



Georges de la Tour, *St. Joseph*

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL PARISH • SAN LEANDRO, CALIF.  
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# Saints Alive!



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## A Ray of Financial Hope

Fr. Rob Droste, Rector

Everyone knows that our country—and our world—is in a time of deep financial crisis. In Diana Souza’s article in this issue, we can see that San Leandro is struggling.

Certainly, the parish feels the pressure, too. People are doing their best to give generously, and the Finance Committee, vestry, and parish secretary have done a great job keeping costs in line over the years. We all continue to monitor the situation very closely; we do not want to dip any further into our reserves if the need is not really urgent.

While the situation seems gloomy, I do see a ray of hope: a preschool/daycare center at All Saints. This idea surfaced in the congregation late last year, and I’m convinced that it’s the solution we’ve been looking for—a real way to get us on a long term, solid financial footing.

Nobody’s arguing that childcare isn’t desperately needed in the neighborhood. Childcare centers like the one at St. James Lutheran (on Estudillo) already have long waiting lists. People’s Warden John Trubina reports that daycare for his son Ryan costs more than \$400 per month. Multiply that by as few as 10 children (we ultimately have room for many more) and we begin to see how much revenue such an effort can generate for our ministry to the community.

Ultimately, putting a childcare center at All Saints makes use of a tremendously valuable asset we have “right under our noses”: our fully repaired facility located next to an elementary school. It will rapidly expand our current—and growing—partnership with

Roosevelt families and staff. I believe it will become the cornerstone of the Neighborhood Center here at All Saints.

Of course, many questions must be answered. There are serious licensing and insurance issues to address, facility plans to be updated, and staffing decisions to make. We will be sharing our space more than we're used to. That will take some adjusting.

At this point, it seems to make the most sense to seek proposals from organizations that already provide these kinds of services and would like to expand to our ideal location.

When I was at Trinity San Francisco, we found such a partner in Meals on Wheels. That non-profit feeds more than 150 low-income seniors each weekday at Trinity. We negotiated a long-term contract with the group that provided good revenue for the church. Additionally, Meals on Wheels wrote grants for ADA improvements, upgraded the kitchen (to full commercial), even helped with historical preservation permits. In other words, this kind of partnership can be mutually beneficial and fully in line with the mission of the parish.

I cannot stress too highly how important it will be for each and every parishioner to get behind the development of this program at All Saints. The vestry, finance committee, and I will all be communicating with you about how you can help. Please start by praying each day for the success of the project. You'll have plenty of other opportunities to help.

The financial situation all around us is clearly growing worse. We have been able to maintain operations through faith, clarity of purpose, generous giving and careful stewardship. Now it's time to take this next step. It offers real hope for a stable and prosperous future.

## Social Ministries

Tom Breckenridge

*So that everyone has a chance to hear all of the good news, here follows the full text of the Social Ministries Annual Report.*

Good news in tough times. This is how Bishop Steven described the Episcopal Church at the recent vestry retreat. It is also an accurate summary statement of social ministries at All Saints.

### **Food Pantry**

*Tough times:* food prices continue to rise, and more people are losing their jobs. *Good news:* All Saints Parish is ministering to our community through a new food pantry. In three months, 300 visitors (many of them repeats) have taken home food for 850 household

members. The number of guests coming to each panty has increased from 28 to 101. Due to the continuing tough times, we expect the growth in those needing food to continue, and we stand ready to meet the challenge, with generosity and hope.

*Good news:* The program has provided not only food, but also an opportunity to practice discipleship with our neighbors. We can't solve the economic woes, but we are providing much-needed hospitality and warmth. The spirit at All Saints encourages several guests to come early to help set up before picking up their groceries. We share laughter, nutrition advice, and occasionally a prayer (if requested) with those who join us.

### **Interfaith Homelessness Network—April Showers**

*Tough times:* the number of guests coming to Showers is consistently over 80 and has been as high as 106. *Good news:* All Saints continues its active role in this vital program—volunteers offer service and hospitality at every Showers event. Eight o'clock worshippers continue to provide lunches every month (still the only church in the network to do so!).

*Tough times:* Low-income housing is critically needed. *Good news:* IHN was among the voices speaking up in support of the Crossings Project, and the San Leandro Planning Commission voted unanimously in favor.

