

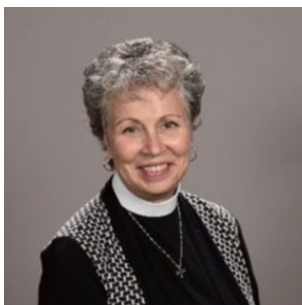
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All Saints Alive

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
January 2022

Mother Bonnie's Corner



I've always looked forward to a new calendar year. It's like opening a brand new book and anticipating a fresh experience that sparks the imagination.

And I've been particularly looking forward to this new year, 2022, even more than usual! Perhaps that feeling's been driven by the strangeness of the recent past, as so much of my life (and maybe yours?) has been driven by those outside things... those things completely out of my control. I know I have a deep longing for this year to be something more. More than COVID, more than divisiveness and

conflict, more than one more reason to be anxious or worried.

And I do trust that this year will be more... more than we can ask for or imagine when together as a community we put our faith in our Risen Lord! This is a year when we all can lean into the possibilities of growing as a community by supporting one another and learning together how to recognize God's presence in our day-to-day lives.

I look forward to beginning this year with a new offering at All Saints — a small group experience that can help us grow spiritually and deepen our love of God and neighbor. ***My Way of Love*** is a small group study, designed to provide both prayerful support and accountability, by engaging the Bible in a way that can help us grow our connection to God and one another.

Wondering what all this means? Plan to attend one of our introductory meetings on Sunday 1/9. We'll have an in-person session right after church in the Parish Hall and a Zoom meeting later that day at 2 p.m. That Zoom link will be provided in our weekly email.

Right now, our first small group session is scheduled to begin on Wednesday 1/12 from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and continue weekly through 3/2. While this is an in-person session, if there's enough interest at our introductory meetings to hold an additional session on Zoom at an alternative time, we can make that happen, too.

I do look forward to the new year and new possibilities. Where will the Spirit lead us at All Saints? What will 2022 bring? Could new ministries, new opportunities to serve and welcome, and new chances to share Christ's light and love in the world be right in front of us?

I believe they are. The possibilities in God are endless! And I look forward to continuing our All Saints faith journey, with each and every one of you, in 2022.

Blessings,

Mother Bonnie



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday	Worship: 10:15 <i>in person and online</i>
Monday	Book Study: 4:30-6pm Education for Ministry: 6:30-8:30pm
Tuesday	Food Pantry: 9:30-11am
Wednesday	Pilgrimage: 12-12:30pm My Way of Love 10:30 - 11:30am Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm
Friday	Shawl Ministries: 10:30am-12pm ECW Luncheon: 1pm

From Our Deacon



Over the holidays I admit that I watched a few - OK, way more than a few - movies that definitely had a Santa Claus, budding romances, and goofy pet additions to all the festivities. Sometimes as I was scrolling through the many different movie options, I would come across one that had snuck its way into the "Holiday" category that piqued my interest. Turns out they had no obvious holiday connection but they did have a very profound message.

I chose one of those "sleeper holiday movies" because it was filmed in Ireland. It was about two main characters finding out who they truly are and their courage both in that journey and proclaiming their discovery to themselves and everybody else. One of these characters was persistently looking for something her brother had drawn and she finally found it: an inscription carved in the stone. This verse was something I recognized, but couldn't remember where. But Google knew.

*The Lord himself goes before you;
he will never leave you nor forsake you.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*

Deuteronomy 31:8 NIV

As we head into a new year with all the glorious possibilities, we will also journey with all the inevitable challenges. Sometimes I forget that. I guess we all do. That is why we need each other — to remind us that life is a balancing act. It may seem that it doesn't exactly square with the verse from Deuteronomy, but wait for it. I really am getting there.

Good stuff is grand. Bad stuff, not so much.

Sometimes we need the balance of negative experiences to be able to truly appreciate the positive experiences. For example...

The holiday season (I am talking about Thanksgiving through New Years Day) can be frenzied and maddening. Gift shopping. Grocery shopping. Extra cooking and cleaning. Traveling multiple times to distant family homes for celebrations. Parties and plays. College kids coming home. Wrapping. Decorating. You know the drill. Frankly, by New Year's Eve, most of us just want to collapse and sleep for the next 24 hours - or watch Bowl Games in our PJs. All of that frantic activity is most certainly a challenge!

