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All Saints Alive

The Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church
March 2022

Mother Bonnie's Corner



We're about to enter the Season of Lent, a traditional season of penitence and fasting, when we set our minds on both our need as Christians to continually renew our repentance and faith while keeping in mind the message of pardon, absolution, and Good News of the Gospel of our Savior. I'm especially looking forward to renewing my personal disciple of deepening my personal daily time with God and leaning into times of Holy Silence by using my home prayer nook. (You'll see a brief article on that in this newsletter.) And I'm excited

about the many offerings at All Saints, as we strive, in community, to become aware of what separates us from The Holy and better align ourselves with our Living, Loving God by turning back to Christ with true intentionality.

Here's what is awaiting you at All Saints, to help us all lean into the season::

- Sunday Worship: There will be more moments of silence, for as uncomfortable as silence can be, it is also where we can find God. We will experience silent processions, silence before the confession, silence after the sermon, and before prayers. And I do ask that we all be more conscious of silence in the Sanctuary before our service begins, encouraging us all to seek moments of deeper intimacy with our Lord and Savior. We will worship using the Rite I liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer, with its humbling and penitential language.
- Quiet Day, Exploring Icons on Saturday March 5th, from 9:30 - Noon: This is a time to continue our exploration of icons, with both a program and time to experience some quiet prayer time using several different icons on our All Saints campus. We will begin in the Parish Hall.
- Choral Evensong: Friday, March 18th at 6:30 pm: Kipp Gill will lead the All Saints Choir and guest musicians in a marvelous Evensong service, followed by some fellowship time.
- Taizé service: This service of music will begin at 5:45 on Wednesday, March 23, prior to our Wednesday Evening Lenten program.
- And we have other offerings: Wednesdays, beginning March 9, we will have Stations of the Cross at noon in the Sanctuary and later in the day, our traditional Wednesday Evening Lenten Program and Simple Supper, beginning at 5:45.

I do hope these offerings provide a path to help you experience a Holy Lent, as we strive to walk in Jesus' path of Love, together.

Blessings,
Mother Bonnie+



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship: 10:15 *in person and online*
Children's Choir: 1:30-2:00pm

Monday Book Study: 4:30-6pm
Education for Ministry 6:30-8:30pm

Tuesday Food Pantry: 9:30-11am

Wednesday My Way of Love: 10:30-11:30am
Pilgrimage: 12-12:30pm
Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm

Thursday Episcopal 101: 6:30pm - 7:30pm

Friday Shawl Ministries: 10:30am-12pm
ECW Luncheon: 1pm

From Our Deacon



A few weeks back I was on my way to Newnan to take my dad to a doctor's appointment. Since I had a commitment the evening before his appointment I decided to get up with the dog (my four-legged 4:30 - 5:00 am alarm clock) and leave the morning of the appointment. Armed with exceptionally strong coffee in two fairly large insulated cups I set out for the two-hour drive to Newnan.

Newnan is one of the fastest-growing bedroom communities for the Metro-Atlanta area. There is an astounding amount of new residence and commercial construction which, of course, creates the inevitable road expansion and construction. Just as I approached Newnan I noticed signs saying "Traffic Barriers Watch for Flagger." And traffic ground to an absolute standstill around the next curve! I was highly irritated. Traffic moved twice in the next twenty minutes before I finally got through and on my way.

On the way home later in the day, I encountered the same "Traffic Barrier." When I got through that barrier - again - I began to think about barriers in general. It didn't take long for me to begin to really focus on the barriers a lot of our brothers and sisters face every day.

The highest, thickest, barriers are faced every day by our brothers and sisters who lay their heads beneath the stars every night - rain or shine, hot or cold, with no sense of security, wondering if they are going to be robbed, or arrested just for sleeping. Some have medical, and/or mental health conditions as well as other challenges that make it especially hard to reason how to help begin to break through the barriers they face. Some are trying desperately to find a steady job so that they can sleep in a low-budget motel for a shower and a good night's sleep once or twice a week.

Did you know you can't get a steady job if you can't produce a Social Security card? Did you know a government-issued photo ID is also required if one manages to get a job? Or that to get a government-issued photo ID you have to present a certified copy of your birth certificate? And to get that certified copy of your birth certificate you have to provide a copy of your current government-issued ID? Or if you have no job because you have no proof that you exist, how do you get the money together to pay the fees for the ID and Birth Certificate?

So how in the world does a brother or sister break the barrier of getting a job, that makes it possible to break the barrier of hunger and homelessness!?!

