



The Grapevine

All Saints Lutheran Church ELCA

February 2008



The mission of All Saints Lutheran Church is to gather all people in a community immersed in God's Word through worship and learning that equips us to serve the world in the name of Jesus.

Church Office Hours
 Mon - Fri. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Phone: 301-249-6300
 Fax: 301-249-4725
church@allsaintsbowie.org

www.allsaintsbowie.org
 Pastor:
 Gary R. Rhinesmith
 301-249-6300
pastor@allsaintsbowie.org

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 Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00  
 9:45 Education Hour  
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February
 2/5 - 5:30- 7:00 pm
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

2/5 - 7:00 pm
Ministry Planning Night

2/6 - 12:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Worship

2/12 - Primary Election
All Saints is a Polling Place

2/12 - 10:00 am
Lutheran Women Bible Study at Collington

2/13 - 6:30 pm Meal, 7:30 Worship
"Hungering for VISION" At All Saints

2/15 - 6:00 pm
Women of the Cup

2/16 - 8:30 am
Women's Book Group

2/19 - 12:00 pm
Senior Saints - Potluck & Movie

2/19 - 7:00 pm
Congregation Council Meeting

2/20 - 6:30 pm Meal, 7:30 Worship
"Hungering for HEALING" At Grace

2/27 - 6:30 pm Meal, 7:30 Worship
"Hungering for HOPE" At All Saints

*Sunday Evening Prayer and Conversation
 Sundays at 5:30 pm*

Pastor's Perspective

Come Hungry

My mom was a good cook. My Aunt Bertha was better. Even my mom would agree. That's because my grandmother gave copies of her recipes to both of them. That cookbook with the worn corners, broken spine and spattered pages that was open on the kitchen counter whenever my mom was working. My Aunt Bertha would call to invite us to dinner, and she always ended the invitation with, "Come hungry." I did.

The Christian life moves outward. The "arrow" of Christian living points outward. The direction of God is outward. The book of recipes that tells us about God's outward movement is the Holy Bible. A book we keep open - and use - whenever we are working. The outward movement of God is seen in the life of Jesus. Every Sunday we say in the Nicene Creed, "For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven ..." The Gospel of John tells us, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (v.1:14)

Our movement, as a congregation, is outward. The Vision of All Saints Lutheran Church that you adopted at the Annual Meeting guides us outward.

Moving outward empties us. We act, embrace, work, hope, testify and more – all in the name of Jesus, our model. It is tiring. Jesus experienced the same emptying. He needed time to pray, sleep, eat, recoup; and he took that time. Filling is necessary.

We are filled during Lent. During Lent the "arrow" of Christian living is inward. It is a time when the whole Christian church looks inward through reflection, repentance, and renewal. We open ourselves to be filled by God's Holy Spirit.

This year you and I will do that together with Jesus, with each other, and with neighboring Lutheran Christians. Every Wednesday for five weeks you will be filled with food, conversation, God's Holy Word and Spirit. The theme for these Wednesdays is, "Hungering for Righteousness." The filling during Lent prepares you to burst from emptiness to fulfillment of God's intent for you. Jesus burst from the tomb of death. Filling during Lent leads us to the bursting joy of Jesus' Resurrection.

Follow the arrows of your Christian life. One will lead outward. There you will find fulfillment, joy, excitement, purpose. One will lead inward. There you will find the fullness of God's presence and meal.

As my Aunt Bertha would say,
 "Come Hungry"

Pastor Gary

2008 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Liz Müller 301-352-5536

Vice President: Nathan Rich 240-441-8724

Secretary: Marianne Wenger 410-451-5627

Treasurer: Donita Johnson 301-249-7142

Financial Secretary: Jane Bossler 410-721-5424

Gather Ministry Liaison:

TBD

Ministry of Evangelism

TBD

Ministry of Youth

Mike Schumacher 301-805-4959

Ministry of Fellowship

TBD

Worship Ministry Liaison:

TBD

Ministry of Worship

Jan Withers 410-672-5910

Learn Ministry Liaison:

TBD

Ministry of Christian Education

TBD

Service Ministry Liaison:

TBD

Ministry of Service

Jayne Lingle 410-923-1036

Support Ministry Liaison:

TBD

Ministry of Budget & Finance

TBD

Ministry of Property Management

Wayne Bossler 410-721-5424

Ministry of Stewardship

Rob Watson 301-352-8781

Congregational Committees Liaison:

