



Church Mouse

News & Events from St. John's Episcopal Church • Oakland, California

September/October 2009

September 6 - 14th Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
10:00 – Choral Eucharist

September 12 – Saturday
5-8:00 – “Open the Doors” dinner

September 13 – 15th Pentecost
Welcome Sunday
7:45 – Early Eucharist
10:00 – Choral Eucharist
11:15 – Quesadillas with the
Clergy

September 20 – 16th Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
9:00 – Family Eucharist
10:00 – Adult Education
10:00 – Church School
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

September 27 – 17th Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
9:00 – Family Eucharist
10:00 – Adult Education
10:00 – Church School
10:45 – Choral Eucharist
and Baptism

October 4 – 18th Pentecost
Visitation by Bishop Andrus
Blessing of the Beasts
7:45—Early Eucharist
10:00—Choral Eucharist

October 11 – 19th Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
9:00 - Family Eucharist
10:00 – Adult Education
10:00 – Church School
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

October 18 – 20th Pentecost
Nov-Dec Mouse articles due
7:45 – Early Eucharist
9:00 - Family Eucharist
10:00 – Adult Education
10:00 – Church School
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

October 25 – 21st Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
9:00 - Pirate Eucharist
10:00 – Adult Education
10:00 – Church School
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

The Rector Reflects - Save the Date

I “Save the date” the email proclaimed. Yes, long before summer had even scratched the surface I started to receive emails and notices asking me to ink in events for the fall. It is, after all, that time of year when we take a deep breath and maybe let out a sigh knowing that Fall is about to meet us face to face bringing with it excitement but also a very busy schedule. Whatever down time we may have enjoyed in the summer is now over and it's time to get back into gear. Can you hear the gears grinding yet?

But here is my hope and prayer, that St. John's is not simply another demand on your schedule but rather an opportunity for you to keep returning to a place of rest. Church can and should be that community that allows us to slow down and focus on what our life has meant and could mean in the coming year, a place to reflect, learn, feel supported, receive from others, and offer ourselves to God's service. And we would like to set this kind of tone for the coming year with two opportunities for you to reconnect.

I want to personally invite you to our Open the Doors event on September 12th from 5-8pm., a time to meet, greet and eat while also receiving information about our ministries. The next day we will have Welcome Back Sunday and we

invite you to stay after the 10am service to enjoy lunch prepared by the clergy. We hope that we are starting the year right by providing for fun and fellowship while also providing information at both events that will help you know more about what is going on at St. John's and how you might be involved.

In addition I ask you to mark your calendars because on October 4th when we will celebrate St. Francis by having a liturgy to bless animals. This exciting liturgy will be accentuated by a visit from our bishop, Marc Andrus. It will be a day to celebrate our connection to the broader church and all creation. You are invited to bring any animal you love and care for and children may also bring their stuffed animals to be blessed.

Yes, it's going to be another lively year at St. John's but because we are a community of faith our commitments and actions can be a source of peace in a world that often feels frantic. So yes, save the date, but also know that the spirit with which you approach this busy fall can also save you. And may the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, guard your hearts and minds in Christ.

- Scott +

From the Senior Warden:

I As we enter the Fall of a tumultuous 2009, I wanted to update you on many happenings in and around St. John's. While our economy vacillates between showing signs of improvement and continued weakness, we have enjoyed many successes by pulling together to help each other and build a stronger parish community.

Activities Update

Approximately 40 people participated in the All Parish Work Day on May 30, during which time we accomplished many, many current and overdue maintenance activities – including cleaning pews, painting and staining handrails, window frames, columns, doors and most anything that didn't move.

On June 7, St. John's inaugurated the St. John's Legacy Society, with 15 parishioners notifying us that they have included St. John's in their wills, trusts and/or estate plans. Richard Schaper, Gift Planning Office at the Diocese attended both services and those thanked these founders on behalf of the Diocese.

Earlier this year, Jim Hasler, Elaine Reichert, Frank Sterling and others founded “Together - St. John's Resource Ministry” - designed to bring together the resources of our parish community in support of our fellow parishioners. They have created an initial data bank of parishioners (and continue to look for more volunteers) who are willing to provide support in a variety of ways - from providing assistance in job searches and dealing with related issues such a healthcare and financial management, to providing direct

Senior Warden

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I support services such as babysitting to enable interviews, improving computer skills, etc. Some modest short-term financial assistance may also be available. I've signed up to help and hope you will as well.

