

Episcopal Church of  
**ALL SAINTS AND  
ASCENSION**

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All Saints and Ascension**

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**The Rev. Michael G Dunnington  
Priest in Charge**

Karen Mosley-Admn. Assistant  
Chrissy Bellizzi-Music Director

**Administrative Asst. Office Hours:**  
9am-3pm Monday thru Wednesday  
**Priest in Charge Office Hours:**  
8:30am-4pm Monday thru Wednesday

Celebrate the  
resurrection of  
our Lord!

**Easter**  
*Blessings*



**Easter Mass 10am April 21**

## Getting To Know You

deeply rooted in her upbringing at St. Agnes Episcopal Church. Over the years, she has solidly demonstrated her commitment to her faith and her profession.

Eventually Betty went to Baton Rouge to study sociology and geography at Southern University where she became a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She graduated with a BA degree along with multiple honors including Magna Cum Laude. Her achievements qualified her to pursue an advanced sociology certification, and she was granted a fellowship at Washington University. While attending school in St. Louis, Betty met the late **Milton Patton**. They married and were blessed with a daughter, fellow parishioner **Valerie Patton**.

Mrs. Patton quickly learned to balance raising a family with launching her career at the St. Louis Housing Authority. Shortly thereafter, she took a job as Deputy Juvenile Officer for the State of Missouri. And if that wasn't enough,

Congratulations **Betty Conyers Patton** who recently celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday! Growing up in Miami, Florida, her strong faith was

she enrolled at St. Louis University and earned a Master of Social Work degree. This sparked her gradual move up the ranks at work. After certification by the National College of Juvenile Justice in Reno, NV, she was appointed Chief Juvenile Officer.

But Betty never lost track of making the Episcopal church a priority. As a communicant of All Saints, she has been a member (and/or officer) in almost every parish organization. An abbreviated list includes: Vestry/Sr. Warden, Altar Guild, St. Mary's Guild, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Acolyte, and the Union of Black Episcopalians. Her professional youth training proved to be an asset in mentoring many of our children as a Sunday school teacher. During many of the church's hard times, she worked tirelessly volunteering for tasks to keep us going. However, she is quick to give thanks for the mentorship she herself received from other parishioners such as the late **William Abernathy, Helen Moore, Lamar Smith, and Maxine Stark**. She is also quick to praise the spiritual leadership given by **Fathers Nicholson, Tomas, Washington, and Dunnington**. Betty Patton's dedication to our parish validates that she truly knows how to "pay it forward"!



Betty  
Patton

### GUESS WHO?

This photo was  
taken in the 1960s.

Answer page 4.



**Why wish upon a star,  
when you can pray to  
the one that created it?**  
Worship with us every Sunday at 10:00 am.

The  
**MESSENGER**  
Broadcast Newsletter

April 2019

2nd Quarter

### Father Dunnington Announces Retirement

At the January annual parish meeting, The Reverend **Michael Dunnington** announced that he was delivering his final annual address that he expected to be making to the congregation. By doing so, he announced his plans to retire, and that he will conduct his final Holy Eucharist for us as the Priest in Charge on Sunday, April 28, 2019. This year marks almost 16 years of service that he and first lady, **Leslie Dunnington**, have served either Ascension or All Saints separately, or collectively. Their tenure will remain impactful as we continue our journey well beyond our 145 plus years of history.



Best Wishes  
Father D & Leslie

After the annual meeting in a letter to the congregation, our new senior warden, **Bill Young**, confirmed the retirement. He stated that we are forever grateful for Father Dunnington's spiritual leadership, and for his support of the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension. Bill also announce that the Vestry has established a search committee, and is working with the Diocese to identify new pastoral leadership for the parish.

Father D was slated to retire some time ago. But with the permission of the Bishop, he stayed committed to us until we achieved some stability with the merger of our two churches. Our deepest gratitude is extended for his hard work during this special ministry, and for his spiritual and administrative guidance.

*"Your faithful service is an offering to God. We will not forget how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers." Philipians 2:17 & Hebrews 6:10.*



## A Message from the Priest In Charge



The Rev. Michael Dunnigton

Dear Friends,

This is the last time I will be writing to you as your Priest in Charge. My last Sunday with you (April 28) will be here in much too short a time. After that date, I will have to stay away from All Saints and Ascension, not even able to serve as Supply Priest. Even though this will be painful for me, it's a good idea, and a true gift to your new priest. The worst situation for any new priest is to have the former priest hanging around and (probably) interfering in the administration of the parish. So, you won't see me around for a good while.

You can't know what a wonderful growth experience it has been for me (and for Leslie) to serve as your priest. I still remember getting a call from **Midge Winston** in 2003, asking me to serve as long-term Supply Priest at All Saints. She mentioned, "We're a historically black parish, if that makes any difference." I was tempted to respond, "Yes, and I'm a historically white priest, if that

makes any difference." Midge and I have chuckled about that many times since.

Getting to know you, hearing your stories of "living while Black," has opened my eyes and my mind to the racism that infects so many white folks, even when they're not aware of it. White privilege (and male privilege) is something that is very real, and only having one's consciousness raised (as you all have done for me) can awaken one to its pernicious effects on people of color.

So thanks for sharing so much of your lives over the past sixteen years, thanks for so much wonderful soul food, and thanks for allowing me to serve you as your priest.

I'll miss you, but you'll forever be in my thoughts and prayers.

Much love to you all,

*Fr. Michael Dunnigton*



## Helping the Homebound Stay Connected



Stanley Johnson

Our parish has Lay Eucharistic Ministers who are licensed to dispense communion to the sick, homebound, and to those simply unable to attend church. One such visiting minister is **Stanley Johnson** who volunteers and serves about six homebound parishioners every month. Administering the holy sacraments only takes about 5 minutes. But his total visiting time usually last about 30 minutes or more. Stanley says that the extra time to socialize is just as important as communion.

This is because most people cherish having interaction with those from the outside.

Stanley has been a licensed visiting Lay Eucharistic Minister for over 25 years. He knows first hand how it feels to be "forgotten" by the church while caring for his mother and first wife when they were terminally ill. But eventually they received Eucharistic visits from **Rose Marie Bell** and **Edna Elam** (former parishioners). Shortly after both loved ones passed, Johnson was inspired and answered the call to this important ministry of serving homebound parishioners. He vowed to help others from becoming forgotten and disconnected.



Cleo Anderson

One of the six regular visits Stanley makes is to **Cleopatra Anderson**. Mama Cleo views his visits as an extension of the many forms of caregiving she receives at **Delmar Gardens North**. One of her favorite sayings these days is, "I thank God for giving my caregivers the training and knowledge they need to be able to take care of me". This includes Stanley's caring visits.

It is very important that everyone understands that for someone to receive Eucharistic visits that a visitation must be REQUESTED. Many times, the church is simply not aware of a shut-in situation. If you, or a parishioner that you know, would like a lay minister to call on them, please advise the church. Often, one of the ministers will reach out to see if a visitation is desired. But they do not assume that if a member of our church has been reported ill, that the parishioner automatically wants a visitation. Keep in mind that there are some who are private people, and we want to respect their privacy. Just remember that there is no reason for anyone to feel forgotten if a visitation is desired. Simply call the parish office and request it.

## HOLY LISTENING

On March 10, 2019, **Deacon Chester Hines Jr** and **Elizabeth Kroes-Asher**, members of the bishop search and nominating committee, visited All Saints and Ascension to get our feedback on the qualities expected of our next bishop. In preparation for the visit they asked the members of the congregation to think about the following question:

**Jump ahead to ten years from now. What accomplishments do you hope the bishop will have led us to?**

In the meeting, parishioners were divided into several discussion groups. This main question, and several other issues, were distributed among the groups for discussion. Each group summarized and reported their discussion to the overall group for further conversation and recording.

The Diocese has emphasized that the members of the search committee were serious about wanting to hear our voices. They indicated that they were committed to receiving as much input as possible about how people in our congregation and other ministry groups see our diocese going forward. They want to know everyone's vision regarding the work of the Episcopal Church in Missouri, and what we hope for and think we need in a new Bishop.

Holy Listening at All Saints & Ascension Church was originally postponed due to inclement weather. But it was finally rescheduled and coincided with our Black History Celebration potluck dinner which also had to be rescheduled due to weather. It was a very busy Sunday, but thanks to all who endured and offered feedback to the Diocese.





## Event Schedule (visit [allsaintsascension.com/schedule](http://allsaintsascension.com/schedule) for calendar updates)

Apr 14	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Mass
Apr 21	10:00 am	Easter Mass
April 26-28	n/a	ECW Province V Annual Meeting (Springfield, IL)
Apr 28	10:00 am	Father Dunnington's Retirement / Holy Eucharist
May 5 & 12	10:00 am	UTO (United Thank Offering) Spring Ingathering
May 12	11:30 am	Mothers Day Brunch (sponsored by Men's Club) following 10am Service
May 27	Closed	Memorial Day—Church Office Closed
May 30	10:00 am	Ascension Thursday Holy Eucharist (Feast of the Ascension)
Jun 16	10:00 am	Fathers Day Celebration (sponsored by ECW) following 10am Service

Mark  
Your  
Calendars!

### RECURRING SCHEDULE:

Holy Eucharist Service	10:00 am	Every Sunday
Sunday Morning Prayer	8:00 am	Every 1st & 3rd Sunday (Jan 6 & 20; Feb 3 & 17; Mar 3 & 17)
Healing Service	11:15 am	Every 4th Sunday (Immediately following the Holy Eucharist Service)
Daily Morning Prayer	8:30 am	Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Noonday Prayer	12:00 pm	Every Tuesday
Food Pantry	10am-1pm	Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday (Deaconess nurse will check vital signs)
Men's Club Meeting	9:00 am	Every 2nd Sunday
ECW Meeting	9:00 am	Every 4th Sunday

### Vestry 2019

At the January 27th annual meeting, the Vestry was reduced from 10 to 9 members. Six members rotated off and five new ones were elected. The resulting roster for 2019 is as follows:

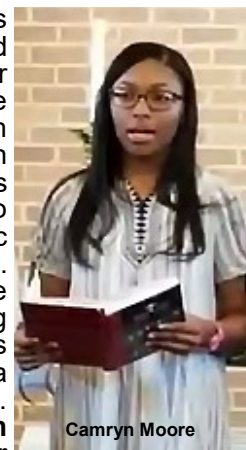
- ♦ **Rebecca Bond-Williams** (Alternate Lay Delegate)
- ♦ **Sondra Harrell**
- ♦ **Stanley Johnson**
- ♦ **Rickey Mabry**
- ♦ **Prince Thomas** (Jr. Warden)
- ♦ **Michael Watson**
- ♦ **Machelle West** (Lay Delegate)
- ♦ **Gaylard Williams**
- ♦ **William Young** (Sr. Warden)



### Spotlight On Youth



**Camryn Moore** was nominated and selected as a *Mission Model* for the month of February at Incarnate Word Academy where she is a high school freshman. She was chosen because she expresses her school's mission statement in striving to achieve her God-given academic potential as a "Woman of Word". She is focused, an outstanding role model, committed to excelling academically, and she empowers herself and others to make a positive impact on the world. Camryn and her sisters, **Cayleigh** and **Camille** are members of our Community Children's Choir and often sing at parish events. They are the proud granddaughters of parishioner, **Joyce Crittenden**. Do join us in congratulating Camryn for receiving this distinguished honor!



Camryn Moore

### Special Presentation



Pat Heeter

Congratulations to **Patricia Heeter** for being proclaimed the "Woman of the Year"! She was presented a special award at the annual meeting for managing and securing All Saints property and fixtures before and during the transition to the Ascension building. She received a standing ovation.



Diana Oliver

### BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

On March 10th, after several cancellations due to the weather, organizer **Machelle West** finally pulled together the Black History Celebration following Holy Eucharist conducted by **The Rev. Sally Weaver**. **Diana Oliver**, mistress of ceremonies, kept the program moving along which included musical selections from our Adult and Community Children's Choirs. **Stella Hughes**, **Ariana Lacey**, **Mildred Lewis**, **Sylvia Thomas**, **Michael Watson**, and **Annie White** read literary selections. Before concluding and proceeding to a bountiful pot luck dinner, everyone sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing".

### Jeopardy!

On January 3rd, our music director, **Chrissy Bellizzi**, was a contestant on the popular TV quiz show, Jeopardy! She did not win the competition that day, but in our eyes she is a winner. It is quite a feat and honor to even be chosen to compete among countless applicants. Congratulations Chrissy!



Alex Trebek

Chrissy Bellizzi



## Announcements

### ECW Lenten Quiet Day



Thirteen ladies gave themselves a spiritual lift, and found themselves renewed and refreshed, at a Lenten Quiet Day at All Saints Ascension on March 16th. Chaplin Deborah Burris (2nd from the left, top row) with Episcopal City Mission was the presenter. *Laura Mabry photo.*

**Fish Fry Sold Out Again!** Stanley Johnson and the Men's Club would like to thank everyone for their patronage. New record this year-120 pounds of fish sold!

### Coming Soon!

Soon we will have a new outdoor sign to grace our church building! The sign will be a state-of-the-art, computerized sign that will allow us to easily change messages. Fifty percent of the funding will come from the Diocese.



### Easter Lily Dedication Deadline April 14th



Lilies will again be used to grace our nave for Easter. Dedications are \$5.00 per line. See an usher for a form or obtain one from the parish website.

### In Memoriam (2nd Quarter 2019)

**Alice Okrafosmart**  
105 years of life!



### Caring Reminders



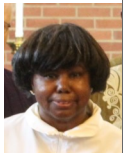
**Cleo Anderson**  
**Kimberley Baker**  
**Harriett Barrett**  
**Juanita Carroll**  
**Bessie Clemmons**  
**Suzanne Harris**  
**Jack Ingram**  
**Jay Lucas Johnson**  
**Virgil Lucas**  
**Louise McElroy**  
**Mary Stafford**  
**Thelma Stephens**

(Note: Listing as of 3/17/19 Check the weekly bulletin for updates)

**Answer to "Guess Who?"**  
on page 1.

**Machelle West**

Worship Leader  
Vestry Member  
Altar Guild



### Motivations by Mildred



*"We are treated as imposters and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything". 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians, Chapter 6. Verses 8-10.*

I chose this scripture because it seems to speak to many of those close to us. Sometimes we may feel that we are not treated with the respect and dignity that we deserve. However the above scripture lets us know that regardless of adverse circumstances that we have endured over the years, we have made great contributions to society, regardless of our social status or financial condition.

So let us also give thanks for all our blessings and for generations of witnesses who have paved the way for us through many years of struggle. I especially reflected on this as we celebrated Black History Month. And I will continue to celebrate our blessings, heritage, and many accomplishments every month.

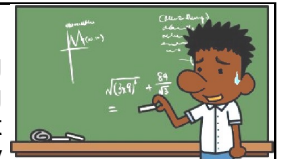
### Please Join Us for

**Mothers Day Brunch**  
May 12th

**Fathers Day Celebration**  
June 16th

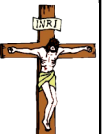
### Math Miracle

Ten-year-old Reggie was failing math. His parents tried everything to get him to do well in school, but nothing was working. Finally they enrolled him in a private Christian academy. From his 1st day, he spent every night pouring over books. Then on his first report card, he had received an A in math!



His father asked, "Son, what made the difference in math class? Motivational teachers? Encouragement from peers? Inspiration from the clergy on staff?"

Reggie admitted "Dad, I had never taken math seriously before. But when I walked in that first day and saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I knew this place meant business!"



### Affirmation of Wedding Vows



Some of you may remember 20 years ago when **Walter and Vivian Fox** were married at All Saints. **Fr. Dunnington** recently renewed their vows. So now they can officially say "We Still Do!"

We are so blessed to have received a generous donation from the **Perita Bates Green Memorial Trust Fund**. Perita was a former member of All Saints who passed in April 2002.

**\$5,000 Gift**

