

The Saints'

"I want to be in that number"

All Saints' Episcopal Church - Memphis

December 2023

Why A Beautiful Advent?

Honestly, I need to be reminded of beauty.

It is easy to be overcome by despair and destruction. Every day, we're besieged by so much ugliness — corruption, bigotry, hatred, conflict, and war — that it is hard to remember the loveliness of our lives and creation. Indeed, even the word "beauty" might seem shallow, self-interested, or even meaningless amid the suffering of these days. How can we sing about peace, joy, faith, and hope now?

My soul hurts with the incongruity of it all.

"In a world filled with terrors," wrote Thomas Troeger, "the heart longs for a vision of divine beauty, and when the church fails to attend to beauty, the life of faith often becomes grim and onerous."

He was right.

Advent, with its tensions and contrasts, is a season of art. Think of the poetry, music, and visual images it has brought forth over the centuries.

During these weeks, the Christian imagination turns toward humility, paradox, tenderness, waiting, and the maternity of God — Advent is the antithesis of all imperial and authoritarian temptations of the faith. It is the very embodiment of mystery, and its language is loveliness.

This is the season where the world we know runs headlong into the dream of God. It is the season of deep night that promises endless light. There's no way to explain this and no theology that can fully express the wonder of these weeks.

And so, we invite poetry, music, and arts to guide us. In these things, we experience and encounter our longings, the sacred, and our fullest selves. Maybe that's exactly what is most needed.

This season invites us to attend to that dream, the stars against the night sky, and the radiance of beauty.

I need to look again. Perhaps you do, too.

Let's go together and see where beauty takes us.

~ Dr. Diana Butler Bass

Advent and Christmas at All Saints'

Sundays in December 2023

December 3	Advent I	Holy Eucharist at 10 am Worship Training at 11:45 am (see NOTES below)
December 10	Advent II	Lessons, Carols and Eucharist at 10 am Guests: Urban Harvest at 11:30 am (see NOTES below)
December 17	Advent III	Holy Eucharist at 10 am Worship Training at 11:45 (see NOTES below)
December 24	Advent IV	Worship (Morning Prayer) at 10 am
	Christmas Eve	Candlelight Holy Eucharist at 4 pm
December 31	New Year's Eve	Worship at 10 am (Morning Prayer)

NOTES

Worship Training is for anyone who serves at, behind or in front of the altar, including: Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors (lesson readers) and Altar Guild members.

Urban Harvest is “a Grow-Op company networking communities for sustainable living.” We want to see if they can help take our Community Garden to the next level!

For more information, contact Sandi Rogers, Church Administrator at office@allsaintsepiscopal.org.

Senior Warden Report

Our Community Garden has come to an end for the winter months. All gardeners are clearing their gardens. Tomatoes were still being gathered close to Thanksgiving this year. We look forward to the spring growing season. If you are interested in renting a garden plot in the spring, please let Sandi know in the office. We appreciate all Sandi has done this year to get our Community Garden up and running.

We had a great visit from Bishop Pheobe Roaf on November 5. After an inspirational message during worship, we had a delicious potluck meal in the Parish Hall. We appreciate Doug Jones for providing the ham and some side dishes. Thank you to everyone who attended that day, set up the Parish Hall and brought food to make her visit a great success. She met with the Mission Council after the meal and we shared events that we have had this year, as well as some of the nonprofits to which we have donated items. We felt very positive after her visit.

The Annual Diocese of West Tennessee Convention was held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Friday, November 17. Father Tom attended, as well as our delegates, Susan Leigh and Robert Thompson. If you have questions about the convention, please see one of them.

The kitchen has been updated with a new gas range! Take a look: isn't it beautiful?! We appreciate Beverly Holmgren and Susan Leigh for making the arrangements.

From Karen Zisoff: "I would like to open a Senior Dance Class on Mondays at 4/5pm for one hour. We must have at least 3 people to begin. We will do a simple barre work followed by simple center work. Floor work would be core work and; stretches at the end of class. Body wear: wear what you want. \$5. per class cash. For more information, go to web site www.dancersinc.us or call 901-301-danc(3262)"

I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. I look forward to Advent and Christmas at All Saints'. Please note the upcoming events on Page 2 of this newsletter.

Connie Cupples
Senior Warden



November Happenings



You gave me feet
That I may walk to
Those who need me.

You gave me legs
That may take me long and far
To find those who need me.

You gave me a back
That I may shield from the storm
Those who need me.

You gave me a chest
That I may offer to lean upon
Those who need me.

You gave me shoulders
That I may carry their burden, too, of
Those who need me.

You gave me arms
That I might hug and hold onto
Those who need me.

You have me hands
That I might reach out, touch
Those who need me.

You gave me a neck
That I might turn towards
Those who need me.

You gave me ears
That I might hear the cries
Those who need me.

You gave me a head
That I might think of how best to help
Those who need me.

But,
Sometimes, I am weary.....

So, you gave me eyes
That I might see
Those who need most.

Eyes to see
It is time to rest
Knowing I've done my best for
Those need me.

Eyes to look beyond the blue skies
To find,
Hope and strength from you.

By: John Leadford

Bishop Phoebe's visit

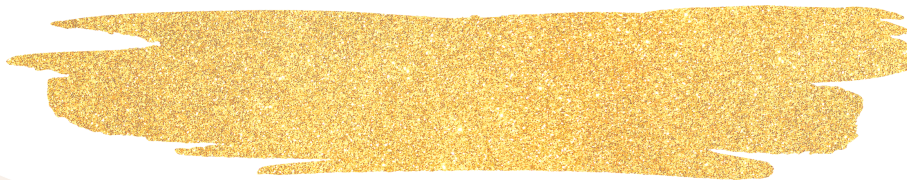




Happy BIRTHDAY



Joyce Skerrtt	1
Weslie Schmitz	7
Martha Morton	12
Kris Grauel	24
Iris Groh	28
Lesley Hanson	28





2023

DECEMBER

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

					1	2
3 Church Service 10:00	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Lessons & Carols 10:00	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Church Service 10:00	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Church Service 10:00 31 Candlelight Service 4:00	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29	30

31 Church Service 10:00

Community Events

- Dec. 6 Girl Scouts 5:30
- Dec. 10 Special Friends 4:30
- Dec. 17 GMRS 2:30 (Great Memphis Recorder Society)
- M, T, Th Dance Inc. 4:00 (off from Dec. 15-Jan 7)

