

# The Quilt

*Stitching together the fabric of our faith*

All Saints' Episcopal Church Newsletter | October, 2026

## Father Jim's Reflection

I like what the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12, a passage we read on the 15th Sunday after Pentecost. I'll quote it here.

"Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God....

"Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God."

Paul is talking about former pagans who continued to celebrate their traditional feast days and also to eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols. Many other followers of Jesus felt this was wrong, that it gave far too much credence to the old pagan practices. These sentiments produced furious debates in the early Christian gatherings, and Paul feared the potential consequences of an ugly disagreement. He always worked to avoid schisms.

We have similar situations in our lives today. I'm thinking of the Episcopal debate over human sexuality which I witnessed firsthand in my first parish, All Saints' in Long Beach, California. The Diocese of Los Angeles was deeply divided

between those supporting gay marriage and those opposed.

Both sides engaged in harsh, unfair rhetoric against their opponents. When four conservative parishes, including my own then former church, left the diocese, the Bishop immediately dropped a lawsuit on them. There had been people in those churches who did not want to leave, but instead of reaching out to them, the lawsuits guaranteed that walls arose and conversation ceased. Millions of dollars were wasted in legalities that came to no final conclusion, and enmity remains to this day.



We experience division in our own society. As fire department chaplain I was called to a house where a death had occurred. The man opening the door wore a MAGA hat. I am personally deeply opposed to MAGA and all it represents. All of that came to mind when I saw him, but I couldn't act on my feelings. The man was grieving, and my call at that point was to offer comfort. That's what I did.

There is a strong human tendency to demonize others. Faced with opposition, this is often a first

response. Paul knew this when he wrote in the 1st Century, and human nature hasn't changed since. As Paul wrote, even today that cannot be our way. We are called to spread God's love to those around us no matter our differences.

This is not to say that we can't disagree. People in debates come with presuppositions. Those arguing in the Church, in our society, develop expectations of angry responses to their views. Don't play to those presuppositions. Rather return anger with love. Disagree strongly (particularly in my case with MAGA), but do so in ways that confound expectations by respecting the humanity of people with whom you disagree. This is our calling as followers of Jesus. If we do this, somewhere the Apostle Paul will be happy and maybe we'll see some positive changes in our world.

### Tabitha (Dorcas) of Joppa, October 25



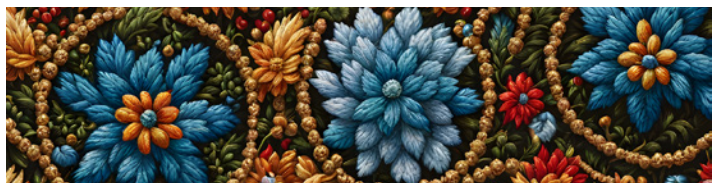
Tabitha, also known by her Greek name Dorcas, already had a reputation for being a woman of good works and charity before Peter arrived in Joppa to preach the Gospel (Acts 9:36). The Scriptures mention that many widows had benefitted from her work in making them clothes. Their desire to show Peter examples was both a testament to her charity and perhaps also the level of craftsmanship with which she made them.

Perhaps due to the reputation that the apostles had as wonder workers, when Tabitha died her friends called for Peter to come see her. This story is likely intended to recall the story of Jesus healing the young girl in Luke 8:41-56 when Jesus performed a similar miracle. This miracle of life performed for Tabitha through Peter caused many in the town to believe in Jesus. It, like many miracles recorded in Acts, was a confirmation that the message was true and that the apostles did indeed speak for God.

She is also mentioned by Basil of Caesarea as an example of charity and good works, and as a role model for other widows: "A widow who enjoys sufficiently robust health should spend her life in works of zeal and solicitude, keeping in mind the words of the Apostle and the example of Dorcas."

*Most Holy God, who didst raise from the dead thy servant Tabitha to display thy power and confirm that thy Son is Lord; Grant unto us thy grace, that, aided by her prayers and example, we may be given a new life in thee, to do works pleasing in thy sight; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen*

—Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2000



## **Bishop's Committee Meeting Minutes**

September, 2026

### **Boy Scout Troop**

The Boy Scout troop that had been using the church has dissolved following leadership changes and will no longer meet at the church. Its members may remain available to assist with occasional church projects. No current written agreement with the troop was located.

### **Annual Diocesan Visitation**

The annual diocesan visitation is tentatively scheduled for February 21, 2027. The visitor is expected to be Canon Robinson from Multicultural Ministries, rather than the bishop. The visit will be separate from the visitation to Goshen. Because the visitor is not a bishop, confirmations will not be conducted.

### **Sunday Bulletins**

The committee discussed reducing Trey's workload by replacing the weekly service bulletin with reusable seasonal bulletins. Weekly scripture readings would continue to be printed separately. Larry agreed to explore a simplified, one-page format and obtain the existing bulletin material from Trey. The committee requested that accessibility and larger print be considered. No final decision was made regarding permanent elimination of the weekly bulletin.

