

the All Saints' Monthly

News and Announcements from All Saints' Episcopal Church



Atlanta, Georgia

Writing a New Chapter



Dear Saints,

Normally at this time of year, the June/July edition of Monthly would offer description and detail of what we have coming up over the summer at All Saints'. To say the least, these are not normal times, as we all know well. With the exact nature of what church will look like later this summer still impossible

to name with any certainty at this present time, we have decided to kick-off the summer with a short letter instead.

This time last year, we had just celebrated the Feast of Pentecost with a spectacular 'Dances for Peace' morning led by a remarkable group from Rwanda and we picnicked out in the courtyard, feted by the dramatic drumming talent of our Bahamian community. It was All Saints' at its best: a collaboration of several of our wonderfully talented staff, a combination of the traditional with the innovative, and a lot of really good food! I would like for you to remember that day, and trust that we will return to that kind of fellowship and celebration when the time is right. No doubt you will share our disappointment that familiar favorites like Vacation Bible School and the youth pilgrimage, as well as new ventures like the pilgrimage to Alabama have all had

to be taken off the church calendar. Yet, the truth is that we are not looking to the time ahead of us as the cancellation of church, rather as a chance for us all to write a new chapter in All Saints' history that speaks to the strength and vitality we enjoy as a parish.

Over the next several weeks, the staff will be working hard to reach out to you and determine together what sort of church programs and ministries we can most successfully carry out for the new program year ahead, which starts in August. As we move through the summer and toward the fall, we will continue to listen to you and do all we can to remain connected with all of the saints, honoring the traditions of our program year that we love and inviting you to try out new ways of being the church.

The hope that we might honor the things we treasure and venture into new experiences together is one I hold not only for All Saints' but also for society around us. With all of the tragic loss of this pandemic and the devastating economic impact, we also have been gifted the opportunity to think afresh about what is most important in our lives, and ask again if there is a better, more just, more loving iteration of the life we all share on this planet that could be in our future. The opening is for us to dream of a better world, not in the naive optimism that trusts that somehow we will attain it, but in the living hope people of faith hold in common, that with God nothing is impossible. May we be people of such a faith; today and in the days and years to come.

Summer blessings to you all!

Peace,



Vestry Notes

From the meeting on April 29, 2020

Treasurer Sheldon Taylor reported that the church's overall financial picture looks positive despite losses of anticipated income due to COVID-19. All Saints' was approved for a federal Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. The Finance Committee authorized the purchase and installation of hardware to improve online streaming in the church. Junior Warden Johnathan Stanford reported that a new Public Health Taskforce is being convened to serve an advisory capacity to guide how and when activities can be resumed on our block. The Vestry Elections Committee will meet to discuss the revised timeline for vestry elections.

Senior Warden Todd Silliman continues to be involved in meetings to discuss next steps in remediating the impact of Norfolk-Southern construction on the church campus. Simon Mainwaring reported that the Bishop has authorized a return to live-streaming services with protective protocols including a limited staff on-site. Sydney Cleland and Mary Brennan presented the new All Saints' Cares initiative, offering service opportunities for parishioners. The vestry heard staff reports on Parish Life, Stewardship, Children and Youth Formation and Community Engagement, Young Adults and Innovation, and Worship and Adult Formation. Following a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Notes from May meeting are below



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From the meeting on May 18, 2020

Treasurer Sheldon Taylor reported that April was a difficult month financially, but the church remains in a good financial position. The vestry approved a motion to allocate money for live streaming equipment to be installed in the church. Senior Warden Todd Silliman encouraged the vestry to get involved with the recently launched All Saints' Cares effort and to spread the word about these opportunities for service. Simon Mainwaring updated the vestry on summer planning underway by the church staff, which includes efforts to modify programming so that the essence of programs can be

successfully experienced despite different formats. Sheldon Taylor and Nancy Dodson reported on anticipated changes to the 2020 budget based on the temporary church campus closure. Simon offered the results of the Mutual Ministry Review sent to a group of lay leaders earlier this year. The vestry discussed how the results can guide efforts to enhance connection within the parish. Following a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

All vestry meetings are open. The next meeting will be
Wednesday, June, 22, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.