

January 2025

Rector's Corner

The date on the top of this newsletter says January, 2025. Happy (secular) New Year!

Are you in the habit of making New Year's resolutions? I confess that I am not. Like many people, I've tried a few times over the years, but most of the well-intentioned improvements I've envisioned starting on January 1 have not seemed to stick with me over the long haul; at least, no more so than a random date in April or August.

That said, I do find that the turn of the year does always seem to trigger some thoughtful introspection.

When have I succeeded in living my faith? When have I fallen short?
Which relationships have I strengthened? Which have I let go?
Where have I offered grace, mercy, and forgiveness?
From whom have I received them?

In other words, the turning of the calendar offers an opportunity and a reminder to reflect on the ways that God is at work in our lives; where we see Jesus in the world around us. The Holy Spirit's wisdom is found most clearly when we pause, take stock, and look for where it has been present all along.



Church of England priest and poet Malcolm Guite offers this reflection; I share it as a starting point for your own faithful prayers. May God's wisdom be revealed to us all in the year ahead.

O Sapientia

I cannot think unless I have been thought,
Nor can I speak unless I have been spoken.
I cannot teach except as I am taught,
Or break the bread except as I am broken.
O Mind behind the mind through which I seek,
O Light within the light by which I see,
O Word beneath the words with which I speak,
O founding, unfound Wisdom, finding me,
O sounding Song whose depth is sounding me,
O Memory of time, reminding me,
My Ground of Being, always grounding me,
My Maker's Bounding Line, defining me,
Come, hidden Wisdom, come with all you bring,
Come to me now, disguised as everything.

God's peace,
Jane+

Tuesday Bible Study

We are starting a new Bible Study at All Saints'! It will be led by Jan Wells, and will meet weekly on Tuesdays at 1pm in the Library. We will be studying *The First Paul* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossen. We will begin sometime in January of 2025 - watch for the exact date in the bulletin and Wednesday Word.

The Monday 1pm Bible Study group is still continuing! After a brief hiatus for Christmas and New Year's, they will begin their new book, *Luke* by N.T. Wright, on January 6th. Feel free to join in on Mondays, Tuesdays, or both!

Children and Youth Ministries— January 2025

Godly Play in January. Sunday school classes resume at 9 AM on January 5 with a combined Epiphany lesson in the multi-purpose room. This is a great time to join in on the Godly Play experience! Regular classes are for children age 3 through 5th graders, meeting in the education wing on Sunday mornings. Visitors are always welcome! Godly Play stories for the month are:

- January 5—The Epiphany, for all ages.
- January 12—Holy Baptism
- January 19—Story of MLK, Jr
- January 26—Parable of the Good Shepherd

Godly Play Epiphany story: Combined class, January 5. The Story of Epiphany will be held in the multi-purpose room for all ages, including adults, with the story beginning at 9:10. We will be demonstrating the thurible, burning real incense, censing the church building, making crowns, and eating a King's Cake. Will you find the Baby?



Youth Class starting new unit on Dismantling Racism. Starting **January 12**, the youth class will be working with the Dismantling Racism curriculum from the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, Diocese of Atlanta. This material was written specifically for grades 6 to 12. It uses video resources, activities, discussion, and journaling to engage youth in the work of racial healing. “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

The youth class meets in the loft on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 AM. These six lessons will take us up to the beginning of Lent and each one is important, so please try to attend all six.

Donations needed for Blessing Bags. The Youth will be packing the Blessing Bags with food, toiletries, and warm clothing for the homeless on

January 12. The complete list of what we put in the bags is here; **especially needed are canned meals with pop top lids, foil pouches or small cans of tuna or chicken, fruit cups, Band-aids, lip balm, and feminine hygiene products.** We have plenty of toothbrushes and toothpaste!

Your donations are very much appreciated! Please bring any donations to the church by **January 9** so we can purchase what else is needed; our goal is to pack between 50 and 70 bags. After January 12, the bags will be available for parishioners to pick up and keep in their cars to distribute as they see need.

Blessing Bag Checklist

A donation box is located in the entryway of the church. Any donations of the below items are appreciated.

