

# NEWS FROM THE SAINTS

## AUGUST 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  
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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Hot Springs Village, AR 71909  
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### PASTORAL LETTER FROM CANON SEAN

August 1, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters of All Saints Anglican Church,

Grace and peace to you in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Greetings from all of us in the Anglican Diocese of the South! I wanted to take a moment to let you know that you have been in our prayers during this season of transition in the life of your parish. While seasons of change can bring both excitement and uncertainty, they also remind us that the Lord is faithful to lead His Church every step of the way.

The Apostle Paul writes: *"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."* Philippians 1:6

What an encouraging reminder that the Lord who has faithfully sustained All Saints over the years will continue to guide you in the days ahead!

As a Diocese, we are deeply grateful for the faithful ministry of Fr. Rick and Nancy Moore over the past fifteen years. Through Fr. Rick's leadership and Nancy's faithful support, the Lord has blessed and strengthened All Saints in so many ways. We are also thankful for Fr. Rick's years of service as an Area Dean in the Diocese, where he faithfully encouraged clergy and congregations throughout Arkansas and Missouri. Their ministry has left a lasting impact, and we pray the Lord's richest blessings upon them as they begin this new chapter.

At the same time, we have much to celebrate. This summer, the Provincial Council of the Anglican Church in North America overwhelmingly approved the formation of the Anglican Diocese of the Mid-South. This is truly a historic moment and a wonderful testimony to God's faithfulness and the continued growth of His Church. As one of the founding parishes of this new Diocese, All Saints has an exciting future ahead, and I look forward to seeing all that God will continue to do through your congregation.

As we move through this transition together, please know that Archbishop Foley Beach, Bishop Frank Lyons, and I remain fully committed to supporting All Saints in every way we can. Until a bishop is elected and seated for the Diocese of the Mid-South,

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you will continue to receive the same pastoral care, episcopal oversight, and diocesan support you have always known. Whether it is assisting your search team, supporting the vestry, or simply walking alongside your parish family, we are here to help however we can.

Please continue to pray during this season. Pray for your search team, vestry, and parish leadership. Pray for wisdom and discernment as the Lord prepares the bishop He has already chosen for the Diocese of the Mid-South. Above all, pray that the Gospel would continue to be faithfully proclaimed through the ministry of All Saints Anglican Church.

As Proverbs reminds us: *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."* Proverbs 3:5–6

Our confidence has never been in our own plans, but in the Lord who faithfully builds and leads His Church.

I am looking forward to being with you on Sunday, August 9. It will be a joy to worship with you, spend time with your parish family, and see firsthand all that God is doing at All Saints. Until then, know of my continued prayers for each of you.

May the Lord continue to bless you, strengthen you, and grant you His peace.

Yours in Christ,

Canon Sean George  
Canon to the Ordinary  
Anglican Diocese of the South

#### Rector Search Update

The Search Committee is excited to share that we believe we are nearing the finish line in our search for a new rector!

Our candidate visited All Saints in July, giving the Search Committee, the Vestry, and our spouses the opportunity to spend time with him in both casual settings and during worship as he celebrated the Holy Eucharist with us. Those few days allowed us to get to know one another well, and we came away with a deep sense of confidence and enthusiasm.

Following his visit, both the Search Committee and the Vestry were unanimous in their belief that he would be an excellent fit for All Saints. We are equally delighted to share that he expressed the same feeling about our parish and our church family.

The Vestry has unanimously approved the Search Committee's recommendation, and his name has now been submitted to Archbishop Foley and Bishop Frank for their blessing. This is the final step in the process.

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We ask that you continue to keep this process in your prayers—that the Lord will guide this final stage, grant wisdom to all involved, and smooth the way for our new rector to join us. If all goes as planned, we look forward to joyfully welcoming him to All Saints on **September 1**.

Thank you for your faithful prayers, patience, and encouragement throughout this journey. We are excited to see what God has in store for All Saints as we begin this new chapter together.

#### Sunday Services

Since Father Rick's retirement, our Sunday services have naturally looked a little different. Even so, God has graciously provided for us through faithful clergy who have stepped in to lead and care for our parish during this season of transition.

We are, of course, always grateful for Father William. His willingness to continue serving All Saints whenever he is able has been a tremendous blessing and a great source of comfort to our congregation.

We have also been blessed by the ministry of Deacon Mikah from Little Rock. She will be joining us twice more this month, along with Canon Sean, who continues to support and encourage us throughout our rector search.

Between the faithful leadership of our deacons, Father William, and Canon Sean, we are being wonderfully cared for as we wait for the priest God has chosen to lead All Saints into its next chapter. We remain prayerful and hopeful that the day we welcome our new rector is not too far away.



#### During Our Time of Transition

As we continue our journey during this time between rectors, All Saints is relying on the faithful leadership of our Vestry more than ever. Several people have asked about the roles of the Senior Warden and Junior Warden, so we thought it might be helpful to explain their responsibilities.

