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All Saints Alive

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
February 2022

Mother Bonnie's Corner



I recently visited my mother in sunny Yuma, Arizona. Mom had moved out west in October to live close to my brother and his youngest son's family and it was good to see her new home and have time to catch up in person. Phone calls and FaceTime are nice, but being together is better.

I particularly enjoyed hearing her talk about the future and what life may bring in 2022. She's excited about seeing all my brother's family this spring, as the Illinois and North Carolina children and grandchildren plan to visit in April. She's hopeful about celebrating her 94th birthday in May, especially as she's still blessed with remarkably good health. But she also knows from experience that the future is always uncertain, so she

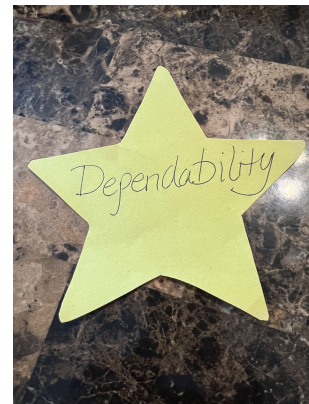
also spoke about trying to be more intentional in living each day, as best she can.

Good advice for us all: live each day, as best we can. To recommit each morning to following Christ and opening our hearts to the movement of the Spirit. For none of us know what tomorrow will bring and worrying will not add one hour to our existence. And if these past two years of uncertainty have taught us anything, I imagine we all now KNOW that we cannot control what will happen next.

Uncertain times are always difficult. Many of us hoped that by now, all worries of COVID would be long behind us. But here we are . . . still in this liminal time of almost, but not yet. But trying times can shape us and if we raise our heads, striving to be present rather than rushing towards the future, God will show us the way.

I've found that sometimes those opportunities to hear God's voice can be so remarkably simple, that we can easily miss them. And for me, one of those almost missed opportunities was during our All Saints' distribution of Star Words. I see our Star Words as a simple gift of grace, encouraging our thoughts and ponderings, and perhaps even providing us some insights into how we are called to open our hearts to God's own possibilities.

This year, our Star Words were distributed the first two Sundays in January, and by mail to those who requested them. But as I finished mailing out the final Star Words, I realized I had forgotten to pick one for myself. But there it was! One final star left in the basket with my Star Word: dependability. I couldn't help but smile, for I felt like God was winking at me, reminding me of exactly what I am called to be among you at this time here at All Saints. To be dependable, as we strive together to navigate this strange time and stuck place. To dependably remind us all to watch for the Spirit, as she moves among us. To dependably encourage us to realize that so often, it's in the quiet times or the little things, that we truly can see the Hand of God and hear God's voice . . . and those blessed moments can strengthen us to become more of who God has lovingly created us to be.



God is Good. All the time, God is Good. And we are all so blessed to be able to walk together, striving in community to simply live each day, as best that we can, while walking in His Way of Love.

Peace,
Mother Bonnie+



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship: 10:15 *in person and online*
Children's Choir: 12:30-1:00pm

Monday Book Study: 4:30-6pm
Education for Ministry 6:30-8:30pm

Tuesday Food Pantry: 9:30-11am

Wednesday My Way of Love: 10:30-11:30am
Pilgrimage: 12-12:30pm
Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm

Thursday Episcopal 101: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Friday Shawl Ministries: 10:30am-12pm
ECW Luncheon: 1pm

From Our Deacon



Some friends and I began having conversations over the past couple of years about all the challenges of COVID and it's been a great way to let off some steam. Part of the time was spent talking seriously about what we have learned, but being who we are, it all began to turn downright silly. Our humor was especially fed by irreverent comments around "abundance of caution." Some days, that concept seemed to take on a life of its own, with some unexpectedly comical twists, depending on the situation.

After one of our virtual gatherings, my mind continued that "abundance of caution" game for a bit. Then I got more serious, as I got stuck on the word abundance. I knew the simple definition, or synonym, was plenty, which then led me to remembering a conversation at a conference where the topic was scarcity, in the context of our brothers and sisters who struggle through a life consumed by scarcity at every turn.

The leader had asked those gathered, "What is the opposite of scarcity?" The immediate, inaccurate answer was abundance. But after several guesses, the leader told us the opposite of scarcity is actually best defined by the word

enough.

Enough sounds simple enough on the surface, especially to all of us who were gathered. After all, we had the means to be able to take the time away from everyday life and the resources to attend the conference in the first place.

But after an extended break that gave us the time to consider enough as the opposite of scarcity, we suddenly realized that this concept of enough is actually a moral and theological concept that can lead us to a deeper understanding of our call to ministry as followers of Jesus.

Which brings me to us here, at All Saints.

