

# *Saints Alive!* + November 2007

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



## **Rector's Letter**

### **Marching In**

As most of you know, six members and friends of our parish (Liz Berg, Robin Niderost, Melissa Ridlon, Joan Woodside, Felice York, and I) spent the fourth week of October in New Orleans. As part of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana's relief effort, we helped gut and rebuild homes damaged during Hurricane Katrina more than two years ago.

Some facts: Katrina flooded more than 100,000 homes. Eighty percent of the city flooded. Winds topped 150 mph. More than 1,600 people died. When a barge broke off its moorings, it exploded a 300-foot hole in the levee protecting the 9th Ward. A 30-foot wall of mud, water and debris slammed into one of the poorest sections of the city.

It's impossible to describe the devastation adequately. Huge sections of the city remain virtually empty today—the houses are there, but people don't have the resources to rebuild. Trailers take up many front yards. The Lower 9th Ward looks like a bomb went off. Imagine the entire Broadmoor neighborhood with two or three houses left, the rest only slabs and vacant lots, front steps leading to nowhere, scattered debris. That's what it's like in the Lower 9th—only worse.

Although it is slowly recovering and rebuilding, this great U.S. city still suffers. But it's not suffering alone, and it's not suffering unaided. There are dozens of organizations involved in the rebuilding process. As you might expect, Habitat for Humanity has a large presence there. Every mainline church has teams on the ground. They are responding as Christians do: not running from suffering, but entering it.

We're promised that that is where God is to be found. I haven't spoken about this with the individual members of our team, but I think I can speak for all of us in saying that we experienced the truthfulness of that promise last week. If you want a deeper relationship with God, service like this is a good place to start. We don't have to be physically strong or have a lot of stamina. We just need willingness to help in any way we can. God takes it from there.

### **Annual Meeting 2008**

### **Seeking Vestry Nominations!**

Three vestry members will retire in January 2008, and one is stepping down early, so it's time for the parish to begin thinking about our 2008–2009 leadership team.

Are you interested in helping lead the parish forward in our ministry and mission? Do you know someone whose faith in Jesus is strong, who is creative, forward-looking, and has the positive attitude to be a great vestry member? As you consider these questions, here's some information from *What Is a Vestry?* and *Vestries in the Episcopal Church*, both published by Forward Movement Publications.

Vestry members must be:

- Active—visibly, regularly present in the worship and liturgical life of the church;
- Participating—involved in the church’s mission, ministry and evangelism;
- Motivated—showing enthusiasm reflecting the light of Christ;
- Contributing—financially pledging a portion of their income to the church; and
- Communicant—a person committed to Christ and to this Church who has made an adult, public affirmation of their faith before a bishop in Confirmation or Reception.

The usual term is three years, and new members are welcomed with an orientation and education program. We need all kinds of skills and experience! The newly elected vestry members will be serving with: Jeanne Cochran, Nicola Peck, Jack Kincaid, Donna Lack, Bronwen Howes, and—of course—Fr. Rob.

We’re gathering nominations between now and December 1. So, if you are interested, or if you wish to nominate another person (after checking with him or her first, of course), please contact a member of the nominating committee (Liz Berg, Claire Burke, or Maxine Sitts) or Fr. Rob.

#### **Responsibilities of Individual Members of the Vestry**

- Maintain a regular personal discipline of prayer, worship, and giving.
- Regularly prepare for, attend, and participate in meetings.
- Learn about the mission, goals, programs, services, and needs of the congregation, diocese, and national church.
- Maintain confidentiality on sensitive topics.
- Serve the congregation as a whole rather than any specific group.
- Encourage complainants to talk directly with the person(s) involved; avoid taking sides.
- Avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- Study financial statements and ask questions.
- Take on leadership roles enthusiastically.
- Help identify new leaders.
- Contribute to the congregation.
- Assist in stewardship education.

Adapted from *What is a Vestry?*

## **A Prayer**

*As we recognize God’s love and beauty being expressed by others,  
everyone around us shines.*

*We blend our abilities and gifts in a common goal.*

*We are part of something much bigger than ourselves.*

*Together we create a full, radiant experience.*

*We are experiencing a harvest of good.*

# Social Ministry Opportunities for Everyone

## ► Interfaith Homelessness Network

### Serving Free Thanksgiving Dinner to the Poor

Hello, everyone. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

It is a little early to say Happy Thanksgiving, but that is to alert you that it is coming and we are going to serve Thanksgiving dinner again to the homeless in San Leandro.

This is possible with the cooperation of IHN–April Showers, Chuck and Susan Pershing, and *many* volunteers. . . . We served over 85 people last year and sent many bags of food with them for later consumption. . . .

*Needed:* Cookies and appetizers for the coffee hour that will start at about 10 a.m. on Thursday; pumpkin pies; fruit for the table centers; volunteers to set up, cook turkey breasts, potatoes etc.; servers for the dinner; clean-up persons at the end. This is a lot of work, but it is very satisfying.

