Erasing Hate

FROM KEITH HOLEMAN, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

t heart, it's a love story.

The Southern Poverty Law Center called filmmaker and parishioner Bill Brummel one day and told him an intriguing story of a heavily tattooed skinhead who had contacted them and wanted the hateful tattoos removed from his face because he wanted to turn his life around. The SPLC saw something special in the man, offered to pay for the tattoo removal, and asked Bill if he'd like to do a film about it.

It became *Erasing Hate*.

Bryon and Julie Widner met at a neo-Nazi white supremacist rally. The disturbing and poetic-in-context footage of their first meeting—a home video taken from afar by someone in the crowd—shows Bryon talking quietly to Julie, her small children running rambunctiously around her, surrounded by the noisy uproar of an ugly throng of skinheads shouting obscenities and repeatedly throwing their arms in the air with their Hitler salutes. It was the life-changing moment, amidst all that chaos, when two people with similar dreams of escaping that life and having a real family miraculously found each other.

"The lesson I learned," Bill said, "is that you always have to look closely, because situations and appearances can be deceiving. Bryon represented so many things I despise, yet when I met him he was so sincere—and a very likable fellow, who wasn't at all like he appeared.

"The night we first met in the upper peninsula of Michigan, it was minus 17 degrees. We walked into a noisy restaurant crowded with people talking, glasses and silverware clinking everywhere—and the decibel level dropped about 60% at the sight of this man. I thought 'this is insane.' Everyone was making assumptions about what Bryon was and judging him by the way he looked."

Bryon was the product of a dysfunctional childhood desperately searching for family, and thought he had found it in the brotherhood. Then he discovered that what it offered was violence, hypocrisy, and a conditional "love" motivated by fear of the gang — until he met Julie and discovered what the unconditional love of real family was.

He had done a lot of bad things to a lot of innocent people, and he had a hard time forgiving himself for it. "In my disillusionment with the white power movement," Bryon explained, "I realized I didn't hate everyone else. I just

hated myself."

Bryon said he saw God when Julie's and his first child together was born, and the love for his baby told him life had to change. And with a changed heart inside, he felt the need to change the surface, too.

He and Julie both quit the movement, received numerous threats, and Julie told her kids "mom was wrong." Then he endured the painful year-and-a-half process to remove the tattoos.

"Through this process, Bryon and Julie found both the family and community they searched for: in their church in Tennessee, with the people at the Southern Poverty Law Center, and at the Vanderbilt Medical Center where Bryon's tattoos were removed. The doctor said from the start that he never saw the tattoos in Bryon, and he didn't. They were incredibly loving and non-judgmental.

"It took great courage for them to do this film. They did so fully knowing they could face retribution from Bryon's old skinhead mates," Bill said. "But Bryon and Julie wanted to do it to make amends, to show those in the movement that there is a way out, and also to discourage others from even joining the movement. That's true redemption for them, using their experience to help others."

Throughout the film, Bryon undergoes an amazing transformation physically and emotionally. Bill said, "I've liked most of the films I've made, but I think I like this one best. I was given a great story with the perfect metaphor."

Bryon and Julie discovered the beautifully lifealtering nature of family and community, and the mystery of how people you'd never expect to meet could touch you in wonderful, unexpected and transformative ways if you open yourself to them.

That's also what All Saints offers. The house of love, rather than the house of fear. An embracing community willing and able to reach out for friendship, affirmation and support in times of need.

We're a love story, too—understanding that sometimes it takes asking for help, just like Bryon did.

Erasing Hate will be shown in the All Saints Forum on Saturday, August 6, at 5 p.m. Suggested donation \$5. Director Bill Brummel will host questions and answers following the film.

August

Conscientious Projector Goes On An Eco-Ouest

Tonscientious Projector invites you to take an environmen- tal adventure via the inspiring documentary 180° South, on Thursday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m. at The Armory Center for the Arts. In 1968, famed explorers Yvon Chouinard and Doug Tompkins led an expedition into the wilds of Patagonia, and then proceeded to take leading roles in a worldwide movement to preserve the South American wilderness. Chouinard went on to found the eco-conscious outdoor gear and clothing company, Patagonia, a model for innovative, sustainable business practices. In 2008, surfer-mountain climber Jeff Johnson set out to follow in his heroes' footsteps in honor of their lifelong environmental activism and their contributions to wilderness ethics. Filmmaker Chris Malloy documented Johnson's journey to Chile to climb Patagonia's Corcovado Volcano. Malloy's camera is rolling when Johnson meets Chouinard and Tomkins on the mountain. They join him for the extremely challenging ascent, imparting wisdom along the way, sharing their philosophies, life experiences and thoughts on the future of the world. This exciting yet reflective film includes documentary footage from the original 1968 trek.