I'm pretty sure the vast majority of us are in a right fair state of enough — perhaps even bordering ever so close to abundance. And yet there's a very good percentage of our brothers and sisters in Warner Robins and beyond who struggle daily to live within the confines of scarcity: struggling to feed families, get jobs, further their education (at least to a GED-level), pay the bills, and live in safe and secure houses. In short, just to trying to survive.

Survival is a lonely business, especially when there is no one to walk at your side. Food pantries, assistance with utility bills, and the help to obtain vital records are a start. That's at least throwing folks a rope. But I'm confident we are truly called to do more: to deeply consider how we may be called to walk with others.

This idea of walking with someone reminds me of the road to Emmaus. We can all do that. As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to walk along with our brothers and sisters, with no real agenda of our own. If we have been listening, praying, and growing in Jesus' way of love, we already know something about how to travel together. It involves simply spending time together, getting to know one another, and a willingness to walk with our sisters and brothers on their journey to enough.

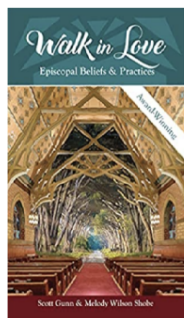
It is a vow we have made, a call we proclaim, and a way of life: the Life in Christ. So what about doing a bit more walking with our brothers and sisters? Perhaps this is something to ponder and pray about, asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

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



Upcoming Christian Education Offerings at All Saints!

Episcopal 101



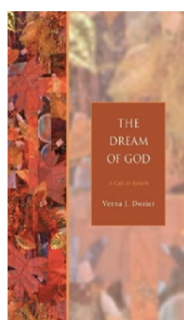
This class, led by Mother Bonnie, provides an opportunity to dive deeper into understanding our church, liturgy, and how our prayer practices can affect how we live into our faith each and every day. This class can lead (if you choose) to Confirmation or Reaffirmation, with special blessings and laying-on-of-hands by our Diocesan Bishop Rob Wright.

Classes will be held on Zoom on Thursdays, February 11th - March 24th, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Please contact the church office office@allsaintswr.org to enroll. (Books are available from the church office.)

Save the Date!

Wednesday Night Lenten Program: 3/9 - 4/6, 5:45 - 7:15 pm

The Dream of God, by Verna J. Dozier



Do plan to join us for this year's Lenten program which will include worship, a simple meal, and a discussion of *The Dream of God*. We will cover a chapter each week during our small group discussion.

Books are available in both paperback and audible for your pre-purchase, with a few copies available from the church office. (Please note there are two editions of this book and either is appropriate.)

And children are welcome, as we will also have activities for our young attendees!



Sr. Warden

The new Vestry has met, and liaison positions have been filled. I am happy to announce that Susan Wynn is our new Junior Warden. We are very grateful that she has agreed to take on this responsibility. Linda Gerdes has graciously volunteered to serve in the Clerk position. Each Vestry member has assumed a liaison position to a specific ministry. They will work to see that each ministry has adequate support and communication with the rest of the congregation. Liaison positions include: Christian Ed- Linda Christie, Communications-Anne Sanders, Fellowship-Barbara Attaway, Finance- Shelley Strickland, Long Range Planning- Judy Reynolds, Memorials- Sally Engels, Outreach- Marcia Fussell, Properties-Susan Wynn, and Stewardship-Ellen Strait. All Vestry members have a mailbox and are ready to hear from you regarding needs, concerns, etc.

We were disappointed that due to covid concerns, we had to cancel the potluck at the Annual Meeting. However, as a Vestry we have decided to make plans

for our favorite All Saints' events and make adjustments if needed. ECW has established some tentative dates we would love for you to add to your calendar.

- English Tea- Sunday, April 24, 2022
- Wine and Cheese- May 13, 2022
- Marketplace- November 12, 2022

Plans are being made for many other future events including monthly potluck meals, Lenten suppers, etc. We will keep you updated as plans progress.

As we welcome new members to our Vestry and make plans for the future, it is also a time to reflect on the past. We have three members of the Vestry who are finishing their terms. Leaving this term are Senior Warden Darlene Meloche, Junior Warden Jimmy Eubanks, and our Clerk/technology expert Pierce Christie. It is hard to find the words that adequately express how instrumental they were as we navigated through a very trying time. They had to think outside the box and be so very flexible as they served the All Saints' congregation. Thanks to their hard work and leadership we were able to continue services – sometimes on the lawn, sometimes in our cars, and sometimes online. Their leadership during a most unusual and difficult time will forever impact this congregation. So... a HUGE thank you to Darlene, Jimmy, and Pierce!

