

Saints Alive!

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September 2009 Season
After
Pentecost

Rector's Letter

Giving Our Kids a Passion for God

Fr. Rob Droste

Earlier this month, I sent a note to the more than 20 families with children or youth at All Saints -- more than 20! I wanted them to know how this year's programs for families were starting to shape up. I thought it was important for everyone in the parish to know how seriously we take the spiritual formation of our youngest members.

These are the programs we have planned right now. In addition, a number of single events, like an overnight camping trip nearby, a beach cleanup for Earth Day, cooking for the Building Futures shelter, etc., are also possible -- stay tuned!

So if you have young people in your life, please let them know what's happening here that's designed just for them. And if you know any families with children who don't have a spiritual home, don't hesitate to forward this to them as well. You never know -- you might change someone's life

Children and Youth Programs 2009-2010

Children's Chapel/Godly Play

Our very own Kathleen Waters will continue working with children on Sunday mornings (and lots of other times during the year). Her partner Sue will provide her usual invaluable assistance. And Lucy Moore, along with serving on the vestry, is now learning the ropes as a Godly Play storyteller -- a wonderful new addition to the team. Elements of The Way of the Child curriculum will also be woven into this program.

NEW! Grapple! Junior High Youth Group (First meeting Thursday, October 1)

Including both Holy Cross and All Saints kids, we now have enough kids for separate Junior High and Senior High groups! Junior High will meet on first and third Thursday nights from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at All Saints. Grapple! combines snacks, games, video presentations, scripture engagement activities and a safe online site that involves kids and parents in whole new ways. The junior high snow retreat will be MLK weekend 2010 (January 15-18); joint adventure and game nights are also being planned with the senior highers. (Note: Grapple! will always meet at All Saints.)

Youth Arts Academy (YAA!) for Senior High (First meeting Tuesday, October 6)

Senior highers will meet on first and third Tuesday nights from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross in Castro Valley. At the kickoff we will engage the older teenagers in making some program decisions. We have sketched out a YouTube-based curriculum where they produce original YouTube videos on various topics they're thinking about and how they relate them to God, scripture, Jesus, the Spirit, the Church, and more.

We are also prepared to launch a full-fledged rock band, with youth playing instruments, singing, choreographing,

collaborating on writing music, and handling technical aspects of music, sound and lighting (for those not performing) and multi-media (for those who like the visual arts). What do the teenagers want to do? Senior highers will also have their own snow retreat over Presidents' Day weekend, February 12-15, 2010, and participate in joint adventure and mystery nights with the junior highers. (Note: YAA! will always meet at Holy Cross.)

The All Saints Christmas Pageant

Each year, we continue to develop our unique Christmas Pageant for the early Christmas Eve service. This will continue -- more information to come!

Acolyte Program

For youth junior high and above, serving as acolytes is an important way to get involved in the worship life of the church. This is an essential part of spiritual development and helps build a lifelong habit of community worship. Note: The parish really needs a parent coordinator to help schedule training, outfitting, and serving.

Youth Service/ Mission Trip: Corazon (Early April, depending



ng on school Spring Break dates)

We are now working out the details for a youth mission trip to build a house in Tijuana, Mexico, under the auspices of the Corazon program. More details to come. (Please note: this trip will be a prerequisite for youth planning on going to Africa in June.)

YouthUganda II

We are now planning the second,

larger trip to Sunrise House in Fort Portal, Uganda, for next year (tentative dates June 21-July 3, 2010). We hope to take 30 pilgrims (15 teenagers and 15 adults), to work on the orphanage and at the new farm. We will have an orientation meeting in October for those interested (date to be announced).

Vacation Bible School 2010

In early August we will again partner with our sister parish Holy Cross for our annual VBS blast. Next year's theme will be Finding Nemo.

Tutoring Partnership with Roosevelt Growing in 2009-2010

Maxine Sitts

Three persons from All Saints are planning to tutor students at Roosevelt Elementary School, next door to our building: Mary Kincaid (returning "veteran"), Gwen Page, and Clyde Fralick.

Additional volunteers are welcome. This tutoring ministry requires only one or two hours a week having fun with kids as they learn math, English, and other subjects. The schedule and subjects are flexible. Sometimes tutoring involves nothing more than encouraging a child to finish some homework or praising him or her for an assignment well done.