TBD

Mutual Ministry Committee

TBD

Memorials Committee

Maria Arnold 301-262-5484

Mission Endowment Committee

Mary Schoenfuhs 202-641-7609

Scholarship Committee

Phillip Woodruff 301-868-9383

Capital Improvement Committee

TBD

Please keep the council members in your prayers and join them in the mission and ministries of All Saints. You may call them to serve on their teams, or come to the planning night for **all** ministries. The next Ministry Planning night is February 5 at 7:00 pm (after the Shrove Tuesday Dinner). The next Congregation Council Meeting is February 19 at 7:00 pm (note this is on a Tuesday because of Lent Wednesday Worship).

The Business of the Church: Celebration and Sharing

As I have reflected on both the tenor and the content of our congregational meeting, my first thought was that our gathering felt more like a service of praise and thanksgiving than a business meeting. A bit more reflection led me to the recognition that there really is no business of the church other than **offering** thanks and praise for all that God has given us and **sharing** those blessings and the good news with others.

If we could continuously lift up the “business” of the church as a celebration of our gifts and a means of expressing our gratitude, perhaps we would shed our reluctance to commit our time and energy to monthly ministry team/committee meetings. The concern over numbers—budget figure, head counts, program offerings—would evaporate as our mission growth evolved as naturally as the sun’s ascent on the horizon. We experienced a taste of that possibility in the progress of our business meeting on January 27—the celebration of our donation to Christus Victor in each of the officers’ comments, the recurring theme of praise and thanksgiving among the day’s speakers and the annual reports, the unanimous approval of our vision and values document and our 2008 spending plan. Each item of business, each record of the year’s accomplishments confirms for us that, with God, all things are possible.

The upcoming weeks will provide several “business” opportunities for us to offer our thanks by sharing our talents:

- Shrove Tuesday (February 5) pancake supper followed by ministry night, where we will explore worship, learn, gather, and serve action plans emanating from our vision statement and our values;
- March 1 congregational summit on evangelism in which we will clarify how we at All Saints choose to define and enact this ministry.

I invite you to join us for both these events. Come in celebration of your blessings and in the spirit of sharing your gifts with your All Saints family.

God is good, all the time.

Liz Muller



January Council Meeting Highlights

The January 16 council meeting opened with prayer, followed by a continuation of last month's discussion of how to staff a church for others, based upon the reading of chapter eight of Walt Kallestad's *Turn Your Church Inside Out*.

Under Vision and Planning, the council reflected on what we learned from our participation in the January 12 *Together in Mission* synod conference and from Rev. Stephen Deal's visit with the congregation. Rev. Deal will be sending us more information regarding how we can more actively accompany him in his ministry. Following that discussion, the council devoted much of the evening planning for upcoming events:

- Shrove Tuesday (February 5) pancake supper followed by our Ministry Night gathering, which will be devoted to discussion of each team's 2008 action plan in conjunction with our Vision and Values document
- February 9 Leadership Retreat
- March 1 Evangelism Summit

In addition to our gather, worship, learn, and serve ministry updates, President Kim Watson introduced our new Environmental Stewardship ministry. Under action items the council voted to receive the following new members into our All Saints family: Tom and Susan Beers; Bill and Susan Braun, Matthew, Andrew and Nathan; Ellen and Martin Hug; and Sven and Norma Allenbach-Schmidt.

The meeting concluded with group prayer.

Financial Report for December 2007

December income for budget spending - \$42,481.19
Monthly income needed for budget - \$32,370.00
Year-to-date income for budget spending - \$369,939.17
Year-to-date income needed for budget - \$388,440.00
Total December income - \$61,476.19
Total year-to-date income - \$449,241.36

Income for budget spending to date is at 95% of budget.

Budget expenses for December 2007 - \$55,514.28
Budget expenses Year-to-Date - \$368,211.25

Annual Meeting Highlights

The January 27 congregational meeting was much more than a business meeting. A more apt description of the proceedings would be a celebration of thanksgiving for all that the Lord has done for us and through us. The recurring themes that echoed throughout the oral commentaries and annual reports of the officers, Pastor Gary, and the ministry team were:

1) gratitude for the congregation's generous giving to Christus Victor as well as to other benevolence and to All Saints' ministries; 2) recognition of our members' faithful sharing of their time and talents in response to God's blessings to us; 3) testimonies to All Saints' commitment to enacting our mission statement. To illustrate the measure of our spiritual strength, President Kim Watson highlighted Warren Eshbach's marks of strong, vibrant, and growing congregations: empowered leadership that follows a team approach, mission and service to the local community, congregational compassion and shepherding that nurtures loving and caring relationships, inspiring and well-executed worship that fosters hope, passionate spirituality, generous giving and a gift-oriented ministry, wise use of space and facilities, and functional and fluid structures.

