

Over 200 parishioners are working in Pasadena in community or church based agencies through the *Seeds of Hope* program, advocating justice, listening to community needs and getting involved in hands-on ministry.

ASC COLORS (Christians Offering Love to Overcome Racism in Society) works to promote diversity and prejudice reduction within our own community to sensitize our parish community to their prejudices, be they based on race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, through intensive workshops.

In January 1993, All Saints declared itself a *Sanctuary for Children*, dedicating and directing the work of All Saints to make our world, in the words of George Regas, "worthy of the children." To be a Peace Church is to be a Sanctuary for Children. The declaration led to strengthening of our parish programs for children and our work as advocates for children in the community. The All Saints Children's Center doubled its capacity in 1993, making it possible for 130 children, many low-income and at-risk, to receive quality child-care on our campus.

Following the 1993 Halloween night murders of three of Pasadena's youth, the *Coalition for a Non-Violent City* was formed. The Coalition, convened by George Regas, seeks to control the spread of violence in the Pasadena/Altadena area by lobbying for more stringent gun control laws and by addressing the root causes of violence. Over 350 community members and All Saints parishioners are currently on the Coalition roster.

SUMMARY

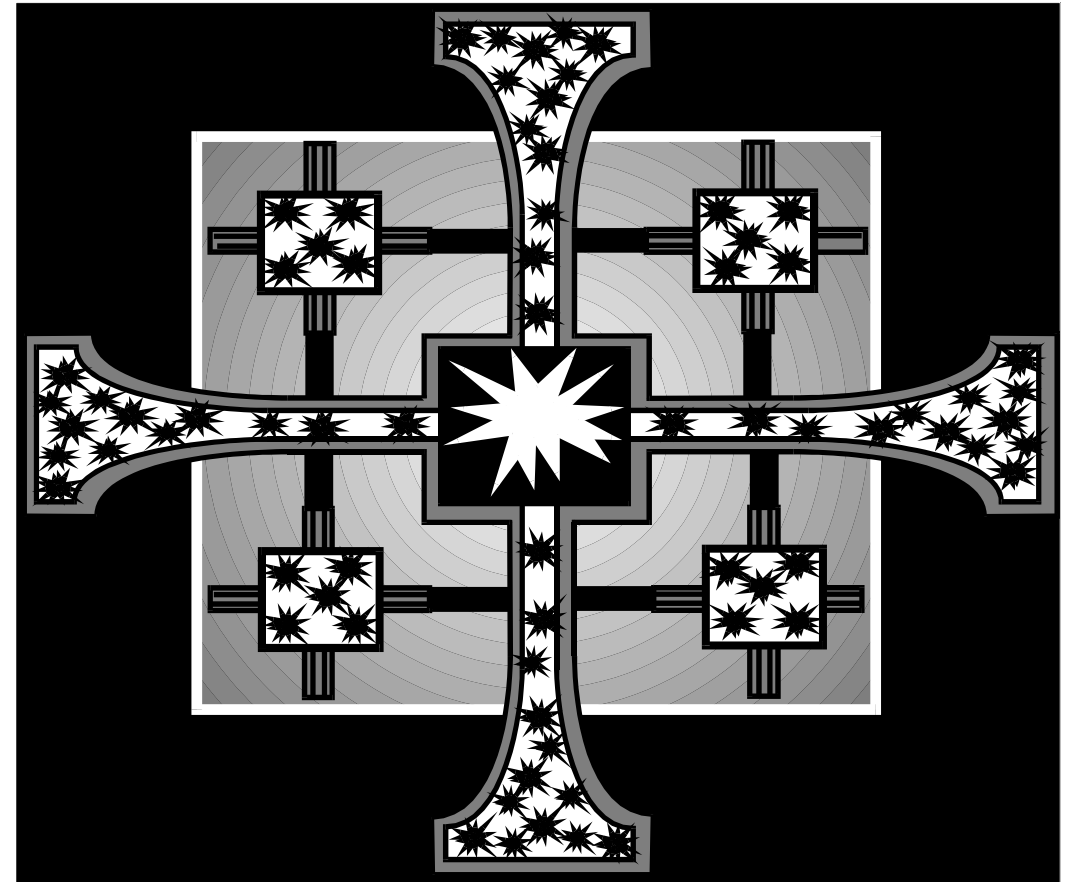
In this affirmation of the 1987 Peace Statement we lift up the process of the past 25 years. Each ministry, each accomplishment whether small or large, has had at its center a group of committed, prayerful parishioners who have brought the concern or issue to the larger parish community and the staff. The Rector and staff have become involved to different degrees. Resources, always scarce, have been found, some large and some small amounts.

