

# Pro Omnibus Sanctis

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## Special Announcement

From

**Stephanie Burk, Senior Warden, and Father Merrill Wade**

On behalf of the vestry of All Saints' Episcopal Church I am extremely pleased to announce the appointment of **The Rev. Merrill Wade** as our Part-Time Interim Rector **beginning December 1, 2025**. On Sunday afternoon November 9, vestry members present voted unanimously to invite Fr. Wade to be our Interim. We are thankful he will jump into the middle of life at All Saints' soon, bringing an enormous amount of experience, wisdom, and love for the Episcopal Church with him.

The Search Committee continues to do their work; they are diligently interviewing candidates to be the 7<sup>th</sup> Rector of All Saints'. Fr. Wade will be with us until **Easter Sunday, April 5**, or until we call a new rector. In the meantime, we have the wonderful opportunity to have Fr. Wade preach, teach, and offer friendship and pastoral care to parishioners. He will work alongside the vestry, the staff, and all our volunteers to ensure our ministries thrive as we continue to articulate a compelling vision for the future.

Fr. Wade is a retired Episcopal priest living in Austin. He was raised on Air Force bases in Florida, Morocco, and Kansas. His family settled in Fort Worth (Carswell AFB) in the mid-1960s. Merrill graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1976, and for the next nine years he worked in the oil and gas industry, the last six years as a petroleum landman in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1986 he made a career change, and after having attended and graduated from General Theological Seminary in New York City, he was ordained an Episcopal deacon in 1989 and priest in 1990. Merrill served three congregations in Mississippi (Vicksburg, Long Beach, and Meridian) over the next 13 years.

In 2002, he and his wife Crystal and their two young children were called to Austin, where Fr. Wade served as the Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church for 17 years, retiring in the Fall of 2019.

A music lover, Fr. Wade and St. Matthew's launched a singer-songwriter series in Austin called the Soul of a Musician Series in 2013. The Soul Series was affectionately focused on the heart and soul of the musicians, seeking to honor their creativity and vocation. Merrill has spoken on music topics at the South by Southwest Music and Media Conference four times. In the last years of his active ministry, he composed a musical setting of the Holy Eucharist.

Fr. Wade is a Diocesan "Coach" in support of clergy and lay leaders. Since his retirement, he has served multiple terms of service:

- St. George's, Austin: (4 months) - Priest in Charge
- All Saints, Austin: (6 months) - Priest in Charge
- St. Christopher's, Austin: (4 months) - Priest in Charge
- Epiphany, Calvert, Texas: (Monthly service since May 2021) - regular supply
- St. James. LaGrange, Texas: (25 Sundays over 3 years) - regular supply
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Oaxaca City, Mexico: (3 Sundays) - celebrant and preacher
- Church of the Transfiguration Jackson Hole, Wyoming: (4 Sundays) - celebrant and preacher

Please join me in welcoming Fr. Wade to All Saints' Episcopal Church. Together with our parish family we will help build a vital and vibrant Episcopal community of faith in Fort Worth. We thank Fr. Wade for saying yes!

Faithfully,  
Stephanie Burk

## A Note of Gratitude from Father Merrill Wade

It is a privilege to be named the Part-Time Interim Rector for All Saints' Fort Worth. I want to thank Stephanie Burk, your Senior Warden. I could tell, when we got acquainted, that she and I could work together very well. She introduced me to Kyle Mankin and Fr. Bartkus, and I very quickly realized that All Saints' is as I thought. Good and faithful people. High standards. Big hearts.

I am excited about being with you all. Fortuitously, we will be together in my favorite seasons of the church year, Advent to Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week to Easter Sunday. This is a rich time for study, examining our faith, meeting challenges and experiencing grace upon grace. This past Sunday, I was your celebrant and preacher for both services. Your liturgy and music are exceptionally beautiful. I want to thank Fr. Bartkus for his help as I attempted to capture the fullness of your liturgy, especially the Rite I chants. Bear with me please, I will be able to catch on soon, that is a promise.



I was happy to see a full house attending the Adult Forum, and we had a high-energy time together. You will soon receive from me my plans for the Adult Forum for **December 7, December 14, and December 21**. I have some good ideas. I love to teach.

Looking ahead, I primarily want to support and encourage you all. You will hear me, week by week, to invite you to meet me for a cup of coffee or a meeting in the office or on a walk. I look forward to working amidst your church staff and meeting the leadership of All Saints' Episcopal School. All of this is exciting for me.

