

SENIOR WARDEN Cathy Fitzpatrick

As we do each year, 2024 began with our Vestry retreat to set our goals for the upcoming year. This year we focused primarily on membership, membership engagement and growing our youth. The following visioning goals for 2024 were discussed at the beginning of each Vestry meeting:

- New member engagement.
- Newcomers gathering.
- Re-establish the Men's Group and the ECW.
- Website refresh/redesign.
- Wednesday night dinner/program refresh/redesign.

The first item on the agenda for 2024 was the "Burn the Note" campaign which was successfully co-chaired by Wayne Averett and Donna Timmons. With their leadership and hard work, All Saints' responded and raised the necessary dollars to fund the debt servicing through the life of the loan in December of 2026. We all look forward to burning the note at Epiphany in 2027!

The Vestry took the Wednesday night dinner to the parishioners to find out what was important to you and what programming you would like to see with our Wednesday night potlucks. With a simple survey sent out to the parish, we revised the Wednesday night dinners and have seen a growth in attendance. We moved to one Wednesday night a month, took away the potluck and brought in prepared meals, and stepped up the programming. Our attendance at these dinners is now running between 50 and 60 people and we have had some fun and informative programs.

We all love a competition, and this has been silently ongoing between the men's group and the women of ECW! Under the leadership of the Richard Pate, the men's group has come alive with strong attendance, food and fellowship on the last Saturday morning of the month. The ECW had a strong revival with over 30 in attendance at our inaugural meeting. We discussed programming ideas and enjoyed each other's company. Our combined Christmas gathering was a tremendous success with over 70 in attendance. The combined gathering was such a success we plan on doing this in both the summer and winter in 2025!

Sue Ann Averett and Marrion Winders both agreed to co-chair our website committee. Their committee has been working hard behind the scenes to update and improve our website not only for our members but for newcomers and people who are looking for a church. The new website will be easier to navigate with both an interactive calendar and a portal for members of the church. Accessible by both your phone and desktop we hope this will make it easier

for members to see what is going on in the life of All Saints'. We are excited to be able to share this website with you at the Annual meeting in February.

With membership and growth being front and center, all these initiatives provide an opportunity to engage new members at All Saints'. It is important that we help new members find a home at All Saints' and reestablishing the men's group and ECW are two opportunities to invite people to come and explore. Fred and Kaye Cannon graciously hosted a newcomer social at their home in the fall as an opportunity to visit with newcomers away from the church in a smaller setting. This will be something that we can continue each year to help with new member engagement.

The Vestry also established a Columbarium committee chaired by Les Alvis. His committee has also been working behind the scenes discussing options for an outdoor columbarium. With limited space available in the indoor columbarium, their work is extremely important and will be unveiled sometime early this year.

One of the hardest tasks the Vestry faced this year was what to do with the wonderful gift of the NCAAD house. After the completion of the "Burn the Note" Campaign, we spent three months discussing all the diverse options for the house. We knew that we needed to take sufficient time to carefully explore all the possibilities. Throughout the process, the Vestry had good open dialogue as we debated our options. During our final meeting, the Vestry changed the lens and our discussion moved from property to people. All Saints' is here because of our people, and we need to be able to attract new, young families with children to grow our church. The Vestry unanimously decided that the overall best interests of the parish's mission are served by selling the house. We subsequently listed the house with Frank Anger of Elite Realty and had a contract within a few days.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Senior Warden and look forward to the continued work of the Vestry in 2025. This Vestry has worked hard to lay the groundwork for the new Vestry to continue in our continued efforts to grow and engage. If you have not found a place to plug in, please let us know and we can help you engage.