We intend to make All Saints a place where the most pressing and most difficult issues relating to peace and justice are addressed. We will engage the systemic, societal and political structures that perpetuate human misery and we will act, where we can, to meet immediate human need. Parishioners, through their own prayers and guidance from God, will continue to come forward, organize others, and call the parish into ministry. Not all requests have been or will be met; there will not always be staff and financial resources to meet every need.

But our history has proven that God guides and blesses our work. We must continue to be open to God's spirit for new risks and new ministries. We must preserve the creative environment that allows All Saints, mightily and humbly, to be a Peace Church.

THE CALL TO BE A PEACE CHURCH

All Saints has proved itself to be a Peace Church in word and action. In each instance All Saints has been faithful to its mission of peace and justice, committed and dedicated parishioners have made success possible. Parishioners have prayed for direction, identified concerns, have volunteered countless hours to the work of peace and justice, and have worked carefully with the Rector and staff to develop financial resources to implement major programs and agencies. In the years ahead, All Saints Church must preserve and be stewards of the incredible legacy with which God has blessed us. We must continue the work God has given us to do, living out our own Baptismal vows: to "*seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself,*" and to "*strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.*"



ALL SAINTS IS A PEACE AND JUSTICE CHURCH

A reaffirmation of the 1987 statement of the Peace and Justice
Ministries

**Almighty God, send us out into the world to do the work you
have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses
of Christ our Saviour."**

--The Book of Common Prayer

In March, 1987, the Vestry of All Saints Church declared the parish a "Peace Church," and issued a bold and prophetic statement of strategy and action for peacemaking. That document made the promise that, as a church, we would update our peacemaking vision and agenda on a timely basis. This document is that update. Our 1987 statement was born out of a need to respond to the crisis of an accelerating nuclear arms race build-up and the simmering tensions of the Cold War. The Cold War is over now, but its legacy presents us with challenges that are equally as urgent.

In 1987, All Saints Church recognized the havoc that unbridled militarism was wreaking on our economic structures. We prophetically outlined the devastating consequences of the country's distorted spending priorities on our nation's social fabric. We pointed out that every human resource, every tax dollar, every research and development dollar directed to military spending was a dollar taken away from developing a globally competitive economic system and truly humane society.

Unfortunately, our analysis proved to be all too accurate. The county as a whole, and California in particular, have been hit hard by the sudden contraction of an economy overly-dependent on perpetual war-planning. The middle-class has been stunned by severe economic dislocation and, as always, the poorest and most defenseless of society have suffered enormous setbacks. Today, we see inadequately funded school systems, medical care institutions, social service agencies and the criminal justice system overwhelmed by the effects of our misguided policies of the past. As a result, unemployment, dysfunctional families, violence, homelessness, and drug-addiction are the hallmarks of our society as we approach the end of the 20th century.

Internationally, weapons proliferation, both nuclear and conventional, continues unabated with the United States leading the world in arms sales. Around the globe, we see environmental disasters as a direct result of militarism and weapons development, vicious nationalist, ethnic and civil wars have broken out as a result of an unstable geopolitical order. Many of the superpowers shamelessly armed small countries for their own purposes and then abandoned them to chaos and violence. Racism, religious bigotry, militarism and hunger still undermine human rights worldwide.

All is not bleak, however. The end of the Cold war has significantly reduced the prospect of nuclear annihilation in an all-out superpower exchange. As a nation, we seem to be coming out of a long period of denial about our catastrophic social problems. The opportunity for re-ordering is tremendous and one that cannot be missed.

