



All Saints Alive!

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
April 2024



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Mother Bonnie's Corner

This year, we celebrate Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus on March 31st, but this isn't actually a one-day event. Rather, Easter, also known as Eastertide, is a season - the Great 50 Days - as we take the time to recognize Christ appearing over and over again in resurrected form, before his Ascension.

How can you sustain the joy of Easter, throughout Eastertide? Here are some suggestions

- **Meditate on our Baptismal Vows:** This will be my Eastertide practice this year, as I strive, with God's help, to reflect more deeply on these questions, asking God's help to renew and strengthen my commitment to carrying Christ's light and love into the world. Join me in this practice by reflecting on these 8 questions about our beliefs, our daily practices, and how to live in Christ's Way of Love. You can find these vows on pages 304-305 of the Book of Common Prayer, and also in this newsletter, for your quick reference.
- **Learn more about our Episcopal Traditions:** Consider joining our Spring Episcopal 101 Inquirer's class, led by our Licensed Lay Catechist, Paul Davison. This series of classes begins 4/14 and provides a way to dive deeper into the Sacraments, our Episcopal practices, and how we can strive together to know more about how to "walk the talk."
- **Practice Acts of Service and Generosity:** Do seek opportunities to serve others and show generosity to those in need. Consider Family Promise training, so you can participate in the mealtime with these precious families. Explore how you may be able to participate in supporting this summer's Vacation Bible School. Keep your eyes open to opportunities! And know that Deacon Barbara and I are ALWAYS thrilled to talk about possibilities.

Mother Bonnie's Corner, continued

- **Celebrate the Joy of Fellowship:** We love to gather in fellowship at All Saints! Try something new this season, whether it's the ECW, Men's Group, Shawl Ministry, Sunday Coffee Bars, Monthly Potlucks, or the Annual English Tea. Or perhaps explore a new ministry: Altar Guild, Fellowship, Ushers, Greeter, Eucharistic Ministers, and Visitors. These are all opportunities to come to know one another, support one another, and celebrate the joy of fellowship in Christ.
- **Continue to Proclaim the Good News:** There are so many ways to share the Good News of the Risen Christ, in both word and deed! And I truly believe we begin with an attitude of gratitude, recognizing the abundant blessings of God's grace, the promise of new life found in Christ, and the willingness to pass it on.

May the joy and hope of Eastertide fill your heart to overflowing, that you may share Christ's love with all you encounter.

Blessings,
Mother Bonnie

Baptismal Covenant – The Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

From our Deacon

Lately I've been asking myself, "What do I really know about the people of Warner Robins?"

Honestly, I know that God is the one who has put that question into my brain and heart. As I have come to know the people of All Saints, I've become very aware of this community's deep desire to minister to all the people of Warner Robins. We do that already through ministries in so many areas; the Food Pantry, Family Promise, Breaking Barriers, Greeters, Ushers, Choir, Friends, the dreams of ministry possibilities associated with Holly House, and other blessed efforts. I also know that many of you also do much more in the wider community, beyond any "official" All Saints ministries..



But do we really know about the challenges some face in Warner Robins? The challenges of developing the skills to get meaningful jobs to ensure family security. The challenges of getting the kind of education to prepare for success. The challenges of finding the right kinds of community support to "connect the dots" when there's the need for help.

Not knowing where to turn can feel overwhelming. And being overwhelmed can lead to *stuckness*: an inability to find the way back to safety and wholeness.

I've been thinking and praying about how I can learn more about the people of Warner Robins. Honestly, I thought it was meant to be a solo mission (which truly is an overwhelming thought). Then it occurred to me, that while I do still desire to speak to the community beyond All Saints, the best place to start is with the folks right here at 1708 Watson Blvd. After all, y'all live and move around Warner Robins. What better place to start?

So, I have a request. Would you be willing to sit with me and tell me your stories of Warner Robins? I think this could be a beautiful beginning – one that allows us to see more clearly those things we have done and those things we've left undone, as well as potentially catch the movement of the Spirit, as she guides us in our work to make Warner Robins a more caring and equitable place for all our neighbors.

I have already asked some of you to meet me for a cup of coffee, just to have a chance for you to tell your Warner Robins story when I can truly listen and learn. And you don't have to wait for me to extend an invitation! I will be honored and thrilled to listen to your stories.

Thank you in advance for your insights!

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord!

