

ALL SAINTS' BULLETIN
The Monthly Newsletter of All Saints'

December, 2017
228-9242
www.allsaintsthomasville.org

Dear Friends,

This being our December Newsletter in which we draw the calendar year to a close I thought I would share with you the reports that were presented to the Parish Annual Meeting on December 19th.

After the reports, you will find the information that is shared by our various organizations on a monthly basis, and the December calendar. Please note that the time of the late Christmas Eve service has not been changed. The Vestry did discuss moving it an hour earlier to 10 p.m. but decided to table the discussion for one year. If you have opinions about whether that would be a good move please share them with me or a member of the Vestry.

I wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paul+

Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, November 19, 2017

RECTOR'S REPORT

I believe I can report to you that God has continued to bless All Saints' over the past year.

Our annual report to the Diocese includes attendance, financial information, and giving outside the church. It is a mark of the health of All Saints'. This year we showed that our average Sunday attendance continued to climb slowly thanks to new additions to our church family. In terms of finance, there were a number of late gifts to our operating budget

that helped us finish the year with a budget that was close to balanced. We can estimate the expense side of our operations well but it is harder to estimate giving. It would certainly help if more people chose to pledge! We are currently once again holding our breath about income! Nevertheless, we are always grateful for the unpledged gifts that keep us in the black. Lastly, thanks to the generosity of parishioners and to the success of the Auction, we were able to show that we had made substantial gifts to needy individuals and to Thomasville charities focused on women and children. We are truly a church that looks to the needs of the community.

We are now in our sixth year of Body and Soul and I am delighted that it continues to draw strong attendance. I am very conscious of its dependence on those who prepare our wonderful meals and those whose dedication to our children's Christian Education has led them to volunteer to teach. This year we have established an Education for Ministry program, following the Sewanee curriculum. Nine parishioners are involved and word has spread to others who are interested in joining next year. It is a truly outstanding program and offers an excellent opportunity for growth in faith and knowledge.

Thanks to Liz Williams and the new addition of Libby Bracken our youth and children's programs are on a stable foundation. Clearly, we are a smaller church than others in the community and particularly our teenagers are attracted to places which offer a larger social environment. The monthly ECW meetings have varied themes and good attendance. The Book Club has also flourished this year with close to 30 regularly in attendance.

I can't say enough about Dennis and Roy and their commitment to the praying of the Daily Offices every weekday morning and evening.

The construction in the Church was completed in the spring and the bishop dedicated it at his visitation in June. It takes care of a number of needs that we have known for years and I have heard only positive comments about it. Most people feel that it looks as if it was always meant to be. We are extremely grateful to those who gave to the very low-key campaign that has it fully funded. In the course of the construction we replaced the

shingles and painted the exterior of the church. We should not have to worry about those items for quite a few years.

On a personal note, Cynthia joins me in thanking all of you for all your kindnesses to both of us. We feel extremely well supported. My professional development opportunity in England is a particular joy to me (and my mother!).

To end, I want to thank the vestry and my staff. They make working here a true pleasure.

Paul+

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

As I reflected on the past year at All Saints' my first thought was what an uneventful year, no capital campaigns, no construction projects, no conflicts or major challenges. Not a bad year for our All Saints' community but nothing to get too excited about. The Holy Cow survey results provided a similar assessment of our church; we are a strong and healthy church but there is always room for growth and improvement to continue our success.

At our Vestry retreat we identified several challenges we may face over the next five years and we outlined our goals for 2017. I am happy to report we achieved many of our goals and continue to work on the others. One goal that we are continuing to work on is to develop a master plan for the beautiful campus we are so fortunate to have. I believe that a master plan will help us address some of the challenges we identified and will help guide us in our future growth.

The dedication, enthusiasm, and love demonstrated by the All Saints' congregation is remarkable. As a result, our church programs are thriving and provide spiritual growth not only for our members, but also for others in our community. Whenever called, All Saints' volunteers consistently step forward in a spirit of service. Outreach continues to be a main focus of our parish life, with nearly \$56,200 and countless volunteer hours going to help those in need in Thomas County in 2017.

We are grateful to all those who serve within our church as Altar Guild, Lay Readers and Ministers, Ushers, Choir Members, Greeters, Christian Education Teachers, Acolytes, Children's Church Shepherds, ECW, Cooks, Knitters, Memorial Garden Committee, Vestry and Officers. We are thankful for the unwavering dedication of our staff Nikki, Margit, Liz, Libby, and Cedric. And finally, we are so blessed for the compassion, love and guidance of Father Paul at All Saints' Church.