A Patagonia representative will be with us for a community discussion following the film. The Armory is at 145 North 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 or visit www.180south.com.

Wedding Invitation!

arissa Baldwin, Director of Peace and Justice, and her part-✓ner, Pam McGinnis, invite members of the All Saints community to the the blessing and celebration of their life together. The ceremony will take place in the church on Saturday, Sept. 3rd, at 2 p.m. A cake reception will follow in Sweetland Hall. Children are welcome. Please RSVP with the number of adults and children in your party by emailing baldwin.mcginnis@gmail.com.

Jenny Price Joins Staff

ennifer [Jenny] Price has accepted Ed Bacon's offer to join the staff as Director of Children's and Youth Music, effective September first. She has been a public school music educator for 22 years and has taught all age levels, Kindergarten through 12th grade. In addition to vocal music she has taught piano, clarinet, violin, musical theatre, and music theory and appreciation classes. In her 14 years at Mountain Way Elementary School in Granite Falls, Washington, Jenny has built a thriving choral program, which has served as a role model for other schools in the state.

She received her Bachelor of Mu-



from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Fredonia and her Master of Arts in Liberal Studfrom ies SUNY Stonvbrook. The

subject of her thesis was the performance of sacred music in the public schools, which she has successfully defended to many administrators throughout her career. In her spare time she enjoys cooking Italian food, walking, hiking and sun worshipping. She is looking forward to relocating in Southern California with her two mini-Dachshunds.

In an email Jenny said, "I am so excited to begin this new journey and very excited to continue the good work that has been done in children's music at All Saints. I felt such warmth from all of you I met when I was interviewing and look forward to being part of a loving and dedicated team."

The Rector will officially welcome Jenny on Sunday, September 11.

What Are You Reading This Summer?

s I pack my car for vacation, I'm looking for that "great summer read"—something like Presumed Innocent (1987) and The Firm (1991) which everyone on the beaches

of both coasts seemed to be reading in those years. Both the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times have offered huge summer reading lists which overwhelm me. So I turn to my colleagues for suggestions.

Melissa Hayes recommends Room by Emma Donoghue. She advises, "Don't be put off by the alarming subject matter and the nontraditional narrator. It's really, really good." Carissa Baldwin reports, "I have to confess that I just read Helen of Pasadena by Lian Dolan and enjoyed it too much." Now she's beginning the novel The Toss of a Lemon by Padma Viswanathan and The Big Thirst: the Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water by Charles Fishman. Joanna Harrell is into Cinderella Ate My Daughter: Dispatches From the Front Lines of the New Girlie Culture by bestselling author Peggy Orenstein who also wrote Schoolgirls: Young Women, *Self Esteem, and the Confidence Gap.*

Christina Honchell's big summer novel this year is Ten Thousand Saints by Eleanor Henderson, a first novel about the lower east side and rock-androll, getting raves from coast to coast (anyone read it yet?). Her au curant non-fiction choice this summer is Chasing Aphrodite, from LA Times reporters Jason Felch and Ralph Frammolino, about the Getty museum international art dealing. For her annual classic, she's revisiting her all-time favorite novel, Pale Fire, so that she can luxuriate in Nabokov's incredible language without time constraints or diversions - it's a book that has to be read s-l-o-w-l-y.

Individuals among my colleagues, who are too shy to be named, are reading the novel Let the Great World Spin by Collum McCann, A Visit From the Goon Squad by Jennifer Egan, and more than one delicious-looking cookbook-recipes from which this individual never intends to cook.

So far I've selected Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide; Richard Rohr's Falling Upward: a Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life; and Cynthia Bourgeault's The Wisdom Way of Knowing-none of which, wonderful as they may be, qualifies as a Great Summer Read. If you have suggestions, please email me at apeterson@allsaints-pas.org. I'll receive your choices when I return to work on August 7, which, technically speaking, is still summer. Thanks, Anne

Staff Transitions

Elizabeth Lenti, our associate organist, recently informed Ed Bacon of her decision to take a new position (see below). We will celebrate her and send her off on Sunday, July 31, at the 9 and 11:15 services and with cake on the lawn following the 11:15.

