

NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

FEBRUARY 2025

ALL SAINTS

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Ted VanderEnde, Deacon
Justin Pierce, Verger
Cristi Wilson, Music
Director/Pianist

Parish Vestry

Margaret Buford, Sr. Warden
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Reuben McGilvary, Member
Marc Nichols, Member
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Newsletter Editor
Margie Lambert

Contact Us

All Saints Anglican Church
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Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

A WORD FROM FATHER RICK

Dear Saints,

I'm not sure we get just how central Jesus is – to everything!

Our culture has become a therapeutic one. Everything is measured by experience. Experience is measured by the degree to which I enjoy it and whether it fulfills me. To many, religious experience is no different. We want to experience God – if he makes me happy. Surely, we think, religion is about my fulfillment and how I can have my “best life now.”

No doubt, religion has to do with God. But the Bible makes it quite clear that one's object of faith is not “merely” God. The Bible reveals a Triune God – Father, Son, and Spirit. As theologian, Michael Horton, further explains, “Yet this still is not the bull's-eye at which saving faith aims. The triune God is *revealed in Christ*. This, however, is still not definite enough: not only Christ as the facilitator of union with God or one among many intercessors or as the supreme example to follow in order to become united with God, but as the saving God incarnate *as he is clothed in his gospel*.”

Unfortunately, even as evangelical Christians, it becomes easy for us to think of Jesus as a “rung” on the ladder of salvation; that he is simply the way to God; our ticket to heaven. Of course he is the way, and the truth, and the life. But as Horton reminds us, he is not a rung on the ladder of salvation, but rather he is **THE LADDER**. **He** is salvation.

The aim of our ultimate salvation is more than “getting into heaven.” The aim of our salvation is being “re-created” into the likeness, the image, of Jesus. We were made in God's image. We failed. Jesus is the fulfillment of who we were meant to be. He is the “one in whom I am well pleased,” says God. Our only hope of salvation is to be united to Him.

NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

FEBRUARY 2025

This is what we mean when we talk about salvation. By faith, in God's Son, I am spiritually united to Jesus in such a way that I am presently considered right with God [justification] in that Union. In that union, I am promised the gift of sanctification. God will progressively make me like Jesus in this life and I will one day [glorification] be conformed to his image – body and soul.

A “cart before the horse” theology says, “I believe it because it makes me feel better.” A true order of faith says, “I believe God and trust His Son, Jesus, and know that the good and pleasant will follow.”

May Jesus be our focus, our joy, our purpose as we walk through this New Year.

Happy February and blessings

Fr Rick+

OUR NEW VESTRY 2025



Margaret Buford, Sr. Warden



Joe Norton, Jr. Warden



Reuben McGilvary, Member



Marc Nichols, Member



Virginia Smith, Member

NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

FEBRUARY 2025

WHAT DOES THE VESTRY DO?

The vestry's primary responsibility is to protect the stated vision of the parish. All Saints Anglican's vision statement is: (According to our All Saints Anglican Church Bylaws)

“The Mission of the Church is to extend the Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior, and serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. The people of God are the chief agents of the mission of the Church to extend the Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior, and serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. The effective ministry of the Church is the responsibility of the laity no less than it is the responsibility of the Clergy. It is incumbent for every lay member of the Church to become an effective minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, one who is spiritually qualified, gifted, called, and mature in the Faith.”

Duties of the Parish Vestry (According to our All Saints Anglican Church Bylaws)

It shall be the collective duty of the Parish Vestry to be responsible for at least the following:

1. To see that the Church is kept in good repair, fit for use, and used for the purpose of its consecration
2. Adopt an annual budget for the Congregation;
3. To oversee the collection and handling of the offerings of the Church in accordance with sound accounting practices and to ensure all financial affairs of the Church are administered faithfully;
4. To see that the salaries of the Rector, other clergy, and lay staff are paid regularly, to include contributions to a retirement plan or pension;
5. To provide an adequate insurance program for the Rector and staff, and proper insurance to protect all property, real and personal, of the Congregation and all persons attending congregational services and functions;
6. To provide, at the Church's expense and subject to the direction of the Rector, the necessary books, bread and wine, vestments, supplies, etc., for the celebration of the Sacred Offices and for the education and training (i.e., Sunday School and Bible study) of the Congregation;
7. To embrace the establishment of a Biblically-based program of financial giving by members of the Congregation;
8. To seek to comply with the foundational principle of ten percent giving to the Anglican Diocese of the South;
9. To maintain order and decorum during the time of Worship Services at the direction of the Rector

NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

FEBRUARY 2025

AND SO IT BEGAN....

