free gift. Orders over \$150 will include free shipping.*

You can view the Pampered Chef catalog online. For those of you that prefer to look at a paper catalog, we will have one available in the office and the Parish Hall. If you need any help, please contact Shelley Strickland at 478-213-7955 or shelleykstrickland@gmail.com

Outreach at All Saints



We were able to share dinner with the residents of Family Promise three times in October. We met some wonderful families who are well on their way to graduating from the program. Thank you to all who contributed to the meals and helped host the meals.

If you are interested in helping to host a meal, you need to complete a one-hour training session. If you would like additional information, please contact Shelley Strickland at 478-213-7955 or shelleystrickland@gmail.com



Helping our Neighbors

Faith Lutheran Clothing Closet Ministry

The Faith Lutheran Clothing Closet Ministry currently needs *gently-used* men's and boy's clothing.

Clothing Needs

Pants
Long and Short-sleeved shirts
Shoes - youth sizes through adult sizes
Socks and Underwear (*new, please!*)

Clothing Sizes:

Men's-- S, M, L, XL, XXL
Boy's-- 6/7, 8, 9/10,
12/14

Donations may be left at Faith Lutheran Church, 301 N Pleasant Hill Rd or the All Saints Church office.

Thank you for your support, as we respond to the needs of our community.



The Food Pantry at All Saints

All Saints has been blessed to serve the local community for many years. This holiday season, we continue to provide extra food to all visiting families, during the months of November and December.

Your gifts to support the Food Pantry Ministry are always welcome. And a big thanks to all those who support this ministry through their time, talent, and treasure.

Happenings at All Saints



November 1st: All Saints Evensong and Fellowship, 6:30 pm

November 5th:

- All Saints Day Sunday Worship;
- **Philadelphia 11** reception, screening, and panel discussion, Historic Douglass Theater in Macon; 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm

November 6th: Women's Interfaith Luncheon

November 8th: Healing Eucharist, Noon

November 12th:

- Monthly Potluck after worship
- Real Issues Speaker Series, Noon
- D&D, 1pm in the Youth Room

November 18th: Celebrating the Saints, C.S. Lewis

November 22nd: Thanksgiving Eve Service, Noon

November 26th:

- *Before Worship:* Advent Wreath Workshop!
- *During Worship:* Children's Sermon

November 30th: Advent Evening Program begins, 5:45 – 7:15 pm



December 3rd:

- Potluck after worship, with Rector's Forum
- D&D, 1 pm in the Youth Room

December 7th: Advent Evening Program 5:45 – 7:15 pm

December 10th: Advent Lessons & Carols and Vestry Elections

December 14th: Advent Evening Program 5:45 – 7:15 pm

December 16th: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

December 17th:

- Christmas Pageant during worship
- D&D, 1 pm in the Youth Room

December 21st: Advent Evening Program 5:45 – 7:15 pm

December 24th:

- Advent Worship, 10:15 a.m.
- Christmas Eve Services:
 - 5:30 pm Family Service
 - 8:00 pm Choral Introit
 - 8:30 pm Festive Christmas Eve Liturgy, with Incense

December 27th: Christmas Hymn Sing and Potluck 5:45–7:30 pm. And bring your instrument, if you'd like, to join the musical jam session!

All Saints in Pictures

Outdoor Worship and Blessing of the Animals



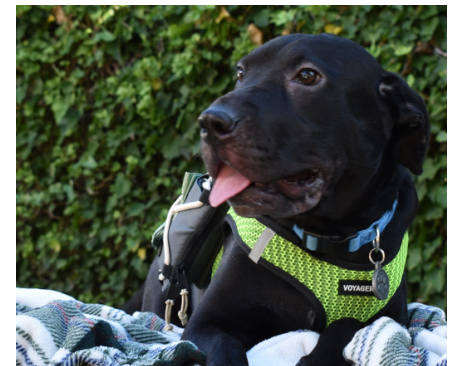
From a hamster....



To favorite stuffed animals...



to dogs....



And Children's Choir, too ...

God is Good. All the time, God is Good.
