



# All Saints Alive!

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church  
October 2023

## Mother Bonnie's Corner



Deacon Barbara and I recently attended our annual Diocesan Clergy Conference at Rock Eagle in Milledgeville and I can happily report that this three-day conference was delightful and life-giving. We had less “programming” than was typical and instead had days filled with time for reflection, worship, singing, and fellowship.

Bishop Wright’s talks centered around Hebrews 13:15-16, *“Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”*

We were reminded of the many types of prayer\* and encouraged to ponder the soul-filling beauty of praising God. And then we did exactly that! As a community, we praised God in word and song each day, and I know I for one left that conference refreshed and renewed.

I was reminded of growing up singing the Doxology each Sunday at the offertory.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

What could happen if *daily* we took the time to truly praise God? If we actually took the time each day to realize that all our many gifts and blessings, our resources and relationships — *everything* around us — are gifts from God? Would we lean into realizing that we truly do have abundant lives — *that God does provide all we need* — and with God’s help, we can set aside our fear of scarcity and not having enough and step away from our very human tendency to hoard, rather than share?

October is stewardship month at All Saints, a time when we’re all asked to reflect on *who we are* and *whose we are*,

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- Consecration Sunday
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- Altar Flowers

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- ECW

### Outreach at All Saints

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- Women’s Interfaith Alliance
- Family Promise

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- All Saints in Pictures

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## **Mother Bonnie's Corner - Continued**

as we consider an annual pledge, giving back from all that we've been given, to God. Financial stewardship is not a fund-raising campaign, but a real and tangible part of our spiritual journey and our response to the truth of Jesus' words, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also" (Luke 12:34).

Will we commit ourselves to trusting in our relationship with God by leaning into God's promise that we will have enough? For we are each called to be good stewards of our resources, and give back from the many blessings in our lives.

My prayer for each of you this month is that you to take the time to praise God each day, as you consider your gift to the Church, and prayerfully consider the opportunity to grow one step in your giving, enabling All Saints to continue to grow in doing Christ's work in the world.

Blessings,

Mother Bonnie

*\* Check out the Book of Common Prayer, page 856, where the catechism describes the different kinds of prayers: adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession, and petition.*

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## **From our Deacon**

Here we are in October and there is a lot that has gone on in the past year. We welcomed new folks to our All Saints family. Children's Sunday School has gotten underway. We started another Inquirer's Class the last Sunday in September. We've leaned into discovering new opportunities to serve each other and our Warner Robins community in ways we might have never imagined.



The next few months will be filled with special worship services, including the Animal Blessing and Church Picnic. Before we turn around, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Next will be Advent, with some special gatherings, and Christmas. There is a lot that is going to be happening!

On October 31st we will celebrate the Eve of All Saints Day. In our neck of the woods we call that celebration Trunk or Treat. I understand that last year Trunk or Treat was celebrated for the first time in quite a while. It was a total blast!

The word was put out to the parish. Our neighbors on Cherokee Street were invited. Our own kids were pretty excited. The grownups bought a wonderfully obscene amount of all kinds of candy. (The kids may have come down from the sugar high by Christmas Eve.) And as if the sugar high wasn't enough, trunks were decorated and the adults came in some spectacular costumes.

Yep! It was one BIG party!

I'm bringing this up again this year because I want to remind us all what a gift this event was to our neighbors and their kids. You see, it just isn't safe to let kids run around loose in the



# It's Here! The **new** All Saints sign!

***After months of planning and the blessing of generous gifts, we have our new sign!***

We will dedicate our new sign during our outdoor worship on Sunday, October 8th, recognizing the significant contribution made by Pat Bartness in memory of our beloved Dee, who has made this hope a reality.

*Wondering about those flags? We're investigating some landscaping options to both protect our sign and keep our All Saints grounds looking their best!*



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## ***Consecration Sunday is coming! October 29***

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When we approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective, we realize that for Christians, giving money to the church is about more than paying the bills. Instead, our financial contributions are a way to grow spiritually in our relationship with God by supporting our church's mission and ministry with a percentage of our income.

