

Saints Ahoy!

No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here at All Saints



All Saints Episcopal Church
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Winter 2017



**Our Rector,
The Reverend
Leslie J. Hague**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. - Philippians 4:8

These words from St. Paul are framed in my office situated such that I look at them every day. They were read at my ordination to the priesthood. It is tempting to read them as an example of the power of positive thinking, but I think Paul is being much more active than passive here. Paul was dealing with churches (see both letters to the Corinthians, for example) who were occupied with a great deal of conflict—both constructive and destructive conflict—and it troubled him greatly. He saw them tearing each other down rather than building each other up. The church in Philippi, however, was a much healthier church. This is not to say they did not have conflict, but that they handled it in life-giving ways. In the fourth chapter, Paul encourages them to always think of building each other up.

Recently, I preached about our need to follow the Lord's requirement that God sets out in Micah 6:8 "to do justice, and to love kindness/mercy, and to walk humbly with our God." This is active. Do. Love. Walk. It requires something of us. Speak up whenever we see injustice. "Be merciful just as our Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). Take every trembling footstep knowing that God is walking right next to us. Justice, mercy, and humility are all hallmarks of our faith.

Reading the news these days, it is hard to follow Paul's admonition to "think about these things." Conflict—the destructive kind where we tear one another down rather than build one another up—is all around us. Regardless of your politics, one cannot escape the stress, uncertainty, and anger that pervades our national life. We are called in our baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves. We are to be shalom keepers, peace keepers. This does not mean those who avoid conflict but instead those who seek to grow through conflict in our knowledge and love of the Lord.

All Saints is not immune to conflict. It would be naive and counter-productive to think otherwise. But how we handle this conflict makes a big difference. At the first of our quarterly Rector's Forum, we talked about some of the conflicts we face, including how we identify ourselves as a parish, the make up of our leadership, and how we set priorities for ministry, most especially with children and youth.

I came away realizing that at the heart of things, we have a deep need for open, honest, frequent communications both on personal and corporate levels.

Over the next several months, I'll be instituting a number of initiatives designed to increase our transparency and facilitate dialogue. From ensuring that contact information for all staff and vestry members will be front and center in our Sunday bulletins to quarterly Rector and Vestry Sunday morning forums to this new newsletter and increased use of social media, communications will be enhanced. Vestry minutes and financial information will be more widely disseminated and easily accessible on our webpage.

With these communications goals, we'll focus on several areas of particular note that came out of the Annual Meeting and the Rector's Forum:

- Forming and strengthening ministry with children and youth
- Capital campaign progress, both financially and in terms of work in progress
- Stewardship
- Diocesan loan repayment
- Welcome for ALL and working to make our program areas and leadership reflect diversity across a wide demographic

While I have, as I wrote in my Annual Report, abiding hope about the future of All Saints, that does not mean I am blind to the very essential challenges we face. Most importantly, I am ready and eager to engage these challenges. I very much want to hear from you. If you have ideas or

concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. I may be reached at my email, leslie@allsaintsfl.org, or by phone in the church office at 954-467-6496, or by cell phone at 703-371-9433. Together we can think on these things.

And may the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In Peace,
Leslie+



"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46

This Lent we will live into Psalm 46 and enter into practices of prayer that invite contemplation. On Wednesday evenings, we will gather at 6:30PM for a simple soup supper in Jensen Courtyard. At 7:00PM, we will have Centering Prayer in Neaverson Chapel, and then begin our prayer discipline of the evening. The program will conclude at 8:30PM. We hope you can join us!

- March 8** - Praying with prayer beads, led by Mother Leslie (everyone will make a set of Anglican prayer beads, materials provided)
- March 15** - Praying with collects and arrow prayers, led by Mother Leslie
- March 22** - Praying with icons, led by Mother Leslie
- March 29** - Praying in the labyrinth, led by Angelyn Latta
- April 5** - Praying the Daily Examen, led by Angelyn Latta
- April 12** - Service of Tennebrae at 7:30PM (No souper supper)

Our new Wardens and our new Vestry members offer the following observations for the coming year:



A Message from Jack Gillis, Senior Warden

We are blessed to have a strong, diverse and vibrant outreach committee, currently led by Jeff Miller and Joe Deitz. Supported by numerous volunteers are the strong leaders and supporters such as Kathy Bass, Phyllis Barnes, Frank Asterita, Julie Kurtz, Lorraine Michels, Joan VanNess, David Pearce, Lane Hop, Lou Strennen and Larry Jackson, just to name a few, who serve year after year making sure our programs are able to support our local communities. I am truly grateful for all of the volunteers as well as all of the leaders and supporters.

