

Saints Alive!

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July 2009 Season after Pentecost

What's All This Talk About Uganda?

Liz Berg, Rector's Warden

Several years ago, Anne Harris brought her friend Bishop Eustace Kamanyire, of the Archdiocese of Uganda, to visit this church. Anne and her husband had met him before he was a bishop and helped him while he attended school here in the Bay Area. He and his wife, Irene, have kept up a wonderful relationship with Anne over the years.

In 2003 Anne started a program in which individual members of All Saints pledged \$5 per month (beyond their parish pledges) to support Sunrise House, the Kamanyires' self-funded AIDS orphanage in Uganda. This allowed us to send about \$200 per month. In Uganda the families must pay for children's school uniforms, all supplies, and the schooling itself. We take a lot for granted in our country!

Anne's son, Sam Crump, got his Lions Club chapter involved, and ever since they have actively supported this endeavor. Today the orphanage houses and educates about 50 children.

Anne Harris quickly began connecting the children of All Saints with the children from Sunrise House. Since then, mail has been exchanged, and our kids have organized the ongoing collection of shoes to be sent to Uganda. Our youth also have engaged the Millennium Development Goals, an international effort to address issues of extreme poverty.

Two All Saints girls, Laura Miller and Alyssa Hopper, became very interested, and



two years ago they proposed that a group of kids from All Saints go to Sunrise House to see the program and do a work project. The girls began planning with Anne Phillips and Fr. Rob. Rachel Phillips joined the group, and eventually Briana, a friend of Rachel's, decided she would try to go as well.

The parish was clear from the start that while it was supportive in spirit, the economic situation made it impossible to give any operating funds for the trip. So the girls have carried out fundraising projects, including serving for tips at parish events, staging a parish yard sale, and babysitting; some have conducted letter-writing campaigns. All Saints' Social Ministry Team allocated \$500 to the trip from its fund earmarked for making grants.

Alyssa, Briana, Laura, and Rachel have represented All Saints beautifully in the community. With the help of parishioners such as Cynthia Eaton, they made presentations to the Lions Club and the Soroptimists on the problem of AIDS orphans in Uganda.

At one point it appeared that the group and its projects would expand as adults from All Saints and Holy Cross became interested in going. It became clear, however, that the money could not be raised in time for a larger group to go in August, as the girls had planned. So it was decided that another group will go next year with a larger project.

The adult travelers are Fr. Rob Droste, Anne Phillips, and Liz Berg. (I was asked to go to provide one more adult female and to create an art project for the children from both continents. Each group will keep part of the project.)

We're finishing up our inquiry into how the girls can help Sunrise House. Tickets have been purchased and we are finalizing plans for lodging, ground transportation, meals, and a bit of sightseeing. All of us are meeting regularly to plan logistics and prepare to encounter new ways of looking at the world.

The girls have put up a display about the trip in the parish hall. This is exciting for all of us as we venture forth to walk the walk with Jesus.

We hope to bring back many ideas for next year's larger group and to create a much firmer relationship between the children here and in Uganda. Please keep us all in your prayers.

I will provide you with updates before we leave. Please feel free to ask the girls, Anne, Fr. Rob, or me any questions you have. And, of course, upon our return, we are planning a huge celebration and sharing about the trip!

Rector on Vacation in July

Thank you for coming back to us, Fr. Rob and Sylvia McCann!

Adventurous Females Rehearse July 23

On Thursday, July 23, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., there will be an open rehearsal for all girls and women who would like to participate in the Mary Magdalen reading on the following Sunday.



Mary Nelson and Dominique Lozano are collaborating on the shaping of this piece.

City News: Zero Tolerance for Fireworks

Diana Souza

Background (from Interim Police Chief Ian Willis)

Historically, the Police Department has planned for extra staffing around the Fourth due to the problems associated with illegal fireworks, as well as increased patronage at city parks and facilities. This strategy has worked well as it has kept fireworks incidents to a minimum and has allowed for a timely response to other calls for service.

Over the 2008 Fourth of July weekend, the Police Department entered 456 calls for service with approximately 200 calls related to illegal fireworks activity. Officers issued 33 citations for fireworks-related infractions and additionally two arrests were made. Several boxes of illegal fireworks were confiscated, some of which were marked "professional grade."