With respect to the action items on the agenda, the seventy-seven members in attendance **unanimously** adopted both the proposed Vision Statement and Values and the 2008 spending plan. John Rees, John Summerlot and Marianne Wenger were elected to the Congregation Council for three-year terms; Doug Lingle was elected to fill the one-year unexpired term. Chris Austell, as the outgoing council representative, Gary Beecher, Diane Cvitko, and Marguerite Mattison were elected to the 2008 Nominating Committee. By a vote of acclamation, Gary and Sigrid Beecher were selected to be the Voting Members at the 2008 Assembly of the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod in June. The business of the meeting concluded with the installation of the 2008 congregational council and with recognition and thanksgiving for the faithful service of the council members who are concluding their service: President Kim Watson, Secretary Chris Austell, Ruth Tait – Serve Team Liaison, and Mike Schumacher - Gather Ministry Liaison. The meeting concluded as it began, with our voices raised in song to give thanks for all that the Lord has done for us.



Lent 2008

Lent is a Season of the Christian Church. The Season of Lent is 40 days. The number 40 is important in the Holy Bible. The Israelites were in the wilderness 40 years. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. Tradition is that Noah was in the ark for 40 days and Moses was on Mt. Sinai with God for 40 days. During these times God has tested these people and tempered their faith.

The word “Lent” is from the old English word for “spring.” Lent is a time for each Christian to consider one important fact, and how that fact changes their living. It is a fact so simple ... so huge ... so wonderful that it is hard to grasp. It takes time, reflection and repentance. The fact is this: Jesus, the Christ, died for you. God’s sacrifice of The Son was for you. Lent is the Season to consider, again, the impact of that fact on you, on your life, on your living.

Lent will be observed in various ways at All Saints Lutheran Church. The music of worship will reflect the mood of reflection and repentance, which are the primary aspects of Lent. A devotion booklet will be available for your daily use. Each Wednesday we will gather for a simple soup meal and worship. Three neighborhood Lutheran congregations will join together on these Wednesday evenings. They are Grace Lutheran Church, Bowie; St. Michael Truth Church, Mitchellville and All Saints Church.

The THEME for these Wednesday evenings is:

**"Hungering for
Righteousness"**



**The Soup Meal will begin at 6:30 pm each Wednesday.
Worship will be at 7:30 pm.**



The SCHEDULE for Lent Wednesdays will be:

February 6 – Ash Wednesday, 12:00 noon and 7:30 pm worship at All Saints Church.

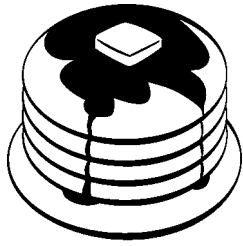
February 13 – at All Saints Church, “Hungering for VISION”

February 20 – at Grace Lutheran Church, “Hungering for HEALING”

February 27 – at All Saints Church, “Hungering for HOPE”

March 5 – at St. Michael Truth Church – “Hungering for IDENTITY”

March 12 – at St. Michael Truth Church – “Hungering for COMMUNITY”



SHROVE TUESDAY

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER and Ministries in Action Night: The youth are bringing back an All Saints' tradition! Mark your calendars for **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5**, and join the community of faith for a delicious pancake dinner and ministry discussion. The Youth of ASLC will serve pancakes and sausage **from 5:30-7:00** in fellowship hall. Make your reservation now on the sign up

sheet in the narthex. Seating is open. Freewill offerings will be accepted, with proceeds going to support youth ministry activities. **Then at 7:00**, join the other Saints to discuss gather, worship, learn, serve, and support ministry opportunities. The items generated from the Vision and Values conversations will serve as the springboard for discussion and planning. (This will serve as February's ministry planning night, due to the Lenten schedule.) This is an excellent time to step up and get involved! If you have questions, please contact Kim Watson, 301-352-8781 or Mike Schumacher, 301-805-4959.



