

# *Saints Alive!* † April 2007

All Saints Episcopal Parish, San Leandro, California, 510-569-7020

Lent, Easter

## **This Month's Articles**

### **Flora and Fauna (i.e., Volunteers) Needed**

All Saints' third annual Plant Sale will be held Saturday, May 12. This is a nonthreatening, WELCOMING event that connects us with our neighborhood. We need donations of plants that you have divided or propagated and pots, garden decorations, and tools. We could also use help with set-up, sales, and cleanup. Please call if you can pitch in. It's lots of fun!

**Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

### **Africa Project: A New Beginning**

Just a reminder to all those unaware: April begins the cycle of pledges for the orphans in Uganda — \$5 dollars each week or \$60 per month. If one should write a check to be placed in the collection plate, make it payable to All Saints Church, and write in the memo area: Africa Project. Thanks and God bless all.

**Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

## **Altar Flowers**

After Easter, we will again have altar flowers. The 2007 sign-up chart is posted in the narthex. Sign up now for your special Sunday(s). Altar flowers are \$30 per Sunday. You may also sign up for the sanctuary candle for \$5 per Sunday.

**Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

## **Learn About Godly Play**

Teacher Accreditation Training will be offered May 17–19 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church.

**Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

An Introduction to the Godly Play program and program enhancement workshops will be offered at the Saturday, August 25, Regional Event at St. John's, Ross.

**Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

## United Thank Offering Is Back

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is back after a hiatus of almost a year in which we have called and instituted a new bishop. It is now time to get back to basics and lend our support to the United Thank Offering — the oldest outreach in the Episcopal Church. We all have so much to be thankful for at this church. So be generous in your giving, because 100% of all money raised for UTO goes to help people throughout the world.

### All Saints' Ingathering

When: May 13, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. joint service

Diocesan Ingathering with Bishop Marc — talk to Gwen about going as a group!

When: May 19, 2007

Where: St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Danville

Contact: Gwen Page, UTO Team Leader, **Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

## Extras Still Needed for Short Film *The War Prayer*

### Shoot Will Be in Castro Valley on April 14

If a group wants to go, someone with a **headshot** needs to submit it by email, with the names and ages of people in the group, **ASAP**; see below.

Lyceum Film's anti-war short film *The War Prayer*, starring Jeremy Sisto (*Six Feet Under*) and Ed Kerr, is casting extras for a shoot on Saturday, April 14, in Castro Valley. Extras won't be paid but will receive screen credit.

*The War Prayer* is a short film adaptation of Mark Twain's short story by the same name. It exposes the realities of war and sheds light on the role that religion plays in justifying and perpetuating war. The film takes place in present day, during Sunday services at an Evangelical megachurch in Anytown, USA. On the eve of war, the pastor leads the congregation in prayer for the protection of our soldiers. In closing, he makes one last, seemingly innocuous request: ". . . and grant us the victory, O Lord." The service proceeds as usual until the arrival of a mysterious stranger who silently ascends to the pulpit and proceeds to explain the full import of the congregation's request, the unspoken part of their prayer.

The film will be actively promoted on the festival circuit. Go to <http://www.saracoopercasting.com/casting> for more details.

*When:* Saturday, April 14, 2007, 7 a.m. to about 1 p.m. (bring your own lunch)

*Where:* Castro Valley Center for the Arts, 4400 Alma Avenue, Castro Valley

(enter from Redwood Road)

*Contact:* Sara Cooper, Casting Director, [sara@saracoopercasting.com](mailto:sara@saracoopercasting.com)

## Mark Your Calendars

We can't include all events in Saints Alive — please check out the event calendar on the All Saints website. Go to [www.saintsalive.net](http://www.saintsalive.net) and click on "Event Calendar."

## **Holy Week April 1–8**

### *The Most Important Eight Days of the Christian Year*

**April 1:** Palm Sunday (Services at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.)

**Wednesday, April 4:** Midweek Eucharist (Noon)

**Thursday, April 5:** Maundy Thursday (7:30 p.m.)

**Friday, April 6:** Good Friday (Noon and 7:30 p.m.)

**Saturday, April 7:** The Great Vigil of Easter (7:30 p.m.)

**Sunday, April 8:** Easter Day (8:00 and 10:00 a.m.)

## **Uzma Husaini April 11**

Uzma Husaini will return to All Saints, spending an evening with the Women's Devotional Group to share contemplative spiritual practices in the Islamic tradition.

