

# Saints Alive!

September 2008

A publication of All Saints Episcopal Parish in San Leandro, California  
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## An Ordinary Extraordinary Day

*Fr. Rob Droste, Rector*

A few days ago, I was visiting one of our parishioners in her home. She doesn't get to church much anymore, so she was curious about the congregation. 'What's going on around All Saints these days?' she asked.

I have to say it was kind of hard to know where to start. So I just told her what I had experienced on Sunday, August 24. During services (in the newly remodeled, newly painted building, I could have added) we had blessed 65,000 sheets of copy paper and 25 backpacks for Roosevelt School. During communion, we watched slides of the food pantry at St. Gregory of Nyssa in excited anticipation of the rebirth of our own pantry October 4 (St. Francis Day—and how perfect is that?)

*A long time ago,  
St. Paul wrote,  
'Fix your attention  
on God. You'll be  
changed from the  
inside out.'*

After worshipping twice, we cooked dinner for Building Futures with Women and Children. While that was happening, I met with two of our teenagers, Rachel Phillips and Laura Miller (along with Rachel's mom, Ann, and Liz Berg) to support their emerging leadership. For those of you who don't know, Laura and Rachel are organizing a real-life pilgrimage. They've set themselves a powerful goal: send at least eight teenagers and two adults for a face-to-face pilgrimage to Sunrise House in Uganda in August 2009. They are going to be very successful, you know. I'm so proud of them!

Now you and I know that all of this is wonderful stuff. It's actually all pretty miraculous, because nobody had to do any of it. They just did it, and it was full of joy. But what really bowled me over as I was driving home from the visit was this: it's just what we do. It was kind of an ordinary Sunday at All Saints! An ordinary late-summer Sunday. Imagine that! That much service done that quietly and with a lot of happiness. No fanfare. Wow.

A long time ago, St. Paul wrote, "Fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out." I hope you'll all take a moment to appreciate that that is exactly what has been happening to us and for us at All Saints for a while. Sometimes, we get mixed up. We think

that we have to fix our attention on all kinds of other things to be good stewards, responsible leaders, mature Christians. We kind of save what attention we have left over for God.

St. Paul tells us just the opposite. Over the past couple of years, I've asked you all to think a lot about God—and especially about the God we meet in the life, person and work of Jesus. That's what I've focused your attention on, as well as my own. It's not easy. I know that.

Yet as we have all focused our attention on God, and wrestled with what it means to follow Jesus of Nazareth as disciples, each doing discipleship our own individual way, in community (with all its challenges), this focus on serving others has begun to take real shape in the world. I see you all inviting your friends and families in new ways. You're deeply proud of your parish, and you're excited to show it off. You want to share it. It's like fruit from a tree, or flowers and grapes from a vine. It's the most natural thing in the world. Ordinary—and extraordinary.

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## Training for Cup Bearers, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, and Oblation Bearers

**Choose a Saturday: September 20 or 27, 9 a.m. to 12**

If you already serve on Sundays, please email John Trubina to confirm which Saturday you wish to attend this important training class. Also, if you are interested in joining one of these lay ministries, please notify John: [Jtrubina@comcast.net](mailto:Jtrubina@comcast.net), 510-568-9896.

The altar servers' schedule appears on the church calendar. There's a signup on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

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## Request Help or Prayers on Parish Website

*John Trubina*

Our web page has been updated to include a form that you can use to request prayers, help with special needs, facilities rental, and much more.

Go to <http://saintsalive.net/index.htm>. Click on the church family photo and you will be taken to the form. Feel free to use it as many times as you wish. Fr Rob will receive all requests.

Questions? Feel free to contact me at [jtrubina@comcast.net](mailto:jtrubina@comcast.net).

## Help (Hospitality) Needed!

*Barbara Bawden*

When Jesus said, “Feed my sheep,” he was not telling us to be farmers. He was asking us to care and share. Our hospitality tradition at All Saints—the practice of giving coffee, tea, and nibbles after the family service at ten—is an effort to follow His bidding. It has been a worthwhile effort since I came to All Saints in the '50s. (Indeed, when I came, it was the gracious invitation to join a group for coffee after the service that made me want to return.)

This summer, a few of our friends have given some help and it has been greatly appreciated, but it has been too few! Remember—the sign-up is on the narthex shelf (as you enter the front door), and if everyone did one Sunday a year, no one would need to do it twice! Please ask for help if you have never made coffee or tea, brought punch for the children, or helped with preparing and clean-up.

If you cannot do it all, just ask for help! Call the office or ask me for help. Thank you.

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## Greek Dancing Lessons at All Saints—All Welcome

*Maxine Sitts*

Greek dancing will begin on Thursday nights starting September 11 at All Saints. The eight-week series is sponsored by Daughters of Penelope, Oakland Echo Chapter 4, which is a nonprofit community service organization. Please see the flyer in the narthex.

There is a fee of \$80 per person for the eight sessions. Beginners are encouraged! Contact Levon Der-Mikaelian, 408-623-1980, or Louise Metaxas, 510-632-9112.

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## Digital Video Camera Needed

*Fr. Rob Droste*

Does anyone have a digital video camera that I can borrow? I'm contemplating doing a special project for our fall pledge drive and I'll need a digital videocam to do it. HD would be great but not necessary. I have the computer software for editing it. —Fr. Rob (robdroste@sbcglobal.net), 510-590-2964.

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## Contacting Sam and Patti

Sam and Patti report that their new apartment is a “true blessing.” They will always be a part of our parish in spirit and in prayers. We wish them well.

