



# CALLING ALL SAINTS !

*News & events from  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
Ministering in Palo Alto since 1892  
FEBRUARY 2009*

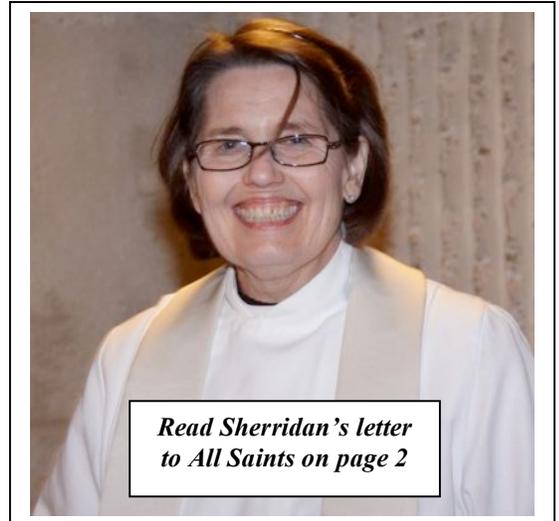
## WELCOME TO OUR NEW INTERIM PASTOR!

By Mattie Scott

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After an exhaustive search, upon the unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee and unanimous approval by the Vestry, the Reverend Sherridan Harrison has enthusiastically accepted the call to be our Interim Pastor for the next two years. She hails from Corpus Christi, Texas; she is a "professional interim" who specializes in leading congregations through transition. Of herself, she says: "After 14 years of ordained ministry in family, pastoral/program, and resource parishes, I am as passionate about parish ministry as when I was first ordained.. As an interim I take great joy in finding the gold in a congregation and holding it for the people until they can hold it for themselves." She believes that spiritual growth and maturity, faithful Christian practice and study of scripture, tradition and history are essential to congregational vitality and clarity of vision.



*Read Sherridan's letter to All Saints on page 2*

"She knocked our socks off," said Phil Palmer, the member of the Vestry who chaired the Search Committee. "She is articulate and deeply spiritual." Several Vestry members commented on her ability not only to answer questions honestly, but also to ask tough questions in a way that simultaneously challenged and encouraged dialogue among the Vestry. "She is patient and has a great sense of humor," added Dennis Romley, Junior Warden. "Sherridan, her husband Larry, Joan Scherer and I spent a rainy afternoon together in a car getting lost on the way to see the Bishop, and it was a delightful experience."

"She will bring a collaborative and empowering leadership style to our transition," said Senior Warden Joan Scherer. "She is convinced that God is not finished with any of us, and I think that's just the approach we need right now."

Sherridan and her husband Larry have 8 grandchildren; they enjoy reading, music, Sabbath time with friends and family, driving trips, golf, and yoga. Sherridan will celebrate her first Eucharist with us on Sunday, February 22; we look forward to welcoming her and Larry to our parish family!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**  
**THANK-YOU**  
**CELEBRATION FOR**  
**FATHER JOHN BUENZ**  
**AFTER THE 10:30**  
**SERVICE**

**WELCOME**  
**SHERRIDAN &**  
**LARRY!**  
✦  
**SUNDAY,**  
**FEBRUARY**  
**22**

**SAVE THE DATE! Bring the family! TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 6 PM**  
**The Annual All Saints Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**featuring PANCAKE RACES**  
**PRIZES \* & general good times**

Dear All Saints',

With a sense of joy I look forward to being among you for the first time on Sunday, February 22, as your interim pastor. While that day will be a formal beginning, God's "leading strings of love" have been bringing us together for some weeks now. So although I come to you with the gift of an outsider's eyes, it is with the mind and heart of a friend.

In truth, you have scarcely been out of my mind since my first conversation with the Interim Search Committee, and my heart has been praying in your Chapel since I celebrated Eucharist there with some of the vestry and search committee earlier this month. I discern through your leadership that the community of All Saints' yearns to understand its history, longs for deeper intimacy with God and with each other, hungers for new vision, and is already committed to making the journey together into your future.

This morning I've been watching my three-year-old granddaughter's daily pilgrimage from waking up to off to school. It began with a reluctant awakening, moved through negotiations about what and how much breakfast will prevent a tummy ache (Katy isn't fond of eating), came to terms with the reality that it's too cold not to wear socks and that *Olivia* isn't on TV until evening, until finally Kaitlyn was ready to test a new day with her friends at the school she really loves.

Today, as my husband, Larry, I and the cat are making the same sort of pilgrimage preparing to get on our way to California, Kaitlyn is our guide. She reminds me that every day we are moving from a past that is known and familiar to a future which, however exciting, must be embraced before its joy can be received. It is also clear that Kaitlyn travels safely because a community of family, teachers and friends are with her on the way.

This is a fitting image for the pilgrimage we are embarking on together, and from it I draw certainty that we will come to trust that God is guiding us toward God's future for us. In the meantime, please hold us in your prayer as we hold you in ours.

Faithfully,

Sherridan+

## THE STEWARDSHIP SPOT

By Joe Baldwin



Money will buy:  
 A bed, not sleep;  
 Books, not brains;  
 Food, not appetite;  
 Finery, not beauty;  
 A house, not a home;  
 Medicine, not health;  
 Luxuries, not culture;  
 Amusements, not happiness.



-Anonymous

## INTERVIEW WITH RODNEY GEHRKE, ALL SAINTS ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

By Diane Holt Frankle

Rodney Gehrke joined us four months ago as our Organist and Choirmaster, and we have all enjoyed his music and his enthusiasm for All Saints. I met with Rod recently to find out a bit more about his background and his impressions of All Saints.

