



All Saints Alive!

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
August 2023



Mother Bonnie's Corner

Where has the summer gone?

As I write this, teachers have already begun their back to school activities, Blessing of the Bookbags is scheduled at All Saints, and school is about to begin. July seemed to rush by, and I'm happy to report that Jess and I joyfully hosted four of our grandchildren at our second annual Nana/Papa summer camp. We also enjoyed some blessed time with family both here in Georgia and in Connecticut, and while much of that family time was neither slow-paced, nor quiet, it was wonderful to reconnect.

I'll also admit I still have a craving for some slower summer days, as it doesn't seem like I've had nearly enough time to rest, replenish, and renew. But in truth, resting time shouldn't only be a summer activity, and if we take seriously the idea of Sabbath rest, we can rediscover this blessing at any time of year.

Sabbath rest is an ancient tradition established by God's in the Creation story. After God breathed all of Creation to life and declared that it was good, God rested from all God's work, blessing the 7th day and making it Holy. We are all invited to take the time to rest from our labors and lean into the Holy . . . to rest from our need to control and acquire and to always do. Instead we're invited to take part in Sabbath rest and simply be: to be in the presence of God.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, in his book *The Sabbath*, describes this "realm of time where the goal is not to have but to be, not to own but to give, not to control but to share, not to subdue but to be in accord."

Sabbath time. Those moments of leaning into the sacred and abiding in Christ. Time that allows our hearts to be filled with God's peace, hope, and new life. Time to have our spirits renewed and replenished.

What's Included

- Mother Bonnie's Corner
- From our Deacon
- From the Senior Warden
- Year-Round Stewardship: Stewards of the Community
- Family Promise

Parish Life

- Fish Fry
- Caring Meals
- Real Issues Series
- ECW Update
- Jr Daughters of the King
- All Saints in Pictures
- All Saints Summer Schedule
- Happenings at All Saints

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

I do believe that especially in chaotic and divisive times, Sabbath time is critically important for each of us, helping us to remember that our true hope for the future is blessedly in God's Divine Hands. Hands that hold us tenderly, for we are precious. Hands that are merciful, for we are God's own beloved.

So during this busy time — as so many of us busily prepare for the new school year or program year or whatever busy-ness consumes much of our time — honor the gift of Sabbath by finding time to simply be with God

Blessings,

Mother Bonnie

P. S. As a reminder, we do offer quiet, contemplative time on Wednesdays at noon, as we gather for noonday prayer in the Sanctuary.



A few pics from Nana/Papa summer camp . . . *won't be long before it's FIVE grandkids staying with us!*

Blessing of the Bookbags

Join us at All Saints
on Sunday, July 30th
for the annual
Blessing of the Bookbags and
prayers for a new school year,
for **ALL** those involved in education,
from our youngest to most mature.



From our Deacon



The summer has a bit more calendar time left if we're counting the official end later in September. But school starts real soon, and that will usher us into another nine-ish months of the normal year. It won't be completely like last year's normal as we will be stepping into something new, but will have many of the same routines: getting up earlier, the rush to get out of the door, classes to attend, homework to do (or monitor), grades, sports . . . and frankly it makes me feel sorta tired, just thinking about it.

But I'd like to ponder with you this idea of new normal for a bit. We been living a kind of new normal since the COVID pandemic. Honestly, I still find that I'm a little uneasy going into crowded places. I often find myself maintaining that 6-foot social distancing standard and noticing that others do that as well. There are still KN95 masks in my various bags and I'm not shy about wearing one if I'm having a sneezing issue, even though it is almost always allergy stuff.

And some things in my new normal aren't directly related to the health issues of the pandemic. I find that I deeply appreciate the folks who work in very public settings, whether places of business or pleasure, and I make an effort to tell them so. It seems I come upon folks more often, including strangers, who just want to chat about some current challenge they are facing and I'm honored to just be with them for a bit. I also find that I am much more likely to offer assistance to folks with the simple things, from helping put packages in their car, to reaching for things on a shelf. These little changes are part of my new normal – cherishing opportunities to notice the many new ways to do little things in the moment that can make the world seem a bit better for someone else.

