

Saints Alive!

March 2008

A Publication of All Saints Episcopal Parish in San Leandro California
 For an on-line version of this newsletter, click on www.saintsalive.net

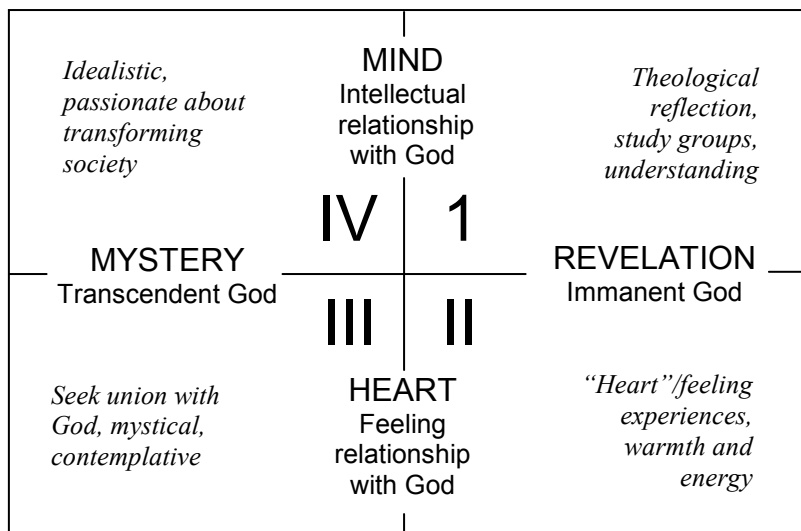
In This Issue

- Rector's Letter
- Building Fund: The "March" of Progress
- Changes in Clergy Staffing at All Saints
- Exciting New Partnership with Roosevelt Elementary
- United Thank Offering Ingathering Scheduled for May 4
- Coffee Hour: An Important Opportunity for Service
- Africa Project Passes Five Year Mark
- Episcopal Charities "Night of Light" Set for April 5
- Thank You From Episcopal Relief and Development
- Holy Week Schedule
- Selected Upcoming Events

Finding The Right Mix

Fr. Rob Droste, Rector

Ever since St. Paul wrote, "there are many members, but only one Body," the church has understood that there are many different ways to experience God and respond. Anybody who's been in the church for any length of time knows this, too.



A few years back, Corinne Ware, building on the work of Urban T. "Terry" Holmes – one of our preeminent Anglican scholars – defined four different "spiritual types." It's a useful model, because parishes need a mix of worship and programs that offer something to all four. The right mix will offer something meaningful for everyone, while also challenging members of the

community to appreciate and learn from the others.

Take a look at the diagram. You'll see two axes. One is whether you tend to experience God as more present in the world (what we call immanent) or more beyond the world (what we call

transcendent). The other is whether you tend to experience your spiritual life from the head or from the heart. Putting those together creates four different “spiritual types.”

The most vital mix for a community is one that provides something in each quadrant. The quadrant one folks will tend to enjoy study groups where they get content from great thinkers and be challenged by engaging ideas. Those who lean towards quadrant two will want experiences that fill the heart with emotion – they like feeling something strongly as a result of worship or programs. Those in quadrant three will be attracted to quiet contemplation and meditation – the mystery of God, often found in silence and retreat. Those in the fourth quadrant who prefer action in their spiritual lives will need outlets for service, both inside and outside the parish. They want to change the world above all.

As we think about moving forward, we always want to be sure that we offer programs for each of these quadrants. Because they’re very different, it’s challenging to find worship that doesn’t leave one or another group out – so we need to be patient with one another and try to accept a gift that may not necessarily be what we would have preferred. But each experience offers us opportunities to grow – either by experiencing something that is our preference, or becoming more aware of the needs of others.