**Diane:** Rod, I won't start with the question I posed to Dorothy and Mabel – that is, “how old are you?”

**Rod:** Oh, I don't mind – I'm 53 – I am at the age where age doesn't seem to matter any more – maybe that is the definition of “middle aged”?

**Diane:** I'd love to know how you came to All Saints, but first maybe you could tell me a bit about your background?

**Rod:** I come from a Lutheran family of many generations – 100% German. I was the youngest of 4 kids and my father was initially a teacher in the Lutheran schools, but while I was growing up he was a professor at a Lutheran college in Oakland, affiliated with the Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod. These days that is the part of the Lutheran Church that is most conservative, but back then it was quite progressive. I went to high school there.

**Diane:** So your father was a professor at the college in Oakland, but where did you go to high school?

**Rod:** There was a 6 year high school and junior college on the college campus – the high school had 3 tracks, college prep, teacher training and ministry prep. There were a number of these schools in the U.S. run by the Lutheran Church. The idea was to give high school students who felt a call to the ministry a chance to get some preparation for the seminary early on.

**Diane:** And which track were you on?

**Rod:** I was in the teacher training track. My father had earlier been a Day School teacher. I knew even then that I wanted to get into music. After high school I went to Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. I majored in music. At that time I was studying both violin and organ, and in fact I was concertmaster of the college orchestra my sophomore year! I really missed the Bay Area though. After sophomore year I came back down here and got my B.A. in music at U.C. Berkeley (I do know this is Stanford country though!). I was then accepted into the Ph.D program in music there and completed another three years, getting a Masters there. I had gotten my first job by then at St. Marks, San Francisco and I decided I just couldn't carry the job and also do the dissertation, so I left Berkeley at that point.

**Diane:** So you went to St. Marks, Lutheran in San Francisco right out of college?

**Rod:** Actually during my graduate work, and I stayed there 29 years! There are many churches in the Bay Area but not many who make music a priority (especially financially). You want a downtown church like Grace Cathedral, or St. Marks. St. Marks began in 1849 right around the time that Grace Cathedral was founded, and St. Marks made music a priority. Of course, musicians typically have more than one job and I am no different. I also was at Temple Sherith Israel for 20 years and after that at Temple Emanu-El. I have been there 3 years now.

**Diane:** That is interesting – two famous synagogues in San Francisco! What role do you have at Temple Emanu-El?

**Rod:** I am organist and choirmaster. My role is particularly important at High Holidays. I also am professor of organ at San Francisco Conservatory of Music. I have one masters student now and typically have one or two students at any time. I am also an adjunct professor at U.C. Berkeley but I am on sabbatical this year.

**Diane:** Wow, that sounds like a busy schedule!

**Rod:** I also have special “gigs” too. For example, I have recorded 2 CDs with Chanticleer. We did a tour together in 1998 of the Southwest and Mexico – that was a tremendous experience for me!

**Diane:** Are you married? And do you still live in San Francisco?

**Rod:** Yes, I am married to Janet and our 30th wedding anniversary is next year! We have a 15 year old son, Christian, who is in high school in San Francisco. That is why we are still living up in San Francisco. Christian attended Grace Cathedral School for Boys and sang in the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, just like Jim McLeod!

**Diane:** So how did you hear of All Saints?

**Rod:** Believe it or not, I played your organ when I was 16 years old. I knew your organist then, Sam Swartz. So I knew of All Saints even after all those years. I was also subdean of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists last season, and heard of the position that way. I had just started to look for a new position, because I felt like I needed a new environment after 30 years at one church. The Lutheran Church is less likely to have interesting positions for organists. The Episcopal Church is well known for their support of music and liturgy. I had known Gwen Adams from years ago. And you have one of the premier organs in the Bay Area.

**Diane:** I often hear about our famous organ, but I don't know why it is famous. Can you tell me a bit about our organ?

**Rod:** Our organ is a Flentrop, made by a Dutch firm with that name. The most famous Flentrop is in St. Marks Cathedral, Seattle. It is about 50 feet tall and is in a wonderful room there; it came in 1965. That organ spurred other orders. Our organ came in 1969. St. Marks, Berkeley got one in 1970. Those are the only Flentrops I know in the area. I thought it was interesting that an Episcopal Church would get an organ of this style.

**Diane:** What do you mean?

**Rod:** Episcopal churches tended to go for organs in the romantic style, like the Kings College milieu. Grace Cathedral's organ is like that. Flentrop organs have more of a Baroque style. The Flentrop organ loves Bach and Buxtehude. The sound is clean and "present" and effective in a room. The romantic style organ has

pipes in the wall and the sound is diffuse rather than direct – the sound bounces off walls before it reaches the congregation. The sound is very beautiful, but quite different from the Flentrop sound. The Flentrop is much more direct and projects directly to people in the room. The Flentrop is best for congregational singing. People can hear it and sing with it. I love Bach and congregational singing is very important to me so this is a wonderful organ for me! By the way, the instrument is perfect for the sanctuary. 60% of the success of the organ is the room and this organ is just right for this



room. I immediately got that when I visited in the late 60s. All Saints is one of the places to go for organists. I would tell organists coming down on the Peninsula, you need to visit Memorial Church at Stanford, of course, and then All Saints.

**Diane:** When you say the organ is perfect for the room, what do you mean?

**Rod:** The organ is "voiced" we say for the room. The organ sounds great whether there are a few people or it is a packed room. Bodies soak up sound, but our organ is big enough for big services. But the individual sounds are also lovely. This is really important for accompanying the choir and the congregation or individual singers, or for my organ interludes. One of the reasons it is a good style for congregational singing is that it is "articulate" which is the opposite of "legato" – that is, the notes are distinct. I can have clear punctuation in the notes.