It seems to me that the little stuff prepares us to engage in the big stuff, and as the community of All Saints Episcopal Church, I love to see us strive to pay attention to what's happening in the world around us. We have our established ministries to help people – the Food Pantry, Family Promise, and other ways to assist families going through an unexpected tough time. We're willing to experiment with new ministries, like gathering plastic bags to help HALO create mats for the homeless and opening our doors to folks who may just want some fellowship time playing Dungeons & Dragons. And I've been reminded that there's always a helping hand offered to take care of each other, too, as we begin the Caring Meals ministry.

The really cool thing about our new normal is the fresh opportunity to do good and gracious things each and every day. Sure, we all have our routines and the things that have to be done. But with God's help and by working together in community, we also have the energy and space to embrace those little opportunities around us that help to show the world who and whose we are.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

Deacon Barbara

From the Senior Warden

One of my most treasured things about our parish is the many ways we reach out into the community to help others where needed. As we are reminded when we leave church each Sunday, it is our mission to go forth in the name of Christ. All Saints is involved in many projects in our community. Just to name a few: Family Promise, Interfaith Women's Alliance, the school system, the Homeless Coalition, ECW's annual community donations, and so many more. In both big and small ways, we are able to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." One organization we are proud to work with is HALO. Many of you may be familiar with HALO.



HALO is a local group that was originally created to assist individuals with disabilities to become valuable members of the community. Yet as this group has grown, it is obvious that they are actually contributing so much to the entire community. One of their projects is to provide sleeping mats to the homeless. These mats are actually made from plastic grocery bags. By cutting the top and bottom off of the bags and cutting the rest into strips, they create *plarn*....a plastic yarn. At their location in Perry, they have a loom that is able to weave these plastic strips into mats for the homeless. Our own Aden Floyd is an expert at using the loom to transform what would be plastic pollution into a loving gift for the homeless. We would like to do our part to support this project. Linda Christie has set up a large bin in the Parish Hall to collect plastic bags. They can be any color and from any store.

This is such a win/win/win for everyone. To begin with, all these plastic bags will be kept out of the landfill. They will be transformed into mats and distributed to the homeless. They are lightweight, providing cushioning and insulation. They are easy to clean and don't attract bugs. Just imagine the difference of sleeping on this cushiony dry mat versus the cold, hard, often wet ground. So please, make it a habit of bringing in your grocery bags to help the environment and to help HALO help the homeless.

As a career teacher, I often think of this time of year as the beginning of the year. It is a time that offers an opportunity for all of us to contemplate where we might want to help others and spread the love of Christ right out of our red doors into our community.

*"Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit."
Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Shelley Strickland
Sr. Warden



***Our collected donations for HALO are growing rapidly!
Thanks to all who contribute. You can find the collection container for your
plastic bags conveniently located in the Parish Hall.***

Year Round Stewardship: *Stewards of the Community*

Of all the grim stories I have heard or read about the Holocaust, one fact sticks in my mind:

Genocide didn't begin with people being packed into cattle cars or shoved into gas chambers. It didn't begin with yellow badges or a night of broken glass. It began with the message in casual conversations and public rallies, in school textbooks and newspaper cartoons. The message: These people don't belong. These people are inherently less worthy than we are. These people harm us simply by being who and what they are. These people shouldn't be here—perhaps shouldn't exist at all. It began with those who repeated that message, those who nodded in agreement, and those who shifted their feet uncomfortably and kept silent, who shrugged and turned away. It started with those who spread the message or allowed it to spread until it seemed normal.

