



All Saints Alive!

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
September 2022

Mother Bonnie's Corner

Beloved in Christ,

When September approaches with the hope of cooler weather, I always feel a renewed sense of energy. I love leaning into our fall planning and the great hope of renewed programs and routines, as summer winds down and fall draws near.

Shifting seasons can be a wonderful time to do a quick check on our personal walk with Christ. One way to do this is to reflect on the first of the promises we make as we renew our Baptismal Covenant: *Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?*

Although none of these things sounds particularly hard, balancing busy schedules and changing daily habits, is never easy. That reality helps explain why our response to this question is always, "I will, with God's help." We cannot do this work alone, but can when we are strengthened through prayer, enlivened within community worship, and supported through fellowship. This is precisely why the fall can be a perfect time to begin new habits or renew old ones!

Begin or renew a habit of daily prayer. There is real power in leaning into a daily spiritual process. And if this seems like too much to possibly accomplish, here are a few recommendations on ways to start, and do know that I am happy to meet with you individually to help you find effective ways to begin or renew a practice of daily prayer. Explore the Daily Office, whether through a podcast or an app (check out www.missionstclare.com for access to both text and audio or Forward Movement at <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/home>) or the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Our BCP also has wonderful Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families. And remember, you can find copies of *Forward Day-by-Day* at church to help guide you in daily prayer and reflection.



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

Worship in Community. As wonderful as Sunday worship can be online, for those who are able, worshiping in community can strengthen us in heart, mind, body, and spirit. So if you haven't been with us on a Sunday for a while, this could be a wonderful time to return!

And if you are interested in giving contemplative prayer a try, but aren't quite sure how to do this, join us on Wednesdays at noon in the church. This quiet time of prayer can be done in a group or individually on your own schedule, and it is a wonderful way to rest, renew, and re-connect with our Living, Loving God.

And Keep Learning! There are so many opportunities to learn more about our Christian identity, helping us to live into our love of Jesus in our daily lives. Check out our fall educational opportunities, as we strive together to walk with Christ.

All of these areas — prayer, worship, and learning — enrich our efforts to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ in word and deed, for it's both as individuals and within community that we are called to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

What will you begin or renew this fall, to lean into your love of Christ? All are welcome, as we strive together to walk in Jesus' way of love.

Blessings,
Mother Bonnie

From our Deacon

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory. Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (A Prayer for Cities, BCP pg, 825)



I pray this prayer often as I begin a new day. It reminds me of my call as a deacon. At the same time, I am aware that this is a prayer that can be of value to us all, as it really cover all our calls as followers of Jesus. Warner Robins is a rare gem in Middle Georgia. Robins Air Force Base brings gloriously diverse people to the area: folk from different parts of the country and the world with all their gifts, cultures, and dreams. This opens countless opportunities to stretch our understanding of each other and to help us learn to appreciate the beautiful tapestry of humanity.

However, we must also focus our prayers and actions on those in the community that struggle. There are sisters and brothers who live in a state of constant insecurity. There are almost countless reasons – some are personal and others are systemic. But whatever the causes, our vocation to follow Jesus compels us to look carefully and honestly at our own hearts and minds, helping to prepare us to do our part to bring righteousness, justice, and order to our community.

After all, we are all neighbors. Some of us know each other pretty well or at least comfortably familiar. But there are always a lot more of our neighbors that we don't know at all And some we may not even see, not because they aren't there, but because we choose (whether inadvertently or intentionally) to not to see.

Until we are truly willing to see everybody through the eyes of Jesus, we can't really expect to learn the causes that hold some of our neighbors back from the full life they deserve to live.

And it all starts with beginning to know our neighbors better: to see, listen, engage, and work together to make our community more just for everyone. The possibilities are almost endless and that can make all of this sound overwhelming. But one little bit at a time, we can begin to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression and bring righteousness, justice, and order to each and every one of our neighbors.

I do hope you will all join us for our rescheduled program, Getting to Know our Neighbors, right after the potluck on September 11.