**Diane:** You were telling me how you came to All Saints?

**Rod:** As I said, I heard about the job as I had started looking around for a new position. There were one or two other positions I was looking at. I came down and met with the people on the Committee and I knew right away I wanted the job. I have to say a special thanks to Margaret Wootton – she has been a tremendous support for me and what a great institutional memory, along with Jim McLeod.

**Diane:** What are your primary job responsibilities?

**Rod:** I have four main areas of responsibility here. First of course I am organist and choirmaster. In addition, I am trying to increase the number of concert series here at All Saints to improve our revenue from those types of events. And I am attempting to build a children's choir. Of course after I started, we wound up with no priests here. That has meant I have one more job for now – I prepare the weekly bulletin with Susan Reaves. I send it to Susan for her to print. I am delighted with the shorter format, since it is much greener. It isn't even just the paper we save with the shorter bulletin – it is avoiding all the copy machine noise and heat. I plan the liturgy now in consultation with the supply clergy and do the bulletin. I've been doing that since All Saints' Day.

**Diane:** I know that one responsibility you have is picking hymns for our Sunday worship – can you tell me what your philosophy is for that?

**Rod:** Of course, my hymn choices are driven by the season and the texts we are reading each Sunday. Although I was raised Lutheran and was organist at a Lutheran church for so many years, I am like most church musicians very familiar with the Episcopalian liturgy. I have been using Episcopalian resources like our hymnal for years. The choral resources from the Episcopal church are very rich. I do try to pick singable hymns too. One resource I have been delighted with is a copy of the hymnal Joan Scherer found in the sacristy and gave to me for use in

planning – Gwen Adams left it for us. It is hymnal with Gwen’s personal notation of when hymns had been sung over the years. Although the practice stopped several years ago, it is a great resource for me still. Congregational singing is really important to me – it is so vital. Remember what I said about the organ being “articulate?” This helps me to play hymns so that the congregation can easily sing them. I also want to make sure the tempo of the hymn is not too fast or too slow. Also, what I am working to do always is to help the congregation sing - if you hear the way I introduce a hymn, you can get a sense of the hymn and hopefully give it a try. I also pick other music for the congregation to sing during the service. When I came we were doing the Doxology at every service and I have introduced some other pieces of music as alternatives – you can do some other interesting things there in the service, and I have been able to add some seasonal pieces there for the choir or the congregation.

**Diane:** Tell me about your work with the choir.

**Rod:** I met the choir at my audition. The entire interview process was great! I had about 20 minutes to work with the choir. I was to work with them on two pieces, one of their choosing and one I brought along. It let me get to know the choir and how it works. I made some little suggestions on their work on the piece they knew and their response told me they were flexible enough to take direction. Then I worked with them on the piece I introduced them to and saw they were willing to learn new music. I also played in August before my formal start and met the “pick up choir.” We learned the hymns to assist the congregational singing. That is the real role of the choir, you know?

**Diane:** What do you mean?

**Rod:** The role of a church choir is to lead the rest of the congregation in their singing. The goal is to make the congregation confident and secure. So the choir needs to lead the Glorias, all the sung responses of the congregation, as well as the hymns.

**Diane:** The choir seems to be enjoying themselves and seems to be growing.

**Rod:** Yes, we are having fun together and we have added some new members, at least seasonally. We have one professional, a bass, Michael Beetham. We also had a soprano, Jillian, but with the budget cuts we weren’t able to keep her. We needed more support in the bass



section. I have talked to other congregants who are interested in singing – even one 8’oclocker thought he might give it a try – and even come to the 8:00 am service and just stay to sing at the 10:30 a.m. service! The choir has been very welcoming and supportive to me, and I love that almost every Sunday someone comes up and tells me how much they are enjoying the music.

**Diane:** I see you have started the children’s choir?

**Rod:** Yes, we had singing at the event for the Rhoades, and for All Saints’ Sunday, and the Christmas pageant and the crèche blessing. We will gear up for Easter. There aren’t very many kids, and we could use some more.

**Diane:** And how about the concert series?

**Rod:** This is going well so far – we have three concerts in a week or two the last week of January and early February: We have the Albany Consort from the East

Bay, Magnificat Baroque and Topaz concerts coming up! I am talking with other groups about making All Saints their Peninsula home. Often concert series include a venue in San Francisco, the East Bay and the Peninsula. I know a lot of groups from my time in San Francisco. We organists know All Saints. It has an unconventional shape and that is problematic for some groups. It is also not the biggest place. It has wonderful acoustics. It is perfect for singing and for smaller instrumental ensembles and that is where I am focusing.

**Diane:** What is the impact of budget cuts on the music program?

**Rod:** Well the budget is tight. As I said we needed to go down to one paid choir professional, and I don’t know if we can have a brass quartet for Easter. I had a gift from a one of my good friends of money to buy some music for choir anthems and I have bought a few new pieces out of that gift. I will probably continue to do so slowly. But the congregation should know that All Saints has one of the finest choir libraries I have seen – it would take five lifetimes to perform it all. I have some personal wishes for some new pieces, and will add a few things but I am quite content with our library.

**Diane:** And what about the transition and the new interim – how might that affect you?

**Rod:** I have been through two transitions at other churches and I know what to expect. One thing I keep in mind - Episcopalian priests generally love liturgy and that is important to a church musician. Musical style is important – I wouldn’t be comfortable with a “hootenanny mass” every week or a praise band as the only outlet. There is a wider range of music accepted in the Episcopal Church – we have a fabulous and rich history in church music. The wardens and vestry have made it clear that they support that musical heritage for All Saints so I don’t worry that we will lose the emphasis on the Episcopal musical tradition.