### **Meal Preparation for Building Futures with Women and Children**

*Tough times:* Time pressure caused support for this program to waver. *Good news:* the Social Ministries Team would not accept letting the program go. We reorganized, and this ministry thrives on!

### **What's New?**

*Good news . . . and good news!* Programs will continue into 2009, with plans to enhance their impact. This will be possible through increased cooperation among faith communities in San Leandro as well as our sister Episcopal parishes in the deanery. We envision, for example, a food pantry web that will share resources. A website will be established to keep deanery members informed of services that can be shared. The dialogue has begun.

### **Thanksgiving**

The Social Ministries Team gives its thanks for the whole-hearted support of the All Saints community. This is the best news of all. God is so very good indeed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Breckenridge, Social Ministries Team leader

## Neighborhood Center

### All Saints Expanding Ministry to the Neighborhood

Maxine Sitts

As announced at Annual Meeting, the Neighborhood Center at All Saints is developing:

- A statement of goals and operating principles
- Rules, regulations, and policies for building use, including priorities, safety and security considerations
- Equitable fees for building use that help our budget
- A calendar of building use for assignment of rooms

We are fortunate to have several ongoing activities in place! Cardio kick-boxing, Sacred Circle dance, Greek dance, and our own Cynthia Eaton's Wild Goose Qigong (mind-body-spirit exercise)! We also have several one-time events on our schedule.

As we see more and more of our building's space used by our community, please pass on comments (pro or con) to me to help us develop needed policies. Also, please contact Janet or me when you want to schedule an activity requiring a room in the building. Of course, church groups receive first priority. But we need to know your needs so we can add you to the calendar. Janet will record Neighborhood Center building use on the master calendar in the Church Office, using the color blue.

Finally, please refer groups to our Neighborhood Center if they are looking for space to meet.

Thank you!

Maxine Sitts, Neighborhood Center Facilitator  
Janet Plankenhorn, On-site Operations Coordinator  
Cynthia Eaton, Vision-eer

## Sacred Circle Dance

### Now Second and Fourth Saturdays, 7 to 8:30

Maureen Atkins, Sacred Dance Instructor

We continue to enjoy our new dance home at the All Saint's Neighborhood Center. The Fireside Room is ideal. Our last gathering was on Valentine's Day and it was quite special. It turned out that two of the dancers were old friends who had not seen one another for a very long time. Coming together to dance is now a way that they can stay connected. Another dancer presented me with a water color painting of people dancing. It was inspired from last

New Year's Eve dance gathering. The dances included meditative and lively ones. We always end our sessions with something gentle. We are a very mover friendly group and visitors are always welcome to pop in to check us out first if they wish.

The good news is that starting in March we will be dancing twice a month, on the second and fourth Saturdays. Our sessions will start at a new time: 7pm and go to 8:30p. However, on April 11th we will not be holding our regular circle. The Easter Vigil will be observed that evening. Father Rob has asked me to offer something special in the form of Sacred Dance for this. It will be something that is not complex with the intention of being all inclusive.

Best wishes, Maureen

## Building Fund Continues to Grow in 2009

Maxine Sitts

The year 2008 was a year for bearing fruit from All Saints Building Fund. And 2009 is continuing the trend!

*A bit of history for those new to All Saints:* Contributions and pledges for this fund began in late 2007, thanks to generous “starter” donations from a few parishioners and some monies on hand earmarked for building improvements. Then, with a low-key Building Fund Campaign underway in early 2008, parishioners and friends acted on their commitment to upgrading our building in order to expand service to the community. The fund growth has been fantastic, with close to \$100,000 donated. We received many generous one-time gifts, along with an average of \$1,500 per month in pledges. And remember, this is in addition to our annual pledges to the operating budget.

As of March 2009, over 60 individuals are giving to this fund, with contributions ranging from \$20.00 to over \$10,000. We are moving forward with the next priorities for our building: In 2009, we look forward to enhancing the building even more, in particular with ADA-compliant access, some upgraded kitchen appliances, and a children’s day-care center.

Today, we are reaping the fruits of the generosity of parishioners and friends of the parish. We are hosting new groups, neighborhood events, and just plain fun happenings. Every week, the local newspaper mentions All Saints as a destination for community activities. To do that in tough economic times is indeed a challenge. But what an exciting time to be building a place where we can worship and serve others, as Jesus asks us to do.

