

# NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

## FEBRUARY 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

#### Contact Us

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## A WORD FROM FATHER RICK

Happy February Dear Saints!

Christianity is quite radical. We prefer a domesticated God. One who is tame enough to be part of our stories. We Americans have a way of making everything about us. Even our religion. If part of the Bible leaves a sour taste, we feel free to jettison it or simply accommodate it to our culture or tastes. In the words of one Christian writer, we engage in “religious tinkering.” We pick and choose from the Bible and the Christian tradition such that our happiness becomes the center of faith. We will follow the will and ways of God if they are safe for life navigation.

“C.S. Lewis answers this in *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* when Mr. Beaver tells Susan that Aslan (the ruler of Narnia) is a great lion. Susan is surprised, since she assumed Aslan was a man. She then tells Mr. Beaver, “I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.” She asks Mr. Beaver if Aslan is safe, to which Mr. Beaver replies, “Safe? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King.” (From the “Desiring God” website)

Biblical Christianity is not about being safe. It is about being “displaced” – being moved from our usual place. The moralistic and therapeutic mindset of the West tells us that what we should seek is our “best life now.” That the consumer, even the religious consumer, is king. But are we?

I think an old European Catechism sums up well the true nature of Christianity. It is the Heidelberg Catechism, Question and Answer #1:

Q: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A: That I am not my own, but belong—in body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ...

## NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

### FEBRUARY 2026

“There is nothing remotely all-American about this statement: its starting point is *displacement*—I am not my own, but belong to Jesus Christ, to whom I have been united by the Spirit. This displacement is central to Christian identity, for as Jesus says in Mark’s Gospel, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it” (Mark 8:34,35 NIV). Instead of myself and my own interests, the Heidelberg sees the active, saving Triune God as the center of the drama.” (Reformed Catholicity).

Radical. Not safe. But good.

Blessings, Fr Rick+

### ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 18. Once a quorum was established, Father Rick opened the meeting with prayer, asking God to be present with us as we conducted the business of the congregation and as we look ahead to the coming year.

Father Rick explained that, due to the activities and transitions anticipated in 2026, there was no need to vote on a vestry position this year as is typically done. The Vestry felt it would be prudent to ask Virginia Smith to serve one additional term, as she has been closely involved in planning and information related to the rector search. Virginia has graciously agreed to continue in this role.

Father Rick also thanked Tom Buford for serving another year as church treasurer. Tom has faithfully served in this role for the past eight years, and the congregation is deeply grateful for his dedication. He further thanked Margaret Smith for her service as vestry secretary during the past year and announced that she will continue to serve in that role in 2026.

Tom Buford then presented the proposed 2026 budget. While pledges are down from last year, Tom noted that the church is in a strong financial position due to the payoff of our mortgage and the receipt of two generous bequests. A motion was made and seconded, and the budget was approved as presented.

## NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

### FEBRUARY 2026

Margie Lambert provided an update on the rector search. She shared that a Rector Search page is now live on our website, where applicants can view our Parish Profile and apply online. The position has also been posted on the ADOTS job openings webpage and the ACNA website, which has already generated a couple of responses—an encouraging sign at this early stage. In addition, a letter is being sent to regional rectors informing them of Father Rick’s retirement and inviting referrals of potential candidates. Margie emphasized that, at the direction of Canon Sean, the Search Committee will not share names or specific details about applicants, as that information must remain confidential. The committee will, however, continue to keep the congregation informed about each step of the process.

Father Rick then shared exciting news from the College of Bishops, which met the previous week and officially approved the formation of a new Diocese of the Mid-South (ADOMS). This is welcome news, as our current cathedral in Atlanta is more than 600 miles away, with some parishes even farther. The new diocese will bring the 14 participating parishes closer together regionally and make collaboration and shared events more accessible. A vote was held, requiring a majority of members present, and the congregation unanimously approved leaving ADOTS and joining ADOMS once it is officially formed.

The meeting concluded with prayer led by our Senior Warden, Margaret Buford.

#### NEW MEMBER



With great joy, All Saints welcomes our newest member, Annie O’Brien! Annie has been worshiping with us for over a year, and we are truly blessed to officially welcome her into our church family.