**Diane:** Any other thoughts on the impact of an interim?

**Rod:** I was really pleased that the search committee came and met with me and solicited my views – you should know that this is very unusual and I felt really respected. I also was asked to meet with one of the candidates, who mentioned an interest in moving us to the “RCL” or the “Revised Common Lectionary.” There is the Book of Common Prayer Lectionary, of course, and that is what All Saints uses now. The Revised Common Lectionary was developed for all churches who follow a prescribed lectionary – it came out about 15 years ago. It will be mandatory for all Episcopal churches by Advent 2010 and many churches have already switched over to it. If that is introduced, it would primarily impact our choice of Psalms. We have many musical settings for Psalms and it will be fine, but it may seem like a change mostly for the musicians.

**Diane:** And what are your thoughts about your role here at All Saints?

**Rod:** Joan Scherer came to visit me when Stephen Rhoades announced his departure and told me “I was the stability” here at All Saints. At the time I had only been here for two months! But I found that very affirming to the work I am doing here. My ministry starts with the congregation. I have loved getting to know the parishioners of All Saints and I want to continue to support the congregation. I am very comfortable here – it is a great fit! I want to continue to build on the liturgy and music, support congregational singing and build on the choir’s repertoire. I do want to build up the children’s choir and attract new choir members. On balance, I think we are doing fine. I am settled in and very happy here!

**Diane:** Rod, thanks for all you do and especially thanks for being our stability in a time of transition for All Saints! We are lucky to have you!

## THE CHURCH MOUSE



Inspired?

Got a gripe?

Just plain bored and ready to surf?

Find out what’s going on!

Make your voice heard!

The Church Mouse wants YOU to sample the exciting new opportunities for communications at All Saints Palo Alto.

Your assignment for this month:

- 1) Log on to <http://asaints.org>
- 2) Notice the links at the lower right-hand side of the page:

For All The Saints  
 Sermons and Readings  
 Events at All Saints  
 Schedule an Event  
 This Week at All Saints  
 This Month at All Saints  
 Shop to Support All Saints

Yes, they all look interesting, but try not to get distracted just yet.

- 3) Click on the very first link in the list: For All the Saints. Look at the number and variety of ministries and interest groups! Amazing, yes? Who knew?
- 4) Now perform the following experiment: Select at least ONE of those groups and send a message to the group, using the email links provided. You can ask to join the group, make a suggestion, voice an opinion, ask a question, share a silly story.... the object is to get all of us acquainted with this important aspect of our new communications system.
- 5) Send a message to [communications@asaints.org](mailto:communications@asaints.org) reporting the results of your experiment. The more feedback we get, the more useful we can make the system. Ask questions! Tell us what works, and what doesn’t.
- 6) As soon as you’ve finished your assignment, you can enjoy the rest of the website!



*The Church Mouse is brought to you by  
 the All Saints Communications Ministry*

## ALL SAINTS CHOIR SINGS MENDELSSOHN FEBRUARY 22

BY Rodney Gehrke  
Director of Music

On February 22, the Last Sunday after the Epiphany (with the Gospel of the Transfiguration of the Lord on the mountaintop), the choir will sing Felix Mendelssohn's "Behold a Star," one of just a few completed movements for a new oratorio, *Christus*, the composer was working on at the time of his death.

Mendelssohn (1809-1847) is one of this year's major musical anniversaries. Often compared as a child prodigy to Mozart, he (like Mozart, Schubert, Distler, and Alain) died in his 30s, after compiling an impressive catalogue of compositions. Born into a prominent Jewish family in Hamburg, his parents converted to



Christianity in Felix's youth. It is shocking but sadly not surprising that Richard Wagner later in the century, and the Nazis in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, denigrated Mendelssohn because of his Jewish roots.

In 1829 in Berlin, Mendelssohn mounted a very famous revival of J.S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, often credited with restoring Bach to popular consciousness (professional musicians had never forgotten, and had been at least partially influenced by many of Bach's greatest works). Incidentally, it was thought to be a centennial revival, though we now know that Bach performed a first version of the passion already in 1727.

Mendelssohn's music treads a fine line between classicism and Romanticism. The much more progressive Romantic Wagner particularly criticized Mendelssohn's conservative voice. Mendelssohn was highly influenced by Bach from an early age, being a brilliant pianist and later organist completely familiar with many of Bach's great keyboard works. His organ preludes and fugues and sonatas can be seen as summing up the Baroque and classic-period keyboard styles he inherited, though imbued with his distinctive harmonic and melodic language.

In addition to his large-scale choral works, such as the great oratorios *Elijah* and *St. Paul*, Mendelssohn composed numerous unaccompanied settings of the psalms (perhaps a reflection of his Jewish heritage), often for many voice parts, as well as wonderful settings of liturgical texts (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Magnificat, etc.).

"Behold a Star" is another classic of the choral repertoire. Formally, it follows a common compositional technique ("sonata form") of introducing a main theme in the primary key, modulating to a related key, then developing the materials in a much more fluid tonal palette, returning to the main key with the original theme. A masterstroke concludes the piece: a relatively simple harmonization of the great Epiphany hymn, "How Bright Appears the Morning Star," known as the Queen of Chorales. Thus we wrap up musically not only the Epiphany season but the entire Nativity cycle – Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany – the first portion of the festival half of the Church Year.

## ALL SAINTS EXCEEDS FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR MALARIA NETS

During Advent the Outreach Committee and All Saints' Children and Youth Programs joined forces to raise awareness and garner support for a program called 'Nets for Life'. Together we raised \$2100, enough to purchase 175 malaria nets!