I would like to extend my personal gratitude to each and every member of All Saints' for your prayers and support during our family's recent challenges. I have witnessed the many kind acts that our members perform but I can now say that I have been on the receiving end of the incredible love and support our church community provides and it is truly a blessing and something we should be proud of.

It has been a privilege to be part of this church family and to have the opportunity to serve on your vestry.

Margaret Wetherbee, Senior Warden

ECW CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Emily Funk did a wonderful job of leading the ECW and we enjoyed meetings with various themes and locations. A heartfelt thank you to all the members who volunteered to host the meetings. Having a different venue for each meeting makes them interesting and encourages participation.

Our very successful auction in February raised \$53,495, allowing the ECW to distribute these funds among the various organizations we support in our community outreach. This is always a much anticipated and fun event, and the generosity of the entire parish in donating their time, money and auction items is the key ingredient in its success.

The Knitters Guild continues meeting and enjoying each other's company while making, among other things baby blankets and prayer shawls, articles that are a blessing to others. If knitting is your thing please join

this group on Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 in the library of the Parish Hall.

Book club, under the guidance of Gini Miller, has great attendance of members from our parish as well as guests. Books are chosen from suggestions from all members and cover a range of different subjects. Men are always welcome.

ECW offers many opportunities for fellowship and service and provides an opportunity to gather in smaller groups. If you have questions about any of these activities please contact me at 229-224-2682 or at pglenn@rose.net. We hope that you will participate in any or all of these areas as often as possible, and we look forward to seeing you.

Respectfully Submitted, Pat Glenn

EYC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It's another year, and another busy fall!

Our youth are always on the go, but it's great to have them at church each week. We've sat around a fire and had smores, talked about how we can better serve our community, and just enjoyed each other's company.

As the year moves towards Advent and Christmas, we'll delve into the meaning of Advent, help with the greening of the church, and eat a lot of food during our EYC Progressive Dinner - Christmas Edition.

I'm always amazed at the curiosity, wonder, and fun that our youth bring to the table each time we meet. They're always open to talking about what a passage in the Bible says to us, what it means for us to be Christians, and how we're interacting with the world around us.

I am humbled and honored to be part of their lives, encouraging them in their faith, and being a witness to the greatness that they are.

Peace and Blessings,
Liz Williams, Youth Minister

CHOIR MASTER REPORT

St. David's Choir

St. David's Children's Choir is huge this year! We are at our limit for the loft but if more are interested we will split into two groups (St. Cecelia and St. David's Choirs). These children are respectful, kind, considerate, well behaved, willing, and have sweet celestial voices. They warm the hearts of all who attend All Saint Episcopal Church services.

We rehearse Wednesday from 5:15-6PM. The next time St. David's choir sings will be December 24, Christmas Eve Evensong (5:30PM). We have much to do and we continue to look forward to a wonderful season! Thank you for sharing your children with the church.

Choir members: Gigi Rieck, Bryce Rieck, Will Bracken, Palmer McCollum, William McCollum, Robert Rollins, Sarah Bayly Wagner, Caroline Cobb, Elise McPherson, Lyla James West, St. Thomas members: Chloe NeSmith, Kierstin NeSmith, Joshua Long, Joseph Long.

Please contact Margit Miller if you have a child interested in joining. Ages 7 -14

Adult Choir

This is my 20th year as Choir Master and Organist at All Saints and I can say that I always look forward to Sundays with the Adult Choir. Having the Adult Choir makes my job so much easier as an organist. The congregation sings so much better when the Adult Choir is present. Often times the choir isn't fully recognized until the summer, when their voices are absent. I'm not suggesting they sing in the summer because they certainly deserve a break, but I thought I would mention it now, so that the next time the choir is present you can take a moment to reflect on it.

The Adult Choir rehearses 9AM every Sunday except when St. David's Choir (children) sings. Our choir is quite small this year. It consists of Clarise Waddill, Julie McPherson, Doug

McPherson, Elise McPherson, Emily Funk, Patti Poppell, Denny Lewin, Will Sheftall, Peter and Lynn (when they return). We have 5 hired singers (Joey Miller, Mariah Miller, Chris Desmond, Janay Delisma and Victoria Mallet) The other choir member are All Saints parishioners. It would be wonderful if we could someday have a choir made up of just parishioners. It's a small church but I believe it possible! Please contact Margit Miller if you are interested in devoting your time and talent to the church choir. Advent/Christmas/Epiphany is a great season and reason to consider joining. You can try it for a season to see if it's a good fit for you. No experience required.