I hope by now you are aware of the ministry of the people of All Saints called Breaking Barriers. That ministry works with our brothers and sisters to help them rip down that first barrier of being able to prove they exist, by helping them obtain the necessary identification to live life.

Since we began walking with folks to get these vital records we have helped 4 people. All 4 now have steady jobs. One is now sharing plans to get the training he needs to do the work he has long dreamed of to build his life of simple security. Two share a safe apartment to stretch their paycheck to buy groceries and much-needed clothing.

And we're beginning to share our processes of how to obtain identification with other local churches and service organizations that also help those in need.

Think about it. There are so many ways we can help one another when we lean into the nudgings of the Spirit.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Deacon Barbara

Junior Warden

**SAVE THE DATE, MARCH 19th
WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH**

Please mark March 19th (Saturday) on your calendar for a workday at the church. We will be doing outside yard work (Linda Christie is point of contact for the yard work) as well as inside work in both the education building (replace three exhaust fans, replace two leaking faucets and install a toilet) and the parish hall (replace some burned out bulbs, reattach a loose sink in the room off the kitchen and install an exit sign).

Start time is 9 o'clock and pastries and coffee/drinks will be available. There will be a signup sheet outside in front of the church on the 5 March. If you wish to help with yard work, please bring your garden gloves and clippers. I will ensure tools are available for the inside projects.

We look forward to gathering together to care for our beloved church buildings and grounds.

Susan Wynn
Junior Warden



Prayer Nook

In the experience of silence, especially if it is deep, you may experience at times a certain pure awareness. Even if it is brief, you are in contact with That Which Is, and this Reality is obviously in love with you.

- Thomas Keating

It is said that silence is God's first language and one place that I can easily settle in, quiet myself, and listen to God, is a prayer nook in my home. It's a space where I've gathered just a few things to help me rest in God. My space includes:

- A really comfortable chair
- A candle to recall Christ's light
- An icon of the Trinity, helping me to focus on God, our Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier
- An abstract statue of the Holy Family, for family and relationships, are so precious
- A Resurrection Cross, to remember Jesus' great sacrifice for us all.
- A Bible, with its stories of God's love for all of Creation and desire for relationship
- The Book of Common Prayer, for the Daily office and beautiful, psalms and prayers.

Prayer nooks are easy to create. Just gather a few items that remind you of God's love for you or tools that may help you to pray, and use them to create a peaceful space. From there, it's identifying a routine that could allow you to spend a few minutes when you open yourself to simply being with Jesus. Are mornings, before the household awakens best? Or perhaps the end of the day? Whatever works for you is perfect.

No matter what limited time you may have or small space you may create, I would encourage you to consider both creating and using a prayer nook as a possibility for a Lenten discipline this year. Rather than giving up chocolate or snacks, you may find that this practice of spending daily time simply abiding with Jesus can deeply change your relationship with God and others. For it's in silence that we discover that God alone can satisfy the longings of our hearts. And it's in silence that God waits to reveal God's own self to us.

Peace,
Mother Bonnie

Need more information or suggestions about how to create and use your prayer nook? Contact Mother Bonnie, or come to our All Saints Lenten Quiet Day on Saturday 3/5 from 9:30 - Noon, to learn more about the possibilities.

Year Round Stewardship

The Weight of God by Mary Christian

As a preschooler learning my alphabet, I used to enjoy watching my mother do cross-stitch, seeing the letters take shape one by one and trying to guess what each letter would be when it was half-stitched. When I got a little older, I could read the words the letters formed. On my bedroom wall hung a sampler with the words:

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things Thee to see,
And what I do in anything
To do it as for Thee.

The lines seemed simple enough, like a song we might sing in church, and I didn't think about them much. I didn't know who George Herbert was, and it would be years before I would read other stanzas of the poem from which my mother had stitched the first verse.

The later verses of the poem talk about the dignity that even mundane chores can have if done for God:

All may of Thee partake:
Nothing can be so mean,
Which with his tincture—"for Thy sake"—
Will not grow bright and clean.
A servant with this clause
Makes drudgery divine:
Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws,
Makes that and th'action fine.

The last stanza of the poem likens God's service (the tincture of "for Thy sake") to the Philosopher's Stone (or "Sorcerer's Stone," for American Harry Potter readers):

This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold;
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for less be told.

The poem concludes that service to God, like the magical stone in the legend, can turn worthless substances to gold and brew an elixir that gives the drinker everlasting life (hence the poem's title, "The Elixir").