Public Safety Staffing (from City Manager Steve Hollister)

In response to yearly concerns regarding illegal fireworks activity, the Police Department increased staffing for this year's Fourth of July weekend. The Police Department takes a "zero tolerance" stance on fireworks.

The community was reminded of the fireworks ban in San Leandro through a number of methods:

- Letters to Homeowner Associations requesting that they include information in their newsletters
 - Requests to schools to publicize the fireworks ban
 - Flyers distributed to libraries and the Marina Community Center
 - A message on the Auto Mall reader board
 - A message on the City's website and Cable Channel 15
- A press release sent to all area media
A City Corner ad in the San Leandro Times on June 25 and July 2

Hope you had a nice picnic and kept it safe!

Social Ministries

Tom Breckenridge

Food Pantry

The food pantry continues to feed our community physically and spiritually. We have distributed just short of 2,000 grocery servings. What a remarkable impact from our parish.

Furthermore, the community continues to look to All Saints as a place to serve. Just a few highlights:

- Eighty-six volunteers have served in the food pantry; half are not members of All Saints.
- One volunteer originally brought a friend to pick up groceries, became a regular volunteer, and is now doing inventory work through the week.
- The pastor of Faith Family Life Ministries on MacArthur Blvd dropped by, and we learned about each others' pantries; theirs is the second Saturday!
- Six volunteers have come from Holy Cross.
- We received more volunteers and a

donation of sausages from our San Joaquin sister parish -- St. Rafael, Oakhurst. Thanks to George and Carolyn for pitching in.

- Volunteers are bringing produce from their gardens and homemade hot pads.

And we continue to expand our reach. The pantry is listed on the new national service website supported by Michelle Obama. Go to

<http://www.serve.gov>

, type *food pantry* in the key word field, and type *San*

Leandro, CA in the location field. We had our first volunteer sign up within hours of our posting!



We Need Parish Support

The Social Ministries Team thanks you for the enormous support from the parish. Although we obtain much of the groceries for the pantry from Alameda County Community Food Bank, we still need to buy additional food -- for example, rice and extra protein. Please help us keep our food supplies up by donating a bag of groceries or contributing to our bucket. Thank you.

What you can do:

- Bring groceries and home-grown produce;
- Put a buck in the bucket on Sundays;
- Pray for the Food Pantry;
- Come over and see what happens the first Saturday of each month.

Festive Fourth of July Pantry

The Fourth of July pantry was a real celebration! Lots of red, white and blue decorations, grilled hot dogs, and yummy picnic foods.

Food Pantry Facilities Increase

New Shelving

Many large thank-you's go out to Jack Kincaid and Frank Gibbons. They spent an entire day building a small cabinet, then filling the "chair closet" with shelving. These shelves have provided the food pantry with an additional 150 square feet of storage space. The extra room enables us to do more pre-sorting to help with operations, as well as stock up on bargains, thus making us even better stewards of this ministry. Thanks, Jack and Frank!

And a New Convertible!

Well, no, not a BMW, but an appliance that can convert from fridge to freezer with the flip of a switch. Thanks go out to John Trubina for informing us of a grant possibility from the California Divinity School of the Pacific. Our grant request was approved, and off we went to Airport Appliances. The sales clerk was most supportive of our program and gave us a great deal.

This addition will be a great help for safe storage as well as enable us to expand the types of food we offer. God is so very good.

April Showers

Speaking of thank-you's, many thanks to all who support April Showers. This program has been growing rapidly. Our lunch-making brigade has increased its typical production to 85. On June 21, a record 111 guests came for showers and lunch. The crowds have put a strain on the program's resources, yet the volunteers continue to serve with their customary grace.

Block Party at Our Place on August 4

America's Night Out Against Crime

**Neighborhood Center at All Saints,
6:00 p.m.**

Join members of your community, the San Leandro Police Department, and the Alameda County Fire Department in the 26th Annual National Night Out (NNO), sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. Last year's NNO campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from over 11,000 communities. It is estimated that in 2008 over 35 million people participated in "American's Night Out Against Crime."

National Night Out is designed to

- Heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention;
- Generate support for, and participation in, Neighborhood Watch programs and other anti-crime efforts;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations; and

- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are fighting back against crime.

The National Association of Town Watch was established in 1981 as a nonprofit crime prevention organization. The first NNO took place in 1984. San Leandro has a long history of participating in NNO. For more than 20 years police officers have made the rounds to neighborhood activities throughout the city. In 2008, 30 neighborhood events took place.