We love the extra space in the choir loft. We had plenty of space for 2 trumpets for the 35th Anniversary Service as well as a cellist and choir. WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU HAVE DONE to create the extra space!!!

THE ORGAN – Was due for a tuning on November 4, but I can't say that it was indeed tuned.

NOTE ABOUT THERMOSTATS:

Please do not adjust them unless you plan on putting them back to the original temperature. It really affects the pitch of the pipes and is not good for our organ,

Respectfully submitted, Margit Miller 850 524 0176 cell
margitchris25@juno.com

EDUCATION

In August, All Saints' held its Ministry Fair enabling old, new and inquiring parishioners to get to know all of the Guilds and Groups at our church. Representatives from the Acolytes Guild, Altar Guild, Choir, Education, ECW, EYC, Knitters Guild, 1st Sunday Covered Dish, Meal Ministry, Saturday Lunch Outreach, Shepherds, Ushers, Vestry, and Fr. Paul were all present. This informal gathering and dinner was a great beginning for our fall season.

Wednesday Body & Soul continues to be a rousing success. An average of 100 adults and children attend, using two classrooms, the nursery, Dining

Room and Library in the Parish Hall and the Choir Room in the Church. Our teachers that volunteer for two or more rotations are: Margret Brinson, Randy Watts, Dort Cobb, Tory Wagner, Asun Ellis, Lauren Davis, Jamie West, Jackie Johnson, Fr. Paul Hancock, Ashley Ivey-Jackson, Liz Williams, and Laura Reick. They all are a joy to work with and their dedication is unwavering. Cassandra Fredrick and Elizabeth Burke alternate days working in the nursery.

The lower school classes currently use the Episcopal Children's Curriculum as their study guide. Supplemental material is used from Living the Good News and Godly Play. Pinterest gives the teachers many wonderful craft ideas. The children are working their way through the Old Testament of the Bible learning about important figures, God's covenant with his people (Noah, Moses, Abraham, Joseph, Mary and Joseph), and the birth of Jesus. Starting

in January, the children will begin to focus on the life of Jesus and important stories of miracles found in the Bible.

Parish children in 3rd grade and under are invited to participate in Children's Church each Sunday during the school year. After recessing before the sermon, the group has a special lesson in the chapel by the middle and upper school shepherds followed by an art activity or time on the playground. They return to church before Communion or during the Offertory on Morning Prayer Sundays.

All parishioners are encouraged to celebrate this Advent Season by supporting the Giving Tree, attending the December 6th Body & Soul and helping out at the ever-popular Greening the Church on December 24th. Please be on the lookout for more information, dates and times in the December newsletter and via email. We will present our Christmas Pageant at Evensong service at 5:30 p.m. on December 24th.

We always welcome volunteers and helpers for any and all activities. Time with this part of our Parish Family is very well spent!

Libby Bracken, Volunteer Co-ordinator

ALTAR GUILD

All Saints' Altar Guild has four teams that prepare the Altar for baptisms, memorials, holiday, and Sunday services. We also meet the first Sunday of each month to polish brass and share in fellowship.

We have introduced a new branch of the Altar Guild, the Flower Ministry. Looking for members who would like to focus their time on making and delivering flower arrangements to our parishioners using Sunday's Altar flowers.

If you are interested in serving on the Altar Guild, contact Julie Carico, 227-1653, or speak with any Altar Guild member.

Many thanks, to the Altar Guild members (and their spouses and friends) for their assistance, dedication and faithfulness throughout the year.

Julie Carico, Altar Guild Chairman

Please follow the link below to review the Statement of Operations:

[Statement of Operation Annual Meeting 2017pdf.pdf](#)

(You may need to hold down control and click your mouse to view.)

VESTRY

The December meeting will be held Sunday, December 17 at 8:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall Library.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

A big thank you to Jack Coppedge for leading the discussion of The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry at our November meeting. We will next meet on Wednesday, December 13th in the Parish Hall at 11:50 a.m. Father Paul Hancock will be presenting 7 Lessons from Heaven by Mary C. Neal, M.D. Please bring a brown bag lunch and join us for hearing a review of a perfect book for the Christmas season. On January 10, Bob Parrish will be our leader for Lost in Shangri-la by Mitchell Zuckoff. Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month and we'd love to have you and your friends join us.