All Saints has been following the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program for a few years, as a way for us to better learn the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving within our stewardship education.

Biblical stewardship is about our spiritual development as joyful givers, rather than the budgetary requirements of the church. Rather than members of a social club who should pay our dues, we recognize ourselves as followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. The New Consecration Sunday Program encourages us to reach toward proportionate and systemic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we ask everyone to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Everyone completing an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily during worship on Consecration Sunday. Even if you feel strongly opposed to completing a card, please do attend. The process we use is done in such a way that no one feels pressured or personally embarrassed if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. What you can expect during Sunday worship is to hear our guest leader share a reflection and invite everyone to offer their commitments as a confidential act of worship. A catered meal will be held in the Parish Hall after the service.

There will be no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, but we do make every effort to inform and inspire you to commit to attending Consecration Sunday on 10/29.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in our Consecration Sunday events.

Leslie Tidwell, Vestry Person and Stewardship Chair

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# Year Round Stewardship:

## Eucharistic Ministers: In Remembrance of Me

When Jesus gave bread and wine to his disciples, he said, “do this in remembrance of me.” But if we take, eat, drink, and remember, someone has to do the giving—the priest and the deacon, and, along with them, the team of ministers who help to distribute bread and wine to all who come to partake.

Stephanie Johnson can’t remember how long ago she became a Eucharistic Minister, but she has never forgotten why. “One day, the Spirit called me,” she said. “I listen to the Spirit.” For Eucharistic Ministers, she says, following in Jesus’s steps becomes literal: “We are his hands, his feet, his eyes, his body.”

Libbet Turner, who has served as EM coordinator for about two years, grew up as an Episcopal priest’s daughter in an era in which women had few active roles in the worship service. “Maybe a reader,” she recalls, “or altar guild—but that was it.” As a young adult, having graduated from her acolyte years, she was pleasantly startled when she began to notice people her age—men and women—serving communion. Now, years later, she feels she has found her niche in this ministry, though she admits (with a slight roll of the eyes) that she has mixed feelings about the “awesome robe.”

For Buddy Parks Jr., becoming an EM was a step toward his childhood dream of becoming a priest. He began to serve in the midst of the pandemic lock-down, helping to set up for the virtual services and occasionally preaching a video sermon. His first attempts were nerve-racking, he says; while some people might be nervous speaking to a room full of people, an empty room with a camera was a more intimidating audience for him. In more recent months, as he stands before a room full of familiar faces, he has grown far more comfortable in his up-front role. His three years of EM service have been years of frequent change as church services have transitioned from virtual to outdoors to back inside the sanctuary, and as communion protocols have shifted to adapt to safety guidelines (wine or no wine? Sipping or intinction?). This most recent year, he reports, “we’ve all been breathing a sigh of relief, getting back to normal.”

Being an EM, Libbet says, is a good role for people who might not be comfortable making momentous decisions in vestry meetings, but who are good at remembering details. New team members go through a training class and a certification process to know where to place the communion vessels, how to prepare and clear away, and other details that make the communion process go smoothly. Buddy has found that it takes some practice to hold the gospel book just right, so that the deacon can read easily and turn the page quickly. Stephanie, who has served under four different priests and several additional substitutes and interim priests, has found that every priest does communion a little differently. “Each one has his or her own style,” she says. “But if you make a mistake, just smile and keep going.”

When asked what they enjoy about the ministry, every EM I asked spoke of the strong sense of community and connection the position offers—connection with God, with their fellow leaders, and with the congregation. Libbet appreciates being able to serve with a team of

## **Year Round Stewardship- continued**

ministers who can count on each other, and she likes getting a “new perspective” on the worship service, looking out at the faces in the congregation and seeing how they respond to different parts of the service. Buddy enjoys sitting with other worship leaders on the platform, saying, “We pick on each other, but we don’t really pick on each other.” He also loves watching the children at communion time. “They don’t know what to do with it,” he says. “And I remember, that used to be me.”