Senior Warden
Shelley Strickland



Vestry Liaison Roles

Liaison Role	Included Ministries	2022 Liaison
Christian Ed	Sunday School, EYC, VBS, Adult Education	Linda Christie
Communications	Digital Ministries Communication coordination with all ministries, to ensure we're meeting needs	Anne Sanders
Fellowship	Fellowship, Foyers Men's Ministries: Men's Group, Newcomer, Women's Ministries: ECW, DOK	Barbara Attaway
Finance	Finance Committee	Shelley Strickland
Long Range Planning	Long Range Planning	Judy Reynold
Memorials	Memorials	Sally Engels
Outreach	Current: Breaking Barriers, Family Promise, Elementary Schools, Green Team	Marcia Fussell
Personnel	Personnel	Linda Gerdes
Properties	Properties	Susan Wynn
Stewardship	Stewardship	Ellen Strait
Worship	Acolytes, Altar Guild, Chancel Choir, Greeters, LEMs, LEVs, Lay Readers, Ushers	Mother Bonnie+
2022 Vestry		
Senior Class:	Sally Engels, Marcia Fussell, Ellen Strait, Susan Wynn	
Middler Class:	Barbara Attaway, Shelley Strickland, Linda Gerdes	
Junior Class:	Linda Christie, Judy Reynolds, Anne Sanders	
2022 Officers: Shelley Strickland, Susan Wynn Linda Gerdes Mike Tarnoff	Sr. Warden Jr Warden Clerk Treasurer	

Vestry News

In an effort to ensure everyone has visibility of our All Saints leadership team activities, each month our approved Vestry meeting minutes and Financial reports will be posted on the bulletin board outside Mother Bonnie's office. The current posting also includes the summary reports of our 2021 financials and 2022 budget.

And in case you missed our recent Annual Meeting, you can view it on Facebook or YouTube towards the end of our 1/23 worship service. We've also made our Annual Report available on our website or you can contact the church office, should you want to have a copy mailed to you.



Year Round Stewardship

What Motivates You by Mary Christian

In my last column, I ended with the questions: If the word stewardship, for some of us, is linked with guilt, anxiety, and resentment, what would be a healthier way to think about resources and the best ways to use them? If these miserable feelings don't motivate us to serve God and our neighbors in a Christlike way, what could motivate us better?

Let's make this concrete: When have I been motivated?

I am not crazy about flying—the long waits, the cramped seats, the expensive and ever-more-scanty snacks, the pre-dawn traffic rush to get to the airport, the packing and unpacking and repacking in the security line. But if there is someone I love on the other end—a grandparent, a parent, a close friend—then I'll do it all willingly, 3:30 a.m. airport shuttle and all.

For years after I moved to Georgia, my family and friends asked me, “Are you thinking of buying a house down there?” I would answer vaguely, “Well, maybe at some point . . .” The truth was, buying a house seemed like a lot of work, and risky too. There would be so many papers to keep track of, and all the packing and moving in the middle of the semester. And then, what if a tree fell on it, or what if something happened with my job? Staying in my apartment seemed simpler, even if it was a 45-minute drive to work each way. Then I saw a For Sale sign on that house, and suddenly I wanted that house more than I wanted simplicity.

I will not even try to count the hours I have spent avoiding writing projects during the past few decades—hours spent cleaning, reading, pacing up and down, checking my email, hunting up useless things on the internet, even grading. To motivate me to write, one of two things has to happen: Either a deadline presses down on me like an iron clamp, threatening dire personal or professional consequences if I don't get the thing done—or else, I find that I have something I want to say. Or both.

Probably you have stories of your own motivations.

That time when you stayed up late or got up early, regardless of how tired you were

That time when you traveled for hours in an uncomfortable seat even though no one's life or livelihood depended on it.

That time when you finally started that tough conversation you had been putting off for months.

That time when you took on yet another project even though you could have said no, knowing that it would mean hours of back-breaking labor or tedious paperwork in the midst of your already demanding schedule.

That time when you did that difficult thing even when no one was making you do it.

The question here is not whether each of those choices was a wise choice or not, or whether or not our motives were the best. For now, the point is that we were motivated—something made us get it done. Remembering the times when we've done hard things can tell us a lot about the way we see the world, about what is important to us. Often, when we do difficult things, we're motivated by people—people we love, people we want to help, people we want to make happy, sometimes people we want to impress. Sometimes it's to gain things we want or avoid things we don't want.

A few months ago, during a children's sermon, Mother Bonnie invited the children to put on their "Jesus glasses," to see the people around them as Jesus saw them, each one as a beloved child of God. When we see others as Jesus sees them and are motivated by the overflowing love that motivates him, this, I think, is the first step toward using all that we have—our time and abilities, our money, our bodies and the world around us—as God would have us use it all. What that looks like will be different for each person, and each of us is figuring things out as we go, but if we keep coming back to that, we'll have a place to start from.



EYC

Hey all!



FOR OUR YOUTH!

Our February activities are set to be lots of fun and a wonderful opportunity to be with friends. We will be continuing to grow in community building with weekly meetings with exciting games and activities.

