

Rector's Address

The Rev. Bonnie A. Perry, D.MIN



Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the Good News." —Mark 1:15

"Life is short. We do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us. So, be swift to love, and make haste to be kind."
—Henri-Frederic Amiel

Dear Friends,

Life is short. Time is passing away and some of us have more of it, some of us have less. Either way, the time all of us have is limited. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, some 50 years ago, that the *time is now* and *tomorrow is today*. I'll say it's high time for us to know that *this is our time*, our time as a faith community, a Christian faith community; this is our time to embody the values of Jesus Christ.

Theologian the Very Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, says,

"We must dare to live proleptically [proleptically is a theological word that means we must live **as if** God's promised future is already]. The manner in which we conduct our living should be but a foretaste of God's time. This means that we must live as if every single human being,

regardless of their language, their color, their country of origin, their income, their education, deserves food, clothing, shelter, care, because they do. We are to live as if the bigotry, fear, stereotypes, and hateful 'isms' that separate us one from another are no more. We are to live as if compassion not condemnation, justice not judgment, and righteousness not self-righteousness are the watchwords of our humanity. We are to live as if the peace of God that is justice has come to earth. Even if these ways of acting are not the ways of our world, we must be daring enough to make them the way of our living."

We must live as if God's promised future is already. How then do we at All Saints' live this way?

Prayer. The business of church is prayer. Prayer is offering ourselves to God. Prayer is giving voice to the longing in our lives, the longing of our world; prayer is being with someone in desperate, tenuous moments; without words or answers, just being. Prayer is protesting. Prayer is naming with a relentless energy the injustices and inequities of our communities and then acting. Prayer is allowing, for a moment, our walls to fall and admitting our inability to control pretty much anything and then say to God, cry out to Jesus, lament to the Spirit, I have nothing, I am lost, help. And here's

the hard part, to then be still. Daily. How do we live as if God's promised future is already? Prayer.

Race. In this time, in our country, a sin that besets many of us who happen to be white is our inability to relentlessly confront the privileges conferred upon us because of the pigmentation of our skin. Here at All Saints', we continue to venture out into the pool of anti-racist work, dog paddling a bit here and there. Going out just far enough to know that we can no longer touch the bottom. We linger for a moment and then turn and kick and paddle back to the shore of privilege that many of us (who happen to be white) stand upon without conscious thought. It's time to go out again friends, time for us to learn how to raise racially aware kids, all of us, whether or not we have children.

We can educate ourselves, each other, and then as parents and members of this community and citizens of this country, we can seek to teach our young people how to see and then overturn the overt and insidious role of race in the ordering of this place and our larger communities. We can teach our children how the world is and then together we can live into how God calls our world to be.

Liz Futrell and Laura Maheshwary are up for working on this: who wants to join them? Who wants to make this vision a reality? We can begin to live as if tomorrow is today and change has come. We'll gather in the middle of February to begin this work.

Prayer. Race.

Immigration and Refugees. In this time in our world, what looms larger: the promise of liberty or



the wall of Trump? Dreamers, refugees, immigrants, sojourners, scripture calls us to empower and care for all of these people. There is no need for us to create programs that already do amazing work throughout our city, but there is a need for our money and our time. Dedicated money is in our budget for this work. A number of you are valued volunteers in these existing ministries: Caty and Mike Burke, Laura Youngberg, and Joey Sylvester are just a few of the people involved. Thank you. My question is: *what do you need from me and from this congregation to ensure that all people in this country, each of them, each of us, being made in God's image and likeness, are treated equally, fairly and justly?* What do you need me to do? What do you need from all of us? Over and over again in scripture, God tears down walls, transcends cultures, and splits seas enabling the oppressed to be freed, the wandering to be welcomed, the outcasts included. We are called to do likewise.

Prayer. Race. Immigration and Refugees.

Gun Violence. Again. Again. Again. Again. Again. Again. And Again. Were you aware how no one even seemed to notice the school shooting this past week in Benton, Kentucky? In this time, in our city, last weekend 31 people were shot. 6 people killed. So far this year in Chicago in the last 28 days, 141 people were shot, 25 people were killed. Let's not observe this reality as just statistics and numbers. Let's make it tangible, visceral. 141 people shot—that's equal to pretty much everyone in this room being hit with a bullet. And everyone at the first three tables being killed. We can rail against the current administration all we want, but we have a problem, a diabolical problem in our city, and we've got to use our resources to join with other people to solve this problem. Because it is killing us. Matty Zaradich, Steve Pike, and Lauren Erbach Barnfield are up for working on this issue again. Who wants to help? God's promised future is a landscape free of concealed and openly carried weapons, weapons whose sole purpose is to maim and kill.

