



All Saints' Memorial Church

674 Westminster St., Providence, RI

www.allsaintsmemorial.org

E-Messenger May 21, 2025

Come and worship

Rejoice in fellowship

Love and serve the Lord!

Dear All Saints' Family,

Our dedicated Vestry had an energetic annual retreat last week sparking lots of thoughts about opening up our church to the outside. Rev. Dr. Maggi Dawn joined us via zoom for about an hour to help us begin the conversation. Some of you may remember Rev. Maggi from our shared Advent Retreat with St. Luke's Pawtucket.

Drawing on a passage from Acts, Rev. Maggi prompted us to reflect about the spiritual ministry of Vestry members. She suggested we might think of Stephen who is

described in the Book of Acts as "full of grace and power" as Senior Warden with a "face like the face of an angel". It was a powerful reminder that though we as a Vestry are often engaged in practical ministry, our vision belongs to God and we too are filled with the grace and power of the Spirit as we serve.

Rev. Maggi led us in a discussion about tradition and change. That discussion fueled further thinking. She spoke of tradition as being "alive" and calling for constant re-encounter and renewal for the present day. I especially appreciated a quote by Gustav Mahler: "Tradition is not the worship of ashes but the preservation of the fire."

On the theme of change, we spent quite a bit of time talking about how we might open up our church space to the the outside - how we might spark curiosity in those who pass by the church entrance on Westminster. We talked at length about making the entrance more welcoming and hospitable to those who drive or walk by so that they might want to wander in to see what is going on. We know from experience that as soon as any person walks into the church that person is awed by the beauty of the sacred space. "*Let the building do the talking*" became a theme.

Here are some specific suggestions for the Westminster St. entrance that might invite further curiosity about the church and make visitors feel more inclined to walk through the doors.

- Have a Sunday (perhaps once a month) where people enter and exit through Westminster street (as able) so as to be visible to anyone driving past the church.
- Stand outside the front doors on Westminster street. Ask yourself: What needs to happen *outside* to create interest in what is happening *inside* the building? What can be done to spark curiosity about coming inside?



Rev. Maggi told us about research on pubs. To paraphrase the findings of the study, if the front of the building was closed, people were much less likely to enter the pub. If there were windows to see inside, people were more likely to enter the building. We noted that our building is closed up. One cannot get a glimpse inside the church from the Westminster entrance.

A few more ideas that were generated in this discussion:

- Install glass storm doors for Westminster St. Or new doors, or change the color of the doors.
- Open both sets of doors during services each Sunday; start the processional outside.
- Colored LED lights outside.
- Revisit solar panels research. Would current technology support solar panels on the a portion of the roof?
- Re-install a banner over the doors so one can see it from the highway; it tells that the church is alive.
- Pipe music out Westminster street or even a video monitor.
- Get the word out that our beautiful church space is available for events.
- Host a short-term meditative program to introduce people to the beauty of the church, an internet free zone.
- Ask ourselves: Who are the people around us with whom we have not yet connected?
- Go talk to the colleges and let them know we have a large space for events.
- Connect with the Episcopal chaplain at RIC about a program for students.
- Invigorate an "Events Ministry" drawing on the pre-Covid Arts Ministry

The Spirit was active among us. The Spirit is active in our midst. Please take up this invitation to stand outside the Westminster St entrance and reflect on curiosity, invitation, and openness. What do you see? What do you hear? Tell a Vestry member!

Thank you to Rev. Maggi for leading us with such a marvelous reflection and discussion filled with wisdom and humor. Thank you to our faithful Vestry who gave their full focus and hearts to this later afternoon/evening reflection and conversation.

May the Lord continue to bless us with wisdom, strength, courage, and hope as we put some of these Spirit-filled ideas in action.

Remembering that we celebrate Memorial Day this weekend, let us pray this together: *Thanksgiving for Heroic Service*, (BCP p. 832)

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Peace and blessings,
Julie

All are welcome to join our Service on Sunday at 9:30. If you would like to participate by zoom, the link is [here](#).

You will find the Sunday service program [here](#).

Are You a Writer?



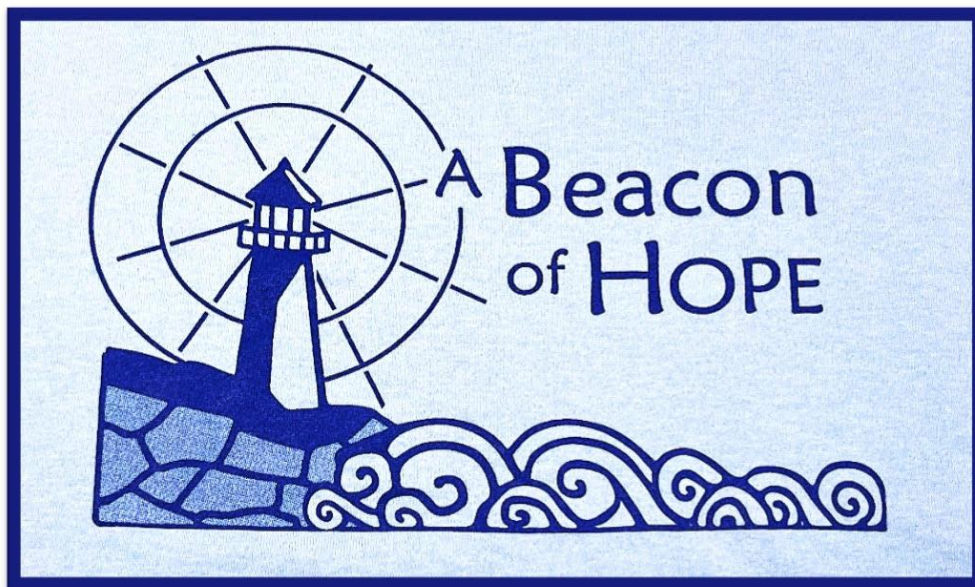
Have you been working on a writing project but never seem to have the time to sit down and write? Would you like a set time each month to jump back into your writing? Calling anyone who likes to write - poetry, journaling, memoir, family history, short story, the great American novel...

