All Saints' Herald

November 2023

Newsletter of All Saints Anglican Parish Aiken, South Carolina

A Parish of the Anglican Catholic Church Diocese of the South November

All Saints' Herald

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From My Notebook....

Reminiscence The Persimmon Tree



When I was a young child, I loved to climb trees. I was a daredevil, seeing how high I could climb and often jumping off a branch to the ground.

My climbing wasn't limited to just trees. I would climb anything.

I was fearless — the higher the tree, the greater the challenge.

But there was one tree that did get the I took a bite. best of me — a persimmon tree.

Now the persimmon tree we had was not very large; however, its branches were perfect for a comfortable place to loll about with a nice view of the land.

Besides being a good place to loll about, there was the fruit, which I really liked. Of course, I was warned not to pick any of the persimmons. My mother or other member of the family would provide nice ripe persimmons for me.

At age five and fearless, often not heeding the warnings from my elders, I decided one day to pick a persimmon for myself.

No one was around, so I was safe. No one would know that I had availed myself of one of my favorite fruits.

I climbed up into the tree and searched for a nice-looking persimmon and plucked it from its branch.

To me, it appeared perfect — nice and firm with a little blush to it.

My mouth felt as if it would turn inside out.

I couldn't get down from the tree fast enough and into the house, looking for relief of any kind.

Lesson learned. Mind what you're told by your elders.

And, as a persimmon can be deceiving, so can many things in life, leaving a bitter taste in your mouth.

My mother, my uncles and aunts, had a vast knowledge of life and the world around us. From them, I learned so much that, if I take the time to reminisce, I can still benefit from all that

Services & Meetings

Wednesday the 8th....

All Anglican Martyrs & Saints: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 14th.... Vestry meets at 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday the 15st.... St. Albert the Great, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday the 21st.... Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m. No ACW Lunch this day. Men of All Saints' meet at 6:15.p.m.



Lance Davis to be Ordained Deacon

Wednesday the 22nd....

Thanksgiving — No Service

Holy Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday the 29th....

Thursday the 21st....

Communion at 5:30 p.m.

munion at 5:30 p.m.,

Thursday the 2rd....

St. Cecelia, Virgin & Martyr Holy Com-

Vigil of St. Andrew, Apostle & Martyr:

St. Andrew, Apostle & Martyr: Holy

ACTS donation for November:

Pasta Sauce

Members of All Saints' are invited to the Ordination of Lance Davis to the Diaconate on November 18h at 10:00 a.m. The ordination will be at St. Luke's Anglican Church, 3081 Wheeler Road in Augusta, zip code 30909.

Lance is currently the organist at St. Luke's, who has recorded many hymns for our organ at All Saints'.

they tried to teach me as I was growing up.

Life can be bitter, or it can be sweet, just like the persimmon. It all revolves around our understanding of the world.

More importantly, the true sweetness of life can be found in Jesus Christ.

Jesus spoke often of the fig tree but there is something about the persimmon tree that is relevant to our faith in Christ.

The persimmon is both bitter and sweet. The bitterness represents our lack of faith, our worldliness, distancing ourselves from God and refusing the Grace he freely offers us in Love.

The sweetness comes from our ripening Faith when it evolves as a bud on the tree to the fully ripe fruit of our commitment to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Then, we can taste something even sweeter than a fully ripe persimmon. We can taste the sweet Bread of Heaven at the Altar in a Heavenly Banquet.

Announcements & Parish News Scoured from the Weekly Bulletins & Elsewhere

A COVID Challenge

Multiple exposures to COVID during the Market Day Sale proved a challenge, as several activities/services has ve had o be rearranged, as well as getting a fill-in for Fr. Alexander.

At this time, only six tested positive but we decided to err on the side of caution.

Fr. Paul Sterne, from Columbia, graciously stepped in for the November 5th Sunday services, and Chris Roberts officiated at Evening Prayer on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, as Fr. Alexander opted to selfisolate due to the exposure.

As we get into November, things are settling down and returning to normal.

Fortunately, those who contracted COVID quickly recovered.

