

All Saints' Episcopal Church Annual Meeting 2012

The Rector's Address

Vision:

A Church that Heals

Mission:

***Reaching out,
Creating sacred space,
Welcoming ALL.***

The State of the Parish

All Saints' Episcopal Church is
(still) on a journey toward healing...

- healing herself,
healing others.

Healing is about...

- health
- wholeness
- wellness
- recovery
- restoration
- reconciliation

Healing is NOT about...

- fixing
- curing
- correcting
- controlling
- perfecting
- judging

Jesus the “Great Physician”

“...they brought to him
all who were sick or possessed...” (Mark 1:33)

“..and people came to him
from every quarter...” (Mark 1:45)

“So many gathered around that there was
no longer room for them...” (Mark 2:2)

Jesus the “Great Physician”

“Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick?
I'm here inviting the sin-sick, not the spiritually fit.”

Mark 2:17 (“The Message”)

Jesus the “Great Physician”

Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called *Bethesda*, with five alcoves. Hundreds of sick people – blind, crippled, paralyzed – were in these alcoves. One man had been an invalid there for 38 years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said,

“Do you want to get well?”

The sick man said, “Sir, when the water is stirred, I don't have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in.” Jesus said, “Get up, take your bedroll, start walking.” The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off.”

(John 5:1-9, “The Message”)

Do you want to get well?

*“There isn't anyone you couldn't love
if you knew their story.”*

Stories of...

...prisoners volunteering in hospice:
“Lessons from (Angola) Prison”

...veterans returning from war:
“Battle scars”

Those who are in search of “a church that heals” are...

those who feel in any way captive or imprisoned...

those who are veterans of all kinds of wars...

those who are afraid of dying alone...

those who are “sick & tired of being sick & tired”...

those who REALLY want to be made well

All Saints' is a church on a journey toward healing...

...a church that heals...

...a church that also needs to be healed...

...a church that wants to be healed...

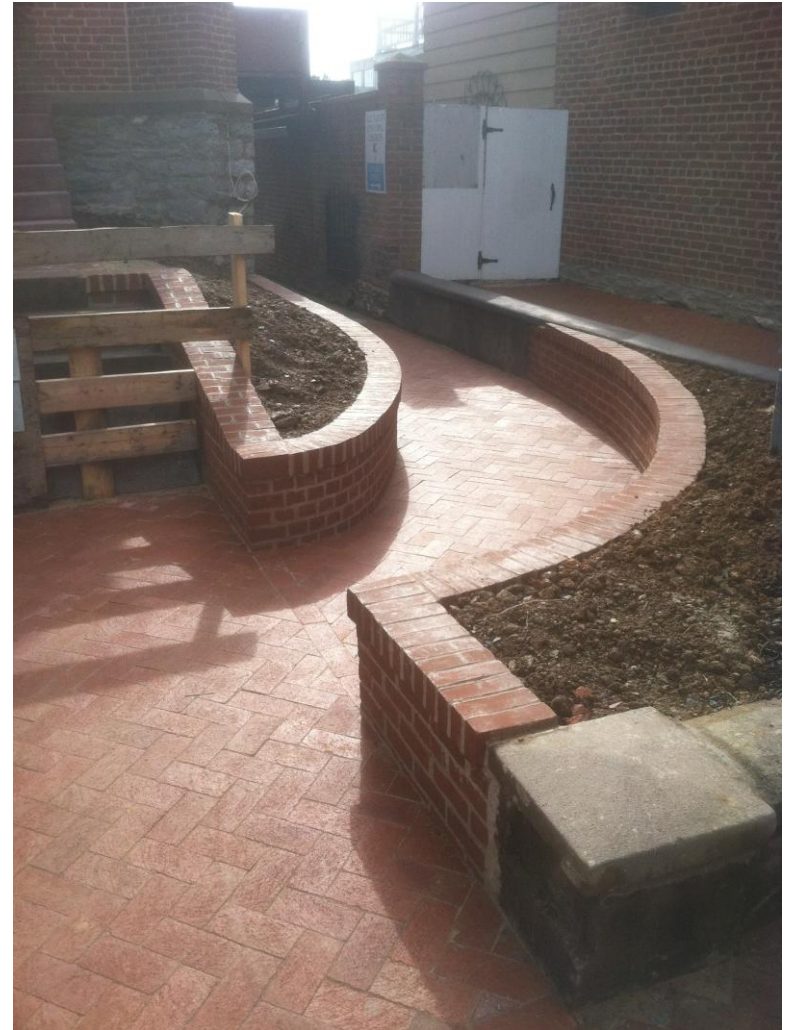
Stories from “a church that heals”...

There are people who have just found a home here.

There are people who have come home again.

There are people who are waiting to come home.

A church being healed and restored...



A church that needs to be healed...

...is more than just “buildings, bodies and bucks.”

...needs healing in body, mind and spirit.

...must also WANT to be healed.

A church that WANTS to be healed...

- ...will ask for divine help, from God, through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ...will ask for human help, both amateur and professional.
- ...will make a real investment in that healing.

All Saints' is a church that is being
healed...

...with professional help (from the Alban Institute)

...with amateur help (from the Diocese of Maryland)

...with God's help (from the prayers of all the people)

All Saints' is a church that heals through...

- Reaching out...
- Creating sacred space...
- Welcoming ALL.

Reaching out...

Outreach

Pastoral Care

Creating sacred space...

Worship

Formation

Stewardship

Administration

Welcoming ALL...

Hospitality

Fellowship

EVERY ministry

Healing is about...

- Health
- Wholeness
- Holiness
- Salvation
- Recovery
- Restoration
- Reconciliation
- Wellness

"Some signs of 'wellness' in a faith community include:

- growth in membership
- vibrant mission work that makes a discernible difference in the larger community
 - members' lives...transformed
- a congregation able to take risks, fail without recrimination, and learn from failure
 - transparency and confidence in dealing with conflict
 - ability to deal creatively with change
 - open communications
- members bringing their yearnings and questions to church
 - leaders willing to be guided by outcomes.”

- from *Tom Ehrich's **Church Wellness: A Best Practices Guide to Nurturing Healthy Congregations***

A Church that Heals

Are YOU in search of
a church that heals?

What gifts of healing
do you need?

What gifts of healing
do you bring?

All Saints' is a church that heals...

...by reaching out...

...by creating sacred space...

...by welcoming ALL.