



# Saints Alive!

April 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](http://www.saintsalive.net)

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## Getting It Done

*Fr. Rob Droste, Rector*

The other day, someone visiting me in my office asked me, “How can you work with all this hammering and sawing going on?” I said, “Are you kidding? It’s absolutely fantastic!”

I’m not sure why that is, exactly, but I think there are two reasons. First is that I know how the parish has fretted, deep down, about the state of our building. We’ve known in our hearts that it desperately needed work. We’ve known the bill was coming due, and we didn’t even know how much it was going to be. We knew, however, that we were going to have to find a way to pay it. Facing that head on—and doing it as a community—relieves that stress and releases hope.

The other reason that comes to mind is the creativity that emerges out of the chaos of change. Fr. Iles, the supply priest who was here on March 30, said that creativity creates, requires, and thrives on chaos. I think that’s true. Healthy parishes are both stable and creative—the principles on which we’re formed create new life in us as individuals and a community. New things emerge and surprises happen. As healthy parishes face challenges together, they grow and deepen in faith. We’re experiencing that now.

I can see the movement of the Spirit in and among you all as the sawdust piles up and the big container boxes fill. By deciding to go forward boldly, to risk spending a lot of money on both deferred maintenance and mission upgrades, we have opened a wide channel to the Holy Spirit. People are giving generously, praying with confidence, and making personal sacrifices to create a beautiful place for worship and service to the neighborhood—a place where lives can be, and are, changed.

So of course the noise and dust and interruptions don’t bother me at all. They’re signs that God’s at work in this place, through us. Our God was a contractor, after all. He regularly got his hands dirty and made a mess.

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## Social Ministries

*Tom Breckenridge*

There are three major social ministries events in April—the social ministries team hopes you will join in all three!

**Sat. April 5**                      **Neighborhood Lunch**                      All Saints parish hall  
11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

*Join our neighbors for a time of good food and fellowship.*

**Wed. April 9**                      **Emergency Preparedness**                      All Saints parish hall  
7:00–8:00 p.m.                      **Workshop**

*The workshop will be presented by the Alameda County Fire Department and co-hosted by the Broadmoor Neighborhood Center and All Saints. Is your emergency kit properly stocked? Do you have a plan to meet up with family members? Are you ready for the next one? Have all of your questions answered by the experts—while enjoying some fine baked goods and fellowship as well.*

**Sat. April 26**                      **April Showers Sixth**                      San Leandro Community  
11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.                      **Anniversary Picnic**                      Church, 1395 Bancroft Ave.

***Salad makers and servers needed.** Keep your eye out for a sign up sheet, then bring your salad and join the festivities.*

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## Crab Feed 2008 Thank-You

*John Trubina*

We would like to thank the following individuals and local merchants who have donated raffle prizes and money donations to our Crab Feed 2008. It was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

Myra Ching

Nancy Churchill

Jeanne Cochran

Diana Cohn

The Fralick Family

Jack and Mary Kincaid

Roni La Torres

Jim and Dora Muir

Robin Niderost (Crab Feed Chair)

Ellie Nonn

Elizabeth Noyes

Nicola Peck

Maxine Sitts and Tom Breckenridge

Stephanie Smith-Berdon

John Trubina (Crab Feed Raffle Prize Chair)

*(Continued)*

Waters-Leiga Family

Laura Miller

Elyssa Hopper

Boy Scout Troop from Castro Valley

The Cornerstone Cafe

Keeco, LLC, Marilyn Dickman

Logitech, Inc, Fremont, CA.

Starbucks Coffee Company, Veronica

Macias, Manager

Zocalo's Coffee, Tim Holmes, Proprietor

. . . And to the countless others who participated but are not mentioned above. The funds received make all of our outreach activities possible.

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## 18-Hole Golf Tournament

To be held at Marina Golf Course, at 12 noon on April 24. Dinner and awards follow at the Englander Pub.

The cost is \$30 for the golf and \$20 for the dinner, with a choice of 3 entrees. Flyers are at the church on the information table.

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## All Saints Prayer Books Gifted to San Joaquin Diocese Episcopal Church

*Maxine Sitts*

Fr. Rob and I have kept in contact with a church in our neighboring Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin as they move forward reorganizing with the support of the Episcopal Church of America. St. Raphael's Episcopal Church in Oakhurst is small in size, yet huge in spirit. We were blessed to be able to provide them with a dozen prayer books we no longer needed. They used them in their first worship service and are using them now. One parishioner, George Sitts (yes, related to me!), sent this thank-you to our parish:

I wanted to share something special. At our service yesterday afternoon we used the BCPs you sent and it was really an emotional boost for me to open that used book. Somehow it gave me great comfort to use a book that had real worship continuity and especially continuity from a congregation that was more at peace. As soon as I opened it to the Rite II pages I could feel its history, it's having been held and used by others. We have so many emotions of renewal and newness . . . building, Vicar, etc. . . . that holding and reading from something with continuity was both uplifting and reassuring. Sort of like soldiers at the front opening a box of mom's home baked cookies.

For more good news about the San Joaquin Diocese, visit [www.diosanjoaquin.org](http://www.diosanjoaquin.org).

