

ALL SAINTS' BULLETIN
The Monthly Newsletter of All Saints'

September, 2019
228-9242

www.allsaintsthomasville.org

Dear Friends,

Next to the porch where I sit while dinner is cooking is a small, dense oak tree. I imagine it was planted when our house was built which would make it fifteen years old. The oak tree is home to at least one family of catbirds. I enjoy watching them dart to and fro, and love being serenaded by their repertoire of songs and calls. Cynthia hates that they are currently gorging themselves on her figs!

While I was watching them yesterday, I remembered the famous story about St. Francis who is said to have preached to the birds. Perhaps I will try it one of these days. What would the neighbors think?

Saint Bonaventure, in his *Life of St. Francis*, positions the story of Francis preaching to the birds right at the point where Francis wrestled with a deep personal dilemma. Should he retire from the world and devote himself entirely to prayer or should he continue to travel about as a preacher of the Gospel?

To answer this question, Saint Francis sent some of his brothers to seek the advice of a trusted friend, Sylvester, and his soulmate St. Clare. Word came back from both of them that he should continue to preach. Upon hearing their advice, Saint Bonaventure recounts, "without the slightest delay, Francis took to the roads to carry out God's command."

You might expect that Francis rushed off to the nearest village or town marketplace. But that is not what happened. According to Bonaventure, “Francis came to a spot where a large flock of birds of various kinds had come together. When God’s saint saw them, he greeted them as if they were endowed with reason and solicitously urged them to listen to the word of God, saying, ‘Oh birds, my brothers and sisters, you have a great obligation to praise your Creator, who clothed you in feathers and gave you wings to fly, provided you with pure air and cares for you without any worry on your part.’ The birds showed their joy in a remarkable fashion. They began to stretch their necks, extend their wings, open their beaks and gaze at him attentively... None of them moved from the spot until the man of God made the sign of the cross and gave them permission to leave. When they had all flown away that pure and simple man began to accuse himself of negligence because he had not preached to the birds before.”

Thomas of Celano, another biographer, tells the same story and adds, “From that day on Francis carefully exhorted all birds, all animals, all reptiles, and also insensible creatures, to praise and love their creator.”

St. Francis firmly believed that all creatures form one family, so, that he would preach to birds makes sense. Why would he limit his audience to humans if God’s love is just as much for other creatures? Francis grounded this belief in how he understood the incarnation. He had a great fascination for the feast of Christmas. The moment in history when God entered his creation sent shockwaves through it. God became one with all that he had made. He believed that Christmas should be celebrated by every creature. He petitioned the emperor to ask all citizens to spread grain along the roads on Christmas day so the birds could feast, and he encouraged everyone who had an animal in their care to give them a special meal. Francis’ profound instinct was that the saving plan of God revealed in the child born in Bethlehem touched every part of

the created world. A modern Franciscan has said that Francis 'was not a human chauvinist!'

For now, I will spare my catbirds from my preaching, but when I hear them calling, I will no longer think they are serenading me, but singing their little hearts out in praise of the One who made them.

Blessings, and see you in Church.

Paul+

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

The Altar Guild gives a special thanks to Janie Deal for the thoughtful gift of a new large-sized cruet to utilize in our communion services. Also, we look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming Ministry Fair/Low Country Boil. Please stop by our table to say hello!

Patti Poppell

VESTRY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting will be held in the Parish Hall Library on Sunday, September 15 at 8:30 a.m.

ECW NEWS

Dear ECW,

What a great turnout for our end of the year meeting on June 4th. Thank you to everyone who took the time to come and listen to artist-writer-photographer Kris Forehand from Richmond, Virginia. Lunch and fellowship followed.

As we enter into “fall” and therefore a “new” year we are on the search for someone to head up the ECW. Please contact me at 530.386.2351 if you are interested in this ministry.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the Low Country Boil and Ministry Fair for you to volunteer in hosting a meeting. This can take place in the All Saints’ parish hall or your home or another exciting place in Thomasville! Please sign- up and volunteer your time.

Best,

Cynthia

SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

Years ago Sister Earline Douglas had a vision that God called her to open a soup kitchen in Thomasville. Quickly her Rescue Mission kitchen grew to serve around 150 daily, however, it was only open from Monday through Friday. Recognizing the need for a Saturday ministry, the members of St. Thomas initiated the Saturday Lunch Ministry. Community churches were enlisted to help out by covering one day a month.

As program coordinator, Debbie Beeson assists team leaders with meal planning.

Currently we are in need of more volunteers to serve and clean from 11:00 to 1:00. If you are interested in joining this valuable outreach ministry, please call Debbie or Nikki in the parish office. Children are encouraged and service hours are granted for students.

CALLING ALL MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!!

Please stop by the Children's Ministry table at the Ministry Fair on Wednesday, September 4 and sign up to be a Shepherd. If you can't be at the Ministry Fair to sign up, just email me to let me know you are interested. It may be easier to remember if you sign up for the first Sunday or the last Sunday of every month. Or any Sundays in between.

Also, if you are looking for community service hours or just want to spend time and have fun with the children you shepherd, I think it would be fun to plan a parent's night out for some nights this year. Maybe an art theme night or a movie night? At Christmas maybe a cookie exchange? Please let me know if you and your friends may be interested in doing this and I will find adult chaperones, get all the supplies you want, and get the children -- all you have to do is come up with a fun theme, activities, and show up to have a great time with great kids!!

Please call or email me if you have any questions or if you are interested in organizing a Parent's Night Out at All Saints!!

