



NOVEMBER 8, 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

VOLUME XVII NUMBER 41

Afghanistan: Human Rights Mission or Another Iraq?

FROM ED BACON AND LORI KIZZIA

On Monday, October 26, as we write this article, the news from Afghanistan is tragic and devastating for fourteen more families whose loved ones serving in the American military have died there in helicopter crashes. The loss of human life and all that it means for those soldiers and their families, for international troops, and especially for Afghan civilians who are also dying in great numbers, calls us as a people of moral conscience to continue to ask the enormously difficult questions surrounding the United States military presence in Afghanistan. Why do over 100,000 U.S./NATO forces remain in Afghanistan when they have been unsuccessful in ridding the country of Taliban warlords? Why does our President feel compelled to study the possibility of increasing troops there? Why are members of the international peacemaking community at odds with one another regarding the human rights disasters of the Taliban regime, and the danger of escalation of such abuses with a U.S. military withdrawal? Would a surge of U.S. troops really solve the issue of women's rights abuses in Afghanistan? And perhaps most centrally, how do we in the United States reconcile the vast differences of opinion within the Afghan people, both in their country and throughout the Afghan Diaspora?

The All Saints political action team includes a Rapid Response Team, composed of members of our parish whose community organizing skills, political expertise and intellectual prowess, enable us, via weekly conference calls, to study issues, recommend public policy, and select actions which address the peace and justice issues of our time. This advisory team has been wrestling with these questions on Afghanistan for many months. We have deeply held grief and concern for those who are victims of the Taliban, and serious doubts about the welfare of the Afghan people if there are no peacekeeping forces in the region. At the same time, many of our closest colleagues in the peace movement, including Tom Hayden among many more, have urged a complete withdrawal of all

U.S. troops as the only means for accomplishing peace and justice there. All Saints has a core value of non-violent resistance to war, yet, how do we reconcile these concerns, especially regarding protection for the women and children threatened by the warlords of the Northern Alliance and the Taliban?

We are inviting our best teachers and thinkers to help us understand the conflicts in Afghanistan and how best to support peace and justice through the de-escalation of U.S. military troops and non-violence. Sonali Kolhatkar, media activist and Co-Director of Afghan Women's Mission, began our month of study on October 18 in the Rector's Forum with a riveting history lesson on contemporary Afghanistan, as well as her argument for why the withdrawal of U.S. military troops would, in fact, advance the issue of women's rights rather than escalate abuses.

Two other important speakers will join us in the next few weeks, both of whom are experts in the realm of Afghanistan and its political and social issues. On Friday, Nov. 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Forum, hear from one of Afghanistan's leading activists and member of the Afghan Parliament, Malalai Joya. Ms. Joya is the youngest woman ever elected to parliament, and has been vocally opposing the Taliban and its warlords in her homeland at great personal peril. She is in the United States with the intention of bringing personal firsthand clarity to the complexity that is constantly evolving in her homeland. She will focus on the issues of women's rights and human rights abuses. Then, on November 22, in the Rector's Forum, Robert Greenwald will offer his perspectives on Afghanistan. His recent film, *Rethinking Afghanistan*, has gained tremendous acclaim and is at the center of a large peace movement (it is our Conscientious Projector screening on Nov.12, see p.2).

I hope that you will join us as we struggle, study and work to stand in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, and to resist the seductive call of war, which threatens each member of our human family.

Sunday

NOVEMBER 8, 2009

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ADULTS AT 10:15

RECTOR'S FORUM

Los Angeles County, 2010

with Gloria Molina, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Ms. Molina will address the challenges and accomplishments of Los Angeles County throughout her years of service on the Board. In 1991, Ms. Molina became the first Latina ever elected to the County Board of Supervisors, a milestone in the growing formidability of the Latino electorate. Ms. Molina has been an influential advocate for families and children, and has worked extensively to develop community services for children and youth in our cities. Come discuss the challenges we face as we approach the completion of the first decade of the 21st Century in Los Angeles County. *Forum*

YERT: Your Environmental Road Trip

with Mark Dixon, former member of All Saints and documentary filmmaker

Mark will share clips from his current project on sustainable living. He describes the film like this: "A couple friends and I spent an entire year traveling to all 50 states to document and personalize sustainability in a fun, engaging way" *Guild Room*

First Evensong of the Season!