All of this is to say to Stephanie and all of you – of course I said yes to being your interim rector. After that good, and equally fun and serious meeting with the Vestry this last Sunday, I was certain I wanted come back home to Fort Worth. I will be on the job **December 1**. Can't wait!

In Christ,  
Father Wade

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## New Home Update

Work continues across our new church property as we take the necessary steps to prepare the site for future construction. In recent weeks, we have removed several small, outdated structures that were no longer needed and begun early preparations to clear portions of the block. These foundational tasks may not be dramatic, but they are essential in getting the property ready for the exciting stages ahead.

We have officially filed with the City of Fort Worth for the necessary variances and approvals, and we continue working closely with our architects to finalize plans that reflect the needs, hopes, and vision of our parish. These details are crucial as we shape a campus that truly serves the ministries of All Saints'.

Looking ahead, one of the most exciting developments is the upcoming opening of our Youth House. Thanks to the generosity of our capital campaign, we are now bringing the space to life and ensuring everything is in place to support a welcoming environment for our EYC program. The progress already made marks a joyful milestone for our youth and our parish community.

Your continued support makes all of this possible. As we approach the end of the year please review your pledge commitment to ensure that you are up to date. Contact the Church Business office at [kyle@asecfw.org](mailto:kyle@asecfw.org) if you require more detailed information.

Nick Moore  
Director of Facilities

## Adopt-a-Family By Wende Dwyer-Johnsen

For over 20 years, All Saints' Episcopal Church has been in partnership with local Fort Worth ISD schools to provide a Christmas giving program which we call Adopt-a-Family. This ministry includes nine schools and serves over 200 children each year. The program has easily benefited more than 4,000 children since its inception.

Through the generosity of our parishioners, All Saints' is able to provide basic winter clothing needs and small gift items that truly make a difference. Parishioner involvement is broad. Some donate money to support the overall program, some donate clothing items, some shop for specific clothes and gifts, and some are happy to deliver the gifts directly to the families. Individual involvement can be tailored.

If you wish to be involved or you want to know more about Adopt-a-Family, please contact Wende Dwyer-Johnsen at [WendeDwyer@gmail.com](mailto:WendeDwyer@gmail.com) or text 817-995-6425. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

If you decide to take part in Adopt-a-Family, Wende will prepare a packet of information that includes children's names, ages, and clothing sizes as well as information about school uniforms, and any special needs or requests by the family. You will have an opportunity to shop for clothing and gifts, wrap the presents and deliver them directly to the families if you wish.

This year we will have a group wrapping party on **Saturday, December 6, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in the Gray House. It is open to all who want to help! This is a completely optional event, but it is a fun evening and a chance to gather and share fellowship while wrapping the presents. The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) will host refreshments for the evening. Of course, you are welcome to wrap the presents on your own if that better suits your schedule.

The gifts should be wrapped and ready for delivery **by December 16** before school lets out for the Christmas holiday. We hope you will include this wonderful giving event in your Christmas plans!



### Special Guest Preacher: The Rev. Jill Walters

Please join us **this Sunday** to welcome our special guest preacher, **The Rev. Jill Walters**, School Chaplain at All Saints' Episcopal School. Mthr. Jill will join us for our 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharists in the All Saints' School Chapel, and will also lead the Adult Forum, "Preparing Our Hearts and Minds for Advent."

This Adult Forum invites participants to explore the meaning and theology of Advent within the Episcopal tradition, emphasizing themes of hopeful waiting, repentance, and preparation. It offers practical spiritual practices to help individuals slow down, create sacred space, and ready their hearts and minds for the coming of Christ.

This Adult Forum begins at **10:10 a.m.** in the Student Union Conference Room this **Sunday, November 23**. We hope you will join us!



## Thanksgiving for the Hungry 2025

On Sunday, November 16, our Feeding Ministry gathered at our warehouse for the second year of our Thanksgiving food packing, a special outreach for the families of the children we regularly serve through our weekend snack bags. Each Thanksgiving bag included classic foods befitting the upcoming holiday such as stuffing, rolls, mashed potatoes, and more, but also included special items to provide meals throughout the rest of the week, including rice, beans, canned vegetables, and as a special treat, cake mix and frosting.

Twenty-seven volunteers joined together to pack these items, working in two lines to fill each bag evenly. Once again our Outreach Coordinator, Harrison Hobgood, carefully orchestrated the flow of the packing lines, allowing bags to be packed, organized, loaded into cars, and sent off in less than an hour! Afterwards, volunteers also packed snack bags in record time, thanks to their dedication and efficiency.

