

# NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

## JANUARY 2026

### ALL SAINTS

Rev. Rick L. Moore, Rector  
Sami Jo Magoffin, Deacon  
Ted VanderEnde, Deacon  
Justin Pierce, Verger  
Cristi Wilson, Music  
Director/Pianist

#### Parish Vestry

Margaret Buford, Sr. Warden  
Joe Norton, Jr. Warden  
Marc Nichols, Member  
Art Smith, Member  
Virginia Smith, Member

Margaret Smith, Secretary  
Tom Buford, Treasure

Newsletter Editor  
Margie Lambert

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## A WORD FROM FATHER RICK

Happy New Year Dear Saints!

There is a line in the famous children's book, The Night Before Christmas, "...I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter..."

We should all be interested in the matter. The matter is what matters.

Some people come to religion looking for nirvana, a "eureka" moment. Yet, true religion is not about "finding yourself." It is not about "putting the puzzle pieces of life" together. It is not even about "finding the face of God." True religion is not based on anything we do.

True religion for us is based entirely on what God has chosen to do. And he chose to make something. And to send something.

Religion, all around the world, is based on inner reflection, religious deeds done to appease God, and deeds done on behalf of others to show God just how much we really care. The grandiose spiritual life is chosen over the mundane and physical. This is not how God revealed himself. Like I said earlier, he made something and he sent something.

I love how C.S. Lewis explained this: "God never meant man to be a purely spiritual creature. That is why he uses material things like bread and wine to put the new life into us. We may think this rather crude and unspiritual. God does not: He invented eating. He likes matter. He invented it." (Mere Christianity)

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We begin January in the season of Christmastide. We move then to Epiphany. During the season of Epiphany God reveals to us the basis for religion. He reveals that it is His Son that He sent. The Son of God, who made the earth, came wrapped in human flesh made from said dirt. The point being is that God loves matter. He sent an identifiable, objective thing to save us. That thing is a human child who grew to manhood and died for sinners. As God in the flesh, his death atoned for human guilt.

The eureka moment we seek is found when we realize that though guilty and unclean, we have been saved by someone who loves us. God continues to nourish us in the same way he saves us. He provides the matter. We await the second coming of this savior. In the meantime, He, by the Spirit, remains with us and dines with us at his table. The deep spiritual assurance we seek is found in the bread and wine given in Holy Communion. For in receiving it we receive the One who promises himself in it.

As we begin this year, what matters is the matter of Jesus and his gifts.

Blessings  
Fr Rick+

### **A Special Remembrance of Our Sister, Sue Sherrill**



The Altar Guild has long hoped to do something meaningful in remembrance of our dear sister, Sue Sherrill, who now lives in the nearer presence of our Lord. Although she was a quiet and humble person, Sue had a hand in nearly every aspect of parish life.

She was instrumental in establishing our Memorial Garden and drafting its bylaws; she faithfully compiled the detailed end-of-year reports required by the Diocese; she served as a key member of the Kitchen Committee; and she led the Altar Guild for many years with grace

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and dedication. Sue ordered our supplies, ensured vestments were correct and properly cared for, and was always the one who knew precisely how everything should be prepared, arranged, and lovingly put away.

During the Christmas season, Sue ordered the poinsettias and oversaw the Advent wreath. At Easter, she made sure the lilies were in place. In all things she served quietly, cheerfully, and with a ready smile. How we miss her.

Recently, her children contacted us to share that Sue had left a gift to the church in her estate. In gratitude, the Altar Guild chose to place a memorial plaque in the sacristy in her honor. On Sunday, December 7, with all three of her children present, Father Rick shared the plaque with the congregation. Their joy, and ours, was profound. As we looked on, many of us felt Sue's presence among us.

We know Sue would have said it was “too much,” but her smile would surely have given her away.

### Search Committee Update



The Vestry and the Search Committee recently spent a full day together at a retreat led by Canon Sean from ADOTS. It was a truly helpful and encouraging time for all of us. Through thoughtful conversation and guided reflection, Canon Sean helped us take an honest look at who we are as a parish—celebrating our strengths while also recognizing areas where we have room to grow.

Most importantly, he walked us through the next steps in our search for a new rector. He clearly outlined the roles of both the Vestry and the Search Committee and reassured us that we will not be navigating this process on our own. Canon Sean—and ADOTS—will be with us, offering guidance and support every step of the way.

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While there is certainly much work ahead in the coming months, we left the retreat feeling more confident, more focused, and deeply supported. We truly believe that God already has the right person in mind for our parish, and we feel better prepared to move forward with trust and hope.

At this time, what we need most from you is prayer—prayers for wisdom, patience, and discernment for all involved in this process. We promise to keep you informed as we move ahead, and we are very grateful for your continued support and prayers.

### **Epiphany: The Light Revealed to the Nations**

In the rhythm of the Church year, Epiphany is a season of revelation, of Christ made known to the world. The word *epiphany* means “appearance” or “manifestation,” and in the Christian tradition it refers to the revealing of Jesus Christ as the Savior not only of Israel but of all nations.

For this reason, Epiphany is most often associated with the visit of the Magi in Matthew 2:1–12. These “wise men from the East,” followed the light of a star until it led them to the Christ Child. Their arrival at the manger is a powerful sign that Jesus had come for *all* people, Jews and Gentiles alike.

