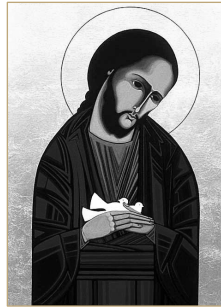


# *Saints Alive! + December 2007*

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



*Advent*

## **Rector's Letter**

### **He'll Be Here in an Hour**

One of the most mysterious concepts of our Christian faith is that of the "Second Coming"—the biblical prophecy that says Jesus will one day return "with power and great glory," to "judge both the living and the dead."

It's an idea that can seem so strange and far from us. Children of the scientific age, we don't believe easily (or at all) in these kinds of supernatural events. It's also been a very long wait—at least to our human understanding. We might ask ourselves, "If he's not here now, where is he?" or "If we've waited this long, why not just give up?" We might be tempted to throw up our hands and ignore the question altogether.

If we do, however, we'll miss out on an important opportunity to grow spiritually. A simple mental exercise can be enlightening.

Imagine, just for a few moments, that Jesus is returning, in all that power and glory, an hour from now. For a moment, let go of criticizing the story—just use your imagination. Close your eyes and imagine it. What do you see? What happens?

As you're doing that, pay attention to your heart. What words would you use to describe your feelings as you consider that moment as if it really were imminent? You might feel excited, or a little scared, or a sense of wonder. (You also might not feel anything at all—that happens too. Just keep imagining until some feelings start to emerge.) Each of us has a unique response—or set of responses—to this story.

When you imagine the moment as coming very soon, you begin to experience what your brothers and sisters two thousand years ago might have felt. You begin to share what Christians have felt for all these years—a kind of impatience, urgency, or breathless waiting for their Lord to return.

This season of Advent, beginning with "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," is all about this kind of powerful imagining. If we open ourselves to the expectancy and urgency of its message, it offers rich spiritual understanding. If he is, indeed, coming in the next hour, how do we want to behave now? How do we want to treat others, and ourselves?

I'd expect each of us would want to be able to say, "Lord, I really did try my best to care for others and be a good steward of creation. I wasn't perfect, but I took it seriously. I did my best." And what a grand moment it would be—will be—to see his face, see his smile, and hear his voice: "Well done, my sister Well done, my brother. Well done!"

Fr. Rob Droste  
[robdroste@sbcglobal.net](mailto:robdroste@sbcglobal.net)

## Social Ministries

### ► Alternative Giving Christmas Bazaar at All Saints Sundays, 12/9 and 12/16

Rather than more “stuff” for those who are already able to provide for themselves, why not honor your loved ones by giving Christmas gifts in their names to organizations that provide basic needs for those who cannot?

The Episcopal Church has embraced the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals as its framework for action. To make an impact on global issues, one cannot do better than to give to Episcopal Relief and Development. Closer to home, we know well the work done by Interfaith Homelessness Network’s April Showers program, Building Futures with Women and Children, Davis Street Family Resource Center, and others.



After both services on the 9th and 16th, Social Ministry Team members will have information about all of these groups and more. There will be mail-in forms and computer help so that you can make your purchases right at the bazaar.

### ► All Saints Christmas Catalogue Toward the UN Millennium Development Goals

For your advance perusal, here is a Christmas catalogue. Check out the websites and bring your checkbook or credit card on the 9th and 16th. Happy shopping and Merry Christmas!

Episcopal Relief and Development  
Episcopal Charities  
Building Futures with Women and Children  
Davis Street Family Resource Center  
Interfaith Homelessness Network  
Three Cups of Tea/Central Asia Institute  
Help the Afghan Children  
Heifer International  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Alliance for Climate Protection  
UNICEF  
Sojourners  
Fellowship of Reconciliation  
George Mark House

<http://www.er-d.org>  
<http://www.episcopalcharities.org>  
<http://www.bfwc.org>  
<http://www.davisstreet.org>  
<http://www.ihn aprilshowers.org>  
<http://www.ikat.org>  
<http://www.helptheafghanchildren.org>  
<http://www.heifer.org>  
<http://www.sfaf.org>  
<http://www.climateprotect.org>  
<http://www.unicef.org>  
<http://www.sojo.net>  
<http://www.forusa.org>  
<http://www.georgemark.org>

## Vestry News

### ► Timetable for Vestry Nominations and Election

The schedule for vestry nominations and election follows.