Building Fund: The “March” of Progress

Maxine Sitts, Building Fund Team

The All Saints building is being reborn! As Fr. Rob stated in a February sermon, one of the gifts we receive from God is rebirth throughout our lives. Now is the time for our earthly home to be reborn. In March, we begin repairs and remodels of our worship space to further our mission:

We exist to serve our neighbors in the name of Jesus, to help each other grow in Christian faith, and to warmly invite people to join us on our Christian adventure.

As the building fund continues to grow, with contributions and pledges from members and friends, the vestry and rector have approved the start of Building Phase I. The first projects as envisioned by our architect and approved by the vestry and rector are:

- Deal with termite, dry rot, and water control issues.
- Solicit bids for remodeling the sanctuary and electrical upgrades.

These initial projects will be done as funds, time, and weather allow. We are expecting the first signs of work in March.

Meet Our Project Manager

At its February meeting, the vestry and rector approved Todd Jersey, of Todd Jersey Architecture, Berkeley, CA, as the project manager for Phase I. You can visit the firm at

www.toddjerseyarchitecture.com

Briefly, this firm is a pioneer in green architecture. Their projects include homes, hotels, schools, public buildings, churches, and stores. From his acquaintance with Fr. Rob, Todd Jersey has taken a liking to our neighborhood center mission, and so has a personal as well as professional interest in the work we’re doing.

The Building Fund

To date, about \$145,000 has been pledged by All Saints members and friends. At the end of February, we had received \$16,639 over three months. In addition, we have funds contributed prior to the fund drive, resulting in about \$40,000 in hand. To meet payment obligations, the parish is now working on an application for a line of credit with the diocese. We will be providing you with regular reports on the amount of funds donated, pledged, and spent.

Since this is a long-term effort, we encourage ongoing contributions to the fund. There are many ways to contribute. To learn about options, consider coming to a "Smart Giving" brunch at Maxine and Tom's, 45 Begier Avenue, San Leandro, on Saturday, March 15 from 10am to noon. Please call Max and Tom at 632-6479, or email them at sittsbreck@att.net to confirm your attendance. Special guest is the Rev. Richard Schaper, Planned Giving Officer for the Diocese of California.

How Can You Get More Information?

- For an overview, pick up "Becoming a Beloved Neighborhood Center" in the church entryway or contact Fr. Rob or any Vestry member.
- For fund drive particulars, contact Fr. Rob or Liz Berg (510-881-1763 or lizberg@sbcglobal.net)
- For building remodel details, contact a member of the Facilities Care Committee: Jim Halligan, Bronwen Howes, Jack Kincaid, and Robin Niderost

Changes in Clergy Staffing

Fr. Rob Droste, Rector

For approximately five years, the Rev. Linda Wood has volunteered as our priest associate here at All Saints. She has served faithfully, and I am personally grateful for her assistance over the years. I know the parish is, too.

As you know, the parish is entering an exciting period of change, building and renewal – a period when we will need a different set of ministry skills to match our newly emerging tasks and purpose. With that, I'm writing to let you know that Linda will not return in April.

There will be a period where I will serve you "solo," during which I will take a look at a variety of priests, deacons or seminarians to help out in the parish. I have several outstanding candidates to serve you during my sabbatical this fall; I'll tell you more about that as the details are worked out. Please be assured that during any of my times away, liturgical, pastoral, administrative, social ministry and Christian formation functions will all be covered.

This was not an easy decision, nor was it made lightly. Different times in a parish's history demand different sets of gifts. Of course, we will all miss Linda and we wish her the best as she finds a new parish home. As always, I'm available for any questions you may have.

Social Ministries Launches Roosevelt Elementary Partnership

Tom Breckenridge, Social Ministries Team Leader

There is exciting neighborhood news - All Saints Parish has formed a partnership with Roosevelt Elementary. Principal Victoria Forrester came to the February Social Ministries Team meeting to brainstorm ways in which we can work together to serve the needs of our neighborhood. And there were lots of ideas! Among them were different ways to get food to families in need, tutorial sessions for kids, support for parents – even lunch for the teachers.