Stephanie, feeling God’s presence in the Eucharist, has felt especially called to bring that presence within the reach of those who aren’t physically able to come to church—mostly to senior citizens with health or mobility challenges. After several years serving as an EM, she joined the Eucharistic Visitor ministry at All Saints. She sees this ministry as an extension of her roles both as an EM and as a Daughter of the King, living her vow of prayer, service, and evangelism. As an EV, she brings communion to those who need it brought to them. “It allows them to see a familiar face,” she says, “and helps them know they aren’t forgotten.” All Saints’ dedicated EV team also includes Anne Sanders and Dan Bibler. If you feel called to this special ministry, please see Stephanie.

After sharing the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus prayed that his followers might “all be one.” Being an EM is one of the many ways in which people in the church work to bring that prayer to life.

Mary Christian

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## **A Friendly Reminder . . . our Altar Flowers**

All Saints is blessed with some real talent on our Altar Guild team: members who not only know how to be excellent stewards of our resources but also make sure our altar space is beautiful. Our Altar flowers are an important part of weekly worship.

Unfortunately, flowers are one of the few expense items at All Saints that are over budget for the year.

Do know that your Vestry is firmly committed to maintaining a beautiful church with lovely flowers, and we will be evaluating this budget concern, like all our expenses, to see if there are adjustments that should occur for our 2024 budget.

*But if you have inadvertently gotten behind on your flower contributions, we'd appreciate your assistance!*

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**Healing Service, 1st Wednesday**  
Join us on October 4th at noon for Holy Eucharist  
and Healing Prayers

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# Parish Life at All Saints

## **Something New!**

### **October 5th: Potluck and Hymn 5:45 – 7:15 pm**

An opportunity to Praise God in fellowship and song!  
Join us for a simple potluck, followed by time to  
sing your favorite hymns.

No experience required . . . simply a desire to make  
a joyful noise in together in community!



### **October 8th: Outdoor Worship, Blessing of the Animals, and Fall Picnic**

Your pets are welcome to join us at our  
10:15 am Outdoor Sunday Worship,  
followed by Blessing of the Animals at 11:30,  
and our annual Fall Picnic.

Bring your chairs or blankets for worship on  
the lawn, as well as a potluck item to share.

The Men's Group will grill hamburgers and  
hot dogs (and veggie items, too).



## **Episcopal Church Women**

*ECW begins the month with our regular meeting on October 3 at 10:30 am.  
Please make plans to attend, as we finalize plans for Marketplace.*

**October 8th and 10th:** We will be preparing and serving dinner to our Family Promise families. Watch for Signup Genius for more details.

**October 14th:** ECW Marketplace

We will need many hands to make this a successful event! Marketplace has many components. In addition to vendors, we will be serving lunch. We will also need baked items to sell at the Bake Sale. The profits from this event will be distributed to many nonprofits in our community. *Please mark some time on your calendar for the week of October 8th-14th. We will really need your help!*

# Outreach at All Saints



*Helping our Neighbors*

**Faith Lutheran  
Clothing Closet Ministry**

The Faith Lutheran Clothing Closet Ministry currently needs *gently-used* men's and boy's clothing.

## **Clothing Needs**

Pants

Long and Short-sleeved shirts

Shoes - youth sizes through adult sizes

Socks and Underwear (*new, please!*)

## **Clothing Sizes:**

Men's-- S, M, L, XL, XXL

Boy's-- 6/7, 8, 9/10,  
12/14

Donations may be left at Faith Lutheran Church, 301 N Pleasant Hill Rd or the All Saints Church office.

