

NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

JULY 2026

ALL SAINTS

Rector: Interims
Sami Jo Magoffin, Deacon
Ted VanderEnde, Deacon
Cristi Wilson, Music
Director/Pianist
Margie Lambert, Secretary
Justin Pierce, Verger

Parish Vestry

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

Margaret Smith, Secretary
Tom Buford, Treasure

Newsletter Editor

Margie Lambert

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A WORD FROM MARGARET BUFORD, SENIOR WARDEN

The Fellowship of the Believers

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42.

The apostle Paul spoke to the believers on Pentecost and gave them the plan mentioned above to maintain their Christian community. We, the All Saints Fellowship of Believers, have these same instructions from Acts today.

We are in a time of transition - something this church has not faced before. We all wish Fr. Rick and Nancy all the best in their well-deserved retirement.

But what about us? The Bible assures us we are in God's hands and that he has our best interest in his heart. With this promise, we will move forward prayerfully seeking God's will in all we do.

How will we continue in the Apostle's teaching and the breaking of bread?

Our worship will be lead by Fr. William three Sundays in July: July 5, July 19, and July 26.

July 12 will be a Deacon's Eucharist led by Deacon Sami Jo and Deacon Mikah Alge.

Each of these Sundays will be an opportunity to continue in the apostles' teachings and to break bread together in the Holy Eucharist. We will also continue to pray together as part of our worship. Wednesday morning prayer and the new men's Bible study are additional times to share in the

apostles' teachings and prayers.

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How will we maintain our loving community?

Fellowship is a vital part of our Christian community at All Saints. We will continue our potlucks each first Sunday. The Barnabas Ministry will provide opportunities for us to reach out to each other and strengthen our bonds. Our continued love and concern for each other is such an important part of All Saints. God will keep our love flowing as we lean on Him and each other during this transition. Let us be diligent in praying for God's will and in listening when He speaks to us.

Margaret Buford, Sr. Warden

Separate little blurb:

The saints are in good hands in July. Fr. William will be at All Saints three Sundays. Praise God for his ministry! Deacon Sami Jo and Deacon Mikah will lead a deacon's Eucharist on July 12.

Tom and I will be away July 6-July 25. Our vestry will be ready to help you with any needs. Please see Joe Norton for any parishioner concerns. Art Smith will be available to help with building needs. Virginia Smith will be available on Sundays to support the clergy. Marc Nichols will also be available to hear your concerns.

Of course, Margie will be in the office and ready to help you in every way.

FATHER RICK'S RETIREMENT PARTY



A Fond Farewell to Father Rick

Our send-off for Father Rick's retirement was truly bittersweet. We shared an evening filled with laughter, a few tears, wonderful food, great music, and treasured memories. As always, Sharan Gunn did a fabulous job as our master of ceremonies, and the words spoken throughout the evening were heartfelt, sincere, and a beautiful reflection of Father Rick's years of faithful ministry.

While we all feel a hole in our hearts as we say goodbye to our beloved rector, we are also grateful that Father Rick is beginning a restful and well-deserved retirement after many years of dedicated service. Making this transition a little easier is the knowledge that he and Nancy will be returning to All Saints as parishioners, allowing us to continue sharing fellowship and friendship with them.

Many hands helped make this celebration such a joyful and memorable occasion. Special thanks go to Jeanne Ballard for her outstanding work as event planner and to Sharan Gunn

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for her creativity in designing and coordinating the evening's program. We are also grateful to everyone who contributed their time and talents to make the celebration so special.

Father Rick, thank you for your faithful leadership, compassionate pastoral care, and steadfast love for this parish. You have touched countless lives, and your ministry has left a lasting legacy at All Saints. We pray that God richly blesses you and Nancy as you begin this new chapter of life.

Bon voyage, Father Rick! May God grant you many years of joy, peace, and abundant blessings.



The Barnabas Ministry is truly a blessing to our parish family. Not only does it provide practical help and encouragement to our Saints, but it also brings peace of mind to family members who may live far away and are unable to assist their loved ones personally.

Thanks to the dedication of our ministry chairs and volunteers, the Barnabas Ministry continues to serve our church wonderfully. In recent weeks, we have had numerous opportunities to help parishioners through transportation assistance, home visits, hospital visits, meals, prayer support, and more. Every need brought to our attention was met through the loving care of our volunteers.

If you or someone you know could benefit from one of these ministries, please contact the appropriate ministry chair:

Driving Pool

Virginia Smith – 941-387-4998

If you need transportation to a doctor's appointment or another necessary appointment, please contact Virginia.

