

Saints Alive!

A publication of All Saints Episcopal Parish in San Leandro, California
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November 2008

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Courageous Choices in Difficult Times

Fr. Rob Droste, Rector

We all know that this is a very difficult time for our country and our world. Nobody in charge seems to know for sure what to do about the economy—except that fixing it, if possible, will be expensive beyond what most of us can comprehend and that whatever we do, we should be prepared for a rough ride for a while. Many people feel frightened and powerless.

Sometimes when things are hard, we human beings are tempted to turn inward. Christian faith tells us something else.

We all know that the church isn't immune to those anxieties and fears. They have an impact on us as a congregation the same way they do on individuals and families. The question for us, as a community and as individuals, is how we will respond.

We have options. To be sure, we can always contract or pull back. Sometimes when things are hard, we human beings are tempted to turn inward. We can embody Martin Luther's powerful phrase *in se curvatus*—we can “curve in on ourselves.” If we feel overwhelmed, we may want to move beyond a wholesome and life-giving self-care to a focus on keeping ourselves—all the things we have—to and for ourselves. Extreme situations can seem to demand this.

On the other hand, we could maintain things as they are, doing our best not to go backward. We hold steady, waiting for a better time to begin moving forward again. It takes all the energy we have not to lose ground. Sometimes this is the best we can do, too.

Of course, there is a third, radical option available to us as well. That's to use the difficult times to energize us—to demonstrate to all what people of faith can do when they work together for a common purpose. We can actually expand our scope and increase our reach. That is a very real option for us.

This idea of expanding during a time of fear might seem odd at first, but if we think about it, we know that it's actually the heart of Christian life. We Christians have always seen times of adversity as times when we are needed more than ever. We see times of difficulty and fear as opportunities to focus on what we can do, not what we can't.

We use our creativity and courage to support one another in gathering resources for the work at hand. In doing so, we allow God, through the choices we make each day, to transform lethargy into energy, despair into hope, pessimism into optimism—death into life. Day by day, as we move forward this way, we are strengthened and fulfilled.

Wow! It's Almost Here!

Liz Berg

The AUCTION! A Taste of Paris!

Saturday, November 15, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at All Saints

And what a great, fun night it will be. For only \$25 for entry you will receive the best hors d'oeuvres served by some of the best and finest "French waiters," who, as you know, are highly thought of, at least by themselves. Enjoy wine, beer, and soft drinks for a small additional charge.

- See what many of our social outreach programs are doing at All Saints and support them directly through purchases at their tables.
- Buy lots of chances for wonderful gift baskets created by groups from All Saints.
- Have fun with lively bidding during our live auction, which begins at 7 p.m. sharp! Bid for such items as free air line flights, weekend stays in the country, a ride on a fire engine, dinners out, parties in your home, all sorts of services from the community, beautiful jewelry, sailing trips, and many other great items.
- Finish up your evening with the finest of French pastries created by Kathleen Waters' crew.
- But best of all, have a great, fun-filled evening seeing friends and helping support our outreach efforts. Bring your friends.

Tickets are available through Nancy Churchill and Ann Phillips. They are also available for purchase on our website: www.saintsalive.net.

Visit the Nonprofit Tables at the November 15 Auction

Maxine Sitts

The information tables at the November 15 auction will provide you with a unique opportunity to learn about some of our favorite causes, charities, and nonprofit projects. Browse through these tables to learn about All Saints activities and partnerships. You'll be surprised at how much we are doing in our community—both locally and worldwide.

Oh yes, there's a chance to purchase some great stuff as well—all for a good cause.

- **Episcopal Diocese Emergency Response Team**, specifically for the New Orleans rebuild and the Sarah Streicher Educational Memorial Foundation.
Hosted by Robin Niderost
- **ECW and Teens' Uganda Trip Bake Sale**. Homemade goodies—vinegars, oils, mustards, preserves—for sale. Materials about Episcopal Church Women (ECW). Profits will go primarily to the kids who are planning the trip to Uganda.
Hosted by Melissa Ridlon, Melissa Counsell, Bronwen Howes
- **"French" white elephant sale** to benefit the new Food Pantry. Voila! Sacre Bleu!
Hosted by All Saints Social Ministries Team
- **Building Futures with Women and Children**. A truffle for a dollar. Learn about one of our most valued partners.
Hosted by Denise Kaplan
- **The School for Deacons**
Hosted by John Trubina
- **Youth Arts Academy (YAA) and Africa Project Teens' Uganda Trip**
Hosted by YAA and Ann Phillips
- **Cursillo Group**. Display about Cursillo; holiday gift bags (with bottles of wine in them) for sale. Everyone will want to purchase a "ready-made hostess gift" for the holidays. All our proceeds will go to YAA.
Hosted by Jack and Mary Kincaid
- **Roosevelt School**. Recruitment for tutoring program and information about the PTA.
Hosted by John Trubina and PTA

