

SENIOR WARDEN

Cathy Fitzpatrick

As I sat down to write my first report as Senior Warden, I thought it would be helpful to look at what Dineta wrote last year so I had a better understanding of what was expected of me. Well, I must begin by saying that I can't hold a candle to Dineta's wonderful recap of her year and time as Senior Warden. Maybe by next year on my way out I will be able to have time to sharpen my writing skills!

I can extract from Dineta's report and echo her sentiment that when I began this journey, I too was not certain what was expected of me. There is not much guidance from the diocese on the role of the Senior Warden other than to support our Rector. Stephen King and I agreed the best way to do this and be intentional was to plan monthly lunch meetings, which we did fairly consistently. This also gave us an opportunity to plan and talk about upcoming events, etc.

My term started out with our Vestry retreat and during these two days we worked to establish goals for both the Vestry and the Clergy. We published our goals in our monthly Vestry agenda, so they were front and center every meeting.

Vestry goals/objectives:

- Be intentional about engagement with parishioners or newcomers (personal connection, lunch, coffee, etc.); Share social media posts.
- Help to communicate liturgy explanations to the Parish.
- Increase Vestry attendance at services, events, programs, classes.
- Start each Vestry meeting by reviewing goals and reporting on specific progress.

This was a good practice as it gave us an opportunity to talk about who we reached out to, who we met for the first time, what programs we attended and how we welcomed newcomers to All Saints'. We have already scheduled our Vestry retreat for 2024 and I look forward to expanding upon and setting our goals for the upcoming year.

There were several highlights of the year that I would like to mention. It was nice to see All Saints' in the community this year setting up tents at several community event such as the high school tailgating party, etc. The All Saints' tent is in ready position so if there is an event you are interested in setting up just check in with Phillip and it is ready to go. We have lots of printed materials about the Episcopal Church and All Saints' that are all kept with the tent as well.

Another highlight of the year was the addition of the All Saints' Concert Series. Dineta Newman and Taylor Sparks along with the choir and Tracy Proctor held 4 wonderful events that brought many from our community into All Saints'. If you did not have a chance to attend, please make sure you attend this year as they have a wonderful slate of events already scheduled for 2024.

The accomplishments in 2023 would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our clergy, staff and volunteers. Looking to 2024, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for All Saints'. We need everyone's continued support and active participation so if you haven't found a place to plug in, please let us know and we can help you engage!