Malaria is one of the deadliest preventable diseases on the planet. One million people die from malaria each year; children are particularly susceptible. 'Nets for Life' focuses on building community awareness, educating and training people to use effective preventive methods and accurate treatments for malaria, and advocating for better access to drug therapies that save lives.

The funds we raised will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development, designated for the Diocese of Western Tanganyika in Tanzania, with which our diocese is building a companion relationship.

Again, many thanks to all contributors and fund-raisers in this our first project, linked to the National Church in supporting the Millennium Development Goals.

### MABEL'S CORNER

Life is short and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are traveling the dark journey with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind.

# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Our nursery was teeming with Small Saints on the morning of our Annual Parish Meeting. The little ones were having at least as much fun as the grownups who attended the meeting, and they helped Father Jim McLeod polish off his birthday cake during coffee hour.

All Saints Youth are excited about having jointly raised \$2,100 together with the Outreach Committee. -- enough money to purchase 175 malaria nets for families in Africa. Creative fundraising methods employed by our youth included personal one-on-one coaching on how to master the Rubik's Cube. They are looking forward to developing their next service project with the Outreach Committee, which will be funded at least in part by proceeds from the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.



Sunday School continues to provide Godly Play for the K-2 age group, and the children in grades 3-5 are experiencing the readings prescribed for each Sunday by the Lectionary, using the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum.. Sunday School classes begin at 9:30, followed by chapel for the elementary school children at 10:30 and their arrival in church at the Peace.

*I wonder if he could teach me how to program my VCR...*



Graduate student

## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Celebrate with All Saints on the eve of Ash Wednesday by joining us at the annual Pancake Supper on February 24 at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The youth will prepare and serve a supper consisting of pancakes, ham, and various delectable accompaniments.

After dinner, there will be Pancake Races for all ages, with prizes and general good times for all. Proceeds support the next Youth Service Project.

Don't miss this delicious All Saints tradition!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FATHER JIM!

# January at All Saints



Thank you for not putting all 104 candles on my cake!



*Epiphany—lots of cakes, lots of coins, lots of kings!*



## The Annual Parish Meeting



The Treasurer will now report on the financial health of the parish . . .

We have nothing to fear but fear itself!

In short, the air version of the Rubik's Cube is much easier than the real thing!



*Hearty thanks to our outgoing Vestry members Bryan Ford, Sigrid Pinsky, and John Sebes for a job well done!*

## MUSLIM AUTHOR READS FROM HER WORK AT KEPLER'S

Sumbul Ali-Karamali

*The Muslim Next Door: The Qur'an, the Media, and That Veil Thing*

**Tuesday, February 10, 2009 7:30 p.m.**

"Sumbul Ali-Karamali lives according to her faith, with humor, good grace and brilliance, so when she shares her insights, they ring true. Her book is a classic you will remember because she has bared her soul. Sumbul mixes scholarly insight about Islam with a personal, well-considered perspective on being a mainstream American Muslim. She brings perspective to the words and customs of Islam. Sumbul's charming openness about family life, her honesty about her own questions, her simplicity about living practically, and her down-to earth view of reality make the book really worth reading. I was a Catholic nun in my early life, so took particular interest in this modern, savvy woman's faith, which was, to be frank, a little scary to me. This book is fascinating; I couldn't put it down. I recommend it whole-heartedly to people of good will who are grappling with questions about Islam and Muslim in America today."

— Ann McCormick, Ph.D., Founder of the Learning Company

"I wrote the book for all the people who have ever wanted to just sit down with a Muslim at a kitchen table, share a pot of tea or coffee or chocolate, and ask whatever they wanted. I hope you'll come join me at the table."

Sumbul Ali-Karamali

### **REMEMBER: YOU CAN SUPPORT ALL SAINTS BY BUYING BOOKS!**

For in-store purchases at Kepler's Books, mention to the cashier that you wish your purchase to benefit All Saints' Episcopal Church, a member of their Community Donation Program (you can tell the cashier CDP for short). That's all – Kepler's will do the rest.

For Internet purchases start at All Saints' website at [www.asaints.org](http://www.asaints.org) and click on "Shop to Support All Saints" at the bottom right on All Saints homepage. Then on the resulting page, click on either Amazon or Keplers to navigate to one of these two websites. From there, do your Internet shopping as usual and All Saints' will receive a referral fee.



*Bism Allah ar-Rahman ar-Rahim;  
In the name of God, the Ever-Merciful, The Mercy-Giving*

## *News from the Diocese of El Camino Real*



### WOMEN'S DAY

**Saturday, March 21st at St. Paul's, Salinas, 9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.** The Episcopal Church Women have adopted the theme "*Women Sharing Gifts in the World*" for 2009. Across the diocese, women will focus on how we can make a difference, both locally and globally. WOMEN'S DAY begins at **9:30** with Coffee and Pastries and a chance to share with others. The Eucharist follows at **10:15** with the In-Gathering for the Church Periodical Club. **DON'T FORGET YOUR PENNIES.** The Rev. Mary Blessing will be the celebrant. Women's Day features a day of sharing gifts and learning new gifts in a variety of **classes**. There will be two class sessions -- one in the morning and another after **lunch**. Last year we shared with 105 women in the diocese and guests from the diocese of San Joaquin and our Province VIII representative and hope to see Cordelia again this year to share what is happening nationally in our church. Please see attachment above for registration. --Bev Anderson, President, ECW [bev.larry@comcast.net](mailto:bev.larry@comcast.net)



## ANTI-RACISM TRAINING

*The Anti-Racism Commission of the Diocese of California presents:*

***Seeing the Face of God in Each Other***  
*A Workshop to Deconstruct Racism in Our Hearts + Our Congregations + Our World*

Friday, February 20th, 2009

Saturday, February 21st, 2009

9 am – 5 pm

**Saint James' Episcopal Church**

37051 Cabrillo Drive

Fremont, CA 94536

### ANTI-RACISM COMMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

We envision a transformed church and world, striving for justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being, as the Baptismal Covenant calls us to do, so that human potential is no longer limited by racism or any other oppression and where organizations fully manifest shared power with all communities. Our mission is to engage the Diocese of California at every level - individuals, congregations, diocesan organizations and staff - in the work of dismantling racism in our hearts, our congregations, our wider communities, our decision-making and our institutions.

