



The Grapevine



God's Purpose at ASLC is to welcome and accept everyone, improving their lives by embodying Christ's love.

Volume 22, Issue 1

Mission: To be a family of faith, empowered by God, to proclaim Jesus Christ.

January 2019



Pr. Joshua W. Gyson

and the Prez says . . .

By: Nicole Aiello

I ran into a quote today from Martin Luther that I loved the moment I read it. It was simple and said, "Security is the ultimate idol." You see, this past year of mine has definitely challenged just how secure I feel in this world, after having an injured foot (causing me to limp for a month), a heart attack, and kidney stones. After all of this, I definitely want that feeling of ultimate safety. My mortality is setting in and I don't really like it. So...the truth in this phrase rang out like a church bell breaking the silence of night, it came as a direct challenge to change and become a more faithful Christian.

To help put this quote into context, I discovered it while doing exegetical work (a line by line Bible Study) of the Book of Acts to prepare for the Easter Season. One of the commentators in the book I was reading used the Luther quote to help explain why two characters in the Book of Acts couldn't give all of themselves to God...they put their faith in their money to give them the security they desired.

The story goes like this. Once upon a time in the early church there was a man named Barnabas, he was a faithful person (a traveling partner of Paul's actually) who decided one day that he was going to take everything he had, sell it, and give it to the church community to help anybody that need it (him included). Barnabas is held up as our positive example in Acts, but then enters the characters of Ananias and his wife Sapphira who become an example of what we shouldn't do.

Well...the story goes that Ananias wants to make it seem like he is fully invested in the church, and that he trusts God will take care of him through his community; so he goes and publicly sells what he has and gives it to the church. BUT, what he doesn't let anybody else know is that he has kept a secret stash for himself. While he wants to look like a pious man on the outside (and really, too, probably wants to be one on the inside), as of now he hasn't changed at all. He is simply not willing to be fully invested in God's community (the Church), and he does not have the faith that God is his ultimate source of security.

And so as the story continues, Ananias comes before the church leader, Peter, with a look of pride on his face for all that he has done for God and the Church, but Peter somehow knows it is all a lie, that he wanted others to think he was fully invested in this new 'Jesus Movement,' but that deep down he wasn't. Peter confronts him and explains that you may have thought you were just lying to us, your neighbors and your church, but your problem is a lot bigger than that! You lied to God! And right away, before Ananias can ever really respond, the Book of Acts tells us, Ananias drops dead for being a hypocrite, for trying to hold up a façade for others to look up to him, for lying to God, for pretending to be fully invested when he simply wasn't, for making it seem that he believed his security was in God, but he never could get that far.

There are a couple of lessons to be learned here that seem to be pertinent to our time in the world, where we too turn to our safety and security in almost everything other than God, putting up literal and figurative walls around us so that we can be safe. The first lesson is the simplest – Don't lie to God that you are all in when you in fact aren't. You won't get away with it...God knows what is in your heart. And a second lesson – Those who like the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21 who attempt to secure life through material things receive not

From the Pastor continued on Page 2

It is with great pleasure I introduce myself as your new Mission Team President. Some of you have watched me grow up in this church, from a young elementary student sitting on the steps listening to the children's sermon, to watching me walk down the aisle on my wedding day. We have shared the joys of my daughter's birth and all of the many emotions as we have navigated Autism. Through it all I have shared in your joys of marriage, children (some of us pregnant at the same time), grandchildren, great grandchildren, new friendships and loss, some leaving for new adventures and others to watch over us from heaven. You truly are my church family.

During my time at All Saints, I have seen many new chapters written. Our latest chapter has included a new pastor and as any good story we have had our ups and downs. Our most recent down has been the finances, but I am encouraged by everyone's response and hope for our future. We have also started many new ministries over the last several years and have more that will be starting. I see us closing this chapter on transition and starting the next chapter. I am excited to see, encourage, and be a part of this coming chapter.

I look forward to working with everyone and excited for all this year will bring.