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

September at All Saints

- **September 5:**
Labor Day Holiday: *Have a safe holiday, everyone!*
- **September 11:**
During worship: Acolyte Dedication
 - *For all our Acolytes, old and new: to receive new crosses and a blessing for our work in the new year.***After Worship: Covered Dish & Rector's Forum:**
 - *First! Our All Saints Gratitude Slide Show during our meal*
 - *Then, our Forum, as Deacon Barbara leads us in learning more about*
Getting to Know Our Neighbors
- **September 12:**
Monday Book Club resumes: 5:15 – 7:00 pm, **Note new time**
EfM Resumes: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- **September 18:**
 - *Inquirer's class begins after Church, 11:45 – 12:45*

From our Senior Warden

August is often a month of slowing down after a hectic summer. Students and teachers return to school and the days shorten preparing for Autumn. Here at All Saints, August was anything but a time to slow down. There were jobs to be done and needs to be met. As a church family, we came together to meet the needs of our church facilities, church members, and some members of the community. It was a month when we not only shared laughter, but we also shared tears. When I count my blessings, I always count how thankful I am to be a member of this church family.



This month I would like to highlight two groups that are in need of some new volunteers. First, is the Altar Guild. The Altar Guild works in teams of three or four, and they alternate weeks. Their ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. The beautiful flowers that appear every Sunday are possible because of the talented hands of the Altar Guild members. At this time, additional members are needed to fill some vacancies on the Altar Guild teams. If you feel that this ministry is something you would like to explore, please contact Linda Christie. You may also call the church office and leave a message with your contact information.

Ushers assist with the general flow of the Church service. From handing out bulletins, to assisting parishioners find a seat, to counting attendance, our ushers see that the service proceeds smoothly. But, as we all learned during covid, our ushers do so much more. They really were instrumental in assuring that services were able to continue. Currently the Ushers are in need of a few volunteers. Usually, two Ushers are needed each Sunday. Like the Altar Guild, they alternate weeks. If this ministry is something that you might like to join, please contact Bill Peters. You may also call the Church office at 478-923-1791. Leave a brief message with your name and contact information.

The last four months of 2022 offer so many opportunities to participate in life here at All Saints. It will be a busy season. Please keep your eye on the Parish calendar, and you will see many activities that offer a chance for fellowship with the members of your All Saints' family. Serving - whether by offering to cook, ushering, crocheting a prayer shawl, joining the lay readers or acolytes, singing in the choir, participating in the Food Pantry, etc. - brings a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Knowing that God has a role for each believer to play in the lives of other believers gives meaning and direction to our lives.

**THANK
YOU!**

A HUGE thanks to so many who caught up on their annual pledges this past month!

Your faithfulness is so very appreciated,
as we strive to serve Christ Jesus,
both here at All Saints and out in the world!

Year Round Stewardship: *Lessons*

by *Mary Christian*

Five years ago this week, I was teaching my first classes as a Georgia professor. I had moved from Indiana barely a month before. For many of my students, my Hoosier speech might as well have been a foreign language, and their words were much the same to me. I didn't know where the printer or the scanner were, or how to turn on the computer or projector in my first classroom. A few weeks before, I had never heard of "Enuma Elish" or "Popol Vuh," and yet here I was trying to teach these texts from these long-ago, far-away cultures to students who, I was sure, would immediately know I had no idea what I was doing.

The second semester was easier, and the third. Full nights of sleep became less of an exception and more of a norm. As I came to know my way around and got a better feel for which lesson plans worked and which ones didn't, I had more brain space to be curious about my students—not just to think about the skills and information it was my job to teach them, but to ask about their experiences and goals, to think about how our work in class could help them to get from where they were to where they wanted to be.

I had thought I knew about being a student, and many things I did know. I knew how to manage homesickness and loneliness while studying far from family; I had balanced a full class load and a demanding work schedule; I had pushed through illnesses and late-night study sessions to get through tough exams and research deadlines. But I had never had to combine college with pregnancy or parenting or military service, as my students were doing. I had never had to deal with an eviction or stay in touch with an incarcerated sibling while keeping up with class assignments.

