



JANUARY 25, 2004

THE NEWSLETTER OF ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

VOLUME XII NUMBER 4

Got Questions?

FROM ANNE BRECK PETERSON, SENIOR ASSOCIATE, LEADERSHIP, INCORPORATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

Jazz Vespers Tonight

Our series of Jazz Vespers continues tonight with saxophonist Jeff Clayton. A former oboe major at Cal State Northridge, Jeff was invited by Stevie Wonder to join him on tour. He has also recorded with Gladys Knight, Kenny Rogers, The Temptations, Patti LaBelle, Earth, Wind and Fire, and Madonna, to name a few. Child care is provided. For more information, call the Music Office at 626.583.2725.

It's Not Too Late!

The year may be over, but there is still time to fulfill your 2003 pledge commitment to the operating budget. Please indicate in the memo field on your check that you are making a 2003 pledge payment. These payments will appear on first quarter statements for 2004. For more information, call Lee Carroll in the Stewardship Office at 626.583.2721.

If one of your resolutions for 2004 is to exercise more, consider wrestling—wrestling with The Big Questions of life and meaning.

Not long ago, on a flight from the East Coast, I was working on a Sunday morning presentation at All Saints. The woman in the seat next to me leaned over and asked, "Are you a Christian?" "No," I said, "I'm just doing some research." Because the religious right has so co-opted the term Christian, I am reluctant to identify myself to a total stranger as being "a Christian." I would have to answer, "Yes, I am a Christian, but it's not what you think." I would have to explain that Christianity is inclusive, not exclusive, that the Bible needs interpretation, not literal acceptance, and that the Christian story is not the only story of faith, although it is the story which inspires, challenges, and transforms me.

How many people have shut down the possibility of faith because they see Christianity as claustrophobic and phobic—full of answers to everything, presenting a world divided between "us" and "them," and a view of Biblical truth frozen in first-century Palestine? What about a Christianity that is a living, breathing, pulsating, evolving organism—rooted in ancient truths but evolving with new understandings of the world? What about a Christianity based on scripture, tradition, reason and human experience? What about

an Anglican Christianity?

Last summer, the Episcopal Church made headlines with the election of Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop in the church. The approval of his election by the church's General Convention stirred some waters and alerted many observers to the possibility that something was clearly happening in this Anglican view of the Christian faith journey.

In response to many questions from individuals not affiliated with a faith community, a progressive voice of the church, Every Voice Network, has produced an eight-week series of inquiry and education in an open and inclusive environment that appeals to people wondering about the Episcopal Church, as well as to existing congregation members. Beginning Sunday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m., All Saints will roll out this program, *Via Media*, in a series of conversations exploring the most basic questions of faith, from "Does God exist?" and "Who is Jesus?" to "Why is there evil in the world?" And the biggest question for some of us, "What does it mean to admit to being a Christian?"

Please use the form inside to sign yourself up, or send it to a friend. For more information, call me at 626.583.2713 or e-mail me at apeterson@allsaints.pas-org. You'll be glad you kept your New Year's resolution!

JANUARY 25, 2004 Sunday

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

ADULTS AT 10:15

RECTOR'S FORUM

The State of Our State

with State Senator Jack Scott

Just when you thought California had fallen from the top of the national news, a film celebrity with no previous political experience unseated the newly-reelected governor. This drama energized the voting public. But can this leader right California's listing ship, struggling under sizeable losses of state income exacerbated by a decrease in federal funds? Parishioner and State Senator Jack Scott brings to the Rector's Forum a first-hand view of the state of our state. Elected to the State Assembly in 1996, following a long, productive tenure as president of Pasadena City College, Scott went to Sacramento with a deep commitment to issues of education and the reduction of gun violence. Experienced now with the possibilities and limitations of government, Scott will welcome dialogue with all of us concerned citizens.

Forum

Together with the Bestsellers:

Elaine Pagels' *Beyond Belief*

with David Jackson

David Jackson leads us in a discussion on Elaine Pagels' bestseller, *Beyond Belief*. There is a growing interest in early Christian texts excluded from the New Testament. Pagels' book compares highlights from the gnostic Gospel of Thomas with the New Testament Gospel of John. From the comparison of these and other ancient texts, Pagels invites readers to consider the Christian faith as a spiritual inquiry into the divine, rather than as merely a system of doctrines.

Guild Room

FOR CHILDREN

Preschool (ages 2-4), SCOTT HALL

- 9:00 Infant and Toddler Child Care
- 9:00 Preschool Godly Play
- 11:15 Infant/Preschool Child Care

Grade School (K-5), LEARNING CENTER

- 9:00 Go to church with family; leave following the Gospel for a program in the Learning Center; return at the presentation of the offering
- 10:15 Sunday School
- 11:15 Continuing Art Reflections

FOR YOUTH

- 10:15-11:00 Junior High Connections & Senior High Connections **Junior High Room**
- 1:00 Seekers **Learning Center 6**

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

The rector preaches

What It Means to Stake Your Life on God's Favor.

Coventry Choir

sings *The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me* by Edward Elgar and a plainsong setting of *Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come.*

JAZZ VESPERS AT 5 P.M.

Music by saxophonist Jeff Clayton.

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

Nehemiah 8:2-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-27
Psalm 113
Luke 4:14-21

CHILDREN'S FOCUS

Parable of the Great Pearl

Ministry of the Week

Visit the Featured Ministry table on the lawn, Sunday, Jan. 25, to learn about
HEALTH MINISTRY

Middle East Meeting

Middle East Ministry and Friends of Sabeel will meet Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Forum. Brice Harris, professor at Occidental College, will speak discuss his December trip to the Middle East. Information will be available about the upcoming Sabeel Conference in Jerusalem and future activities of both the All Saints Middle East Ministry and Sabeel. For more information, contact Barbara Bell at middleeastministry@yahoo.com.