The story of All Saints Anglican Church in Hot Springs Village is one of courage, faith, and perseverance. It's a testament to the unwavering dedication of ten faithful individuals—affectionately known as the "HSV Ten." Sharan Gunn has graciously provided the history of how this church came into existence, offering a glimpse into the trials, prayers, and convictions that shaped its foundation.

The HSV Ten—Gunns, Neiswanders, Weeters, Ed & Pat Cudworth, Tom and Judy Allen--demonstrated a profound commitment to God's Word during a time of great uncertainty. Their journey, filled with challenges and faithful determination, reminds us of the power of trusting God's call, even when the path is unclear.

We are all deeply grateful for their boldness in answering God's call. Their story is not only an inspiration but also a call to action for believers to stand firm in faith and truth.

In the Beginning Was God

God loved His people, even when they strayed from His love. He forgave them when they sinned against one another and even when they sinned against Him.

In September 2003, years of division culminated in a significant split within The Episcopal Church USA. The newly divided church elected a practicing homosexual as a bishop, sparking widespread controversy and prompting teachings that many believed contradicted God's Holy Word. These teachings included:

1. The claim that the Bible, written by men, required updating to align with modern culture.
2. The idea that Jesus was merely a good man and, at most, one of many possible ways to salvation—not the only way.
3. The insistence that all references to God's masculinity be changed to gender-neutral terms.

In God's sorrow, it felt as though the temple curtain was torn anew, and The Episcopal Church became fractured across the USA and Canada.

As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord (*Joshua 24:15*)

By October 2003, hundreds of faithful Christians had walked out of churches, seeking God's guidance. Why?

1. They believed the Bible to be the inspired, unchanging Word of God, and that culture should strive to reflect biblical truth, not the other way around.
 2. They held firmly to the doctrine that salvation comes by God's grace, through faith, in Christ Jesus alone.
 3. They proclaimed belief in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
 4. They upheld the Bible's teaching on the sin of homosexuality and rejected the idea of unrepentant, practicing homosexuals serving in leadership roles within the church.
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NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

FEBRUARY 2025

Here I Am, Lord. Did You Call Me?

In the predawn light of October 6, 2003, ten strangers gathered in a parking lot in a small village deep in the Ouachita Mountains. Hands clasped and heads bowed, they prayed for safe travel, wisdom, and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Anxieties ran high. They were about to embark on a journey to Dallas, Texas, to attend the Plano Conference—a gathering of like-minded believers. Most of them were retirees who had recently settled in this village, but their faith was now being tested.

Their priest had forbidden them from making this trip. Would they be welcomed back to their church? Would their decision isolate them from their community? Were they alone in their convictions?

Yet, in that parking lot, their prayer was simple and full of trust: **“Here I am, Lord.”**

The Plano Conference: God is Here

Originally planned for a church in Plano, Texas, the conference quickly outgrew its venue as thousands of faithful Christians registered to attend. The event was moved to the largest conference hotel in Dallas. Amid threats, police presence ensured safety.

A large bulletin board displayed names and hometowns, helping attendees connect with one another. As parishioners spotted familiar clergy, joyous shouts and hugs broke out. Many of the "HSV Ten" were overjoyed to see clergy from their previous churches. Priests and bishops embraced, knowing the risks they faced for attending.

The highlight of the conference was the evening Eucharist. Over 2,000 white-robed clergy processed down the center aisle while the congregation sang hymn after hymn. The sheer number of faithful leaders filled the room with a palpable sense of God's presence.

“God is here!” echoed throughout the gathering, a reminder of His faithfulness amidst the storm.

Returning in Faith

On the final day of the conference, the HSV Ten gathered for lunch. Hearts that had been heavy with fear were now filled with peace and resolve. They committed to returning to their village to establish a Bible-believing Anglican church—an alternative for those seeking to remain faithful to God's Word.

One by one, they shared their thoughts and convictions, praying once again for wisdom, guidance, and safe travels. They had left their village in confusion and doubt but were returning in faith and determination.

Rebuilding the Temple

“And they began to rebuild the temple by gathering stones, one by one.”

The HSV Ten became the foundation of a new church, one firmly rooted in Scripture, faithful to God's teachings, and committed to serving as a beacon of hope and truth in their community.

And they began to rebuild the temple by gathering stones, one by one.

NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

FEBRUARY 2025

GET TO KNOW THE SAINTS

Robert Harold Gunn

Born July 16, 1936, in Hamilton, Texas



Bob Gunn grew up in the small town of Hamilton, Texas, with a population of just 2,500. Unlike many small towns, Hamilton had two school buildings by the time Bob graduated—a notable feature back then. It was during these formative years that Bob began his lifelong habit of giving nicknames to friends. If he calls you by your actual name, chances are he either doesn't know you well or you've managed to land on his bad side!

In 1954, Bob's parents sent him to the University of Texas in Austin with the hope that he'd earn a business degree like his father. But Bob had other ideas—he expressed interest in becoming a pharmacist. His father quickly discouraged this idea, pushing him toward business. However, Bob's love of science prevailed, and he ended up earning a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology instead. Later, unable to resist the

pull of his first career aspiration, Bob returned to UT to complete a Pharmacy degree. To this day, his class ring reflects both degrees, and he's always happy to explain its significance.

Fun fact: Bob also pursued a degree in History and was just three hours shy of earning it when the university refused to grant him a second Bachelor's degree. Though he never completed those final credits, his passion for history remains evident in his wide-ranging interests and stories.

All told, Bob spent nine years in Austin, most of them on the UT campus—a period filled with countless adventures (and likely some mischief). As a proud Lifetime Longhorn, Bob's membership card boasts the low number 1950, and he'll gladly show it to you if you ask.

Between his years at UT, Bob married a young woman from Austin. The marriage lasted 12 tumultuous years and brought two beautiful daughters into the world. Following their divorce, both Bob and his first wife remarried, maintaining close ties to co-parent their daughters—often fighting, but always sharing in their love for their family.

Bob's career in microbiology may have been brief, but it was memorable, full of stories best saved for times other than the dinner table! He transitioned to a long and successful career as a

NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

FEBRUARY 2025

pharmacist, working as both an independent and corporate professional. He retired in 2002 after 35 years with Albertsons. Bob was more than a pharmacist—he was a trusted confidant to his customers, many of whom became lifelong friends. Even after some moved away, he continued to fill their prescriptions and offer advice, including for one friend living in Switzerland.

Bob's dedication to his customers went above and beyond. He was known to deliver medicine to critically ill customers, even if it meant being late to social engagements. He had a remarkable memory for names and stories, and he understood that illness or pain could bring out the worst in people. With compassion and a smile, Bob often diffused difficult situations and uplifted those in need. His expertise in drug interactions made him a trusted resource for doctors and family alike.

After nearly 40 years of standing on concrete, Bob now suffers from chronic foot pain, worsened by his flat feet. At 88, walking and standing can be challenging, and he often relies on his wife's shoulder for support.

In December 2002, Bob and his wife, Sharan, moved to Hot Springs Village just days after they both retired. Their first Christmas Eve in the Village was marked by a surprise: churches were closed due to snow! When they visited the local Episcopal Church, the priest greeted them with, "What in the world are you doing here?" It was a good question.

What brought Bob to HSV? Perhaps it was a desire to manage his high blood pressure, or maybe it was the irresistible lure of the peaceful condo they owned on Lake DeSoto. Whatever the reason, once they were there, the next chapter of Bob's life began—one that included golf, fishing, and...more golf!

But his retirement took an unexpected turn when the national Episcopal Church faced a crisis. The church Bob had loved and served for decades—where he had been a Vestryman, a Youth Director for 10 years, and where he raised and married his daughters and stepdaughters—was fracturing. His faith deepened during this time, and he found himself called to a new purpose.

Golf, as Bob likes to point out, does not appear in the Bible. Instead, God had other plans for this retiree. With faith as his foundation, Bob embarked on a new journey, proving that life's most meaningful work often begins when we least expect it.

NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

FEBRUARY 2025

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

All Wednesdays	
8:00 am	Men's Prayer followed by breakfast at Caddies
9:00 am	Ladies Prayer followed by breakfast at Caddies



- February 2 Worship Service 10:30 am, Pot Luck Sunday
- February 6 Ladies Birthday Lunch - noon
- February 9 Sunday School – 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
- February 12 Vestry – 10:00 am
- February 16 Sunday School – 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
- February 23 Sunday School – 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:30 am

February Birthdays	February Anniversaries
2/6 Joe Norton 2/10 Bob Clapp 2/11 Elaine Bailey 2/11 Betty Derryberry 2/12 Sharan Gunn 2/13 Don Valdez 2/13 Gary Weeter 2/16 Nancy Moore 2/21 Doug Masters 2/24 Karen Johnson	Nothing here to see!

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