ACW Lunch Canceled

The ACW lunch for November has been canceled because of its proximity to Thanksgiving. They will resume in December.

Men of All Saints' will meet on Tuesday the 21st

The Men of All Saints' (MOAS) are persistent and will meet on Tuesday the 21st at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall for this month's dinner. Please let Fr. Alexander know if you plan to attend. No menu set at this time but it won't be turkey!. As always, suggestions welcome — volunteer chefs appreciated!

Shoe Box Ministry

Coming up on Sunday, November 12 is the deadline for the collection of shoeboxes filled personally by parishioners for Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes and instructions are available in the Parish Hall. In addition, it is possible to use the interactive website of Samaritan's Purse to give a shoebox filled with gifts selected for a child of a certain age range and sex. It is also possible to send a check to Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607-9956 with the request that it be used for the Shoebox Ministry, or for another of the organization's charitable ministries. The shoebox ministry has previously been popular in this Parish. If you give through either method, please let us know how many boxes you give, and the method you used, so we can track the participation of the Parish.

Rest in Peace

We are sad to announce the loss of Rich Keating, who entered the larger life Sunday afternoon, October 29th. Keep Pixie in your prayers.

Thanksgiving

Customarily, there is no service on Thanksgiving Day, as it would conflict with the Blessing of the Hounds, held in Hitchcock Woods, which appropriately expresses our thankfulness for all of God's Creation

Parishioner meets Movie Star Clare Michelinie traveled to Florida Recently for a Close Encounter with James Caviezel

Clare writes:

I had the opportunity to meet with actor James Caviezel in Naples Fla. recently during a pro-life and child trafficking fundraiser event. James starred in

the **Sound Freedom** and also played in The Passion of the Christ.

James shared with us place during the filming of *The* Passion, included being accidentally whipped (which tore off a piece of his flesh), dislocating his shoulder by carrying the cross, pneumonia, and being truck by lightning



twice. He also needed open heart surgery a week after filming had ended. This hasn't stopped him from agreeing to film The Passion of the Christ : Resurrection coming up next year.

James is a devout Christian and a strong advocate for *Pro Life*. He also strongly encouraged us at the end of his speech to stand up for freedom. His warning was that, if we don't stand up for the freedom that has been given to us, we will commit our children and our children's children to a thousand years of darkness.

A darkness that we each have the power to prevent.

ACW News

by Betty Alexander

The ACW ladies gathered at *Takosu-shi*, agreeing to eat inside rather than outside as had been originally suggested, because it seemed too cool to eat *al fresco*. (Our blood is getting thin, I guess!) Present were **Kim Hardwick**, **Pat Hardwick**, **Cecelia Davies**, **Ann Zouck**, **Betty Alexander**, **Sylvia Riggin**, and **Marion Terrell**.

While awaiting our lunches, we began our conversations, wide-ranging, as usual, from unusual foods (for us), such as the delicious soup that Ann encountered in Germany, a soup later revealed as having been made from assorted entrails, and Sylvia's story of a highly popular Philadelphia restaurant specializing in Philly cheese steaks, which was shut down by the Health Department when it was discovered that the steaks were made from horsemeat.

Another discussion centered on Kim's strategy for preventing armadillos from burrowing near the foundations of her mother's house; she sprinkles crushed garlic and cayenne pepper at the foundations. (Armadillos have a sensitive sense of smell to compensate for their poor eyesight.)

You can learn interesting things at an ACW luncheon! There will be **no** ACW luncheon in November, because the third Tuesday will fall in the same week as Thanksgiving, when everyone has lots of other things to do.

The pace of activities at the church is accelerating. After a busy October,



filled with Oktoberfest and Market Day, an equally busy November.

Also coming up, Sunday, November 12, the deadline for the collection of shoeboxes personally filled by parishioners for Operation Christmas Child. Shoeboxes and instructions are available in the Parish House. It is also possible to use the interactive website of Samaritan's Purse to give a shoebox filled with gifts selected for a child of a certain age range and sex. The shoebox ministry has been popular previously in this Parish. If you give through either method, please let us know how many boxes you give, and the method you used, so we can track the participation of the Parish.