Phone Calls

Cheryl Brown – 213-906-0955

If you know one of our Saints who could use a friendly check-in call, please contact Cheryl.

Home Visits

Martha Nichols – 501-984-0329

If you or someone you know would benefit from a home visit, please contact Martha.

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Hospital Visits

Myra McGilvary – 806-433-4868

If you or one of our Saints is hospitalized, please contact Myra so visits can be arranged.

Meals, Groceries & Medication Pickup

Theresa Keyser – 984-264-5551

If meals, groceries, or medication pickup are needed, Theresa will coordinate assistance from our volunteers.

Prayer Requests

Margaret Buford – 870-514-4545

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, Margaret will distribute the request through our prayer ministry.

Quilt Ministry

Sharan Gunn – 501-984-1668

If you know someone who would be encouraged by receiving one of our beautiful handmade quilts, please contact Sharan.

If you have not yet signed up to volunteer in one of these ministry areas and would like to serve, please let me know and I will be happy to connect you with the appropriate ministry chair.

Thank you to all who faithfully serve in the Barnabas Ministry. Through your generosity, compassion, and willingness to help, you truly are God's hands and feet in our parish family.

5th of July Sunday!



Patriotic hymns will fill the church on the first Sunday of July as the Saints lift our voices with enthusiasm and gratitude. We are blessed to welcome Father Williams, who will preach the sermon and celebrate the Holy Eucharist with us.

Following the service, the festivities will continue with a delicious Independence Day cookout. Our talented grill masters, Bruce Neiswander, Bob Lambert, and David Keyser, will serve up hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone to enjoy. The food will be wonderful, but even more meaningful will be the opportunity to spend time together in fellowship, sharing laughter, conversation, and friendship.

Days like these remind us what a blessing it is to belong to such a caring and welcoming parish family. We truly have a wonderful family of Saints!

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SEARCH COMMITTEE

As we continue our search for a new rector, let us remember that God is faithful and that, in His perfect timing, He will send the right shepherd to lead All Saints. Until then, we have been abundantly blessed with faithful clergy who will guide us through this season.

Father William and Deacon Sami Jo will continue to lead us, and we are also pleased to welcome Deacon Mikah from Little Rock. Deacon Mikah is a gifted and engaging deacon, and we look forward to getting to know her better in the months ahead. In addition, beginning in August, Canon Sean will join us once each month to lead worship.

Please keep our Search Committee, Vestry, clergy, and future rector in your prayers. God has faithfully guided All Saints throughout our history, and we trust that He will continue to lead us in the days ahead.

Musings on Memories with Dc Ted - No. 1 "Preacher Dimitry"



When we get older, memories become more intentional. When the body and mind lose their vitality, we tend to return to the days when we made our memories, in the strength of youth and middle age. We are able to recollect major and minor events that shaped our lives - birthdays, wedding days, career years, and a host of other items that are stored somewhere in our brains. This ability to go back in time and relive moments of our lives mentally, in our heads and hearts, is a mystery and fundamental to our being human. Without the gift of memory, as we realize from experience, there is no road to the past, no capacity to remember who we were and are. Remembering is a sacred gift.

The Scriptures tell us that God remembers as well. Christ calls us to eat bread and drink wine "in remembrance of Me." Reason to do some musing on this ability to remember

I do not claim to understand this mystery - these musings are meant to thank the Lord for being able to remember. The method I will use is to share a few memories I recorded years ago. This particular event took place while Dorothy and I were ministering to a group of Belarusian pastors and Christian workers in Austria in March 2002. Dimitry was a middle-aged pastor who was asked to preach. The story follows.

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Remembering Dimitry The Preacher - March 2002

“Life in Belarus”, a student illustrates his talk, “is like the life of a Belarus potato. After you get dug out of the ground, you either get eaten in the winter, or when you have the good fortune to live through the winter, you get cut up and put underground in the spring to die; that’s all there is to it.” The class chuckles at the wry story; for them, it is funny; they know how to live with imprisonment, persecution, even death. For myself, it is another experience of learning to understand these students who live and die, breathing the clouds of nuclear Chernobyl, in the shadow of a crumbling economy and the fear of conceiving deformed babies. I hear myself teaching how to read the Bible as literature, to find the wonderful forms of the Biblical text so they may preach better, but I think, “Who am I to teach them?” I did not laugh - I do not know how to laugh at jokes that are born out of suffering. What do I know about living under these shadows of a communist regime? How can I identify myself with a potato meant only for consumption, I who live so differently in a world of glitter and comfort?