Sunday, Nov. 8, at 5 p.m. in the Church. Coventry Choir offers *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* by Michael Tippett with soloist Zanaida Robles and *Holy Radiant Light* by Alexander Gretchaninov. Ed Bacon presides; Susan Russell offers a meditation. Child care provided.

Cards for Vets This Sunday

Veterans' Day is November 11. This Sunday morning, Nov. 8, we will be signing Holiday cards to send to our troops. Please come to the table on the lawn and sign one or two or six or twenty. The emotional health of our young men and women is extremely important as they work in surroundings that are challenging both physically and emotionally. Let us assure them that we care!

"All the News That's Fit To Blog!"

The All Saints Church News Blog is a place to go for news about the mission and ministry of All Saints Church; for stories from within the All Saints community and reports from the wider community. It's a place to stay up-to-date with reports about All Saints in the news media and to read features on events and actions written by members of the All Saints community. Visit our new News Blog through the link on the "News & Actions" page on the All Saints website or check it out at <http://allsaints-pas-news.blogspot.com>. Whether it's the latest about Ed Bacon on Oprah or Betty Cole on the Crop Walk, there's always something going on at All Saints Church!

FOR CHILDREN

Preschool (ages 2-4), SCOTT HALL

- 9:00 Infant and Child Care with Bible Stories
10:30 **Rooms 2 and 3:** *The Great Family, Part I*

Grade School (K-5), LEARNING CENTER

- 9:00 Children's Chapel: Children go to church with their parents, leave after the Gospel, and return before the offering.
10:15 **Grades K-5:** *Godly Play - The Flood & the Ark*
11:15 Children's Chapel: Children go to church with their parents, leave after the Gospel, and return before the offering.

FOR YOUTH, JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

- 10:15-11:00 **JR. HIGH & SR. HIGH SCHOOL**
Sacrifice or Offering: Honoring Our Veterans

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH ROOMS

The War in Afghanistan: A Brave New Analysis

As the Obama administration's deliberations over the future of U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan near their conclusion, All Saints Church and Conscientious Projector (CP) are seeking out the always illuminating perspective of activist filmmaker Robert Greenwald. His latest Brave New Foundation release, *Rethink Afghanistan*, will show on Thursday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m. at The Armory Center for the Arts. The CP screening is being held in preparation for a special appearance by Robert Greenwald in the Rector's Forum on Sunday, Nov. 22, where the topic will be the war in Afghanistan.

Earlier this year, Greenwald and his production crew took their cameras to several war-torn parts of the besieged country, from its cities to its remote areas. Gail Sheehy describes the resulting documentary as "a clarion call for peace," a firsthand view of the devastation the eight-year conflict has wrought, from heartrending civilian casualties on a massive scale, to widespread destruction of housing and infrastructure, to ever-increasing danger to our U.S. troops. Interviews with journalists, historians, military and CIA officials and a wide array of

EUCHARIST AT 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 A.M. AND 1 P.M.

The Rector will preach on *The Resourcefulness of Emptiness* at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. and the Rev. Abel Lopez preaches at the 1 p.m. Spanish-English service.

At 9 and 11:15, Canterbury Choir and Rhythm Section offer *Take My Hand, Precious Lord* by Thomas Dorsey, arr. Ed Lojeski, and *Elijah Rock* by Jester Hairston.

