



CALLING ALL SAINTS !

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

JANUARY 2010

**SPECIAL EARLY
JANUARY
MINI-EDITION
STAND BY FOR OUR
REGULAR COVERAGE
IN MID-JANUARY**

Dear Members of All Saints',

This issue of CAS is meant to help all of us be up to date and informed about the business of our parish household and special Sunday plans this month. There are two events at the end of the month for which we will be preparing: a visit by our Bishop Mary on January 31, and our Parish Meeting on January 24.

Each of these events gives us a chance to learn or relearn what we (Episcopalians) do and why. In preparing for the Bishop's visit we will have "instructed worship" at 10:30 on January 17 and January 24. This type of service weaves commentary about the history, images, layers of meaning, and mystery of our liturgy into our worship. On January 17, the commentary will cover the Liturgy of the Word. On January 24, it will cover the Eucharist. This will be part of the preparation for adults to be received and confirmed by the Bishop. You will be delighted to know that the commentary is in lieu of a sermon.

At the Annual Parish Meeting on January 24, we need to bring our Articles of Incorporation up to date. This gives us an opportunity to learn about how the Episcopal Church is structured and governs itself, and how it differs from other hierarchical churches and strictly congregational denominations. So that we can further understand the relationship among a parish, its diocese, and the Episcopal Church, the Adult Forum at 9:30 on January 10 will be devoted to reading and understanding our parish articles of incorporation and how they relate to our diocese and the Episcopal Church. All Saints' Articles of Incorporation and related information are included in this Calling All Saints, so that you may study them at your leisure and bring your questions to the Forum on Sunday.

We are part of a rich and lively tradition under which we are radically interdependent—whether in governance or in worship. We will be blessed to experience that interdependence in both dimensions this month.

Please join in this rich experience.

Sherridan+

RELATED INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 10 FORUM

The Episcopal Church is what courts refer to as a hierarchical religious organization unlike, for example, a Congregational church which is local and stand alone as its name implies. As a member of a hierarchical church, each parish has agreed to abide by the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and the local diocese.

In 1979, long after the 1900 incorporation of All Saints and the most recent 1967 restatement of its articles, what is called the “Dennis Canon” was adopted by General Convention of The Episcopal Church:

I.7. 4. All real and personal property held by or for the benefit of any Parish, Mission or Congregation is held in trust for this Church and the Diocese thereof in which such Parish, Mission or Congregation is located. The existence of this trust, however, shall in no way limit the power and authority of the Parish, Mission or Congregation otherwise existing over such property so long as the particular Parish, Mission or Congregation remains a part of, and subject to, this Church and its Constitution and Canons.

This Canon makes clear that a parish, so long as it remains a part of, and subject to, The Episcopal Church, continues to “have power and authority” over its property. The proposed articles repeat this language.

The Canons of the Diocese of El Camino Real provide:

18.11. Every Parish shall maintain, and if necessary revise and amend, its governing documents so as to bring the same as nearly as may be into exact conformity with the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese, as such Constitutions and Canons may from time to time be amended. A copy of current articles and bylaws shall be sent by each Parish to the Diocesan office. Prior to any change in the Articles of Incorporation of any, a draft thereof shall be sent to the Diocesan Office for review.

The Episcopal Church has always required that a local congregation be bound by diocesan and Episcopal constitutions and canons. The existing Articles of All Saints recognize that they are subject to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of California, of which it was a part when the articles were last amended. Obviously, we must now ring them up to date.

Thus the revision is being brought to the Annual Meeting for approval.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE + ALL SAINTS’ EPISCOPAL CHURCH + PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

The annual meeting of All Saints’ Episcopal Church shall take place on January 24, 2010, at 9:15 am in the Parish Hall. All adult members in good standing eligible to vote.

Items to be included on the agenda include at least:

1. Vestry and delegate elections
2. Financial review
3. Notice of changes to the Restricted Housing Policy
4. Adoption of Restated Articles of Incorporation to conform to Episcopal Canons and to refer to Diocese of El Camino Real instead of California (previous and restated Articles attached).
5. Warden and Interim reports

How Do I Become a Member of All Saints'?

This frequently asked question is best answered in parts, as “membership” takes several forms.

1. If you attend regularly, you are welcome to participate in the spiritual, educational, social, and service dimensions of our parish life. To become a “worshipping member” of All Saints’, simply fill out a green information card so you can be added to the parish mailing list and directory. If you would like a name tag, simply indicate that on the same green card, or on the Welcome Table register.
2. To become a Baptized Member of All Saints’, provide the office with information about the time and place of your Baptism and ask us to record it in our records. The Episcopal Church recognizes all Baptisms administered “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” with water. The Episcopal Church does not rebaptize. If you or a member of your family is not baptized, and you want to explore the possibility of baptism, please speak to the priest. All baptized members over 16 are eligible to vote in parish meetings.
3. Many Episcopalians are baptized as infants or young children. At some point, usually between the ages of 12 and 16, they will make a mature adult profession of faith and receive the laying on of hands by a bishop in the sacrament of Confirmation. An adult who has been baptized but not previously confirmed, may also prepare for and receive Confirmation.

Adults who have been confirmed in another denomination may have their confirmation recognized and be “Received” into the Episcopal Church by a bishop. Confirmed members are eligible for election to vestry, to diocesan convention, and to be licensed to administer the chalice at Eucharist or to take Communion from the altar to those who are sick or homebound.

4. Another membership term used in the Episcopal Church is “in good standing”. A Baptized or Confirmed Communicant/Member in Good Standing is someone whose Baptism/Confirmation is entered in the congregation records, who has received Communion at least three times in the previous year, and who is active in working, praying, and giving.

WORSHIP EXPLAINED AND EXPANDED

At 10:30 am worship, on January 10 and January 17, we will have “annotated” worship. On January 10th, we’ll unpack the first part of our worship, the Liturgy of the Word, with a commentary about its historical roots, the sources of the prayers, and how it leads us to an encounter with the living, lively Word of God. On the 17th, our attention will focus on the Liturgy of the Table, its symbols, language, actions and mystery.

This is part of the preparation for those who will be Confirmed and Received by Bishop Mary when she visits at the end of the month. It is also a wonderful way to make what is old and familiar new again. *Have friends who ask about your church or your beliefs? This is a “Come and hear, come and see, come and meet” occasion.*

Bishop Mary’s visit to All Saints’ on Sunday, January 31st, will be an opportunity for adults to be Confirmed or Received or to Reaffirm their baptismal vows.

If you think you might want to be Confirmed or Received, or to formally Reaffirm your baptismal vows, please let me know as soon as possible:

*interim@asaints.org or
322-4528, ext. 301.*

Sherridan+

**ALL SAINTS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Ministering in Downtown Palo Alto

555 Waverley St. • Palo Alto CA 94301
650-322-4528 • www.asaints.org

Sherridan Harrison, Interim Rector

Sunday Eucharist 8 & 10:30 a.m.

Address Correction Service Requested



JANUARY *in brief*



January 10, Adult Forum:
Q & A for Annual Parish Meeting

January 17, Special Forum:
Youth & Teens in our Community—Understanding the Crisis

January 24, Annual Parish Meeting between services

*On Sunday, January 31
The Right Reverend
Mary Gray-Reeves
Bishop of the Diocese of El
Camino Real
will make her annual visit to
All Saints' Palo Alto
and
will preside at the 8:00 and
10:30 Eucharists.*

Watch Grace Notes for details!