Closing date for nominations:	December 15, 2007
Deadline for nominees' statements:	December 27, 2007
Publication and posting of nominees' statements:	January 2008 Newsletter
Election at Annual Meeting:	January 27, 2008

We've extended the closing date for nominations to December 15 to allow additional persons to explore vestry membership. 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 or Fr. Rob. Vestry membership is one of the “time” and “talent” gifts that we can offer to All Saints as part of our stewardship.

Nominations close on December 15, and no nominations will be accepted at the Annual Meeting. Nominees will submit a short statement about their interest in Vestry membership prior to December 27 to Fr. Rob or anyone on the nominating committee. All statements will be published in the January 2008 newsletter and posted on the bulletin board. In this way, parishioners will be more fully informed about their vestry representatives. Episcopal churches are increasingly using this approach for vestry membership. It has been found to involve more parishioners in church life and to acquaint them with vestry responsibilities.

Here's some information about vestry service, repeated from the November newsletter.

Are you interested in leading us in our ministry and mission? Do you know someone whom you think would 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 a
- 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.

### ► Responsibilities of Individual Members of the Vestry

Vestry members are to:

- Commit themselves, to the best of their ability, to regular practices and disciplines of the Christian faith
- 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 willingly and enthusiastically
- Help identify new leaders
- Contribute to the congregation
- Assist in stewardship education

—Adapted from *What Is a Vestry?*

Submitted by the Nominating Committee—Liz Berg, Claire Burke, Maxine Sitts

## Meet Brandon and Pat Maus

Pat was born and raised in San Leandro. She graduated from San Jose State with a degree in interior design, and worked at the Emporium and Wells Fargo in the early fifties. She and Brandon were married in 1957, have two sons, and are now the proud grandparents of one-year-old twins—a boy and a girl, who also live in San Leandro.

Brandon grew up in Petaluma, graduated from the University of Santa Clara with a mechanical engineering degree, and later earned an electrical engineering degree at Healds. He spent two years in the U.S. Army at White Sands, testing atomic warheads.

In 1956 he went to work for United Airlines, and advanced to the position of engineering manager. In 1990 United sent him to Boeing in Seattle. There, for five years, he was United's chief engineer for the design and development of the Boeing B-777. He is very proud that the second United Airlines B-777 built had his name on it.

Although Pat had been a stay-at-home mom, when Brandon was sent to Seattle, she went to work at McCoulous's Department Store in Montclair and stayed there 14 years. For a time she also owned the Spicy Apple Boutique in San Leandro. She has been active in the Questers International antique organization, a member of the Art Guild with the Oakland Museum, Spinsters and Dames, and the Red Hat Society.

Brandon returned from Seattle in 1995 and retired, but the next day returned to United as an engineering consultant. He worked with United until 2004, when he was employed by a subcontractor working with NASA at Moffett Field on equipping a B-747 with an infra-red telescope. Airplane testing continues at Edwards Air Force Base, and he continues commuting to Moffett. His other interests include building and flying radio-controlled model airplanes, golfing, cooking, and gardening. In addition, both he and Pat continue to do a lot of traveling.

Pat grew up as a Methodist, and Brandon as an Episcopalian, serving as an acolyte and receiving a Catholic education at Santa Clara. Although Pat had attended functions at All Saints in the past, they came to worship at All Saints last year after a friend of Pat's suggested she should, as she was so thankful to finally have grandchildren. They have found All Saints to be very friendly and welcoming, and you may have seen them cooking for the women's shelter after the 10 o'clock service.

**Contact:** Jeanne Cochran, 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 January 2008 issue to [marypat56@comcast.net](mailto:marypat56@comcast.net); deadline is **December 28**.

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). To get information on All Saints' people and programs, please visit us on the Internet at <http://www.saintsalive.net>.