

The Quilt

Stitching together the fabric of our faith

All Saints' Episcopal Church Newsletter | April, 2026

Father Jim's Reflection

David French, a conservative Christian columnist, writing in last week's New York Times, stated once again that he is deeply concerned about the increasing division in American society, best evidenced in our political divide. He cites a Pew survey "that large shares of Democrats and Republicans thought of each other as closed-minded, dishonest, immoral and unintelligent, and the measurements were getting worse every year." I believe that to be an accurate assessment.

The article reminded me of the last funeral I did at Gethsemane in Indiana. Marge, in her 80s, was a retired small business owner with very conservative views. I was a liberal priest with roots in California (possibly a communist in her mind?). We could agree on the creeds and the Prayer Book but not much more. It can be said that our differences previewed those in our country today.

Things changed over time, however. Her husband was quite ill, and I visited him often. Marge and I would end up talking (okay, debating) during those visits. Often after a sermon, I would get her call at 9:01 on the following Monday. She knew when I got to work and she gave me a minute to sit down before telling me how wrong I was. Once she stalked out of the church after communion so she wouldn't have to face me in the receiving line. I did notice that at the end of each call to the church she would ask if we were still friends. I always said yes.

She died in December of 2019, just before Kresha and I left Indiana. At her funeral, I began my homily by noting the irony that I was the presiding priest

despite the fact that I had driven her crazy for years. Several people in the congregation, knowing her well, chuckled in agreement. I went on to say that, despite our differences, we got along well and respected each other across that divide. At our last visit, just before she died, she told me she anticipated continuing our conversations when I joined her on the other side. I miss Marge and our debates to this day.



There are a lot of bad actors in our country today who are doing evil things. It's not possible to reconcile with evil that needs to be opposed, but we cannot surrender to the temptation to demonize and dehumanize all of the people on the other side. Rather we need to realize that there are those with whom we disagree, yet with whom we can find common ground. Marge and I found that in our faith and our concern for others. Today I work with a group of Tacoma Fire Department chaplains. Three of them attend the same Evangelical church, and I am reasonably certain we would disagree on basic issues. Instead of giving into the urge to demonize each other, we focus on the chaplaincy, on bringing God's love into difficult situations, ministering to people in pain. This mission in Christ gives us the freedom to like and care for each other because we are focused always on the love of God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Pastor and Theologian, 1945



French cites James Talarico, a Texas politician with whom he has significant disagreements. He cites him because Talarico has rejected “the politics of hatred and vitriol, and his appeal to the better angels of our nature is giving voters hope that this miserable political moment may one day come to an end.” This is an offering of hope for all of us. We can disagree and still find a way forward, through debate based on mutual respect. We need to work hard against those who preach division, hatred of those different from ourselves, violence as a means to an end. The warning against potential ICE intrusions, a deep concern for our Kenyan friends, will remain on the doors of the church. We speak against evil in the hope that, with God’s grace, we can work toward an eventual reconciliation.

Thus endeth my rant, leaving one other item to be mentioned. During Holy Week we will offer the Maundy Thursday service at 5:00, the last Eucharist before Easter Sunday. We will also offer Stations of the Cross at noon on Good Friday. We will not have the Good Friday Liturgy in the evening and I encourage you to attend other parishes that offer it. Our Easter Sunday service will be at 9:30 as always.