Deacon Barbara



From the Senior Warden

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of Lent, the church season in which “we focus as God’s people on our need as Christians to continually renew our repentance and faith while keeping in mind the message of pardon, absolution, and the Good News of the Gospel of our Savior.” It is a solemn season but not an inactive one! In addition to the weekly Sunday service, there has been a multitude of opportunities to enrich our Lenten experience.



We have hosted two covered dish /real issues speaker events, weekly Lenten supper programs featuring “Letting Go” video materials, a splendid Evensong service, a Lenten Retreat, a walk to combat hunger, and special services during Holy Week. Easter Sunday is joyfully celebrated with a Sunrise Vigil, an Easter breakfast, an egg hunt, and a Festal Worship service. All Saints is blessed to have the leadership and membership needed to make these opportunities available and successful. Thank you to everyone – the clergy, the choir, the ECW, the men’s group, and the congregation – for your diligence and hard work.

Looking ahead, we will remain active. Some of the future spring events include another Real Issues Speaker event, the annual English Tea, a Spring Picnic, and Youth Sunday. Of course, the usual weekly events will continue, and will offer a variety of ways to enjoy our wonderful church traditions and to share fellowship with others.

In closing, I want to acknowledge something at All Saints that can’t be scheduled on a calendar or printed in a bulletin. Rather, it is the compassionate and understanding environment that persists in our church. We have experienced an abundance of tragedies (illnesses, hospitalizations, deaths) this month and I have witnessed the clergy and congregation providing physical and emotional support to those impacted by these events. We are blessed to be a part of this parish and once again, I am proud to be a member of the All Saints family.

Bronwyn Young
Sr. Warden



Year Round Stewardship: *Acolytes - Walking the Path*

When Keira Heidler was asked to be an acolyte last year, she wasn’t so sure. Would she be ok sitting up front, away from her parents, all through the church service? And would this mean she would have to become a priest and give up her career dreams of coding and video game design?

Year Round Stewardship, continued

Amy Floyd, the head of the acolyte ministry, assured her that no, this was not a life commitment, and no, coder and crucifer were not mutually exclusive vocations. Even so, for Keira as for many All Saints children, becoming an acolyte meant letting go of the familiar (putting into practice one of the themes we've studied during this past Lent).

For many children in the Episcopal Church, acolyte is the first official role they play in the service. Being an acolyte means having a job to do in the worship, not just sitting in the pew with their parents. It means marching through the nave in the robed procession, lighting candles, carrying a cross or banner. It means being conspicuous. Clara Buttersworth, another new acolyte who started in January this year, looks forward to rising in the ranks and being allowed to carry the cross at the front, because "that seems like a really important job," she says. She is enjoying her new role, even if she gets nervous about bumping into things while carrying her banner, or standing up or sitting down at the wrong time. Being an acolyte means taking risks, possibly making mistakes. It means learning and teaching (one of the pleasures of sitting in the choir is looking down into the transept as communion starts, watching the veteran acolytes coach the beginners on when and how to ring the bell). Being an acolyte means being part of a community. Keira may have worried about sitting away from her parents on her first acolyte Sunday, but now sitting with her friends is her favorite part.

Amy's acolyte experience at All Saints started in third grade. "Back then," she recalls, "it was just something you did when you got to that age. Some of the kids didn't do it, didn't want to, but I remember wanting to do it." Years later, when her oldest son turned nine, she took over as leader of the acolyte ministry. For her, training the acolytes is an opportunity to help kids understand Episcopal traditions. They learn the meanings of the different banners and symbols they carry. They learn not only where and how to bow when they get to the front of the nave, but why we show special respect for the crucifix and the communion elements. They learn why the service is different in different seasons, why we process in silence during Lent and have a different-sounding bell when we follow the Rite I worship. Divided into four teams with three or four members each, the kids take turns serving on ordinary Sundays. For Easter and Christmas, though, they all take part, carrying candles or swinging incense to celebrate the feast.

The acolyte ministry is a reminder, to the children and to all, that in our church all are welcome, even the youngest—all are wanted, and all have a part to play.

Mary Christian



Prayers for Healing, during Holy Eucharist 3rd Sunday, April 21st

We're trying something new: a monthly time for healing prayers during Sunday worship. Anyone interested in receiving prayers can simply step over to the East transept after receiving communion at the altar, where our newly formed lay prayer team, led by Deacon Barbara, will invite you to sit or stand, as you prefer, for anointing and prayer. We do hope you enjoy this new offering.