# Walk with Me

John Trubina



## *The Life and Work of a Deacon*

*In all that they do, deacons center on fulfilling the role as an image of Christ by being called and sent to serve in the world to mobilize the baptized for service. Such was Jesus' ministry and something that Ignatius of Antioch recognized 1800 hundred years ago.*

Peace to you, my Sisters and Brothers.

Now in the third week of the semester, we (my classmates and I) are enjoying our classes, particularly Homiletics. Wow, I must say that we were all pretty nervous about giving our first homily to our classmates, but we all survived and did well.

Unfortunately, a classmate has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and so is skipping this semester. Please keep him in your prayers, we all miss him in class, but we know he will be rejoining us once he has recovered.

Please keep me in your prayers as I ask God to lead me where I should begin my field work in August. Two of the areas I am looking at are hospital chaplaincy and the International Maritime Center (IMC) (Seaman's Club) in Oakland. The IMC provides services for waterfront workers, longshoremen, and truckers regardless of religion, race, or nationality.

At the Annual Meeting, I announced that I would be leaving All Saints; what I should have announced was that I will begin my fieldwork ministry outside All Saints but will maintain my activities here as well. So you will see me running around the Neighborhood Center and at the Eucharist when I am not at my field site. This is my parish home and will always be.

On February 17, I met with Bishop Marc for my one-on-one interview with him. He said he is recommending me to move forward in the process and to attend the Vocations Conference on March 21st. If these interviews (six in all) are successful, I will enter school in April as a postulant.

On March 28, we have our annual Inquirers class for those with interest in learning more about the School for Deacons and for those who would like to learn what we are studying and meet the faculty and students. If you want to attend, please let me know. It is a good way to learn about deacon studies.

Our next community dinner is scheduled for May 9 at the school in Berkeley; if you wish to attend as my guest, please drop me a line or call me.

In Christ's Service,  
John (jtrubina@comcast.net), 415-517-5646

## Crab Feed—2009

Ken Wright

We held our 37th Annual Crab Feed on Saturday, February 21. The very successful event had a full house (extra chairs were needed!) and excellent food.

Even in these difficult times, many people were generous in their support for this event, and we thank you! There were many who made it run smoothly. They are:

Kitchen	Jean Saastamoinen, daughter Louise, Dora Muir
Pasta sauce	Dennis Knight
Dessert	Kathleen Waters
Pick-up of crab	Use of Jim Muir's truck
Setting up tables	Jim Halligan, Jack Kincaid, Conway Pendleton
Decorating	Mary Kincaid, Dorothy Pendleton, Nicola Peck, Dorothy Wright, Dora Muir
Beer and wine	Richard Burke, Frank Carcot
Tickets	Nancy Churchill, Dorothy Pendleton
Raffle	Jim Muir, grandson Shawn, Ken and Darren Wright
Entertainment	Claire and Richard Burke, Dylan Snodgrass, Mary Nelson, Fr. Rob

We must also acknowledge those who contributed to the raffle: two Sony DVD players from my daughter Donna and Fred Evans; eight garden ornaments from Joe Tomatis; \$25 gift certificate from Peking Gardens restaurant; and a crockpot and pot butter warmer from Bed Bath & Beyond. There were ten baskets from Dorothy Wright, Dora Muir, Nancy Churchill, Dorothy Pendleton, Nicola Peck, the Fralick family, and Jean Saastamoinen. Eight more baskets arrived that evening from unknown donors. We must apologize because we did not get their names. Also offered through the raffle were two \$100 cash prizes.

Thanks to all! We are already looking forward to 2010, the century mark for All Saints!

## Around the City

Diana Souza, San Leandro City Council Member and Member of All Saints

### News of Note

#### *Citizens Police Academy*

Chief Willis has invited members of the San Leandro Community to take part in a Citizens' Police Academy. Learn all about how the Police Department works! Sgt. Joey Delgado will be in charge of the academy. You can contact him at (510) 577-3247. The 2009 Citizens Police

Academy will start March 4 and continue for 10 consecutive Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at the San Leandro Police Department. Only 20 students will be accepted for this first program—I've already turned in my application.

