



All Saints Alive!

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
July 2022



Mother Bonnie's Corner

Summer has always been a special time for me. While I'm not as big a fan of the heat as Jess, I've always loved a slower summer pace, with a chance to take some time to do those things I so often put off, like digging into that unread stack of books or heading out on an impromptu outing or simply taking some extra time to breathe. And somehow, in the midst of all that blessedly ordinary life-stuff, I get the chance to regain a sense of balance, make some space for growth, and take the time to reflect on all my many blessings.

And we do need to take time to reflect on our blessings, for it's far too easy to be overwhelmed by the bad news of the world. Complex issues and concerns do exist that need to be addressed: divisiveness, social justice, climate concerns, violence, and war.

But there is more than bad news out there. There is goodness in the world and we are surrounded by so many blessings. We are fully loved by God. We are all marvelously made. Our Living, Loving God is not detached and far away, but with us constantly, inviting us to join in Jesus' way of love, spreading the Good News of God in Christ.

What are you grateful for? I'm grateful for blessed time with family. Jess and I had our first official *Nana/Papa Summer Camp*: a week dedicated to our two oldest grandchildren, Scout, 9 and Dylan, 7. We also had some time with both their families, as well as some unexpected visits from our Atlanta crowd. A wonderful early summer gift!

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This time thinking about my blessings has me wondering if others wouldn't also like to share their gratitude stories this summer! So I'm inviting everyone to help us create an **All Saints Gratitude Journal**: a pictorial story of what we, the saints of All Saints, are grateful for. This can include our personal pictures or pictures we take at church activities that we'd like to share on our All Saints website or during Covered Dish Luncheons or on posters in the Parish Hall. (I've included a few of my own Gratitude Pics at the end of this article from our families recent Nana/Papa Summer Camp). If this idea of an All Saints Gratitude Journal interests you, **send your pictures, with a brief caption/description to office@allsaintswr.org, or mail to the church office.**

I pray that you all have an opportunity to slow down and breathe this summer, whether that involves a family vacation, spending some time on favorite hobbies, or some extra outdoor BBQ time with family and friends. And do remember to take the time to simply rest in God, for God longs for us to ever-deepen our relationship with God and one another, recognizing how deeply we are all loved and blessed, as Christ's own.

Blessings,
Mother Bonnie



A few pictures of Scout and Dylan during Nana/Papa Summer Camp, as well as all their families at the Macon Bacon game. (Yes, we did seem to take over a row of seats!)

From our Deacon

All Saints is getting ever closer to adding Holly House to our campus!

And why does this matter to your Deacon? Because it will offer us many opportunities to listen to the Holy Spirit, for She longs for us grow our relationships with our sisters and brothers in Warner Robins! And what an exciting opportunity we will have with Holly House to get to know our neighbors better and discern the ways that we can support one other.

I know that sounds like a pretty tall order. We don't really know the folks who live near All Saints. If you look at a map, the sheer size of the area around us could be a bit overwhelming. But during discussions with Mother Bonnie and other folk in the parish, we have come to understand that it's typically best to do a little something well, than to be overwhelmed by something so big we can't even envision how to get started. Our Diocesan Bishop Rob Wright also encourages us Deacons to learn through small experiments that can lead us to healthy ministries that grow. And when we are talking about getting to know people, that just makes good sense.

I've been studying maps of our area and praying about our initial steps. I've driven around with the windows down just to get a "feel" for the area and I look forward to a new beginning. So expect to hear more soon about gathering folk to begin to walk the neighborhood, two-by-two, and getting acquainted with some of our neighbors, for this is one step in going to where the people are, as we work towards getting comfortable saying "Hi" to each other and simply starting some conversations.

Honestly, I have no idea where all this is going to go. Yet faithfully, I know God does. We simply have to get started and put one foot in front of another, trusting in the Spirit, for She will point us in the right direction for the use of our soon-to-be new building and grounds. Sometimes it's going to be hot or cold, sunny or cloudy, breezy or still, but we just need to keep going forth.

It sort of reminds me of the way Jesus went about his ministry. On foot, in all kinds of weather, with the help of faithful folks who went with him, believing that Jesus would lead them to a better world.

You hear this message every Sunday. It's listed in the Service Bulletin as *Sending Forth*, when I say: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

And all God's people respond: Thanks be to God!

Peace,
Deacon Barbara



July Events!

