



# Saints Alive!

May 2008

A publication of All Saints Episcopal Parish in San Leandro, California  
For an on-line version of this newsletter, [click here](#)

---

## Squarely in the Midst of Life

*Fr. Rob Droste, Rector*

Late last month, the vestry gave its unanimous approval to move forward on building and installing a columbarium in the narthex here at All Saints. (For those of you unfamiliar with the term, a columbarium is a place where we put a person's ashes after cremation.)

After an extended period of parish input and suggestions, the vestry chose the design proposed by Don Hodgkin, master cabinetmaker and longtime friend of the parish. Costs for construction and installation will be covered by memorial funds and a generous parishioner gift (in other words, it's a project separate from the all the work we're doing on the Beloved Neighborhood Center deferred maintenance and upgrades).

The columbarium will be made of oak and designed with a look similar to the cabinetry already in the narthex. The interior will be white birch and copper. We plan to dedicate it Sunday, November 2—the day we will celebrate the Feast of All Saints. We'll also place Herb Cochran's ashes that day.

The creation of a columbarium will allow us to serve parish members, friends of the parish and our neighborhood in a unique and powerful way. It will make it possible to offer very practical care, comfort, and kindness to people in their most difficult times. Because it's in a prominent place, it will say that we recognize death as a natural part of life and we don't avoid talking about it. It will be clear that, for us, death really does mean life is changed, not ended.

And it puts those we love in a location that's focused on life—a place where baptisms, concerts, talks, confirmations, youth group gatherings, 12-step meetings, weddings, and many other kinds of life-giving events and services constantly happen all around.

The creation and installation of this very special furnishing does another important thing, too. It's a statement of hope for our future. Installing a columbarium sends a clear signal that we look forward to many more years of serving this neighborhood, San Leandro, and the world.

The design of the columbarium has space for 40 niches. If you would like more information on how to purchase one or more, please contact the church office.

---

## Social Ministries

*Tom Breckenridge*

**Feeding** is the focus of Social Ministries programs this year, and we've been feeding in abundance over these past weeks. On Saturday, April 26, April Showers marked its sixth anniversary with a festive picnic, and All Saints provided the salads for 100+ guests. Many thanks to salad makers Mary Kincaid, Nancy Wilson, Ellie Nonn, Gwen Page, Pat Flores, Jeanne Cochran, and Karen Taylor and to Jean Saastamoinen for all of her organizational work.

On Sunday, April 27, Kathleen Waters and the kids of All Saints prepared scrumptious, made-from-scratch chicken pot pies for the women and children of Building Futures with Women and Children. What a treat! Many thanks to these eager chefs.

On Saturday, May 3, the Neighborhood Lunch program (formerly known as Soup Stop) moved outside to better welcome the neighborhood. Sixteen guests—with an even mix of homeless and housed—enjoyed lunch together or at least picked up a cookie in the sparkling sunshine. Thanks go out to Mary Kincaid, Bob and Gwen Page, Pat Taff, Karen Taylor, John Trubina, and Maxine Sitts for food prep, set up, and warm hospitality.

All Saints is reaching out into its community and providing nourishment for body and soul!

### Mark Your Calendar!

**Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m.**, All Saints Parish Hall: Broadmoor Neighborhood Association Solar Community Meeting. Learn about the benefits of becoming a Solar Community Neighborhood with guest speaker Bill Rose of SPG Solar.

**Saturday, June 7:** Neighborhood Lunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at All Saints

**Saturday evening, June 14:** Rededication of the remodeled worship space, with preaching by best-selling author Sara Miles. Theme: Eucharist and Feeding the World. (Time TBA)

**Sunday, July 20:** AIDS Walk San Francisco, in Golden Gate Park.

*Sticky Note from the Editor*

Some Christians like to observe the tradition of wearing the color **red** (for the fire of the Spirit) on Pentecost Sunday!

---

## Robin Niderost—Walking the Gospel in New Orleans

Excerpt from a recent posting on Robin's blog:

*New Orleans—May 7, 2008*

Yesterday was filled with lows and highs and very exhausting!! The day started with me pulling up to the warehouse only to find a large truck carrying a piece of equipment, so I backed up and 'POOF'!! I had backed into a drainage grate (of course the area around it is eroded so it stands about 1 foot off the ground.) It's not very useful right now for drainage but does an excellent job of puncturing tires! . . . .

So I get the van towed and get picked up to go back to the Marquez house to finish the sheetrocking and start taping for mudding. Well, there were issues there that I won't go into, but it was a rough morning. Erin and I were sent in the afternoon to a new house—Miss Andrews. Her house had to be rebuilt from the foundation up due to flood and termite damage. She paid to have the foundation completed and the framing done. We have been there, and the sheetrocking and insulation is done. Erin gave me a quick tutorial on texturing walls, placing laminate floor and placing ceramic tile as that is where I will be the following day and I will be in charge (gulp!?).