A new Women's Group, has sprung up, meeting every fourth Thursday for a pot luck dinner and fellowship, starting at 6:00. Between 15 and 24 enthusiastic women, of all generations, are encouraging the women of St. John's to become better acquainted with each other in a relaxed setting.

The Single's Group is brimming with new members and has plans for future events that range from theater, outdoor excursions, dinners, and Bay Area explorations.

Financial Update

I'm sure more than a few of you would like information about our financial situation at mid year.

As of July 31, we were actually \$3,000 ahead of pledge revenue vs. last year. However, we remain approximately \$28,000 short of our goal of \$486,000 in pledges.

We appreciate the continuing support of those who have pledged and those who are contributing regularly.

To help us with our planning, I'd like to ask those who haven't pledged but intend to, to do so at their earliest convenience. We recognize that with the changing economy, perhaps some who pledged cannot fulfill their pledge at this time. If you are able to contribute, we hope you will do so shortly. I'd also like to ask those who have pledged but have yet to pay their pledge to consider doing so shortly. And finally, those of you who have pledged and paid, I hope you will think about taking another look in your wallets.

Building Project Update

The APCC, principally John Seals and Jerry Moran, continue to work with our consultants and the City of Oakland Planning Commission staff to finalize our EIR and supporting documentation. This process has gone on longer than we anticipated due to several factors related to the complexities of CEQA and the Oakland Creek Ordinance.

We are committed to seeing this project through as it provides the best solution to our safety and traffic issues, as well as the use of our facilities.

The Departing Miller/Dexters

As most of you know, Mark Miller, Mary Dexter and Martha Miller moved to Phoenix in early July. Their contributions are too numerous to list here, but they have been leading and invaluable members of our community for many years. We thank them profoundly for their continuous and generous service to St. John's.

Open the Doors on Saturday, Sept 12

Based on the enthusiasm generated by our Open the Doors event last year, we will hold it again on Saturday, September 12 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. No auction this year, just a time for people to get reacquainted and share Summer stories. There will be activities for kids, a buffet dinner and ice cream sundaes for dessert. Prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids under 12, with a cap per family of \$25.

Each Ministry (Communications, Education, Finance, InReach, Operations, Outreach and Worship) will have a table with information available on the good works the committees within each Ministry perform. Many committees are eager to have new members and I encourage you to get involved!!

Please sign up in the Narthex!!

.... And Don't Forget "Quesadillas with the Clergy Sunday," Sunday, Sept 13

Not that anyone could ever forget a quesadilla lunch prepared by our own Scott, Molly and Elaine! This will be held Sunday, September 13 after the 10:00 a.m. service in the patio next to the kids' playground.

Education and Worship Ministries will also have tables out here so families can sign up for Church School and other educational activities.

As always, I hope you will let me know if you have concerns, issues and/or ideas you'd like to share.

- Tim Johnson

Finance and Operations Ministry

I St John's is blessed to have many active members who provide their time and effort to help. I want to describe the activities of the Finance Ministry, both to provide information on its activities and also hope some of you will be inspired to become willing to lend us a hand.

The Finance and Operations Ministry currently includes these activities, which broadly cover the financial, administrative, and facilities operations. We cook the books and look after our household.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the budgets and expenditures of St. John's church operations. This includes balancing of special funds that are separate from the operating expenses and facilities maintenance requests.

Stewardship Committee

Each year six to ten members of the Stewardship Committee organize the annual pledge campaign, including the gifts of time, talent and treasure. The committee has a four year theme to highlight St. John's vision of Invitation (2007), Inclusion (2008), Faith (2009) and Action (2010).

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The Year in Worship

Eucharistic Lectionary: Year B
Daily Office Lectionary: Year Three
Advent 2008 to Advent eve 2009

St. John's Episcopal Church

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*It ys a sotyll mouse that slepyth
in the catty's ear.*

—Hilles *Commonplace Book*, 1530

Finance and Operations

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Development Committee

This committee looks for long-term financial support for the Parish from outside the immediate community.