## Saint Raphael's Episcopal Church . . .

. . . in communion with one another, humbly thankful as God's beloved creation.

What is before us at this moment is an opportunity of amazing magnitude, the opportunity to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ through the Episcopal Church here, at home, in Oakhurst.

It is our vision to create a Christ-based congregation that welcomes all people, a congregation that is blessed by the gifts of all people and a congregation that welcomes and accepts our differences.

Building on our Episcopal heritage of Scripture, Tradition and Reason, we strive to become loving people of God.

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## Facilities Care Committee Progress Report: Late March 2008

*Jack Kincaid*



*Our Church Home*

The restoration and upgrading of our lovely old facility is coming along at a good pace. We believe that we have discovered every bit of water and termite damage to the building and several contractors will be submitting bids on the various kinds of repairs.

Today's surprise (March 24) was to find some additional water and termite damage in the area of the vent under the supply room next to the Burning Bush window (the small room west of the high altar where the candles are kept). Outside, it is near the lawn sprinkler valves. It is not a big deal but it is another item to fix.

It is amazing how much damage has been done by water seeping into cracks in the stucco over a long period of time. It is our intent to use a plastic membrane type undercoating as part of the exterior paint job. This membrane paint is flexible and prevents the inevitable stucco cracks from letting water seep in.

By the way, the large portions of stucco removed at each of these repairs is because it is easier (cheaper) to work in modules of the size of the repair materials rather than a lot of "fiddly" little spots.

All Saints is on the move!



## Excerpts from a Letter to the Parish from Todd Jersey (Architect)

Dear Father Rob,

This letter is meant as a progress report for the work being done on the Church.

[Regarding] Phase one work, which includes the dry rot, termite and stucco repair, and work remodeling the nave, Santiago's team has invoiced you approximately \$25,000. We discussed with Santiago how long he thought it would take to finish the dry rot, termite, mold and stucco repair work and get everything back to normal other than the painting work and the remaining work on the nave (which is still being planned). Santiago suggested that it would take 3 weeks to get this work completed. At around \$9,000 per week this means your cost to complete the work other than the painting and the remainder of the nave work to be another \$27,000. This puts you at somewhere in the range of \$52,000 to complete that work.

There are several items contained in this \$52,000 figure of course that are above and beyond that termite and dry-rot repair scope. There is the demolition work on the nave and the restoration of the north facing sanctuary window. There is the replacement of the drainpipe along the south property line and the demolition of one of the concrete stoops on the south side. We also have the demolition of the overhang at the parking lot in this number.

Additionally there are the unanticipated projects that we discovered along the way. These include the dry rot and stucco repair on the west wall adjacent to the parking lot and the replacement of the mold infested wood and sheetrock at the east wall of the Sunday School classroom. Taken together you have much more being done than just the dry rot and termite repair for this \$52,000 figure.

For the sake of planning I think you can assume another week for two or three of Santiago's team to get ready for the flooring in the Nave. This should be around \$5,000 for the framing and the plywood work. I would think that flooring the areas to match the existing and refinishing the entire chancel and choir platforms to run around \$8,000. This puts your phase one construction costs at about \$65,000.

NOTE: The work outlined above includes much of Phase I and Phase III. The total estimated cost of these two phases in the original plan is \$105,000. We are remarkably on target! For more information, please request the brochure "Becoming a Beloved Neighborhood Center" from the church office. (*Maxine Sitts*)

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## Building Fund Campaign Report: Late March 2008

*Maxine Sitts, Communications "Czarina"*

At our Annual Meeting, we adopted a resolution in support of the renovation of our building. We committed All Saints to repairing and upgrading our facility for worship and

for mission into our neighborhood. God is certainly with us! We are moving rapidly toward the conclusion of repair of dry rot and termite damage. The beautification of our nave is under way.

At the same time, prayers are being answered with pledges and donations to the building fund. We began renovations with resources from special funds. But we require sustained financing to complete the transition of our building into a safe, hospitable space for our surrounding community and us.

Over 20 All Saints families have made pledges of over \$103,000 for the next three to five years. We are receiving \$1,000 to \$2,000 each month in pledges. We also have applied for a low-interest line of credit with the diocese to use in the short term when pledges do not keep pace with expenses. Now is the time for those who have not yet pledged to become involved. The current extensive work is essential to future phases, and it accounts for a large part of the budget. In addition to pledges, several parishioners are donating their tax “rebates” to the building fund.

Will you join us?

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## **Episcopal Charities *Night of Light*—Fundraiser for Those in Greatest Need**

Join Bishop Marc and Sheila at the 2008 Night of Light, “Helping Dreams Come True,” on Saturday evening, April 5. This annual black-tie event (reception, dinner, dancing, and live auction) is Episcopal Charities’ primary fundraiser. Proceeds go to agencies that provide food, shelter, job training, education, health care and counseling to homeless and low-income people in the Bay Area.

Visit [www.episcopalcharities.org](http://www.episcopalcharities.org).

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

Submit news for the May 2008 issue to [marypat56@comcast.net](mailto:marypat56@comcast.net) or mail to Mary Nelson in care of the church. Deadline is April 27.

For changes to the parish database, please email John Trubina at [jtrubina@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.saintsalive.net). God bless you!