



Saints Alive!

June 2008

A publication of All Saints Episcopal Parish in San Leandro, California

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Just in Case You Need a Reason

Fr. Rob Droste, Rector

Do you remember, when you were a child, that you could have a celebration for any reason you liked—or none at all? Kids are like that. They can make a party out of anything.

We adults, on the other hand, sometimes need a little more, let's say, encouragement. We're so serious, work so hard, and bear so much responsibility that sometimes it's hard for us to flat-out celebrate life. We need some reasons.

I'm delighted to give you some excellent reasons to join the parish's celebration on the evening of June 14. Here are just a few:

- We should have a party because a huge part of our maintenance, deferred for years, has finally been addressed. The vast majority of our termite and dry rot damage has been repaired; the very small amount that remains will be finished when we paint the exterior of the building.
- We should have a party because our worship space has been renovated. It's beautiful! It's becoming a very appealing combination of cared-for traditional architecture with exciting contemporary touches. That's what church growth professionals say is going to be "in" in the next 15 to 20 years—we're positioning ourselves for growth.
- We should have a party because so many people have given of themselves so generously—both parishioners who've donated cash or made pledges and the suppliers who have deeply discounted their prices for our project, notably Larsen Lumber and Todd Jersey Architecture. Many people have volunteered their time, and the vestry has courageously stepped forward in faith on many decisions.
- We should have a party because we've worked together very well to achieve these things. Those who emphasized deferred maintenance have supported mission upgrades, and those who prefer mission upgrades have supported maintenance.

We've overcome honest differences of opinion by joining to do something greater than ourselves.

- We should have a party to celebrate the call of our congregation: to feed as we are fed—really, to connect our beloved Holy Communion with meeting the hunger of the world. We have a clear and inspiring purpose, and we can trust we'll be given the resources we need to achieve that purpose.

Those are all great reasons. But most of all, we should have a party to thank God for being such a powerful, present and active spirit among us. We have vibrant hope for the future, and an ever-greater sense of call. Our God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is clearly here with us encouraging and guiding us. What other reason would we need?

So come to the party. Bring friends and family. You have so much to be proud of!

Rededication Celebration on June 14 Features Sara Miles, Author of *Take This Bread*

On Saturday, June 14, we will rededicate our upgraded facility to God and to our parish mission. The celebration will start at 5:00 p.m. with a festive, music-filled worship service. [Sara Miles](#), author of the acclaimed book *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*, will deliver the homily. At 6 p.m. we will eat food like that we offer to the neighborhood. Sara will stay and sign books. Please come!

Social Ministries

Tom Breckenridge

A parishioner recently commented to me that All Saints “crackles.” Amen!

A major expression of that crackle is coming up at the June 14 rededication, celebration, and thanksgiving. Also check out the [Social Ministries home page](#) on the web to see how the Social Ministries Team plans to manifest the parish's passion for compassion.

In other news, Anne Phillips has gathered up and mailed the shoes you donated for the AIDS orphanage in Uganda. Father Rob has blessed more food packets for you to give to the hungry of San Leandro. Thanks to chief chef Bronwen Howes and sous chefs Connie and Larry Camp and Pat and Brandon Maus for preparing the meal for Building Futures with Women and Children. Liturgy of the Steward will segue into Neighborhood Lunch on June 7. Pray, work, eat, enjoy the fellowship. Catch the crackle.

Mark Your Calendar!

Sunday, June 1, April Showers, 11:00 to 2:00, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club

Saturday, June 7, Neighborhood Lunch, 11:00 to 1:00 (following Liturgy of the Steward, which starts at 9:00), All Saints

Sunday, June 8, Choir Fest to benefit the Interfaith Homelessness Network, 5:00 p.m., Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, 14235 Bancroft Avenue. Hear All Saints' Joyful Noize and other choirs—support IHN!

Saturday, June 14, Rededication Celebration, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.—thanksgiving for all that's been done and inspiration for expanding our feeding ministries and building our neighborhood center.

5:00 Festive worship

6:00 Simple supper like those we serve to our neighbors

7:00 Q&A and book signing with Sara Miles

Sunday, June 15, April Showers, 11:00 to 2:00, San Leandro Boys and Girls Club

Sunday, June 22, Cooking for Building Futures for Women and Children, after 10:00 service, All Saints kitchen

Sunday, June 29, 11:00 to 2:00, April Showers at the San Leandro Boys and Girls Club

Sunday, July 20, AIDS Walk, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Meet Frank Gibbons and Nancy Wilson!

Frank Gibbons was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. He spent much of his childhood tagging along after his grandfather, learning how to fix the plumbing, work with wood, putter in the garden, and fry the perfect egg. Shortly after graduating from Kansas State University with a degree in biology and education, he joined the Army and spent time in Germany and Vietnam. Upon returning home from Vietnam, Frank taught junior high school science before pursuing his Ph.D. in horticulture from Iowa State University. He taught at Kansas State for a few years before moving to California in 1985 to assume the duties of chair of the horticulture department at California Polytechnic State University, Pomona. During a sabbatical year in 1994, Frank established a very successful horticultural therapy program for patients at Patton State Hospital, a forensic institution for persons who are mentally ill. Frank retired from Cal Poly in 2004.

