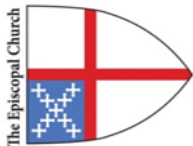


All Saints' Episcopal Church
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visit us at
www.allsaintscayce.org



Saints Alive

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Volume 19

December

Issue 12

Dear All Saints' Community,

Our church year has begun! The first Sunday of the liturgical year is the First Sunday of Advent (November 27th this year), and we enter into the lovely, pensive, and poignant seasons of Advent and Christmas. For many of us, this is a time of mixed memories, including wonderful family gatherings as well as times of deep sadness, remembering those we miss terribly.

I encourage you to let yourself feel deeply during these weeks, whatever the feelings may be, and to be open to the mystery and joy and pain that may be present for you. Advent is about waiting to be filled with the love and peace of Jesus Christ, and we are not so familiar with waiting in our busy lives. A daily quiet time for prayer and reflection can be very helpful – many wonderful daily devotions are available online for Advent and Christmas, as well as in our Book of Common Prayer, and see the article in this Newsletter about our own study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's words.

Join us for Advent Lessons & Carols at 10:30am on December 18th and, of course, for Christmas Eve at 3:45pm or 10:30pm.

Open your heart to others and give generously to one of the thousands of non-profit organizations who care for God's creation, whether that be children, the homeless, refugees, animals, water, or forests!

Blessings on us all as we begin this new year together,

Patricia+

Annual Parish Meeting Results

The All Saints' Church Annual Parish Meeting was held on November 13th. A strong attendance of 50+ people shared lunch and conducted the business of the church. The new members elected to the vestry for 3 year terms are: Gavin Kenner, Rebecca Kenner and Karen Weathers. The following were elected to represent All Saints' at the 2017 Diocesan Convention: Regina Ratterree, ML Tanner, Tracey Washburn and Jason Priester. The following are alternates to convention: Gavin Kenner and Will Washburn.

Each family received a folder containing the new directory, annual reports from each Team and a poinsettia order form. Thank you to all who serve and volunteer at our church, those who serve on Teams, those who have served and are going to serve on Vestry.

Altar Guild

The Advent and Christmas season is a busy time for the Altar Guild. During the Advent season, the greens decorate the sanctuary. The Christmas tree will be decorated and lit during the Christmas season beginning with the Christmas Eve service. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services, as well.

Poinsettia order forms were placed in family folders given out at the Annual Parish Meeting. Additional order forms are located in the narthex. Please complete form and return, along with a check for \$15.00. Orders will be taken until Dec. 18th. See Barbara Robinson with questions.

December 4	Arpina Markarian
December 11	Tracey Washington
December 18	Jano Rucker/ Karen Weathers
December 24	Barbara Robinson

Who's Who at All Saints'...

Church Office		(803)-796-5735
Reverend Patricia Sexton		(803)- 318-0833
Email —	rector@allsaintscayce.org	
Senior Warden	Mark Gilliam	(803)-429-8126
Junior Warden	Walt Spencer	(803)-356-2590
Vestry Clerk	Tracey Washburn	(803)-287-0499
Treasurer	Robbie Robinson	(803) 238-1816
Director of Music	Judy Priester	(803) 238-6404
Acolytes	ML Tanner & Jason Priester	(803) 568-5534
Altar Guild	Barbara Robinson	(803) 238-3622
Lay Ministry	Jason Priester	(803)-796-9309
Lay Chaplain	Barbara Robinson	(803)-238-3622
Youth Ministry	Rebecca Kenner	(803)-730-5913
INASMUCH	Karen Weathers	(803)-356-6412
Publication Editor	Barbara Robinson	(803)-238-3622
President of ECW	Martha Best	(803)-796-6474
Men's Group	John Tanner	(803) 422-4714
St. Anne's	Regina Ratterree	(803)-794-7147
St. Mary's	Delores Goodwin	(803)- 413-1770
Vestry		Meets 2nd Wed. of Month 6 pm
Christian Formation Team :	Will Washburn	Meets 4th Tues. of Month 6:30 pm
Parish Life Team :	Virginia Gilliam	Meets 3rd Thurs. of even Month 6 pm
Stewardship Team:	Betsy Groff	Meets 1st Thurs. of Month 6:30 pm
Facilities Team:	Walt Spencer	Meets 3rd Wed. of Month 6 pm
Spiritual Life Team :	Barbara Robinson	Meets 2nd Tues. of Month 6:30pm