To get involved, please fill out the application titled *San Leandro Unified School District Volunteer Level II Requirement*, on the table in the parish hall. You also will need to get a TB test, usually available at low or no cost.

Please contact Margo Howard, Roosevelt Tutoring Liaison, at 562-

4835 or margohoward@sbcglobal.net for more information (or for an application, if there are no more on the table). The tutoring partnership is one of our Neighborhood Center programs, helping to meet the needs of our community.

eScrip: It's Easy to Renew!

Nancy Churchill

www.eScrip.com

If you have an eScrip account, you will need to renew it before November 1 in order to continue earning money for the parish from Safeway. Those who are not currently registered are encouraged to sign up. This is money you are spending anyway, and All Saints benefits from these contributions!

Any questions, call Nancy Churchill at 581-7121.

You Can Audit Deacons' Classes

John Trubina

Did you know you can audit classes at the School for Deacons? For \$80 per unit, you can take in-depth classes on topics including Church History, Ethics, Old Testament, Pastoral Care, or Organizing for Social Change.

Classes are held the third weekend of each month on the campus of Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley. Classes run for 90 minutes (1 unit) or three hours (2 units). They started on Saturday, August 29. To register or for more information, contact the School for Deacons at (510) 848-1723. You can also visit the

school's website at www.sfd.edu or contact John Trubina.

Social Ministries

Tom Breckenridge, Social Ministries
Team Leader

Food Pantry Needs Food

The economy is hitting the supplies at the Alameda County Community Food Bank. For the month of August there were no canned vegetables available. Meanwhile, on August 1, 109 guests came to our parish for food -- the most ever.

The pantry needs your help. From yours and your



neighbors' garden, please bring whatever can be harvested. When you go to the supermarket, pick up a few extra cans of whatever you're buying. By pulling together, we can keep one another nourished in these difficult times.

April Showers

Those who seek the services of this program are increasing as well. Our lunch-making crew is now producing 110 bag lunches each third Sunday. Way to go, crew!

The Raise 'de Praise music fest fundraiser was a real triumph. Not only was the event thoroughly uplifting, over \$1,000 was raised to keep the April Showers laundry voucher program going.

National Night Out -- A Festive

Success

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to throwing a grand neighborhood block party on August 4. Approximately 70 people attended, half from the neighborhood. Kids clamored on the fire truck, and adults enjoyed good food and conversation. For service as well as camaraderie, All Saints is the place to be.

Social Ministries Calendar

Saturday, 9/5: Food Pantry 11:00-3:00, All Saints Parish Hall

Sunday, 9/6: April Showers 11:00-2:00, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club

Sunday, 9/20: Bag lunch preparation for April Showers after 8:00 service, All Saints kitchen
April Showers 11:00-2:00, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club

Women's Spiritual Direction: Lectio Divina

Karla Droste

Wednesday, October 7, at 7:00 p.m.

On the first Wednesday in October, the Women's Spiritual Direction Group will complete a two-part series on lectio divina, or holy reading. This is a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures (or other sacred writings), which enables the Word of God to become a means of union with God.

In our September meeting we listened deeply "with the ear of our hearts" to scriptures and holy writings, allowing the sacred words to touch the deepest parts of ourselves.

In our October meeting we will discover how our own lives are fit



matter for lectio divina. Very often our concerns, our relationships, our hopes and aspirations naturally intertwine with our pondering on the Scriptures. We will attend "with the ear of our hearts" to our own memories, listening for God's gentle presence in the events of our lives. We thus allow ourselves the joy of experiencing Christ reaching out to us through our own memories.

2010 Centennial Calendar

Ken Wright, Calendar Committee

As you know, in 2010 All Saints Church will celebrate its centennial year.

For this special occasion we have printed a 2010 calendar, which we anticipate will be available during the first week in October. It features professional color pictures of our church, events, people of All Saints, and pictures of the six ministers who served over the years. There is also a section on the history of the church.

The calendar will be a keepsake you will save and a wonderful Christmas gift for friends and relatives.

We are asking for a donation of \$15 per calendar for the first two copies. Additional copies will be \$12. For you folks out of town, please add \$2 shipping and handling for each calendar. Anyone wanting more than two calendars should contact us at allsaintsepiscopal@att.net.

Please make checks out to All Saints Episcopal Church.

We thank you for your support.