Nancy Wilson was born and raised in Beaumont, a small rural community seventy miles east of Los Angeles. She spent much of *her* childhood bugging her parents for a piano, and when she finally got one at the age of twelve, started taking voice and piano lessons. (Nancy never did learn to fry the perfect egg and happily defers to Frank as the superior breakfast cook.) Nancy graduated from the University of Redlands with a degree in comparative literature. A year after graduation she married Jack Wilson, one of her music professors, and for the next fourteen years taught voice and sang opera, musical theater, concerts and recitals in Southern California.

When Jack died of lymphoma in 1990, Nancy discerned a call to ministry and headed off to the Claremont School of Theology. Meanwhile, she and Frank, who had met at the Methodist church where Nancy was the soprano soloist, were married in 1991. After receiving her Master of Divinity degree, Nancy was ordained in the United Methodist Church and spent the next nine years pastoring churches in Southern California. Nancy moved with Frank to San Leandro in 2005 in order to begin studies in the field of Christian spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She is currently writing her M. A. thesis, entitled “In My Beginning Is My End: Baptism and a Christian Spirituality of Dying.” Upon completion of her work at the GTU, Nancy hopes to move into hospital or hospice chaplaincy.

Frank and Nancy have three adult children—Frank Gibbons IV, Laura Gibbons Mudge, and Jenni Wilson Wolffing—as well as three granddaughters, Anna, Isabella, and Juliette Mudge. The empty nest at the Wilson/Gibbons home is filled, at least partially, by Lucy, a corgi/lab mix who never fails to elicit questions or comments on her heritage when she and Nancy are out for their daily walk. Nancy and Frank are avid runners, hikers, and lovers of the outdoors. They also share a love of movies, symphony concerts, theater and opera, and travel. Frank, who has spent the last four years learning the gracious art of retiring, substitute teaches once a week in a special education classroom in the Hayward Unified School District.

From their first Sunday at All Saints in January, Nancy and Frank have felt warmly welcomed and have marveled at the depth and beauty of the spirit that is found here. They are grateful for Father Rob’s pastoral leadership and feel blessed by the many ways that God’s love shines in and through this wonderful faith community.

The Season of Growing Things: Altar Flowers!

Nancy Churchill

We need people to sign up for altar flowers. Please check the sign-up chart in the narthex (entryway) and sign up for your special day. A donation of \$30 is suggested.

Before You Write a Check . . . [Giving to the Building Fund]

The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP®, richards@diocal.org
Gift Planning Officer, Diocese of California (EpiscopalGift.org)

Phone calls have been coming in from members of an East Bay parish who are in the midst of capital campaign and have heard from fellow members about the advantages of making their gift with shares of stock instead of cash. By donating using stock, their fellow parishioners point out, they bypass capital gains taxes on the eventual sale of the stock and they still get the same income tax deduction on the full value of the shares at the time they are transferred.

It is only mysterious if you haven't yet done it. Donating stock or mutual fund shares is simple to do and can save you on taxes. If your parish does not yet have a brokerage account set up to receive such gifts, you can do it through the diocesan account and the proceeds will be transferred to your parish.

Things to keep in mind in donating mutual fund or stock shares:

- Request your investment representative to transfer the shares IN KIND into the church's account. This transfer out of your account may require your faxed signature.
- In the church's account the shares will be sold TAX-FREE.
- *Always* let the church know *in advance* how many of which shares you are donating, so that your gift will be properly credited. (Unlike your luggage, your shares do not have your name on them. Unless you tell your church, your shares may not be identified as belonging to you.)
- If you have questions, call Richard at the Gift Planning Office: (415) 869-7812.

Once you discover the financial advantages of giving stock in place of cash, you may wish to open a Donor Advised Fund (DAF). A DAF (Episcopal Charities has one) lets you liquidate stock tax-free to use for all your charitable giving. For a brochure, contact the Gift Planning Officer.

So before you write a check, consider whether you can make this gift with stock. Your after-tax gift may be larger than you could have made with cash—and more satisfying. Smarter giving empowers generosity, and generosity is divine.

Statement by New Assisting Bishop

Read an inspiring 2006 [lecture](#) by Assisting Bishop Steven Charleston!

Facilities Care Committee Progress Report

Jack Kincaid



Our Church Home

Wow, I can hardly believe my eyes! We're almost done with the Phase I and everything is looking so good. The Chancel platform and Nave floor are absolutely gorgeous. Our beautiful Worship Space is even more beautiful than before. Who could not feel God's presence in such a wonderful sacred place.

The "nuts-and-bolts" stuff of repairing the water and termite damage is not so eye-catching but our structure is strong, watertight and ready to begin another one hundred years of service.

Now that the contractors are almost out of our way for a while the WCDIO (We Can Do It Ourselves) team is getting back into action. Ken Wright has replaced the broken window by the rear patio, removed the staples from the Nave floor and has the priming coat on the new rear door. Jim Muir is polishing the 1910 Communion Rail brass floor plates and is supervising the rear entrance roofing repairs, Fr. Rob & Jack Kincaid stained the end wall of the chancel and with help from John Trubina repaired the handrail at the parking lot "Exit" doorstep. Larry Camp brought his surveyors level and determined the slope of the South drain. All told, this is work valued at over \$3,000.00 by contractors' bids. With a judicious mix of hired artisans and our own crafts-people All Saints is going to be restored to magnificence at a very reasonable cost.

Be sure to check out the beautiful, explanatory Bulletin Board set up by Maxine Sitts & Mary Kincaid that shows, with pictures, just where we are on this exciting journey of restoration and renewal of our beloved All Saints Parish.

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

Submit news for the July 2008 issue to marypat56@comcast.net or mail to Mary Nelson in care of the church. Deadline is June 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!