- July 3rd: Covered Dish
- July 9: Literary pilgrimage to Milledgeville and Eatonton to visit the homes of Flannery O'Connor and Alice Walker and the Georgia Writers Museum.
- July 18: Discussion of *Saving Grace*, by Kirsten Powers
- July 31st: 5th Sunday, Blessing of the Bookbags

Updates at All Saints!

Holly House

Your Vestry continues to work towards closing on the Holly House property. A few title issues have caused delays, but with our real estate attorney's help, we are hopeful that the close will be completed in July.

But we're using this additional time for planning! You can expect to hear news soon about work days to do some clean up in the yard and the house, as well as opportunities to join in the work of discernment with the broader community to determine together how we can best use this wonderful gift to carry Christ's light into the world.



A Gift to All Saints

After a LONG time on backorder, we have received a replacement bench for the porch of the Parish Hall. This new memorial bench was donated in memory of BT's brother Milton.

Thank you, BT, Lillian and all the family, for your loving gift.

Summer Pledge Reminder

At this time of year, we encourage you to keep-up-to date with your financial support of All Saints as you enjoy your summer travels and events. As a friendly reminder, there are various ways you can give to All Saints, even if you are away.

- You can mail you check to All Saints Episcopal Church, 1708 Watson Blvd, Warner Robins, GA 30193.
- Or give online at www.allsaintswr.org. Click on the "Connect" menu option, then "Give" to be able to give on-line through Realm. And if it's more convenient to give through Realm directly, please contact the church office for an account setup.
- On-Line Banking. Go to your bank's online banking system and set-up All Saints as a payee.

If you have difficulty using the online options, please do contact the office at All Saints 478-923-1791 or office@allsaintswr.org.

Year Round Stewardship: Patriotism as a Process

by Mary Christian

When I was seventeen, I spent a summer studying in France, at a school near the Swiss border. About two-thirds of the students were from the United States; the class also included a few Austrians and one student each from Brazil, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Romania, and Canada. We were supposedly there to study French language and culture. We listened to lectures on Proust and Chateaubriand, and studied for grammar and orthography quizzes. We ate crêpes and raclette, explored the old city in Lyon, and admired the view from Mont-Blanc.

On the Fourth of July, however, the school arranged a distinctly un-French outing, busing the students five miles across the border to Geneva (a city with a high American expat population) for a pop concert, a game of football américain, and an evening of fireworks, or feux d'artifice. The U.S. students were jubilant at an evening of familiar celebration; the other students seemed divided between enjoyment of the entertainment and annoyance at being required to participate in their classmates' national traditions while their own were ignored. On the bus, the lone Canadian student (whose national holiday had passed unmentioned three days before) defiantly interrupted the chorus of "Star-Spangled Banner" by belting out a solo rendition of "O Canada."

At the time, I didn't think much about the event, except that it was pleasant to have a double dose of fireworks that summer; ten days later, of course, we marked Bastille Day with an equally impressive display in Annecy. Now, however, years later, I often remember that scene when July comes around, the month that for several nations seems synonymous with parades, pyrotechnics, and patriotism. We thought we were very patriotic, teenagers on a bus trying to outshout and outsing each other. For us, patriotism meant claiming our country was the best, the louder the better.

In more recent years, I have done some thinking about what else the word might mean. The word "Patriot" contains the Latin word pater, or "father." The word itself likens loyalty to one's country or "fatherland" to loyalty to one's family. Loving one's country doesn't mean thinking one's country is perfect, or even that it's better than all other countries. It doesn't mean pretending everything is all right when it harms you or others. It does mean that you and this country belong to each other; it does mean caring for others in the country, promoting their well-being (as far as one can without being unfair to people from other countries). It means being as much steward as a cheerleader, helping the country to be the best it can be, both by appreciating the good it offers and holding it accountable when it fails.

My understanding of patriotism has changed since I was a teenager in a bus singing my way into Switzerland. Probably yours has too in the past few decades. Perhaps what I've learned most is that patriotism—like friendship, like faith, like most parts of life—is a process, something we continue to try and practice and mess up and try again for as long as we're alive.

Happy Fourth of July!

As we take the time this July 4th to celebrate our Nation's independence, may we also take the time to pray for our beloved nation.



Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP 258)

Ministry Updates

Altar Guild

If anyone is interested in joining Altar Guild, please contact me. We are in need of a few more people on one team especially! This is a commitment to a 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

Our Summer Choir is in full swing with rehearsals happening Sundays at 9am. Fall Choir will begin on August 18th. Rehearsals will take place every Thursday at 7:30.

