

ALL SAINTS' BULLETIN
The Monthly Newsletter of All Saints'
June, 2018
228-9242
www.allsaintsthomasville.org

Dear Friends,

I predict that sometime before Thanksgiving I will be either at Walmart or Home Depot and will disdainfully say to myself, "Aaarrgh, I can't believe they are already promoting Christmas." It happens every year. I will then return to All Saints' thankful that Episcopalians don't rush to celebrate Christmas even before Advent has begun.

Or, is that the case? Not if you look at the calendar for June. There on June 24th is the Nativity of John the Baptist, the place where the Christmas story begins! Let me be clear, I am not inviting you to count the shopping days from June 24 to December 24!

According to Luke John's birth preceded that of Jesus by six months. Actually, Luke states it rather more poetically. He says that Elizabeth became pregnant six months before the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary. The Church sees the birth of John the Baptist as an extremely significant event. In the calendar there are only three births that are celebrated, that of John, that of Mary, and that of Jesus himself. Usually lives are celebrated on the day the person died.

All across Catholic Europe, St John's Day is widely celebrated with bonfires and other festivities. "St. John's Fires" burn along the fiords of Norway, on the peaks of the Alps, on the slopes of the Pyrenees and on the mountains of Spain. Fishermen from Brittany keep the feast even while they are far out in the Arctic Ocean. They hoist a barrel filled with cast-off clothing to the

top of the mast and set the contents on fire. As with so many festivals, St John's Day celebrations have taken the place of pre-Christian festivals, in this case celebrating the warmth of summer.

If you read Luke's account of St. John's birth all the signs point to someone very special. Zechariah and Elizabeth, his parents, were too old to conceive. That is always clear evidence that God is about to work a miracle so as to bring about a special birth. Zechariah is left mute after hearing the announcement that Elizabeth will have a child. That is another sign of a miracle. Even John's naming caused a minor controversy in the family. He should have been named for his father, and Zechariah clearly expected that. Nevertheless, Elizabeth won out with her choice of names. "He shall be called John". John is a Hebrew name meaning, "Jehovah has shown his favor". She wanted it to be known that she felt particularly blessed to have this child and that she knew the world would be blessed by his life.

Later, after John's beheading Jesus speaks to the crowds about him and says that he was the greatest of all the prophets and then says, "I tell you this, there is not a mother's son greater than John." That is high praise indeed!

Reflecting on John the Baptist, it is clear that he was born for a purpose and that he lived the very life for which he was born. His desert asceticism, his bold preaching, his calling people to repentance, his willingness to confront the immorality of Herod even though it cost him his life, his humility before Jesus, all speak to a man who knew his calling and never shrank from it for one moment. Oh, that we were all like John!

I suspect that during the course of our lives we've all met someone who appears, like John, to be living the life for which they were born. We put them on pedestals and never dream

that we could be like them. But we really shouldn't do that. Their call is no different from John's call, and no different from our call. We are all called to play our part in God's great drama of salvation. Of course, bonfires won't be lit on hill tops after we are gone, but in heaven there are crowns for all the faithful!

Every Blessing,

Paul+

VESTRY MEETING

The Vestry will hold its meeting with Bishop Benhase this month on Sunday, June 24 after the morning service in the Parish Hall Library.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Pack a lunch (we'll supply cold drinks and sweets) and join us for a lively discussion of the following selections at the All Saints' Book Club meetings this summer:

June 13th Selection: Peggy Bochkay will lead discussion of "Our Souls at Night" by Kent Haruf,

and

July 11th Selection: Lee Chubb will lead the discussion of "The All of It" by Jeannette Haien.

Both are short in length (quick reads) but create a lot of material for reflection about relationships. See you at 11:50 am on Wednesday June 13th and the same time on July 11th! Feel free to bring a friend.

SUMMER OFFICE SCHEDULE

As in years past, during the summer months the office will close at Noon on Friday.

YOGA CLASS NEWS

Our Monday class will begin at 5:15 p.m. and will run from 5:15-6:15 p.m.

I will be on vacation the week of June 11-17.

Looking ahead to July, I will be out the week of July 4 (July 1-7) and from July 21-28.

Thank you!

Madeline=

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

We are now in the season after Pentecost. The liturgical color for this season is green, which is symbolic of growth. Older altar guild manuals state that the color green also signifies hope, regeneration, and immortality. The season after Pentecost is the longest season of our Church year and will last approximately six months.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

June 3, 2018 HOLY COMMUNION 10:30 a.m.

Raleigh Rollins
Bridger Middleton
Sam Bruhn
Parker McCollum
Simms Ladson

June 10, 2018 MORNING PRAYER 10:30 a.m.

Jack Boltja
Harrison Jackson
Elise McPherson
Taylor Middleton

June 17, 2018 MORNING PRAYER 10:30 a.m.

Sam Bruhn
Simms Ladson
Olivia Enright
Payton Middleton
Taylor Middleton

June 24, 2018 HOLY COMMUNION Bishop's Visit 10:30 a.m.

Raleigh Rollins
Bridger Middleton
Ben Watts
Sam Watts
Reid Myers
Ethan Myers

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN NEWS

The May meeting of the ECW was held at the home of Nancy and Paul McCollum. We gathered on the patio to enjoy the beautiful weather and delicious treats. Thank you to Nancy and her co-hostess Clarisse Waddill for a lovely afternoon. We do not meet during the summer so our next meeting will be in September with Stacie Humphrey hosting, and it will definitely get us kicked off to a fun year. We still need hosts for October, November, January, February, March, April and May. We are also in need of someone to coordinate the meetings for next year. Please consider serving in this capacity.

Pat Glenn

TRANSITIONS:

Happy Birthday in June to:

John Brigham Daniel	6-1-07
Robert Amos Rollins	6-11-11
Emmett Clark Overton Griffith	6-6-12
Will Bracken	6-18-10
Jack Anthony Hodges	6-19-03
Claire Louise Hodges	6-23-01

Happy Birthday in July to:

Emma Hutton Daniel	7-7-05
Simms Wetherbee	7-10-08
Sara Bayly Wagner	7-14-10
Truman (Edward) Wright, IV	7-15-97
Henry Portman Cobb	7-16-13
Elizabeth "Eliza" Davis	7-16-13
Madeline Claire Bruhn	7-22-98
Andrew Raney McMullian	7-26-07
Henry Simmons Ladson	7-30-02
Sims Bracken	7-31-13