*When:* Wednesday, April 11, 2007, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

*Where:* Fireside Room

**Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

## **Team Mailing for BFWC April 15**

All hands welcome — and needed — to prepare a mailing for Building Futures for Women and Children. Several international students from Tom's school will join us. Come and meet some interesting young folks from around the world!

*When:* Sunday, April 15, 2007, after 10:00 service

*Where:* Parish Hall

*Contact:* Tom Breckenridge, **Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

## **AEMCH in Transition: Facilitated Planning Meeting April 21**

As part of our diocese's Episcopal Ministry to Convalescent Hospitals, All Saints parishioners have quietly served residents of local skilled nursing facilities for many years. AEMCH is in transition — come help shape its future. The meeting will be professionally facilitated by Caroline McCall of Arete Consulting (a member of All Souls in Berkeley). Light refreshments.

*When:* Saturday, April 21, 2007, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

*Where:* St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

**Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

## **April Showers Birthday Party/Lunch April 21**

Meet and mingle with the volunteers and guests of April Showers (the Interfaith Homelessness Network's regular shower-and-lunch event for homeless folks). Bring a birthday gift of new socks or underwear. Salads and volunteers are needed: sign up on the list in the narthex. See you there!

*When:* Saturday, April 21, 2007, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*Where:* San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Avenue

*Contact:* Tom Breckenridge, **Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

## **Deacon Sunday April 22**

On the fourth Sunday in April, we will celebrate “Deacon Sunday” — a party honoring the deacons in our midst. One of the three ordained orders in the church (along with bishops and priests), deacons model service in a very special way in our parishes and missions. Our very own Rev. Kay Landers will be our preacher at both services that day, and representatives of the School for Deacons will be on hand to answer questions and discuss training for this marvelous ministry.

## **Diocesan “Visioning” Conference May 5**

### **Building the Beloved Community**

Join your diocese for music, liturgy, fellowship, and a chance to hear from our own Bishop Marc as keynote speaker, inviting us to imagine the Beloved Community we are building in dialogue, music, art, movement, and words. Online registration: go to <http://www.episcopalbayarea.org/> and click on the large icon at right.

*When:* Saturday, May 5, 2007, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

*Where:* Grace Cathedral Close

*Cost:* \$25 per adult, \$10 per child or youth (5–16), child care free

*Contact:* Julia McCray-Goldsmith at [juliam@diocal.org](mailto:juliam@diocal.org) or 415-869-7826

## **Bishop Marc May 6**

### **Baptisms, Confirmations, Receptions, and Reaffirmations**

Our new bishop will be at the 10:00 service for his first visitation to All Saints. If you are interested in being baptized, confirmed, or received into the Anglican Communion from another church, or in formally renewing your baptismal vows, some preparation is

required. Please be sure to contact Father Rob to go over the procedure for preparing yourself.

## **Joint Services May 13 and June 17**

This year, we're going to do a very special observance of Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day. We'll come together as a parish community with joint services at 9:00 a.m. on each day, and follow each with a festive brunch. We will also honor our fathers and mothers (and forefathers and foremothers) by using our beautiful, traditional Rite I service with music at both services. It's a great opportunity for 8:00ers and 10:00ers to share our deep Anglican roots — the foundation of all the worship we do today.

## **More Crab Feed Thanks**

Pete's Ace Hardware

Starbuck's Coffee

## **Communicating in This Century**

### **If You Received This Newsletter on Paper**

. . . and if you have an e-mail address that you have not yet given to the church office, please **Contact Church office, 510-569-7020**

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## **Messages for the Whole Parish**

If you would like a prayer request or any other important message sent out by e-mail to all parish members, please ask the rector. Thank you!

*Contact:* Father Rob, [robdroste@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robdroste@sbcglobal.net), 569-7020

## Rector's Letter

### A Clear Way Forward

Clarity of purpose is one of those ideas that sounds good but is very hard to actually put into practice. It's like writing or preaching — it's a real challenge to focus ideas and to say things in less time.

Parishes often have trouble with clear purpose, too. We care about everyone and we want to take everyone's desires into account. We naturally don't want to offend or upset others, too. So what happens? Parishes end up with vague, watered-down statements of purpose that don't offend. Unfortunately, they don't guide decisions very well and they usually don't inspire.