In a previous newsletter column, I said that the idea of stewardship, for me, has sometimes felt like an extra layer of weight on everything, something that can give a sense of spiritual failure even to simple mistakes. But George Herbert's poem suggests another way of thinking about weight—could the weight of a stone really be the weight of gold? What if the weight of stewardship does not mean, "if you say no to this task or fail at it, you are letting God down," but simply, "This thing has meaning," or "This action is worth doing"?

Rob Bell, in *What We Talk About When We Talk About God*, comments on the Hebrew word for weight, *kavod*. *Kavod*, he says, initially referred to scales and measurements that bartering merchants and customers would use to quantify the goods and payments they exchanged, but over time the term came also to be used figuratively, to say that something is significant—an object, a word, a person, an interaction. If a thing has *kavod*, it matters; it has more meaning than you can see on the surface; it weighs something. Bell points out also that when in the Bible the word *kavod* is connected with God, the word is most often translated as glory. God's weight, God's glory, is "that which happens when the monotony is pierced, the boredom hijacked, the despair overpowered by your sense that something else is going on, just below the surface, something that's bigger and wider and deeper than anything you could begin to imagine. . . . It's that gut-level awareness you're seized by that tells you, 'Pay attention, because this matters'" (Bell 114).

If we carry this *kavod*—this weight or glory—in our day-to-day lives, if we challenge ourselves to see it in others, it can change the way we see our routines. If grading a quiz is a way to "seek and serve Christ" in my student,

that might make a difference in the comments I write in the margins. If going to the grocery store is a way I serve (or at least, a way I keep myself fed and functional and able to serve), that might impact not only what and where I buy, but the way I respond to the other shoppers, seeing them as fellow-servants who are similarly there to re-equip themselves for their work—even if the line does get long.

And it is not only the tedious chores that hold God's weight, but also the things we are most drawn to, the things that most delight us. Early in my time in the Episcopal church, I began looking through the church calendar at the list of saints' feast days—the days set aside to commemorate lives and deaths of believers who have served in various ways. There are missionaries in the list, teachers, priests, nuns, bishops, kings and queens, scientists, artists, health care workers, and civil rights activists. The names that most stood out to me were the names of writers—poets, journalists, and fiction writers. Clive Staples Lewis. Christina Rossetti. John Donne. John Bunyan. Gilbert Keith Chesterton. As someone who has loved poems and stories since childhood, as someone who has made it my life work to teach literature and writing, I saw these names. The names said to me, "This work that you do, that you love—it has weight. It has God's kavod." This year I have begun to look for ways to mark the feasts of the saints whose work is especially meaningful for me—gathering and worshiping with friends, reading and sharing their writings. When this article is published, we will have just finished the Feast of George Herbert, and the Feast of John Donne will be upcoming. By celebrating those who have served God as poets, I remind myself that the things that bring me joy—words, rhymes, stories—can be the means of carrying and sharing the "famous stone" Herbert spoke of, the one that "turneth all to gold."

Where is God in the tedious tasks that you have to make yourself do every day? And where is God in the things that bring you joy, whether that be sports, cooking, computer programming, talking with friends, or playing with pets? Being a steward, making the best use of the lives we're given, starts with this question, with seeking out the divine gold in our heavy monotony and in our gleaming delights.



ECW News

- Our March meeting will be Tuesday, March 1st at 10:30 in the Parish Hall. We will make plans for the reception following Becky Yeatman's funeral service on March 17th. After our program, Family Promise will be joining us at noon for training, to enable more of us to assist in supporting this ministry to help homeless families. Training is expected to be less than an hour.
- We also need to start talking about the Wine and Cheese Tasting which will be held on May 13th. We will discuss putting some tables outside so the Parish Hall is not as crowded. We will still have a Silent Auction so please be looking for items - either from your "stash" or check with businesses that you frequent.
- We will also host the Easter Breakfast this year. We will send out a SignUp Genius to get a number of who plans to attend. We will give out ingredients to make casseroles and the ECW will provide the other food items. We will assist our "Easter Bunny Decorators" in preparing the Parish Hall on Friday, April 15th. Watch for more details and times later.
- We hope you will participate in our Lenten study and sign up to help out with a simple meal.
- Just a reminder that on Sunday, March 6th we will have our FIRST Sunday covered dish. Plan to bring your favorite dish as we once again meet to break bread together in the Parish Hall.
- AND all ladies of All Saints' are members of ECW! Even if you cannot come to daytime meetings, you can still be involved.