## NEWS FROM THE SAINTS FEBRUARY 2026

### **Filly Feed Ministry: A Generous Outpouring of Love**

Your generosity to the Filly Feed ministry this year was truly incredible. The donated bags were so full and heavy that Sami Jo needed help carrying them into the Oaklawn Chaplaincy! The racetrack ladies were both delighted and deeply grateful for these thoughtful and generous gifts.

Deacon Sami Jo had planned to take a group of our ladies to Oaklawn for a presentation on the vital work of the Chaplaincy and its ministry to the racetrack community. This presentation, which some of our ladies attended a few years ago, offers meaningful insight into the lives of the racetrack workers—the demanding nature of their work and the challenging lifestyle of moving from track to track throughout the year. It is a difficult life, and many of these women often lack basic necessities that most of us take for granted. Unfortunately, due to weather, the visit had to be postponed. Sami Jo will explore rescheduling if there is sufficient interest. Please contact her if you would like to attend a future presentation.

Joel Bailey also shared with the congregation that he regularly attends the Wednesday evening dinner at the Chaplaincy for racetrack employees. This weekly gathering is a special time of fellowship and prayer, and Joel finds it deeply rewarding. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry or getting involved, please see Joel.

Thank you again for your generosity and for being the hands and feet of Christ to those who need it most.

### **WHEN IS EASTER THIS YEAR??**

Every year when I was growing up, I would ask my mom why Easter never seemed to fall on the same date. And every year, she would patiently explain it to me. Now, years later, I find myself asking the same question all over again. Why *does* Easter change each year?

## NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

### FEBRUARY 2026

Here's why.

Easter always falls on the **first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon**, which is the first full moon that occurs on or after **March 21**. March 21 is used as a fixed, mathematical approximation of the **spring (March) equinox**. In 2026, this places Easter on **Sunday, April 5**.

But why does the full moon matter at all?

The answer lies in Easter's historical connection to the Jewish celebration of **Passover**. The word *paschal* itself comes from the Hebrew *Pesach*, meaning Passover, and today it can refer to either Passover or Easter.

On the Hebrew calendar, Passover begins at sundown on the 15th day of the lunar month of **Nisan**, which coincides with the full moon following the spring equinox. In all four Gospels, Jesus' crucifixion is closely connected to Passover. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the Last Supper is described as a Passover meal, and Jesus is crucified the following day. In the Gospel of John, Jesus is crucified on the day of preparation, just before the Passover meal begins.

The date of Easter also determines the timing of the entire **Lenten season** and the holy days leading up to it. In 2026, **Ash Wednesday falls on February 18**, marking the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday is always **46 days before Easter**—40 days of fasting and reflection, commemorating Jesus' time in the wilderness, plus six Sundays, which are not counted as days of Lent.

**Holy Week** begins on **Palm Sunday**, one week before Easter. The week includes **Holy Wednesday**, recalling Judas Iscariot's betrayal; **Holy Thursday**, commemorating the Last Supper; and **Good Friday**, marking the crucifixion of Jesus. On Easter Sunday, Lent ends, and we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.



So while Easter's date may change from year to year, its meaning—and the story it invites us to reflect on—remains constant.

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## FEBRUARY 2026

### CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

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



- February 1     Worship Service 10:30 am, Pot Luck Sunday
- February 6     Ladies Birthday Luncheon
- February 8     Worship Service 10:30 am  
Sunday School – 9:00 am
- February 9     Jackson House
- February 12    Vestry – 10:00 am
- February 15    Sunday School – 9:00 am  
Worship Service 10:30 am
- February 18    Ash Wednesday  
Service 5:30 pm
- February 22    Sunday School – 9:00 am  
Worship Service 10:30 am (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent)

February Birthdays	February Anniversaries
2/6    Joe Norton	No one got hitched in February!
2/11  Elaine Bailey	
2/11  Betty Derryberry	
2/12  Sharan Gunn	
2/13  Don Valdez	
2/13  Gary Weeter	
2/16  Nancy Moore	
2/24  Karen Johnson	

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