Gini Miller

ALL SAINTS' GIVING TREE

Once again, we will be providing gifts for children in the CASA program in our area. Please stop by the Giving Tree in the Parish Hall foyer or the Church Narthex.

It's so simple...please write your family name and phone number down for each child and/or family group on the master list BEFORE you take your ornament(s) with you. If you are taking only one child, please note the other parishioners' names in your child's family group (so you all can attempt to keep the gift amounts as fair and even as possible). Please deliver your wrapped, individually labeled (child's name and ornament #) and bagged gifts to the Parish Hall by Sunday, December 10. (We would like to recycle the ornaments – please return them to Nikki with your gifts.) THANK YOU for your generous support!

PRE-GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Join us on Wednesday, Dec. 20 for a pre-greening of All Saints' Church. We will place bows on wreaths, lights on trees, and other various pre-greening activities. This will be a fun for the whole family event. Dinner will be provided and a holiday sing-a-long will put everyone in the Christmas spirit. Many hands make light work!

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

At the Annual Parish Meeting on November 19 the congregation elected for three year terms Roy Lilly, Philip Watt, Will Sheftall. We congratulate them and offer our thanks for their willingness to serve.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY DINNER

Over the years many families have helped prepare and deliver this meal to the residents of Providence Plaza. We now also prepare meals for Halcyon House, The Rescue Mission and the Good Shepherd community. In 2015 we were able to feed 200 people. Should there be others who might go hungry on this special day, please contact Nikki in the office. If you would be willing to give a tiny portion of your day on Friday, December 23 or Christmas morning, please contact Ed Davis at 226-2355. On Friday, December 22 we will carve and bag bread and dessert; on Christmas Day we will make final preparations and delivery.

Rozzie and Eddie Davis

CHOIR NEWS

Adult Choir News:

We are excited about our December services. The choir has lovely music planned for Advent, Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve 11PM Service

which include violin, cello and oboe. I know everyone appreciates all they do to make the services beautiful.

As for Christmas Day, once again, I'll get to share the present my son has been giving me for the last 2 years. He will take over the organ bench and pull out all of the stops. He recently performed a solo concert in Pensacola with works of Bach, Buxtehude, Vierne, Durufle, Franck, Barber, Sousa and Widor.

St. David Choir News:

St. David's Choir will be rehearsing every Wednesday between now and December 24 (5:30 PM) service. I'm really looking forward to the angelic sounds of the children. As in the past we will have them sing Evensong with Preces and Responses and Elise will perform The Magnificat with the pageant to follow. All Children's Choir members are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the pageant after Evensong and their Offertory Anthem. They should be in the choir loft at 4:45 to run through music and processing. They can wear their pageant costume under their robe and add head pieces and wings in the narthex.

Margit Miller - Music Director - Choir Director - Organist. 850-524-0176

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Christmas Pageant will take place, as always, at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve. Every All Saints' child is invited to participate. **Pageant practice and costume fitting will take place immediately following Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 18th.** All pageant participants should meet in parish hall on Saturday, December 24th at 4:45 p.m. to prepare for the Christmas Eve Service and Pageant.

SCOTT SENIOR CENTER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We will once again join with St. Thomas and Good Shepherd to provide a Christmas meal to the Scott Senior Center members. We will need carvers for the turkeys and hams on Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30 p.m. at All

Saints' and servers at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 14 at the Senior Center. Please look for your e-vite.

ALL SAINTS' ANGEL TREE

Advent season is upon us, so we urge those who have not purchased an angel ornament to do so and bring it to the church office so it can be hung on the tree.

Please place a card on each ornament stating who gave it and the person's name in whose memory or in thanksgiving for whom it is given. We will keep those in a special memorial book to be placed in the vestibule each year.

A NOTE FROM RAM SINGLETARY

I want to thank my All Saints' Family for honoring me for my 35 years of service to my God and Church.

It is very humbling to be recognized in such a special way. I am honored and blessed to have such a wonderful church family! Thank you for the love you have shown in so many ways throughout the years. I pray that God will bless you as you have blessed my life!

OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed in observance of Christmas on Monday, December 25 and again in Observance of New Year's on Monday, January 1.

ALTAR GUILD

The four weeks of Advent have finally arrived, and one of our Altar Guild's special tasks involves setting up Advent wreaths in the church and chapel. The components of each Advent wreath consist of four outer candles (three purple and one pink), the large white Christ candle in the center, and a beautiful decorative arrangement of greenery and berries. We are

particularly grateful to Julie Carico and Jinanne Parrish for providing the greenery for our Advent wreaths. Thank you ladies!

