



THE CROWN

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October 2023

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and more

BISHOP
The Rt. Rev Dr. Bill Atwood

RECTOR
The Rev. Wes Gristy

DEACON OF PARISH MINISTRIES
The Rev. Kevin Vailes

RECTOR EMERITUS
The Rev. Chuck Filiatreau

DEACONS
The Rev. Barbara Reed
The Rev. Terry Blakley

DEACON OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION
The Rev. Nan Thomas

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Dr. Jordan Tang

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
Matthew Cook

LEAD CHILDREN'S CATECHIST
Katie Beavers

FINANCIAL DIRECTOR
Donna Taylor

Common Prayer

our common life together consists of our worship of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Common Learning

our common life together consists of teaching one another how to be obedient to Jesus in all things

Common Service

our common life together consists of loving one another and the world as Jesus loves us

A Shared Vision and Mission

Our Diocesan Journey to ADOTS

by Landon Preston, Junior Warden and Chair of DDT

At our September meeting, the Vestry unanimously agreed to accept the Diocesan Discernment Team's (DDT) recommendation to formally join the Anglican Diocese of the South, also known as ADOTS. While it was a simple motion followed by a short discussion, the process of discerning a new diocese and the lessons learned in this journey were anything but simple and short. However, what we learned about ourselves as a community led the Vestry to join ADOTS, with eager expectations about our future together.

The DDT was formed in January of 2022 by the Vestry with the task of creating and executing a process to discern our next diocese. This decision was prompted by the direction of our current bishop, Bill Atwood, who had announced that he would retire in June of 2024. The International Diocese that he leads was created in 2009 to help fund Bill Atwood's temporary role as the Dean of International Affairs for the ACNA (Anglican Church in North America). Our diocese gave all of its churches two years to learn, two years to discern, and one year to deploy in terms of their diocesan future. Our two-year season of discernment has now officially come to an end.

The DDT had seven members: Jay Beavers, Marty Courcelle, Jane Garrety, Fr. Wes Gristy, Scott Huelin, Lynn Tatum, and myself. We began this process in the spring and summer of 2022 by collecting surveys and feedback from the parish to ensure alignment in priorities from theological leanings to resources for our clergy and activities

for youth and families. Every diocese within the ACNA was initially considered, taking a list of over 30+ dioceses and quickly narrowing it down to 17, followed by a shortlist of four in the fall of 2022, which quickly became a list of two finalists, the Diocese of Christ Our Hope (COH) and ADOTS.

Part of the reason we selected these two dioceses was our familiarity with both: we have a relationship with Alan Hawkins, who is the Bishop Coadjutor of COH (which means he is in line to become the diocese's main bishop), as he had served as a consultant for our church and helped to inspire and develop our Mission Abbey vision from 2018 to 2020. Meanwhile, we have been actively involved with ADOTS as we partnered with them to help launch Mission Saint James, our daughter church. Through this process, we have become well acquainted with the Canon for Church Planting, Chris Sorenson, and how the broader diocese operates.

The team developed a list of over fifty questions that we asked each bishop and leadership group, aimed at helping us better understand their unique identity. Questions surrounding items

such as the mechanics of their deanery model, frequency of bishop visits, youth programs, and development of upcoming clergy were inspired by All Saints' mission and personality as well as our parish surveys. As a team, we held multiple Zoom calls with each bishop, including Archbishop Foley Beach, who steps down as Archbishop in the summer of 2024, but will still continue in his role as bishop over ADOTS after a three-month sabbatical.

We also spoke with clergy associated with each diocese in person and over diocesan events, as well as former All Saints members associated with each diocese. Over several interviews, it was clear

Continued on page 8.



Join in Our Common Life

Monktoberfest Men's Gathering

All the men of All Saints and their friends are invited to gather for food, fellowship, and the monkhood of all believers on Sunday, October 22 at 4:00 pm at Archie Wright's house at 917 Grayson Lane. BYOB and \$10 to offset food costs.

Prayer & Fasting Day

In response to our upcoming move into the new nave, we call everyone to set aside Wednesday, October 4 for prayer and fasting. Consider joining us that day for Noonday Eucharist.