Money Ministry

Members of this ministry are responsible for counting and depositing the money received each Sunday. Working in teams, the schedule calls for counting 6 to 8 times a year.

Planned Giving Committee

This is a Vestry sub-committee composed of both Vestry members and parishioners for the purpose of assisting parishioners to plan financially for the future. Estate planning seminars are held periodically. Diocesan resources are available.

Office Volunteers

A cadre of parishioners helps with the mailings, copying, typing and other office needs. To join this wonderful group, contact the office manager, Dennis Reeve 339-2200, ext.310

Landscaping

The extensive landscaping needs of St. John's are met either through work parties or special contractors. Of particular note is the native plant garden that grows just below the church entrance driveway. Known as the Meditation Garden because of its water feature and two benches, it also demonstrates how native shrubs and perennials look and respond to California weather uncertainties, including the drought of 2008. Maps naming the plants are available by contacting Tim Inama, 338-0911, calursus@pacbell.net

- Peter Freeman

It Was A Blast! Join The Fun!

My Experiences at Horace Mann School

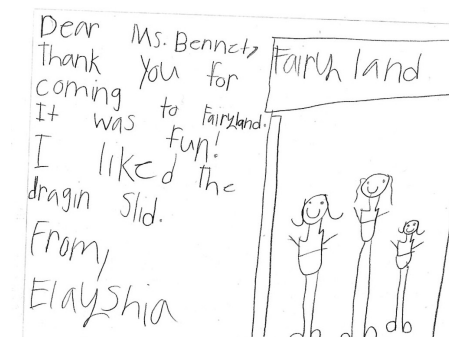
Beginning in February, I joined St. John's partnership with the Faith Network of the East Bay and Horace Mann Elementary School (which is located near High Street and Foothill Ave). Once a week, first graders and kindergartners read stories with me and I assisted fourth graders during their math period. The teachers and staff were VERY appreciative of my help, but I'm sure that I received the biggest benefits.

It is an amazing feeling to see how excited children become as they begin to read and become successful learners. Fatima tries harder. Jason stops saying that he can't do the problems. They offer to show others what they know, and they pay more attention to EVERYTHING.

In June, the first grade teacher invited me to go to Fairyland with the class and accompany two of "my" readers while they explored the park. It was a fitting culmination to the year when they were able to read the sign, "Please do not feed your lunch to the animals. They have a special diet". We talked about what they ate that was good for them and how it was different from our food: the horse's salt lick was of particular interest.

I invite you to join St. John's partnership with Horace Mann School. Jan Lewis (653-5935, jan.h.lewis@gmail.com) is our coordinator. Faith Network is the volunteer umbrella that makes it easy to sign up and obtain the required fingerprint registration and TB test. It also provides workshops for reading tutors. More information is available at www.faith-network.com. Or you can call me (562-5666) to talk about the joys of partnering with Oakland's youth.

- Laurie Bennett



CDSP Courses Online

Interesting online courses from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific will inform your spirituality and connect you to the Anglican Communion. The courses are fun and entirely web based with a very simple computer interface. When you take a course you will have a weekly reading and then share all sorts of thoughts with people around the world. Classes also include getting caught passing notes in class that are entirely non-topical! The course offerings for the fall include:

Registration Deadline:
Monday, August 24, 2009

- New Testament Exegesis: Luke and Acts

Registration Deadline:
Tuesday, September 1, 2009

- The Diaconate
- We Will with God's Help: Ministry in the Anglican Tradition
- An Emerging Generation: Young Adult Ministry in the 21st Century
- Introduction to the Old Testament III: The Writings (Psalms, Proverbs and Job)

Registration Deadline:
Monday, October 19, 2009

- Chapters in Anglican Church History and Theology
- Word and Table: Liturgy and Eucharist in the Episcopal Church
- Introduction to the Old Testament IV: The Writings (The Five Scrolls and the Historical Books)
- Benedictine Spiritual Practices: Contemplative Ways of Being in the World

Course fees are \$185 for individuals and \$145 for a group of three people. For more information, please visit: http://cdsp.edu/center_online.php, or send an email to: call@cdsp.edu.