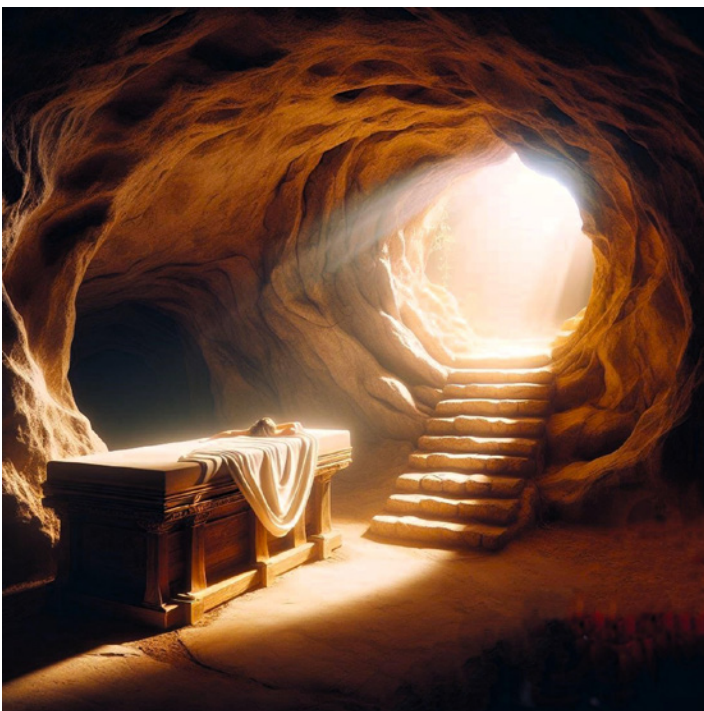
I wish you all a worshipful Lent as we prepare for resurrection.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born February 4, 1906. He studied at the universities of Berlin and Tuebingen. His doctoral thesis was published in 1930 as *Commuunio Sanctorum*.

From the first days of the Nazi accession to power in 1933, Bonhoeffer was involved in protests against the regime. From 1933 to 1935 he was the pastor of two small congregations in London, but nonetheless was a leading spokesman for the Confessing Church, the center of Protestant resistance to the Nazis. In 1935 Bonhoeffer was appointed to organize and head a new seminary for the Confessing Church at Finkenwalk. He described the community in *Life Together* and later wrote *The Cost of Discipleship*.

Bonhoeffer became increasingly involved in the political struggle after 1939, when he was introduced to the group seeking Hitler’s overthrow. Bonhoeffer considered refuge in the United States, but he returned to Germany where he was able to continue his resistance. In May 1942 he flew to Sweden to meet Bishop Bell and convey through him to the British government proposals for a negotiated peace. The offer was rejected by the allies who insisted upon unconditional surrender.

Bonhoeffer was arrested April 5, 1943, and imprisoned in Berlin. After an attempt on Hitler’s



life failed April 9, 1944, documents were discovered linking Bonhoeffer to the conspiracy. He was taken to Buchenwald concentration camp, then to Schoenberg Prison. On Sunday, April 8, 1945, just as he concluded a service in a school building in Schoenberg, two men came in with the chilling summons, "Prisoner Bonhoeffer...come with us." He said to another prisoner, "This is the end. For me, the beginning of life." Bonhoeffer was hanged the next day, April 9, at Flossenburg Prison.

There is in Bonhoeffer's life a remarkable unity of faith, prayer, writing and action. The pacifist theologian came to accept the guilt of plotting the death of Hitler because he was convinced that not to do so would be a greater evil. Discipleship was to be had only at a great cost.

Gracious God, the Beyond in the midst of our life, thou gavest grace to thy servant Dietrich Bonhoeffer to know and to teach the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, and to bear the cost of following him: Grant that we, strengthened by his teaching and example, may receive thy word and embrace its call with an undivided heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

—Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2000

Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2026

It was proposed that the expenses of running the church should be split equally between All Saints' and Goshen. Father Paul said that he must consult the Goshen Bishop's Committee after they have reviewed the All Saints' budget before agreeing to this. If they agree, we can begin cost-sharing in June, 2026.

Jonathan Green moved and Jerry Garman seconded to remove Jonathan's name from the signature list for All Saints' at Columbia Bank. The motion carried. Larry Talbert volunteered

to have his name placed on the signature list to replace Jonathan's. Larry Talbert moved and Trey Lindsey seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as written. The motion carried.

Junior Warden's Report: Larry Talbert reported that he has replaced the ball cock in the men's toilet and replaced the broken handle on the flusher. He has also replaced the timer switch to the furnace, so it is now controlled only by the thermostat. Signs are now in place in the church and the Parish Hall reminding everyone that the last person to exit the building should set the thermostat down to 55 degrees.