At 9:00 Trouvères offer *Can-tate Domino* by Giuseppe Pitoni.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Hebrews 9:24-28
Psalm 127
Mark 12:38-44

The Next "Second Saturday" Celebration is Saturday, November 14, 5 p.m. at Family Camp, Angelus Mountain Center

Afghan witnesses provide a deft, comprehensive, facts-on-the-ground analysis that ultimately questions the strategic effectiveness of fighting terrorism in a nation that, despite its oppressiveness and corruption, holds no terrorist intentions or alignment with Al Qaeda. Their testimony makes a persuasive case that military escalation will only swell the ranks of the insurgency, and that the path to stability in Afghanistan lies in economic, social and political solutions.

Representatives from Brave New Foundation will join us for our community discussion following the film, which is being presented with the assistance of the Brave New Theaters program. The Armory is located at 145 N. Raymond in Old Pasadena. Admission is free and the facility is accessible to disabled persons. For more information, contact Marty Coleman at 626.792.4941. To learn more and take action, visit www.rethinkafghanistan.com.

Foster Care Project Food Collection for Thanksgiving

The All Saints Foster Care Project (FCP) and its Adopt a Child Abuse Caseworker (ACAC) program will be collecting non-perishable food items to provide Thanksgiving

(FOSTER CARE: Continued on page 3)

(FOSTER CARE: Continued from page 2)

dinners to local foster care families. We are requesting canned hams that do not require refrigeration and canned fruits and vegetables. Also needed are packaged desserts, juices, baby food, and diapers (newborn to size 5). You may also provide a \$10 grocery store gift card and let one of the FCP volunteers do the shopping for you! Food items and gift cards may be dropped off to the FCP table on Sunday, Nov. 8 or 15. In addition, food items may be dropped off to Anne Riffenburgh's front porch: 1910 Spruce Street, South Pasadena before November 16. Gift cards may be put through the mail slot. *Please check expiration dates before donating and remember that only non-perishables can be accepted.*

Transformational Journeys' Annual Luncheon

This Sunday, Nov. 8, the Transformational Journeys Ministry invites you to join leaders of upcoming trips, plus all who are interested in this special form of travel. Your presence at this luncheon can be the beginning of your adventure—whether to places far (South Africa, Cuba,) or near (Habitat for Humanity or Manzanar). We will have information tables set up, watch a video with witnesses from recent trips over a good meal together in Sweetland Hall, then meet with leaders and fellow sojourners in breakout sessions for details on each trip. Consider the possibilities, and choose the Transformational Journey that's right for you. For information or to make reservations for lunch, please contact Catherine in the Office for Creative Connections at 626.583.2750 or cswanson@allsaints-pas.org.

Sustainable Table=Food + Justice: Connect the Dots!

Connect the dots between what you eat and what you support by joining Sustainable World Ministry for one of its famous potluck dinners on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 6 p.m. in Sweetland Hall. Learn how to vote with your fork! Alicia Dwyer, award winning documentary filmmaker will be our special guest. She will show us the preview of her new film, *Christmas without China!* Everyone is welcome to come break bread together. Please reserve with Marty at 626.792.4941 and bring your favorite dish (enough for five servings) and the story behind it.

20/30 Sunday Series for Young Adults

Engaging Evangelicalism: What, if anything, can we learn from Evangelicalism? will be held on the following Sundays at 1:00 p.m. in the Guild Room: Nov 8, 15, 22. Light snacks will be provided.

Whether or not you have personal experience with Evangelical Christianity, you probably have an opinion about it. But what do we really know? Are the core val-

ues of Evangelical Christianity – like authority, personal experience, community, and mission – so foreign to other churches (including the Episcopal Church)? Meet others in their 20s and 30s as we look behind the stereotypes and the politics to ask: what do all faith-seekers want from the church? For more information email siya.allsaints@gmail.com or contact Isabel Leus at 626.583.2733 or ileus@allsaints-pas.org.

Family Camp Is For Everyone, Not Just Those With Kids!