Later in November, we should receive the Christmas wish list of a family we will adopt through **Children's Place**.

Market Day Sale Comes Back after Hiatus

After a four-year break, the ACW Market Day sale made a big comeback, netting more than \$1400 in proceeds for the women's group.

Clare Michelinie took on the job of chairman with the help of a number of volunteers, including Susan Thomas and her husband, Steve, Ruth Ann Prevost, Kathy Clark, Colleen Chandler, Carol Sue Roberts, Pat Hardwick, Chris Roberts, Betty Alexander, Dominique Corbett, Marion Terrell, Amy Connor, and David Merriam.



Thank you to all who volunteered and to all who donated to the sale.





More Market Day Photos



Looking at the photos, one must wonder what was Kathy thinking, above right, as she secured the bishop's portrait. And Chris was not asleep. He was looking down at the calculator on his phone. Susan briefed on procedures just before the doors opened.













In the photo at bottom of the page, David takes a last minute look around before the doors open. There was much to survey!





Men of All Saints'

The **Men of All Saints'** met as usual on the third Tuesday in October to imbibe in good drink, with good fellowship and, of course, excellent fare.

We welcomed a newcomer, **Bob Low**, to the group We were joined by two members of St. Luke's in Augusta, **Lance Davis**, soon to be **Deacon Davis**, and **David Nunnelly**.

Those in attendance also included: Kevin Riordan, Larry Byers, Linzee Whittaker, Carl Bottomley, Chris Roberts, Dieter Voegele, Jerry Burns, David Twigg, Zack Ratchford, and Fr. Alexander.



As best as we can recall, the conversation centered around religion, current affairs, and more specifically the situation in Israel following the attack by Hamas.

It was an interesting evening.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the 21st at 6:15 in the Parish Hall. It will follow the 5:30 service commemorat ing the Presentation of the











The Men of All Saints' salute our chef, **Lena Whittaker**, (above) for keeping us well fed on a fairly regular basis.





















Perfect Weather for Our Annual Event

About 40 people attended the annual Blessing of the Animals this year, escorted by an equal number of canines plus one feline.

All were well-behaved, much to the delight of the canine escorts who led their people around on a leash.



The feline remained safely in her portable security chamber.

Parish Photographer, Forrest Roberts has uploaded to our online *Parish Photo Gallery* all of the photos from the Blessing including the Parish Picnic.





More Photos from the Blessing of the Animals

















Visit the Parish Photo Gallery for More Photos of the Blessing of the Animals







Gratitude by Carl Bottomley

It's been a few months since my last stab at writing something. I offered to continue, and Father generously agreed. So, as the brain droppings continue, please be patient with me. The bits and pieces that are pulled together are nothing more than inner thoughts, transcribed onto paper. Some off-the-wall, some, hopefully of some meaning.

A thought that continues to float though this foggy brain of mine, "gratitude". What does it really mean, and how do we experience it? Is it a feeling, a thought, an action, whether it be an opened door, a warm handshake. Gratitude takes many forms. Personally I am grateful for so much. Certainly, my wife, home and children, the friendships and relationships that I have entered and which stayed in my life. I am grateful for the community my wife and I decided to call home. And, of course, the faith and parish I chose to call my spiritual home. So much as I take my next breath. "Gratitude", is really beyond measure. So complex, and truly a gift from our Lord.

I'd like for each of us to focus for a moment on something that certainly we can all be grateful for, not just me, but all of us as parishioners of All Saints. Father George and his wonderful wife, Betty.

Gratítude ís really beyond measure.... So complex

Sure, Father is with us performing his pastoral duties, sermons that allow us to think of the many ways we absorb our faith and live our faith. Being a shepherd to each of us, always that kind, gentle word. His warm handshake as we exit following mass on Sundays along with those wonderful conversations held with those attending Wednesday and Holy Day services. To those that he is called on to counsel, to provide everything from a kind word to last rites, and Betty, who stands by his side every step of the way. What a wonderful team. Truly called by our Lord into ministry and the long hours, months, and years he has served All Saints selflessly, but let's take it a step further, and how grateful I am for his presence in my life.

