

August 2026

Retirement Celebration

Rev. Jane Schmoetzer, our wonderful rector of the last 16 years, is retiring, and will be celebrating her last Eucharist at All Saints' on **Sunday, August 30, at 9am** in a combined service. Bishop Gretchen Rehberg will be joining us, as well.

Following the service, we will all celebrate Rev. Jane out on the pavilion with food and fun, giving thanks for her ministry and wishing her well in retirement. Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin and Wednesday Word for additional information on the party as we firm up the details.

While we wish Rev. Jane all the best in her very well-deserved retirement, she will be greatly missed. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we send her off in style!



Rector Search: Calling Process

As Rev. Jane prepares to retire, the vestry has also started the process of searching for a new rector. In the Episcopal Church, calling new clerical leadership is primarily an intentional process of discernment for both priest and congregation.

The vestry is currently working on first steps. Their present focus is twofold: first, they are seeking to call an Interim priest to serve with us while the longer process of seeking a Rector unfolds. They have been working with the Diocesan Transition Minister, Canon Susan Cleveley, to find an Interim available to serve. They will make an announcement as soon as they have information to share.

Secondly, they are beginning to collect information. This part of the process is a time of self-study: we'll consider where we have been and who we are - our history as a congregation, and our mission and vision for ministry in Jesus' name. How have we lived as God's people in this place? What has gone well, and where have we struggled? What are our goals for the future? What sort of leadership (both lay and ordained) will we need to get there? You'll hear more about the congregation's part in this very soon.

All this will help us assemble a parish profile, which clearly expresses who we are as a congregation and who we seek in our next Rector.

Then, a Search Committee will be appointed. They will work with the vestry to share our profile as widely as possible, and invite clergy from around the wider Episcopal Church to discern with us. Interested candidates will contact the diocese; the names of those approved by the bishop will be passed on to the Search Committee for interviews and further mutual discernment. A few of those will be invited to visit All Saints' in person. And eventually, the search committee will make a recommendation to the vestry, who will vote to call our next Rector.

Of course, all of this must be undergirded with prayer, and careful listening for where the Holy Spirit might be leading. So please, pray daily! For honesty and clarity; for wisdom and insight; and above all, for ongoing guidance as we seek to follow Christ in this time of transition.

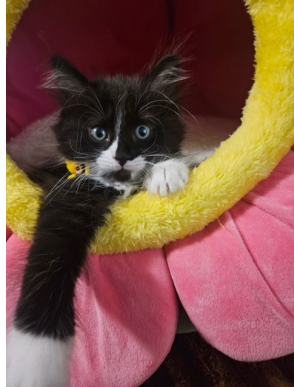
Be sure to check out the Calling Process Checklist posted in both the parish hall and the narthex to know where we are in the process! Follow along as items are checked off as they are completed.



Rector's Corner

The newest event in our family is that our son and his girlfriend have adopted a kitten! "Mochi" is a tiny scrap of black and white fur who alternates between purring snuggles and adventurous exploration. She is adorable.

Of course, Kyle and Maritza are aware that there is more to adding Mochi to their household than bringing her home. She needs daily food and water, and a litter box to be cleaned regularly. Vet appointments to help her stay healthy. Regular brushing and nail clipping. Consistent training, to encourage good behavior and discourage bad habits. They're not just acquiring a pet; they're taking on a host of new responsibilities for many years to come.



Relationships always work that way, don't they? They may begin quickly, but they require ongoing effort to maintain. Meeting a new friend happens in an instant; being a friend requires time and care and attention. It only takes a few moments to make marriage vows, but a lifetime to keep them.

A relationship with God is no different. Becoming aware of the presence of Christ in our lives, or seeing the Holy Spirit at work, often comes in flashes of insight. Baptism doesn't take long at all, really. But that's only a beginning; a lifetime of discipleship builds upon that solid foundation to draw us ever closer to the heart of God. Commitment to regular worship and prayer, study and learning, and faithful service to God and neighbor, build connections; they form us, over time, ever more into the image and likeness of God we are created to be.