ECW NEWS

ECW members enjoyed a fun time and delicious lunch, hosted by Cynthia Hancock at her home. Everyone was encouraged to bring their favorite poem to be shared with the group. An eclectic selection of poems was presented and a 1st and 2nd prize were awarded, respectively, to Mary Lou Mirocha and Beverly Jackson for their selections.

Our January meeting will feature a sneak prevue of the history of the Thomasville Entertainment Foundation in honor of its 80th anniversary, written and presented by our own Nadia Watts. We will meet in the parish hall, so watch your email for time and date.

Wishing you special blessings at Christmas and in the New Year.

Pat

EYC NEWS

I know many of you are sprinting towards the finish line of multiple things right now - Troupe Week/Show, end of the semester, and Christmas plans. I hope you're able to take a breather every now and then!

Here's what we've got coming up for EYC in December, aka lots of fun stuff.

December 10th: EYC Progressive Dinner and White Elephant Party

Last year this was so much fun, riding from house to house, and opening some of the most ridiculous gifts at the end of the night. I will not only need three hosts (appetizers, main dinner, and desserts), but also those who will be willing to drive us from house to house. If you're nervous or on the fence about hosting at your house, pair up! The more the merrier, for sure.

If you'd like to host, please let me know as soon as possible so I can make sure to get the information out in enough time. And also know that this

doesn't have to be fancy at all. It's just a fun way to enjoy the evening and have as much participation as possible. Again, the more the merrier!

Christmas Eve: Greening of the Church After morning prayer, help is needed to get the finishing touches done for the evening services later that night. With all of us (plus help from other adults), we should be done in about an hour.

I'll see most of you at the troupe show on Saturday, but if not, I'll see you soon!
Peace and Blessings, Liz Williams, (404)202-7284

POINSETTIAS

Those of you who would like to give (memorial or thanksgiving) poinsettias or wreaths, please call the church office no later than Friday, December 8. The cost for each plant is \$18.50 and \$75 for a wreath.

DECEMBER

Sunday	December	3	Advent I – Parish Covered Dish
Wednesday	December	6	Body & Soul St. David Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	December	10	Advent II
Wednesday	December	13	ECW Book Club/Meeting St. David Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm Pre-greening of the Church
Sunday	December	17	Advent III—Lessons and Carols Followed by Pageant Rehearsal
Wednesday	December	20	St. David Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	December	24	Advent IV—10am Said Morning Prayer followed by Greening of the Church 5:30 p.m. Evensong/Pageant 11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass
Monday	December	25	Christmas – Holy Communion No Evening Service
Wednesday	December	27	No St. David Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	December	31	Morn. Pray. – No Evening Service

TRANSITIONS:

Happy birthday in December to:

Marley Davis	12-8-99
Bryce Cornell Rieck	12-12-07
Aleks Arwood	12-19-02
Madison Elizabeth Cook	12-25-99

Happy birthday in January to:

Wyatt Jackson Davis	1-8-08
Campbell Avery Smith, Jr.	1-17-10
Curry Brinson	1-18-00
Will Carico	1-18-98

For the Parish Register

Requiescat in Pace:

*William Thomas Weissinger IV
departed this life on November 5, 2017.
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen*

Body & Soul -- Wednesday, December 6 at 5:45 p.m.

Topic: St. Columba

Reservations please.

USHER SCHEDULE

December 3 First Advent	Holy Communion Paul Gurley John Hand	10:30 a.m.
December 10 Second Advent	Morning Prayer Chip Hancock Bob Jackson	10:30 a.m.
December 17 Third Advent	Lessons and Carols Brad Jackson Buck Mitchell	10:30 a.m.
December 24 Fourth Advent	Morning Prayer, Greening Of The Church	10:00 a.m.
	Christmas Eve Pageant Bernie Lanigan Ed Davis Mike Shea	5:30 p.m.
	Midnight Mass Raleigh Rollins Gates Kirkham	11:00 p.m.
December 25 Christmas Day	Holy Communion Marty Wood Jerry Shields	10:30 a.m.
December 31 Christmas 1	Morning Prayer Bill Ladson Ben McCollum	10:30 a.m.
January 7 Epiphany 1	HC/Festival of Lights Will Sheftall James Tyson	10:30 a.m.