We also have some good in-reach programs, though we don't have a formal system for managing our in-reach needs. We visit and minister to many of our shut-ins and those in the hospital, give rides to those in need and keep in touch with most of those whom we miss seeing come through the doors. However, I do feel that we could enhance our efforts by coming up with some sort of means to match the volunteers to those in need.

With Mother Leslie's leadership, I am confident that outreach and in-reach will continue to be an important part of life at All Saints. There are so many opportunities to serve.

Be the blessing!



A Message from Terry Colli, Junior Warden

As we head into this period of contemplation that leads up to our celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, it is fitting that we should reflect on what we want the goals and mission of our Church to be in the coming months and years. At the recent Rector's Forum it was made clear that there is a wide array of very desirable interests among our parishioners. What also became clear, however, is that there is currently a scarcity of resources available to Church leaders to pursue these. If we are to reconcile this difference between our objectives and our resources, we are going to have to have extensive and open discussion.

As junior warden, I am committed to ensuring that our building and its grounds are maintained and enhanced to support the Parish achieving whatever consensus is reached on our goals. This will not be easy. Our buildings are beautiful, but they are now approaching 70 years of age. And our property's location puts us square in the eye of significant environmental challenge. The good news is that we have a dynamic and engaged Building and Grounds Committee to help guide me and I intend to ask a number of other members of the Parish to provide counsel on major projects and to help find ways to obtain the resources we shall need. Together, we shall prevail. I look forward to a challenging, but very productive year.





Lynn McLaughlin
Vestry Class of 2019

When I think of **INCLUSION**, I am reminded of a statement made by Groucho Marks: **“I would never be a member of a group that would accept someone like me.”**

Well, that could hardly be an excuse when our leader was a homeless, itinerate preacher in an occupied land who loved and socialized with the worst of society.

Maybe “inclusion” is what it is all about. My eyes were opened to **INCLUSION** when I first became an **EPISCOPALIAN**. For the first time, I saw Jesus with his arms outstretched and anxious to wrap around me and everyone, not a stern figure that said “do this and I will accept you.”

Our **INCLUSION** at All Saints starts at the front door or rather with the website. We want “**YOU**” to come and celebrate the joy of God’s love.

It is a joy to be at All Saints and look across the congregation of all ages and from all walks of life. We are a colorful bunch and it is so much fun.

I do have a funny note. David and I once attended a beautiful church where 99.9% of the men wore sport coats. They might as well have been strait jackets. I thought the 1 person must have been the janitor. After church, he drove off in a Rolls. That was one way to be included. Then there was a church in San Francisco that had a sign, **“strangers welcomed.”** Well they were trying, maybe an ad agency could have helped.

Yes, **INCLUSION** and love must be what it’s all about.

A reminder. **INCLUSION** is not always an automatic reaction. We all must be conscious of reaching out to that person we do not know. As much as a church person as I am, I find it a little intimidating to visit a new church. Stand alone at the coffee hour, leave without one person having spoken to me. Now that is a sin and it is easy to occur. That new person is at ASEC for a reason, they didn’t just drop in, they are looking for something. Let’s not let them down. We want to **INCLUDE** all God’s people.

The Merriam Webster Dictionary says that **Stewardship** is “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care”. And so, to be responsible and carefully manage the gift from God that is our community at All Saints, we must pay off our Diocesan Loan – from what seems a long ago Building Campaign – and we must educate and prepare children and adults to be disciples of Jesus. As John Yieh writes: “One of the priorities of the church should be to provide educational programs for all its members, so that they may love both Jesus and his teaching.”

The Rector and Vestry can decide what to do, perhaps how to do it. And assuming these decisions are sound and good, the congregation, then, takes on its responsibility of stewardship – the provision of funds, talent and other resources so that the ministry and projects of the church can go forward. To bring the Kingdom of God to fruition takes all of our giving – of ourselves, our time and our monetary resources. So, I ask you

and task you to carefully consider the plans that the Rector, Vestry and others involved in leadership of these efforts, make to address two of the main concerns voiced at the recent Rector’s Forum (and prior to that as well) – to retire the loan and to educate, first, our children and also all of us.

I invite you, the Rector and my fellow Vestry members to take up the challenge, responsibility and joy of being good stewards of God’s Kingdom.

Greg Moore
Vestry Class of 2019





Alex McCrosen,
Vestry Class of 2019

Christian Education for All Ages -

That sounds simple. Let's have a bible school for children and an adult bible class and discussion for adults. Done.