God's peace, Jane+

Adult Formation

For the first part of August, Adult Formation continues our summertime practice of meeting in the

parish hall between services to reflect on scripture together. "Sing to the Lord a New Song" is our diocesan theme for the year, so we are focusing on passages which help us reflect on the ways that we are called, literally and figuratively, to "sing a new song" in our lives. At 9:15, grab a cup of coffee and join us at the long table as we look at the following passages:

Aug. 2: Acts 16:16-34

Paul & Silas in prison

Aug. 9: Colossians 3:12-17

Alive in Christ

Aug. 16: Revelation 4:8-11

A vision of heavenly worship

The last two Sundays in August, Adult Formation will not meet because of other events. On August 23, we'll enjoy the annual service and potluck with St. Paul's, Kennewick. On August 30, we're marking Rev. Jane's last Sunday before her retirement with a single service at 9:00 AM, followed by a festive brunch to celebrate our ministry together.

As always, we hope you'll plan to be part of it all!

Children and Youth Ministries – August 2026

VBS 2026: Living Water. VBS was held July 13-17 and we had a wonderful week! Check out the full recap on page 5.

Godly Play, our Sunday school program for preschool and elementary-aged children, will resume on the Sunday after Labor Day, **September 13, 2026**, from 9 to 10am. Our first day will be a combined class with youth and adults and will be held in the multi-purpose room. If you would like more information about Godly Play, contact Theresa at school@allsaintsrichland.org.

Visitors welcome in Children's Chapel. Our child-friendly Liturgy of the Word is held during the beginning of the 10:15 worship service all year round, and visitors are always welcome! We meet in

the multi-purpose room downstairs, and come up to join the rest of the congregation for Communion. For children ages 3 up through 6th grade.

There will be no chapel on August 23 or 30.

Friends for Pastoral Care

Can you be a friend? How often have you wondered about an All Saints' member you haven't seen for a while? Maybe they are ill, had surgery, moved to a new home at assisted living, are finding it more difficult to get out, or just need a little more one-on-one contact with our church. Could you spare a few minutes every week or two to make a friendly phone call to just one of these members? If you are so led, you could also make a short visit or occasionally send a card.

The Pastoral Care team would pair you up with someone who would love to hear from you. You would not need to attend biweekly Pastoral Care team meetings, but you'd always be welcome. Phone calls may be on your own schedule (any day, any time from 8am to 8pm) at whatever level of interaction you are comfortable with. If your



availability changes, we'll be flexible in making changes anytime. Ideally, both of you will benefit from this friendship. No one is too old or too young to be or to need a friend!

To sign up to be a friend for the next six months, look for sign-up sheets in the narthex coming in August.

If you have questions or if you need a friend, contact Marjie Mack (call or text 410-703-3428, or email mmack3108@comcast.net) or speak with one of the clergy.

Senior Warden's Update

The vestry has been reviewing the "Calling Process Book" that the Diocesan Transition Minister, Canon Susan Cleveley, handed out to us at our meeting on May 27. We are now considering candidates to serve as Priest in Charge for the next year. We are working

hard to have an interim priest, to start after Jane's retirement.

Our Administration Committee of the vestry is currently gathering information for a "State of the Congregation Report" that will be submitted to the Bishop. The vestry will be preparing to select a chaplain (a lay person) to serve throughout the Calling Process.

Please remember that this is a Calling Process, not a hiring process, a discerning of God's will for our future. Hold All Saints' in your prayers, and the work of the vestry in particular, as we try to discern God's will for us and our future.

As Senior Warden, I will do my best to keep you, the congregation, informed as we proceed through this process. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask. Administrator Rachel Loer will know some things, but she probably can't answer all your questions. Confidentiality is important, and I and the vestry may not be able to respond to all inquiries.

Soon, you may be asked to serve on a committee doing work to prepare us for our Calling and Discernment process and gathering information about our congregation and our community. These will be of short duration, so an extended commitment will not be required.

Summer Movie Nights

One more movie night this summer! Please mark your calendars to join us **August 18 at 6pm** for a potluck supper followed by a film and lively discussion.

This time we'll be watching "**Cabrini**" (PG-13):

After witnessing disease and poverty in the slums of New York, Italian immigrant Francesca Cabrini embarks on a daring journey to persuade the hostile mayor to provide housing and healthcare for hundreds of orphaned children.



Outreach Focus for August: Early Learning Center

With the new school year approaching, Outreach's focus for August will be collecting items for the Early Learning Center (ELC) in Richland. ELC houses Richland School District's developmental preschool as well as the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, providing free preschool education for low-income families.

The staff at ELC do their best to provide things for the children so that they can focus on learning - our Outreach Committee helps fund the Second Harvest Bite-2-Go bags of food that some children take home during the school year, so they have enough to eat on the weekends. They also collect used clothing to give to the families, but items like underwear, socks, and shoes are not usually passed down (not in great shape, anyway, if they are).