The balance is running into old friends while shopping and taking the time for a cup of coffee or tea, just for the pleasure of catching up. Bringing out Grandma's recipes for dressing, sweet potato pie, and pressing the napkins your great aunt gave you years before. Being with family we haven't seen for a while, nurturing each other with laughter and fun, sharing a familiar table loaded with the traditional family dishes. Our delight in crooked halos and unruly wise men. Allowing our returning scholars to sleep for three days before we start asking questions. Warming up in the depths of our hearts when we see a child's face light up and the squeal with delight when the wrapping settles and the treasure is discovered. This is Glory!

Now back to the verse from Deuteronomy . . .

This verse declares Glory! God is always there and always with us! God isn't going anywhere! Holding to God's ever-abiding presence gives us the strength and courage to meet all the challenges head-on, without fear or worries. Doing the truly right and good things, no matter how difficult or challenging is Glory!

My prayer for all of us is to remember this verse, or one like it, and be God's Glory!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Deacon Barbara

A black poster with a starry background and a firework graphic in the top left. The text is white and gold. The title 'JANUARY Events' is at the top. Below it are three event announcements: 'JANUARY 9TH' with a bulleted list of activities, 'JANUARY 23RD: HOMECOMING AT ALL SAINTS: ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK!', and 'JANUARY 30TH: 5TH SUNDAY!'.

JANUARY
Events

JANUARY 9TH

- DURING THE SERVICE: VESTRY COMMISSIONING
- AFTER THE SERVICE:
 - NEW VESTRY ORIENTATION
 - INTRO TO MY WAY OF LOVE

JANUARY 23RD: HOMECOMING AT ALL SAINTS: ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK!

JANUARY 30TH: 5TH SUNDAY!

Holly House Update

As reported by Darlene Meloche last month, the Vestry has voted to proceed with negotiating the purchase of Holly House, the property adjacent to All Saints.

Between the holidays and the busyness of our real estate attorney, there is not yet any progress to report on the property. Rest assured that our All Saints family will be informed when we have more information to share.

While we have not yet determined exactly what we will do with the property, we have both practical ideas and volunteers available to thoroughly vet our options and initiate new programs, should the sale go through. We are especially hopeful about the possibilities of expanding our reach into the wider community through this gift to the parish.

Please do continue to keep these efforts in your prayers.

Ministry Leaders!

Please remember Annual Reports are due to the Church office by Monday, January 3rd



HOMECOMING AT ALL SAINTS! JANUARY 23, 2022

IT'S TIME! TIME TO COME TOGETHER
AGAIN AS ALL THE ALL SAINTS FAMILY!

SO WHETHER YOU'VE BEEN WITH US REGULARLY IN-PERSON, OR
WONDERING IF IT'S TIME TO COME BACK, OR SOMEONE WHO'S NEW TO
ALL SAINTS, YOU ARE OFFICIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR
HOMECOMING AT ALL SAINTS!

OUR TIME TOGETHER WILL INCLUDE:

- OUR FIRST POTLUCK OF THE NEW YEAR
- AN ANNUAL MEETING TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN 2021 AND WHAT'S TO COME IN 2022!
- PLUS PLENTY OF FELLOWSHIP AND TIME TO MEET AND GREET THOSE WHO'VE BEEN AT ALL SAINT FOR DECADES, AS WELL AS OUR NEWER MEMBERS AND VISITORS.

SO **SAVE THE DATE** AND PLAN TO JOIN US ON **1/23/2022** IN THE PARISH HALL, RIGHT AFTER WORSHIP.

Stewardship Column

For 2022, you can expect a new series of articles on Year Round Stewardship, prepared by Mary Christian. Enjoy!

Stewardship Baggage

by Mary Christian

It's a new year and a new column. Maybe I should admit it right at the start: when Mother Bonnie asked me to write a monthly column about stewardship, I was not thrilled. I squirm when I hear the word *stewardship*. For me, that word carries a lot of baggage.