How might we live now into the promise of God's future? I propose we pray, we raise racially aware children, we fight for the rights of immigrants and offer safety to refugees, we rework our culture which accepts the presence of fire arms as a necessity, and we have fun. Fun?

Fun. We must continue to play and to laugh, for fierce whimsy and fun may be the only things that keep us from becoming completely undone. Goofy Olympic-themed meetings, Christmas pageants that mash up our country's founders with our Lord and Savior, and champagne corks that burst from



their bottles at our high holy days, impressing upon all that our Eucharist is indeed a feast. This is how we will continue to remember that with God, nothing is impossible. That with God, we are never ever alone; that with God, we can do all things.

This is my hope, my longing for this place of faith on the corner of Hermitage and Wilson. It is my greatest honor to serve as your rector, one of your priests for these last 25 years. Thank you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Bonnie A. Perry, D. Min.
XII Rector

P.S. This quirky faith community that is All Saints' is mostly run by volunteers who give more time than is imaginable to make this congregation a vital place of faith. I am so thankful for what all of you do. What follows is my somewhat inept attempt to recognize everyone who shares their gifts and talents.

Our co-wardens do a great job. I am indebted to both **Karen Schrage** and **Margaret Ferguson**.

Karen Schrage is rotating off after being a co-warden for two years and a vestry member two years before that. Karen is unlike any other effective leader I have encountered. She is able to ask pointed questions in a completely unthreatening manner. She is dedicated to justice and will always speak out and take action if she believes that justice is being pushed to the back seat. She will take action, even if it is at a personal cost to her wellbeing. Karen is a faithful person who embodies her beliefs. I have been honored to work with her, learn from her, and lead this congregation with her.

You are amazing, Karen. Thank you so very much. I will miss your wisdom and compassion on vestry. I do hope, however, that you will continue your work with the finance committee, Race Matters, and all activities that involve issues of justice!

Margaret Ferguson is ending her first year as co-warden and moving into her second. Margaret understands both numbers and people. She also intuitively understands that volunteer work should enliven one's spirit. Her ability to both be funny as hell and get an inordinate amount of work completed is a rare gift. She understands that a *faux Olympic torch* is as important as a well-constructed formula on an Excel spreadsheet. She loves this

quirky place and when she lets herself think about it, is mildly amused that she is one of its primary leaders. I am eternally grateful that we parked cars together at a Ravenswood Run, oh so many years ago. Thank you Margaret.

Joe Wernette-Harden is rotating off vestry after three years of service. Joe aspired as a child to serve on a vestry! If only there were more little ones like that! The vast majority of Jesus' ministry was around a dinner table—and Joe and his husband Dave truly understand this important aspect of the Gospel. Joe began the “What’s cooking at All Saints” gatherings and has completely re-invigorated our congregational gatherings, ensuring that the food and drink is always plentiful, beautifully prepared, and tasty. In addition he is a vestry member whom I am always comfortable turning to when I need to get something done! Thank you so much Joe!

Matty Zaradich is finishing his fourth year on our vestry. He’s been at All Saints’ for 10 years and spent four of those on our governing council! Why, because he is someone who is called to lead. Matty is focused on ensuring that this community of ours does its very best to live out our faith in such a way that the world is changed by our activities. He is also someone who is determined to amplify our collective voice by using every means of social media that exists. Matty may be stepping down from the vestry, but I do not anticipate that he is stepping down from being a leader in this community! Thank you so very much, Matty!

Barb Dufford is the designer of this year’s annual report, which is based on the elegant grid created by **MaryAnne Newman** (after three years of designing the report, MaryAnne deserved a break, I felt, and Barb agreed). **Barb** has designed pieces for Ravenswood Community Services, the South East Mexico ministry, the Katrina ministry and our worship committee. I am so very honored that she has offered her considerable design skills to this year’s annual report. Thank you Barb and MaryAnne!

Barb has used **Charlie Simokaitis’** photos to depict the people, ministries, and antics of this quirky, faithful place. Charlie, thank you so very much for continuing to document all we do. We are blessed with your talent and your generosity in making all of your photos so readily available!

Margaret McCamant has proofread and edited this amazing document, for what I believe to be her 8th year! Thank you Margaret. You have so many talents and editing is only one of them. Once a month Margaret and **Lucy Jenkins** bake an amazing dessert for our neighbors at Ravenswood Community Services. Margaret also sings in our choir, and frequently offers her gifts as a musical accompanist on either the organ, piano, violin, or hand chimes. She is a regular leader of our evening prayers in either Lent or Advent and offers music most Sunday afternoons at our prayer service at the Breakers retirement home. Margaret is one of the people who has for more than a quarter of a century given of her talents and resources to enable All Saints’ to make a difference in our world. She does all of this quietly, with a wry wit and a questioning, faithful heart. Thank you so very much Margaret.