- Brian Marion

Water, Water Everywhere ... Not



Just when the world's political organizations are beginning to move towards addressing the implications of "global warming", and it looks like it might be safe to go "back into the water", it turns out that it is NOT. Related to "global warming", water shortages are taking place throughout the world and the Bay Area. To begin to frame the nature and implications of the water shortages we are facing, I offer the following information taken from numerous public, environmental, and scientific sources:

1. The Environmental Protection Agency has stated that if current water consumption continues unchecked, 36 States will suffer water shortages within the next five years.

2. The Water Crises is being created by: over consumption, pollution, privatization, growing salinity, climate change, and displacement by urbanization, and deforestation,

3. We are not running out of water, we are running out of clean water.

- 40% of U. S. rivers are too dangerous for fishing, swimming or drinking.

- 46% of U.S. lakes are too dangerous for fishing, swimming or drinking due to toxic runoff from industrial livestock operations, industrial weed killers and fertilizer.

Market terminology is now looking at "Virtual Water Trade" (embedded water) as a measure of cost and trade value. For instance:

- To produce one cup of coffee requires 35 gallons of water

- A bag of salad requires 75 gallons of water to produce

- One pound of wheat requires 120 gallons of water to produce.

- One pound of meat requires 1,200 – 1,818 gallons of water to produce.

- One pound of cotton requires 3,410 gallons of water to produce.

- One gallon of ethanol requires 1,700 gallons of water to produce.

- To produce one pair of denim jeans requires 2,750 gallons of water.

According to a report put out by the Pacific Institute, a west coast international water advocacy planning group:

1. The average human requires 12.5 gallons of water a day for drinking, cooking and sanitation.

2. The average U.S. citizen consumes 150 gallons a day for drinking, cooking and sanitation.

3. The average African consumes 1.5 liters a day for drinking, cooking and sanitation.

The question is what can we do to address water shortages, many of which are outside of our immediate sphere of influence. The most glaring answer is to be more aware of just how much water we are using personally and as a church community at St. John's.

The following is a list for consideration at St. John's:

Acknowledge that access to water is a "right" and not a privilege. Work towards solutions that are socially and environmentally justified and sustainable. Limit Private and Public partnerships to projects that don't undercut the public interest, harm the environment, or lock municipalities into unsafe and/or unfair deals.

Become conversant with the issues around Water Internationally, Nationally, Regionally and Locally. Develop educational programs at Church to enable parishioners to understand the issues. Build awareness and modify water usage habits.

Support development of responsible policy, planning and legislation for the use, storage and the equitable distribution of water.

Usage:

Install moisture-retaining mulch in all landscape beds to minimize amount of water needed to effectively irrigate the plants

Install drought resistant plants (done at St. John's by policy for years)

Install water-reducing drip and soak irrigation systems. (done at St. John's)

Install automatic low flush toilets to save water

Install automatic on/off water valves for lavs/sinks to save water. (done to new St. John's toilet rooms)

Don't buy and drink commercially produced "plastic bottled water". (We at St. John's are trying to be consistent in not buying plastic bottled water)

If water quality is an issue, install an on-line filtration system.

Conservation:

Change (lower) the temperature setting on your hot water tank

Insulate your hot water tank.

Install an in-line hot water system if your present system requires running the water more than three minutes to receive hot water. (Done at St. John's)

Insulate all hot water supply piping from the tank to the valve(s).

Collection/ Re-use:

Develop a "grey water" irrigation system to re-use water coming from lavatories/sinks and dishwashers.

Develop a collection and storage system for roof runoff of rainwater. This water can be used later for landscape irrigation.

- Robert Davidson
The Ecology Group

Recycling News!

Battery recycling is now even easier! Oakland residents can put their used batteries out with the weekly garbage collection.

Spent batteries can be placed in a sealed clear plastic bag, and set on top of your garbage cart.

Put small photo and coin lithium batteries in a separate plastic bag with other spent batteries.

Not a resident of Oakland? Batteries can be dropped off at Oakland public libraries and park and recreation offices.

CFL light bulbs can be dropped off at Home Depot and IKEA as well as at local hazardous waste disposal facilities.

The Ecology Group will no longer be collecting these items for recycling in the Narthex.

