

SENIOR WARDEN'S STATE OF THE PARISH ADDRESS

By Gloria Pitzer, Senior Warden
Annual Meeting Part I - February 7, 2010

Again, all the planets have aligned and it's my amazing good fortune to be able to present my report on this high holy feast day - Super Bowl Sunday. And it's hard not to root for the team that is our namesake. But believe it or not, as much hype as this football game gets, there is something today which will be more widely viewed worldwide - and I'm not talking about wardrobe malfunctions in the Super Bowl halftime show. I'm talking about Super Bowl commercials. With costs of 2.5 to 3 million dollars for a 30 second spot, these commercials bring their own entertainment value.

So, unfortunately, that got me to thinking. Billions of dollars have been spent by companies over the years to develop ad campaigns and slogans which easily identify their products. What if we, at All Saints, were able to use these types of ads and slogans for recruitment of volunteers, describing programs and disseminating information to our parishioners? For example, to recruit new volunteers our usher corps could just slightly tweak the Marine Corps recruitment ad - "The Few, the Proud, the Marines" to "The Pew, the Crowd, Ushering".

The choirs could be described by Tony the tiger - "They're Grreeaat". Of course, I might be slightly biased.

The work of our prayer shawl ministry which has provided comfort to so many in our community as they go through pastoral care crises could use the slogan - "You've spun a long way, baby".

We have an amazing and varied number of opportunities for worship at All Saints. As Burger King says - "Have it your way". One can attend our more traditional 7:30, 9 and 11:15 Sunday services, go to a jazz vespers, or evensong, or Taize services, attend the more informal Second Saturday celebration or go to weekday noon Eucharists. Our 1:00 pm bilingual service has just celebrated its cuatro ano anniversary and averages over 50 in the weekly congregation. If you've never been to that service I encourage you to give it a try. And for those who don't want to, or can't set foot on our campus, "a little dab'll do ya" - You can access sermons and forum presentations on our website through podcasts.

Speaking of our web site, we switched over to a new web host last Sunday, which should give us more opportunities for design and development and a major overhaul going into the future. The web site still looks the same, but you might encounter a few glitches during this transition in accessing some things. What we're hoping to avoid when you get on the web site, though, is anything that sounds like "Snap, crackle or pop".

"Wanna Get Away?" - Our Transformational Journeys programs have expanded in the last couple of years involving many more participants and opportunities. In 2009 we had 12

Transformational Journeys with over 150 participants involving everything from Habitat for Humanity projects and one-day experiences in Los Angeles and to the Mexican border, to trips to El Salvador and Palestine/Israel.

At next week's annual meeting we're going to talk a lot about finances, but I just want to mention a couple of things. Our actual pledge income in 2009 was about \$350,000 lower than 2008 pledge receipts. At the beginning of last year we anticipated that our income would be reduced and in order to present a balanced budget we had to make some very painful cuts in program and staff positions. Our pledge receipts for the year came in about \$100,000 less than what we had even budgeted, but through very careful oversight of expenditures, which included savings in some areas and putting off doing some of the things which had been budgeted, we were amazingly able to end the year virtually even. In the words of Timex - "We took a licking and kept on ticking". All Saints is obviously not alone in being impacted by the economy, but I think in many ways we have been more successful in anticipating and planning for the shortfalls. I read last week that the Crystal Cathedral, which experienced a drop of \$8 million in income last year from \$30 million in 2008, has taken the unprecedented step of cancelling Easter this year. I can assure you that at All Saints we will not be cancelling Easter - we may need to combine it with All Saints Day, but we won't cancel it. As we've heard from Ed, we still have a gap in our 2010 budget that needs to be eliminated either through additional income or further cuts in spending so that the budget as ultimately presented will be, using Fox News slogan, "Fair and Balanced".

