

Saints Alive! ✦ *January 2008*

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

Rector's Letter

Hopeful and Optimistic

As you all now know, our Annual a.m. service on Sunday, January 27, we'll do the business of the parish, meet budget, and thank a great many people time, energy and money this year.

For the five open positions on the vestry, we received exactly five nominations: Tom Breckenridge, Nancy Churchill, Marita Mayfield, Robin Niderost and John Trubina—a great balance of folks from 8:00 and 10:00, solidly representing the diverse groups and interests in the parish. This means no election will be necessary. Rather, we will welcome new members to the vestry and bless their new ministries among us.

And of course, we will make time to thank those who are now going off the vestry—and celebrate so many other ministries here in the parish. And, as is traditionally done, the finance committee will also present this year's budget, approved by the vestry at its December meeting.

Perhaps most exciting of all will be the launch of our 2008 Building Fund Drive. Most of you know that we have real maintenance issues that can no longer wait. Our plant desperately needs sprucing up for two things: to create a warm, appealing and safe worshiping place from which to launch our ministries; and to attract the folks we'd like to join us in the coming years.

We also know that moving forward will take money. Given that, Liz Berg and I, after bringing the vestry up to speed, approached several parish households in December about making leadership gifts to the Building Fund. I'm delighted to say that their gifts of cash and pledges were extremely generous—preparing the way for us to invite the entire parish into this exciting time in our history. We can now begin to put hammer to nail, addressing our deferred maintenance and upgrading our facilities for mission into the world. We will begin as early as February.

At our Annual Meeting, I'll be able to give you an up-to-the-minute total and more information on planned construction projects. And of course, I'll let you know how you can be a part of this growing time in the history of All Saints. There will be many ways to make a difference. Stay tuned!

Fr. Rob Droste
robdroste@sbcglobal.net

Social Ministries

► **Disbursement of Social Ministry Funds**

All Saints parishioners have been supporting the social ministry programs with great generosity. As of the team's meeting on December 11, the SM checking account balance stood at \$3,349.41.

With the understanding that parishioners are giving to the SM account so that the money be spent for those in need (and not left to languish in an account), with a Social Ministry Team wish to support Millennium Development Goals while spending most of the money locally, and following the team's spending guidelines of disbursing money to organizations that:



Epiphany

Meeting will immediately follow a joint 9:00 I hope everyone is planning to come, as our new vestry members, present the who have contributed so much of their

vestry, we received exactly five nomina-

- Have goals and values consistent with All Saints Parish mission
- Do direct grassroots work with people in dire need of assistance
- Are known by the Social Ministry Team
- Have low administrative cost

The Social Ministries Team has approved the following disbursements:

\$ 100	Central Asia Institute (founded by <i>Three Cups of Tea</i> author)
300	Episcopal Relief and Development
500	Interfaith Homelessness Network (April Showers program)
500	Building Futures with Women and Children
500	Pledged toward purchase of a new dishwasher to enable All Saints to expand its feeding program
500	Pledged to support our youth's trip to Uganda, pending final approval of the trip by the parents
600	\$50 per month to Father Rob's discretionary fund to tend to emergency needs
<hr/>	
\$3,000	

► **Alternative Giving Christmas Bazaar**

By all accounts, the Bazaar was a stunning success. Through our informal accounting, we are aware of about \$1,800 pledged to the various organizations. In addition, parishioners took information to their homes and to their work places—so more giving is certain to have taken place.

Tabulations are still being made for the Fancy Pantry, but at least \$250 net is expected. These funds all go to the Social Ministries account.

Most importantly, the interest in the organizations and the spirit of giving were wonderful Christmas gifts to us all. What better way to celebrate Christmas than having our parish hall filled to the brim with the call to serve others.

► **Mission Focus of Social Ministry programs**

In its third discussion on the topic, the team determined that it will focus its mission next year primarily on feeding the poor. This determination will not preclude other activities or events, but providing food will take precedence.

► **Upcoming Events**

Sat Jan 5	Soup Stop	11 to 1	All Saints Parish Hall
Sun Jan 6	April Showers	11 to 2	SL Boys and Girls Club
Sun Jan 20	April Showers	11 to 2	SL Boys and Girls Club
Sun Jan 27	Cooking for BFWC	11 to 1	All Saints kitchen

Tom Breckenridge
Social Ministries Team Leader

Statements of Vestry Nominees

Persons interested in serving on the vestry beginning this year have provided the following statements to help inform parishioners prior to the Annual Meeting January 27.

Tom Breckenridge

I have been an active member of All Saints since we moved to San Leandro almost nine years ago. I served on the vestry during the time of our interim rector (chairs the selection subcommittee) and the calling of Fr. Rob to be our priest. Social ministry has always been my passion, and through chairmanship

of the Social Ministry Team, I have led an effort to create a robust program. By serving on the vestry and helping to make decisions that guide the parish, I hope to make social ministry activism even more central to the life of our faith community.

Nancy Churchill

I have been attending All Saints for more than thirty years. I feel truly blessed to be a member of our parish family. It has been my privilege to work with many of you and to get to know you as caring and loving friends. I would be honored to serve as a Vestry member and to work together with you to continue to serve our members and the greater community.