And we're getting started right away. As of March 1, First Saturday Soup Stop will become Neighborhood Lunch / Almuerzo para el Vecindario. Victoria has advertised the lunch in the school newsletter and invited families during her meetings with them. Please come on the first Saturday of each month, 11 to 1, and meet your neighbors!

Another significant event will take place on Wednesday, April 9. This time, All Saints is pairing up with the Broadmoor Neighborhood Association to host an emergency preparedness workshop presented by the Alameda Fire Department. There will be lots of practical information as well as yet another opportunity to meet our neighbors. See you there!

■ United Thank Offering Spring Ingathering May 4

Gwen Page, Social Ministry Team UTO Facilitator

During this past year All Saints members have been most generous in giving an astonishing \$1,247 to the United Thank Offering, Spring and Fall Ingatherings. For some years the manner of collecting these offerings has been in the Blue Envelopes. Now, we are returning to the traditional practice of using Blue Boxes.

According to UTO materials, "It is a practice in our life in Christ that begins with daily prayers and gifts of thanksgiving. These gifts of thanksgiving – coins and bills in the UTO Blue Boxes – from each individual are combined with others at the parish and diocesan celebrations and finally within all of the Episcopal Church. Each year the gifts are given for projects throughout the Anglican Communion. These grants continue to support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the Church the world."

Soon these Blue Boxes will be available. So, get ready to pop your own box into shape (and teach your children about this tradition). Put it on your dresser, kitchen counter, desk etc. When feeling grateful, joyful and wish to thank God for your blessings, slip a coin or bill into the box. When full, open the box, count the money, write a check in that amount to UTO (and you keep the change) and bring the check to church on May 4.

■ Coffee Hour: A Great Opportunity for Service

Barbara Bawden

The words "hospitality" and "hospital" come from the same Latin root: *hospitium*, which meant caring (source: a Latin grammar published in 1877). Each year our parish family dedicates itself anew to be both hospitable and caring for others.

With that, please sign up for "coffee hour" hospitality after the 10:00 service one Sunday soon. Coffee, tea, paper cups, sugar and napkins are all furnished and stocked in the kitchen cupboard. A stock of cookies is kept here, too – so anyone can just come in a few minutes early and easily create a warm, welcoming and delicious table. If you need help or advice, call Barbara Bawden (582-9465). She'll be happy to show you around the kitchen, coffee maker, etc.

■ Africa Project: 5 Years and Going Strong

Barbara Bawden

In two months, we will pass five years of sending monthly gifts to Bishop Eustace Kamanyire and family's Sunrise House ministry to AIDS orphans in Fort Portal, Uganda. Our gifts help feed the children, buy medicine for them, send them to school and clothe them.

All of these children are orphans of AIDS victims and some are very ill. Along with help from another church, we have enabled this wonderful family to stay together and survive. Your gifts – even \$5 a month – make a huge difference in their lives. Will you join our small group this year? Envelopes are in the narthex.

■ Episcopal Charities “Night of Light” Set for April 5

On Saturday, April 5, 2008, Episcopal Charities will honor Margaret Gill at its fifth annual Night of Light black-tie gala at the Four Seasons Hotel in San Francisco. As a member and president of the Episcopal Charities Board of Directors, Margaret was instrumental in reorganizing Episcopal Charities, strengthening its mission and vision, and identifying new funding sources. Margaret has also served the Diocese of California as a member of its Board of Directors for 15 years and currently serves as President.



We ask you to help us in honoring Margaret's remarkable dedication to Episcopal Charities mission: to support new and existing non-profit agencies making a crucial difference in the lives of poor, oppressed, and endangered individuals in the San Francisco Bay Area, regardless of religious affiliation or practice.