Well, perhaps not. That approach may be familiar to some of us. But to others, perhaps not so familiar. It's a blessing I have so many fellow parishioners to whom I can turn for more information as well as a rich history and tradition through the Episcopal Church, which refers to Christian education as "Faith Formation" or "Christian Formation," and the Church defines this as *the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. Every experience in our lives can provide us with the opportunity to express our faith; the challenge we face is recognizing these opportunities and learning ways to live a sometimes countercultural life in a secular world.*

Impressive definition. So the Episcopal Church defines this as a "lifelong" process. If many of the new members have experiences with church attendance like mine, it was a life of early catechism and then teenage and adult years where I either drifted from the church or the church drifted from me. Either way, for much of my adult life the Christian understanding I took into a church no longer seemed authentic or relevant to me as these experiences were based on early lessons and then a long absence. From attending a Roman Catholic church early in life, through a long absence of no organized worship, to attendance in several of other mainline Protestant denominations, to attending Unitarian

and Unity services as well. So my understanding can be muddled at times. Especially during some of the readings from the Old Testament. Are you not a little perplexed at times about what you just heard from the first reading? I am.

Fortunately, we have an extraordinary Rector and education-oriented adjunct clergy, with the Rev. David Jenkins and now the Rev. Carl H. Beasley and our deacon, the Rev. Jon Owens, to guide and inform us on how to apply these readings and lessons into something more relatable. And hopefully to then connect it to our daily lives and to help us deepen our relationship with God. Of course, you can also look around on a Sunday morning and you will likely see some familiar faces whose families have worshiped at All Saints for generations, as well as some visitors and some "new" members. What a wonderful sight! Among these members are loving people who can also help us understand what it means to be an Episcopalian and a Christian trying to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. A community of faith, something encouraged throughout the Old and New Testaments.

Now an Episcopalian, I relied on those wonderful people around me to help me put the ritual of the ancient Episcopal service and the Liturgy back into my life. This helped me to develop my relationship with God, my community and the greater world around me. However, it was also important for me to begin with the **Inquirer's Class**.

The hallmark of Episcopal Education is its commitment to the life of the mind and spirit, a partnership between reason and faithful inquiry. The **Inquirer's Class**, also called a **Journey to Faith**, certainly fits this description.

This program is an informative series of sessions to explore the Episcopal Church and answer those nagging questions about "why do we do that?" Sessions include: All Religious History - in 32 minutes or less, The Drive By Bible, The Council of Nicea/Nicene Creed, A History of Anglicanism, Book of Common Prayer & The



Sacraments, Baptismal Covenant, and Pain to Power: Faith in Action.

These classes typically meet for eight Sundays for 60-90 minutes before the 10:30 am service. The sessions are guided by Deb Greene or Chuck Dinsmore with assistance from the Rector, Adjunct clergy or Deacon as needed. The classes are relaxed, fun and participatory and there are no exams, no memorization and no recitation. This class is a prerequisite for confirmation into the Episcopal Church. In my class several years ago, there were soon-to-be Episcopalians like me as well as so-called "cradle" Episcopalians just looking to refresh their memory on some history of the church and faith. It is a great way to learn and to meet and make some new friends.

Adult Forums

These are held in the church, typically just before the 10:30 am service and can cover a wide range of topics. It could be the Gospel from the particular year of the Liturgy, or a current event that can relate to church teachings. The forums are moderated by the Rector, adjunct clergy, the Deacon or a person who is qualified to lead a discussion of the topic at hand. What a great way to engage with your brothers and sisters in Christ in a civilized and productive exchange. These are announced well in advance in the Sunday bulletin and on the All Saints web site.

If you are interested in going a little deeper in the study and understanding of your faith, consider enrolling in **Education for Ministry**. This program, over a period of four years, leads participants in the study of the Old Testament, the New Testament, the history of the Christian Church, and modern theology. The curriculum and written materials were developed and are frequently updated by the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. The class of six to twelve people grow and learn together during one weeknight session of 3 hours. The sessions are scheduled for one night each week beginning in January and running through May. There is a summer break and then the session resumes after Labor Day and until just before Christmas. The EFM coordinator asks that you commit for only one year at a time. To graduate, you must complete all four sessions. But here is the

fun part...It's like a one-room schoolhouse with students from each year working together and encouraging each other (especially first year students like me!)