We will be collecting for **children, ages 3-5:**

- NEW children's underwear, sizes 4/5/6/7
- New children's socks, size small
- New or gently used shoes (especially sneakers) sizes 11/12/13
- ELC also has a need for sanitizing wipes

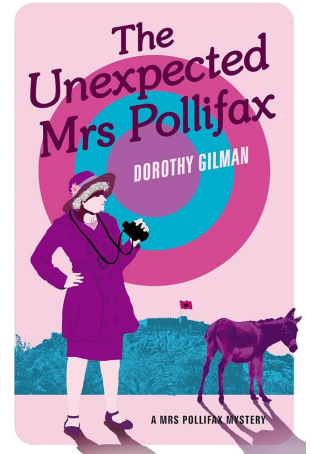
We can also take used clothing donations for preschoolers as well (3T through 5) to add to their bins. You can bring your donations to the box in the narthex at church through the month of August.



All Saints' Book Group

Our next book to read is *The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax*, by Dorothy Gilman. This first book in a popular espionage series was originally published in 1966. Mrs. Emily Pollifax is a 60-ish widow wanting more from life than teas and garden club meetings.

In search of adventure, she decides to offer her services to the CIA - who, after all, would spot a suburban grandmother as a Cold War secret agent? Her first assignment in Mexico City doesn't sound dangerous, until something goes wrong. She finds herself abducted across the world, and her abductors find themselves entangled with one unbelievably feisty lady. A little "light" reading for the end of summer!



We will meet to discuss this book on **Thursday, August 27**, beginning at 6pm in the parish hall with a potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome!

July Vestry Summary

All Saints' Vestry met on July 20 with a full and active agenda. Lisa Richmond was appointed to fill the remainder of Liam Larsen's unexpired term; she will serve on the Administration Committee for the remainder of 2026.

Representatives from Scout Pack #231, which has been meeting at All Saints' over the last year, gave a presentation asking All Saints' to serve as their sponsoring Charter Organization. The vestry agreed to take the matter under advisement and vote at the August meeting. If approved, the sponsorship would formally start on January 1, 2027.

The Property Committee gave updates on several active projects. The HVAC system in the education wing needs to be replaced while the one in the nave requires major repairs. The Vestry approved spending up to \$17,000 to accomplish both tasks. The elevator and all major components are functional again. A new projector was recently installed in the parish hall - a substantial upgrade to the old one! New gutters, downspouts, and leaf filters will be installed around the administration wing on July 29.

The Ministry Committee reported that both the “Every Member Serves” and “Meet the Vestry” initiatives will continue in August. Planning has begun for the Internal Ministry Fair on October 11. Committee members will be contacting the many ministry leaders of All Saints’ about participating.

The Administration Committee shared that giving was down in June, as is often typical in the summer months, but financial statements are tracking very close to budgeted amounts for the year. Elizabeth Arnold, Treasurer, presented the first draft of the 2027 budget, and potential expenses for the Rector search were discussed. Unfortunately, no progress has been made in the Assistant Choir Director search. Principal Director John Spencer is continuing to make contacts and preparing contingency plans.

To wrap up the meeting, the Vestry approved (with sadness) Rev. Jane’s Letter of Leaving, which lays out the terms and expectations for Rev. Jane’s retirement. Her last Sunday will be August 30; Bishop Gretchen Rehberg will also join us that day.

Camp Cross 2026

Camp is in full swing! It’s not too late to register - but hurry before your favorite session is full! You can find out more at campcross.org.

Mid-High Camp: August 3-8

Clergy Camp: August 10-13

Queer Camp: August 28-31

Labor Day Family Camp: September 4-7

We want everyone to be able to enjoy all that our diocesan camp has to offer. Scholarships are available; see Theresa Grate for more information.

Camp Cross is also hosting ***Music That Makes Community***, a free song sharing weekend retreat, from September 11-13. This retreat invites participants to explore how communal song-sharing can help bridge and heal communities. All are invited, whether you’re part of the music ministry or simply curious.

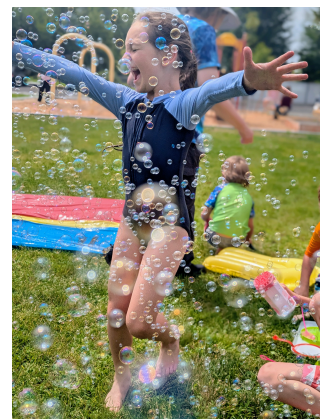


The retreat is free to attend, but space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Register at: <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3724332>

VBS 2026: Living Water

Our annual Vacation Bible School was held July 13-17 and was full of Jesus, Art, Music, Science - and water! ***Living Water*** was a wonderful week with 30 campers, and 38 teen and adult helpers! We had a lot of returning campers and a few new ones, and same for the helpers!