Sustainable World Discussion Group

Starting Feb. 2, a discussion group will convene for four Mondays

from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Learning Center 3 to discuss the winter 2004 issue of YES! Magazine. This issue addresses the increasing scarcity and the privatization of water by corporations, raising the spectre of millions of poor, who cannot afford to pay for water, being shut out from access, while water corporations' profits soar. As big, highly engineered, private solutions are creating problems beyond what they can solve, many are turning elsewhere for solutions. A lake that was being drained to supply Los Angeles is saved; in India, many communities are reviving ancient systems that capture and store rainwater and ensure water sufficiency even in arid areas.

There are also articles about Voices in the Wilderness activist Kathy Kelly's humanitarian visits to Iraq, the protests against the WTO talks in Cancun and other features, such as book reviews that are always insight-

ful and thought provoking. Pick up the current issue of Yes! Magazine for a small donation at the Sustainable World table on any Sunday. For more information, call Mae Gautier at 626.795.6131.

Women's Council Hosts Spa for the Soul

Women's Council will present "Spa for the Soul: Bread for the Journey" on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Learning Center. According to Carol Lee Flinders, co-author of *Laurel's Kitchen*, women are a lot like the ingredients in home-baked, whole-grain bread—individually, they are each unique, but bring them together and they create something that is entirely different and oftentimes even better. "Put three women in a room together (a Christian, a Jew and a Muslim) and before you know it, a fourth religion will have declared itself, something like a sourdough

starter," Flinders has said. "I'm talking about the relationship to the sacred that emerges with special force in the lives of women, who often find in one another certain kinds of sustenance that their own congregations may not necessarily supply."

It is this metaphor that Flinders will play on as the presenter for the workshop. She will lecture on women mystics and contemporary spiritual activists, field questions and set up small discussion groups for participants to share their own experiences on the subject.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be included in the \$20 fee. Register no later than Feb. 2nd by picking up a flier at the Women's Council table on the lawn. Child care is available by advance reservation by calling Anamaria Montanez at 626.583.2781. For scholarship help, contact Wilma Jakobsen at 626.583.2762. For more information, contact Ruby Gutierrez at 626.583.2734.

A Difference Made

Thanks to the generosity of those many donors who provided amazing quantities of items for our Christmas gift sacks, Prison Ministry delivered 1,750 sacks to Corona Prison on Dec. 22nd. Thanks also to the volunteers who spent many hours packing all these items in sacks. May your heart be warmed by the joy these presents brought to all of the inmates.

Sincerely,
Connie Smith
Prison Ministry Coordinator

Explore Road to Forgiveness

Come learn more about choosing to enter the process of learning to forgive. The Rev. Don Hawthorne will be offering his seminar on "Forgiveness" on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Guild Room. In this seminar, participants consider what forgiveness is and what it is not, and discuss deep anger and resentment and about forgiving ourselves. Topics will also include the love and forgiveness of God and Jesus' teaching about it, and his embodying it in his death and resurrection. Forgiveness is "The Road Less Traveled"... that can make all the difference! For more information, contact Devika Wijesinghe at 626.583.2737.

Yes, I am interested in exploring Big Questions at *Via Media*.

Please sign me up!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

This eight-week program begins on Sunday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. with a light supper. There is no charge.

Please complete and return form to: Anne Peterson, All Saints Church, 132 North Euclid Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101, or you may leave this in the collection plate.

For more information, contact Anne Peterson at 626.583.2713 or apeterson@allsaints-pas.org.

shorts

Sign Language Class ▪ A new sign language class for all ages will begin Jan. 25, and will meet from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays through May 2, in the Learning Center (no class on Palm Sunday or Easter). All are welcome.

▪ For more information, call Kris Vreeland at 323.255.1501.

EDEN Events ▪ Environmental Defense of the Earth Now (EDEN) will hold its next meeting on Feb. 1. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. at a member's home with

social time and dinner, and the meeting at 6 p.m. There will be a Rubio Canyon update. EDEN also will host a day of trail work at Rubio Canyon on Feb. 21. ▪

For information about meetings, call Pat Holmes at 818.848.8031. For information about events, call Bob Berger at 626.355.4594.

Support for MG ▪ The Living With Myasthenia Gravis support group will meet Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Guild Room. Family members and caregivers are encouraged to attend. ▪ For more

information, contact Marie Magrdchian at 626.576.8885.

prayers

FOR THE PARISH COMMUNITY

Remember those for whom prayers have been requested: Sherry Carpenter; Carl Davis; David Evans; Martha Ferguson; Viola Jacobson; The Rev. Ida Louise Johnson; Frances Maginn; Peggy Mautz; Richard Medina; Tiffany Medina; Pat Nishita; Carry Paquette; Walter Proudman; Edward Rhodes; The Rev. Robert Scholz; Christina and Kenny.

In Thanksgiving for: The marriage of Lisa Blanc and Michael Neely; the blessing of the marriage of Lisa Wade and Michael Divine; the birth of John Hardin and Robert Boyd Marion Sims, twin sons of Laura Marion and Robin Sims and brothers to Isabel; the birth of Judith Grace Marando, daughter of Shannon and Joseph Marando; the birth of Lucy Elizabeth Roth, daughter of Gary and Laura Roth and sister to Max.

For those who serving in the Armed Forces: John Weed.

For those who have died: Jan Bastajian; Bill Cronekite; Keith Dickau; Phyllis Godard; Mike Nelson; Cheryl Pinder.

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