Don't miss it! Friday night and Saturday Nov. 13-14, at the Angelus Mountain Center in Altadena. Bring your tent and camp overnight, or sleep at home! Bring your family or just yourself – we will connect you to a family if yours is away! ALL are welcome to this splendid annual event where we will "Dream God's Dream" from Archbishop Desmond Tutu's book *God's Dream* and have an amazing time. Musician David Zink and Lori Phelps-Zink will be with us all weekend! Come for all or part of the time! Register online now for early bird specials! Discounts for large families! Get more information from the table on the lawn on Sundays or from the CYF office at ileus@allsaints-pas.org or 626.583.2733.

Men's Community Retreat

The Journey Inward; Solitude vs. Loneliness; Finding yourself. "Be still and know that I am God." Come feed your body, mind and soul during this morning of reflection and inner-searching with one of the most prolific writers and reflective men of All Saints, the Rev. Clarke Oler. The half-day retreat with breakfast will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon at All Saints Church. \$15.00 dollar donation requested. To make a reservation or find out more information, please contact Greg Carlsson at 626.399.1966.

Mary Magdalene Retreat At All Saints Church November 14

The story of Mary Magdalene is one of the most compelling in all of spiritual history. Why did Jesus resonate so strongly with this woman? What was the spiritual chemistry that was obvious to all who knew them? The story of Mary's spiritual, financial, and personal support for Jesus is well known. Less known are the powerful steps taken by early Church authorities to intentionally diminish and marginalize Mary Magdalene. The Gospel of Mary Magdalene was lost for centuries and found only in 1896. It contains powerful insights into Jesus' teachings. And what are we to take from the deep spiritual life of this extraordinary woman? Join us for *The Rise of Mary Magdalene: A Retreat of Illumination*, a one-day spiritual retreat to renew the soul before Thanksgiving.

Join us at the church on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The Rev. Betty Conrad Adam, Episcopal priest, Resident Canon Theologian and Spiritual Director, Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, Texas will lead. For more information and Registration go online at www.stillpointca.org. Partial scholarships are available.

New Vision Partners to Honor Lorna Miller

Founded at All Saints Church, New Vision Partners is celebrating 10 years of reaching out to at-risk communities with partnerships that promote peace and justice by honoring founding Executive Director, Lorna Miller, for 10 years at the helm of NVP. Lorna has been a tireless advocate for those with no voice and those on the margins of society. Please join us as we salute Lorna with a fantastic evening at the Brookside Golf Course on November 15, at 6:00 p.m. For more information, and to make reservations, please contact Joseph Yi at 626.808.1770 or jiyi@newvisionpartners.org.

The Season's First Jazz Vespers!

Sunday, Nov. 15, 5 p.m. in the Church. Grammy nominated harpist Carol Robbins offers music. One of the world's few jazz harpists, Ms. Robbins has recorded and performed with an eclectic variety of artists including Billy Childs, Manhattan Transfer, Brian Wilson, Bjork, Dianne Reeves, Linda Ronstadt, Nina Simone, Teddy Edwards and Frank Sinatra. Her memorable television credits include Cheers, Frasier and The Tonight Show. Christina Honchell offers a meditation. For more information, contact Melissa Hayes at 626.583.2725 or mhayes@allsaints-pas.org. Child care provided.

Okay, Halloween's Over; That Means It's Almost Christmas

Seems like just yesterday we were all wishing each other a Happy 2009. Well, we will soon be wishing each other a Happy 2010. And with the end of the year coming, it means only one thing: CHRISTMAS.

Christmas, with the attendant cooking, baking, and gift lists. Seemingly interminable trips to the mall to take care of the names on the gift lists. Constant checking the checking account and debit and credit cards for available balances. Why? So we can get "stuff" for people, like slippers for Aunt Josephine that will get tucked away in a drawer and never used, or a scarf for Uncle Jack which he probably won't use either. And with the economy the way it is, you're worried that you might not have enough money to get "stuff" for all your friends and relatives.