Luckily, Jesus gave us a very powerful statement of purpose. At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, he says "go and make disciples of all the world . . . and I will be with you always" (Matt. 28:19). That means we can say in two words what our purpose is — the organizing principle of the church: make disciples. What does that mean? Does it mean that we're supposed to go door to door in white shirts and black pants, or hand out *Watchtowers*? Of course not. It means just what it says. We're supposed to work on our own commitment, disciplines and practices (making disciples of ourselves) and help other people to do so, too. As we make disciples — people who attend thoughtfully to growing in their faith — our faith grows. With it, our ability to make even more disciples grows, too.

It's now becoming more and more clear that growing mainline denominations are those that create a culture of disciplined practices authentic to their own traditions. They're making use of the fact that churches are rarely inherited any

more — today, they're chosen. And people choose churches that feed them, giving them deepening practices and support them in using them to change themselves and the world.

This kind of clarity can be unnerving. It can be upsetting, because not everyone wants to commit themselves to Christian principle and practice. They'll choose other places to go for their spiritual home, and we feel real sadness when that happens. Still, without clarity, the community wanders — and is ultimately without purpose. That threatens the existence of the whole community at once.

At the bottom line, Jesus gave us this clarity because it would be not only good for us, but wonderful, powerful and joyous. Because it would help us to change, and to change the world. People have always had to choose around him — that's one of the things he experienced in being as clear as he was. We can always offer that clarity. That's a real gift to those who really need it (including us!).

Father Rob Droste, [robdroste@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robdroste@sbcglobal.net), 569-7020

## **Where Do Deacons (in the Episcopal Church) Come From?**

On April 22, your beloved former deacon Kay Landers will be your visiting preacher. Kay's life and work are witness to the very special role of perpetual deacons in our church, and she is coming to you at the request of the School for Deacons in Berkeley as part of a three-fold outreach program: To thank parishes such as All Saints for their faithful support of the school, to make the school known to potential students, and to inspire individuals to support the School for Deacons.

Thanks to your rector and to Kay Landers, many of you already know that perpetual deacons have an extraordinary calling. They choose this path because something or someone in their parishes or their communities or the daily news has inspired them so profoundly that they are willing to invest three years in

training in order to work, without stipend, not only in parishes but also in hospitals, jails, non-profits groups—wherever their bishop needs them.

We in the Bay Area are lucky to have one of the nation's few first-rate formation programs for deacons, right here in the Bay Area. And we need to keep it alive! Unlike many educational institutions, the School for Deacons does not have a large endowment or an affluent alumni base. It depends for operating funds on pledges from three dioceses, from a limited number of parishes in those dioceses, from individual pledges, and from tuition.

We hope that Kay Landers may inspire you to consider a diaconal vocation and/or to support this amazing school in whatever way you can.

Alice Macondray, Trustee, School for Deacons

## **Social Ministry Team**

### **Peace Witness for Iraq**

“You must be the change you want to see in the world.” Advice from Mahatma Gandhi, carried out very well indeed by 60 of the San Leandro faithful. On March 16, the group gathered at First United Methodist Church for a prayer service, lit candles and processed to Root Park, while singing Taize chants. At the park there were more prayers, singing, and the ringing of bells to honor sacrifices made, to mourn both American and Iraqi deaths, and express compassion for all those suffering.

With the goal of generating peace, not anger, fifteen All Saints parishioners attended, and were joined by members of five other churches. Evoked through prayer, scripture, song, and personal faith, peace radiated through this assembly.

That the event exuded such serenity is testament to the good will of everyone involved. Four churches were actively engaged in the planning — a first for San Leandro! Emails raced through cyberspace. There were phone calls and photocopies; assignments were adjusted up to the last minute. But when the faithful gathered, there was harmony of thought, word and deed. We were the change we seek.

Thanks to the many who made this event possible: to all who attended and made known their desire for peace, and to all who helped organize (with apologies to those I have left out, I'll attempt to name everyone!): Rev Linda Wood determined the content of the service, prepared the service bulletin, and led the service. Mary Nelson led the singing, did the bell ringing, and fashioned the Christian Peace Witness sign. Cynthia Eaton worked with Bethel Presbyterian and she and Jim Halligan brought the chairs, Karen Taylor gathered the candles and sent a mailing to San Leandro faith communities, John Trubina spread word of the event through email, Bronwen Howes contacted the SL Times and did the photocopying, Claire Burke and Melissa Ridlon helped lead Taize chants.

***Contact Church office, 510-569-7020***

Saints Alive! is published monthly via email by All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro, California 94577.