I want to update you on our building project. Believe it or not, our process started in 1999 with the establishment of a Space Committee to get a sense of how the vision of where we see All Saints Church 10 years into the future and beyond would translate into needs for space. Well, we're in "the beyond" now. And, just as with the Energizer bunny, this process "keeps going and going and going". As most of you know, at the Planning Commission meeting in 2008, despite determinations by the city planning department and the City Attorney's office that the environmental impacts of our master plan would be negligible and didn't require a full evaluation and report, the Commission concluded otherwise and recommended that an environmental impact report should be prepared. Following unsuccessful efforts to continue in dialogue and discussions to see if a compromise could be effected which would avoid the considerable time and expense of the EIR, the building project team concluded that going through the EIR process would put us in a better position in going back to the Planning Commission and ultimately to City Council for approval. So, last July, after a vote of the Vestry, we began the process. Throughout this process, we have been open to suggestions and changes, except for those which would compromise our mission and programs. Our architects have worked diligently in making changes which have addressed many of the concerns we have heard and all this effort has resulted in a better project. We anticipate that a draft EIR will be completed within the next several weeks which will then go to the Planning Commission for receipt of public comments. The final report will then be prepared at which time our master plan will, for the third time, be brought before the Planning Commission for a vote. We expect that this could take place by late spring. Following the vote of the planning commission, whether

positive or negative, our next step would be to present the master plan to the City Council for approval. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress and let you know how you can be involved as we get closer to these next phases of the process. It has been frustrating dealing with what seems to be a very convoluted process with the delays, additional expense and hurdles and I wish that we could, like Nike, “Just Do It”.

One of the things which has worked in this has been the successful move of the All Saints Children’s Center to their new location in Linda Vista. Since the Children’s Center’s inception almost 40 years ago as an independent non-profit organization, All Saints has, over the years provided the space for their program, rent-free, paid utilities and provided custodial services as well as providing some funding for scholarships. When we determined to proceed ahead with our building plans we informed the Children’s Center approximately 4 years ago of the need to find an alternate site for their program. We met and worked with their board and staff on establishing time lines for the move, and they worked diligently in locating their present site, building it up to meet their needs and obtaining the necessary approvals and permits. Because of the delays in our project we were able to accommodate their requests for extensions as they encountered their own delays in their process. At the end of last summer they were able to transition to their new space and we wish them much success in, as they say in the army - “Being all that they can be”.

We also have some transitions taking place in our own staff. It has been announced in the last several weeks that Lorna Miller will be retiring from her position as director of the Office for Creative Connections in May and Lori Kizzia, our Director of Peace and Justice, will be leaving, also in May, to continue her education. These are critical positions to All Saints mission and both Lorna and Lori are, like Coke, “the real thing” and will be difficult to replace. Ed has asked me to oversee 2 advisory search committees to assist him in finding candidates for these two positions. We established both search committees in mid January - the OCC committee is chaired by Susan Caldwell and the Peace and Justice Committee is chaired by Will Watts and both committees have been working diligently. Job descriptions for both positions either have or will be posted within the next week. We hope that we will have replacements ready to start work at “the happiest place on earth” by the beginning of May.

Finally, I want to just mention the Oprah phenomenon or, as they say in the men’s health ad - “Are you affected by E D?” There’s actually nothing dysfunctional about our ED. After appearing a couple of times with Oprah on her television show, Ed entered into a contract with Oprah’s company a year ago to host a program as part of her radio Oprah Soul Series. He flies to Chicago once a month to tape two shows, one he hosts himself and the other co-hosting with Elizabeth Lesser which are then broadcast weekly on Sirius/XM Radio. His contract was extended this year and he continues that work. The amazing part of all of this is the impact of that program on people all over the world. The message of inclusion and compassion which we can often take for granted here at All Saints is sometimes heard for the first time by listeners to Ed’s radio program and he regularly gets e-mails and messages from people throughout the United States and in other countries as to how that message has changed their lives. Many of

those listeners then access our web site and are able to download sermons, forums and articles, so everything we do here at All Saints has an impact beyond our walls. And since the inception of his work with Oprah, Ed has donated the compensation received by him to All Saints, so it doesn't hurt our financial bottom line either.

In closing, I want to acknowledge my co-warden, Trula Worthy Clayton, who has done a phenomenal job this year as junior warden. She brings such wisdom, calmness and good sense to the table and is, in the words of Chevrolet, "Like a Rock". And I especially want to thank Ed for putting up with me, yet again, as his Senior Warden. I have loved every minute (actually every hour upon hour upon hour) that I have spent in this position and am so thankful to have this opportunity. My only regret is that I couldn't think of a single way to incorporate AFLAC into this report.

Thank you.