We are starting a writers group at All Saints'. Bring your writing project and enjoy some fruitful quiet time designated for writing. Whether you want to get started on a writing project that has only been an idea for a long time, or you want to get back to a project, or need the discipline of a monthly group to keep writing, we have plenty of room for you to find a comfortable spot to write in companionable silence. **Note:** *this is not a discussion group! This is writing time.*

Join us on the first Wednesday on the month from 5pm-7pm.

The first session is Wednesday, June 7, 5pm-7pm

Outreach Ministry



Outreach Bake Sale: We thank you for the marvelous participation in our annual Bake Sale. A warm thanks goes to those who made so many tasty dishes and baked goods, and a warm thanks to those who purchased those items. Total proceeds were over \$300!

Monthly Food Collection: We collect food monthly and distribute the donated

food to Better Lives RI and Crossroads Family Center. This month we ask for donations of cold cereal though any canned or packaged food items are welcome. Please leave donated food items on the cart near Rose Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



Musical Notes

Sunday morning we feature two works by contemporary American church musician and composer Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)--our prelude and communion hymn. Bruce grew up in the Seattle area and graduated from Pacific Lutheran University and then attended the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music. Afterwards, he served in numerous Episcopal churches, including the Washington National Cathedral (where he was the first director of the Girl Choristers), St. John the Divine in New York, and Trinity Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. He also served as Associate Professor of Music in Organ and Sacred Music at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. Currently, he serves as Artist-in-Residence at St. James By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in La Jolla, California. Throughout, Bruce has remained very active in the American Guild of Organists; he is widely sought after as an organ recitalist; and he has also composed numerous works, like the two we hear today.

While growing up in Seattle in the 1970's, Bruce sang in the Compline Choir at St. Mark's Cathedral, a now well established and well renowned musical group founded in the 1950's by musician and composer Peter Hallock after his own musical studies at the University of Washington and at Canterbury Cathedral in England. You may not know that both former music director Barry Turley and current music director Rich Spicer at All Saints also sang in the Compline Choir, though at different times. Barry (b. 1950) also grew up in the Seattle area and sang in the choir while in high school in the late 1960's (he graduated in 1968). Nearly a decade later, Rich moved to Seattle upon graduation from college in 1977, to study oceanography and geology at the University of Washington, and he eventually joined the choir in 1982 and sang for two years before moving to Washington, D.C., to work for the National Park Service. Rich also later enjoyed participation in two anomalous and unusual overseas tours with the choir. In 1997, the Compline Choir traveled to St. Petersburg in Russia to help a German Lutheran congregation rededicate its sanctuary after the fall of communism (Seattle had a sister city relationship with St. Petersburg); from there the choir toured Helsinki and then sang Evensong services at Upsala Cathedral north of Stockholm in Sweden and at the Roskilde Cathedral west of Copenhagen in Denmark. In 2000, the choir traveled to England, first to Canterbury Cathedral, so that Peter Hallock could visit again with a mentor with whom he had studied there; and then sang Evensong services not only at Canterbury, but also in Norwich, Ely, Salisbury, and finally in London at St. Bartholomew's, which features the oldest Norman nave in the country.

And, of course, our featured flute soloist on Sunday morning, Rebecca Silliman, also grew up in Seattle. It's a small world after all!

Healing Gardens



Worship Ministry May 18, 2025

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15 Rosetta Evans

Psalm 67

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10; 22-22:5 Lori Medeiros

Gospel: John 14:23-29

Prayers: Chip Smith

Acolytes: Eric Hirsch, Kodii Amaechina, Devine Kpeh

Altar Guild: Kardi and Lydia

Upcoming

May 21: Noonday Prayer and Bible Discussion, Noon in Rose Hall

May 25: Blessing of graduates

June 8: Day of Pentecost, wear red!

Prayers

We pray for all who graduate this spring especially Lori Medieros, Lealise Rose Carter, Roma Taitwood, and Charli Parsons. May the Lord bless Lori, Lealise, Roma, and Charli and send them forth from their schools and programs with wisdom, confidence, and peace.

We pray for our fellow parishioners Derek, Victor, Gloria, Mary, and Lady Johnnet. We pray for Naida Thomas, Lusaynie Sirleaf, John Flinton, James, Elizabeth Pacek, Karen, John Dunning, Togba Treah, Sharita, Muriel, Emile, Patty, Kathy, Antonio, and Deborah Keyes.

We pray for friends and loved ones departed. May they rejoice in the fullness of God's presence and glory.

O God our heavenly Father whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go. Preserve all those who travel this week. Surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to her journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

We pray for those who work for peace in the armed forces especially Hannah Makuch.

We pray for all who celebrate birthdays next week especially Rosetta Evans.

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Musa Goll

Ryan Mott

Eric Hirsch

Valerie Priddy Jones

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