Delegates to 2017 Convention:

Regina Ratterree, ML Tanner, Tracey Washburn, Jason Priester

Alternates: Gavin Kenner, Will Washburn

The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina <http://www.edusc.org/> or 1115 Marion Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201 | 803-771-7800

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Next "Saints Alive" deadline December 23, 2016

Make sure your articles are **emailed to Pastor Patricia Sexton**. Please include who wrote the article.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

DECEMBER

1	Steve Weathers
2	Tom Locklair
2	Walter Spencer
3	Marcy Ballard
6	Vic Sakellarios
7	James Holladay
7	George Taylor
8	Rebecca Kenner
8	Barbara Owens
11	Kawren Learn
13	Jacob Gillis (child)
14	Izzy Blevins (child)
17	Sue Sakellarios
18	Katie Morgan
21	Mark Gilliam
23	Lacy Feigh
23	Tracey Washburn
23	<i>Will & Tracey Washburn</i>
26	Barbara Ulmer
27	Arpina Markarian
27	Patricia Cheek
27	Mikael Owens
28	Michael Fish
28	Haley Harrell

JANUARY

4	Debbie Hickman
5	Robert Brooks
7	Tobias Pilat (child)
9	Kenny Priestler
13	Fran McKelvey
15	Jack Cheek
16	Rielly Weathers
19	<i>Mark & Susan Gilliam</i>
20	Herbert Cooke
24	Kendra Taylor
30	John Tanner
30	<i>Bill & Betsy Groff</i>

Advent Wreath Blessings

Each Sunday of Advent, we light the Advent Wreath with a blessing after the Prelude. This year we are using blessings written by the Reverend Matthew Kozlowski, a seminary classmate of Patricia's who now works in the Center for Ministry in Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary.

In this series of blessings, each candle has a meaning:

First Sunday of Advent – 1st blue candle:

-HOPE

Second Sunday of Advent – 2nd blue candle:

-PEACE

Third Sunday of Advent – pink candle:

-JOY

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 3rd blue candle:

-LOVE

Christmas Eve – center white candle:

-CHRIST

If you would like a hand-out of the scripture and prayers for Advent candle lighting at home, please ask Patricia for a copy.

Advent & Christmas Readings

With Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Sunday Adult Classes
9:15am December 4, 11, January 1

We are using a booklet of readings called *God is in the Manger*. The readings are from Bonhoeffer's sermons, letters from prison, and other writings. There are also sections of scripture and quotes from other authors. Copies of the materials are distributed at each class.

We hope that participants will use these readings as a daily Advent devotion, and they continue through to Epiphany. Come and join us in this deeper exploration of the seasons of Advent and Christmas!

Patricia+

Prayer List Revision

As indicated in an article in the November Newsletter, we have revised and updated the Prayer List, starting this month. We removed names that had been on the list for years, unless someone asked to have the name continue. Please check the list in the weekly bulletin, and let Patricia know (in writing or by email), whenever you have names to add or remove from the list. It is always wonderful to change a name from the list to a prayer of thanksgiving, so please keep Patricia informed of that, also.

Spiritual Life Team

The four weeks of Advent ("Coming") are devoted to preparation for the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas). The Liturgical color of blue is frequently used during Advent. Greenery is used to decorate the sanctuary. The lighting of the Advent Wreath by families begins each of the Advent services. Rose Sunday is the on the third Sunday in Advent. On the fourth Sunday in Advent we come together in one service celebrating "Lessons and Carols" with readings and music.

The color White, symbolizing joy, purity and truth is used during the Christmas Season, which extends from the eve of Christmas until the Baptism of Our Lord. A Christmas tree and poinsettias, along with the greenery, decorate the sanctuary. The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated on January 6th.

We invite each person to participate in the beautiful services that surround the Advent and Christmas seasons.

- Nov 27: Advent I
- Dec 4: Advent II
- Dec 11: Advent III (Rose Sunday)
- Dec 18: Advent IV (Lessons & Carols- 1 service only at 10:30am)
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services:
 - 3:45 pm singing, 4:00 pm service
 - 10:30 pm singing, 11:00 pm service
- Dec 25: Christmas Day (no services)
- Jan 1: regular services
- Jan 6: Epiphany service (6:00 pm)

St. Anne's Guild

Thirty eight (38) pounds of food was collected and delivered to Harvest Hope after the November meeting of St. Anne's Guild. There is a box for food in the Common Room if you would still like to donate canned goods.