Last year, our Feeding Ministry was able to provide 50 families with Thanksgiving food. We are elated to report that this year, we were able to feed **90** families with an impressive 180 Thanksgiving food bags! In total, we sent out over 1,600 individual items, and after the Thanksgiving bags were completed, our volunteers packed 35 snack bag boxes, totaling 525 individual snack bags.

The afternoon was incredibly productive, full of gratitude from all who assisted in compiling the Thanksgiving bags. It was hard to not feel the spirit of Thanksgiving when watching this incredibly dedicated parish at work, packing each bag with care and love. It was exemplary of the spirit of giving here at All Saints', and the love we continue to give to those we serve through our Mission and Outreach.

Thank you to everyone who donated food for the Thanksgiving packing, and for all those who attended our packing session. Without you, we could not have made this happen, and we are grateful for you all!

To learn more about our Feeding Ministry outreach and how to get involved, please contact Harrison Hobgood at [harrison@asecfw.org](mailto:harrison@asecfw.org). Or, attend our next Food Packing session on **Sunday, November 30, at 2:00 p.m.** at our Feeding Ministry Hub located at 7600 Benbrook Parkway.





## Rector Search Update – November 21, 2025

As we pass the one-year mark of our search, we know many parishioners are experiencing a renewed sense of urgency to call our next rector. The Search Committee understands and shares this feeling, but we also know this is too important a responsibility to rush. Everyone on the Search Committee is committed to staying the course and finding the right rector for All Saints' - regardless of how long it takes. The committee is working diligently to evaluate every candidate, and hopefully very soon, God will send us the person He would have as our next rector. Please know your patience, support and prayers are greatly appreciated as we faithfully follow this process, in God's time.

*A Prayer for a new Rector  
Book of Common Prayer, p. 818*

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on  
All Saints' Episcopal Church,  
and so guide the minds of those who shall choose  
a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor,  
who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Faithfully,  
Amy Robinson, Chair  
Stephanie Burk, Senior Warden

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## Outreach & Mission Donation Cards



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! On two consecutive **Sundays, December 7 and 14**, in the Student Union, mission volunteers will be selling the ever popular "a gift has been made in your honor" donor cards just in time for Christmas and special-friend gifts. Don't forget to add these donation cards to your Christmas shopping list and support our Mission and Outreach partners.

As you may recall, these cards are usually offered during our annual Mission Market. With all the fundraising this past year, the Outreach and Mission Commission felt it would be best to limit sales at Christmas to the cards only, and offer the full Mission Market in February as we celebrate Valentine's Day. Stay tuned after Christmas for more information on the new, refreshed Mission Market.

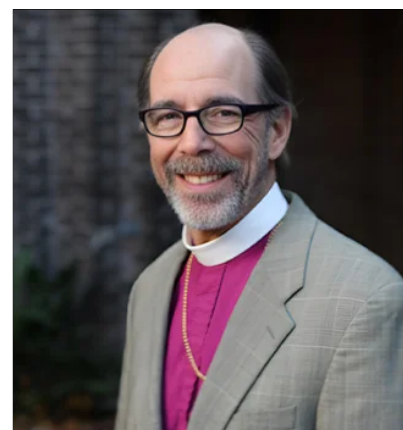
As always, thank you for your support of Outreach and Mission programming here at All Saints'.

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## Bishop Visit 2026

Save the date! We will be visited by **The Rt. Rev. Brian Richard Seage**, Assisting Bishop, on **Sunday, January 11**, the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. We will celebrate the Baptism of Jesus with a combined **10:00 a.m.** service with Holy Baptism and confirmations. Afterwards, we will have a reception in the Student Union to welcome Bishop Seage.

Are you, your child, or grandchild ready to be Baptized? Or are you ready to be confirmed and make an adult proclamation of faith? The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord is a wonderful day to do so. If you are interested in Baptism or confirmation, please email Fr. Bartkus at [FrBartkus@asecfw.org](mailto:FrBartkus@asecfw.org).



## Upcoming at All Saints'



### The Greening of the Church

Please join us for the Greening of the Church, a long-time tradition at All Saints' of hanging garland and decorating the chapel for the upcoming season of Advent. It's a fun and festive way to begin the holidays. All helping hands are welcome!

This year's Greening will take place on **Monday, November 24, at 1:00 p.m.** at the All Saints' School Chapel.

For more information, please contact **Anne Marie Levi**, Flower Guild captian, at [annemariemlevi@gmail.com](mailto:annemariemlevi@gmail.com).

### 4Saints Food Pantry

Join All Saints' as we help 4Saints Episcopal Food Pantry in East Fort Worth!

