

## **A Reflection from The Rev. Ben Robertson / January 24, 2024**

All Saints has intersected with our Diocese of Virginia a lot lately. From hosting the ordinations of seven priests on January 6 (and I continue to be thankful for so many volunteers who made that celebration possible), to Bishop Stephenson speaking to our Men's Group last Monday (he was AWESOME), we often collaborate with and welcome many of our Episcopal brothers and sisters. In fact, we sometimes interact with our diocese in ways we don't realize: hosting meetings, other Episcopalians enrolling their children in the Preschool or attending a concert, to Roslyn Conference Center being our neighbor. We are immersed in a community of fellow Episcopalians much larger than ourselves.

Sometimes we - myself certainly included - can forget the communities that surround us. We get so wrapped up in our own stuff that we don't remember that we are not alone. But these communities provide so much, from structures during times of transition to best practices when evaluating ministry. And sometimes we don't agree with those we are in community. Bishop Stevenson recently said in a meeting, "I don't expect you to agree with me." However, we are called together by a God who made all and loves all.

Pray for the communities you are part of, especially our diocese, and give thanks for all they do. We may not always perceive or discern their presence, but we are a stronger and better All Saints, and I am a better priest, because of them. I hope we welcome more and more - more visitors, more fellow Episcopalians, and more members of our communities to this place we love. For we are All Saints.

Keep the Faith,

Ben+