- Tess Freidenburg

St. John's Family

THE REV CHRISTOPHER BROOKE CRAUN was selected by St. Michael's and All Angels Church in Portland, Oregon to be the Parish's new Rector. The Parish was founded in 1908 as a mission church in the Rose City Park area of Portland and was formally consecrated as a parish church in 1934. The parish includes San Miguel Y Todos Los Angeles—a Spanish language community formally established in 1995. Christopher will be the seventh Rector of the Parish...NANCY SWEARENGEN's granddaughter, KIRBY MARION was selected to be the Youth Reader at the opening Mass for General Convention in July. Kirby was letter perfect, and received the Eucharist from the hands of the Presiding Bishop, with whom she is now on a first name basis...The KHO FAMILY is making their annual trek to the Adirondacks in NY to attend a Family Camp with Nancy's family - a tradition since 1968... KATIE FERGUSON's pig Norcina had a fabulous fair and was in the Championship round where she finished third. Then Katie took her into Showmanship and finished third in her class for 14-15 year olds(big) and then moved up into the Senior Division(16 and up) where she finished 8th (even bigger). CALVIN AND HAELEY MOORE also showed extremely well and placed in their divisions. ANTHONY FERGUSON'S Rabbit took home a red ribbon and his Chicken took the blue. Anthony was also very busy as Michael Darling in Woodminster's Production of "Peter Pan" in June, which meant he got to fly...In mid-July the SLOANE FAMILY gathered to celebrate the four July birthdays: TOM, ELIZABETH HAUGEN, JULIA AND ALEC. Pool party, dinner and cakes and presents for all the celebrants, with a special cake for Tom from granddaughter REBECCA HAUGEN who baked and froze his favorite chocolate cake before moving to Boulder, CO in June. BARBARA AND TOM SLOANE have restricted their travel this year to the United States, hiking in May with friends in Yosemite; cruising on Lake Michigan with friends in July, and looking forward to a trip in September to Fort MacMurray, Alberta, to view the Northern Lights... CHARLIE STEBBINS will be starting next month the Master's Program in Marriage and Family Planning at JFK University to prepare for a career in coun-

seling. ASHLEY STEBBINS is returning to Baylor Law School for her second year of law school. She made the Dean's list and Law Review...The JOHN WALKER FAMILY traveled to Oregon for two weeks. They spent part of their trip staying in an elevated yurt at a "treesort" (a community made up of tree houses) and zip lined through the forest from tree to tree. They kept busy in Central Oregon by canoeing, riding bikes, golfing, and riding horses. Nancy and Kate even went white water rafting...TOMMY WATSON is starting at Whittier after completing a year as an AmeriCorps volunteer working as a farmer in north central Minnesota and helping severely mentally disabled adults with whom he resided...

Greetings from the Dexter-Millers

Hello, everyone! We are doing well here in Sunny Arizona. The day we moved in, it was 115. Now it is a very livable 100-105 each day. The pool for our complex is about 20 yards from our back door, so it's like having our own pool. Mark is working from home until about October when they open the office. My job has been to unpack all the boxes and put things away. The retail development here is absurd. Coming from Oakland with very little, having three Home Depots within a five mile radius is crazy. Our old friend from St Cuthbert days, Terri Porter, was in town visiting so we met at St Barnabas on the Desert, not far from here in Paradise Valley. The Rev Erika Von Haaren did the sermon that day. She is also in charge of newcomers. She also roomed with Chris Craun at seminary! The Episcopal church is a small world.

Martha just finished her internship in Visalia and is driving home to Scottsdale today. Her internship was very successful. She had never worked in an office before, and there's lots of office culture type skills to learn as well as baseball ticketing. I have started the application process for my nursing license. I have been listening to past sermons on my iTouch while I unpack boxes, thanks to Michelle (Inama). We received a giant card full of well-wishes which is standing on our kitchen island for now. Sarah Jones keeps me informed of the Saints and Sinners miracle season. I think they won every game after I left. Hmmm.

*Much love from all of us,
Mark, Mary, and Martha*

Youth Choir



All first through twelfth graders who like to sing are invited to join the Youth Choir on Tues. 9/8 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm for Supper practice in the Reception Room and Church. There will also be choir robe fitting. Registration forms are available from Sara Evinger at sevinger@comcast.net or by calling 510-658-2792. Bring your completed registration form and \$15 for this semester's food money.