That is why leaders at Macon's Temple Beth Israel couldn't let it pass when, during their Friday evening service on June 23, an antisemitic group gathered outside their building, displaying swastikas, chanting hateful slogans, and hanging a kippah-topped, rainbow-draped effigy from a street sign. That is why so many of us had a sinking feeling when we heard of this demonstration happening here, so close to home, in Middle Georgia. That is why over two hundred people showed up in front of the Temple the following day to show support for Macon's Jewish community, and why nearly a thousand assembled a week later, on July 2, in an interfaith Service of Unity and Love. We had to be there because we we had to say: "No. We will not be silent. Hate is not normal in our community, and we will not let it be treated as normal."

At the service, Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar, the leader of Temple Beth Israel, repeatedly expressed amazement as she welcomed supporters. "I never expected it to get this big," she said. "I thought we'd have a group get-together at the Temple, I'd say something, maybe the mayor would say something, and that would be it."



By the end of the week of planning, however, support for the event had swelled far beyond the capacity of Temple Beth Israel, and on the day before the service, planners had announced a last-minute venue change, shifting to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church. Hundreds filled the sanctuary, and hundreds more (including me) stared at the projector screen in the less majestic but much cooler overflow space in the downstairs fellowship hall.

The list of presenters had likewise expanded beyond expectations. As Rabbi Bahar had hoped, Macon's mayor, Lester Miller, did speak, and his speech was followed by one from U.S. Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., as well as by brief addresses and scripture readings from local Jewish, Christian, and Muslim clergy. Senator Jon Ossoff, as keynote speaker, movingly recalled his great-grandparents who came to the United States early in the twentieth century, fleeing the pogroms, and their relatives who remained in Eastern Europe only to perish decades later under the Nazi regime. Vocal ensembles from Congregation Bet Haverim, Temple Beth Israel, and Community Church of God also contributed musical

selections. Through songs, stories, and scriptures, each speaker reminded us of our shared commitment to honor God and to guard the safety, dignity, and belonging of all God's children.

At the end of the service, Rabbi Bahar answered the question many of us had been silently asking—the question you, reader, may also be asking: what can we do to help, to push back against prejudice, to ensure that our community remains a safe and welcoming place for our Jewish siblings and for all people? Rabbi Bahar invited us to take several actions, which I summarize below. All these actions are described in more detail at <https://www.mulberrymethodist.org/call-to-action>:

1. Attend or volunteer for future interfaith worship services through the Downtown Interfaith Alliance or the Women's Interfaith Alliance.
2. Learn about religious diversity through the online resources at TheoEd.com.
3. Join an interfaith trip to Eastern Europe to learn about the origins and consequences of antisemitism (for more information, email Rabbi Bahar at admin@tbimacon.org)
4. Contribute funds, time, and expertise to improve Temple Beth Israel's physical security—they are looking for people with experience in grant writing, project management, and homeland security (to volunteer, email Rabbi Bahar).
5. Advocate for a clear legal definition of antisemitism by contributing money or time to the American Jewish Committee (<https://www.ajc.org/>), the Anti-Defamation League (<https://www.adl.org/take-action/ways-to-give?donate=1>), or the Jewish Committee of Middle Georgia.
6. Visit a local synagogue and get to know our Jewish neighbors.

Like many who showed up at the interfaith service, I went to say “no” to hatred and antisemitism. But the program helped me see: saying “no” is important, but only a first step. The presenters invited listeners to take concrete, practical next steps to say “yes” to safety, to belonging, to understanding and respect, to stewardship of the beautiful and diverse community in which God has placed us.

Mary Christian



We served dinner to the families at Family Promise on Sunday, July 9th. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the meal and those that delivered and served the meal. The schedule for the last quarter of the year should be released in a few weeks.

We would like to plan a Family Promise Volunteer Training session here at All Saints. You need to complete the one-hour training session in order to interact with the families. In order to have the training during the day at All Saints, we need a couple more people to sign up. If you are interested, please contact Shelley Strickland at 478-213-7955 or shelleykstrickland@gmail.com

Parish Life at All Saints



Fish Fry August 12th!