Nicole

From the Pastor continued from Page 1

life but death. This is where Luther's quote comes in...remember that Luther once called security the ultimate idol. The lesson is to let that idol go and to have life in Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, as you begin your New Year, I ask that you think about where your real security will come from this next year. What makes you feel safe? Is it God? Is it just God, can you let the rest go? And if so, or you'd like it to be so...I'd invite you to invest your time and everything you are into that relationship. This is just in case you are still looking for a New Year's Resolution. I'm going to try and make this mine. God knows I need it...the real security that we all so desperately need right now.

Thanks for making it to the end.

Pr. Josh

Brown Bags

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Family Bags for A Brighter Community, from providing funding, to donating food, to helping pack and deliver them. It was a big undertaking but one we are sure that the families genuinely appreciate.

We will have a little bit of a break, but will be back to packing our weekly bags in January.

"These are all of our children. We will all profit or pay for whatever they become." - James Baldwin

Christian Social Services

The Angel gift program was extremely successful this year. All Saints members were generous in purchasing gifts for the angels, and also were present to help with sorting and distributing to the families. 83 families received food vouchers and over 200 children received multiple gifts. This would not have been possible without your help!

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for Me" (Matt. 25:40)

Free Little Pantry

Our Free Little Pantry has been busy throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Items in the pantry, ranging from non-perishables, to hygiene, to baby items, can help make ends meet when finances get tight.

Reverse Advent Calendars

This Advent project was a huge success with many items being donated to C.S.S., the Free Little Pantry, and YES! of America! Items can be donated to these ministries throughout the year using the barrels in Malivuk Hall.

Mission Team Meeting

Our next Mission Team meeting is Wednesday, January 9th at 7 pm.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February Grapevine is Monday, January 14th.

On the New Year Path

By Melanie Werner

A sigh of relief!
Commercial Christmas is gone.
Our true belief,
God to earth has come!
Magi brought presents,
Frankincense, Myrrh and Gold,
To honor Christ's presence
And His calling foretold.
The gifts we're all given
By an all-knowing God
To be used in God's Kingdom
For an unknowing world.
There's much to be done,
Each have gifts to use
In the world and at home
To spread the Good News.
Come let us bask
In God's gracious love
Here's what God asks
Use your gifts from above.

Meals on Wheels



MOW is a private non-profit community organization that provides hot nutritious meals on weekdays to the elderly and homebound.

MOW has added several new routes recently and are looking for volunteers. Drivers are needed to deliver a route in their own vehicle, which takes about an hour. Drop off at All Saints is around 11 am, but there are other locations throughout Tampa with earlier and later times.

For more info, please visit www.MOWTampa.org and click the green Volunteer button or call (813) 238-8410 to get started!

YES! of America

Happy New Year 2019! With bright hats, whistles, and noise makers YES! will be welcoming new adventures within our community. We will be celebrating with the Pasco nursing home veterans on January 10th, and the Riding on Wings in Dade City for February 18th Valentine's Party to start out the outreaches for inclusion in our community. This leads up to Craig and I going to advocate for disability issues in Tallahassee in March. We continue to ask for support and prayers for the mission and vision for people living with disabilities, our veterans, our kids at risk and the working poor. Please continue to support our endeavors. Again Happy New Year...The YES! team

Faith Formation

Our Faith formation classes will resume on Sunday, January 27th. There is something for everyone from infant to adult.

Nursery age to Pre-K will be in the nursery where they will hear a Bible study and have coloring time. Kindergarten through 5th grade will be in Classroom 1, learning to connect what they hear in worship with their everyday lives. Those in grade 6 to 8 will participate in Confirmation upstairs in the youth room. High School student will meet in the sanctuary and hear how the Bible stories connect with real life stories in the here and now. Adults will review the day's lessons in Malivuk Hall.