SENIOR SAINTS

SENIOR SAINTS
On February 19 we will meet at noon for the prayer service and then have a potluck lunch with the "Our Morning Out" group. The seniors will be providing the lunch (children friendly food) and then working with Ann

Greenawalt we will help the children make crafts. Questions, contact Bob Jones 301-262-0042.



WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP: The All Saints Women's Book Group will meet on Saturday, February 16, at 8:30 at the home of Norma Allenbach-Schmidt. We will discuss "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time" by G. Mortenson and O. Relin. Norma's address is: 10 Maplewood Court, Greenbelt, MD 20770.



Pantry Needs Red in February

THE BOWIE FOOD PANTRY
February brings the color RED - please bring RED foods to fill the PANTRY baskets (spaghetti sauce, canned tomatoes, kidney

beans, jello, catsup, etc.) all during February. How many RED foods can we collect? Remember Lutheran RED & help fill those baskets!



Bible Study for Women of ELCA

The Women's Bible Study in February is entitled "Mercy Made Real - Disciples as Forgiven Forgivers." The theme verse is Matthew 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." Please join us on February 12 at 10 am to explore this session which will surely spark some reflection, conversation and prayer. RoAnne Hartfield will host this study at Collington Life Care Community. For more information contact RoAnne at 301-925-7386.

Directions to Collington from All Saints: Turn right onto Mount Oak Road. Go straight at the traffic light at the intersection of Mitchellville Road. Mount Oak Road ends at Church Road. Turn left onto Church Road. Immediately turn right onto Woodmore Road. Continue straight. Woodmore Road becomes Lottsford Road at the intersection with Enterprise Road. Turn right at 10450 Lottsford Road. There is a sign for Collington. At the security gate, if there is a guard, use the check in box and press 001 and ask for RoAnne Hartfield Bible Study. Proceed to second security gate and go straight to the Clock Tower Entrance and park. At the Clock Tower Desk, check in and ask for directions for the Dining Room - Bird Room. Turn left and then take first right passed the library to the end of the hall, the Dining Room is on your right. The address for Collington Life Care Community is 10450 Lottsford Road, Mitchellville, Maryland 20721.



Women of the Cup

The Friday night women's group, *Women of the Cup*, will meet on February 15 in Fellowship Hall. The evening will begin at 6:00 with a potluck supper, followed by an evening of contemplative prayer. All the women of the church, as well as their friends, are invited to join this small group ministry. Through the gift of our monthly gatherings for fellowship, prayer and reflection, we continue to grow, individually and collectively, in faith, in understanding, in spiritual discipline, and in service to others. Join us and become a part of the celebration!

Together in Mission

R&R: Renew and Re-Energize was the theme of the Metro Washington DC Synod Together in Mission event held on January 12, 2008 at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethesda, Maryland. Nine members from All Saints attended this day-long conference: Pastor Gary Rhinesmith, Nathan Rich, Andrew Anseth, Raymond Wood, Debbie Ariguzo, Mary Seale, RoAnne Hartfield, Liz Muller, and Ann Greenawalt. The conference consisted of morning and afternoon keynote speakers and the opportunity to attend two workshops on a variety of subjects, including youth and family ministry, conflict resolution, use of technology in worship, spiritual growth, leadership, and volunteer recruitment.

The morning keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. David W. Anderson, Director of Home and Congregational Renewal at The Youth and Family Institute in Bloomington, MN. Dr. Anderson is a noted author, speaker and leader in faith and family life enrichment. In his presentation, he highlighted this quote from Martin Luther:

“Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the Gospel. In short, there is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children, for this authority is both spiritual and temporal. Whoever teaches the Gospel to another is truly his apostle and bishop.” *The Estate of Marriage*, 1522, LW 45:46

