

## **NEIGHBORHOOD LIFE**

### **Rufus Van Horn**

Our Mission Statement: *To do God's work in our neighborhood through service, fellowship, and worship.*

It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood indeed.

2014 began with a leadership change and a few new faces on the Neighborhood Life Committee. Rufus Van Horn assumed the chairmanship while Pamela Cox, Amber Nichols-Buckley, and Walker Dyess joined (with Walker promptly agreeing to serve as our note-taker).

We began the year with reflections on the 2013 Saints' Brew Christmas dinner. This is an annual event with broad participation by many members of All Saints'. Last December, we served 140 guests and estimate that about 150 parishioners contributed food, money, or gifts for the event. We spent about \$500 on the dinner, which was half of what was budgeted. We anticipate doing the same for the 2014 dinner.

With our new team in place, we set to work deciding the neighborhood events for which we would like to represent All Saints'. We were able to set up our bold red tent for the Gum Tree Race in front of the church, offering donuts and juice to spectators. We also set up in front of the church for the Tupelo Christmas Parade, offering hot chocolate. We were able to serve upwards of 175 cups of hot chocolate this year!

Around town, we were also visible at the Elvis Festival Pet Parade and the Back to School Bash at Robins Field. At both events, we set up a play dough table for the neighborhood children. The play dough Elvis was a big hit at the Elvis Festival! At each event, we hosted around a dozen children and their parents.

Special thanks to Pete Poland and Landscape Services who donated supplies for our hay maze in front of All Saints' at the annual Jefferson Street Trunk or Treat event this year. This maze entertained dozens of children of all ages, while ghostly music blasted from our organ. Thanks, Jessica!

At home, we completed our long-term goal of offering free Wi-Fi to those who visit the church grounds. Thanks to Robinson and Associates for designing the signs.

Finally, we've continued our homework on having a fenced playground at All Saints'. That's a big ticket item that we will continue to work on in 2015!

We look forward to being a friendly face of All Saints' at various neighborhood activities in 2015 and welcome your participation in any or all events this upcoming year.