We continue to wrestle with the issues of racism and white privilege. Now more than ever this work matters. I want to thank **Stacye** and **Kathy Flint**, **Michelle Mayes**, **Karen Schrage** and **Keith Fisher** for their continued leadership and work leading this vital ministry. I commend the **Race Matters report** to all of you. A highlight of our work this year was a weekend conference featuring the Very Rev Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas. This amazing gathering would never have happened without the leadership, creativity and planning offered by Stacye and Kathy Flint. In the midst of a multitude of events in their own lives, still they offered hours upon hours to this congregation. Thank you. Look for more of this work in the coming year. In particular, how we might raise racially aware children.

We are in the last phases of **The 1883 Project**. Our building has been renovated, and people now stop and take pictures at our beautiful structure. Many thanks to **Ann McKenzie**, **Jack Quigley**, **Stephen Christy**, and **Larry Dieckmann** for leading this major project and making this transformation possible. We are paying off a line of credit of \$150,000. If you’d like to make a donation or ongoing pledge to enable us to pay for the completion of this project, here is the link to make a gift: <https://www.givingtools.org/1883/>.

Our website continues to be the primary means by which people come to know of All Saints’. Thank heavens for **Jim Crandall**, who makes our internet presence so representative of our flesh and blood

reality. I am extremely thankful for his incredible work on this completely behind the scenes ministry. He has invested an inordinate amount of energy and time in making our website a vital part of our communal presence, outreach and welcome. Thank you so very much, Jim.

Hilary Waldron, Dave Maher, Lauren Erbach Barnfield, Paul Goodenough, Elizabeth Swanson and Jeane Emily DuBose are the adult leaders of our rapidly growing, completely entertaining youth group. I am enormously grateful to all of these fine leaders who give so much of themselves to our young people. Devoting at least two Sunday afternoons and evenings a month to the teenagers of this congregation. One of my favorite activities of this past year is when we gather in the parish hall to play a fierce game of *waterless water polo*. (You kind of have to see it to believe it.)

We have many significant ministries here at All Saints', but none so far reaching and ever expanding as our **church school program**, directed by **Polly Tangora, and ably assisted by Andrea Garland**. Our VOLUNTEER teachers prepare three to five hours or more each week, so that they are ready to offer God's compelling word to our children. Our teachers have the ability to continuously communicate the wonder, mystery, and love that God has for each and every one of us. They are amazing. All you have to do is watch our children bound out of the sanctuary happily skipping to their Sunday school classrooms to understand how gifted and blessed we are by our teachers. Thank you to: **Charisse Antonopoulos, Jennifer Boyle-Tucker, Peter Ellis, Ann McKenzie, Ahn Gallagher, Polly Tangora** in Atrium 1; **Andrea Garland, Ahn Gallagher, Liz Bartels** in Atrium 2; **Polly Tangora, Caty Norman-Burke** in Atrium 3. Thank you also to our substitute teachers: **Sandhya Mathew, Julia Strauch, Jim Hanna, Jim Nixon**. Many of our young people's first experience of All Saints' is in our nursery. I am utterly indebted to **Clyde Propst, Sarah Peterson, Matthew Arenas** (occasional subs **Zunnera Shahid, Ella Wischnewsky**) who welcome our youngest children with such love. Thank you all!

I also want to thank **Ken Jones, Linnea Jones** and **Sarah Palmentera-Reid** for so ably coordinating and training our acolytes!

This was another big year for our Buildings and Grounds Committee so ably led by **Stephen Christy**! Our church has literally never looked so good! Thanks also to **Nancy Lischer, Mark Ortlieb, and Jim Hanna** for taking care of this old building of ours, particularly their ministry of putting plastic up over the church school windows, the parish office, and my office.

Our All Saints' and Christmas celebrations would not be the same without all the decorations that accompany them. I am particularly grateful to **Gina Shropshire, Carmichael Washington, Colin Collette, Jim Hanna, B.A. Church, Amy Jacobson** and **her boys, Skip Yates, Lori Mueller, Elizabeth Swanson, Becky** and **Stephen Kismohr, Jacqueline WayneGuite, Lexy Sandin, and Polly Tangora** for ensuring that our worship space looks so very lovely.

Many thanks to **Anne Ellis** and **Jen Simokaitis** for coordinating our bread-baking ministry. All I know, as a person who blesses this bread every week, each baked loaf is an outward visible sign of God's inward spiritual grace. I so appreciate everyone who bakes each week.