Dr. Anderson asked those gathered to think outside the “God box” of the church building, and realize that home is church, too. He stated that too often parents are little more than time managers and chauffeurs for their children, and many congregations are enablers of that type of thinking. Today’s church has followed too much of a corporate or institutional model, emphasizing statistics rather than faith and spiritual development. He noted that is oversimplifying to ask if you have Jesus in your heart; we should have Jesus in our hands and feet, too. Dr. Anderson summarized research into factors that were present in post-high school-aged young people who continued to be active in church. Briefly, those factors include faith integrated into family identity and practice, adult mentors, active participation in service in the name of Jesus Christ, early leadership development, cross-generational church experiences, senior high/young adult ministry, strong Christian friends of all ages, and support of the Christian community during personal crisis. (For more information, see www.faithfactors.com.) Dr. Anderson emphasized that it is the responsibility of congregations to equip their members with the tools necessary to be disciples and pass along the faith to the next generation. A Christian disciple is: Authentic – honest, real, shares own story and listens to the stories of others; Available – spirit of hospitality, “come and see,” healthy relationship of accompaniment; and Affirming – encouraging the gifts of others in their uniqueness as a child of God. [For further information on ways that families of any form (married, divorced, single-parent, couples, singles, grandparents) can enrich faith formation in their homes, please see the Family Faith Connections column.]

The afternoon keynote presentation was given by Sandy McCutcheon, Minister of Christian Education at Grace Lutheran Church and School in Huntsville, Alabama. She is a co-author of *The Knock-Knock Book: If I Hear God Knocking Do You Think I Should Answer?* and *Crossing the Threshold into Totally Awesome Grace*. In her message, she encouraged us to bring hope to all with whom we come in contact. Through stories of incidents and situations in her life, she spoke of the power of grace and prayer to bring hope to those who are beleaguered by tragedy, illness, sadness or family strife.

The day ended with a service of Holy Communion. After receiving the Bread and Wine, communicants walked to the Baptismal font, picked up a stone from the water (marked with Deuteronomy 4:6-9), and received the sign of the cross on their foreheads with a blessing to go and be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

At a follow-up meeting of Together in Mission attendees from ASLC on January 20, 2007, four steps for immediate action were agreed upon. They are: establish of an electronic newsletter regarding youth and family ministry, with contributions from ASLC members of all ages (Andrew Anseth graciously agreed to be the editor); facilitate leadership training for all areas of ministry and especially for youth, such as the Theological Education with Youth at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, with ASLC paying the registration fee; look for ways to engage in cross-generational family ministry activities that equip members and friends in discipleship; and investigate ways to establish a mentoring program within the congregation as part of Confirmation instruction.

Family Faith Connections

This month's Family Faith Connections column will be the first in a series on the Four Keys: Faith Practices for Living One's Baptism. These keys were developed by the Rev. Dr. David W.

Anderson and Paul Hill in their book *Frogs without Legs Can't Hear: Nurturing Disciples in Home and Congregation*.

The first key is Caring Conversations. Christian values and faith are passed on to the next generation through personal, trusted relationships that share the stories of the family, the faith, and the Bible. The Holy Spirit works through these relationships, stories and the conversations that give substance to them, blessing those involved with the gift of faith. Caring conversations express an interest in others, their hurts, their joys, their concerns and dreams, their values and faith. Caring conversation requires time to be available to listen and to speak. All Saints Lutheran Church wants to take on an active role in encouraging your family to identify the holy ground of your lives where precious, caring conversations take place and where lives are strengthened and nurtured by the love and mercy of God through the support, guidance, and genuine interest of others. The key is to take time to talk, listen, laugh and hope with someone you care about. When might these conversations take place?

- meal times
- car rides
- cooking meals together
- doing yard work
- playing games
- doing dishes
- Letters
- Emails
- Shopping
- waking up time or tucking in time
- sharing highs and lows of the day

Listening and responding to the daily concerns of our children (of all ages) makes it easier to have meaningful conversations regarding the love of God, and are ways to express God's love to others.

For further help in getting the conversation started, look at The Youth and Family Institute FaithLife in the Home Resource and Gift Guide at www.tyfi.org.

Reprinted from the ELCA North Carolina Synod website

Learning Opportunities for Adults in February

Sunday 9:45 am:

Augsburg Adult Bible Study

God's Call to the Christian Community: A study of the Gospel of Luke continues through February. Beginning in March, the topic will be God, the People, and the Covenant (**1,2 Chronicles, Daniel, Haggai, Nehemiah**). Check it out!