Our **Senior Warden, Margaret Buford**, serves as the primary lay leader of the parish. Often referred to as the "Rector's Warden," the Senior Warden acts as a trusted advisor to the rector in both spiritual and administrative matters. She shares in the overall care of the congregation and helps ensure the parish remains healthy and well-led. During a vacancy in the rector's office (as is the case now), the Senior Warden assumes many of the rector's administrative responsibilities and provides leadership for the parish. She also presides over Vestry meetings and works closely with the Vestry to guide the church through this interim season.

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Our **Junior Warden, Joe Norton**, is often known as the "Property Steward." He is responsible for the care and oversight of our church buildings, grounds, and other parish property. From organizing repairs and maintenance to planning improvements and ensuring our facilities remain safe and welcoming, the Junior Warden plays a vital role in caring for the physical home of our parish. He also works alongside the Senior Warden to help ensure the Vestry functions smoothly and effectively.

We are truly blessed to have Margaret and Joe serving All Saints with such dedication, wisdom, and servant hearts. Please keep them, along with our entire Vestry, in your prayers as they faithfully lead our parish during this time of transition. Their commitment and love for our church family are a tremendous blessing to us all.

### Visitors and Members: What's the Difference?

A question has come up recently: *"What is the difference between being a visitor and being a member of All Saints?"* Another common question is, *"How do I know if someone is a visitor or a member?"*

The simple answer is that everyone is welcome at All Saints.

Visitors are welcome to attend our worship services as often as they like, regardless of their faith background or church affiliation. There are no classes or commitments required to visit. All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, are invited to receive Holy Communion at our altar.

Membership, however, is more than regular attendance. It is a covenantal commitment to this parish family. A member moves from being a spectator to being an active participant in the life and ministry of the church.

Members commit themselves to worship, fellowship, service, and stewardship. They support the mission of the parish through their prayers, the sharing of their gifts, and financial giving. Members are also able to vote in parish meetings, including the election of Vestry members and other matters affecting the life and direction of the church. Annual financial pledges help the Vestry prepare a responsible budget that provides for clergy, utilities, ministries, outreach, and the many ongoing needs of the parish.

At All Saints, visitors are just as much a part of our church family as members. Whether you have been with us for one Sunday or many years, we are grateful that you are here. If All Saints has become your church home, we encourage you to take the next step and become a member of our parish family.

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If you are interested in becoming a member, please speak with Deacon Sami Jo. During this interim period between rectors, she will work with our Diocese to guide you through the membership process.

As always, we trust that God is leading His Church. Through His grace and guidance, all things are possible.

#### Memory Musings – Your Life Story



“To remember” is to bring a past historical event into the present. The event that is remembered can be anything as long as it truly occurred. The memory and retrieval of the event is unseen, mental, a musing of the mind, a reliving in thought, a fleeting reflection on the original event. To remember these personal events and their musings, they need to be accessible; they must be stored and kept, like a hard drive that keeps data accessible. The heart and the brain function in Scripture like an active online computer, recording and preserving my life story; without exception of all facts and actions, from conception to birth to my final breath.

“We are fearfully and wonderfully fashioned,” so King David ponders and meditates about the marvel of the visible body and invisible mind (*nephesh – soul*) in Psalm 139. His body, woven by the Creator in the darkness and secrecy of the mother’s womb (vs 12-15), he admits, he cannot comprehend the multitude of intricacies of the physical body. Likewise, he is overwhelmed by the reality of God’s spiritual presence in his life (vs 17-18), by God’s countless thoughts and cares for him. He stands in awe and amazement that, when he wakes up from his sleep, he is still the same person, still himself in body and soul, and still with the LORD (18). Psalm 139 is an inspired ‘musing’ on the wonder of the creation of the human being, physically and spiritually, body and soul, dust of the earth and divine breath. It “remembers” the initial event of the creation of mankind in the book of Genesis, created in the image and likeness of God. As to the function of the brain to store and recall, it is said *“that we cannot measure memory capacity precisely because the brain does not store information like a computer. However, estimates based on the number and complexity of synapses suggest a storage capacity on the order of petabytes (millions of gigabytes). Some estimates place it around 2.5 petabytes, though this is only an approximation.”* These numbers are staggering, and the brain’s activities are, in many ways, unknown to researchers. Much I do not understand or ever will, other than that I can retrieve, relive, meditate, and muse on a singular event. It happened while teaching in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, on the Sunday after 9/11, 2001 AD.