### **Sanctuary Television Installation**

Father Paul explained that the proposed televisions will be mounted on the wall above the existing wood paneling rather than placed on movable stands. The planned placement should avoid blocking the priest's view of the congregation or the congregation's view of the priest. The proposed locations were to be reviewed following the meeting before installation proceeds.

## **Proposed Parish Hall**

Father Paul reported that a contractor had visited the property, taken measurements and was preparing a preliminary layout and cost estimate for a new parish hall. The initial rough sketch will show the proposed size and interior arrangement and is not expected to carry a charge. Formal architectural plans could cost as much as approximately \$10,000 and would be pursued only after the congregations agree upon the preliminary concept. The preliminary funding discussion included: Approximately \$325,000 being held by the Diocese from the sale of church property; A Goshen fundraising goal of approximately \$100,000; A potential initial project budget of approximately \$425,000. The committee noted that demolition, disposal, permits, construction requirements and possible cost overruns must be included in the eventual estimate. No financing commitment or construction authorization was made.

### **Agreement Between All Saints and Goshen**

The committee reviewed the status of the proposed agreement governing the relationship between All Saints and Goshen. The Canon to the Ordinary had provided a model shared-facilities license agreement from another diocese. Committee members expressed concern that the document resembles a landlord-tenant arrangement and does not reflect the equal and cooperative relationship the two congregations intend. The committee reaffirmed its preference for the previously drafted memorandum of understanding, which treats the congregations as partners sharing the property and ministry. Fr. Jim will write to the Canon to the Ordinary explaining that both congregations prefer the memorandum of understanding and requesting diocesan review and approval. Father Paul will also take a copy to his diocesan meeting on Wednesday. The congregations intend to establish a joint working group composed of two representatives from each Bishop's Committee, together with

clergy, to develop an operating plan for review by both committees and the Diocese.

## **Shared Church Calendar**

The congregations discussed the need for better communication concerning memorial services, celebrations and other events that affect building access and altar preparation. A shared paper calendar with large writing spaces will be placed in the church office for use by both congregations, potentially beginning in January 2027. Father Paul agreed to improve notification of special services and events.

## **RV, Disabled Truck and Parking-Lot Conditions**

The committee discussed the RV resident's disabled truck, accumulated belongings and debris in the parking area. Concerns included children's safety, neighborhood perceptions and the long-term use of church property. Larry agreed to speak with the resident and offer to haul away appropriate unwanted material when he disposes of debris from the step project. The committee also discussed connecting the resident with professional housing and social-service assistance. Possible resources include Pierce County Aging and Disability services, Tacoma's 311 system and contacts within the local homelessness-response network. Fr. Jim agreed to locate contact information and make inquiries.

The committee did not establish a deadline for the resident to leave and took no action to terminate the parking arrangement. Members agreed that the immediate priorities are: Improving the cleanliness and safety of the property; Offering professional assistance with housing; Continuing to monitor the effect on the church and surrounding neighborhood. The ownership of another apparently abandoned vehicle will be checked with the neighboring property owner.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The committee reviewed the treasurer's report and discussed an outstanding \$1,000 payment from Goshen for August. The memorandum of understanding calls for payment by the fourth Sunday of the month. Father Paul later explained that Goshen's treasurer is hospitalized and said the check would be provided. The committee requested that the payments be brought current.

## **Junior Warden's Report**

The committee discussed repairs to the exterior steps and the removal of the adjoining nonfunctioning accessibility ramp. The work will include: Removing and replacing the steps; Removing the nonfunctioning ramp; Replacing the affected railing, porch section and balustrade; Cleaning up and disposing of the resulting debris. Larry offered to perform the work with help from his son and personally cover the expense as a donation to the church. Larry will be performing the work.

—Larry Talbert

## **All Saints' Church Directory**

Copies of our 2026 All Saints' Episcopal Church directory are still available. If you need or want another copy please contact either Jo Ann or me.

### **Corrections to the directory:**

Roberta Campbell's house number should be **5008**.

Fr. Paul's name and e-mail address should be:

**Fr. Paul Karume | [pkarume@yahoo.com](mailto:pkarume@yahoo.com)**

Let me know if you find any other mistakes.

Thanks and blessings.

—Tom Stewart



## **Birthdays**

October 1, Owen Anderson



## **In Memorial**

- 1, Marie Evans, 2023
- 2, Hector Evans Jr., 2002
- 5, Jack Keller, 2011
- 7, The Rev. William Hunter, 2003
- 11, Lynne Hayes, 2019
- 11, Tom Micelli, 2002
- 13, Roberta Marzola, 2013
- 15, Elmer Muller, 2006
- 17, Frederick Perry, 2001

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### **Normal Sunday Service Schedule**

**9:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II**

**10:30am, After Mass Coffee Social**

### **Bible Study**

**10am, Wednesday**

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