Patti Mead and Sam Huston  
1120 Chicago Avenue, Apt. 2  
Oak Park, IL 60302

# Finance Update

Fr. Rob Droste

As you can see from the box below, our 2008 budget was expected to be approximately \$5,500 in the red at this point of the year. We are actually about \$10,600 in the red. This is due to almost \$7,000 in unfulfilled pledges. These can be attributed to several factors; the general economic downturn is a major one. The rector and vestry are taking prompt action to address this situation.

<b>Financials at the End of July</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Year-to-date budget	\$ 105,892
<u>Year-to-date actual</u>	<u>97,393</u>
Difference	(8,499)
<b>Expenses</b>	
Year-to-date budget	\$ 111,387
<u>Year-to-date actual</u>	<u>107,960</u>
Difference	(3,427)
<b>Net Total</b>	
Year-to-date budget	\$ (5,495)
<u>Year-to-date actual</u>	<u>(10,587)</u>
Difference	(5,091)

On August 20, the vestry took the following actions to address the deficit:

1. Asked the rector to personally contact the major pledging households that are behind in their pledges by more than \$1,000 concerning their circumstances. The vestry is clear that this is a pastoral issue first of all.
2. Asked Finance Committee Chair Gary Lindberg to draft a general letter, to be sent the first week of September, to all members asking them to bring their pledges up to date. Twenty-six pledges are behind by comparatively small amounts—typical during the summer months. Bringing them current will put \$3,345 back into the parish’s income line.
3. Accepted a challenge grant from a parishioner, who will match up to \$2,000 given by the vestry or anyone else who would like to help with deficit reduction (for a potential total of \$4,000).
4. Enhanced vestry support for the fall fundraiser, including commitments to personally generate interesting, revenue-generating items for the auction and participate in other meaningful ways to assist the team.
5. Committed to providing ongoing progress reports to the parish.

# Community Used Car Lot Saturday, September 27 San Leandro Marina (El Torito Parking Lot)

## Sellers' Fees to Benefit San Leandro and Castro Valley High School Football

*Diana Souza*

Funds raised by the sale of parking space tickets to sellers will be donated 100% equally to San Leandro High School and Castro Valley High School football teams. And donations are appreciated for both teams!

### Car Sellers

Purchase a parking space ticket prior to event—\$100 per space, cash only—at one of these locations:

- San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, 15555 East 14th Street, Bay Fair Mall, Suite 100 (entrance #1 between Chevy's and Fresh Choice), 510-351-1481  
Monday–Friday 9 to 5
- Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Avenue, Castro Valley, 510-886-1000  
Monday–Thursday 8 to 8, Friday 8 to 4:30, Saturday 7:45 to noon

Arrive at marina between 6:45 and 8:15 a.m. with your ticket. Bring flyers for your car.

Hosts: Jennifer Oliver, [joliver@sportshopes.org](mailto:joliver@sportshopes.org), and Yolanda Navarro, [y Navarro521@aol.com](mailto:y Navarro521@aol.com)

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## Mark Your Calendars\* \*Social ministry events have green dates.

**Saturday, September 6**, Liturgy of the Steward—come make a difference!

- 8:30 Bagels, cream cheese, coffee, tea, and Morning Prayer  
then . . . Fun and easy cleanups, repairs, and yardwork (your choice)
- 11:30 Eat Neighborhood Lunch

**Saturday, September 6**, Neighborhood Lunch, 11:00 to 1:00

**Sunday, September 7**, April Showers, 11:00 to 2:00, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club

**Sunday, September 21**, April Showers, 11:00 to 2:00, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club  
11:00 to 1:00

**Sunday, September 28**, Cooking for Building Futures With Women and Children,

## Neighborhood Center Progress Report: Enjoying What God Is Doing Through Us

*Maxine Sitts*

This last month has been a time to enjoy what God has helped us accomplish so far and listen to what we're called to do next. Parishioners have really been involving themselves in the process: about a dozen participated in the first pair of "listening sessions" on August 13; many have written down additional suggestions and sent them on to Fr. Rob; and in July, we added three new names to the list of funders. And nearly all of our monthly pledges came in on time, too.

Fr. Rob reports that he's received no complaints about the exterior paint color (in fact, just the opposite—it's been universally approved of and appreciated). That's pretty much unheard of in parish life!

Over the next few months, we will provide many more opportunities to consider, together, the exact work of the next phases. We invite your ongoing, serious thought and input in planning the kitchen and children's space, and always want to hear your suggestions on good uses of the building overall to meet our mission.

The major areas left are as follows:

- Kitchen remodel
- Americans with Disabilities Act compliance (wheelchair ramps, restrooms, etc.)
- Courtyard remodel, including new signage
- Interior remodels as needed to support our family programs, as well as our ministry to the neighborhood and San Leandro (expected to be funded by grants and other partnerships)

We know that the Building Fund is over and above our pledge to the operating fund of All Saints. It requires extra commitment from parishioners. But, the good news is that the Building Fund Drive will end when our ultimate goal is met. Now is the time for us to make a difference in our parish life, in our neighborhood, and in the world—fulfilling our mission of service.

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

*Submit news for the October 2008 issue to [marypat56@comcast.net](mailto:marypat56@comcast.net) or mail to Mary Nelson in care of the church. Deadline is September 27.*

*For changes to the parish database, please email John Trubina at [jtrubina@comcast.net](mailto:jtrubina@comcast.net) or leave a message for him at the church.*

*For more information on All Saints' people and programs, please stop by the church or visit us on the Internet at [www.saintsalive.net](http://www.saintsalive.net). God bless you!*