All Saints' has partnered with 4Saints to take part in their Friday Food Pantry on the first Friday of every month to help our neighbors in need. Our next session with 4Saints will take place on **Friday, December 5**. Please join us at **10:00 a.m.** at their facility located at 2529 Mount View Avenue. We hope you will join us as we embark on this new partnership with other local Episcopalians!

For more information, contact Harrison Hobgood, Director of Outreach and Mission, at [harrison@asecfw.org](mailto:harrison@asecfw.org). You may also read more about 4Saints Food Pantry on their website at <https://4saintsfood.org/>.



### Kimbell Art Museum Tour

The Episcopal Church Women invites you to tour the Kimbell Art Museum's exhibit, "Myth and Marble: Ancient Roman Sculpture from the Torlonia Collection" on **Friday, December 5, at 5:00 p.m.**

The art tour will be led by our own ECW members, **Karen Myers** and **Martica Foy**. If you are interested in this tour and also a current member of the Kimbell Art Museum, please inform Nancy Searway so that other ECW guests can benefit from using your extra ticket. There will be beverages and light snacks available for purchase when the tour concludes.

For your reservation of this art tour, please email **Nancy Searway** at [nancysearway@att.net](mailto:nancysearway@att.net) no later than **December 1**.

### Sacred Mamas

Sacred Mamas is a gathering of mothers in the midst of raising their children. Join other mothers as we share our triumphs and our failures, the joy our children bring to our lives, and the moments when we need other moms for a shoulder to lean on.

The next meeting of the Sacred Mamas will be on **Monday, December 8, at 5:30 p.m.**, at Magnolia Wine Bar, 1101 W. Magnolia Avenue. For more information about Sacred Mamas, please contact **Victoria Hancock** at [victoria.m.runge@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.m.runge@gmail.com).







**You can help Saint Anne's Guild  
Support Christian Education!  
How?**

- 1. Donate your favorite baked treat**
- 2. Donate something delicious from your favorite bakery**
- 3. "Shop-till-you-drop" at our church Bake Sale on  
December 14!!!**

For more information/questions: Liz Lattimore, [liz@flipturn.com](mailto:liz@flipturn.com)

Julien Cirrincione, [julien.cirrincione@gmail.com](mailto:julien.cirrincione@gmail.com)



**Thank you...**

to **Julien Cirrincione, Gwen Holder, and Sharon Maben** for assembling the Sunday morning bulletins;

to **Helen Ferguson, David Griffin, and Sue Shields** for singing in the All Saints' Choir;

to **Anne Marie Levi, Erin Miller, Jenny Miller, Kimberly Jerige, and the Flower Guild: Joyce Bender, Melanie Brown, Laura Fleming, Gretchen Smith, Josie Mankin, Betty Mabray, Cameron Collier, Martica Foy, Mary Elyn Worsham, Mary Perry, Shelly Seymour, Pattie Phillips, Caren Rector, Patricia Ward, and Catherine Jackson;**

to **Dabney Shires** and our Altar Guild: **Becky Cain, Juleigh Davenport, Helen Ferguson, Suzy Griffin, David Griffin, Eddie Hale, Jan Hale, Gwen Holder, Ann Jambor, Patricia Ward, Suzanne Wood, and Robert Wood;**

to our dedicated Lay Eucharistic Visitors: **Sherra Avila, Stephanie Burk, Ann Jambor, Nancy Searway, Shelly Seymour, and Gilman Tracy;**

to **Suzanne Kent, Allen Kent, Nancy Searway, Lynn Nichols, Mike Mullins, David Griffin, Jas Philips, Riley Taylor, Mary Tracy, Gilman Tracy, Landon Keener, Haley Keener, Amy Keener, Chad Kenner, Jim Phillips, Stephen Carroll, Cynthia Carroll, Susan Howell, Holly Luke, Ed Luke, Pattie Phillips, John Kent, Cameron McKenzie, Richard Wilson, Joyce Bender, Makenna Hobgood, Katie Hobgood, Melanie Brown, and the EYC** for packing Thanksgiving bags for families in need and food for hungry children on Sunday, November 16;

to **Allen Kent, Ed Luke and James Shadle** for packing snack bags with the Boulevard Heights students and teachers on Wednesday, November 19;

and to **Allen Kent** for delivering the bags to area schools.