All Saints Greeters

The Greeters ministry has grown over the past few years to be a vital part of our faith path together. Greeters in teams of two meet parishioners and newcomers with a warm smile and name tag at the first stop on their way to the pew. The welcome table also has activity bags for youngsters, a flier on church activities, and sign-up sheets for various activities for all to participate.

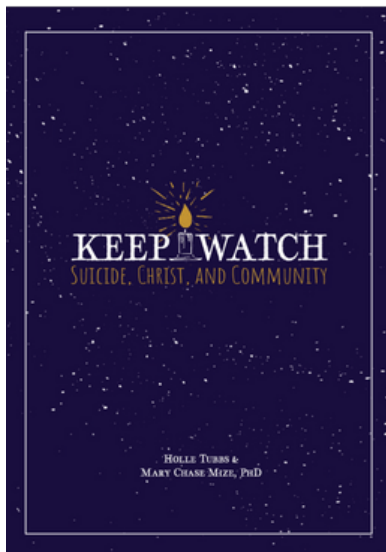
The Greeters ministry is open to members of all ages and consists of arriving 15 minutes before services to assist at the welcome table (already in place, thanks to our ushers) as people arrive, as well as at the end of services, as people depart. The rotation of teams of two is usually once a month.

As the church is growing, so is the need for more participation in this vital role of hospitality. Please contact Marsha Priest Buzzell at 478-508-3645 or marshap450@gmail.com to be a part of the flexible rotating schedule to meet and greet our friends and neighbors.

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10

Marsha Buzzell

Parish Life at All Saints



Sunday, April 7th after Worship

Monthly Potluck and Real Issues Speaker Series featuring Holle Tubbs, Diocesan Youth Missioner

Join us for fellowship, food, and conversation, as Holle shares the importance of mental health awareness, and her recently published resource, *Keep Watch*, a Congregational guide on suicide awareness.



April Luncheon/Meeting

Monday, April 8, 12- 2 pm

Wesley United Methodist Church
on Hartley Bridge Rd., Macon

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.

Sunday, April 14th



Blessing of the Brains
during Worship

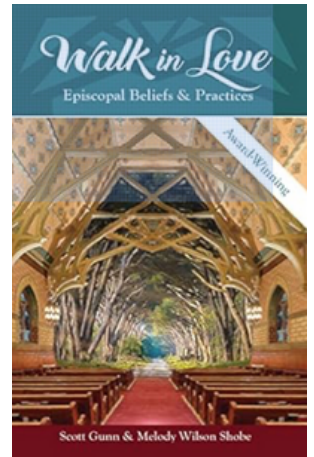
Plus . . .

Episcopal 101 Inquirer's Class

Begins Sunday, April 14th, after worship

Do join our upcoming class, led by our newly licensed Diocesan Catechist, Paul Davison. This is 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 seven-session course can lead (if you choose) to Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation, with special blessings and laying-on-of-hands by our Diocesan Bishop Rob Wright.



Course dates will be discussed during the April 14th session, and don't worry! We always schedule these classes around other parish-wide activities, like our Potlucks and English Tea, so you never have to choose which activity to attend.

Sunday, April 28th



5th Sunday!
Children's Sermon
during worship

Plus . . .

24th Annual English Afternoon Tea
with a recital at 1:30 pm in the church
followed by the Tea in the Parish hall at 2:30.
Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased from
Anne Sanders or the church office.



And Coming Soon . . .

A prayerful space to gather in sacred community with others for whom Mother's Day is complicated due to infertility, miscarriage, stillbirth, the loss of a child, the loss of a parent, estrangement from a parent or child, etc.

Unspoken

Friday, May 10, 6:30pm

1708 Watson Blvd
Warner Robins, GA

*A collaboration of
Faith Lutheran,
All Saints Episcopal &
First Presbyterian Church*

*Something New:
An interfaith time
in community
at All Saints*

*And this year's
All Saints at the
Macon Bacon
Ballgame
Saturday, June 7th*

**ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH NIGHT WITH
THE *Macon Bacon***

**JUNE 7, 2024
7 P.M.**

Macon Bacon vs. **STARS**
BASEBALL

**JUST
\$17
PER TICKET!**

Featuring:

- Game Admission
- Faith and Family Night
- A FREE Macon Bacon Hat

All-You-Can-Eat hamburgers,
hot dogs, chicken sandwiches,
cookies, soda, water, and more