The Lutheran Course

John Summerlot will lead this reprise of the course offered Sunday evening this past fall. **The Lutheran Course** will take you through the fundamentals of Lutheranism in seven sessions. Each session features a DVD presentation with top-notch theologians, followed by a small-group time that works through the ideas with depth and humor. Great for anyone interested in "what it means to be Lutheran!" Topics are:

- Jan. 13 "How to Tell the Difference Between the Law and the Gospel"
- Jan. 20 "Five Things You Should Know about the Lutheran Reformation"
- Jan. 27 "The Anatomy of a Baptism"
- Feb. 3 "How to Receive Communion"
- Feb. 10 "The Three most Rebellious Things Jesus Did"
- Feb. 17 "How to Read the Bible"
- Feb. 24 "How to Share your Faith with Someone"

Sunday Evening at 6:30 pm:

The Lutheran Church and Theology **Contrasts: History, Today, Future**

Phil Woodruff will lead a study of Lutheran theology and other issues being addressed within the ELCA and throughout the world, the United States, churches, and by individuals. One or two current topics will be reviewed monthly. The topics and study materials are selected by "The Lutheran" magazine. We will also discuss the monthly message of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, and other relevant Lutheran statements. Exact time to be announced.



CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

“Our Morning Out”

Calling all Moms, Dads, Grandparents, and Caregivers.

If you are at home during the day with children or if you'd like to spend some time getting to know the youngest members of the All Saints community, please join us for “Our Morning Out.” We are excited to have so many children at ASLC, and we would like to offer the opportunity for the children to spend time together as well as for the moms, dads, and grandparents to talk, relax, and enjoy one another's company. So, if you'd like to get to know one another, share stories, and build relationships, please join us on the following dates:

February 19: 12:00 – 1:30 Valentines lunch and activity with the Senior Saints
March 14: 9:30 – 11:00 Play date at the church
April 11: 9:30 – 11:00 Play date at the church
May 9: 9:30 – 11:00 Caregivers will be present to watch the children while we fellowship.

Also, we will be planning activities over the summer months for families. Some ideas for these activities include a picnic at a local park, a trip to a community swimming pool, and a movie matinee. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact Emily Summerlot at 301-627-6410 or john.Summerlot@verizon.net.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!



METRO DC SYNOD YOUTH RETREATS:

Shekinah 2008 for 7th and 8th graders is March 7-9 at the 4H Center in Front Royal, VA. The theme is **Grace Almighty**. We will explore what it means to live in God's grace, grace that comes with no strings attached, no fine print, and no questions asked. The registration deadline is February 10. Space is still available. Don't miss out on this fun event. See Debbie Ariguzo for more information.

Shema 2008 for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders will be held on April 20. More information will be available at the end of February. Save the Date!

City of Bowie Environmental Action Plan

This past summer, the City Council approved the *Environmental Infrastructure Action Strategy Plan*. The plan includes strategies for implementing projects, programs, and educational campaigns to support the City in taking a more active environmental stewardship role. (See the plan at www.cityofbowie.org under *What's New*, and also the City's *Green Page*.) Action steps in the plan include developing a stream team program, increasing recycling, creating a backyard habitat program, and creating a rain barrel program. The City is first focusing on the stream teams. Information on the *Green Page* reports these findings from a recent Maryland Biological Stream Survey of fresh-water macro-invertebrates: 70% of tributaries of the Patuxent River rated “Poor” with 21% “Very Poor” for water quality.

Planning for volunteer stream teams is underway, with a city-hosted work session in February (all are invited). A “Bowie Stream Team Clean-Up” is scheduled in April and may include:

- Removing trash
- Creating rain gardens
- Planting trees
- Installing rain barrels under downspouts
- Covering exposed pipes within the stream beds
- Removing fish blockages

Maria Arnold is a member of the City's *new* Environmental Advisory Committee, which meets for the first time February 7. The committee is charged with recommending policies/programs to the City Council relating to the environment. As we get started, Maria is working with Genevieve Trafelet and Mike Schumacher on identifying sections of the Mill Branch for All Saints to work with, which includes the stream next to the church property. As of this bulletin deadline, they are planning to meet with youth to identify their interests as well as engage them in water quality education during the next lock-in.

Wed., 2/20, 7 pm: **Bowie Stream Team Meeting**,
Council Chambers, Bowie City Hall, 2614 Kenhill Drive

Sat., 4/19, 9 am-12 pm: **Bowie Stream Team Clean-Up**

Questions? Contact Maria Arnold, 301-262-5484.

All Saints Lutheran Church Vision and Values Adopted on January 27, 2008

Vision

By the power of the Holy Spirit, All Saints Lutheran church will welcome every person, will offer liturgical worship, will provide meaningful Christian learning opportunities, will joyfully and thankfully use the talents and resources God has provided, will witness to God's saving grace, and will celebrate Jesus' love by serving the local and larger community.