Every Tuesday we serve an amazing home cooked meal for our neighbors in need. Every person who comes to volunteer at **Ravenswood Community Services** (All Saints' community kitchen and food pantry) is greeted and registered by **Katy** and **Beth Morgan**. Katy is the face of RCS and she does a magnificent job of welcoming the 100s of people who volunteer to assist our neighbors in need each year. Her husband **Dan Morgan** is one of the people who greets every one of our neighbors who comes to our sanctuary on Tuesday nights seeking food and community. The twin hospitality of **Katy** and **Dan** ensures that every person who walks through our doors on Tuesday evening knows that they are so very welcome. Thank you Morgans!

The people who offer us their time week after week on Tuesday evenings are unsung heroes. I'd like to do a bit of singing for them now...
Allan Bolchazy*, Steve Holt*, Victor Kelly, Josh Ferchau*, Sara LeProwse, Anton Pulung*, Steve Pike*, Caty and Mike Burke*, Lucy Jenkins* and Bill Trierweiler*, Adele Lang, Margaret McCamant*, Kelly Hewitt, Jamie Gentry, Lynn Slawsky, John Ferguson, Sara Rodites, Greg Labrador, Mike St. John, Nic McCarley, Rudy

Faust*, **Barb Giloth***, **Linda Norby**, **Scott Lloyd**, **John Leonard*** (folks with an asterisk next to their name are All Saints' parishioners) comprise the weekly cooking teams that create the meals for which Ravenswood Community Services and All Saints' are known throughout the community! The love, care and fun that goes into each of those meals is quite remarkable.

Thanks also to **Margaret McCamant** and **Lucy Jenkins** who create a homemade dessert for 125 people once a month. We do not always have a home baked dessert to offer and the cakes and bread puddings that Margaret and Lucy create are legendary for our neighbors and staff alike!

We've been trying to decrease our impact on the trees of the world and have been using more and more dishes and cups that can be washed and re-used. **Mark Ortlieb***, **Diane Dugard***, **Paty Schintgen**, **Ella Wischnewsky***, **Sophie Reese-Wirpsa***, **Dan McCarthy**, and his son **Daniel McCarthy**, **Sarah Kobs***, and **DJ Taylor*** (folks with an asterisk next to their name are All Saints' parishioners) have all been amazing dishwashers! I hear that there is always room for a few more people who want to have an incredibly tangible ministry. One of my favorite activities is to sneak into the kitchen before the real dishwashing people arrive and do some pre-washing while the meal is still being created, in hopes of picking up some wonderful cooking tips from our amazing chefs. It's worked, so please come join me or the real dishwashers!

A big and special shout out to **Pauly Mallatt** who has been washing all of our towels, aprons, and linens every week for the last six years. I am completely saddened that **Pauly** and **Allan Bolchazy** have decided to move to Northern California in the spring of this year. Our first week cooking team and our linens will not be the same. Actually, **Allan** and **Pauly** have been a power couple in all things outreach. **Pauly** started the weekly Sunday afternoon worship service at the Breakers, is a lay chaplain, and volunteers regularly at our All Saints' Café, while **Allan**, in addition to leading a cooking team once a month has also been a gifted coordinator of the Café. They will both be greatly, greatly missed. How blessed will the church be, that they next call home!

In addition to our dishwashers and cooks we have any number of regular volunteers making

our Tuesday night and Saturday morning pantry happen. **Rob Book**, **Lynn Bowers**, **Betty Douglas**, **Julie Donalek**, **Eileen Krause**, **Sylvester Miller**, **Lalo Vellono**, **Tony Swain**, **David Lefly**, **Michael Mattson**, and **Jim Hanna** are just some of the people who make this ministry happen week after week.

We have a number of Lay Chaplains. **John Sattlemaier**, **Lynn Bowers**, **Andrea Garland**, **Pauly Mallatt**, **Lauren Erbach Barnfield**, **Becky Duggan**, and **Anna Luz Perez-Duran**. Each of these people does a wonderful job of visiting people who are unable to get to church on Sunday. They bring communion and good cheer to friends and parishioners who are homebound, in the hospital, or in nursing homes. Their presence has been particularly valuable to me this year as we had a several parishioners who were quite sick. Thank you!

In addition to our paid staff, we have a number of theologically educated parishioners, lay and ordained, who assist us with preaching, creating and leading worship services. I'm deeply grateful to the ministries of **Martin Deppe**, **Courtney Reid**, **Jeanne Wirpsa** (Jeanne has seen a number of our parishioners at Northwestern Hospital where she is, among other things, a staff chaplain), **Carol Reese**, **Jim Nixon**, **Paul Goodenough**, and **Stacyc Flint**.