But, like them and with them, I believe in the power of the Word of the Lord, and in the foolishness of preaching the Gospel, and I share with them the wisdom of the textbooks, how they could better learn to analyze the text, find the ‘Big Idea’ in the passage and preach with more clarity; they nod and agree and respond and try to follow my instructions, and, above all, they pray for wisdom to put it into practice. They get a chance to show what they learned, to verify that they understood my lectures and examples.

Dimitry is the preacher today, and his text is Matthew 5:14: “*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*” With a booming voice that carries far beyond the classroom walls, he announces the theme, as I had told him to. “The theme,” he thundered in Russian, “is we, followers of Christ, we are lights in the world!” He is nervous; he wants to do his utmost, and his wife, who came with him, smiles encouragingly. Oh, how she loves her preacher man, you can see it in her eyes, and for two weeks they sit together at the front table, closely together, as two turtle doves, listening, nodding, and saying “Amen” in agreement with the pearls of wisdom I share with them. “We must live as lights in the world, like a candle on a candlestick,” Dimitry continues, and he proceeds to light a candle that stands in front of the little pulpit. We are doing well: the theme is announced, the text is announced, there is an illustration we can all see, and I am waiting for the Big Idea of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount to unfold. “The first point,” his eyes fixed in the distance, way out there where his voice is echoing, “my first point is that our lights are but small, like this candle light.” He elaborates, urgently, while his wife suddenly flips out the overhead lights on his cue. The audience is captured in darkness. “Yes, we may not be noticed, but when it gets dark, we give light to many people.” It is a sweet thought, and the text sustains the application, for we should be lifted up so our little lights can be seen. “My second point,” he continues speaking to the imaginary audience beyond our walls, “is that being a

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candle for Jesus burns you up. Just like this candle burns slowly till it is gone, so we should be lights burning up for Jesus.” I look into the text to find the exegetical grounds for his idea, but find none. But the thought is good, redemptive, and there are a few “Amens” from his Belarusian classmates in agreement with the preacher. “And the third point is that the candle should not smoke and smolder, for we must give a clear light to the world,” Dimitry demands, his voice reverberating in our hearts and consciences, and he finishes his final application with more decibels than before, a true climax to the sermon. I am listening for him to return to the text, hoping he will make something of the good works our Lord mentions. But the lights are flipped on, Dimitry smiles broadly, a chorus of praise greets the sermon, and he sits down beside his beloved and waits for the professor’s evaluation.

I look at him while my thoughts are racing, trying to find words to lead him along the ins and outs of the art of preaching. I gently try to say that the text became the candle and that Matthew’s teaching stood somewhat in its shadow, and he agrees. “Yes, yes” he smiles at me. “Perhaps,” I carefully frame my words, perhaps he could have used the good works that Jesus mentioned, so the text would speak to the people as well.” “Yes, of course, that’s right, yes, the candle took over,” and he understands the problem with his sermon. A Belarusian student cannot disagree with his omnipotent teacher! I compliment him on his good preaching voice, reaching the people in the other building. Laughter! Perhaps he can try to lower his voice. “Yes, good idea, yes, yes!” Dimitry, his wife, and all the students agree. A little less volume would do him good. “Though you have a warm, wonderful voice, Dimitry,” I hasten to add, and his wife agrees, looking at him with adoration. In the corners of my mind, I struggle with my place as his learned teacher, introducing him to inclusios, chiastic structures, and intertextualities. Somewhere in Belarus he is the pastor of a church with people who live like potatoes in the darkness of Chernobyl, and the best message they can hear, it seems to me, is to shine like candles for our Lord, small lights in the night, burning up too soon for Jesus, clear and gentle as the candle shone in the dark room, while his voice reached to the ends of the earth. Blessed are the meek, blessed are the poor, Jesus said at the outset of His Sermon, and He added: “for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Blessed is Dimitry, the preacher-man, and blessed is his wife, who knows he is the best preacher in the world. No professor can change that, and no professor should.

PS – Dimitry died of cancer.

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JULY 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



July 2	Vestry – 10: am
July 5	Worship – 10:30 - Fr. William Independence Day BBQ
July 10	Ladies Birthday Luncheon
July 12	Worship – 10:30 am Deacon Mikah
July 19	Worship – 10:30 am – Fr. William
July 26	Worship – 10:30 am - Fr. William

July Birthdays	July Anniversaries
9 Annette Wegener 16 Bob Gunn 20 Theresa Keyser	18 Jerry and Cissy Duhon

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