Gifts and cleaning supplies are being given to the family we adopted from Families Helping Families. These must be delivered by December 10 so please give money to Regina Ratterree if you want her to shop for you to give to an eight year old girl and her mother.

Thank you to everyone who has shared in these projects!

The December meeting of St. Anne's will be at eleven (11) o'clock in the Smith Parish House on Thursday the 15th. Nancy Brooks has refreshments, and Patricia Sexton has the lesson. If you have questions, please contact Regina Ratterree.

Parish Life Team

All Saints' was scheduled to volunteer and provide food for the Hotdogs for the Homeless program one more time in 2016: December 17. However, instead of preparing hotdogs, we will be helping Restorations 803 provide a Holiday dinner at Sidney Park C.M.E Church at 1:00pm. We will provide three cooked and sliced hams. We would love to see many All Saints' parishioners share in this wonderful experience!

Contact Virginia Gilliam if you can help.

The Giving Tree



Dear All Saints' Family,

We want to help one girl and eight boys with new shoes and gifts for Christmas. These students are 3rd thru 5th GRADERS in the Edenwood Subdivision in our Cayce community.

A Christmas tree with shoe and knit shirt sizes is on a table in the Parish Hall. Just take a tag or two! If there are no tags left, please feel free to purchase an item for a boy. **Due Sunday, December 11.**

Christian Education



Christmas is coming, but first we must prepare ourselves. The *Slow Down. Quiet. It's Advent!* Calendar is the way the young ones are getting ready for coming of Christmas with their families. With daily readings and activities, they will prepare their hearts and minds for the Blessed night and joyous arrival of Jesus!

Here are the upcoming lessons and activities from Advent to Epiphany.

12.4.16	"Repent!" / Advent 2 <i>Matthew 3:1-6</i>	Tracey & Rebecca
12.11.16	Sing Along Sunday with Miss Judy/Craft Time	Tracey & Rebecca
12.18.16	Epiphany Practice Lesson & Carols	During Sunday School In Parish Hall
12.22.16	Lights Before Christmas at the Riverbanks Zoo	Meet at Main Entrance at 5:00pm
12.25.16	No Sunday School Christmas Day	Merry Christmas!
1.1.17	No Sunday School	Happy New Year!
1.2.17	Epiphany Practice	TBA
1.6.17	Epiphany Play @ 6pm	

All ages from the congregation are welcome to join in the fun on December 22nd at the Lights before Christmas at Riverbanks Zoo. We plan to meet at the main entrance at 5:00pm. The Sunday School children's tickets will be covered. Tickets for adults are \$11 each and can be purchased upon arrival or online in advance.

After Christmas, comes Epiphany. We have set a few practice dates so mark your calendars!

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Kenner

From Your Senior Warden

Pause, Reflect, Breathe, and Give Thanks....

As the long and often wearisome year winds down...., God asks us to shed one more coat of awareness, one more dream state and to come alive to the vision of God's plan for each of us while serving the world-at-large.

The Reverend Alfred McBride sums it up best when he said,....."The older we get, the harder it is to do. As children we had a sense of wonder. Our eyes were wide open and drinking in the fascinating gifts we beheld...Our thirsty souls could not have enough of the wonders of creation."

"Then, somehow, we grew too old to dream. We tired of the abundance of the world, or at least grew weary of keeping up with the feast of life, and stepped away from the banquet of life.

"The natural gift of wonder God gave us as children was meant to be kept alive....Instead we let wonder go to sleep. We entered the typical dream state of most humans.

"Why else does Jesus tell us today, 'Stay awake!'...Advent says, 'Wake up and realize the gifts of love you have received.'

I urge you in the coming days ahead to slow down,..... to stop,.... stop completely, and look aroundand to slowly breathe in and to relax. Please accept that precious moment of solitude and divine grace and reflect on your busy life , relive those moments with those people and their acts of love, generosity and friendship in the past three hundred and thirty days,....all whom made a difference in your world. It is in those moments, I believe we are living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.