

**SENIOR WARDEN**  
**Albert White**

Is our cup half empty or half full?

In 2015 All Saints' Episcopal Church was met with challenges of faith to some and rewards to many in a year that witnessed Sea Change not only in our parish, nor just in our Diocese and not only in the Episcopal Church of the USA but in the United States and in the World. Yet we held our faith.

Our parish faithfully overcame the potential challenge of our Priest's sabbatical in the middle of summer. Yet our attendance in worship, our commitment to our ministries and our faith in prayer was steadfast. We mourned the loss of more than our share yet we celebrated their lives in Thanks to God for their journeys among us. We supported each other with our pledges and tithes for capital. We have asked for even more sacrificial giving and we are Thankful for every gift as each one is gracious.

Getcha programs folks! Our Adult Sunday School class is full of anticipation, energy and knowledge. Our Scout troop and Pack have made a successful transition to its new home. Saints' Brew has fed thousands. EYC has its own mission in the works. Music soars! The neighborhood builds relationships with God and each other. We celebrate with downtown churches. We trick or treat in the rain. The Mens' group flourishes. On it goes in this place.

We celebrated All Saints' Day with our new Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Brian Sage, in a marvelous celebration of Baptism, Confirmation and Reaffirmation.

We participated in the election and consecration of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry who teaches us that the Episcopal Church is not done with us yet!

The Supreme Court and the General Convention of the Episcopal Church brought an end of one era and the beginning of a new one. No matter what our individual core values may be, it is within all of us not only to accept each other but support each other, to love each other as Christ loves us.

That is one way we are learning to overcome our fears. Our fears in the world whether far or near seem more urgent now than perhaps before. But they are no greater than the fears of generations gone before us in their times or in their places.

This is the body of Christ, the bread of Heaven. The bread we eat gives the energy, the faith to overcome whatever comes next. It always has. It always will.

This is the Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. The consecrated water and wine we drink is replaced by the air God fills in us. It always has. It always will.

And so I report to you of All Saints our Chalice is Full!