We then head back to the warehouse to get the Penske truck to go pick up a load of lumber (we're told there are people there to help load it onto the truck). It's now 3:30 in the afternoon, so off we go. We pull up in front of this house and the lumber is all sitting in the street (and no one's around). Erin & I look at each other, sit in the cab of the Penske for a minute and say a little prayer. We put on our gloves and hop out. There stands a very tall man, he introduces himself as Rodeo and asks if we are here to pick up the lumber—we say 'Sure'. He asks again, are you all that are coming—we say 'Sure', and he says "Lord-a-Mighty." Now some of the lumber was his as he is reconstructing a double shotgun himself, for his family, but his lumber and our lumber is all mixed together. We were there to pick up 100 2x4's, 30 1x6's, 25 2x6's, 10 sheets of 3/4" plywood, and 30 sheets of 1/2" plywood. And he had his 'stuff' that included floor joists!! The three of us looked at each other, shook our heads & chuckled and set to work. Then, our helped arrived, his sons—BJ is in the 5th grade, Payton is in the 3rd grade and Chris is in the 2nd grade. Well, as tough as it was, and it was tough, we had a good time.

---

## Work Day Saturday, May 17

Join us for a fun, productive work day on Saturday, May 17. Now that Phase I of the Building Plan is just about complete, it's time to clean and spruce up.

---

## Rededication of Worship Space Saturday, June 14

Save the date!

*Maxine Sitts*

Author Sara Miles of St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco, author of *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion* (now out in paperback, with a new readers' guide) will be celebrating with us on Saturday evening, June 14. Her book is so popular that it is temporarily unavailable from Amazon.com, but we plan to have copies available for sale at this celebration.

From *Publishers Weekly Review*:

Converted at age 46 when she impulsively walked into a church and received communion for the first time, the former war correspondent suddenly understood her life's mission: to feed the hungry. What her parish needed, she decided, was a food pantry—and within a year (and over opposition from some fellow parishioners) she had started one that offered free cereal, fruit and vegetables to hundreds of San Francisco's indigent every Friday. Not willing to turn anyone away, she raised funds and helped set up other food pantries in impoverished areas, occasionally "crossing the line from self-righteous do-gooder to crusading zealot." For Miles, Christianity "wasn't an argument I could win, or even resolve. It wasn't a thesis. It was a mystery that I was finally willing to swallow." Grittier than many religious memoirs, Miles's story is a perceptive account of one woman's wholehearted, activist faith.

As we move into our next stage of building renovation, our kitchen rehabilitation takes front- and center-stage. We are most fortunate to have Sara Miles join us in our transformation!

---

## Your Company Is Requested: Neighborhood Lunch

*Maxine Sitts*

The next neighborhood lunch will be Saturday, June 7, at All Saints. We are looking for folks who can provide treats for a picnic lunch for up to 20 hungry eaters. In May, we hosted a highly decorated picnic in our courtyard. Due to the Cinco de Mayo theme, the great weather, and the visibility of the excellent food table, we hosted a record 16 people! All had a great time, along with six All Saints volunteers.

Please consider joining us next month, either to enjoy the food, or provide some eats, or both. We meet about 10 a.m. the first Saturday of each month to prepare the party, serve and eat from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and are finished with clean-up by 2 p.m.

## Facilities Care Committee Progress Report: Late April 2008

Jack Kincaid



Our Church Home

Well, here we are, almost at the end of Phase I, with nearly everything on the list (and some surprise extras) finished and watertight.

The latest surprise is a good one. There is a lot less water damage to the parish hall than we feared before the removal of the garden shed/staircase (near the garbage cans at the southwest corner of the hall). The damage is not inconsiderable, because it does include part of the roof and rafters, but it is lot less than it could have been.



The building committee is looking for suggestions for what kind of “garden shed/storage cupboard” would be best for that area. Please help.

The chancel “stage” is framed and sub-floored and ready for the oak flooring. The nave is empty and also ready for a light sanding and refinishing of the fir flooring. This new “stage” really opens up the front of the sanctuary and gives a feeling of our all being together in the same space.

Please help with input regarding what our “new” Sanctuary should look and feel like. Lighting, color, seating arrangement, etc.—all suggestions are welcome. Remember, we are deciding today what our church will feel like for us and also to those who attend in 2030.

The redwood wall below the chancel stained glass window has been repaired and stained.

In the upcoming phases we will be looking at the parish hall with an eye to modernizing its look and feel. The present look has been durable, low upkeep, and has served us very well for many years. I am sure that those folks who paid for the present paneling to upgrade the walls from the walls of earlier times realized that nothing lasts forever. I, personally, still like orange shag carpet, walnut paneling, and harvest gold appliances, but it’s getting harder and harder to find them.

Thank you all for your ideas, encouragement, and pledges that are restoring the vision of All Saints that has been passed down to us for nearly 100 years! It is exciting to feel the energy that is alive in this parish.

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

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