Cost: \$60 (materials and meals); \$50 early bird discount (available until Jan 30). Deadline: February 10, 2009

Registration Questions – Toni Van Kriedt: 415-218-4983 or 415-331-0464, [ardvk331@aol.com](mailto:ardvk331@aol.com)

Workshop Questions –The Rev. Barbara Bender-Breck, 510-701-2381, [revB3@yahoo.com](mailto:revB3@yahoo.com)

## CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT RULES DISPUTED PROPERTY BELONGS TO GENERAL CHURCH

By Pat McCaughan

[Episcopal News Service, Los Angeles]

In a landmark ruling that could have national implications, the California Supreme Court on January 5 upheld an earlier court decision that buildings and property do not belong to dissident congregations but to the Diocese of Los Angeles and the general Episcopal Church.

Associate Justice Ming W. Chin, writing for the court, said the diocese held the property and buildings in trust for the wider mission and ministry of the church.

The ruling affects St. James Church in Newport Beach, All Saints Church in Long Beach and St. David's Church in North Hollywood. A majority of members at the three churches had disagreed with the Episcopal Church's decision in 2003 to

approve the election of an openly gay bishop. Members of all three realigned themselves with the Anglican Province of Uganda, attempted to amend articles of incorporation and retain the property.

Chin acknowledged that while the court cannot decide church doctrinal matters, it could decide property disputes, using a "neutral principles of law" approach. In

rendering its decision, the court examined property deeds, local church articles of incorporation, the general church's constitution, canons and rules, and relevant statutes and concluded "that the general church, not the local church, owns the property in question. "Although the deeds to the property have long been in the name of the local church, that church agreed from the beginning of its existence to be part of the greater church and to be bound by its governing documents," Chin wrote. "These governing documents make clear that church property is held in trust for the general church and may be controlled by the local church only so

in this case." He added that he will issue a pastoral letter to the congregations and "invite reconciliation and people coming back" but declined to speculate further. He added that he also wanted to assure "this diocese and the people of the Episcopal Church that we will continue mission and ministry in the areas these congregations serve." Bruno added that the court decision "establishes a precedent. We further note the pastoral concerns at this time within the Episcopal Church, which continues in its mission of service, especially in providing food, shelter, medicine, and pastoral care to those in greatest need locally and globally, respecting the dignity of every human being."

John R. Shiner, chancellor for the diocese, said the ruling "will apply to all parishes throughout the state of California" and influence church property disputes nationally. "The decision, which upheld a 2007 appellate court ruling, is "final, conclusive, definitive," he added. In response to a question at a news briefing, Shiner said he doubted the ruling could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. "Of course, anything's possible, but today's ruling is so definitive," he said.

### A VALENTINE FROM JOHN DONNE

*Batter my heart, three-person'd God; for you  
As yet but knock; breathe, shine, and seek to mend;  
That I may rise, and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend  
Your force, to break, blow, burn, and make me new.*

*I, like an usurp'd town, to another due,  
Labour to admit you, but O, to no end.  
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,  
But is captived, and proves weak or untrue.  
Yet dearly I love you, and would be loved fain,  
But am betroth'd unto your enemy;  
Divorce me, untie, or break that knot again,  
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,  
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,  
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.*



long as that local church remains a part of the general church. When it disaffiliated from the general church, the local church did not have the right to take the church property with it."

Bishop Jon Bruno of Los Angeles said in a statement that he is "overjoyed" and called it a decisive ruling. "We have prevailed in all areas of the law addressed

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's office issued a statement calling the decision "a ringing endorsement of this country's history of religious freedom, explicitly recognizing that judicial respect for a denomination's internal polity and rules is required by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and is fully consistent with the application of the

'neutral principles' analysis." The decision's "unequivocal reasoning applies generally throughout The Episcopal Church" and added she is hopeful it will bring remaining property disputes in California and elsewhere to a speedy conclusion. The statement added: "We look forward to working with affected dioceses toward reconciliation and on a continuation of the Episcopal Church's mission priorities."

"We also are grateful for the ongoing faithful work of Bishop Jon Bruno and the Diocese of Los Angeles throughout this long and difficult process," the Presiding Bishop said. "Their continued dedication to the mission and ministry of the diocese in the midst of the litigation is commendable." The Rev. Charles Robertson, Canon to the Presiding Bishop, said the ruling serves as a reminder that "we are stewards of the precious heritage that we maintain for future generations of the Episcopal Church."

But attorney Eric Sohlgren, who represented the congregations, said the case "is far from over." "What's good about the decision from the perspective of St. James is that the court has adopted a rule of neutral principles of law in that church property disputes will be resolved by neutral, nonreligious factors," said Sohlgren in a telephone interview. He said the case will be sent back to the original trial court, which ruled in favor of the Newport Beach congregation "because the Episcopal Church has never obtained a judgment in the court in its favor." An appellate court vacated an Orange County

Superior Court ruling in favor of the congregation.