Dear Ed,

I'm writing to inform you of my decision to resign from my position at All Saints, effective August 1st. I have been offered the position of Associate Organist at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Cleveland, OH. In addition to my work at the Cathedral, I will be teaching in the organ department at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where I completed my graduate studies shortly before moving here. Teaching in a collegiate setting has always been a dream of mine and this is a great opportunity that will bring new challenges and help me to continue to grow as a musician.

My time at All Saints has been wonderful, challenging and inspiring. I have learned and grown so much in the last six years and for that I am deeply grateful. The decision to move on from here comes with a real mix of emotions. I will greatly miss my colleagues and all of the wonderful people I have been blessed to work with, and will particularly miss my work with the adult choirs.

I know I will carry with me all that I have learned and experienced here as I start this new chapter in my life. I feel so privileged to have been part of this magnificent place.

> With deepest gratitude, Elizabeth

Her colleague, Director of Music, James Walker, speaks for the entire staff: Over six years ago, Elizabeth Lenti arrived in Pasadena to assume the multi-faceted work of Associate Organist-Choirmaster at All Saints. It has been my extraordinary privilege to work closely with Elizabeth and to watch her blossom as a church musician. Elizabeth has been an incomparable colleague, and we have all been the recipients of her amazing musical gifts, dedication and gracious spirit.

Teaching in a collegiate setting is a fantastic opportunity for Elizabeth, and I am proud of her accomplishments that make such an opportunity possible. So, even though I am deeply sad that she is leaving our music ministry, I rejoice in celebrating the new opportunities that await her and those who will have the privilege of working, worshipping and studying with her.

James

Project HOUSED: Assisting the Most Vulnerable!

Project HOUSED Pasadena follows the "street-to-home" method of helping the chronically homeless community. Volunteers are needed to be sent in groups to locate and survey members of the homeless community to identify those who are most vulnerable and living on the streets. Orientation and training will take place on 8/7 and volunteers will be sent out 8/8-8/10 from 4:00 - 6:00 a.m. For more information or to sign-up as a volunteer, visit: www.phhn.org or contact: Mark Bradshaw, markbradshaw@fuller.edu, 626.304.3753.

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do, So Let's SHAKE IT UP Instead!

The Women's and Men's Communities are jointly sponsoring a dance to honor Anne Peterson's retirement, or more fittingly, her re-creation into another phase of life. Boogie on down to the Forum on Friday, Aug. 19, from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. to celebrate Anne. This event will also raise money for the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. Your contribution of \$15 per adult and \$7 for those 18 and under will serve the dual purpose of honoring Anne's tenure at the church and supporting the important work of ERD. Hope to see you there in your dancing shoes and with your dancing moves. Contact Amanda McCormick at 626.583.2765 or amccormick@allsaints-pas.org.

August Summer Small Group Offerings

In the Neighborhood with Becky Nicolaides

In In the Neighborhood: The Search for Community on an American Street, One Sleepover at a Time, Peter Lovenheim writes about his search to meet and get to know his neighbors, following a murder-suicide that rocked his neighborhood. Join the discussion for three sessions, this group will be held at Becky's house in Altadena, August 16, 30, and Sept. 6, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Directions will be given to those who sign up.

Wednesdays:

Experiencing the Scriptures with Richard Wingell

Each week this group will read and discuss the readings for the coming Sunday. We will look at the Old Testament selection, the Psalm, the Epistle, and the Gospel to see how they work together to illuminate the same theme or message, how they relate to the changing seasons of the liturgical year, and how we can apply them to our lives. Bring your Bible. This group is ongoing, Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m., in the OCC Conference Room.

Love Wins with Bob Lazzarini

As an author and pastor, Rob Bell discusses a different way of understanding heaven, hell, God, Jesus, salvation and repentance. Come join the discussion in three sessions, August 10, 17 & 24, 7 - 8:30 p.m. in Learning Center 5.

Fridays & Saturdays in August...Summer Suppers

You are cordially invited to enjoy the friendship of fellow parishioners at a Summer Supper in the home of folks in our All Saints community. Share warm fellowship, good food and spirituality in the informal atmosphere of a parishioner's home. Summer Suppers will be held Fridays & Saturdays in August: 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27. Limited spaces still open.