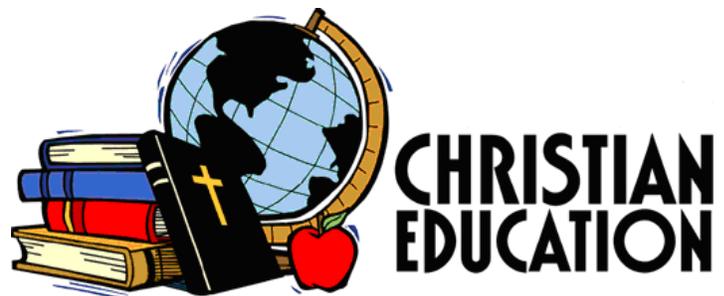
And please do NOT worry about your level of understanding or even if you have never studied the Bible or theology. You are not here to become a priest; you are here to deepen your understanding and build your relationship with God. I am fortunate to have two other first year students with me. One also recently completed the Journey to Faith session and was received into the Episcopal Church. We even have a member of the group who is a catechist of Christian Education at nearby Episcopal church. Yet here she is participating in this program to enrich her life despite an already deep history of Christian study. As contemplated by the Church's own definition, it is indeed a lifelong process.

I encourage anyone who is interested to talk with Frank Asterita or Walter Sherman, each is well trained and dedicated to lead an EFM group at All Saints.

Christian Education for Youth

While All Saints does not currently have a formal education program for youth, Larry Jackson, Yvonne Myerson, Jeff Miller, Joe Deitz and others have all worked in the past conducting youth Christian education classes at All Saints. Yvonne, Jeff, Joe and others are now working with the Rector to reimagine what a future youth program may look like at All Saints. Stay tuned for more information from them about the next steps.

Alex



When Mother Leslie held her Rector's Forum the week following the Annual Meeting of the parish, it was clear there are opportunities and challenges facing our dynamic congregation. Specifically the newly elected Vestry members and the other remaining members of the Vestry have a busy year ahead. Christian Education for all ages, inclusion of all individuals and families, wise use of resources, encouragement for year round stewardship, and strengthened outreach and inreach programs for our entire congregation are among the opportunities facing the parish.

All Saints is blessed to have a permanent endowment which continues to grow through legacy gifts of members of All Saints Episcopal Church. The original Endowment document required that revenues from the endowment fund could not be used for "operating expenses of the parish." This original requirement assured that revenues could only be used for new programs, new personnel or extraordinary expenses authorized by the Vestry.

Amendments to the original document allow the revenues to be directed as authorized by the Vestry. Currently, more than 20% of the operating budget of the parish is paid by revenues from the Endowment. One of the major goals for the parish might be to generate all operating expenditures from pledges and contributions and allow the revenues from the Endowment to once again be used for new programs and personnel.

Our new Vestry has its opportunities ahead and continues to rely on the help and support of members across the parish.

Let's join our new team and make this the first of many good years ahead.

Bob Daugherty, Endowment Trustee



2017 All Saints' Vestry



Bob Adams (18)



Terry Colli (19)
Jr. Warden



Kathy Dean (17)



Jack Gillis (17)
Sr. Warden



Michael Gouge (18)



Lane Hop (17)



Jack Landers (18)



Alex McCrosen (19)



Lynn McLaughlin (19)



Greg Moore (19)



Bill Peters (17)



Rick Vaughan (18)

Schedule for Lenten Season, Holy Week and Easter Day 2017

February 28	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes	6:00 pm	Jensen Courtyard
March 1	Ash Wednesday	8:00 am 12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Holy Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes Holy Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes Choral Holy Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes
March 5	First Sunday in Lent	8:00 am. 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Choral Holy Eucharist
March 8	Wednesday Souper	6:30 pm	Prayer Beads
March 12	Second Sunday in Lent	8:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Choral Holy Eucharist
March 15	Wednesday Souper	6:30 pm	Arrow Prayer
March 19	Third Sunday in Lent	8:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Choral Holy Eucharist
March 22	Wednesday Souper	6:30 pm	Icons
March 26	Fourth Sunday in Lent	8:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Choral Holy Eucharist
March 29	Wednesday Souper	6:30 pm	Labyrinth
April 1	Saturday	9:00 am	Parish Work Day Church Grounds
April 2	Fifth Sunday in Lent	8:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Choral Holy Eucharist
April 5	Wednesday Souper	6:30 pm	Daily Examen

Holy Week Begins

April 8	Saturday	10:00 am	Making Palm Crosses
April 9	Palm Sunday	8:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Choral Holy Eucharist
April 12	Holy Wednesday Tenebrae	7:30 pm	Holy Eucharist Service of Shadows
April 13	Maundy Thursday	7:30 pm	Holy Eucharist and washing of feet Overnight Vigil in Garden / Altar of Repose / St. Luke's Chapel
April 14	Bus Tour Good Friday	9:00 am 12:00 noon	Stations of the Cross Good Friday Liturgy
April 15	Children's Celebration Easter Vigil	10:00 am 7:30 pm	Flowering of Cross & Butterfly Release Choral Holy Eucharist
April 16	Easter Sunday	8:00 am 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist Choral Holy Eucharist