"The other decision being contemplated and it's too early to decide ... is whether to take an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court." Sohlgren said the appeal would be based on a constitutional issue, of a court "enforcing a church rule that purports to create a trust interest in local property when other people in our society who are not churches cannot do so." But Shiner, chancellor for the diocese, reiterated the opinion, noting that when the court applied the neutral principles of law approach it concluded that when the congregation "disaffiliated from the general church, the local church did not have the right to take the church property with it."

The ruling goes into effect within 30 days; the congregations have 15 days in which to petition the court to reconsider. Six of the court's seven members joined in the opinion. Associate Justice Joyce Kennard issued a separate opinion in which she concurred with the overall court's ruling but disagreed with some of the court's reasoning. A dispute involving another congregation, St. Luke's of-the-Mountain Church in La Crescenta, is also pending before the California Supreme Court.

-The Rev. Pat McCaughan is Episcopal Life Media correspondent for the dioceses of Province VIII and the House of Bishops. She is based in Los Angeles. Article originally posted at Episcopal Life Online, [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901\\_104046\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_104046_ENG_HTM.htm)

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The Apostle's Creed-William Barclay  
The Parables of Jesus-Arland Hultgren  
Jewish Traditions-Ronald Eisenberg  
Thomas the Apostle-Barbara Bode Snyder  
English Cathedrals-CD  
Home to Holly Springs-Jan Karon



## CALLING ALL SAINTS !

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*"All the news that fits, we print."*

PLEASE JOIN US  
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING  
THE 10:30 EUCHARIST  
AS WE EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO  
FATHER JOHN BUENZ  
FOR HIS LOVING PRESENCE  
AND HIS STIMULATING HOMILIES

## WE ARE NEVER ALONE

*Delivered by Joan Scherer, Senior Warden, at the Annual Meeting of All Saints Palo Alto on January 25, 2009*

It's been a very eventful year, to say the least. In looking back over the year I saw a series of highs and lows. At first I thought, "Just like a roller coaster". Then I said, "No, a roller coaster goes up and down but it always comes back to the same place – and, we are definitely not doing that! We are moving forward – over hills, and down into valleys. Sometimes the valleys were more like ravines, but we managed to pull ourselves up and move on. We have been able to do this for many reasons.

First of all, is the amazing and talented group of people that made up your Vestry. This Vestry from the very beginning had a special feel to it. We really "clicked". Part of this I attribute to our retreat we had in San Juan Bautista. There were no radios, newspapers, televisions, little or no cell phone coverage, no sounds of cars. It was as if the outside world didn't exist. For 2 days it was just the sun, the moon, the quiet, - Just us. The other reason is the love and respect we had for each other. This year we laughed and cried together, prayed together, listened to each other, respected each other's opinions and when a decision was made we all accepted the decision, put aside how we felt personally, if necessary, and came together as a united front supporting each other. I especially want to thank Dennis Romley, your Junior Warden. From the very beginning he and I worked as partners, bouncing things off each other – often we didn't agree at first but found common ground that usually ended up being the best solution after all. I also want to acknowledge previous Vestries and their leadership. Without building on their hard work we would not have been able to make the decisions we did this year.

And last but not least, You! The Vestry asked you to pray for us, be patient and to trust us. By doing this you allowed us to do our work in a grace-filled way and we appreciated that. In turn we promised to be open with you and to communicate with you in a timely manner. I believe we have done that. You stepped up and fulfilled needs as they arose. No one ever turned me down when I asked if they would please do something. You were always there for us -- for All Saints'.

And now as we look ahead I quote one of Father Jim's favorite hymns: "I know not where the road will lead, I follow day by day, or where it ends: I only know I walk the King's highway. I know not if the way is long, and no one else can say; but rough or smooth, up hill or down I walk the King's highway."

The road ahead is still filled with peaks and valleys and perhaps a few ravines. Sometimes we may stray but by sticking together in a grace-filled way we will find ourselves back on the road. Remember we are never alone.

I received the following message from Bishop Mary:

*Dear All Saints,*

*On this occasion of the annual meeting, I wanted to let you know that you remain in my daily prayers for wisdom and discernment. Your leadership, as well as the wider parish, is to be commended for negotiating a challenging season carefully and peacefully. I have been very impressed with your trust and faith in our mutually discerned process, and more importantly, in God. It is apparent to me that this time has become an opportunity for learning and growth rather than shame or anger. I commend you for your willingness and spiritual discipline in working together and loving one another. Your ability to build community and remain as one, in the end, will be what defines you and your future; a witness to your love for Christ, and clear strength to live in his presence in all circumstances.*

*Please be assured of my continued prayers and participation in this process, and as always, it is a blessing to be your bishop.*

*Mary Gray-Reeves  
Bishop, El Camino Real  
Friday, January 23, 2009*

I have no doubt that with all we have going for us and the Grace of God we can accomplish anything we can possibly hope for. I am looking forward to continuing this journey with you this year.

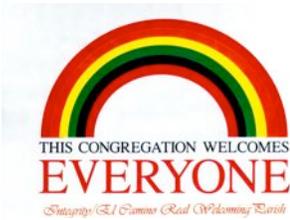
Love and Blessings,  
Joan Scherer, Senior Warden