The money part of stewardship isn't so bad—at least, it wasn't for me, not early on. My family always had enough. We were never in danger of going without food or shelter or other necessities, so money wasn't often an emotional subject. From the time my brothers and I were toddlers (as soon as our parents could trust us not to put coins in our mouths), we knew that *money* was those round shiny things Mom gave us to drop in the offering basket when we came to the front to hear the children's sermon. (The grown-ups seemed to like the

green scraps of paper even better, but those didn't make nearly such a satisfying clatter when you tossed them in.) We didn't know much else about money, but we knew that.

When we were old enough to do basic math, our mother's approach to tithe was straightforward. If you earned \$1 washing dishes and vacuuming, one dime went in the tithe envelope. If your grandparents gave you \$20 for Christmas, \$2 belonged to God, and you had \$18 to save or spend. She didn't moralize about it. It was just the way things were. I'm not sure we even knew we had a choice. Like putting on clothes in the morning and washing our hands before we ate, it was just something people *did*. Putting in extra for offering—that was up to us. But when it came to tithe, we might as well get emotional about the fact that five nickels make one quarter.

When I got a little older and began to listen to what other grown-ups said about money and God, I found that not everyone found it as simple as my mother did. I never heard any pastor preach a sermon about how many nickels go into a quarter, but they found plenty to raise their voices about when it came to tithe and offering:

“God will demand an *account* from you!”

“Jesus gave *everything* for you, and you won't even give him ten percent?”

“How will you answer to God for *robbing* him?”

They told stories about the Israelites, who gave so much gold and jewelry and fine cloth for the sanctuary in the wilderness that Moses said, “No more!” (Exodus 36:6); about the widow whom Jesus praised for giving all she had (Mark 12:43-44); about Achan, who was stoned to death for burying the gold and silver he should not have kept (Joshua 7); about Ananias and Sapphira, who were struck down dead for keeping some of the money they were supposed to give to the church (Acts 5:1-10). The stories all seemed to have two lessons behind them: First, when you don't give God what you should, scary things happen. And second, giving ten percent isn't enough—you should keep on giving and giving—if you haven't been told “no more,” it isn't enough.

That was true for money, and it was true for other resources too: time, talents, even our bodies. Stewardship became an extra layer of weight pressing on everything I did—or didn't do. Doing badly on a math test or a piano recital wasn't just an embarrassment; it was letting Jesus down, failing to use my talents for him. If I said no when asked to serve as a campus ministry leader, I

would be told, “But Mary, God has given you such an *opportunity* to reach students for him.” If I ate too much ice cream or stayed up too late at night and got sick as a result, I was squandering my God-given health. After all, I was told, all these resources belonged to God from the beginning, and it was my job to take care of God’s stuff.

This stewardship mindset gave the weight of failure even to small, mundane mistakes. I became afraid to take risks, afraid of yet another failure. And yet, I was told, avoiding risks was not a safe choice either—we all know what happened to the servant who buried his master’s gold (Matthew 25:14-30). Damned if you do, damned if you don’t.

And here’s the other thing that worried me: according to these stewardship exhortations, giving wasn’t enough. You had to *want* to give, because God loves a *cheerful* giver (II Corinthians 9:7). The gift had to spring from love and gratitude, not from a sense of obligation—otherwise, it was no good. But honestly, the more of these stewardship sermons I listened to, the less cheerful I felt.

This is why the word *stewardship* often makes me cringe. I resent that extra layer of weight that stewardship brings to everything. Sometimes, I want a piano mistake to be just a piano mistake, junk food to be just junk food, a cold to be just a cold. And I decided to write this column because I suspect I may not be alone. Some of you may have had a different experience—perhaps for you the idea of stewardship has always been linked with joy, with a sense of honor at being called to play a part in God’s work. I’m happy for you. But for the rest of us—those who have felt overloaded with the baggage of stewardship, what might be a better starting point for thinking about service to God and our neighbors, with or without the label of *stewardship*? In future columns this year, I want to think through this question: If fear and shame have not motivated us to use resources well, what can?



EYC

HEY ALL!

FOR OUR YOUTH!