Eileen Krause continues to do fabulous things with microphones here at All Saints'. If you can hear someone speaking, it's probably because Eileen has made it possible. Thank heavens, **Tina Tchen** returned to her rightful place and was able to offer laugh-track assistance to Eileen in the midst of this year's most amazing pageant, *Hamilton Meets Jesus*. Because of Eileen, everyone (even the producer from the Chicago cast of *Hamilton*) was able to hear our children embody and proclaim the birth of Christ in true revolutionary style!

Andrew Freeman has now finished his fifth year with us as our Director of Operations. He is fabulous. He is here all hours of the day making sure that we can have two memorial service bulletins, a regular Sunday morning worship booklet and paper pledge cards all at the same time. He makes Excel spread sheets dance, his piano playing is legendary in our diocese, he creates special liturgies that touch our souls, and designs worship booklets that are works of art. We are blessed to have

someone with his theological education and passion directing the operations of our community.

Emily Williams Guffey has now been with us two and a half years. I suspect she will never be the same, and nor will we. She has a beautiful voice, an attention to detail, a love for liturgy and scripture and us. Emily is a wonderful colleague and partner as we seek to lead All Saints' in this ever-changing and demanding world. Thank you Emily, there is so much more for us to do!

Colin Collette joined us as last year as our "Interim Music Director" and now he is our music director. Thank you for finally accepting my invitation to join our staff! **Lessons and Carols** this year at Christmas was just stunning, offering to the very many people gathered some of the best music ever created in this congregation. Colin's passion for liturgy, music, theology and aesthetics are transformative. I am very much looking forward to continuing creating liturgy, prayer, and worship with you for this amazing faith community.

Our Choirs are amazing! I'm so grateful for the inordinate amount of time that people offer to make our worship meaningful. Thank you to all of our amazing singers and gifted instrumentalists who offer their talents quite regularly; all who give of their time so freely to add so very much to our Sunday morning worship experience!

Lori Gee is finishing her sixth year with us as the Executive Director of Ravenswood Community Services (RCS). Our community kitchen and food pantry is flourishing with her leadership. I love working with Lori. Her care and ability to lead is only surpassed by her quick turn of a phrase and ability to leave me on the floor laughing. Thank you so very much for making RCS a place of laughter, food and love. In case anyone was wondering, feeding people every week, offering them a place to relax and be loved is foundational for transformation.

Parker Callahan is in his third year of being RCS's only full-time employee. He welcomes our volunteers and ensures that everyone has a fulfilling experience offering food and community to our neighbors. He also moves a surprising amount of weird food to and from our freezers. This past year he spent more than five months with the Second City Comedy Team on a cruise ship in the Bahamas. Someday he will be on Saturday

Night Live and his bit about a food pantry in an Episcopal church will make him famous and all of us a bit nervous!

Luis Cordero has joined our staff as our building manager. Luis is no stranger to our building, having served as Ron Young's second in command throughout the years of our building renovations. In Luis' other life he is a Lieutenant in the Chicago Fire Department, making sure that all of us are safe from flames.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone else who makes Sunday mornings happen, particularly our altar guild. Many, many thanks to **Ruth Nagaro** for her more than half century of service, and to **Nick Hatzis, Pam Palmentera Reid, Rob Book, Johann Juan, Laura Molzahn, Barb Dufford, Gina Shropshire, and Alice Wozniak.**

Thanks to **Lynn Bowers** for taking on coordinating readers, acolytes, chalice bearers, and ushers! Thank you also to EVERYONE WHO READS, USHERS, OFFERS THE CHALICE, AND COUNTS THE MONEY! You all are incredibly vital to our Sunday mornings. In fact, without you we would be hard pressed to worship so thank you very very much!

Our coffee hour coordinators **Karen and Dave Howe** have been tirelessly doing this ministry for more than 15 years!!! (A relentless love for a ministry of gracious hospitality!)

And of course, thanks to all of you who venture through our doors each week. Our worship is enlivened and enriched by your care, your prayer, your passion, and your dedication. My deepest thanks.

In writing this piece I am overwhelmed with the love you have given me these past 25 years. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who made my 25th Anniversary celebration so incredibly special. The food, the gifts, the dancing, the roasting, toasting and letters from amazing people, including but not limited to President and Mrs. Obama, was all way more than I could have imagined. I will never forget that weekend.

Never has a priest been so blessed as I am by all of you. Thank you. Thank you. I am not sure that I will ever be able to convey how much your care for this place and grace you extend to me matters. Thank you.