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**Sunday after Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001**



**Sasha's Chapel** Sasha has his own little Orthodox chapel in one of the quarters in Kyiv. He has been dreaming of it since the days I met him first at St. James Bible School, the single Orthodox student among all the Pentecostals and Baptists. He paid attention only when the class became interesting to him; at least that was how it appeared, for most of the time he was reading and studying from books he had all across his desk. The kind of student who wanted to get something out of the lectures, and when it was not given, he openly studied what interested him more. I tolerated it, for more often than not he perked up as I taught, began discussions and debates, and in the end thanked me for the studies, and prophesied, Russian style, that we would be back in the future. Indeed, over the

years we have kept contact, for his prediction proved right. His desire was to be a trained Orthodox priest, to bring Christ to soldiers in prison (denied by the bishop), to children in the public school (this too was denied by the education department), and to children in hospitals and on the street – approved. He was assigned to pastor a small congregation in a tiny chapel made from rough wooden beams, with a corrugated roof as a ceiling, and holes in it through which the sun pierced its way in small shafts visible in the sweet smoke of incense. The floor is covered with linoleum that runs outside down the few steps that lead to the dusty plot on which the chapel is built. He points to it happily and explains that it was bought by selling Dorothy's computer. Years ago we had left an old laptop for him to use, but it had broken down and was put to use for spare parts; the cash was enough for him to cover his chapel floor. I took a ceremonial picture to remember how Dorothy's old Dell was transformed into holy ground.

At first, only the babushkas attended the chapel, but later the younger generation came, a few couples, and this Sunday a little girl brought by her grandparents, her eyes shining as she lit a candle. In the corner, a small choir of four sang, at times blending, at times searching for the right notes, as Sasha obviously had no sense of melody and began his chanting on an unearthly pitch. The lady who led the liturgy frantically used her pitchfork throughout, humming the opening chords and leading with her hands and eyes, trying to keep things in tune. Sasha was the lonely priest, in charge of the entire service, face serious, clad in his golden gown, chanting, lifting holy hands, praying the sacred prayers, remembering the saints and blessing the bread and the wine to become the sacrament of life. The little girl went first, standing before Sasha with her shining eyes and bright smile, looking to her grandmother, for before you are seven years of age you are considered innocent. Sasha stood before the small congregation, a cross in his hand, and preached on this the Sunday after 9/11 as the world was in shock over New York's twin tower tragedy, remembering those who died in the fury of stone and fire on the infamous Nine-Eleven massacre.



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“It is easy to love the Lord, to come to church, to light a candle, to pray the prayers,” he said softly with intention. “But the second command often is the harder one, to love one’s neighbor as yourself. But this belongs to the command to love God, to love also the neighbor, even those who are different.” “Yes,” I thought while Sasha went on, “it is so complex to love one’s neighbor who has become your destroyer. Where is the boundary, God, to cease praying for healing and to recite the imprecatory psalms? When do I cross the dividing line to accept suffering as you taught when I want to crush the evildoer who caused it? How long do we have to wait before Your Kingdom comes?” The little girl began to fidget, for services in the Orthodox church, even the little chapel service, last long. Her innocence was tested, but the end of the sermon proved also the end of the service. I walked outside into the bright fall day to take a few pictures of Sasha’s chapel. As I



stood with my camera ready to preserve my memory of this Sunday morning, an older man walked by, stood suddenly still, and said: “Amerikanski?” I nodded a yes. He stood motionless before me, then slowly bowed his head and made the Orthodox sign of the cross, then looked up at me with intense sadness, and for a moment this stranger and I were staring in one another's moist eyes as if we were one soul. For a moment we were united in a cosmic grief that had gripped the common man and woman who desires times of innocence; a piece of sacred bread and a sip of cleansing wine taken in peace. But the Eucharist is served in remembrance of the crucified Christ in times of war and injustice; He died under Roman rule, and was betrayed in his day by the religious establishment. He died on a cross when it was pitch dark. The old man turned slowly away; our conversation was speechless, as if we knew one another before time began. I

watched the little girl walk back into her world, another world defined by grandparents who held her hands lovingly until she would be seven. Then, she too would lose her innocence.

## OFFICIALLY RETIRED



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### AUGUST 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 |



|           |                                                                              |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 2  | Morning Prayer – 10:30 am Deacon Sami Jo<br>Potluck Lunch                    |
| August 8  | Vestry and Search Committee Workshop with Canon Sean                         |
| August 9  | Worship – 10:30 am<br>Canon Sean will preach and celebrate the Eucharist     |
| August 13 | Vestry – 10 am                                                               |
| August 14 | Ladies Birthday Luncheon – 12 noon                                           |
| August 16 | Worship – 10:30 am Deacon Eucharist<br>Deacons Sami Jo & Deacon Micah        |
| August 23 | Worship – 10:30 am Deacon Eucharist<br>Deacons Sami Jo & Deacon Mich         |
| August 30 | Worship – 10:30 am<br>Father William will preach and celebrate the Eucharist |

| August Birthdays                                                                                             | August Anniversaries         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 Gary Dahl<br>7 Tom Buford<br>7 Dorothy VanderEnde<br>8 Art Smith<br>10 Margie Lambert<br>12 Ted VanderEnde | 13 Theresa and Billy Aughtry |

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