OUR DECEMBER ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN TONS OF FUN. WE HAVE HAD SUCH A BLAST WITH OUR ADVENT TIME TOGETHER AND CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS. BUT 2021 IS BEHIND US AND WE'RE NOW ARE LOOKING TO THE NEW YEAR! HERE ARE OUR UPCOMING EVENTS:

- JANUARY 2 THERE WILL BE NO EYC AS WE FINISH UP THE BREAK AND CONTINUE CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR.
- JANUARY 9, WILL BE OUR FIRST EYC OF 2022. WE WILL BE HAVING A SMALL GET-TOGETHER WITH SOME SNACKS TO DISCUSS THE CALENDAR FOR THE UPCOMING SEMESTER, RIGHT AFTER CHURCH. PARENTS, PLEASE DO PLAN TO ATTEND THIS MEETING, SO I CAN ENSURE I WORK BEST WITH YOUR SCHEDULES.
- JANUARY 19 THERE WILL BE NO EYC IN OBSERVANCE OF MLK, JR. HOLIDAY WEEKEND.
- JANUARY 26, WE WILL BE REALLY STARTING OUR EYC SEMESTER OFF STRONG WITH OUR FIRST PACKING PARTY AT THE FOOD PANTRY, AS WE STRIVE TO CONTINUE TO SERVE IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

AND I HOPE YOU ALL ENJOY OF THIS PICTURE OF US WORKING TOGETHER TO LOVINGLY PREPARE CHRISTMAS PACKAGES FOR OUR ALL SAINTS HOMEBOUND.

AS ALWAYS, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Colleen Norris, Youth Leader
colleennorris100@gmail.com



Get Connected



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

JANUARY EVENTS

Women's Luncheon

There will be no January Luncheon. Our next lunch is scheduled for February 7th.

Study Group

Tuesday January 25th at 9:30am

Death, Dying, and the Afterlife lead by Eman Abdulla

If interested, please contact Eman Abdulla at eman_ot@hotmail.com or Margaret Mathews at mmplaid@cox.net.

Book Group

Tuesday February 1st at 12:30 pm

Final discussion on Native- identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God by Kaitlin Curtis. To obtain the zoom link, contact Betty Taylor at taylorbetty@prodigy.net

FOYERS

REBOOT 2022

We're ready! Foyers groups will begin in the New Year

If you would like to be added (or deleted), please contact the church office at office@allsaintswr.org or Shelia Freeman at bsfree4@cox.net

Deadline for Signups is December 12th

Book Club

All Saints Book Club resumes on January
10th at 4:30 pm.

Our next reading is
Kissing Fish by Roger Wolsey





Explore. Practice. Grow. Repeat.

Do you want to

- Recognize God's presence in your everyday life?
- Engage the Bible in a way that helps you grow spiritually?
- Understand that God has given you gifts and enables you to use them in the world?
- Form authentic community?

Join the My Way of Love small group experience.

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Dates: Wednesdays, 1/12 - 3/2

Location: All Saints

Contact: office@allsaintswr.org 478.923.1791

For more information: Mother Bonnie

Looking ways to
grow spiritually
in the new year?
To deepen our
love of God and
neighbor?

Join us for
My Way of Love,
a small group
experience
providing space
for prayerful
support and
accountability.

*Come and See
the ways God can
powerfully work
with us, as we
explore scripture,
tradition,
formation, culture,
and evangelism
in community.*

***Introductory Meeting
Sunday, 1/9, 11:30 a.m, Parish Hall or at 3pm on Zoom***



Epiphany Tradition: Chalking the Door

January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany, sometimes called "Three Kings Day," and starts the Season after Epiphany which continues until Ash Wednesday. Epiphany is an invitation to follow stars, listen to dreams, and step out of what we have always known, as we recognize Christ's light in the world.

The Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 2:1-12) tells us of the day the magi arrived in Bethlehem, directed by angels and guided by a star, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus. Gold symbolized Jesus as a king. Frankincense and myrrh are sweet-smelling resins that were burned as sacred offerings and during burials. The magi then go home by another road. Little else is known about them, although a robust tradition has grown around them over time, including that the three were named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

Last year we began another Epiphany tradition, an ancient tradition known as "Chalking the Door." This practice consists of marking a blessing in chalk in a specific pattern of letters and numbers, to invite God's blessing on a home, church, or other entryway, and on all who enter its doors during the year. All you need is chalk and a doorway. The markings are usually made above the front door or main entrance, in this pattern:

21 + C + M + B + 22

The numbers change each year to reflect the new calendar year. The letters C, M, and B are given two meanings: the initials of the traditional names of the three magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, and the initials of the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means, "Christ bless this dwelling." The + signs are for the Cross of Christ.