Youth Encounter

All students entering 6th–12th grade are invited to Youth Encounter each Wednesday evening from 5:45 to 7:45 pm for a time of teaching, fellowship, and food. **Note: There will be no Youth Encounter on October 4.** Contact Dn. Kevin Vailes for more information.

Blessing of the Animals

In partnership with Mission Saint James, we invite you to bring your furry and scaly friends to a blessing of the animals on Wednesday, October 4 at 6:00 pm next to the downtown dog park.

Ladies Koinonia

The ladies of All Saints are invited to fellowship together on October 15 and 29 at 6:00 pm as Joyce Heffernan continues discussion on the book, "Joyful Journey: Listening to Immanuel" by E. James Wilder.

Nursery Volunteers

We are excited that our new nave will include three Nursery rooms for infants, crawlers, and toddlers. While we are committed to securing 3–5 paid Nursery workers, we will need to supplement these workers with volunteers. Reach out to Matthew in the office if you're interested in learning more about serving in this way.

Outdoor Work Day

Join twelve Union University students who will be joining our Garden Team to perform various landscaping jobs around our campus on Tuesday, October 31 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is part of Union's twenty-first annual campus-wide service day as a way to thank the community for its support during the 2008 tornado that hit Union's campus.

Just One Thing

Evelyn Underhill

by Dr. David Thomas

In August, I wrote on John Stott, a mid-twentieth-century Anglican with strong evangelical leanings. Today I want to offer a few words on Evelyn Underhill, also a twentieth-century Anglican, also a prolific and generous writer, but with strong Catholic leanings.

Underhill (b. 1875) was raised in a privileged, agnostic, English home. As a youth she was drawn to God by experiences of surpassing and transcendent peace. She became a Christian in her early thirties and her pursuit of God intensified with age, drawing her ever more deeply into prayer, devotional practices, service to the poor, and spiritual direction. Her most famous writing is *Mysticism* (1911) but pigeon-holing her as a mystic doesn't capture the breadth of her life. Underhill was not one to stay on the mountaintop.

She wrote: thirty-nine books, over three hundred articles, letters, poetry, and more. She talked: spiritual retreats, radio broadcasts, spiritual direction for hundreds of people, and as the Upton Lecturer in the Philosophy of Religion at Manchester College. She sailed. She traveled. She lived a busy, full life. And that's the interesting part, isn't it? How does someone whose life was so filled with people and words find time to develop such rich prayer and write one of the classic texts on mysticism?

Her book *Concerning the Inner Life* (1926) takes the question head-on. This book was originally a series of three addresses given "at a school for clergy".

It is short, informal, and accessible. Right out of the gate she observes a basic problem:

it very often happens that the busy and driven parish priests entirely lose sight not merely of their own spiritual position, but also of this great spiritual landscape in which they are placed; by concentrating all the while on those details of it

that specially concern them. They cannot see the forest, because they are attending so faithfully to the trees. It is surely a first charge on their devotional lives, to recover that sense of the forest, which gives all their meaning to the trees (*Concerning the Inner Life*, 1999, 13).

What goes for busy parish priests goes for busy parishioners, as well. The essential thing, she argues, is to retain a vision of the Splendor of God. Contemplation of God's splendor elevates the soul but also inspires action. The great lover of God will also become a great lover of people. By contrast, a faith which is committed to action but loses the sense of awe will become threadbare. A faith bereft of God's beauty will not suffice for "those awful moments when the pain and mystery of life are most deeply felt" (*Inner Life*, 15).

Underhill's writing, speaking, and spiritual direction was theocentric rather than introspective. To paraphrase C. S. Lewis, she aimed for heaven, rather than earth. Knowing the reality of God's steadfast love -- first-hand, vivid, rooted, and grounded -- is crucial to a rich, sustained Christian life. And, Underhill tells us, this can only be gained in prayer, "the steady orientation of your souls to the Reality of God. Called upon to practise in their fullness the two great commandments, you can only hope to get the second one right, if you are completely controlled by the first. And that will depend on the quality of your secret inner life." (*Inner Life*, 18)

For more, see Evelyn Underhill, *Concerning the Inner Life* (1926). The older editions are more precisely faithful to her text; newer editions have been updated. In response to queries I must note that, regrettably, all ancestral connections to the Underhills of Bree remain speculative.