The hours spent that no one sees, except, perhaps, Betty, but the small little things that no one realizes take place but are in many cases the reason that All Saints is the church it is today.

Who realizes that Father is the one who sees that the lighter fluid is in adequate supply for the altar candles? Who realizes the behind-the-scenes efforts to coordinate social activities to draw his flock closer together in harmony with our faith. Blessing of the Animals, Men's Night Out, ACW, absolutely. His writing in weekly bulletins,

and our terrific monthly newsletter, everything from Sainthood to recipes. Guiding the vestry with a strong but gentle hand. For simply the years of dedicated service, not just to this Church, but to each of us as parishioners. Trust me, the list of unrecognized tasks and efforts on both of their parts is truly a wonderful gift to each of us. So, as each of us takes our next breath, genuflects, blesses themselves, prays, meditates, please keep both Father and Betty in your thoughts. "Our" Father, does give tirelessly of himself; Betty makes sure he stays upright, and what a wonderful blessing this team is, and certainly to be added high up on our bucket list of things to be grateful for. Would ask everyone in our parish to take a moment, especially as this holiday season approaches, and when next in Father's company, say thank you. When with Betty, take that extra moment and say thank you. We are indeed fortunate to be part of their lives and each of us matter to them. We as a parish community and family need to acknowledge their gifts to us and in a generous way. Happy Thanksgiving, yes, a time of gratitude, thanks Father for all you do.

> God bless, Carl

Pray for People Under Oppression Especially the State of Israel & Ukraine

We are in dangerous times where freedom is under assault, freedom of religion, as well as the basic human freedom to live in peace and security.

The threat today extends outside the Middle East, as our own nation is more vulnerable than ever to attacks within ,due to illegal immigrants penetrating our borders.

Let us pray diligently for the safety and security of our nation, and for all nations that are in danger; let us pray for those currently under attack from within and without; let us pray for all people under oppression, especially for Christians throughout the world; and let us pray for Israel and Ukraine, whose very existence is threatened.

Almighty God, in whom we trust and to whom we turn in dire times: we humbly beseech thee to look mercifully upon the people of Israel and Ukraine, and others who live under oppression and unprovoked aggression. Strengthen them in their struggle to remain free and united, as each continues to hold fast to a moral course. In thy Goodness, deliver them from the threat of tyranny and turn the hearts of the aggressors so that they may end their aggression and pursue peace and harmony. This we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.



Nature As Seen through the Lens by Forrest Roberts Penguins, our favorite flightless Bird, Part 3 Location: Here & There

Penguin at sea, as they are excellent swimmers. Certainly, not as exciting as seeing them on land especially when there are chicks around.



A King on South Georgia and, as you can see, the chicks are already almost as tall. Feeding by the adults is almost a constant operation.



Feeding time by one of the adults on South Georgia.





This is a Rockhopper Penguin in the Falkland Islands.

A large King rookery in South Georgia. Very interesting to walk around the rookery and observe. Better yet if you are on the upwind side.



We were walking back to the Zodiac to go to the ship when a very sudden snowstorm came up. Ahead of us were some Kings walking to the water, and Carol Sue got this great shot of Kings in a whiteout. A Pro photographer on board saw the image and said "I wish I had taken that". These types of whiteouts usually last for just a very few minutes.



Forget it, I am moving north where it's warm.

These Kings were walking along in formation & we were just observing. All of a sudden one does a 180 degree turn, which is most unusual. I was lucky to get a shot with separation of all penguins and had to put a caption on it.

Hope you have enjoyed our favorite flightless birds.



Faith is not a Smorgasbord to Pick and Choose What One Believes By Fr. Alexander

So often, I have written and spoken of the Church as the unchangeable standard around which all else revolves, unchangeable, in that it is the reflection of God on earth, who is unchangeable.

Whereas attempts to rewrite secular history are for naught, so are attempts to rewrite the Church as an evolving reflection of society.