Get ready for a mouthwatering Fish Fry For a Cause on August 12th from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at All Saints Episcopal to support the Episcopal Community Foundation (ECF) of the Diocese of Atlanta! Tickets can be purchased after Sunday services, on via Eventbrite, shared in the weekly eNews. Raffle tickets are also available for a chance to win a cake. Please note that the cake raffle tickets can only be purchased in person.

The cake raffle will occur at Noonday. The meals are all carry-out.

*The Johnsons of All Saints Episcopal are delighted to be hosting this worthy cause.
Thanking you in advance for your support!*

A New Ministry. . . Caring Meals

Our new Caring Meals Ministry is ready to go! We are so appreciative that Sally Engels has agreed to head this project. Thanks to many helpful and generous hands, the freezer in the Kitchen is full of meals, soups, breads, and side dishes. These meals are for sharing will members of our church family.



Please feel free to go by and pick up a meal if you are visiting someone who you think might need a little companionship and nourishment. We want to share these meals to express how much we care. There is no charge and you do not have to fill out any paperwork. Just grab something and go.

For example, if you are someone who occasionally takes flowers to people, you could add a soup and a loaf of bread. **THERE IS NO COST WHEN YOU ARE DELIVERING TO OTHERS!**

There is a zipped pouch on the front of the freezer. If you would just like to purchase something for yourself, please make a donation. Donations will be used to help with the expenses of the ingredients and packaging. This is not a money-making project, but we do hope it will be self-sustaining.

Again, thank you to everyone who already donated their time, treasure and talent to Caring Meals. The freezer is full because of your generosity and desire to show compassion to others.

Something New: The REAL ISSUES Speaker Series

Sunday, August 13



The Honorable
Mayor Patrick

All Saints is beginning a new adult education series, hosted by The Order of the Daughters (DOK) and our recent graduates of Education for Ministry (EfM), focusing on *real issues* that impact us all.

We begin with a wonderful guest speaker, the Honorable Mayor LaRonda W. Patrick sharing some key goals and community-focused initiatives of her administration. Additional topics this fall will include mental health and inclusivity.

We look forward to great topics, lively discussions, and opportunities to learn more together in community.

Be sure to join us in the Parish Hall on Sunday, August 13th.



Episcopal Church Women

First, something new!

Becky's Books: Many of you remember our dear Becky Yeatman and her love of the written word. She was very involved in several of the book studies here at All Saints. In her honor, ECW has added some bookcases to the ECW room. We would like to fill the shelves with books that you loved and would like to share with others. Please feel free to take or donate a book to the collection.

And SAVE THE DATE, for these upcoming ECW events:

August 1st, Tuesday: Tuesday at 10:30: Monthly Meeting

October 14th, Saturday: Marketplace! Please watch for future volunteer sign-up opportunities.

February 5, 2024, Monday: Women's Interfaith Alliance of Central Georgia Luncheon meets at All Saints.

February 9, 2024, Friday: Annual All Saints Wine and Cheese Party

If you have any questions about ECW or would like to be added to the ECW email list, contact Linda Christie at lindaschristie@gmail.com

A beginning . . . Junior Daughters of the King at All Saints

Junior Daughters Summer Retreat

Province IV Junior Daughters Summer Retreat 2023 was held in Oviedo, Florida at the Canterbury Conference Center from June 22 - 25, 2023. The theme was "Keep the Flame Burning in your Heart!" Young girls, ages 7 to 21, from across Province IV came together to celebrate God's love for us through a variety of activities. Some of those activities included:

- "Getting to Know You" mural
- Making cards for hospitals, nursing homes...
- Using prayer flags during prayer and worship
- Reflection time journals
- Water fun, balloons, games, relay races
- Singing around the firepit and making S'mores
- Hike and collect things to make Earth Altars
- Ice Cream Social and Music

In addition to some of the activities listed above, on each day, the Rev. Tom Phillips, Rector of the Church of the Incarnation, located on the same grounds as the Canterbury Center, had a themed scriptural teaching for the group each day. Father Tom, naturally gifted for this purpose, was relatable and engaging, easily keeping the interest of the young girls while sharing each themed teaching. One of the highlights for the junior daughters was a community-led evening Eucharist with their participation on the third day. Sunday, day 4, culminated with a morning worship service at the Church of the Incarnation with Father Tom Phillips.

