

ALL SAINTS' BULLETIN  
The Monthly Newsletter of All Saints'

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February, 2019  
229-228-9242  
[www.allsaintsthomasville.org](http://www.allsaintsthomasville.org)

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Dear Friends,

Every year in January the vestry has an extended session primarily for the purpose of approving the budget and looking to the future of the parish.

Thanks to your generosity the Church ended 2018 with a surplus. That, of course, was good news and enabled us to cover the unbudgeted expense related to the addition of an Associate Rector. The pledges that we have received already (we are counting on some more!), along with an estimate of unpledged income, enabled Brad Jackson to present a budget for 2019 for our approval which will be tight, but which is balanced. We are extremely blessed at All Saints'.

The second order of business was looking to the future. Here Philip Watt had an excellent, thorough presentation for our review.

Philip chaired the first phase of what we have known as "Growing in Faith". That first phase responded to a needs analysis by the modifications that were made to the Church building. We addressed additional seating in the nave, improved access to the choir loft and additional space up there, handicapped bathrooms, storage for vestments and altar guild supplies, the handicapped ramp and parking. Charles Olson was our architect and I think we are all agreed that he did a superb job. What I hear all the time is that the additions look as if they were always meant to be, which is the goal with an historic building like ours.

Philip is now spearheading the second phase of “Growing in Faith” which will address the rest of our church campus. The priorities are; what to do with the strip center and the Horton Mitchell Building, how to improve the ‘sea of asphalt’ to the east and north of the parish hall, how to improve the functionality of the parish hall itself, what to do with the playground which is aging quickly, how to improve the flow between the church and the parish hall, how to reduce the hazards related to traffic flow through the campus, and what to do about the inadequate lighting. It looks daunting, but so was the list of goals that we had for the first phase. Creative thinking solved those issues and the very same thing can happen again!

A priority is the Horton Mitchell building. It needs a new roof which would cost between \$75,000 and \$150,000 and maybe more depending on what is found once the current roof is removed. The façade of the building is attractive but there are problems between the façade and the structure behind it. Philip has consulted with professionals including the city and Charles Olson and the news that he brought to the vestry on Sunday is the we would end up spending a lot of money on a building that would not really meet our needs and that we would do better to demolish it and focus our attention and funds elsewhere. The vestry, which has been thinking about this for some time, unanimously concluded that was the course we should take and sooner rather than later since the building is quickly deteriorating.

With the Horton Mitchell building no longer in consideration as a future parish hall we can now address those needs with alternative solutions. The vestry will be looking at those over the next few months and seeking your input. Our goal is to have a plan in place by the time school lets out for the summer. Once a plan is in place, we can start to talk about raising what is required to bring it to reality.

The vestry is functioning just as it should with its eyes on the future and its ears open to the Holy Spirit. The list of vestry members is on

the back of this newsletter and on the back of every service bulletin. Please do not hesitate to express your feelings to them or to me.

Every blessing,

Paul+

Dear Friends,

The Real Valentine's Day

by Fr. Brown

St. Valentine's day has been celebrated on February 14 for a long time. The feast day came to be associated with love and romance because in the middle ages, in England and in France, it was popularly believed that birds paired off on this day, halfway through the second month of the year, for their springtime mating. Geoffrey Chaucer, most famous for his "Canterbury Tales," wrote another poem called the "Parliament of Foules" [sic] in which he said,

For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day  
Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate.

But there's more to the story. There is a book called the "Nuremburg Chronicle," written in the late 15th century, which says that Valentine was a Christian priest in ancient Rome, who was arrested and imprisoned under emperor Claudius Gothicus for marrying Christian couples and otherwise helping the Christian faithful when Claudius was trying to stamp Christianity out. Assisting criminal Christians was itself a criminal offense, and so Valentine found himself in jail. However, according to the Nuremburg Chronicle, Emperor Claudius took a liking to the priest... until Valentine started telling Claudius about Jesus and trying to convert him. At that point Valentine was condemned to being beaten with clubs and stoned to death. When the beating and the stoning failed to kill him, Valentine was ordered

to be beheaded, and the sentence was carried out outside the Flaminian Gate around the year 270.

This is the sort of thing that happened with some regularity when Christians were being persecuted by the secular authorities, and so the account is not implausible. The problem with the account of Valentine in the Nuremburg Chronicle, though, is that it was written about twelve hundred years after the events it describes.

There are earlier mentions of St. Valentine, but they don't say much. One of the earliest references is in a Christian text in a work written around the year 500. It is simply a long list of names of Christians who had been murdered during the persecutions which had relatively recently come to an end. There, among all the others names, is one "Valentinus."

In very ancient times there was a church dedicated to St. Valentine on the Flaminian Road, just outside the city of Rome. And the nearby gateway into the city of Rome came to be called St. Valentine's Gate during the middle ages. Its not unlikely that the association of that name with that place preserves an ancient memory of Valentine's martyrdom nearby – in much the way that the basilica of St. Paul's "Outside-the-Walls" was built near the place where St. Paul was martyred, on the Via Ostiensis, and the basilica of St. Peter's was built near where St. Peter died, in the Circus of Nero, both in the 4th century, not long after Christianity was legalized.