### *Green Partnership*

San Leandro has been invited to join Richmond, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, UC Berkeley, and Lawrence Berkeley Labs in the East Bay Green Corridor Partnership. Initiated in 2007, the partnership supports new and emerging green industry as well as other green principles. Through it we hope to bring more jobs to San Leandro.

### **What Is the Situation with the 2009–2010 Budget?**

The preliminary budget for 2009–2010 could have up to an \$11 million deficit. The presentation to the full City Council will be March 23, with the final vote in June. The City Manager has asked department heads to provide cuts of 5% in Public Safety and 15% in all other departments. We hope to fulfill the cuts, without layoffs, through retirements and other attrition. All of the departments will be reduced in staff. This means there will be much poorer response time from every branch of the city government, from the City Clerk's Office (e.g., minutes of meetings) all the way to Public Works (e.g., removal of graffiti) and beyond. Following are some of the proposed changes you might see as soon as July:

- *Library.* Close Mulford-Marina and South Branch Libraries and Casa Peralta, the History Museum, and Manor Branch Homework Center. Eliminate all children's programs including the summer reading program. Eliminate all adult, cultural, ethnic, and family programs. Eliminate the historic preservation program and financial assistance for historic restoration. Eliminate the security staff at the Manor Branch.
- *Recreation.* Eliminate the Community Benefits grants program, including SL Municipal Band and Flag Day. Eliminate cultural/civic events—MLK, Cinco de Mayo, egg hunt, and tree lighting. Close Farrelly Pool for 2009. No Cherry Festival in 2010. Reduce some senior classes, reduce the Youth Employment program.
- *Police:* Eliminate the crossing guard program (schools to be responsible). Eliminate bicycle officer downtown. Eliminate middle school resource officers. Eliminate TAC unit special enforcement. Eliminate the property detective (minor property crimes without suspects—petty thefts, vandalism—will not be investigated).
- *City Council/City Manager office:* Considerable staff reductions will be required. The annual service awards dinner for employees and the holiday dinner for commissioners will be eliminated.

# Productive Communication in Meetings

Maxine Sitts

Whether small and informal or large and more formal, a good meeting is one where all the players communicate with courtesy and respect. This approach conveys a simple message: We're all involved here, so let's have a productive meeting. The 11 points here are adapted from a guide to etiquette during business meetings.

1. **R.S.V.P.** When asked via phone, email, or electronic calendar to attend a meeting, be sure to reply if a reply is requested.
2. **Arrive Early.** If this is not possible, arrive at the scheduled time at the latest—but never late. Do not assume that the beginning of a meeting will be delayed until all those planning to attend are present. If you arrive late, you risk missing valuable information and lose the chance to provide your input.
3. **Come Prepared.** Bring something to write on as well as to write with. Meetings usually are called to convey information, and it is disruptive to ask others for paper and pen if you decide to take notes. If you know you will be presenting information, ensure that your handouts are organized and ready.
4. **Do Not Interrupt.** Hold your comments until the time for comments, unless, of course, the speaker has encouraged questions and comments. Also, do not interrupt other attendees. Hold your comments to others in the meeting until after the meeting is adjourned. Conversation during a meeting is disruptive to other attendees and inconsiderate of the speaker.
5. **Abstain from Electronics.** As the notice posted at the beginning of films in movie theaters requests, “Please silence cell phones and pagers.” Activate voicemail if you have it, or forward messages to another phone.
6. **Speak in Turn.** When asking a question, it usually is more appropriate to request an OK, rather than to blurt out your question.
7. **Keep Your Questions Brief.** When asking questions, be succinct and clear. If your question is detailed, break it into parts or several questions.
8. **Pay Attention.** Listen to the issues the speaker addresses, the questions from the attendees, and the answers provided. You do not want to waste meeting time asking a question that has already been asked.
9. **Be Patient and Calm.** Do not fidget, drum your fingers, tap your pen, flip through or read materials not concerning the meeting, or otherwise act in a disruptive manner.

10. **Attend the Entire Meeting.** Leave only when the meeting is adjourned. Leaving before the end of the meeting— unless absolutely necessary and unless you have a prearrangement with the leader—can be disruptive to other attendees and inconsiderate of the leader.
11. **Respond to Action Items.** After the meeting, be sure to complete any tasks assigned to you as expeditiously as possible; file your meeting notes or any formalized minutes for later review or to prepare for future meetings.