From a personal perspective, I attended the Junior Daughters' Retreat for the first time as a Junior Daughter Directress, because All Saints Episcopal Church will soon have its first Junior Daughters of the King chapter, focusing on age 10 and above. The retreat was filled with love and very supportive sisters with a variety of knowledge, resources, and skill sets. As such, my networking list has expanded to include sisters willing to assist in the future as the need arises.

In summary, among Father Tom's teachings each day, one that really resonated with me focused on 2 Timothy 1:3-8, Thanksgiving and 1 Corinthians 12, Concerning spiritual gifts. He stated, "Stakes are that every person will spend eternal life somewhere, do not let the enemy sideline you because of your gift(s)." He continued, "If it gets discouraging, don't give up." The mission of the Order is to extend the love of God to all people through a Rule of Life, which includes prayer and service. A promise is made as Junior Daughters to do that each day. The Order provides a special opportunity to grow in love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ while serving their church and community. They also wear a silver cross with the initials FHS, For His Sake, as a symbol of their promise.

If interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact the church office, Mother Bonnie, Marsha Buzzell, or Stephanie Johnson.

Stephanie Johnson

All Saints in Pictures

Baptism of Elizabeth and Alexandra Evans We Welcome the Newly Baptized



And Congratulate One of our Own, for Achieving a Life Milestone



Sean, know you are beloved of God,
as you begin your new life adventure!



Junior DOK Retreat

Vacation Bible School – 2023



A thanks to our MANY Adult Helping Hands!

Our Fearless Leader: Amy Floyd

Our Magnificent Music Leader: Kipp Gill

Our many Adult helpers: Barbara Attaway, Debra Bruner-Smith, Kathryn Buttersworth, Mary Christian, Linda Christie, Judy Reynolds, Katie Reynolds, Bronwyn Young

And our Clergy: Archdeacon Janet Tidwell, Deacon Barbara Windom, and Mother Bonnie.

Plus all those who donated food, supplies, and goodies!

Debra Bruner-Smith, Marsha Buzzell, Mary Christian, Linda Christie, Jimmy Eubanks, Linda Gerdes, Rachael Heidler, Ken Hammond, Mary Mantipty, Karen Marks, Emma & Grayson Mullis, Judy Reynolds, Katie Reynolds, Libbet Turner, Beth Wood

All Saints Summer Schedule

Sunday Mornings

Summer Choir Rehearsal:

Sunday morning, 9:15 am only!
All are welcome!

Worship: 10:15 am, in-person & online

Sundays, after Worship

1st Sunday: Covered Dish and Rector's Forum

3rd Sunday: All Saints Coffee Bar

Other Sundays: Lemonade and Cookies

*All are welcome
to Worship
and
Fellowship
Events*

Do Join Us!

Weekly

Monday

Book Club: 4:00 -5:30 pm
there will be some summer breaks

Tuesday

Food Pantry: 9:30 - 11am

Wednesday

Noonday Prayer: 12-12:30pm

Friday

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

Monthly

1st Tuesday

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

4th Thursday

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

Happenings at All Saints

August at a Glance

August 6th: Monthly Covered Dish and Rector's Forum in the Parish Hall
D&D at 1 pm in the Youth Room

August 12th: Fish Fry fundraiser 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.

August 13th: Mayor Patrick at the *Real Issues Speaker series*, 12:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

August 20th: D&D at 1 pm in the Youth Room

September at a Glance

September 4th: Labor Day

September 10th: Monthly Covered Dish, after worship
(please note the date change, due to the holiday)

September 27th: Celebrating the Saints- Hildegard of Bingen