Basics:

- warm beanie hat
- warm gloves
- handwarmer packs
- warm socks

Toiletries:

- toothbrush and toothpaste (have plenty)
- deodorant
- bar soap (mild or non-scented)
- wash cloth
- small shampoo and conditioner
- comb
- razor
- nail clippers
- Band-aids
- lip balm (plain, non-medicated)
- package of wet wipes
- feminine hygiene products

Food:

- canned ready-to-eat meal with pop top
- ready-to-eat tuna or chicken in pouches
- crackers with peanut butter or cheese
- granola or protein bars
- trail mix or nuts
- fruit cups
- individual juice or water bottles
- hot chocolate pouches
- hard candies or gum

Please bring your donations by Jan. 9, 2025

Youth Group, January 12, 5 to 7 PM. We will be back to a two-hour youth group gathering at All Saints' this month, with our service project being packing the Blessing Bags. Youth group is for middle and high school students. Dinner is included, and we end with Compline. Friends are welcome.

Winter Cross February 14-16

Join us for an exciting youth winter camp in the heart of Ellensburg at Lazy F! This camp experience is for all 6th-12th graders offering the perfect mix of outdoor winter activities, team-building challenges and inspiring sessions. Enjoy snow games, crafts, campfires and make lasting memories with friends, all while growing in community and faith.

It's a great opportunity to embrace the winter season and experience adventure in a safe, fun and supportive environment. Don't miss out on this unforgettable weekend! Registration is open - the cost \$150. Partial and full scholarships are available. Contact Katy O'Callaghan at irishwomano@aol.com for transportation and event questions. Registration is now open at <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2605524>.

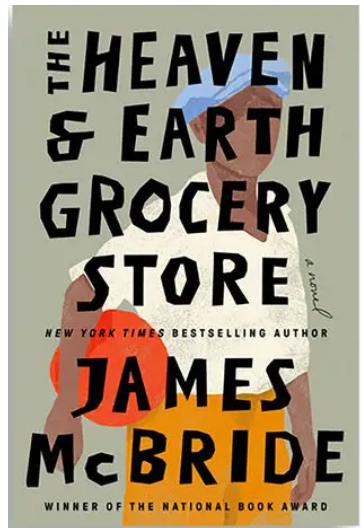


All Saints' Book Group

Our next book to read is *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, a 2023 novel by James McBride. This book sits on many "best book of the year" lists and has won numerous awards, including the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. The New

York Times Book Review calls it a "murder mystery locked inside a Great American Novel."

In 1972, workers in Pottstown, PA, find a skeleton while digging a new foundation. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. As the story continues, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle, and what they must do to survive. In dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us.



We will be discussing this book on **TUESDAY, January 14**, beginning at 6 PM with a potluck dinner. All are welcome! (If the weather is bad on the 14th, we will switch to a Zoom discussion.)

Outreach says Thank you!

2024 has come to an end, and Outreach would like to say a big THANK YOU to the All Saints' community for your support throughout the year. Through your donations and financial support, we've been able to help so many organizations locally, regionally, and even internationally!

Here are some of the causes we've supported in the past year:

Local (Tri-Cities): Grace Clinic, Tri-Cities Community Health, World Relief, Skills Development Mission, Tri-Cities Food Bank, Richland Early Learning Center, Benton County Jail, All Saints' Discretionary Fund, bus passes and holiday grocery gift cards;

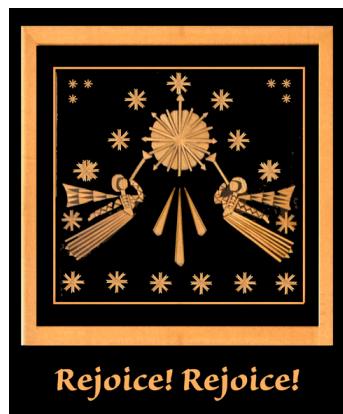
Regional (Eastern WA): Camp Cross, Campbell Farm, Noah's Ark, West Central Episcopal Mission;

International: El Hogar, World Central Kitchen, Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Do you have a favorite charity that you'd like to see supported? Please let us know! We welcome new ideas and new faces. Outreach meets on the first Monday of the month. In order to continue doing this good and vital work, we need your support and participation. If you have any questions or would like to suggest a new charitable organization, reach out to the current Outreach chairwoman, Gayle Ransom, at gayleransom@gmail.com.

Thanks to our Artists!