Our kids choir will also begin that week! Children ages 1st-5th grade are welcome to join us Sunday, August 18th, at 1:30 pm. 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



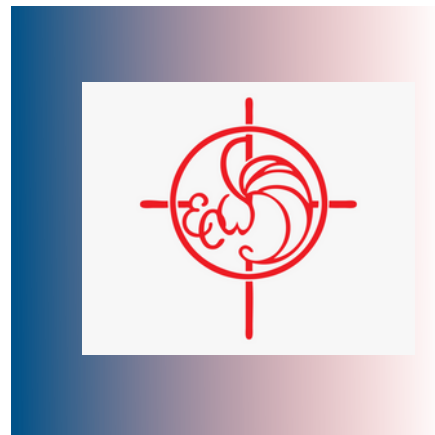
Digital Ministry

All Saints is looking for volunteers to learn about and assist in the behind-the-scenes portion of our Sunday live-stream. 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.

ECW

Hope you are enjoying your summer – and staying cool! We will not meet in July but will meet the first Tuesday in August, the 2nd. We will be planning a Ladies Retreat for a Saturday in August so watch your bulletin and newsletter for further information.



EfM: a time to explore

Every Baptized Person is Called to Ministry

Education for Ministry (EfM) invites participants into a small, mentored group that provides the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened. We do this through developing what we think

as Core Practices.

More than a Bible Study

At its heart EfM is a program in learning to practice living in Christ. While we do study 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. Together we learn to discern how we can carry Christ's love into the world in the various ministries to which we are called. Core Practices include:

- Living in Community
- Regular Prayer and Worship
- Theological Reflection
- Study of the Christian Tradition
- Vocational Discernment

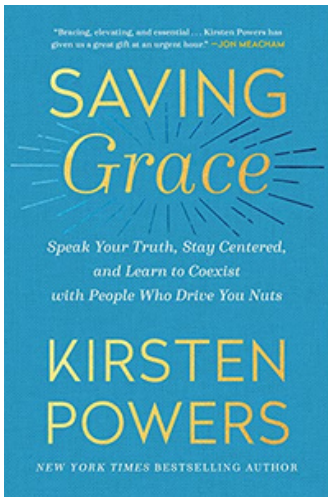
Interested in learning more? Contact Mother Bonnie, bonnieunderwood@gmail.com or Marsha Buzzell at marshap450@gmail.com for more information.

A one-year course of study is \$325, plus books. And if you need scholarship assistance, please speak with Mother Bonnie. Consider joining us this Fall!

Coming Soon

Covered Dish

- July 3rd: Following Sunday Worship, we will have our monthly Covered Dish event! This potluck will also be a celebration of the Fourth of July.



Book Club Events

- July 9: Literary pilgrimage to Milledgeville and Eatonton to visit the homes of Flannery O'Connor and Alice Walker and the Georgia Writers Museum.
- July 18: Discussion of Saving Grace, by Kirsten Powers

For more information on Book Club events, contact Mary Christian

Blessing of the Bookbags

- July 31st: Our family-friendly 5th Sunday! Worship service, with a children's sermon. Plus our annual Blessing of the Book Bags, a special time during worship for all those involved in the new school year, whether students or teachers and staff!



A Thank You from Deacon Barbara

Dear Parish Family,

I want to Thank You for your prayers, cards, love, and support during Daddy's death. He is happy, well, reunited with his beloved Martha, and tending a wonderful farm in Heaven - on the best tractor ever!

Words are not enough to express how much it means to me that you have supported me through his illness and death. Truly, it helped me cope and is a beautiful, comforting balm as I grieve. Just knowing you are there and have welcomed me to the All Saints family brings a sense of calm and peace during this time of moving into my own new life.

Again, Thank You!
Peace and Love,
Deacon Barbara

All Saints Calendar

Weekly

Sunday

Worship 10:15 am in-person and online

Monday

Book Club: 4:30-6pm

Tuesday

Food Pantry: 9:30 - 11am

Wednesday

Noonday Prayer: 12-12:30pm

Friday

Shawl Ministry: 12-12:30pm

ECW Luncheon: 1pm

Monthly

1st Tuesday

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

3rd Thursday

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

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

June Recap



The day we wear red! This Pentecost Mother Bonnie offered a children's sermon explaining the birthday of the church. Our kids even got to play a role acting as the wind and fire!!

Our pentecost service also featured a lovely duet by Amelia and Keegan who sang for us "The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed"

Following the service, we had our monthly Covered Dish honoring our All Saints Treasures. This month, we celebrated our All Saints treasures: those who have blessed this parish with their presence, wisdom, and engagement for many years!