## PARISH CALENDAR

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Sun., Nov. 23</u></b><br>Nursery Opens 8:30 a.m.<br>Choral Eucharist Rite II 9:00 a.m.<br>Adult Forum 10:10 a.m.<br>Sunday School 10:10 a.m.<br>Choral Eucharist Rite I 11:15 a.m.<br>Solemn Evensong 5:00 p.m.<br>Jr. & Sr. EYC 5:30 p.m. | <b><u>Mon., Nov. 24</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.                          | <b><u>Tues., Nov. 25</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Spirited Sisters 9:30 a.m.                                                                                           | <b><u>Weds., Nov. 26</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m. | <b><u>Thurs., Nov. 27</u></b><br>Church Offices Closed All Day                                                              | <b><u>Fri., Nov. 28</u></b><br>Church Offices Closed All Day                                                                                          | <b><u>Sat., Nov. 29</u></b>                                           |
| <b><u>Sun., Nov. 30</u></b><br>Nursery Opens 8:30 a.m.<br>Choral Eucharist Rite II 9:00 a.m.<br>Adult Forum 10:10 a.m.<br>Sunday School 10:10 a.m.<br>Choral Eucharist Rite I 11:15 a.m.<br>Food Packing 2:00 p.m.<br>Jr. & Sr. EYC 5:30 p.m.    | <b><u>Mon., Dec. 1</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.                           | <b><u>Tues., Dec. 2</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Spirited Sisters 9:30 a.m.                                                                                            | <b><u>Weds., Dec. 3</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m.  | <b><u>Thurs., Dec. 4</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.                                                                    | <b><u>Fri., Dec. 5</u></b><br>Brotherhood of All Saints 7:00 a.m.<br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>4Saints 10:00 a.m.<br>ECW Kimbell Art Tour 5:00 p.m. | <b><u>Sat., Dec. 6</u></b><br>Adopt-a-Family Wrapping Party 3:00 p.m. |
| <b><u>Sun., Dec. 7</u></b><br>Nursery Opens 8:30 a.m.<br>Choral Eucharist Rite II 9:00 a.m.<br>Adult Forum 10:10 a.m.<br>Choral Eucharist Rite I 11:15 a.m.<br>Jr. & Sr. EYC 5:30 p.m.                                                           | <b><u>Mon., Dec. 8</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Sacred Mamas 5:30 p.m. | <b><u>Tues., Dec. 9</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Spirited Sisters 9:30 a.m.                                                                                            | <b><u>Weds., Dec. 10</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m. | <b><u>Thurs., Dec. 11</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Together We Grieve 3:00 p.m.<br>ECW Business Meeting 6:00 p.m. | <b><u>Fri., Dec. 12</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.                                                                                               | <b><u>Sat., Dec. 13</u></b>                                           |
| <b><u>Sun., Dec. 14</u></b><br>St. Anne's Guild Bake Sale 8:00 a.m.<br>Nursery Opens 8:30 a.m.<br>Choral Eucharist Rite II 9:00 a.m.<br>Adult Forum 10:10 a.m.<br>Sunday School 10:10 a.m.<br>Choral Eucharist Rite I 11:15 a.m.                 | <b><u>Mon., Dec. 15</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.                          | <b><u>Tues., Dec. 16</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Spirited Sisters 9:30 a.m.<br>St. Anne's Guild 11:30 a.m.<br>Finance Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m.<br>Vestry 6:00 p.m. | <b><u>Weds., Dec. 17</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.<br>Holy Eucharist 12:00 p.m. | <b><u>Thurs., Dec. 18</u></b><br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.                                                                   | <b><u>Fri., Dec. 19</u></b><br>Brotherhood of All Saints 7:00 a.m.<br>Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.                                                        | <b><u>Sat., Dec. 20</u></b>                                           |





*Thanksgiving Food Packing, 2025 - Read more on Page 4.*

## **All Saints' Episcopal Church**

**The Rev. Merrill Wade, *Interim Rector***

The Rev. Zachary Bartkus, *Curate*

Dana Campbell, *Organist/Choirmaster*

Harrison Hobgood, *Outreach and Mission Coordinator*

Alma Kleckner, *Bursar/Financial Secretary*

Bailey Loewenstein, *Director of Christian Education*

Kyle Mankin, *Business Manager/Project Manager*

Nick Moore, *Director of Facilities*

Jas Phillips, *Intern*

Patti Roberson, *Assistant to the Priest-in-Charge*

Fontaine Shannon, *Administrative Assistant*

The Rev. Christina van Liew, *Assistant Priest*

Mary Worrell, *Director of Communications*

Join us on Sunday mornings

**All Saints' Chapel at All Saints' Episcopal School**

9700 Saints Circle • Fort Worth, Texas 76108