Your attendance will be helping dreams come true for many of the neediest members of our San Francisco Bay Area community. The Night of Light is Episcopal Charities principal fundraiser and we need the support of our Diocesan parishes and partners. In 2007 Episcopal Charities funded 19 Episcopal-related organizations and agencies, providing essential services to nearly 40,000 children, families, and individuals in 2007.

Join us for a black-tie reception, dinner, and dancing, plus enjoy a live auction with 12 custom packages. For more information and tickets please contact Deborah Mann Productions at 415-563-6451 or email: demann@pacbell.net. To register online go to www.episcopalcharities.org.

■ Thanks from Episcopal Relief and Development

From a recent letter to the parish from the national church's relief and development arm:

“Thank you for All Saints’ generous contribution of \$300 to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Your gift was received on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 and designated for the South Asia Relief Fund.

Your contribution to ERD helps alleviate poverty, fight disease and respond to disasters around the world. Through your gift, the lives of vulnerable individuals, children and families are being transformed in Asia, Latin America and Africa. The compassion and generosity of donors like you make it possible for us to provide communities with critical tools that restore lives today and build hope for tomorrow.”

❑ Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday ♦ March 16 – 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Begin your weeklong journey with the blessing of the palms and triumphant procession into the church. We'll hear the passion story according to St. Matthew.



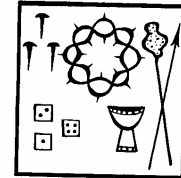
Maundy Thursday ♦ March 20 – 7:30 p.m.

Named for Christ's "new commandment" – that we love one another as he loved us – we recall the Last Supper and founding of Holy Communion.

Good Friday ♦ March 21 – 7:30 p.m.

We will gather at All Saints for our most solemn day of the year, when we hear the passion story according to St. John. Most people who attend this service find

it greatly enhances their experience of Easter.



of
to
that

The Great Vigil of Easter ♦ Saturday, March 22 – 7:30 p.m.



The early church celebrated Easter on Saturday night, and many churches, including the Episcopal Church, are now reclaiming this ancient tradition. Celebrate this most holy night of the year as we light the Easter fire in the courtyard, hear the great stories of salvation, hear our Festival Brass and rejoice in the first Holy Communion of Easter.

Easter Day ♦ Sunday, March 22 – 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Whether you prefer our early spoken service in the grand tradition of the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer* or our 10:30 service with music, instruments and the flowering of the cross, our Easter Day services are our most joyful. Come hear the story that made the church!



❑ Upcoming Events (Not In Holy Week Schedule)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Saturday, Mar. 1 | Neighborhood Lunch / Almuerzo para el Vecindario, All Saints parish hall, 11:00-1:00 |
| Sunday, Mar. 2 | April Showers, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club 11:00 – 2:00 |
| Saturday, Mar. 15 | Smart Giving presentation, 10 a.m. to noon, Tom Breckenridge and Maxine Sitts home, San Leandro |
| Sunday, Mar. 16 | Bag lunch prep for April Showers, All Saints kitchen after 8:00 service |
| Sunday, Mar. 16 | April Showers, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club 11:00 – 2:00 |
| Sunday, Mar. 23 | Cooking for Building Futures with Women and Children
All Saints kitchen after 10:00 service |
| Sunday, Mar. 30 | April Showers, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club 11:00 – 2:00 |
| Saturday, Apr. 5 | Episcopal Charities "Night of Light" black-tie reception and dinner, Four Seasons Hotel San Francisco |
| Wednesday, Apr. 9 | Emergency Preparedness Workshop, All Saints parish hall, 7:00-8:00 p.m. |

Saturday, May 17

Diocesan UTO Ingathering, Altar Guild Luncheon Meeting Holy Cross Church, Castro Valley

Saints Alive! Is published monthly via email by All Saints Episcopal Church, 911 Dowling Boulevard, San Leandro California 94577. Submit news for the April 2008 issue to marypat56@comcast.net or mail to Mary Nelson in care of the church. Deadline is March 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!