JUBILATE

Stewardship Season 2023

by Fr. Wes Gristy



O be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.

These are the opening words of Psalm 100, also known as the Jubilate, named after the first word of the psalm in Latin, which means “be joyful.” Did you ever think about that? The Lord calls us to be joyful. Jubilate! The Apostle Paul, too, in his letter from prison to the church in Philippi, sounds off with this summons: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). We are called to be a joyful people.

And yet, if we’re honest with each other, our everyday experience is marked more by anxiety than a breath of fresh joy. Fear, not joy, seems to be our

everyday companion—fear of losing control, fear of circumstances not playing out as we hoped, fear of our loved ones suffering, fear of not having enough, fear of... you name it.

Into our world of anxiety, God still speaks: “Jubilate!” Be joyful! Rejoice! Easier said than done. How can we in the midst of all the uncertainties of life, in the midst of all our fears and sufferings, truly respond to this invitation from God to find joy? What might that journey look like, especially for our church?

Answering this question is the goal of this year’s upcoming Stewardship Season. We will be making the case that living with open hands, giving generously of yourselves, seeing all of life as a gift to offer back to God, putting the interests of others before yourself—this kind of life (or stewardship) is our pathway to joy.

Yes, we will still be given the opportunity to take account of our time, treasure, and talents, and we will hear testimonies from some of our parishioners about their experience with joyful stewardship. But above all, we want to be able to respond to God’s invitation, Jubilate!

All members and regular attenders will receive a letter in the mail introducing you to this year’s Stewardship Season as well as providing you with pledge forms to fill out that will help us create next year’s budget. Included with this letter will also be an update on where things stand financially in terms of our building expenses and loan, and our gameplan for moving forward.

FAQ about the New Building

Q: What’s the delay?

A: The building is finished, but a certificate of occupancy cannot be given until the parking lot is complete, which is contingent on additional sidewalks, curbing, and some landscaping. These final tasks have to be done in a certain order and with different subcontractors who are slammed with other jobs. It’s a question of lining up the dominoes in proper order, and then knocking them down in proper order. Thank you, Lord, for teaching us patience.

Q: When do we anticipate our first Sunday in the new nave?

A: Nice try. We have learned our lesson by advertising dates and then having to postpone them. But even if we received the certificate of occupancy today, the earliest Sunday we’d be ready for the new building would be October 22. Further delays could push this date into November.

Q: What will occur in the new nave?

A: All of our Sunday and special services, including our Morning and Evening Prayer services as well as our healing services, will be held in the new nave. Of course, our new Adult Formation Hour will also use this space on Sundays. Additionally, the choir will have their weekly rehearsals in the new nave. We are also expected to receive more requests from our community for weddings, and so we are actively developing a pathway for folks to utilize our building, a pathway that not only includes appropriate policies, but a pre-marital support ministry.

Q: What will be done with our old building?

A: We will continue to use it for our office space, the Atrium and the Children’s Liturgy of the Word on Sunday mornings, ASIS (All Saints Immigration Services) and other weekly activities, and as a parish hall for events and shared meals. To distinguish between the two buildings, we will call our new building The Nave and our old building The Parish Hall. In the future, after building our next phase of the Mission Abbey—new office and classroom space—we intend to tear down our current building in order to construct what might be called our Community Center.

Q: What are we going to do with the steeple?

A: Yes, clearly our two building do not match. We knew that would be the case. However, in the near future, we would like to remove the steeple on our current building and perhaps even do some painting so that there is less of a clash between them. But this requires money, and there are other pressing financial priorities on the horizon. So we’ll see.

Q: Speaking of finances, how much money will we owe on the new nave?

A: We have used all of our \$3 million loan to build the our new nave. That has been supplemented with \$1.73 million of a projected \$2.08 million in pledges from our people, as well as with some designated budget money over the last three years. We are currently leaning on a \$500,000 furnishing loan as needed to pay for the final work being done. In short, next year we will be paying toward a debt service of a little over \$3 million. This will certainly be a challenge for us as a church, but one that we did anticipate. You will receive more information about how you can participate in giving toward our Mission Abbey during this year’s stewardship season.