This year, All Saints will be offering chalk packets with instructions so you too may "Chalk the Doors" of your homes. Chalk packets will be available following our Sunday worship on 1/2.

Seeing the symbols can help remind us that our homes and all those who dwell there or visit are God's beloved, to be welcomed into our homes and hearts. With time the chalk will fade. As it does, we let the meaning of the written symbols sink into our hearts and manifest in our words and actions.

O God Among Us, may we be visited by angels, may we follow stars, may we bring the gifts we have to offer. May we embrace the journey and travel in love. May Christ bless our homes and find a home in our hearts throughout the year. Amen.

*Adapted from article by Building Faith, a Ministry of Virginia Theological Seminary
https://buildfaith.org/handout-for-epiphany-at-home/?mc_cid=57a6013384&mc_eid=d2e220464f*

Thanksgiving for Generous Giving

So much has happened at All Saints the past two months! Through the generosity of many, we've been able to faithfully serve the wider community in so many ways.

Thanks to our ECW, as this ministry once again provided generous gifts to both elementary schools and local services that assist families in our Warner Robins community.

Thanks to so many in our All Saints Community, who have been deeply involved in helping our brothers and sisters in Christ:

- All those who gave of their time and resources to the Food Pantry in 2021. Your gifts have helped us serve over 800 families this year,

including almost 1000 children.

- All who have generously given to the Rector's Discretionary Fund, enabling All Saints to provide over \$15,000 in assistance to families for utilities, temporary housing, and other critical needs during a particularly challenging year.
- Those who helped gather and pack and distribute all the extra food given out from the Food Pantry during November and December.
- All who generously embraced a grandmother raising her 4 grandchildren with Christmas gifts, formula, diapers, and even a bunk bed, in addition to a handmade prayer shawl and baby blanket.
- All who provided meals and words of encouragement for our Family Promise family.
- Those who gave to Westside Elementary, helping parents to provide gifts for their children.
- And we also give thanks to the wider community who help All Saints minister to others:
 - The Warner Robins High School FBLA and BETA Clubs who generously donated hundred of pounds of food to the Food Pantry.
 - Plus our "regular" community of donors outside of our All Saints family who also faithfully provide groceries for our Food Pantry and gifts to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

ECW Donations

The ECW presented checks for \$400 to the following groups for our Christmas donations: The Phoenix Center, Cherished Children's Daycare, Lindsey Elementary, Miller Elementary, Pearl Stephens, Shirley Hills Elementary, CB Watson, Westside Elementary, Northside Elementary, Russell Elementary, Centerville Elementary, Eagle Springs Elementary, Crossroads, Huntington Middle, Thomson Middle, WR Middle, Northside Middle, The Volunteer Dental Clinic, The Volunteer Medical Clinic, The Halo Group, Family Promise and the Food Pantry. \$1,200 was also donated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. We appreciate all the support our group gets from our parishioners so that we are able to continue helping organizations in our community help those in need.

Ways to Pray

All Saints explored new ways to pray during our Wednesday evening Advent program, using beads, icons, color, and music. Activities were enjoyed by all . . . especially our youngest participants!

Do plan to join our next Wednesday evening program during the Lenten season,

March 9 - April 6!



A Prayer for the Coming Year

Almighty God who makes all things new, help us to live each day to your Glory as we begin a new year. Open our hearts to your Loving Spirit, that we may grow to trust in you and your tender mercy and see your many blessings around us. Guide us, Lord Christ, that we may continually strive to love our neighbors as ourselves, treating all your beloved Creation with dignity and respect. Lead us, Heavenly Father, to strive to serve you in all that we do. We lift up this prayer in the most Holy Name of you Son, Christ Jesus. Amen.

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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If you have needs, please contact the church office at

office@allsaintswr.org or 478.923.1791 or Mother Bonnie
at bonnieunderwood@gmail.com or 404.729.5876.

[Email The Church Office](#)



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