Libby Bracken

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

I am so excited to begin a new year of Godly Play for the All Saints' children! Children's Church will begin next Sunday on August 25. Shepherds escort the children ages 4-10 from the church to the Chapel for their own special service including saying the Lord's Prayer. The children will then move to the Godly Play room where they will hear the lesson, have a feast (light snack), and complete their work. The Shepherds will bring the children back to church in time for Communion or for the blessing on Morning Prayer Sundays. I hope to see everyone on Sunday!!

I am always looking for storytellers (adults) to help with Godly Play. It is such a rewarding volunteer job to see how children wonder and through work express what they have learned from the story.

Please stop by the Children's Ministries table during the Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall on September 4th to find out more about the exciting year planned for the All Saints children and to sign up to be a storyteller in the Godly Play classroom!!

Libby Bracken

ACOLYTE APPEAL

Any child 10 years of age or older is encouraged to serve as an acolyte. An acolyte assists the minister in the performance of liturgical rites. If you are interested in joining in this important service, please contact me at 221-4742.

Ram Singletary
Acolyte Master

MEALS MINISTRY

The All Saints Meal Ministry is our “Meals on Wheels” – a dedicated ministry for our parishioners. Those in the Church who participate in this ministry provide a loving service in a time of need. The Church provides a meal – at times more than one – perhaps following illness, death, childbirth – whatever the need. The volunteers have provided either a part or all of a meal for an individual or family, or perhaps assisting with a reception following a funeral. Please consider being a part of this special ministry of our parish.

If you would like to assist in ANY way please be sure to sign up at the Ministry Fair, or contact Dale Gurley 224-0331 or Debbie Beeson 403-9016.

If you are aware of a need with any of our parishioners, please do not hesitate to contact the church office, Dale or Debbie to let us know how we can assist.

FALL POP-UP BAZAAR

We are accepting items for an All Saints' Fall Pop-up Bazaar. *(Date to be determined.)*

As you perform your fall cleaning, please remember All Saints' and drop off these treasures to Linda Gail's or the Parish Hall. We would love your toys, baby items, sporting equipment, sheets, towels, china, kitchen items, holiday decorations, furniture, lamps.... Really anything that is clean and not broken. Please place all clothes on hangers!!!

YOGA NEWS

Let's yoga! Two convenient times per week: Mondays at 5:15 p.m. and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Bring a mat and a water bottle. All Levels. No previous experience necessary. We keep it easy and fun!

Madeline Rollins

CHOIR NEWS

ST. DAVID'S CHOIR

St. David's Choir rehearsals begin September 11 at 5:15pm. We will have our Ministry Fair table set up with a sign-up sheet for ages 5 through 13 on 9/4/19. We rehearse every Wednesday and sing for one service every month based on availability. Our first service is tentatively set for September 22. Please mark your calendars. We need at least 10-12 children to form a children's choir. Please encourage your friends to join us.

ADULT CHOIR

The Adult Choir will resume on Sunday, September 8 at 9:00am. Be sure to visit the CHOIR TABLE at the Ministry Fair on 9/4/19.

Margit Miller - Choir Director, Organist, and Music Director
850-524-0176 margitchris25@juno.com

BOOK CLUB

September's Meeting be on the 12th at 11:50 am. The book will be "The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell" a novel by Robert

Dugoni. I found it a very well told tale of a very challenged man looking back on his life. Hope you do too.

Please join us even if you don't get to read the story. Feel free to bring a friend and as well as your own brown bag lunch; we'll supply the beverages and some sweets.

EYC NEWS

Happy New School Year!

This fall we'll be back to our regular schedule of Body & Soul Wednesdays, but with a twist. All those youth who would like to be confirmed will have their confirmation classes during Body & Soul. Those who have already been confirmed are also welcome to attend! It will help the class discussion and assist us in our learning. Plus it'll be a great refresher for those who have already been through confirmation.

In addition to Body & Soul/Confirmation Classes, our Sunday night EYC meetings will resume twice a month. One Sunday per month we'll be working on a service project, and the other Sunday we'll enter into a more formal discussion of Scripture, go on a fun outing, or just enjoy our time together. If you'd like to host EYC, please let me know. I'd love to have the fall booked!

I'm excited to get back into our routine! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Peace and Blessings,
Liz Williams
(404) 202-7284

Body & Soul

Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.

Resumes on Wednesday, September 18

The Nursery is available for our youngest parishioners – birth to 5 years old.

BODY AND SOUL ADULT CLASSES FALL 2018

SEPT 18

OCT 9

OCT 23

NOV 6

DEC 4

USHER SCHEDULE

September 1 Holy Communion

Walker Davis

Howell Ferguson

September 8 Morning Prayer

John Glenn

Scooter Grubbs

September 15 Holy Communion

Paul Gurley

John Hand

September 22 Morning Prayer

Chip Hancock

Bob Jackson

September 29 Holy Communion

Brad Jackson

Gates Kirkham

TRANSITIONS:

Happy Birthday in the month of September to:

Jack Saussy	9-3-03
Mary Eleanor Hand	9-5-95
William Banks McCollum	9-10-07
Preston Young	9-11-99
Luther Beachton Chastain	9-11-08
Parker Watt	9-13-00
William Bennett Faulk	9-15-09
Gibbes Bracken	9-18-14
Elizabeth Lorna McCollum (Elle)	9-25-08

Happy Birthday in the month of October to:

Abigail Middleton	10-11-02
Gabriel Buckley	10-21-98
Elise McPherson	10-31-03

FOR THE PARISH REGISTER

Requiescat in Pace:

Cary Mason Roan

departed this life on August 6, 2019.

*May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*