Sign up at the Small Group table on the Lawn or email amccormick@allsaints-pas.org. Childcare is provided for all groups by calling 626.583.2781 to reserve at least 24 hours in advance.

New Transportation Ministry

The have talked a lot lately about the "new normal" - a phrase that roughly defines the new dynamics in our culture caused by economic impact and the very real prospect that what is now "new" will soon or has become the "norm." Accompanying this cultural phenomenon is the extended longevity of our aging population - people are living longer.

These two dynamics have encouraged us in Pastoral Care and Spiritual Growth at All Saints to look at the services we provide to our community, evaluate their effectiveness, and ask the question: "what do we need to do that we are currently not doing?" This soul searching - informed by many real life experiences - led us to conclude that All Saints needs a ministry dedicated to assisting persons in need of transportation - to church, to doctor appointments, to other essential services.

We are therefore exploring the creation of a new ministry called Transportation for All Saints Parishioners (TASP), to provide assistance to members of our community. If you are interested in taking part in this new ministry please contact Ana Camacho at 626.583.2737 or acamacho@allsaints-pas.org or Ken VanDerHorst at 818.572.3729 or kjvanderhorst@comstructure.com.

Sign up to learn more about this new ministry now being developed at All Saints. In coming weeks we will conduct a meeting to discuss in detail the program and all of its components.

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

Summer Adventure: "iCreate"

Join us August 22-26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., for Adventure. Summer This year's theme, "iCreate," is built around the arts, including music, drama and more, with special offerings for youth in 6th-8th grade. The camp is open to children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade and youth entering 6th through 9th grade in the fall. Registration is \$100/ week or \$25/day. Scholarships and discounts for families registering more than one child are available. For information please contact Isabel Leus at ileus@allsaintspas.org. Register online at www.allsaints-pas.org.

High School youth interested in being a counselor, contact Jeremy at *jlangill@allsaints-pas.org*.

All Saints 101: Fall Session Starts September 25th!

Q. What is All Saints 101?

A. All Saints 101 is for folks from other faith traditions, from no faith tradition, and for lifelong Episcopalians. The eight week class includes staff presentations and the opportunity to meet in small groups with other newcomers. You'll learn more about yourself and All Saints Church.

Q. Who is it designed for?

A. All Saints 101 is for you if you're brand new and wondering if All Saints Church is the church home you've been looking for OR if you've been attending for awhile and are ready to figure out where your "place" is in "wherever you find yourself there is a place for you here."

Q. When does it start, end and meet?

A. Fall classes begin Sunday, September 25, and meet through November 13 on Sunday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. New members are welcomed and celebrated at the 11:15 service on Sunday, November 20.

Q. Why is it called "All Saints 101?"

A. We want to communicate in its title what the program offers: an entry level opportunity to learn the All Saints story and find out where it connects with your story and God's story.

Q. How do I sign up?

A. Visit the table on the lawn beginning Sunday, September 4, sign up on-line, or contact Linn Vaughan at 626.583.2744 or lvaughan@allsaints-pas.org.

Zelda Kennedy Honored with Women in Business Award

Twenty-one outstanding businesswomen were honored on July 15 at the 12th Annual Women in Business Legislative Update and Awards luncheon. State Senator Carol Liu and Assemblymembers Mike Gatto and Anthony Portantino hosted the event at the Castaways in Burbank. The awards celebrated the power of women who serve as role models and contribute to the greater good of the business community - and one of the awardees was our own Zelda Kennedy, who was honored as "Outstanding Non-Profit Employee." Congratulations, Zelda!

Amaze Ed Bacon with Your Cooperative Process Training

Develop techniques for keeping current with friends, family and colleagues. This respectful method of dealing with one another provides language to help us express negative feelings with the goal of improving or maintaining a relationship. Ed Bacon wants everyone in the parish to be trained, in order for us to develop a common language. Anne Peterson and members of All Saints' Leadership Committee look forward to seeing you at our August trainings. Choose Saturday, Aug. 13, 9-noon, or Wednesday, Aug. 24, 6-9 p.m. Register on the Small Groups Table or contact Amanda McCormick at amccormick@allsaints-pas.org.

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Attention Postmaster: Dated Material