We will sing on Welcome Back Sunday with the Chancel Choir – a favorite anthem, "Fruits of the Spirit," and on the second Sundays of October and November. Rehearsals will be held the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

An Advent program, written especially by Sara for the choristers, will be presented on Sunday, December 13 at 10:00 a.m. Entitled "Xmas: Putting Christ in Your Christmas" will cover some of the history of X and music about getting ready for Christmas, whatever it means to you.

Please contact Sara if you're interested in having your child/youth participate.

Sunday Choir

Interested preschool through fifth graders are encouraged to join Sara E for a short practice following the 9:00 a.m. service beginning September 20. Sunday Choir will meet regularly on the second through fifth Sundays of the month; Church School follows immediately after. For more info, contact Sara E at sevinger@comcast.net.

- Sara Evinger



Save the date for the Green and Yellow Festival: "Drum up Some Fun"

Saturday, November 14, 2009, 6:00 PM
at the Piedmont Veteran's Hall.

I This year's fundraising event will feature African drumming by Dr. Zak Diouf, ethnomusicologist and professor at Laney College, and dancing by Bay Area Ugandans. For \$40 a head, you can savor a delicious dinner prepared by the Friends of Ruwenzori, browse and bid on a vast array of silent auction items (think Christmas gifts!), enjoy the strolling minstrel gifts of Gil Gleason and Ed McCormick, be entertained by live auctioneer Jim MacIlvaine and experience African drumming and dancing. You won't want to miss this annual Friends of Ruwenzori fun event that raises funds for HIV/AIDS and poverty fighting programs in rural Uganda, Africa. For tickets, contact Delia O'Hara at oaklandelia@yahoo.com.

Friends of Ruwenzori needs some volunteers to serve food and manage the auction paperwork at the Green and Yellow Festival on November 14th. We also need contributions of auction items by Wednesday, September 30th. Examples of auction gifts might include: a weekend at a vacation home, a round of golf at your country club, a pair of tickets to a concert, play or sports event, gift certificates, lessons from a tennis or golf professional, handmade gift items, artwork or photography, hosting a dinner party, or doing a service. By volunteering and/or donating an item, you will be helping to create resources so that vulnerable children can attend school and widows with HIV can access treatment and learn skills to support their families. Last year this event raised \$30,000 and 100% of those proceeds went directly to KIDA's life-giving programs. Call Karen Gleason to volunteer or to donate auction items at (925) 376-0519.

St. John's African Partners are tackling HIV/AIDS and extreme poverty and improving access to education in Africa with their fundraising efforts. (Millennium Development Goals #6, #1, and #2) Friends of Ruwenzori founded by Karen and Gil Gleason, supports the Kitojo Integrated Development Association, a Ugandan NGO directed by Rev. Ezra and Marjorie Musobozi. Another Uganda partner, YES (Youth Encouragement Services) founded

by Carol Adams, recruits donors to sponsor individual AIDS orphans through St. John's member Martha Helms (510-382-1029) and Christopher Ategeka Helms (YES graduate now Cal Berkeley student!). The third partner is Banjika High School in Tanzania supported by the Grand Circle Foundation and coordinated by Sandra Davidson (510-652-4924).

- Karen Gleason

Insights from In Reach

I It's difficult for me to express greetings from your Ministry Catalyst of In Reach, and farewell in the same breath. Little did I realize when Laurie Bennett tapped me on my shoulder during one coffee hour several years ago and invited me to become a part of this new concept of "Ministry Catalysts" that she had pegged the right fit for me, and I hope for St. John's.

I've loved being a part of this giving ministry that continues to spread our gifts to one another in our church family. In the past year the In Reach Ministry has expanded with the development of the Resource Ministry, designed to support our fellow parishioners who may be impacted by our current difficult economic times. A Women's Group that is now into its fifth month of sharing "womenship," and a lot of fun food, and the Single's Group which has blossomed into a vibrant hub of activities that take them all over the map of the Bay Area. Hot off the press, is the amazing trophy won by our very own Saints and Sinners softball team for coming in Third Place in the Piedmont Recreation Dept. League! We're proud of each team member for making history for St. John's. It's been rewarding to see these ministries evolve and continue to thrive.