Values

We value providing an inviting and welcoming environment that

- Offers a rich variety of purposeful and meaningful faith-based fellowship opportunities for adults, youth, and children.
- Respects the dignity and worth of all people.
- Builds supportive relationships and fosters intergenerational interaction.

We value liturgical worship that is centered on Lutheran Christian theology, emphasizing God's redeeming presence experienced through:

- Prayer that extends to all we do.
- Preaching grounded in the Holy Scriptures.
- The sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.
- Rich and varied music.

We value Christian learning opportunities for adults, youth, and children that:

- Are consistent with Lutheran theology.
- Include extensive offerings that lead to growth in faith.
- Use the talents of the members and friends of the congregation in planning and leading.
- Are shared with the community.

We value service opportunities that:

- Invite all people to find a place with us in God's mission fields.
- Intentionally include adults, youth, and children.
- Use our gifts, time, and resources to make God's love and saving grace known to the local and larger community.



All Saints Lutheran Church Arts Program

Presents

MOSAIC HARMONY GOSPEL CHOIR

Saturday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.

U.S. NAVY BAND CHAMBER PLAYERS

Sunday, May 4, 4:00 p.m.





August 29, 2005 is now part of the history of the United States. On that day Hurricane Katrina made landfall along the Gulf Coast. What happened during the next two days became the costliest national disaster in U.S. history. The estimate is \$87 billion (with a “B”). What happened became the deadliest hurricane since Lake Okeechobee, Florida in 1928. What happened then began a recovery effort that continues today.

That is all dramatic and historic. What happened then was also personal and tragic. It happened to people, to individuals and families. The scope and size of the recovery is larger than any one group, organization, agency or even government can accomplish separately.

November 18, 2006 is now part of the history of All Saints Lutheran Church. On that day 15 people left Bowie to travel to Biloxi, Mississippi. This group would spend Thanksgiving week helping to rebuild the home of Noel Belius and others in Biloxi. This was the first Rebuilding Biloxi group. Three other groups have gone since then. Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Rebuilding Biloxi is a response of faith. It is a response to Jesus’ parable. The skills of those who have worked in Biloxi range from experienced to, well, *not* experienced. The involvement of *everyone* in the congregation is a response to the least. They are still living in camping trailers 29 months later. They are still being denied insurance payments that are legally theirs.

The next group from All Saints Lutheran Church will be going to Rebuild Biloxi

April 12 – 19

You are invited to consider traveling and working in Biloxi.

Talk with Dave Baine or Pastor Gary for details. The cost of the trip will be determined individually.

You are invited to assist the people of Biloxi by supporting Rebuild Biloxi.

Watch for details.

God is Good, All the Time!

After three years of serving on council, (two as president), I most heartedly believe in our now familiar greeting. I am awed by how this community of faith has been blessed with God’s goodness in terms of people, resources, and faith—just review the annual report, one more time! I thank God for all those who participate in the mission and ministries of All Saints, for those who faithfully serve in the many “routine” activities that allow us to fulfill our mission, and for those who lead our ministries, especially Pastor Gary. I have been blessed by the opportunity to work, pray, and serve with so many faithful disciples—thank you to all!

With our newly adopted Vision and Values Statements and the Holy Spirit, I am positive that All Saints Lutheran Church will continue to be a healthy, vibrant Christian community that expands in its ministries, embodies and acts on our values, and aspires to fulfill God’s vision. I am confident that our newly elected council and officers will provide inspired leadership as we move ahead with our story and sharing God’s grace and love with others. Thank you for allowing me to serve as council president of our blessed congregation. It has indeed been an honor.

All the Time, God is Good!

Yours in Christ,

Kim Watson



All Saints Lutheran Church members donated a large number of coats, sweaters, gloves, and hats to those in need in the recent coat drive.

Thank you to everyone who participated!