Lenten Season

Lenten Schedule

Tuesday, 3/1 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Wednesday, 3/2 Ash Wednesday Services: Noon
and 6:30pm

Friday, 3/5 Lenten Quiet Day: 9:30 am -
Noon

Wednesdays
3/9 - 4/6 Noon: Stations of the Cross
5:45 - 7:15 pm: Lenten Program
with Simple Supper

Friday 3/18 Lenten Choral Evensong 6:30 pm



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is
back this year!**

Tuesday March 1 - 5:30 - 6:30 pm

**Before Lent begins, join us for this favorite All Saints event of food and
fellowship**

And watch for a SignUp Genius let us know which 1/2 hour time slot you
anticipate joining us, so we can make sure we're properly prepared with
wonderfully fresh and hot pancakes for all!

Ash Wednesday

Join us Wednesday, March 2nd, for the
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

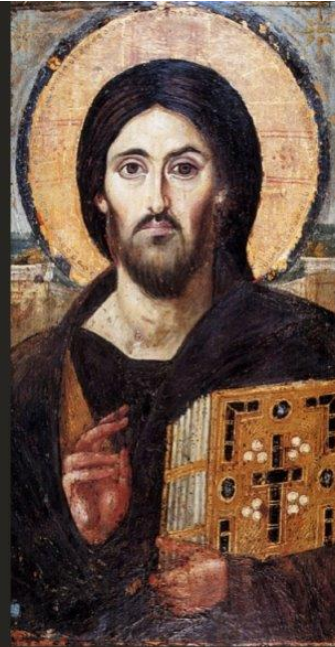
Services will take place at Noon and 6:30 pm



Lenten Quiet Day

Praying with Icons

Lean into Lent by beginning with a quiet time of fellowship and reflection on Sacred Icons. This time together will involve fellowship, exploring the practice of praying with icons, as well as time for prayer and discussion of this ancient practice.



Saturday March 5th
9:30 AM - Noon



Stations of the Cross

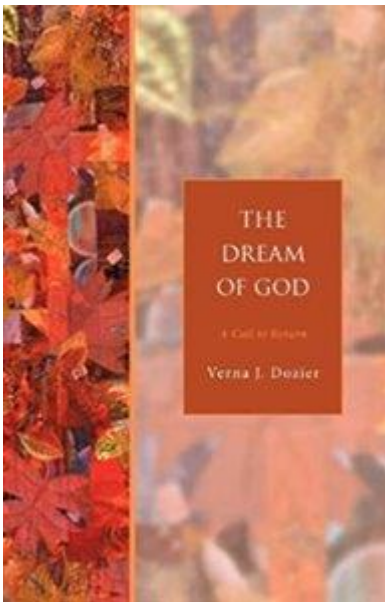
Wednesdays, 3/9 - 4/6, Noon

Our Lenten journeys can be enriched by time contemplating Jesus' great sacrifice for us by symbolically walking with him on the day of his crucifixion. We do this through Stations of the Cross, a liturgy of prayer, silence, and movement, as we use our sacred imaginations to walk with Jesus on the road to Calvary.



Wednesday Evening Lenten Program: 3/9 - 4/6, 5:45 - 7:15 pm

The Dream of God, by Verna J. Dozier



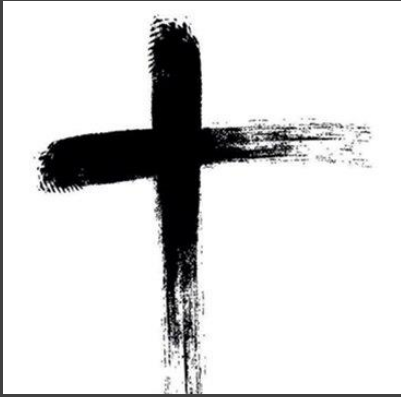
Do plan to join us for this year's Lenten program which will include worship, a simple meal, and a discussion of *The Dream of God*. We will cover a chapter each week during our small group discussion.

Books are available in both paperback and audible for your pre-purchase, with a few copies available from the church office. (Please note there are two editions of this book and either is appropriate.)

Don't have a book? We have a few in the church office, so contact us!

All are welcome, as we will also have activities for attendees of all ages!





Lenten Choral Evensong Friday, March 18th at 6:30 pm

Join us for Choral Evensong with guest musicians Maggie Gill, soprano, and Christin Gill, violinist, from Birmingham, AL.

This service will be filled with exquisite music, perfect for Lenten reflection. Christin Gill has extensive experience as both a symphonic musician and as a solo violinist, and Maggie Gill has a background in opera performance. Both of them share a passion for making beautiful music within a liturgical setting.