Mutual Ministry Review 2009

Maxine Sitts

Focusing on Leadership

The Episcopal Church has recommended that congregations engage in cycles of Mutual Ministry Review in an effort to "move from maintenance to mission." In mutual ministry, clergy and lay members evaluate the ministry of the parish as one body, rather than focusing on a business-model performance evaluation of a rector.

This is the fourth year that the vestry, rector, committee chairs and team leaders have conducted a Mutual Ministry Review. We began this review at the vestry meeting August 30. The review looks at leadership from four perspectives:

- What's going well
- What we want to do differently
- How we can support one another as we move forward
- How we can help plan for the future

Responding to these questions are Fr. Rob, vestry members, past wardens, and leaders/chairpersons of Altar Guild, social ministry, facilities, hospitality, finance, family ministry, worship, treasurer, neighborhood center, and the child care group.

The review facilitators are Jeanne Cochran and Maxine Sitts, past rector's wardens, and Anne Phillips, vestry member. The facilitators will

develop a report from the responses and present it to the vestry in the fall.

We all expect that the knowledge and experience of this leadership group will benefit our parish in 2010 and beyond. Thank you to all who are participating.

If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact any of the facilitators.

2010 Entertainment Books on Sale

Nancy Churchill

The books are \$30 each this year. They will be available after Sunday morning services and in the church office.

Update on Child Care Center

Liz Berg

The committee has continued to meet weekly to see what needs to be done in developing a child care center at All Saints.

Jack Kincaid has taken the orientation program for licensing with the State Department of Social Services and will be taking the second half of this class in November. Fr. Rob will take the initial orientation shortly. This would fulfill the requirement that in order to be licensed we need to have someone who has gone through the process to be named director, even though they would be bringing in another organization.

We are continuing to follow the

guidelines for the state licensing process before we begin to tackle the city permitting process.

We have had a difficult time contacting several people with whom we had discussed opening a center at All Saints. This was due to time constraints on their part as the new school year was gearing up and they were very busy. We hope to hear further from them during the next week or two.

The committee met prayerfully this past Tuesday and began looking at alternatives if a child care center does not come to fruition.

A wide range of ideas were proposed which we feel would provide enhanced children's activities and also activities for adults. We have started noting those and will be meeting with the Neighborhood Center Committee to work together on the possible development of these ideas if a child care center does not materialize.

We will, as always, keep you informed.

Save the Date: Fundraiser & Family Event

Liz Berg

December 6, a Sunday, will be our Feast of St. Nicholas and "A Dickens of a Silent Auction." The hours will be from 3 to 6 pm. Sue Leiga has taken on the chair of this committee, and a very spirited discussion occurred on September 4 at the first meeting. Heading up decorations will be Dorothy Pendleton; Ken Wright will take care of setup. A committee is coming together for food development, and a bar with Irish

coffee, Bailey's, Kalua, and coffee will be available for those adults wishing to help spread the cheer.

We are working at acquiring items for auction, and **we are requesting that all items be received by Bronwen Howes by November 6.** This year we are returning to the Pay-to-Play and encourage people to be creative and open their homes for dinners, parties, special events, etc., that can be sold to help raise funds. There will be special treats for the kids, and a children's shopping area will be available to them for shopping for reasonably priced, appropriate gifts for parents. (More on this later.) We are also asking groups to get together to create theme gift baskets, which will be auctioned off also. There will be several baskets available for raffle, as we do love our raffles!

Se get your ideas generating, talk to your friends, and save the date to come to a wonderful party the first Sunday of December and start your Christmas season off with good fellowship, great people, wonderful food, and lots of opportunities to buy ready-to-give gifts.

Tips for Contributing to Saints Alive

Mary Nelson, Editor

Hallelujah! Contributions to this e-newsletter have been increasing. Following are a few tips for maximizing effectiveness.

- Write about the distant future; prepare for the possibility that we won't get the newsletter out until the first week of the month (as happened this time).

- If you're working with another person, clarify which one of you will send the final version to the newsletter editor.
- Identify what you want your readers to reflect on or to do as a result of reading your piece. Motivate them with your headline.
- As applicable, provide URLs of related websites.
- Include all the important information, but remember that brevity is not a bad thing. Take a break from your draft, then edit it.
- If there's a contact person, remember to provide the email address and/or phone number.

Send articles to marypat56@gmail.com. Thank you!

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

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