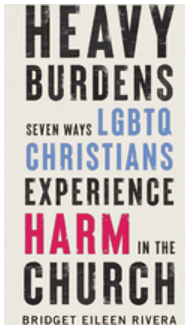
The more I learned, the fewer admonitions I gave about the need to study to prepare for the "real world," and the more I began to look for ways to support students as they navigated their "real worlds." I started to schedule regular one-on-one meeting times in which students and I could look over their projects together, and in which we could have more general check-ins about how their semesters were going. I learned which people to contact in tech support, financial aid, disability accommodations, and the health center when students needed support I wasn't qualified to give. I replanned assignments to allow students more flexibility in choosing their writing topics, so that wherever possible, they could use their research to think through and learn about questions that mattered to them. And I found—not in every case, but in many—that as I gave more, my students gave more, and that we both enjoyed the work more as a result.

Perhaps what I've taken away most from my five years in Georgia is that as I grow—my knowledge, my skills, my confidence—my love grows also. It wasn't that I didn't want to serve my students that first year, or care about their success. But as I was struggling to keep up day to day, I had little to give beyond the minimum of showing up in class with something resembling a lesson and grading whatever work they handed in. When my footing became more solid and I could catch my breath, then I was able to ask what more they needed and what I could do better. For many of my students, the same principle applies—when they are doing more than keeping their heads above water, when they see a way forward and know that others have their back, they have more to give. When we see that we are loved and cared for—by God, by others, and yes, by our own selves—then we are able to offer that same love to our neighbors.

Ministry Updates

Adult Education

Explore our new Fall Offerings!



Monday Book Club

The Monday Book Club's begins a new study on September 12. We'll be discussing the first section of a new book, Bridget Rivera's *Heavy Burdens: Seven Ways LGBTQ People Experience Harm in the Church*.

All are welcome to these weekly Zoom meetings from 5:15 to 7 pm. For more information, contact Mary Christian at chrismae@alumni.iu.edu.

Education for Ministry

EfM resumes on September 12. The heart of EfM is a program in learning to practice living in Christ. While studying the Old Testament, New Testament, Christian History, and Christian Theology, we also examine our beliefs and their relationship to our culture and the traditions of our Christian faith, learning to discern how we can carry Christ's love into the world in the various ministries to which we are called.

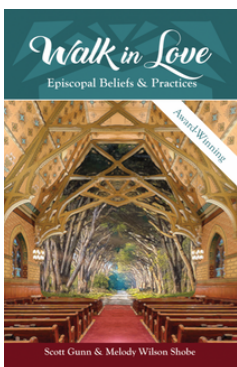
Contact Mother Bonnie, bonniegunderwood@gmail.com or Marsha Buzzell at marshap450@gmail.com for more information.

Inquirer's Class

Whether you're new to the Episcopal Church or someone who's been here for years, join us we read and discuss together, *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*.

This series of 1-hour classes will meet after church for most Sundays from 9/18 - 11/20, and is led by Mother Bonnie. (We do not meet on those Sundays that other parish-wide activities after church, like the monthly Covered Dish and Rector's Form)

Contact Mother Bonnie or the church office for more information.



Altar Guild

We are in need of a few more people on one team especially! This is a commitment to a few hours on Friday or Saturday every third week and cleaning up the altar on that Sunday. If you think you have the time and interest in this ministry, please let me know. You can visit one of the teams to see what we do and decide if it is for you.

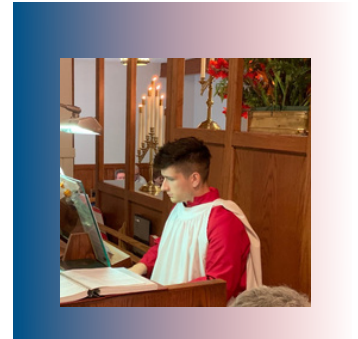
Linda Christie, 478-731-1341, lindaschristie@gmail.com

Choir

Adult Choir Rehearsals take place every Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Children's Choir All K-5th grade are welcome to join, at 1:30 p.m. We are looking forward to several children's concerts this fall and would love for your little ones to participate!

Kipp Gill
kippgill@yahoo.com



Digital Ministry

We're still looking for a few more volunteers to assist in the behind-the-scenes portion of our Sunday live-stream. "On-the-Job" trainings will take place during worship on Sunday mornings. **No previous experience required!**

This is a great way to learn a new skill while also giving back to your All Saints family. For more information, contact the church office or Pierce Christie.