At our "OPEN THE DOORS" celebration on Sep 12, and "WELCOME BACK" the next day, you'll be able to learn about and sign up for the Foyer Groups starting up in the fall, Casserole Brigade, be a part of the Greeters/Welcoming Ministry, and learn about programs and activities that our senior Elderberries and the Single's Group have planned for the coming year. Saving the best for the after part of our

worship together, sign up opportunities will be available to host a Coffee Hour.

It's been a pleasure working with and getting to know all the many volunteers who keep these programs operative.

- Elderberries – The Rev. Elaine Reichert
- Greeters/Welcoming – Helen Nicholas, and Elaine
- Casserole Brigade – Karen Notsund
- Foyer Groups – Susan Field
- Single's Group (& creator) – Cherie Glasse
- Retreats – Melissa Brauer
- Men's Group – Paul Brumbaum

- Susan Watson

Elderberry Events

What is a Village?

I Learn more about this exciting concept that enables seniors to age safely in their own homes. This idea began in the Beacon Hill area of Boston and is spreading widely. For an annual membership fee, seniors receive safe access to providers and discounts on services they need. Transportation, home maintenance and repairs, home healthcare, and activities are among the offerings. This is a valuable service for yourself or your aging parents.

On Wednesday September 16 we will provide lunch after the noon Eucharist. At 1PM there will be a presentation about the Marin Village currently taking shape.

Sunday, October 18, the entire parish is encouraged to join us at noon for lunch followed by a presentation at 1PM.

Rev. Mary Moore Gaines will share her wisdom and information about the San Francisco Village originated by St. James parish. This is the first of many Villages being organized in the greater Bay Area and we have much to learn from her experiences.

Develop St. John's is partnering to the North Oakland Village. Find out how you can participate to help this innovative program get established.

- Rev. Elaine Reichert

New College Berkeley Presents

Scripture Study for Spiritual Growth

Two Saturday Seminars: October 3 and October 10, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Pacific School of Religion, Mudd 101, 1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley.

Cost: \$150. GTU academic credit available.

Teaching people how to read the Bible between Sundays is key to cultivating spiritual growth.

This course for biblically hungry Christians, Bible study leaders, ministers, and seminarians will explore ways to teach others how to read the Bible for growth in their spiritual lives.

Bonnie Howe (Ph.D.), NCB visiting professor of New Testament Studies and Christian Ethics, is the author of "Because You Bear This Name: Conceptual Metaphor and the Moral Meaning of 1 Peter."

To enroll: Please enclose check and mail to New College Berkeley, 2029 Durant, Berkeley, CA 94704. You can also pay online at www.newcollegeberkeley.org. Call NCB at (510) 841-9386 with any questions.

- *Bonnie Howe*

Please RSVP! Interfaith Environmental Stewardship Conference: Toxics and Human Health

Date: Saturday, Sept 19, 9:am - 3:30 pm

Guest Speaker: Jane Houlihan is Senior Vice President for Research, Environmental Working Group

Afternoon breakout sessions: Panel discussions with bay area experts on Food, Energy, Water, Waste

Attendees: This will be an interfaith event; Commission for the Environment Liaisons, parishioners interested in expressing their faith through environmental stewardship, and members of California Interfaith Power and Light

Sponsored by: The Commission for the Environment of the Episcopal Diocese of California AND California Interfaith Power and Light

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, Menlo Park

Cost is free, however, a donation will be requested to cover lunch, which is provided.

Registration: Space is limited; please notify Barbara Bisel by September 11 to register. (bsmithbisel@cs.com, 925-377-5953). Include full name, congregation, address and phone.

Or notify Bob Davidson robertdavidson@earthlink.net 510-652-4924 by 31 August 2009

Those of us going will car pool from church leaving at 8:00 am.

Write a Will for \$75

You may fulfill "the duty of every person to have a will" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 445) by making an appointment to meet with an attorney at St. Mark's, Palo Alto on September 19 or St. Mark's, Berkeley on September 26. For an appointment call Shari Gonzales at (415) 869-7813. More information at "Make a Will" www.EpiscopalGift.org.

St. John's vision is to manifest God's love through invitation, inclusion, faith and action



St. John's Episcopal Church

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