**Deacon Continuing Education Class
January 14th at 6:30 pm**

As part of the Deacon Continuing Education Classes, Pastor Josh will be doing a class on Ethics. Many people want there to be a single right answer to ethical questions, because they genuinely want to do the 'right' things. But often, there isn't one right answer—there are several right answers, or just some least worse answers—and we must choose between them. This class will give us an overview of Ethics, leading up to Christian Ethics, complete with case studies. If you are interested, please let Pr. Josh know.

Musical Notes



In January, the adult music group will return to our Thursday evening practice schedule at 7:30 pm. There will be youth music practices on January 27th and February 24th after Faith Formation with pizza for lunch. If you have any questions about practices, or are interested in doing special music, please see Marcia Greensfelder.

Bloodmobile

Sunday, January 13th from 9 am until noon

Did you know someone needs a blood transfusion every two seconds, and one out of every three people will need a transfusion at some point in their life? One donation helps save the lives of three people here in our local community within 48 to 72 hours. The turnaround is that fast and the need is constant.

To donate blood, you must be at least 16 years old, weigh 110+ pounds, and be generally in good health. The process takes about 35 minutes per donor. Donors receive a free health screening which includes blood pressure, pulse rate, iron and cholesterol levels, blood typing, and several disease screenings.

In addition, there are health benefits to donating blood regularly, including lowering cholesterol levels and reducing the risk of heart disease.

Let's keep the bloodmobile coming back to All Saints by donating blood. It is fast, simple, and truly one way to be a hero and help save lives.

Worship Time is 9:47 am

Acolyte: January 6: Jackson Kamp. January 13: Keller Gyson. January 20: Kahlie McCarty. January 27: Aaliyah Caynor.

Altar Guild: Set-up: January 6 & 13: Ben and Kaye High. January 20 & 27: Cindy Kamp. Clean-Up: January 6 & 13: Judy Callan and Joan Morris. January 20 & 27: Ilse Corydon and Trudy Heselton.

Assisting Minister: January 6 & 13: Cindy Kamp. January 20 & 27: Dave Sanders.

Lectors: 1/6: David Sticklin. 1/13: Anna Breede. 1/20: Andy Malivuk. 1/27: Donna Bryant.

Crucifer: January 6 & 13: Duncan Engel. January 20 & 27: Cindy Kamp.

Ushers: Adam Blair, Gary Blair, Larry Bryant, and Stuart Krell.

Projector: 1/6: Joshua Chellarajan. 1/13: Anthony Williams. 1/20: Judy Callan. 1/27: David Sticklin.

Tellers: Erin Brown and Gwen Walkowiak.

Greeters: January 6 & 13: David Sticklin. January 20 & 27: Bob Sticklin.

Communion Bread: Cindy Kamp

Communion Wine: Don and Trudy Heselton.

~ ~ ENABLERS ~ ~

**Labyrinth Work Dates
December 29th and January 5th
from 9 am until noon**

The Second Sunday meal was a huge success, raising all the funds needed to start our project! In December, we will begin to stake off the area in preparation for two scheduled work dates, December 29th and January 5th. Work will begin at 9 am and will wrap up with lunch served at noon. We hope you will be able to come out and help!



Book Club

Our next Book Club is on January 4th at 6:30 pm at the home of Marcia Greensfelder. We will read The Mystery of Julia Episcopa by John I Rigoli and Diane Cummings. It's Book 1 of The Vatican Chronicles and has two intertwined stories set 2000 years ago AND in modern day. Please bring a food item to share and your favorite beverage.

Mission Team Installation

Members of the 2019 Mission Team will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 6th.

**Second Sunday Meal
January 13th after Worship**

This will be our first Second Sunday meal of 2019 and we are going to start it off with a Taco Bar with vegetarian and gluten free options! Why tacos, you might ask? This fundraiser will be in support of Courtney Noya and her time as a YAGM in Mexico.

Let's Taco



Don't YAGM!

We will also have a visit from another young adult, Katie Elkin, who spent a year as a YAGM in Farafangana, Madagascar. She will share more information about the program and answer any questions you might have.

If you would like to host a Second Sunday meal in 2019 in support of a non-profit ministry, please see the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Wednesday Night Supper and Study

We took some time off during the holidays, but it is time to get back to the great stories of Women in the Bible. Our last session was on Mary, the Mother of Jesus, which seemed fitting for Christmas. We will go in a completely different direction when we return on January 16th, as we discuss the story of Jezebel.

A potluck meal will start the evening at 6:30 pm and the study will start at 7 pm. We end the evening with Communion. So why not try something new this year, and check out our intergenerational Supper and Study.

Brewery Tour

On Friday, January 18th, we will be going to Brasserie Saint Somewhere, a small batch-brewery in Tarpon Springs, owned by Anne Sylvester. We will meet there at 7 pm. For those interested in dinner beforehand, we will meet at 6 pm at a location to be decided by those planning to participate. Please sign up in the narthex.

Annual Meeting

After worship on January 20th, we'll take time to reflect upon the past year, and look ahead to a new year together as we continue to strive to do God's work in the world. There is no set agenda.

**Lightning Watch Party
February 1st at 6:30 pm**

Watch the Lightning take on the New York Islanders, and learn more about the game from an off-ice official. On Friday, February 1st, we will have dinner at 6 pm and then watch the game at 7 pm. Please sign up to attend in the narthex, so we know how much seating to reserve and where we will meet based on expected participation.

"Soup"er Bowl of Caring/Chili Cook-off

We will collect non-perishable food for Christian Social Services. Plus, we'll watch the big game on February 3rd in Malivuk Hall.

Winter Fest—Florida Style!

All Saints will be holding a Winter Fest on February 23rd for the whole community. There will be tables available for crafts, and a bake sale. There will also be food, fun, and games for the children. It will take many hands to make this a fun, successful day. If you have ideas, or are able and willing to help, please see David Sticklin, Duncan Engel, or Melanie Werner. Watch the bulletins, newsletters and Facebook for more information to come.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, differently-abled or anything that too often divides us.

Our unity is in Christ.

Repurposing Plants!

By Donna Bryant

Well it finally happened, the flower beds in front of the portico (the covered drive-through at the church entrance) are landscaped. Although some of the plants were purchased, some were propagated from member's plants to help make the project more affordable.

Do you have plants in your yard that have multiplied and need thinning? My white Bird of Paradise plants are threatening to take over. Some of the babies will be used in the pots by the new building. The hibiscus have out grown the pots so they will go between the stain glass windows to replace the bushes that have died off.

Some of our landscaping is original with the building and is looking a little tired. We will be freshening things up through the spring and could use easy care, drought tolerant plants. We might even have someone who will thin out those plants for you. Have a comment or just interested in what is going on, contact me at 813-968-1688 or nanadonna@tampabay.rr.com.

Gardening tip of the month: Melaleuca mulch (in our newly planted beds) is made from the exotic invasive trees that are threatening our wetlands. The product is cured at a high temperature to kill the seeds so they won't germinate in your garden. Using this mulch promotes removal of invasive exotics, it doesn't float, is not attractive to termites, and cured to eliminate burrowing nematode. It is endorsed by Friends of the Everglades and at \$2.29 a bag it is also economical.

Check out the progress on our Labyrinth. Next work day is December 29th, and hopefully completion day is January 5th from 9 to noon both days.



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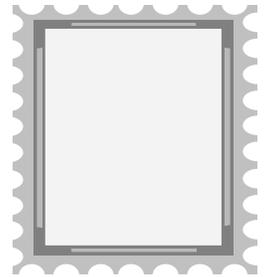
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Mission Team

Pastor:	Joshua Gyson
President:	Nicole Aiello
V President:	Anthony Williams
Secretary:	Emma Brown
Treasurer:	Cindy Kamp
Larry Bryant	Heidi Lacko
Paul Oldenburg	Rob Sabatini
Anne Sylvester	David Walkowiak

Donation Options

- ♥ Sunday Offering Plate
- ♥ On-Line Banking



Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month!