Wait. Before you throw up your hands and surrender to the overwhelming urge to crawl into a hole and not come out until January 1st, there is a solution to all this Christmas madness. Really. There is. And it's right here at All Saints Church. It's called the Alternative Christmas Market, and it's All Saints' antidote to the rampant consumerism that has overtaken the country. Wanna know more? Just show up at the Church on Sunday, December 6th, and see how you can help people both far away and right here in your own back yard!!

For more information or to volunteer contact Norma Sigmund 626.583.2734.

Altar flowers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a special event, or to give thanks for someone who has touched your life. To donate flowers for the altars, please call 626.796.1172

shorts

North Lot is Reserved for People with Mobility Difficulties

Did you know that on Sunday mornings the North Church lot is reserved only for people with mobility difficulties? This includes Seniors; people with permanent disabilities; people with temporary disabilities due to medical treatment side effects, surgery, injury, illness, holders of DMV parking placards; and women in late-term pregnancy. When an able-bodied person takes a parking space needed by a person with a mobility difficulty, it can mean that the less mobile person might not be able to go to church that day. Walking more than a block can result in getting to Church exhausted or in pain. In order for our members who have mobility challenges

to participate fully in our church's rich offerings, parking needs to be close by. So whenever possible, please use our other parking facilities: the Kaiser parking lot to the north or the Plaza Fuentes underground parking to the south. Thank you.

Fiction Fun! for November

On Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Guild Room, we will discuss Marilynne Robinson's *Home*. A.O. Scott of the New York Times writes that *Home* "is a book unsparing in its acknowledgment of sin and unstinting in its belief in the possibility of grace. It is at once hard and forgiving, bitter and joyful, fanatical and serene. It is a wild, eccentric, radical work of literature that grows out of the broadest, most fertile, most familiar native literary

tradition." The book is available for *Fiction Fun!* members at Vromans with a 20% discount. For further information, please contact Amanda McCormick at amccormick@allsaints-pas.org or 626.583.2765.

Bereavement Evening Group

An Evening Bereavement Support Group offering opportunities to develop a better understanding of grief, to learn healthy coping skills and to share feelings with others who are experiencing loss will begin Monday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m. The group will begin meeting every other Monday in the Vesting Room of Regas House. The program is offered by Pastoral Care and Spiritual Growth. For more information please call Ana Camacho at 626.583.2737.

prayers


FOR THE PARISH COMMUNITY

Remember those for whom prayers have been requested:

Michael Barden; Dan Bird; Therese Brummel; Lorna Carry; Rosemary Collins; Karen Cutts; Charlie Davies; Frances Guerrero; John Jain; Riggs Johnston; Billie Larimer; Dave Lord; Paula Martinez Solis; Matilda Miers; the Morez Family; Jaye Nelson; the Paro Family; Jean Allen Payne; David, Elika, Laudan, Phillip and Mable Payne; Kim Pietsch; Rachel Rooney and Family; Deborah Sanders; Julia Texacahua; Barbara Worthington Reiniger; Pam Waterman; Carol; Scott; William

In Thanksgiving for: the 50th wedding anniversary of Bob and Carol McCrary

For those who have died: Jacquelyn Ardalan; John Burt; Nellie Diggs Jones; Alma Man; Paul Morez; Kim Paro

saints alive ▪ Volume 17 Number 41 ▪ Sunday, November 8, 2009 ▪ Deadline for November 15, 2009 issue is Tuesday, November 3, 2009 ▪ USPS 553-760 ▪ Published weekly except biweekly in July and August ▪ Postmaster: Send address changes to *Saints Alive*, 132 N. Euclid Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101-1796 Telephone 626.796.1172 ▪ Fax 626.796.4749 ▪ Online www.allsaints-pas.org ▪ J. Edwin Bacon, Jr., Rector  Printed on recycled paper.

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