In the end, very little can be said for certain about who Valentine was or what he was like. Pope Gelasius – who was the Bishop of Rome for just four short years, from 492 till 496, mentions Saint Valentine and says that he was one of many Christians from the city of Rome who were murdered because they confessed the name of Jesus. These, said Gelasius, "are justly revered by all men, but their deeds are known only to God."

At the end of the day, that is about all we can say with any certainty about Valentine: that there was at least one man with that name who lived in the city of Rome around the end of the third century, who confessed the name of Jesus and was executed for it – who chose, like so many others, to die rather than deny his Lord. And we may assert with confidence that, this side of the resurrection of the dead, Valentine is in the nearer presence of God, doing what all saints do: worshipping the Lord along with us, and praying to the Lord for us who are still in our earthly pilgrimage.

And so St. Valentine witnesses to a love far more profound, far more abiding, than romantic love. Valentine chose to die rather than deny the love that moves the stars, the love that created the universe, the love that was crucified, dead, and buried, and on the third day rose again.

Happy Valentine's Day!

### **BOOK CLUB NEWS**

A very special thank you to Lee Chubb for her terrific job leading the discussion of "The Reckoning" by John Grisham at our January meeting. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday February 13th at 11:50 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Jack Coppadge will be our leader for discussing "The Kingdom of the Blind". This is the 14th and latest crime thriller by Louise Penny that features Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. Please plan on joining us for a lively discussion and don't forget to bring a brown bag lunch. We'll supply the drinks and dessert. Maureen Monsalvatge

### **ALL SAINTS' YOGA**

Join us for yoga every Monday at 5:00 p.m. and Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall nursery.  
(There will be no class on Monday, March 4.)

## **AUCTION NEWS**

The All Saints' Episcopal Church Auction and Dinner will be held on March 5. All the money raised will be used to help those in need in the Thomasville/Thomas County community. Please call the church office or email lbrackenallsaintschurch@gmail.com if you would like to donate a special item for the live auction. We are looking for vacation homes, special hunts, fishing trips, or fabulous items.

We are also accepting items for the silent auction. These items can be dropped off at the Parish Hall at your convenience.

Thank you to everyone for all your help and your donations!

## **BISHOP SEARCH DISCUSSION**

A listening session for our convocation is scheduled for Thursday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints'. Fr. White (Valdosta) is going to get the word out to other churches that they are invited. It will be an opportunity to give input as to what the diocese needs in our next bishop. Laretta Gibbs-Hadley (Good Shepherd) and Fr. Will Brown will facilitate the discussion. A light supper and refreshments will be served.

## **PRESIDENT'S DAY**

The office will be closed on Monday, February 18 in observance of President's Day.

## **ATTENTION VESTRYMEN**

This month's Vestry will meet on Sunday, February 24 immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.

## USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

February 3 The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany	Holy Communion	10:30 a.m. Claud Davis Don Bruhn
February 10 The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany	Morning Prayer	10:30 a.m. Stephen Boltja John Carico
February 17 The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany	Holy Communion	10:30 a.m. Mike Tanner Ed Davis
February 24 The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany	Morning Prayer	10:30 a.m. Mary Kathryn Sibley T.M. Falcey

### ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

March 6  
Holy Communion  
7:15 a.m.  
12:15 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.  
(no choir rehearsal)

## ECW NEWS

Our January meeting was hosted by Dina and David Sinclair and certainly did not disappoint! How Dina “threw” this together upon just arriving home from overseas is a mystery! The meeting/brunch was not only a history and theology lesson (thank you David) but a feast of culinary pleasures from Russia. A little fly on the wall told me how very impressed Father Will was with the caviar and vodka!

This was such a delight and a very warm thank you from the All Saints' ECW to Dina for being such a gracious hostess. At the moment there is no meeting scheduled for February, if this changes I will send out an email. Best, Cynthia

**TRANSITIONS:**

**Happy birthday in February to:**

Lexi Kirkham	2-4-02
Mary Katherine Moreton	2-6-97
Maryam Norajean Sibley	2-11-02
Neel Gurley	2-12-98
Avery Kirkham	2-12-04
Will Ladson	2-13-99
Virginia E. Jackson	2-19-99
John B. Brinson, V (Jack)	2-24-97

**Happy Birthday in March to:**

Raleigh Rollins	3-2-01
Benjamin A Watts	3-6-07
Harrison Wright	3-11-99
Campbell Avery Smith, Jr.	3-11-09
Caroline Treadway Miller	3-21-05
John Moreton (Jack)	3-28-01

**FOR THE PARISH REGISTER**

Baptism

Lillie Caroline Wortman  
received the sacrament of  
Holy Baptism on January 27, 2019.

**BODY AND SOUL**

February 6

Topic: Boethius

February 16