Our theme for the week, ***Living Water***, used water in everything - Godly Play stories, art projects, science lessons, prayers, and music, and we played in the water everyday. The last 30 minutes of each day was spent out in our church backyard playing in water! We had a large pool, a baby pool, a slip-and-slide, a splash pad, and bubbles. It was so much fun!



We tie-dyed our own beautiful camp t-shirts in turquoise and navy! We collected \$500 for The Water Project, which builds and maintains wells in sub-Saharan Africa (a new VBS fundraising record!). We had a delicious potluck lunch under the pavilion on Friday - special thanks to Sam Stone who grilled burgers and hot dogs for us! And we all still have “I’ve Got a River of Life” replaying in our heads! Special thanks to Nate and Val O’Hare, Nicholas Loer, and Bethany Riedinger who sang it on Sunday!



Our awesome volunteers make VBS possible, and All Saints' is blessed to have an abundance of volunteers who can be here for VBS week! Breanne O'Hare led Music, along with Onnie Adams on keyboard. Gretchen Makinson was back, leading folk dancing on Tuesday and Thursday. The Rev. Jane Schmoetzer led Prayer time, pulling items out of our big well and connecting them to God's unending love for us. Theresa Grate led Mission time and the big tie-dye project.

Room leaders were Katy O'Callaghan, Nigella O'Callaghan, and Karin Hilgert in the Creation room (making terrariums and learning about the water cycle); Andie Slonecker, Alex Loer, Al Wells, and Zac Hilgert in the Exodus room (sand casting and a working desalination demo); Diane, Steve, and Ben Goheen in Jesus' Baptism room (marbled bookmarks and water quality/filtering); Ann Barry, Claudia



Loomis, and Calix Smith in Jesus Stills a Storm room (building and floating boats, and learning about how clouds form); and Bethany Riddle (new storyteller!), Mary Andrew, and Teri Bartol in The Woman at the Well room (air dried clay projects and ground water pollution demonstration).

Our wonderful group leaders were Nathan Bartol, Claire Gilbert, Iris Slonecker, Blake Slonecker, Dianna Larsgaard, Donna Anderson, Val O'Hare, Bethany Riedinger, Susan Pigott, Avery Gilbert, Michael Lewis, Ethan Newburn, Jan Wells, and Parker Murray. Meg Milligan, Lisa Richmond and Denise Gossman prepared our delicious snacks. Marjie Mack served as our Registrar and filled in wherever needed, and Rachel Loer took our amazing photographs. It is such a wonderful week of all ages working and learning together!



Many others helped out behind the scenes, bringing in corks (so many corks!), food, plants, soil, or helping at one of our prep days, making our large papier-maché well, or getting other things ready. All Saints' is such a supportive congregation! You all make VBS a success!



Thanks to all who supported VBS: Onnie Adams, Mary Andrew, Ann Barry, Cindy Cross, Mike and Nancy Dodson, Jhivaun Freeman-Pollard, Jill and Claire Gilbert, Ben Goheen, Diane and Steve Goheen, Annette Gordon, Denise Gossman, Jay Grate, Jan Griffin, Sue Havre, Karin Hilgert, Kathleen King, Alex Loer, Claudia Loomis, Marjie Mack, Joyce McClanahan, Meg Milligan, Katy O'Callaghan, Susan Pigott, Lynne Rawls, Rev. Jane Schmoetzer, Calix Smith, Cheryl Smith, Zoe Smith, Kate Torelli, Mary Vierck, Kimberly Wageman, Al and Jan Wells, Gail Wells, Richelle Wilde, Nancy Wittman, and Kris Wood. Special thanks to Donna Anderson, Dianna Larsgaard, Marjie Mack, Jay Grate, and Bethany Riedinger, who helped me set up and take down the water pools and toys every day!



We Give Thanks...

- to Theresa Grate, for her tireless creativity and effort, and for making VBS a reality once again!
- to Paige Andrew, Ron Moore, and John Wells for overseeing the gutter replacement project, and the replacement & repair of our HVAC systems.
- to Nathan Bartol, for fixing our cabinet doors (once again!) in the STAR time room!