Light refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall.

Upcoming Events

FIRST SUNDAY COVERED DISH & RECTOR'S FORUM

Beginning March 6th, After the Service

We are thrilled to once again gather for fellowship and food. Watch out for a Sign Up Genius and be sure to join us!

Our First Program is...



CREATION CARE

Sunday March 6th
Following the Service



Taught by Hannah Shultz, Program Associate at Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL). This class highlights ways our faith community can establish a Creation Care program, including practical steps on how to implement energy and water efficiencies, creative earth-friendly solutions to waste disposal, sustainable purchasing, and spiritual tools to sustain our good work of caring for God's Creation.



College of Congregational Development (CCD)

Update!

Watch for an upcoming survey: 3/6 - 3/18!

Greetings All Saints! Last September some new initiatives were put in place by your CCD team, with the objective of growing our gift of hospitality towards one other: both our All Saints family and our visitors. One big change is our Welcome Station.

We have (literally) rolled out:

- Magnetic name tags for all members
- New welcome brochures and children's
- Colored lanyards for specific ministries, so it's easy to find leaders you may want to talk to get more information: Vestry, Ushers, Saints Alive! Greeters, Children's/Youth Ministry

Our new Saints Alive! greeter team wants to meet all who arrive at All Saints, to welcome you and introduce our visitors to those who can best answer any questions they may have.

So now we want to hear from you on our start towards expanding our gift of

hospitality! You'll be receiving a quick survey about our Welcome Station and our new Saints Alive! greeter ministry the week of March 6th and we do hope you will respond by Friday, 3/18. (And for those who do not have access to email, we'll have paper surveys at our Welcome Station beginning 3/6 for you to complete.) Regardless of the method of responding, this survey will only take a few minutes of your time, so do help us by providing your feedback.

Episcopal Lutheran Fellowship Macon

Pass it On!

Updates for our Young Adults



Daniel Cline and Angelina Rice with other young adults at Camp Micheal

ELF Dinners Are Back!

Due to the decline in COVID numbers, we are back to serving dinner to students on Thursday nights at Episcopal and Lutheran Fellowship gatherings. Students eat around 5:30 at Canterbury House (725 College St). If you would like to provide a meal for ten people on one Thursday night, please contact Dena Hobbs at 478-918-5497 or denadouglashobbs@gmail.com. Thanks as always for your help!

New Outreach at MGA

Episcopal and Lutheran Fellowship is launching a new outreach at the Macon campus of Middle Georgia State University this spring. We will be gathering Tuesday, March 1st, and Tuesday, April 5th at Camelot Court cafeteria from 11-1 for fellowship and study. If you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Dena Hobbs at denadouglashobbs@gmail.com or 478.918.5497. All are welcome.

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Celebration of Ministry, The Rev. Shirley Porter Sunday, March 20th

The Rev. Shirley Porter will soon be moving to the Atlanta area as she pursues a chaplaincy certification through Emory University.

Rev. Shirley has been a long-time friend of All Saints, serving this community in multiple capacities as a supply priest, retreat leader, teacher, and spiritual guide. And in recognition of her time among us as pastor, priest, and friend, All Saints welcomes Rev. Shirley as our Celebrant and Preacher on Sunday, March 20th.

Do join us for worship and a time of coffee and fellowship after the service, as we extend our best wishes to Rev. Shirley in her new endeavors. A special offering will be collected for Rev. Shirley during this service, by any who may wish to contribute.



Training for Family Promise volunteers is conveniently scheduled for Tuesday 3/1 at Noon in the Parish Hall, right after the ECW Meeting.
Hope you can join us!

And our upcoming Family Promise service dates are the evenings of March 13-15, when we provide evening meals for families transitioning out of homeless.
Watch for a SignUp Genius, with details on how you can help!

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Life at All Saints



Following January's 5th Sunday children's sermon, our children were invited to take home a mask kit to decorate their own, as a reminder of God's many gifts to us. Thank you, Christie Family, for sharing their beautiful creation!

Vestry

Shelley Strickland, Sr. Warden
Susan Wynn, Jr. Warden
Linda Gerdes, Clerk
Barbara Attaway, Fellowship
Linda Christie, Christian Ed.
Sally Engels, Memorials
Marcia Fussell, Outreach
Anne Sanders, Communications
Judy Reynolds, Long Range Planning
Ellen Strait, Stewardship
Mike Tarnoff and Beth Wood, Co-treasurers

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

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