Senior Warden's Report: Nothing new to report besides his imminent departure from the Puget Sound area.

Vicar's Report: Father Jim reported that Jonathan will be replaced by Liz Larson as Senior Warden until the next Annual Meeting. He asked the Bishop's Committee members to consider a potential new member to replace Jonathan on the Committee.

Father Jim reported that Claudia Parham has been moved out of the Life Care Center in Puyallup, and we have been unable to find out her new location. He will attempt to call her again.

Old Business: Father Jim reported that he has consulted the Tacoma City government about the lady staying in her RV in our parking lot. He was told that provided she cleans up her garbage and removes the junk from the back of her pickup truck, it is not a violation for her to continue parking here. The RV must, however, be able to run and have a current license. Father Jim will tell her these requirements. Father Paul recommended that this policy be put in writing and specify that permission for her to stay is valid for 90 days, and may potentially be renewed if she abides by the policy.

New Business: During the discussion about the Treasurer's Report, Father Paul mentioned that

he is losing some members because they would like to have services in English for the benefit of their children. Trey proposed that on every third Sunday, when Father Jim is absent, All Saints' and Goshen have a joint service in English for members of both congregations conducted by Father Paul at 9:30 am. Jonathan moved and Trey seconded that we try out this arrangement next month. The motion carried.

Due to Nina's severe illness, we will need a new Clerk for the Committee. Larry volunteered to train with AI for the position.

Holy Week is coming soon. After some discussion, the Bishop's Committee decided that we will have an evening service on Maundy Thursday. We will have Stations of the Cross at noon, but no evening service on Friday. Members wishing to attend an evening service are invited to attend it at another church.

—Jonathan Green, Senior Warden

Financial Report

An anonymous donation of \$1,200 was received to pay for repairs of the furnace in the Parish Hall. Although we have not yet formalized our relationship with the Goshen congregation, since they have already spent some money, time and effort on this project, Jonathan Green moved and Liz Larson seconded that the entire amount of \$1,200 be offered to the Goshen congregation. The motion carried.

—Jonathan Green, Senior Warden

Food Bank Sunday Donations

I am delighted to say that All Saints' collected a whopping **81.4 pounds** of food on Food Bank Sunday this month! The wonderful staff and volunteers at *St. Leo's Food Connection* expressed their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our congregation for your generosity. Everything

donated will be made available immediately to those in our community who are living with food insecurity.



Birthdays

27, Larry Talbert
28, Robert Streich



Anniversaries

19, Jo Ann & Thomas Stewart



In Memorial

1, Lucille Howe (1999)
5, Sara Vanderflute (1996)
7, Angie Breidenfeld (2020)
12, Betty Helper (2009)
15, Violet (Chris) Smith (2000)
19, James Hilderbrand (2010)
28, Ralph Kimball (1986)
29, Eunice Huffman (2018)
30, James Hilderbrand (1968)
30, Alice Moore (1995)
30, Gail Talbert (2025)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Lent 9:30am - Sunday of the	30	31	1 10am - Bible Study @ All 11:15am - DOK 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	2 5pm - Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday 12pm - Stations of the	4 Holy Saturday
5 Easter Sunday 9:30am - Easter Sunday €	6	7	8 10am - Bible Study @ All 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer Feast	10	11
12 9:30am - Second Sunday	13 10am - Bishop's	14	15 10am - Bible Study @ All 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	16	17	18
19 9:30am - Third Sunday of	20	21	22 10am - Bible Study @ All 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	23	24	25 10am - Men's Social
26 9:30am - Fourth Sunday	27	28	29 10am - Bible Study @ All 6:30pm - Boy Scouts	30	1	2

The Quilt Newsletter is published monthly by All Saints' Episcopal Church, 205 East 96th Street, Tacoma, WA 98445. Items for publication must be placed in The Quilt box in the Narthex, or emailed to **TreyXander@gmail.com** no later than the **15th of each month** prior to the month of publication.

Normal Sunday Service Schedule

9:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:30am, After Mass Coffee Social

Bible Study

10am, Wednesday

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