Auction Donations

Do you have a time share you are willing to donate? Frequent flier miles? Know someone who would like to provide a special service to help us raise money? If you do, we can still

use donations for our Taste of Paris auction coming up on November 15. Some members of our parish have already donated cases of wine, frequent flier miles, bay cruises, etc.!

Note: We will not have a silent auction this year, so smaller items cannot be used unless they are of high value and can be auctioned off live.

Please contact Diana Souza at 895-5915 or email her at Diana_souza@hotmail.com as soon as possible. Thanks everyone—we're going to have a great time!

Social Ministries

Tom Breckenridge

Food Pantry Re-Launch

By the time you read this article, the All Saints Food Pantry will have flung open its doors and welcomed and fed the hungry at the November 1 grand re-opening. The high energy and good will at the October 25 training session were a clear indication that the pantry would get off to a grand start. [And it did!] Many thanks to all who participated. In fact, the training event comprised Father Rob and twelve folks from a variety of occupations, gathered to work out a plan to feed a multitude. There was a certain familiar resonance to the scene.

There's more to come this month. On Saturday, November 22, we will hold a special Pre-Thanksgiving Food Pantry. The Alameda County Community Food Bank will give us a number of chickens and several hundred pounds of canned goods to give away. We'll run a "mini" pantry, distributing only this food. Set up will start at 12:00 noon. If you'd like to get involved, contact a Social Ministries Team member!

Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless

San Leandro Community Church, 1395 Bancroft Avenue

The Interfaith Homelessness Network (IHN) will provide Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless on Thanksgiving Day, November 27. Volunteers are needed to set up, serve, and clean up. Also, Jean Saastamoinen is gathering fresh fruit; please see her to make your contribution. This is a wonderful event, full of thanks for all who attend.

Setup: *Wednesday* 11/26, 9 a.m. (table setting) and *Thursday* 11/27, 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Pre-dinner **coffee and treats** served in the courtyard: 10:30 a.m.

Dinner: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cleanup: 1 p.m. onward

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

Creekside Community Church Craft Fair Benefits IHN December 5 and 6

The craft fair is a great place to pick up Christmas gifts while helping the Interfaith Homelessness Network (IHN). Last year IHN received \$2,500 from the proceeds of this event. Volunteers are needed, as well. Contact Gene Bass, 510-387-1293, if you can help.

Creekside Community Church, 951 MacArthur Boulevard

Friday 12/5, 12:00–7:30 p.m.

Saturday 12/6, 10:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Building Fund: Join the Growing Group of Givers!

Maxine Sitts, Building Fund Communications

Over the past two months, the Building Fund continues to grow. After one year, we are adding new names to the list of those who are contributing to the transformation of our building into a place of worship and service to our neighborhood. In addition to new names, several generous folks are writing checks for more than their pledges. And, even more heartening is the spirit in which we are gathering these funds. People smile, they congratulate each other on progress, they are pleased with the new opportunities All Saints is providing to our community.

It's been a year since we began to build this fund. Monies are now in excess of \$92,000. In October, pledges and gifts totaled over \$1,500. We will soon be working on kitchen upgrades to benefit our hospitality, our feeding programs, and our social activities. Thank you to all who continue to contribute with such a wonderful spirit. And if you're thinking of joining the givers, you are most welcome!

Candidate Forum at All Saints Brings Front-Page Coverage

Maxine Sitts

The Candidate Forum on October 19—ably organized by Diana Souza—was a rousing success, with 37 attendees plus the candidates for City Council and School Board. Thirty of the participants were from the larger San Leandro community, and seven from All Saints.

All Saints, as a neighborhood center, was mentioned on the front page of the *San Leandro Times*. The *Times* covered the forum as a page-one feature.