Why have a block party? Here's why the Neighborhood Center is hosting one of the many block parties in Broadmoor:

- To have fun-no excuse is needed to celebrate!
- To meet our neighbors. When we know who lives in our neighborhood, we are more likely to identify strangers or suspicious people.
- To increase the sense of belonging in our neighborhood.
- To make additional connections within the community. When we know people, we can exchange skills or resources, and perhaps organize a babysitting co-op, share walking-to-school duties, or find new friends for our children.
- To address neighborhood concerns and interests.
- To meet some of the oldtime residents in the neighborhood and learn the neighborhood's history.
- To have a neighborhood clean-up day, play some good music, and barbecue.
- To start an annual neighborhood tradition of getting together.

NEW This Year: Kick Off Neighborhood Watch with a Walk on August 4

This year San Leandro will begin the 2009 NNO on with a walk from the San Leandro Main Library to the Police Department. Citizens for a Safer San Leandro, representatives from Neighborhood Watch groups, and members of the Business Community will join Mayor Tony Santos and Police Chief Ian Willis at 5:30 p.m. at the Main Library. This event will kick off National Night Out in San Leandro by promoting community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie.

Remember Mutual Ministry?

Jeanne Cochran and Maxine Sitts, former rector's wardens, will soon be co-chairs of a Mutual Ministry. All former wardens and others interested are invited to participate.

Mutual Ministry was developed by the Episcopal Church to evaluate the leadership of a parish -- vestry, rector, and congregation. The focus is on learning what we do well as a parish to strengthen our mission in the coming years.

If you'd like to learn more, please contact either Maxine or Jeanne.

Child Care at All Saints?

Liz Berg

We continue to grow as a neighborhood center, reaching out to organizations, offering our space, and bringing more people from the community into our facility. It is really exciting to see more people here doing a variety of things.

For several months, a group of hard-working members have been looking



at options for providing some form of child care at All Saints. John Trubina, Larry Camp, Lucy Moore, Jack Kincaid, Fr. Rob, and I (more recently) have been involved in the research.

To date we have met with the primary provider for Head Start in our area, Davis Street Day Care Center; gotten information from other churches running schools and programs; looked into licensing from the state; and made many, many phone calls. We are meeting weekly to stay on task as we search for the best way to serve the children of our community.

The options appear to be Head Start, a partnership with Davis Street, and a homegrown program.

Option 1: Head Start

Head Start is a federal program that is fully

subsidized. The children are from very low-income families and in our case might come from an area larger than the Roosevelt school area. Head Start provides two sessions for preschool children (3 to 4 years old): one in the morning, which ends with lunch, and a second in the afternoon, which begins with lunch.

Head Start would set up the facility and run the program. We would simply lease space to them (the lease amount has not been discussed). The space would be available to us when they were not on the grounds.

The area we would consider for Head Start encompasses the classroom areas next to Janet's office, the area outside Janet's office, and possibly Janet's office itself.

Option 2: Partnering with Davis Street Child Care

Davis Street Child Care provides a before- and after-school program ("drop-in center") for Roosevelt pupils. Our facilities would become a part of their program; the children would be at the church before and after school. The licensing requirements for this type of program are different from those for a preschool or day school. We will discuss the feasibility of this option with the program director. It also might be possible to find another program that would like to expand to our facility.

Option 3: Our Own After-School Program

Another option is to develop our own after-school program in the Fireside Room. The program would operate after school only. We could either:

- Find a pre-existing after-school program that would like to expand and use our facility to serve the children next door; or
- Hire a director, set standards of care and education, and supervise the director, who would be responsible for creating the program (in compliance with state licensing requirements).

Where We're Heading

We are looking most closely at setting up our own one-year pilot after-school program for about 15 children. We received resumes in response to a brief query on Craigslist (to test the waters). We will review them to analyze qualifications and the financial aspects of such a program. We are doing detailed research on licensing requirements.

We have given careful consideration to how and when our space is used. We feel that a

program for after-school care would fit into our physical plant and move us toward our goals of meeting the needs of the community.

No decisions have been made. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings, and you are certainly encouraged to ask any questions of the committee members. We will keep you informed as the process continues.

This is an exciting time for us as we look at ways to expand our position in the community.

For upcoming events, please visit the website:
www.saintsalive.net.

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