 **FOR YOUR TICKET, EMAIL DANIEL BIBLER
AT DANIELBIBLER@GMAIL.COM**



Outreach at All Saints



Last month we started a new Family Promise Fund Raiser that we are calling Caring Coins. As you can imagine, the large Family Promise facility in Perry has many expenses. We periodically make donations to help with the utilities. If you would like to help, please pick up a Caring Coins bag in the office or the Parish Hall. The containers are the perfect size to hold \$10 worth of quarters. There is no due date for coins. Whenever you fill the container, you may place it in the plate on Sunday or turn it in to the office. A big thank you to those who have already contributed! We were able to send a donation last month.

In March, we were fortunate to share a couple of meals with the residents of Family Promise. Thank you to all of you who donated to the dinner meals. The families are provided a dinner meal three nights per week. There are many churches who support this effort. These meals help the residents reduce their grocery expenses. Everything they save can be used for future housing down payments. All the parents are working and saving to have the needed funds to get back into independent living. They are doing some very long days parenting, working full time, and some are taking classes. It is so inspiring to hear the residents talk about their plans for the future. Please keep these young families in your prayers.

If you would like to share future meals with the families, a one-hour training session is required. The training is offered once a month in Perry. If you are interested, please contact Shelley Strickland at shelleystrickland@gmail.com

Shelley Strickland
Family Promise Ministry Leader

Supporting the DIGNITY Sewing Centre, a collaboration of the Diocese of Atlanta and Cape Coast Ghana

At the March Real Issues Speaker Series featuring Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright, All Saints was able to support the women of Cape Coast Ghana by purchasing their beautiful wares. Your contributions of almost \$800 were sent directly to our sisters in Christ in Ghana.

Interested in helping with this ministry?
Use this QR code to make a contribution,
or write a check to All Saints, noting
DIGNITY in the memo.



Happenings at a Glance

April 7th:

- Monthly Potluck and Real Issues Speaker Series, featuring Holle Tubbs, Director of Diocesan Youth ministries, speaking to us about mental health and *Keep Watch*, a congregational suicide prevention program.
- D&D at 1:00 pm

April 14th:

- Blessing of the Brains during worship
- Coffee Bar, following worship
- Episcopal 101 Inquirer's class begins

April 21st: Healing Prayers offered during Sunday Worship

April 28th:

- Children's Sermon during worship
- English Tea - Recital at 1:30 pm, Tea at 2:30

All Saints Calendar

All are welcome
to Worship
and
Fellowship
Events

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

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

All Saints in Pictures

Hunger Walk: March 9, 2024



Walk with the Saints of Middle Georgia

This year's Hunger Walk team exceeded their goal by raising \$1600 to fight hunger!

The team braved the elements and then gathered for brunch, for a wonderful time in community.

A big thanks to this year's leaders, Bonnie Evans and Stephanie Johnson, and all who participated by walking, donating, and praying, in support of this ministry.



A few recent Eucharistic Visits to Florence Petroski, Nany Barlow, Judson and Whit LaRoche. Thanks for the pics, Stephanie!



Our caring ministries at All Saints help keep contact with those who can't be with us each Sunday. Thanks to our Eucharistic Visitors and others who send cards, occasional casseroles, and all who keep our homebound in their prayers.

Real Issues Speaker Series, with Dr. Beth-Sarah Wright March 10, 2024

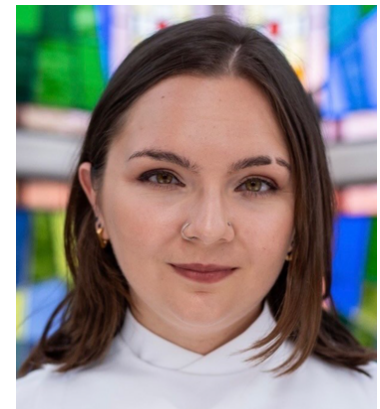


And **GREAT NEWS** about those among us discerning calls to the Priesthood!



Dominique Deming has been accepted by our Bishop as a Candidate to the Priesthood.

Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate is currently scheduled for Dec 2024, followed by ordination to the Priesthood in June 2025



Taylor Irwin has been accepted by our Bishop as a Postulant to the Priesthood

Please continue to hold Dominique and Taylor in your prayers, as they continue to pursue their Master of Divinity degrees at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta.