



Episcopal Church of
**ALL SAINTS AND
ASCENSION**

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All Saints and Ascension

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The Rev. Renee L. Fenner
Priest in Charge
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Administrative Asst. Office Hours:
9am-3pm Monday thru Wednesday
Priest In Charge Office Hours:
9am-5pm Tuesday thru Friday



Getting To Know You

Harold grew up with a passion for learning new things. When he completed grade school, he enrolled at CBC High School. While there, he was allowed to earn advanced college credits over summers by attending Forest Park Community College. After high school, his college studies took him down a path with several twists and turns. He studied theology to become a minister at Jarvis Christian College in Tyler TX. He then shifted to pursue his studies in chemistry at Tuskegee Institute. He eventually earned an associates degree in general education. Plus he got another associates and a bachelors degree in engineering at ITT Technical Institute.

With a natural trait for great customer service, Mr. Briggs soon developed a desire to be an entrepreneur. He earned recognition for being a top salesman in ladies shoes at Famous Barr. Later he then invested his selling talent and savings to purchase a Jani-King cleaning services franchise. He quickly achieved the honor of being a

GUESS WHO?

This photo was taken in the 1960's.

Answer on page 4.



The **MESSENGER**
Broadcast Newsletter

April 2020

2nd Quarter

Ordination of 11th Bishop Postponed



**The Rev. Deon Johnson with
Presiding Bishop Michael Curry**

The two-year process of selecting and installing the 11th Bishop of Missouri will hopefully come to fruition on June 13, 2020. Originally scheduled in April, the ordination had to be placed on hold because of the coronavirus health crisis. Because health concerns continue to evolve, the transition committee is currently classifying the June plans as provisional. If things should change, our parishioners will be kept informed.

The ordination location has also been switched from St. Stanislaus Catholic Church to Christ Church Cathedral. Due to the relatively smaller venue, the event will have to be radically scaled back from the original plans.

The Most Rev. Michael Curry is still scheduled to officiate. Everyone in the Diocese will be able to watch on a smart phone, tablet, laptop, or computer via livestream. If you don't have an internet device, you still may participate at one of several watch parties being planned. Check your weekly bulletin for announcements, or contact the parish office for details.

In the meantime, Rev. Johnson will remain Bishop-elect. But effectively, he will be the administrator of the Diocese. Bishop Smith will officially retire April 25, but he will continue to work on a contractual basis as our Bishop, overseeing sacramental and canonical duties reserved to a bishop until the ordination on June 13th.

Harold Jay Briggs III credits many of his successes and blessings for leading a "God-centered life". This praiseworthy life began when Daisy Mae Willis and Harold J. Briggs Jr. celebrated the birth of their new son on September 1, 1959 in St. Louis.

Jani-King "Crown Club Member" for acquiring and servicing numerous accounts. While operating this franchise, he became Sexton at All Saints where he was chosen "Man of the Year" in 2016. Officially, Harold is a member of Faith Church. As an honorary member of All Saints and Ascension, he is a member of the Men's Club, and continues to serve as a contractor Sexton.



**Harold
Briggs**

He keeps busy in spite of health challenges, so he has very little time for leisure. When he does relax, his main hobby is music. He loves to listen to classic jazz, and dabble with his bass guitar and drums. Cooking and experimenting with new recipes, while getting his new business off the ground (*Briggs Hot Dogs and Sausage Co.*), is another fond passion.

If you were
accused
of being a
Christian
and placed in front of a jury,
would there be enough
EVIDENCE
to
convict
you?

This year, Harold and his wife Tina (along with their two daughters, and granddaughter) will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary. He feels blessed in spite of life's challenges. Harold often states that "My greatest achievement has been Sexton at All Saints". Perhaps one of our greatest achievements was hiring him.



Celebrating Holy Week



EDITOR'S NOTE The following arrangements were planned by Rev. Renee prior to restrictions on social gatherings imposed by authorities due to the heightened coronavirus threat. You will be advised of updates on event changes via phone, email, Facebook, and at AllsaintsAscension.com.

PALM SUNDAY: Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Our Palm Sunday Eucharist will begin by recalling Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and with a reading of the Passion according to Matthew. Weather permitting, we will gather in the parking lot for the Liturgy of the Palms and procession. April 5 at 10:00 a.m. (one service only).

MAUNDY THURSDAY: The word "maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum" meaning "commandment." We remember the Last Supper at which Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment to "love one another." At this Eucharistic celebration, we will join in the tradition of the washing of feet. All are welcome to participate. At the conclusion of the liturgy, the altar will be stripped and the sanctuary made bare to mark the solemnness of the occasion. April 9 at 6:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY: On Good Friday we commemorate the crucifixion and death of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Traditionally, it is a day of fasting. At 11:00 a.m. we will gather to pray the Stations of the Cross. Our Good Friday Solemn Liturgy will begin at 6:00 pm. This service includes the reading of the Passion according to John, a series of solemn collects, and veneration of the cross. Communion will be distributed from the blessed elements from our Maundy Thursday Eucharist. April 10.

GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER: All are invited to join us for the Easter Vigil Liturgy at Christ Church Cathedral, Downtown. This first liturgy of Easter begins in darkness and a new fire lit, from which the Paschal candle will be lighted. The service has four parts: The Service of the Light, The Service of Lessons, Christian Initiation (or the Renewal of Baptismal Vows) and Holy Eucharist. April 11 at 1210 Locust St.

EASTER SUNDAY: Our celebrations of Holy Eucharist commemorating our Lord's Resurrection will be at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. An Easter Egg Hunt will follow the 10:00 a.m. service. April 12.

If you think getting up on Sunday morning is hard.... Try rising from the dead!

Bishop Smith Comes Full Circle



The Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith's very first visitation as the 10th Bishop of Missouri, 18 years ago, was at All Saints. He admits that he was only a young "Boy Bishop" at that time. He specifically chose All Saints to be his first visit because parishioners from All Saints were the only ones that invited him to

come worship with their congregation during the Bishop selection process. That touched him such that he accepted our invitation.

It is important to note that the Bishop's visit to the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension this past February 23rd was also his last "scheduled" visitation before retirement. His spiritual journey as the leader of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri had come full circle. He had returned to the congregation where it had all begun, and he shared with us that serving as our Bishop was a blessing.

A Diocesan farewell celebration was originally scheduled for March 28, 2020, but has been postponed due to the coronavirus situation. Stay tuned for updates. Regardless, parishioners from all congregations were asked to donate to the Bishop's farewell gift fund. In lieu of an actual gift for Bishop Smith, a discretionary fund was established for service members at the Deaconess Anne House. During their year of service, these young adults make personal sacrifices in order to serve others. They only receive a \$300/mo. stipend to cover personal expenses. Several of these members do not have a financial safety net. So a medical emergency or auto repair setback could possibly force a member to quit or go into debt. Such a risk could also discourage others from joining this important mission.

You still have time to honor Bishop Smith and help these young people fulfill their mission. You can send a check payable to *The Diocese of Missouri*. Please write "Bishop Smith Farewell Gift" on the memo line. Mail your check to The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri; ATTN: Desiree Brattin; 1210 Locust Street, 3rd Floor; St. Louis, MO 63103.



Rev. Renee and Barrie Jones

Annual Meeting 2020

The weather cooperated this year!! Also attendance was good. On January 26, 2020, the second annual meeting of the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension proceeded as scheduled. The meeting was called to order at 10:27 am by Rev. Renee. Her sermon included the annual meeting address, whereby she proudly stated *"WE ARE SMALL, BUT WE ARE MIGHTY!"*

The business portion of the meeting immediately followed the annual address, and was conducted by Senior Warden, **Bill Young**. Agendas were provided and reports were distributed to bring everyone up to date regarding our successes, challenges, and opportunities. **Stanley Merridith, Sylvia Thomas, and Andrea Young** were elected as our new vestry members. Departing vestry members, **Prince Thomas** and **Gaylard Williams**, were commended for the key services that they both provided during the church merger. **Machelle West** and **Adrienne Dillon** (alternate) were elected as our lay delegates to the Diocesan convention.

The meeting concluded with one final thing. Since this was Rev. Renee's first annual meeting with us, **Barrie Jones** surprised her with a collage of photographs and documents that have been taken and collected since she became Priest In Charge in April. She was indeed surprised!



Event Schedule (visit allsaintsascension.com/schedule for calendar updates)

Apr 3	11:00 am	Stations of the Cross
Apr 5	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist (1 service only. 8am service cancelled)
Apr 9	6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing
Apr 10	11:00 am	Stations of the Cross
Apr 10	6:00 pm	Good Friday Solemn Service
Apr 11	8:00 pm	Great Easter Vigil Service (at Christ Church Cathedral)
Apr 12	8 am & 10 am	Easter Eucharist
Apr 12	11:30 am	Easter Egg Hunt (following the Eucharist)
Apr 13	OFFICE CLOSED	Easter Monday
Apr 26	10:00 am	Formal Seating of the new Diocesan Bishop
May 3	11:30 am	Mothers Day Brunch (following the Eucharist)
May 25	OFFICE CLOSED	Memorial Day
May 31	10:00 am	Pentecost Sunday Holy Eucharist (wear your red!); Summer Schedule Begins
Jun 7	10:00 am	Trinity Sunday Eucharist
Jun 13	TBD	Ordination and Consecration of the 11th Bishop of Missouri
Jun 14	11:30 am	Graduates Reception (following the Eucharist)
Jun 21	11:30 am	Fathers Day Brunch (following the Eucharist)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to coronavirus health concerns, church members will be updated on schedule changes

RECURRING SCHEDULE:

Holy Eucharist Service	8 & 10 am	Every Sunday
Healing Service	8 & 10 am	Every 4th Sunday (during the 8 am & 10 am Holy Eucharist Service)
Noonday Prayer	12:00 pm	Every Tuesday
<i>Sunday's Coming</i> Bible Study	10:00 am	Every Thursday
Food Pantry	10am-1pm	Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday (Deaconess nurse will check vital signs)
Men's Club Meeting	9:00 am	Most ^{1st & 3rd} Wednesday
St. Margaret's Guild Meeting	11:30 am	Every 2nd Sunday (following Eucharist)
ECW Meeting	9:00 am	Every 4th Sunday

Spotlight on Youth



There are likely several of you that served as acolytes as children. Many of you have told stories about when there use to be six acolytes serving at each service on Sundays, and even more serving on special occasions. Some of us who were acolytes have children and grandchildren who followed in our footsteps.

Before the merger of All Saints and Ascension two years ago, parishioner **Cheryl Henderson** had already developed roots in both churches. As a youth, she served as an acolyte at Ascension. After her family transferred to All Saints, her daughter Courtney, served as an acolyte.

But as the size of our congregations reduced, so did the number of youth acolytes. Lately, we have had to rely on Worship Leaders to fill the gap. However, we are seeing a optimistic trend emerge in recent months. Slowly, we are beginning to see new members with children join our church. Just this year, four new acolytes have been recruited including **Camille Moore, Camryn Moore, Leizel Thomas, and Will Young** (see photo). More youth, young adults, and adults are encouraged to join this growing ministry. If you are interested, please contact **Valerie Patton, Margaret Williams, or Rev. Renee** to get started.

An Unexpected Visitor

On Sunday, March 8, The Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop-elect for the Diocese of Missouri, surprised us by dropping by and officiating the Holy Eucharist!

His message was about showing love. He quoted a theologian who said "You can only love God as much as the person you love the least". This means that we have a lot of work to do. We have to demonstrate to everyone that God loves them, especially to those we are not so fond of loving. He indicated that we should relate to the "real" Jesus who understood getting dirty, and being rejected, hurt, and impaired. He added that we should do this more so than relating to a perfect, clean, photo-shopped Jesus that you might see in a beautiful portrait.

So, Rev. Deon's challenge to us was, when the next time he visits us with the "pointy hat", to show him that more folks have heard from us about God's love. He wants us to show folks that there is life, energy, and love at All Saints and Ascension. As our Presiding Bishop Curry has stated, "if its not about love, its not about God".