- February 6 we will be playing Bingo after the service in the parish hall. I encourage you to come and bring snacks and drinks so we can enjoy ourselves.
- February 13, we will be watching Disney's Encanto just in time for Valentine's Day. This is an amazing movie about family and self-love.
- HAPPENING 75 IS FEB 11-13. Sign-ups are available now as well as scholarships. This is for high school students who have not participated. For those who have participated, you are able to complete Team signups. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding Happening 75. Candidate Link: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4939397>
- February 20 is VERY IMPORTANT. This will be our Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Dinner preparation day and I encourage all youth, parents, and other adults interested in helping to attend our meeting after the service.
- There will be NO EYC on February 27. It has been moved to March 1st for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at 5:30. Please arrive for set-up at 4:45.

I am looking forward to what this month brings and as always if you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Colleen Norris, Youth Leader
colleennorris100@gmail.com



A New Beginning: All Saints Children's Choir!

Children's choir is starting once again at All Saints! We will meet after church on Sundays from 11:30-12, beginning on 2/6/2022. This choir includes grades 1-5.

Choir is a great way for kids to learn or review the fundamentals of reading music. Our children will also be learning the basics of singing, plus getting to sing in church. This spring we will start learning music for Evensong, Easter, and more!

Questions? Contact Kipp Gill, kippgill@yahoo.com.



Get Connected



Family Promise

of Greater Houston County

Family Promise is currently moving into their new facility in Perry. With the new facility comes changes for volunteers . Each family will have their own separate apartment. There will be staff at the facility 24 hours per day, and that eliminates the need for overnight volunteers. Our future role as a support church will be the preparation and hosting of three dinners- probably twice per year. We have been so fortunate to have a wonderful group of All Saints' volunteers who have prepared meals for Family Promise. We will continue to sign up for meal preparation through SignUpGenius.

We will need a group of trained volunteers to deliver and host the dinners in the Family Promise large dining room. Training takes approximately one hour. If we have 4 or 5 new volunteers, Family Promise has offered to bring the training to All Saints. If you are interested in participating in the training for this wonderful organization, please contact Shelley Strickland at shelleykstrickland@gmail.com

To check out the Family Promise Newsletter, [click here](#)





**Women's
Interfaith
Alliance**
of Central Georgia

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Women's Luncheon

Monday February 7th at 12:30pm

Via Zoom. Link we be sent out closer to the time of the meeting..

Study Group

Tuesday February 8th at 9:30am

Continuing the Study: Death, Dying and the Afterlife: Lessons from World Cultures. If you are interested please send an email to Eman (eman_ot@hotmail.com) or Margaret (mmplaid@cox.net) so we can make sure you get the ZOOM invite!

Book Group

Tuesday February 1st at 12:30pm

Final discussion on Native- identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God by Kaitlin Curtis. If you are interested in participating as we complete this discussion please email Betty (taylorbetty@prodigy.net) so you can get the ZOOM invite.

NEW CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFERING Episcopal Lutheran Fellowship Macon

Episcopal and Lutheran Fellowship is excited to start a new outreach of our campus ministry at Middle Georgia State University. Beginning in February we will meet on the first Tuesday of every month at the Macon campus. Students are welcome to join us in the Camelot Court cafeteria between 11:30 and 1 pm for a free lunch and time of fellowship and Bible Study.

For more information, contact campus missionary, Dena Hobbs at denadouglashobbs@gmail.com or elfmacon@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there!

Mother Bonnie is now the Board president for ELF, effective 1/25/2022 and is excited to be supporting this regional Young Adult ministry.

Something New At All Saints: A Green Team Update

You may have heard that All Saints partnered with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) to discover new ways to care for our environment.

After a 2021 energy audit by GIPL and the receipt of a \$2200 grant, All Saints has completed our next step in energy efficiency by switching all our fluorescent lighting to LEDs in our Parish Hall and part of our Education Building. We're excited by both this step and the formation of our Green team to help us continue to explore new options for All Saints.

Next is our first Green Team education session, as we welcome Hannah Shultz from GIPL, to teach us about Creation Care.

Save the Date - CREATION CARE 101 - Sunday, March 6th, right after church!

We look forward to our next steps in caring for God's beloved Creation and will be sharing more ideas and plans in the future. Contact Darlene Meloche jdmeloche@me.com if you have any questions or would like to join the Green Team!

Life at All Saints





During our December 6th Service, the baptism of Willow Paisley Haynes, All Saints had the opportunity to have photos taken by a visitor for the Diocese. Here are a few of these lovely photos!



Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Bonnie Underwood, Priest-In-Charge
Deacon Barbara Windom
Kipp Gill, Organist/Music Direction
Colleen Norris, Youth Leader
Taylor Irwin, Parish Administrator

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[Email The Church Office](#)