The Church is the earthly reflection of God, of **Truth**, which is revealed, not evolved. Revealed in **Holy Scripture**, it remains a constant that should guide societies as they evolve over the course of time in the face of advancements in science, technology, and various environmental changes.

If we believe that our **Faith** is that which has been once revealed by Jesus Christ to the Apostles, and passed down in the Church through Apostolic teaching and tradition, proven in Holy Scripture, and attested to by reason, then we must adhere to that **Faith**.

Thus, compromise of the standards of **Faith** is not acceptable.

That may seem to be a strong statement; but what else could a Christian say or do?

Jesus Christ never said that the way to eternal life would be easy; and he never said, all I'm doing is throwing out some stuff for you to consider; he did not offer a pick-and-choose Gospel.

Unfortunately, far too many, as we are seeing today, are under the impression that **Christian Faith** and **Morality** are a smorgasbord from which to pick and choose. Take only what you like, it's okay. If it feels good, it's got to be good. If it doesn't fit your lifestyle, then change the standard, not your lifestyle.

Well, the bad news of the Good News is that isn't quite the way it works.

How can we say that? Because we, individually and as a parish, have accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as once revealed, and incorporated it into our lives. It has become who we are and what we are: the standard-bearers of **Faith** and defenders of the **Truth**.

We believe in the unchangeable Nature of God — that he is all loving, all knowing, all powerful, and ever present.

While God would have all his Creation to be saved, the choice remains ours, and the standard is immutable.

Our commission as Christians is to demonstrate, in our lives, to the world the **Truth**, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, revealed, not evolved, through the Church. God is as he always was and will ever be — unchangeable, immutable, unfathomable.

80th Birthday Celebration

Tom Ebert, pictured at the right with **Maryanne**, celebrated his 80th birthday in October. Family members from as far as Portland were present for the celebration. Congratulations, Tom, on becoming an *octogenarian*!





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Editor The Rev. Fr. George F. Alexander Editorial Staff Betty Alexander Photography Forrest Roberts

All Saints' Anglican Church PO Box 2497 - Aiken, SC 29802 allsaints@allsaintsaiken.org

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November Birthdays

- 6 Desiree Voegele
- 13 Betty Alexander
- 14 Jo Cunningham
- 15 Shelby Ruddy
- 18 Trina Crocker
- 20 Dominique Corbett
- 23 Elise Lehman
- 27 Steven Thomas



Childhood Memory The Dreaded Okra Lives

Tis the season, apparently, for okra Seems it's everywhere I go to shop for vegetables, although okra is technically a fruit.

If memory serves me right, okra is one of those Southern staples which many people outside the South may find repulsive because of its tendency to be "slimy".

For some reason, the "slime" turns people off to okra, and that's a shame because, when prepared right, it can be quite good and healthy.

Okra is rich in magnesium, folate, fiber, antioxidants, and vitamins C, K1, and A, and it also contains a protein called lectin, which may inhibit cancer cell growth. The benefits go on with support for heart and brain health, as well as in controlling blood sugar level.

But then there's that "slime".

Okay. Time to get over it and enjoy the many health benefits of okra with this recreation of a dish from my childhood.

I can't remember what it was actually called, but I like the name Okra & Rice. The recipe is based on my recollection of how it was made from watching the family cook prepare it. One of my pastimes was watching "Aunt Elise"

prepare dinner, especially desserts. She wasn't really my aunt but it felt comfortable to call her "Aunt Elise".

Here are the simple ingredients:

12 oz Okra Tomato Sauce, plain 8 oz 3/4 cup Cooked White Rice 3 tbs **Olive Oil** 1/4 cup Water, as needed Salt & Pepper

Cut off the tip and stem end of the okra, and cut into 1/2 inch pieces. Salt & pepper the okra, and gently cook in a pot with the olive oil until it begins to become tender.

Add the tomato sauce and rice. Continue to cook until fully incorporated. Check for salt. It usually takes a little bit more salt than you might think. Now, add a generous amount of pepper. I don't mean half a can of pepper but enough that you can taste its presence.

If it becomes too thick, add a little water as needed. It shouldn't be runny but also not too thick.