Q: What is being planned for some of our initial outdoor spaces?

A: Over a year ago, the Vestry formed a Mission Abbey Garden Team who was given the responsibility of working with a landscape architect to develop a masterplan for the outdoor spaces of our campus. This team hopes to utilize that masterplan to receive grant money for the development of some of these spaces. Initially, they hope to install landscaping around the new nave, develop an outdoor children’s play area on the northeast side of our current building, and restore our Stations of the Cross area. The members of the Garden Team include Bev Carr, Kim Howerton, Cindy Jayne, David Nailling, and Celeste Pope.



Diocesan Journey to ADOTS Cont.

...both had similarities in terms of their makeup, but differed in terms of style and execution. For example, ADOTS appeared to have a robust and systematic approach to church planting and clergy support. The style of COH appeared to be more improvised and open to experimenting with new ideas.

But during the interview process, a theme arose among our team members. There were some who had a proclivity toward one of two dioceses, and those leanings were important for us to consider. In fact, others within our parish felt these same leanings as well, based on conversations with our team members. There were some among our team who felt an affinity with ADOTS and Archbishop Foley because of our relationship with Mission Saint James and the possibility of a shared, local geography. ADOTS has several churches throughout the state of Tennessee, and at the time of our search, our sister church, Faith Anglican Church in Cordova, was our nearest neighbor, followed by several in middle and East Tennessee, not to mention Arkansas, Alabama, and Mississippi. Several members who grew up in the Episcopal Church benefitted from shared experiences of being a part of a diocese bound

by geography. To them, the advantages of such proximity were evident when it came to ministry partnerships and a shared understanding of our culture and region.

There was also an affinity among others in our team with what COH could offer. While All Saints would be a geographic outlier in this diocese, there was a shared understanding of our Mission Abbey vision, which had been inspired by Bishop Alan Hawkins' church in Greensboro, NC. The creative systems in place for how COH did leadership development and missional partnerships were also attractive and seemed more compatible with the culture of All Saints. Several members of our team and among the congregation felt that these affinities were just as important as geographical proximity.

We began to notice that our committee served as a window into the broader congregation. There were some who had experienced the joys of being in a thriving, regional diocese and understood the opportunities this afforded. And there were others who felt the passion of an innovative, dynamic orientation toward mission, and how important that could be for our church. So how did our team unanimously decide on ADOTS?

First of all, we should state again that after months of research and interviews with each diocese, our team agreed that ADOTS and COH had more in common than not. Both had strong systems and leadership in place, even while taking different approaches in implementing them. This is why you kept hearing Fr. Wes say, "We have two very good options, whichever diocese we go with."

Then our team had a meeting one evening in March when we discussed the differences between the two. It was clear that some members felt a stronger affinity with COH's culture and a connection to our Mission Abbey vision. Other team members felt the benefit of a geographically-based diocese and the impact we would be able to have. But then we began to flip the question: it's not only which diocese could best serve our needs, but also how might All Saints be able to best serve the needs of a potential diocese?

Around this time, we also noticed that surprising works of the Spirit were developing in this area of ADOTS that did not exist when we began the search process. A community formed almost overnight when a former Methodist congregation decided to join with an Anglican Bible study meeting outside of Savannah, TN that was led by Deacon Fred Elrich. Before he knew it, a new church was born (St. Peter's by the Lake) and he was ordained a priest in order to serve them as their rector. Then we learned that groundwork was being laid for a new church plant in Midtown Memphis as Fr. Drew Haltom was set to move to Memphis over the summer to spearhead the effort.

Furthermore, Faith Anglican in Cordova was in the process of securing a young new rector, as their former rector, Fr. Herb Hand, had responded to the call to serve as a missionary in North Africa. And we certainly could not forget our relationship with our daughter church, Mission Saint James, who was about to move to weekly services! Through all these recent developments, we were noticing that

the Holy Spirit was on the move in this region of ADOTS.