Annie Mouse
loves to gather
news and pictures
about the saints

- I saw Ann, Mary, and John Greenawalt leaving the church one day last week and then I went into the nursery. Wow, they really did a nice job cleaning!
- Then, I noticed Debbie Ariguzo, Ann, Mary, and John Greenawalt, and Kristen, Jake and Ben Heyer working on the Sunday School Closet. They cleaned so well, I have lost some of my best hiding places.
- I am very proud of Joshua Sichelman who won the quarterly Citizenship Award for the second grade at Highbridge Elementary School.
- The congregation meeting sure was a big event! It was great to see all the Saints together and discussing the important work of All Saints. I loved the food, thanks to: Chris Greenawalt, Mike Schumacher, Roz Kleffman, Marguerite Mattison, Martha Ploor and all their helpers!
- When Missionary Rev. Deal visited recently I learned a lot about the beautiful country of Costa Rica and how our Lutheran Church is being shared with the people of that country.
- Also when Rev. Deal was here, I heard a lot of Spanish during the beautiful, intimate worship that was held in the Fellowship Hall. It was fun to sing in Spanish!
- Hearing the story about the life of this missionary and his family was inspiring. I tasted some delicious crumbs from the meals that were served. Thanks to Mike Schumacher, Chris Greenawalt, Roz Kleffman, Larry Ploor, Marguerite Mattison, and Barbara Wheatley.

Congratulations
on Your
New Baby Girl!



CONGRATULATIONS TO Dave and Linda Baine on the birth of their granddaughter, Sydney Lynne Pryor. Sydney was born December 31 at 4:03 pm and she weighed 6lbs, 3oz. Sydney is also the niece of Kristen and Chris Heyer and a new cousin for Jake and Ben!



Pastor Gary Rhinesmith
Cell: 301-801-9209

Dr. Connie Rhinesmith
Cell: 301-801-6182

The Happiest of February Birthdays

- 2/03 - Lake Earnest
- 2/10 - Jim Withers
- 2/11 - Skip Thomas
- 2/12 - Edwin-Li Donato
- 2/14 - Florie Stende
- 2/14 - Kelley Adams
- 2/15 - Heather Avalos
- 2/15 - Mike Clark
- 2/16 - John Clancy
- 2/19 - Joshua Sichelman
- 2/24 - Vickie Bozick
- 2/26 - Dave Moday



**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:
MILITARY DUTY:**

Dave Allen, Ross Bogard, Robert Bryant, Chad Field, Jim Gehring, Ryan Hartwig, Jon Heyer, Richard Hunt, Brian O'Connell, Matt O'Connell, Wil Rollefson, Shanna Stann.

AT FULL-CARE HOME: Joan DeHenzel, Dick Hartfield, Velma Hollar and Walter Schoenfuhs Sr.

OTHER CONCERNS: Bob Abell, Robert Adams, James Amos, Wendy Andrews, Tim Beal, Mary Bohannon, Kirsten Burton, Carl Carlson, Jerry Champion, Hazel Christenson, Peter Conrad-Killion, Chris Cook, Chris Dobe, Michelle Dowsett, Pearl Hibbard, Judy Ho, Velma Hollar, Robert Keating, Ruth Ann Killion, Carole Jones, John Laughlin, Doris Levy, Serge Loiseau, Eva Mach-Dixon, Donna Malone, Helon McLeroy, Maria McNamara, Olivia Miller, Jason Newell, Robert Olds, JoEllen Pasewald, Catherine Patsias, Lowry Piercy, Mark Quasius, Karen Rees, Jack Rice, Fred Rickson, Sylvia Roe, Benjamin Schultz, Richard Schumacher, Ed Seely, Bambi Steiner, Curt Stende, Cheri Waesche, Bill Wesley, Karen White and Elizabeth Young.



Pastor: Gary Rhinesmith
Admin. Assistant: Jean Reams
Parish Administrator: Larry Floor
Editor: Jean Reams

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2nd Star Production 2007-2008 Season

"Leading Ladies" by Ken Ludwig
February 29 - March 22, 2008

"My Fair Lady" by Lerner and Loewe
May 30 - June 28, 2008

2nd Star Productions is in its 13th season of providing quality theatre to the area. Performances are on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For times and pricing, please call 410-757-5700 or 301-858-7245 and leave a message in mailbox 4 if you get voicemail. More information can also be found on the table in the narthex or visit the website: www.2ndstarproductions.com. A percentage of 2nd Star Productions opening nights proceeds are donated to All Saints.

NOTICE!!!
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Email articles for the
March 2008
Grapevine newsletter to
the church office
church@allsaintsbowie.org
by February 24, 2008

You may also place articles in the newsletter mailbox in the church office.

Thank you to all who contribute their helping hands in making this newsletter possible.