The Church has long understood this moment as a fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 60:1–3:

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

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Guided by God’s own light, the nations truly began to “come to the brightness” of Christ on that first Epiphany.

But the season holds more than the story of the Magi. In many Christian traditions, particularly in eastern churches, two additional events are celebrated as Epiphany moments: the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan and His first miracle at the wedding in Cana, where He turned water into wine. Both are powerful manifestations of His divine glory, revealing who He is and why He came.

Epiphany also marks the beginning of one of the Church’s two seasons of “ordinary time.” Yet there is nothing ordinary about it! During Epiphanytide, we reflect on the mission of the Church to bring the light of Christ to all people. It is a season that calls us outward, to remember that the same Jesus revealed to the Magi is still revealing Himself to the world through His people today.

As we move through this season, may we be guided by Christ’s light, strengthened in our mission, and filled with joy at the wondrous truth Epiphany proclaims: the Savior has come, and He is the Light of the World.

### JACKSON HOUSE

#### **All Saints Supports Jackson House This Christmas**

One of the ministries All Saints is blessed to support is Jackson House. Throughout the year, every other month, our men volunteer to help distribute lunches between noon and 1:00 p.m. to anyone in need. This faithful service continues to make a real difference in our community.

In addition to our regular volunteer work, All Saints donated \$250 this Christmas to support Jackson House’s gift ministry for families throughout Garland County—an area of nearly 100,000 residents, including Mtn. Pine, Jessieville, and, more recently, parts of Hot Springs Village.

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In an average year, Jackson House provides Christmas gifts for approximately 1,200 children. But due to rising living costs and recent SNAP reductions, the need increased dramatically this year, and they served more than **2,000 children**. Each child receives a kitchen-size garbage bag filled with gifts—or a large black garden bag if a bigger toy is included.

Garland County's current poverty rate is around 20%. With Hot Springs and the surrounding region relying heavily on tourism, many families working in the service industry struggle to meet basic household needs. Jackson House stands in the gap by offering real, immediate, and compassionate help.

This non-profit ministry provides emergency and crisis assistance designed to:

- Help clients access community resources
- Provide a daily lunch (except Sunday) to anyone in need
- Offer groceries, hygiene kits, clothing, and household items when available
- Create a place where community service is valued and appreciated

We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Jackson House in sharing Christ's love with our neighbors.

#### DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

December was filled with beautiful services and wonderful opportunities for fellowship at All Saints. One of the highlights for our ladies was the annual Secret Sisters' Santa Christmas party,



graciously hosted this year by Elaine Bailey. Her home was stunningly decorated, many commented that it looked like something straight out of a Hallmark movie! Each participant is given the name of another lady to gift to, and the party itself is filled with shared food, laughter, thoughtful gifts, and genuine love. It is truly a special and much-anticipated time of fellowship.



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Our Christmas Eve candlelight service was also a meaningful highlight of the season. The service was beautiful and well attended, drawing not only our regular parishioners but also many from around the Village who joined us to celebrate the birth of our Lord in this cherished and reverent way.

On Christmas Day, many of our Saints who were unable to be with family gathered together to share a Christmas meal. This year, some parishioners were even joined by their family members, making the celebration especially joyful and heartwarming. It was a wonderful reminder that the church family truly is family.



### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Our Annual Meeting will be held on January 18, immediately following the service. We encourage everyone who is able to please plan to stay and participate. This is an important gathering in the life of our parish.

At the meeting, we will take time to reflect on the past year and share updates on where we have been and where we are headed. There will also be an opportunity for parishioners to offer input on areas where they feel we can continue to grow or improve. Tom will present the proposed 2026 budget for review and discussion.

Typically, the Annual Meeting is also when we elect new Vestry members to replace those whose terms have concluded. This year, however, the only Vestry member scheduled to rotate off is Virginia Smith. Because of her involvement and valuable knowledge of the Search Committee's work, the Vestry has asked Virginia to serve an additional term in order to provide continuity during this important season in the life of our church.

We hope you will join us for this meaningful time of reflection, discussion, and shared vision as we move forward together.

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### JANUARY CALENDAR

#### All Wednesdays

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 8:00 am | Men's Morning Prayer followed by breakfast at Caddies  |
| 9:00 am | Ladies Morning Prayer followed by breakfast at Caddies |



|            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 4  | Worship – 10:30 am<br>NO POT LUCK THIS SUNDAY                      |
| January 8  | Vestry   |
| January 9  | Ladies Birthday Luncheon   |
| January 11 | Sunday School – 9:00 am<br>Worship – 10:30 am                      |
| January 18 | Worship – 10:30 am<br>Annual Meeting immediately following service |
| January 25 | Sunday School – 9:00 am<br>Worship – 10:30 am                      |

| January Birthdays     | January Anniversaries          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1/7 Dave Beed         | No one got married in January! |
| 1/9 Bruce Neiswander  |                                |
| 1/11 Sami Jo Magoffin |                                |
| 1/12 Lila Kay Lanio   |                                |
| 1/13 Theresa Aughtry  |                                |
| 1/15 Pat Hansen       |                                |
| 1/29 Cissy Duhon      |                                |

**All Saints Anglican Church – 3 Jardinero Drive – Hot Springs Village**