A major focus of our team's deliberations was being faithful to our Mission Abbey vision, and if one of these dioceses would better support this vision. The heart of our Mission Abbey vision is for our church to be a place where we can "share in the life of God for the life of the world," and where others could experience God through prayer, retreat, and service. This is one of the drivers behind our new nave, to have a larger space where more people can share in the life of God through common prayer, worship, and additional space to host events to deepen our spiritual life and work. And it was to this point where it became clear to our team that the opportunity was far more real and present to help others participate in our vision and mission by joining ADOTS.

Compared to the majority of churches in the ACNA, which average 75 in attendance on a Sunday, we are a spiritually rich and vibrant church. When it comes to finances, ministry offerings, contemplative resources, soon-to-be facilities, and most of all, clergy and leadership, there are few Anglican churches in this region that compare to what God has been building over the last 19 years here at All Saints. Given this reality and the opportunity to impact the new churches in our backyard, our team felt united to bring a recommendation to the Vestry for our church to join ADOTS.

In summary, our team had been tasked to help our church discern a new diocesan future, but through this process we learned more about ourselves, and what makes us such a special and varied congregation. Even more though, through this process we were able to more deeply commit ourselves to our shared vision and mission. We bless God for his graciousness to us through this process!

OCTOBER

at a glance

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div><div><div>Holy Eucharist 9:00am • 10:45am</div><div></div><div>Birthday's Anniversaries</div></div><div>1</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div></div><div></div></div><div>2</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Healing Prayer 12:00pm - 2:00pm</div><div>Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm</div></div><div>3</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Noonday Eucharist 12:00pm</div><div>Blessing of the Animals 6:00pm</div></div><div>4</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Precepts Bible Study 9:00am</div><div></div></div><div>5</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Jason Crawford Marcia Moss</div><div></div></div><div>6</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>7</div></div>
<div><div><div>Holy Eucharist 9:00am • 10:45am</div><div></div><div></div></div><div>8</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div></div><div>Archie Wright Beth & Brandon Moore</div></div><div>9</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Healing Prayer 12:00pm - 2:00pm</div><div>Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm</div></div><div>10</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Youth Encounter 5:45pm</div><div></div></div><div>11</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Precepts Bible Study 9:00am</div><div>Haylee & Matthew Cook</div></div><div>12</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Lynn Binkley Liam Wilson</div><div></div></div><div>13</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Annie Abernathy</div><div></div></div><div>14</div></div>
<div><div><div>Holy Eucharist 9:00am • 10:45am</div><div>Ladies Koinonia 6:00pm - 8:00pm</div><div></div></div><div>15</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div></div><div>Kay Shearin</div></div><div>16</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Healing Prayer 12:00pm - 2:00pm</div><div>Evening Prayer 5:30pm</div><div>Vestry Meeting 6:00pm</div><div>Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm</div><div>Jan Wilcox Chelsy & Jason Crawford Becky & George Googe</div></div><div>17</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Youth Encounter 5:45pm</div><div></div></div><div>18</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div></div><div></div></div><div>19</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Lanie Burleson Fr. Wes Gristy</div><div></div></div><div>20</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Celecia & Gary Osborne</div><div></div></div><div>21</div></div>
<div><div><div>Holy Eucharist 9:00am • 10:45am</div><div>Monktoberfest Men's Gathering 4:00pm</div><div></div></div><div>22</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div></div><div>Phil Colgrove</div></div><div>23</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Healing Prayer 12:00pm - 2:00pm</div><div>Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm</div><div></div></div><div>24</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Youth Encounter 5:45pm</div><div></div></div><div>25</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div></div><div>Marcy Pinson Madilynn Preston</div></div><div>26</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>27</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>28</div></div>
<div><div><div>Holy Eucharist 9:00am • 10:45am</div><div>Ladies Koinonia 6:00pm - 8:00pm</div><div></div></div><div>29</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div></div><div></div></div><div>30</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Healing Prayer 12:00pm - 2:00pm</div><div>Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm - 8:30pm</div><div></div></div><div>31</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div>Noonday Eucharist 12:00pm</div><div></div></div><div>1</div></div>	<div><div><div>Morning Prayer 8:15am - 8:45am</div><div></div><div></div></div><div>2</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>3</div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>4</div></div>



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