*This is the third in a series of articles on communication. It is adapted from an article available on the Web by Gary M. Smith, the founder of Chatgris Press in New Orleans. Titles include The Peer-Reviewed Journal, Coffee and Coffeehouses, The Complete Guide to Driving Etiquette, Publishing for Small Press Runs, and Guided Meditation.*

## And the Survey Says . . .

Fr. Rob

In February, everyone received our first email “Zoomerang” survey—this one on how you have been affected by last year’s changes to the worship space. Thirty-six of you responded.

### **Lighting and Altar Top**

The respondents approve of the brighter lighting and the replacement of the stone Holy Table top.

### **Layout**

Changing the floor configurations in a parish worship space is not trivial. (More than one parish worship team has found the matter to be a minefield!) Responses to the layout changes varied.

- *Angling the pews.* More than three-quarters of the respondents said angling the pews was a positive change.
- *Removal of the altar rail.* A majority of respondents said they have enjoyed the removal of the rail.

There are times, however (such as weddings, Lent, and especially Good Friday), when a rail can be especially important. A mobile or removable rail has always been part of the parish’s Building Plan, so the Facilities Care Committee is gathering competitive bids for its building and installation. The vestry hopes to make a decision about this by its April 15 meeting. We would like to see the mobile rail installed between Easter and Pentecost.

- *Putting back the pulpit.* The response to my preaching from the pulpit was fascinating. I actually prefer using a pulpit, and I was surprised to find that a majority of respondents like the pulpit, too. Still, some younger members and Baby Boomers prefer my being on ground level, “among the people.” We’ll keep doing it both ways for the time being.

## **Blue Wall with Stars**

The last issue was the blue focal wall with stars. The survey responses on this issue were the most evenly divided: of 36 respondents, 21 said they have been positively affected, while 15 said the effect on them has been negative.

To have 41% of respondents unhappy more than nine months after painting is more than I am comfortable with. I’m also struck by the fact that a bright color such as the blue on the wall, while perfectly appropriate for a church (it’s Mary’s color, after all), limits seasonal color changes. That’s an important part of our worship.

With that in mind, I have approved Liz Berg’s creation of wall hangings of unbleached linen that match our Lenten altar cloths and vestments. We’ll try them for the season. Liz is willing to make more hangings in seasonal colors for Easter, Pentecost, the green growing season, and Advent. These attractive textiles could give our worship space additional flexibility. And, because of a majority of respondents said they enjoy the wall and stars, we would make sure to uncover them from time to time.

## **The Socks Project**

### **Organized by the School for Deacons**

John Trubina, First-Year Student

Life on the street means life on your feet. But we can make a difference, one person at a time, through a simple gift of a pair of new white socks.

Throughout the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday), new pairs of white socks for men or women can be dropped in the **Socks Project box** in our Narthex. These socks will be distributed to homeless people in the San Leandro Area, and 1/4 of them will be blessed at the School for Deacons and sent to St. Martin de Porres in San Francisco.

For further information, please contact John Trubina.

# Mark Your Calendars

## Every Monday

Wild Goose Qigong (Chinese exercise)—8:30 a.m.

## Every Saturday

Cardio Kickboxing—8:00 a.m.

## Wednesday, March 4

Women's Spiritual Direction Group—7:00 p.m., Nave Circle

## Saturday, March 7

Liturgy of the Steward—8:30 a.m. (come when you can)

Food Pantry—setup & lunch 11:00 to 1:00, food distribution 1:00 to 3:00

## Sunday, March 8

Social Ministries Team meeting—after 8:00 service

## March 9

St. Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa

## Wednesday, Month 0 [2d wed.]

Cooking for BFWC—1:00 to 3:00

## Sunday, March 15

Bag lunch preparation for April Showers—after 8:00 service

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

## March 19

St. Joseph

## March 24

Oscar Romero and Martyrs of San Salvador

## March 25

The Annunciation

## Sunday, March 29

Bag lunch preparation for April Showers—after 8:00 service

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

## Saturday, April 4

Liturgy of the Steward—8:30 a.m. (come when you can)

Food Pantry—setup & lunch 11:00 to 1:00, food distribution 1:00 to 3:00

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

Submit news for the Month 2009 issue to [marypat56@comcast.net](mailto:marypat56@comcast.net) or mail to Mary Nelson in care of the church. Deadline is Month 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!