*Thank you for your support, as we respond to the needs of our community.*



## **October Luncheon/Meeting**

Monday, October 2, 2023: 12:00 - 2:00 pm..  
Vineville United Methodist Church, Macon

*An opportunity to learn more about different faiths, as we come together to explore our spirituality in a context of love, compassion, cooperation, and community service.*



## **All Saints Hosts Meals**

October 8th, 10th, 22nd

Watch for SignUp Genius, to volunteer for meal prep and hosting!

The next Family Promise hosting training session will be at the Perry facility on September 18th at 6:30 and October 23rd at 6:30.

*Additional hosts are needed!*



# Join us at the Film Screening of *The Philadelphia Eleven*

November 5th  
Douglass Theater

Reception 4:00 pm  
Film Viewing 5:00 pm  
Panel Discussion 6:30 pm

*Tickets available thru  
Eventbrite or by contacting  
the Church Office*



Scan the QR  
Code for tickets  
and more  
information

**Tickets Available  
NOW!**

## October at a Glance

- October 4th:** Healing Eucharist, Noon
- October 5th:** Potluck and Hymn Sing in Parish Hall, 5:45 – 7:15 pm
- October 8th:** Outdoor Worship, with Blessing of the Animals and Fall Picnic; Family Promise
- October 10th:** Family Promise
- October 14th:** ECW Marketplace, 9:00 am–2:00 pm
- October 22nd:** Family Promise
- October 29th:** Consecration Sunday and Blessing of the Costumes, catered meal following worship; D&D, 1 pm in the Youth Room
- October 31st:** Trunk or Treat, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

## November at a Glance

- November 1st:** All Saints Evensong and Fellowship, 6:30 pm
- November 5th:** All Saints Day Worship; *Philadelphia 11* reception, screening, and panel discussion, Historic Douglass Theater in Macon; 4:00 pm – 7:30pm
- November 8th:** Healing Eucharist, Noon
- November 12th:** Potluck after worship, with Real Issues Speaker Series, Noon
- November 18th:** Celebrating the Saints, C.S. Lewis
- November 22nd:** Thanksgiving Eve Service, Noon
- November 26th:** Children’s Sermon, Advent Workshop
- November 30th:** Advent Evening Program begins, 5:45 – 7:15 pm

# All Saints in Pictures



**Rev. Shirley Porter leading our Annual Fall Retreat**  
*Walking in Holiness,  
All the Days of our Lives*

## **Real Issues Speaker Series: Jason Hobbs,** *Breaking the Stigma: A conversation about Mental Health*

**Our second Real Issues Speaker Series was well attended!**

A big thanks to Jason Hobbs and all the team who made this program possible: Stephanie Johnson, leading the DOK; Marsha Buzzell, representing our EfM graduates, and all the many folks who helped with the Coffee Bar and preparing the delicious goodies to eat!



Watch for more news soon on our next **Real Issues Speaker Series** event, scheduled on Sunday, November 12.



Noah Rice and Amelia Christie  
proclaiming God's Word



Mother Bonnie getting lots of help  
during the Children's Sermon



We love having  
our Children  
leading us  
in Worship

Clara Buttersworth  
leading the  
Prayers of the People



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## Fall at All Saints

### Sunday Mornings

**Choir Rehearsal:** 9:15 am, begins 8/31

**Sunday School:** 9:15 am, begins 9/16

**Worship:** 10:15 am, also *live-streamed*

### Sundays, after Worship

**1st Sunday:** Covered Dish and Rector's Forum

**Other Sundays:** Coffee Bar and Fellowship

**Bi-Weekly:** D&D, 1 pm in Youth Room

All are welcome  
to Worship  
and  
Fellowship  
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

#### 1st Tuesday

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

#### 1st Wednesday

Holy Eucharist with healing  
prayers, Noon in the Sanctuary  
*Note date change in November*

#### 4th Thursday

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

See weekly  
eNews for  
details on  
upcoming  
events