## *February at All Saints*

1  
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Adult Education:FR  
 9:15 AM Library Open: LB  
 9:30 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
 1:30 PM TOPAZ "Sacred Sounds" Concert: CH, PH  
 2  
 10:00 AM KW\*\*Private Business Mtg: PH  
 6:30 PM Women's AA: Rm 28  
 7:30 PM Healing Group:LB  
 3  
 6:30 PM Line Dancing: PH  
 7:00 PM Debtors Anon.: YR  
 4  
 8:30 AM Life Screening: PH  
 7:00 PM Women's AA: FR  
 5  
 7:00 AM Men's Grp Breakfast Mtg: PH  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 5:30 PM Evening Prayer: CPL  
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  
 8:00 PM Narc. Anon.: PH  
 6  
 Parish Office Closed  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 5:00 PM Magnificat concert prep:CH  
 8:00 PM MAGNIFICAT Concert: CH  
 8:00 PM Tango: PH  
 7  
 8:00 AM Yoga: PH  
 9:30 AM Altar Guild Prep:CH  
 9:30 AM Nicotine Anon.: FR  
 10:00 AM CBS Rehearsal:PH  
 12:30 PM HIH Instructor Cert Training: Rm 22  
 5:30 PM HIH Family Dance: PH  
 7:00 PM Young Peoples' AA: Rm 28  
 8  
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Adult Education:FR  
 9:15 AM Library Open: LB  
 9:30 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9  
 10:00 AM KW\*\*Private Business Mtg: PH  
 6:30 PM Women's AA: Rm 28  
 10  
 9:30 AM Library Committee Work:LB  
 7:00 PM Debtors Anon.: YR  
 7:00 PM Vestry: LB  
 7:30 PM Amnesty International:Rm 28  
 11  
 7:00 PM CBS Rehearsal: PH  
 7:00 PM Women's AA: FR  
 12  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 5:30 PM Evening Prayer: CPL  
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  
 8:00 PM Narc. Anon.: PH  
 13  
 Parish Office Closed  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 8:00 PM Tango: PH

14  
 Valentine's Day  
 8:00 AM Yoga: PH  
 9:30 AM Altar Guild Prep:CH  
 9:30 AM Nicotine Anon.: FR  
 4:00 PM Valentine Day's Dance prep: PH  
 7:00 PM Valentine's Day Dance: PH  
 7:00 PM Young Peoples' AA: Rm 28  
 15  
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Adult Education:FR  
 9:15 AM Library Open: LB  
 9:30 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
 Followed by thank-you celebration  
 for Father John Buenz  
 16  
 Parish Office Closed  
 Presidents' Day  
 10:00 AM KW\*\*Private Business Mtg: PH  
 6:30 PM Women's AA: Rm 28  
 17  
 9:30 AM Library Committee Work:LB  
 6:30 PM Line Dancing: PH  
 7:00 PM Debtors Anon.: YR  
 7:00 PM Men's Group Evening Mtg: LB  
 18  
 7:00 PM CBS Rehearsal: PH  
 19  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 5:30 PM Evening Prayer: CPL  
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  
 8:00 PM Narc. Anon.: PH  
 20  
 Parish Office Closed  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 6:30 PM 7pm Fellowship Gathering:FR, PH  
 21  
 9:00 AM "GO" Tournament: PH  
 9:30 AM Altar Guild Prep:CH  
 9:30 AM Nicotine Anon.: FR  
 7:00 PM Young Peoples' AA: Rm 28  
 22  
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Adult Education:FR  
 9:15 AM Library Open: LB  
 9:30 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
 11:30 AM Rev. McLeod 75th Birthday Celebration:  
 PH  
 23  
 10:00 AM KW\*\*Private Business Mtg: PH  
 6:30 PM Women's AA: Rm 28  
 7:00 PM CBS Rehearsal: PH  
 24  
 9:30 AM Library Committee Work:LB  
 6:00 PM Pancake Supper:PH  
 6:30 PM Line Dancing: Rm 28  
 7:00 PM Debtors Anon.: YR

25  
 Ash Wednesday  
 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service: CH  
 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service  
 7:00 PM Women's AA: FR  
 26  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 5:30 PM Evening Prayer: CPL  
 5:30 PM Outreach Comm: LB  
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  
 8:00 PM Narc. Anon.: PH  
 27  
 Parish Office Closed  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 28  
 8:00 AM Yoga: PH  
 9:30 AM Altar Guild Prep:CH  
 9:30 AM Nicotine Anon.: FR  
 7:00 PM Young Peoples' AA: Rm 28  
 1  
 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
 9:15 AM Adult Education:FR  
 9:15 AM Library Open: LB  
 9:30 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
 2  
 10:00 AM KW\*\*Private Business Mtg: PH  
 6:30 PM Women's AA: Rm 28  
 7:30 PM Healing Group:LB  
 3  
 9:30 AM Library Committee Work:LB  
 6:30 PM Line Dancing: PH  
 7:00 PM Debtors Anon.: YR  
 4  
 7:00 PM CBS Rehearsal: PH  
 5  
 7:00 AM Men's Grp Breakfast Mtg: PH  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 5:30 PM Evening Prayer: CPL  
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  
 8:00 PM Narc. Anon.: PH  
 6  
 Parish Office Closed  
 11:30 AM Breaking Bread Meal: PH  
 8:00 PM Tango: PH  
 7  
 8:00 AM Yoga: PH  
 9:30 AM Altar Guild Prep:CH  
 9:30 AM Nicotine Anon.: FR  
 7:00 PM Young Peoples' AA: Rm 28



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COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

ALMIGHTYE AND EVERLASTYNG GOD, WHICHE  
HATEST NOTHYNG THAT THOU HASTE MADE, AND  
DOEST FORGEVE THE SINNES OF ALL THEM THAT  
BE PENITENTE; CREAT AND MAKE IN US NEWE  
AND CONTRITE HEARTES, THAT WEE WORTHELY  
LAMENTYNG OURE SYNNES, AND KNOWLEGYNG  
OUR WRETCHEDNES, MAYE OBTAIN E OF THEE, THE  
GOD OF ALL MERCYE, PERFECT REMISSION AND  
FORGEVENES; THOROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

ARCHBISHOP THOMAS CRANMER  
1549