Please let me know what you would like to do. Come and have fun.

Blessings,  
Gene Bass

*When:*

Setup, 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 21

Serving, Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

*Contact:* Gene Bass, 510-351-4474; cell, 510-387-1293

### Crafts Fair at Creekside Community Church to Benefit IHN

This year Creekside's fair benefits the Interfaith Homelessness Network as well as Building Futures for Women and Children. Volunteers needed for setup and cleanup.

*When:* Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1.

## ► Angel Tree Program 2007

Here we go into November already, which means it's time for the Angel Tree Program, through Prison Fellowship Ministries. This is one of the big outreach programs we do each year!

### How It Works

We will receive a list of 30 children whose parents are in prison. We will need 60 All Saints "angels" to buy one gift apiece so we can provide two gifts for each child: a clothing gift and a fun gift (for teens, the fun gift would probably be a gift certificate at Target, Old Navy, Macy's, etc.). The gifts should be in the \$15 to \$20 range. In some cases, these are the only gifts the children receive for Christmas.

### November 18 Is Angel Tree Day

On Sunday, **November 18**, please take a tag off of the Angel Tree; it will tell you the name, age, and gender of a child as well as which type of gift. You can then buy the gift and bring it to the church by **December 9**, wrapped, with an angel sticker on it. If you can't be at church on November 18 but would like to have an angel child, please call Donna Knapp at Church office: 510.569.7020 before the 18th and she will get you one (tell her what you want—boy, girl, or baby).

### **Committee Prepares Gifts for Delivery**

We need the gifts by the 9th so that we can group them and ready them for delivery. We have already gotten teddy bears to include with the gifts for younger children. We also enclose crayons and coloring books; if you can donate any of those, let me know. The Angel Tree committee is made up of Debbie Miller (co-chair), Ellie Nonn (co-chair), and Donna Knapp (chairperson).

### **Help Needed—Deliver Joy to Children!**

It is great seeing the children's happy smiles when these gifts are delivered. We will need help in delivering these family gifts, so please call me or let me know if we can count on your help. All gifts need to be delivered on **December 21 or 22**.

If you need more information, please call!

*Contact:* Donna Knapp, at Church office: 510.569.7020

## **Hospitality**

### **Name Tags**

Thanks to Jack and Mary Kincaid, we have new name tag holders, which hang over the doors in the narthex on Sunday morning and in the parish hall at other times. This will make it very easy for everyone to wear their name tags, and a reminder to return them when we leave. I know everyone thinks they are known by everyone else, but name tags are very helpful for our newer members and visitors, as well as a help when those "senior moments" occur.

### **Greeters**

We have started the practice of having a "greeter" in the narthex on Sunday mornings to welcome newcomers and visitors, give them name tags, take them to coffee hour, and in general make them feel like welcome guests. As soon as the materials arrive and can be put together, there will be a packet available for each visitor, welcoming them and giving them information about us and All Saints' programs and opportunities. Four people have agreed to act as greeters, and are being scheduled to serve on a Sunday when they are already signed up to read a lesson or be an oblation bearer. If you would like to be part of this important ministry, please see Fr. Rob or Jeanne Cochran.

### **Coffee Hour**

This is another reminder that hosts/hostesses are needed for each Sunday if we are to continue enjoying our coffee hour social times after the 10 o'clock service. If you have not previously served as a coffee hour host or do not know your way around the kitchen, Barbara Bawden is almost always available and is happy to give assistance. This is a nice way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary or other special event in your life, and simple refreshments, coffee, tea, and punch or juice for the young people are all that is required. If you have questions, please call Barbara Bawden at church office: 510.569.7020, or contact any vestry member.

*Contact:* Jeanne Cochran at church office: 510.569.7020

## **e-Scrip**

Thank you to everyone who renewed Safeway Club cards as e-scrip supporters. You can still sign up as a new supporter or renew your support. All Saints earns money every time you use your card!

If you have questions:

*Contact:* Nancy Churchill at church office: 510.569.7020

## Entertainment Books

We still have 2008 Entertainment Books for sale. These books are good gifts for friends and relatives and for hostess gifts. Out-of-town editions are available by special order.

*Contact:* Nancy Churchill, at church office: 510.569.7020

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

Submit news items for the October 2007 issue to [marypat56@comcast.net](mailto:marypat56@comcast.net) or mail to Mary Nelson care of the church; deadline is **November 27**.

For changes to the parish database (names, phone numbers, addresses, or e-mail addresses), please e-mail John Trubina at [jtrubina@comcast.net](mailto:jtrubina@comcast.net) or leave a message for him at the church. To get information on All Saints' people and programs, please stop by the church or visit us on the Internet at <http://www.saintsalive.net>.