Family Promise

Family Promise has been in their new facility in Perry for six months. Everyone is adjusting well and enjoying the new space.

Adult residents in Family Promise are required to have employment. During their stay in Family Promise, they work with the staff on budgeting and saving money for their graduation from the program. At the end, they have a nest egg for their transition into their new home and independent living. Every week different groups provide a total of three dinners. This helps the residents with their grocery budget. The leftovers are used for future meals and lunches during the week.

Meals at Family Promise are much more than just providing food. Trained volunteers set up the meal and then join the families at the table. In order to volunteer, you need to attend a short training. The next Volunteer Training Session will take place at the Perry Facility on Monday, October the 3rd from 6:30-7:30. Please contact Shelley Strickland if you would like to attend. shelleykstrickland@gmail.com.

We will be doing meals again on November 6, 7, and 8. This will be our last time in 2022. Please watch for sign up opportunities toward the end of October. If you have not completed the training and would like to help with the dinners and fellowship, please complete the October Training Session.

Fall Foyers: Deadline September 15

We're "reshuffling" our Foyers groups, so whether you're a regular participant or interested in trying something new, join these wonderful group gatherings by contacting Sheila Freeman, bsfree4@cox.net or the church, office@allsaintswr.org.

Foyers are small groups made up of couples or singles, meeting monthly for a simple meal, relaxed conversation, and Christian fellowship. There's always room at the table!

Ushering at All Saints

Join those who so regularly are the first to faces of welcome each Sunday morning! Our usher teams faithfully assists each week by greeting visitors and members alike, distributing bulletins, and helping make sure we're ready for worship. We could use a few new members to help fill out our teams. We welcome individuals and family teams!

Contact Bill Peters, peterswj@windstream.net, or the church office for more information.

Coming Soon!

Save the Date: October 2nd Outdoor Worship and Fall Picnic at All Saints!

Sunday Worship will be outdoors, so do plan to bring your pets as we include a special blessing for all our beloved animals during worship.

And afterwards, plan to stay for our fall picnic, with activities for all ages.



For the Parents . . . Activities for our children and youth

Children's Sunday School

Beginning September, Children's Sunday School will begin immediately after we share a meal, as our children gather for stories, crafts, and special activities. We begin September 11th.

Youth Activities

Parents, we will begin our joint activities with St. Francis youth this fall, including a movie night, hiking, creating bird houses, and more. Watch for more communications about our monthly events for all our youth.

New Ministries for Children and Youth

Parents, we'd love to involve see your families explore new ways to join in Sunday worship. We're looking for **Readers** (Grade 2 and up), **Junior Ushers** (K-6th grade), in addition to children's choir and Acolytes (K-HS).

Please contact the church office by the end of September, if you'd like to explore something new for your children and youth!

5th Sundays! will continue

By popular demand, *5th Sunday* worship, with a children's sermon by Mother Bonnie, will continue. Our next one will be on October 30th, and yes, come prepared for a *Blessing of the Costumes*, too!

All Saints Calendar

Weekly

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

Food Pantry: 9:30 - 11am

Wednesday

Noonday Prayer: 12-12:30pm

Thursday

Choir Rehearsal: 7:30pm

Friday

Shawl Ministry: 10-12:30pm
ECW Luncheon: 12:30 pm

Monthly

1st Sunday

Covered Dish and Rector's Forum
after Sunday Worship

1st Tuesday

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

4th Thursday

Men's Group Meeting, 6:30-8pm,
Tap and Pour on Moody

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

August in Pictures



The Annual
Blessing of the
Bookbags: Students,
Teachers, and Staff

A Send off to Candler School of Theology



Linda Christie presenting farewell gifts
to Taylor Irwin during Sunday Worship



Dominique Deming
receiving
her farewell gifts



Marsha Buzzell, Judy Reynolds,
Deacon Barbara, Mother Bonnie, and their
small group partners at the College of
Congregational Development



ECW Fall Women's Retreat:
Discovering Martha and Mary
led by Rev. Shirley Porter