Marita Mayfield

I am interested in being on the vestry I have been coming to church since 1939. I will be 75 years old next August. I enjoy the service and the people I see every Sunday.

Robin Niderost

I am Robin Niderost, baptized into the Christian community as a child in the Lutheran Church. I became a member of All Saints about 4½ years ago. This Church has provided me with a sense of community, family and most of all a renewed faith in my God. I have served on the Altar Guild for the past several years. I now look to give back to this community—in All Saints, our close community in San Leandro and the world community.

John Trubina

I have been at All Saints Episcopal Church for just about 2 yrs and have been enlightened by the enthusiasm and dedication of its parishioners. While here, I have participated within various ministries and have learned more about my faith through the examples of the other active members. I believe that God regularly puts opportunities to serve Him before us. Whether that opportunity comes to fruition of service or not is not our responsibility. Our responsibility is to pick up those opportunities in response to His presentation. Serving on the Vestry is one of those opportunities presented to me. It would be an honor to serve this parish and all its members to share in the leadership responsibilities in the ministry of the church. I love this church and I want to be a part of making it even better by supporting our Rector and staff in promoting the spiritual welfare of the Parish.

Golden Bough Concert and Celebration of Robert Burns Night

We'll celebrate Robert Burns Night with a concert by the modern-day Celtic minstrels Golden Bough. The program will feature Scots music and will include a tribute to Robert Burns, Scotland's beloved poet. There will be hot food and haggis available. It's always fun to help the Scots celebrate Burns Night, so wear something tartan and come to enjoy the festivities.

When: Saturday, January 19, 2008

5:30 Hot food and beverages available

7:00 Concert

Where: All Saints

Tickets: \$24 (donation)—available online through the All Saints link on www.goldenboughmusic.com or by phone to Jack or Mary at 886-5157

Environmental Worker Needed

Are you interested in the environment, global warming and issues of sustainability? The Diocese of California's Commission on the Environment is now seeking one liaison person from each parish and mission. Together, this group will work to minimize the environmental impact and maximize the

environmental awareness in each congregation. If you're interested in serving in this way, please contact Fr. Rob by January 15. He can be reached at 510-590-2964 or at robdroste@sbcglobal.net.

Meet the Camps!

Hello, my name is Connie Camp and with many thanks to Jeanne Cochran, I have an opportunity to introduce you to our family. Although I was born in Oakland, I grew up in Ukiah, what used to be a little logging town just north of Santa Rosa. My dad was a forester and with my English stay at home Mom raised four of us MacDougalls. Education was a priority in our family as was music and weekly attendance in Sunday school. With a nod to her immigrant Scottish father-in-law, Mom gave up her affiliation with the Anglican Church and raised us as Presbyterians.

Larry grew up in San Diego with a short interlude in Iowa when his parents decided to give the family farm one more try. Lucky for me, they moved back to San Diego where Larry had an opportunity to attend UCSD and then transfer up to Berkeley. That was where we met. He soon changed his major to forestry; we married and started our family while attending St Marks Episcopal Church, a story for another day.

Back in Ukiah and back as Presbyterians, we became very active church members and continued to be so for many years here in Castro Valley. We have been deacons, Sunday school teachers, parent volunteers and many other odd jobs about the church homes that we attended. As a pianist, I often accompanied singers during worship and regularly played for the children's worship service. Several years ago, I fell and broke my wrist. I sustained severe nerve damage which brought an end to regular piano playing. However, I don't let it stop me from having fun with music and recently I've taken on the challenge of learning autoharp and guitar.

Larry's hobby, if you may call it that, is being an ultimate do it yourselfer. He tackles many jobs about the house. Currently he is remodeling our living room—tearing apart the old fire place (including the chimney) and replacing it with a wood-burning stove. Our wood will come from our other favorite place to be—our 100-acre tree farm in the foothills of the Sierra. There he built a little cabin that meets our needs for a good bed and warm hearth on a snowy Thanksgiving eve.

We have two children. Sarah is a teacher and shares Larry's passion for reading. Her room is lined on three sides with bookshelves. I don't need to go to the library anymore! Our son Lucas is married to Christina, also a teacher, and they have the world's best baby boy—Dean. Then there are Molly and Buckley, the new "children" in the family. Expect lots of dog hair and wet nose kisses when you come to visit. Our little Brittany rules the house and her sidekick Buckley does his share of damage as well.

We chose to come to All Saints because of our friendship with Liz Berg and Robin Niderost. All of us were involved in Boy Scouts and when we discovered our mutual interest in quilting, we became fast friends. We like All Saints because of its inclusiveness as evidenced in the weekly welcome—wherever you are on your spiritual journey.... We hope to become more active as the years go by and look forward to deepening our relationship with God and the faith community at All Saints.

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

*Submit news items for the February 2008 issue to marypat56@comcast.net or mail to Mary Nelson care of the church; deadline is **January 27**.*

For changes to the parish database (names, phone numbers, addresses, or e-mail addresses), please e-mail John Trubina at jtrubina@comcast.net or leave a message for him at the church. To get information on All Saints' people and programs, please stop by the church or visit us on the Internet at <http://www.saintsalive.net>.