Thanks, Diana, for enabling All Saints to serve as a place for voter information in an impartial, hospitable atmosphere. The refreshments added to the festivities, of course!

Sacred Circle Dancing Comes to All Saints

Maxine Sitts

An opportunity to experience Sacred Circle Dancing, which can create a sense of well-being and community, will take place Saturday, November 8, at All Saints. Professional dance teacher Maureen Atkins will introduce this graceful, relaxing dance style and provide opportunities for beginners and experienced alike to take part.

Sacred Circle Dancing takes place in a comfortable atmosphere and evokes a feeling of wholeness. Those of us who were at All Saints a few years will remember we did some of this dancing during a church service—it is that spiritual!

The November 8 get-together will take place on our stage. The two-hour evening begins at 7:30 p.m. A donation of \$5 to \$10 is appreciated, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. The entire community is invited, so pass along this news to others who are looking for a peaceful way to celebrate life with movement.

The history of circle dance is a long one. German dance master Bernard Wosien traveled widely and collected dances from various cultures that were done in circles. Soon Wosien and others began choreographing more dances. The teacher, Maureen Atkins, discovered Sacred Circle Dance in 1993 and began teaching in 1995. For further information, she can be reached at (510) 317-9219 or maureenatkins@sbcglobal.net.

San Leandro News

Diana Souza

What is going on in San Leandro that you might want to keep informed about? Well, there is plenty: the Marina development plans, to dredge or not, Kaiser moving to town, and a new crime prevention and information website called SLPDINFO.org launched by the City of San Leandro. Now is the time to be engaged!

First of all, the Community Advisory Committee for the Marina has been formed and will be working over the next 12 to 18 months with Cal Coast to put together a vision for the San Leandro Marina area. This project will not be making any changes to or recommendations about the current Marina Park and Bay Trail. They will focus on the area where the boat launch is over and down around the Spinnaker Yacht Club, San Leandro Yacht Club, Marina Office, the old Blue Dolphin site, Horatio's, El Torito, and up to the main entrance at the end of Marina Blvd. This is an exciting development that we are hoping will lead to some great things at our Marina.

The City is facing a crucial decision on dredging. We will be deciding whether or not to utilize the money we have received from the federal government to dredge the channel

and Marina area. Even if we dredge with the money we have, the City will be liable for the cost to remove the spoils after they dry out in two years. One major dilemma we face with our Marina is that there is a two-mile channel that boats must pass through to get in and out. Our dredging costs are much greater than those of most marinas.

Hopefully you have heard the news—Kaiser is moving along with plans to build a full-service hospital with support facilities and medical offices at the old Lucky warehouse site on Merced. You may have noticed they have already started tearing down the buildings along Merced. San Leandro has a 100% recycle policy, so the piles of ground-up cement will remain on site to be utilized in the construction of the new facilities. I hope you were able to attend one of the community meetings Kaiser held to share their vision and hear your concerns.

The newly launched website—which is part of the City of San Leandro's official City website at www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us—includes crime prevention and crime statistic information and provides a variety of other new features, including the ability to access information on calls for service and crimes that take place in specific neighborhoods. The new site also offers “Crime Alert” information on current crime trends as well as “Be On the Lookout” (BOLO) alerts regarding specific crimes. An online quarterly newsletter is also in the works and will become part of the website in the near future.

Mark Your Calendars* *Social ministry events are brown.

Saturday, November 8

Sacred Circle Dancing, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., All Saints parish hall

Saturday, November 15

A Taste of Paris (annual auction), 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., All Saints parish hall

Saturday, November 22

Pre-Thanksgiving Food Pantry, 12:00 (setup), All Saints parish hall

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Dinner for the Homeless, 9:30 (setup), San Leandro Community Church

Sunday, November 30

Cooking for Building Futures with Women and Children, 11:00 to 1:00, All Saints kitchen

Wednesday, December 3

Women's Spiritual Direction Group, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., All Saints rear nave

Saturday, December 5

Food Pantry, 10:00 (setup) to 3:00, All Saints parish hall

Sunday, December 6

April Showers, 11:00 to 2:00, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club

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

Submit news for the December 2008 issue to marypat56@comcast.net or mail to Mary Nelson in care of the church. Deadline is November 27.

For changes to the parish database, please email John Trubina at 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. God bless you!