All Saints understands the mission of the Christian Church to be the bringing of peace and justice to all of God's creation and people. The Vestry recommits itself to this mission as we refocus our energies and priorities for the work ahead.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

It is important to take stock of what All Saints has accomplished in the last 26 years. When George Regas arrived in 1967, he found a congregation active and willing to engage the difficult issues of the day. Soon, the parish worked in opposition to the Vietnam War and founded the *Peace Operations Center*. All Saints organized and built the *Foothill Free Clinic* to provide counseling and medical services to youth and the disadvantaged. All Saints took strong stands on integration of the Pasadena Schools and other issues relating to the health and care of Pasadena's children. In 1973, a group of committed parishioners began serving sandwiches on Union Street. Twenty years later, after long and sustained support from the parish, *Union Station* is the primary social service agency for the homeless in the San Gabriel Valley, housing 56 people a night and serving 14,000 meals a year. The *WH/EAT* program made world hunger a major focus within the congregation.

During the 70s, All Saints was the center of the work to advocate and lobby for the ordination of women within the Episcopal Church. A close relationship was built with Leo Baeck Temple. As the nuclear arms race accelerated sharply, in 1979 Leo Baeck and All Saints co-founded the *Interfaith Center to Reverse the Arms Race* which for more than ten years worked for disarmament, the nuclear freeze and the comprehensive test ban treaty.

The '80s witnessed committed parishioners dedicated to the vision of peace and justice working with the Rector and staff to develop important ministries. *Critical Mass*, supporting the work of disarmament, and the *Central American Ministry*, supporting the parish's declaration of Sanctuary and working for peace in El Salvador, became major forces in the parish. *Gays and Lesbians/All Saints* (GALAS) was formed, working to assure the full inclusion of all of God's children in the community of faith. The *U.S./Soviet Relations Ministry* began its work reducing the tensions of the Cold War. In 1986, a group of parishioners came together to see if the church could respond to the AIDS crisis. A telephone answering machine was put in the parish house basement, and a support group for HIV patients was started. Out of that grew the *All Saints AIDS Service Center*, a \$2.5 million agency providing services to 450 clients and their families. The *Office for Creative Connections* became a prophetic voice for the needs of Pasadena's children, which bears fruit in 1994 with *DAY ONE* and *Young and Healthy*, which enlist volunteer doctors and dentists to meet the medical needs of hundreds of uninsured children.

The Center for South Africa Ministry worked tirelessly in support of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his work to overcome apartheid. In conjunction with Leo Baeck, the *Church and Temple Housing Corporation* renovated 100 apartments on Skid Row, and All Saints was a founding member of the *Pasadena Housing Alliance*. All Saints continues its commitment to the renovation and building of low-income housing for the creation of justice. All Saints adopted a statement affirming the right of a woman to choose to have an abortion, and advanced for the protection of a woman's right to choose.

During the conflict with Iraq, All Saints responded faithfully to its mission by forming the *Religious Coalition Against War in the Persian Gulf*, an historic coalition of Jews, Christians and Muslims working for peace in the Middle East. *EDEN (Environmental Defense of the Earth Now)* introduced the justice issue of stewardship of creation into our agenda. The first blessing of a same-sex union in January 1992 affirmed All Saints' work for justice in the Gay and Lesbian community.

The Rodney King verdict of 1992 which led to the civil unrest in Los Angeles led All Saints to refocus its efforts to working for justice within our city and confronting the destructive sin of racism and economic disempowerment. In response to the emergency of the civil unrest, All Saints distributed 17 tons of food to churches in South Central neighborhoods. One of those churches was Praises of Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Watts, whose pastor, the Rev. Joe B. Hardwick, invited us into a partnership with that congregation.

As a result, our two churches have visited each others' worship services four times, with Pastor Hardwick and George Regas preaching in each other's pulpits. The staff at All Saints Children's Center have assisted in the development of a child care center at Praises of Zion. A Family Fellowship program involving six families from each congregation in monthly home dinner exchanges has begun.

All Saints and Praises of Zion Church have created a joint Food Ministry that distributes food to over 750 people every week in the Praises of Zion neighborhood in Watts. The cost of the weekly distribution is shared by All Saints and Praises of Zion through All Saints' membership in the L.A. Regional Food Bank.

(continued on back page)