As a footnote, this was based on my recollection, and, though I've made it, this is the first time to actually write it down. So, some adjustments may be necessary as you prepare it for yourself.

It goes great with chicken or pork, accompanied with roasted potatoes. Sometimes, I add roasted or boiled small potatoes to the remaining Okra & *Rice* to serve as a refreshed leftover.

There you have it — a Southern favorite, a healthy remembered dish from childhood.

Andiamo a Mangiamare! — Bon Appetit!

Saint of the Month St. Willehad, Bishop & Missionary (c. 745 - 789)

Willehad, born in Northumbria about 745, was educated at York under Ecgbert and was ordained after his education. As a missionary, he was sent to Frisia about 766 to continue the work

of St. Boniface, who had been martyred by the Frisians in 764. Willehad preached at Dokkum and in Overussel but in 777, Saxony was divided into two missionary zones, and Willehad was given charge of the zone called Wigmodia, located between Weser and the Elbe.

Life for Willehad as a Wilhard sugar Super - Spectral Christian Missionary was tenuous, and he barely escaped death on two occasions when the Frisians attempted to kill him.

In 780, Charlemagne sent him to Saxony to evangelize the Saxons but after two years, the Saxons under Widukind rebelled against Charlemagne, and, once again, Willehad had to flee to Frisia, and from there to Rome.

In Rome, he reported to Pope Adrian 1, detailing his work in Saxony and Frisia.

Returning from Rome, he retired to the monastery at Echternach in present -day Luxembourg and spent the next two years reassembling his missionary team.

Following the conquest of the Saxons, Willehad returned to the region around the lower Elbe and lower Weser.



In 787, Willehad was consecrated bishop, and the part of Saxony and Friesland near the mouth of the Weser was assigned to him as his Diocese. He chose Bremen as his See and built a cathedral there which was consecrated in honor of St. Peter on November 1,789 just days before his death.

Just a few days after the cathedral was consecrated,

Willehad took ill, and one of his disciples, seeing that it was very bad, said to Willehad, "Do not soon so forsake your flock exposed to the fury of the wolves."

Willehad answered, "Withhold me not from going to God. My sheep I commend to Him who entrusted them to me and whose mercy is able to protect them"

And so he died on November 8, 789, and was buried by his successor in the new stone church at Bremen.

St. Willehad was the last of the great English missionaries of the eighth century.

Parish Monthly Calendar November 2023 Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday 3 2 1 ж 4 All Souls Day All Saints Day Of the Octave St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop EP 5:30 pm EP 5:30 pm (Comm. & Confessor St. Winifred, Virgin & Martyr 7 8 9 11 6 10 5 Trinity 22 Comm. Octave/All Saints & St. Elisabeth St. Theodore, Martyr Of the Octave of All St. Willibrord, All Anglican Martyr Feria St. Martin, Bishop MP & HC 8:30 Saints Bishop & Saints & Confessor Bible Study 9:30 & Confessor HC 5:30 pm HC 10:30 13 16 12 Trinity 23 14 15 17 18 MP & HC 8:30 Bestowal of St. Albert the Great, American Bible Study 9:30 Bishop, Confessor, St. Gertrude, Virgin St. Hilda, Virgin St. Britius, Bishop St. Hugh, Bishop Episcopate (1784) Doctor & Confessor HC 10:30 & Confessor & Abbess Vestry 5:15 HC 5:30 pm Healing Service 12:00 20 21 22 23 24 25 19 Trinity 24 Comm. St. Elizabeth of Hungary St. Edmund, King Presentation of St. Cecelia, Virgin Thanksgiving St. John of the St. Katherine MP & HC 8:30 B.V.M. Cross, Confessor & Martyr & Martyr Day of Alexandria, Bible Study 9:30 & Doctor HC 5:30 pm HC 5:30 pm Virgin & Martyr HC 10:30 26 Sunday next 27 28 30 29 before Advent Comm. St. Sylvester, Abbot St. Andrew, Apostle Feria Feria Vigil of St. Andrew MP & HC 8:30 & Martyr HC 5:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 HC 5:30 pm HC 10:30