For Christmas services this year, we once again asked the congregation to help us create cover artwork for the bulletins, and you came through! Thank you to Hazel Allstead, Avery Gilbert, Theresa Grate, and Chris Walling for your lovely submissions. In case you missed them, here are all the art pieces that helped make the Christmas bulletins so special.



(Clockwise from top left: Chris Walling, Avery Gilbert, Hazel Allstead, Theresa Grate)

Outreach Focus for January: Blessing Bags

For January, Outreach is collecting items for the Blessing Bags that the youth will be packing for parishioners to hand out. The list is printed in the newsletter (See: Children and Youth, page 2), but most needed are the **canned meals with pop top lids, foil pouches or small cans of tuna or chicken, fruit cups, Band-aids, lip balm, and feminine hygiene products** (we will break down large packages into smaller portions). Please bring in your donations by **January 9**, so we can purchase what else is needed to fill 50-70 bags. Thank you!

Happy New Year from the office!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As a friendly reminder, the office will be closed from December 25 through January 1. While no one will be in the office, we will try to check the voicemail periodically, so if something urgent comes up, please do leave a message and we'll do our best to get back to you.

From your parish administrator with love to all y'all: thank you for making this job a joy. I pray that you enter the new year with deep gratitude for all you have and all you are, the sure knowledge that you are beloved in this life, and a renewed commitment to the care of one another and this beautiful, messy business of being the Church.

Oh, and thanks for all the puppy visits!

Oh, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds, that we may pass into the new year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Collect from a Service for New Year's Eve, *Episcopal Book of Occasional Services*, 1994)

Saints and Sinners

Saints and Sinners is a Social Group open to all adults. If you've never tried it we would love to have you. If you have tried it we would love to have you back. We meet for a pot-luck supper and fellowship once each month or two.

It appears we have outgrown most homes and so will meet in the Parish Hall in January. As there is another group scheduled on our regular date we will meet **Friday, January 17**, at the usual time of 6pm for wine and non-alcoholic beverages, with dinner at 7pm.

Couples please bring either a main dish or two of the following: starter, salad, side dish, or dessert. Singles, please bring one of these. Also, please bring your own table services and a \$5 donation if you would like wine. Please call or text Linda Munson (509-521-8981) by Wednesday, January 15, to let her know you are coming so we know how many places to set.

We Give Thanks...

- to Elizabeth Arnold, Marlo Wallace, John Spencer, Teri Bartol, Theresa Grate, and the Youth Group for making the Parents' Night out possible!
- to Linda Munson's homeowners group and Saints and Sinners for their many donations to the Blessing Bags! We appreciate you!
- to the Outreach Committee for their donation of Benton-Franklin bus tickets for the Blessing Bags.
- to Dianna Larsgaard, Dave Degrenier, Krisandra Wood, Donna Anderson, and Marlo Wallace for their hard work and dedication helping the Altar Guild set up for Advent; and to the Men's Group for adding the greenery above the banner to their Advent to-do list!
- to all those who stepped up to serve as Money Counters, allowing us to bring back this important financial ministry: John Spencer,

Athena Pelly, Justin Raffa, Colin Berry, Matt Lawrence, Andy & Jill Gilbert, Marjie Mack, and Meg Milligan.

- to Mitzi Holmes, for sharing her beautiful voice with us as our guest soloist at the late Christmas Eve service.
- to George Richmond, George and Brian Carter, Al Wells, and Annette Gordon for help with setup for Candles & Carols. Thanks to George Richmond for preparing the hams; to Steve & Julie Wiley for providing the wine; to John Spencer for directing the caroling. And thanks to all who attended for making Candles & Carols another joyous occasion!
- to Diane Goheen and Julie Wiley, who have worked so diligently to make sure All Saints' emergency warming shelter plans are in place and ready to respond to bitter weather.
- to Julie Wiley, Ed Temple, and Liam Larsen, our year-round stewardship team, who have helped us remember the ways we receive and share God's gifts in our lives.
- to Theresa Grate, who guides and supports our Christian Formation and Youth ministries with so much creativity and joy.
- to Rachel Loer, who has added parish bookkeeping to her administrator duties, and who juggles all her responsibilities with wry humor and a veritable rainbow of colored pens.
- to the Revs. Jane Schmoetzer, Rachel Jackson, and Mark Sluss for their care, compassion, and leadership, on Sundays and every other day of the year, both publicly and behind-the-scenes.



