



Church Mouse

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

September 2011

Sept. 4 – 12th Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
10:00 – Choral Eucharist

Sept. 5 – Labor Day
8 – 4 pm Parish Work Day
5 pm Pot luck picnic and BBQ

Sept. 9 - Parish BBQ at 6 p.m.
followed by MOVIE NIGHT

Sept. 11 – 13th Pentecost
Welcome Sunday
Rev. Krista Fregoso
7:45 – Early Eucharist
9:45 – Adult Faith Formation
10:00 – Choral Eucharist
11:45 – Clergy Quesadilla
Brunch

Begin 3-Service Sundays
Sept. 18 – 14th Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
8:55 – Family Eucharist
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

Sept. 25 – 15th Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
8:55 – Family Eucharist
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

Oct 1 – Electronics Recycling

Oct. 2 – 16th Pentecost
“Blessing of the Beasts”
7:45 – Early Eucharist
10:00 – Choral Eucharist

Grateful, Glad, and Giving
celebrates our Community
in September. See page 6
for details.



The entire law is summed
up in a single command:
Love your neighbor
as yourself.

Galatians 5:14

Rector Hires Tom Fregoso



In the last issue of this newsletter I announced that our new Associate Rector, The Rev. Krista Fregoso, would be officially welcomed to St. John's at our Welcome Back Sunday on September 11th. Now I have more news. Krista's husband, Thomas Fregoso, has accepted our invitation to become our new Church School Coordinator.

I first learned of Thomas when I received an email from him months ago as we were beginning our search for a new Associate and Church School Coordinator. I wondered why someone with his qualifications was interested in moving to the Bay Area for a part-time position. It became apparent why this was the case when his wife applied for the full-time associate position. As tempting as it was to think about filling two positions at once, we were determined not to do this. We wanted to find the right person for each position independently. By the time we offered the position to Krista we were not sure that Thomas was still interested in the position

or if he had taken another position. As it turns out, Thomas was delighted to join the St. John's team and we are equally delighted.

Thomas is a graduate from Cal and CDSP and did his CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at Stanford Hospital. Most recently he was the Director of Christian Education at Holy Cross by the Sea in Hermosa Beach, California. Before that he was Coordinator for Youth and Family Ministry at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in San Pedro. In addition to his ten years of experience ministering to children, youth and their parents, he is also technologically savvy, bringing a vision for how the church can use social media to expand its mission.

It is a joy to have two new people on staff who, in and of themselves, bring exactly what we need in their area of focus. But we are also excited to welcome them as a couple who feel that St. John's is the perfect place to take the next step in their ministries. We are in for an exciting year!

*Gratefully,
Scott+*

Senior Warden Transition

It is time for a transition, something that we have been doing and doing well now for over a year and a half. This will be my last missive as your Senior Warden as that role gets passed to another. Upon reflection, I feel that we have made good progress in our time together growing spiritually and in the understanding of who we are called to be in this world that requires constant evaluation, discernment and change. Under Rev. Ann Hallisey's guidance we worked our way positively and creatively through an Appreciative Inquiry process to re-identify ourselves as a worshipping community, establish those acts and activities that we do well and wish to improve upon, and to establish goals and directions for the next three years.

Informed by that work, the staff is being reconfigured in the wake of Elaine, Annie, Sara and Frank's leaving; these are big shoes to fill from people whose energy we will miss. I have enjoyed my tenure working with Scott, the Vestry, the Catalysts and you the congregation. I feel gratitude around the discernments made and goals fulfilled. I thank you all for your hard work

given so willingly. I particularly single out Scott Denman, Ann Hallisey, Tim Johnson, Scott Tate and Tess Freidenburg for their wisdom, insights and support during this period of time. I think we also all owe a big thanks to Lilah Greene, Craig Fisher, Peter Freeman, Jennifer Kitt, Susan Pierpoint and Nancy Kho, some of the people who have been handling the financial/budgetary aspects of our operation as well as raising the theological bar of understanding around stewardship and recognizing and celebrating the gratitude for the gifts that we constantly receive.

In summary, I am not going anywhere. I remain involved at St John's. This is my spiritual community and will continue to support its spiritual growth and understanding as we move out into the world.

*Robert Davidson,
Outgoing Senior Warden*

Editor's note: As of August 22, David Brown is St. John's Senior Warden. When you see him, give him your thanks and ideas.

Don't find yourself up a tree without a ladder....



In the last Church Mouse I introduced myself and my family. You may remember from that article that I have a cat that I brought back from Peace Corps 11 years ago. Well this week she had quite an adventure. On Aug 16th when the door blew open with a gust of wind, my timid indoor cat, Kismet, decided to go on an unsanctioned, unsupervised walkabout. Tom, my husband, and I spent the next two days frantically looking for our loving fur ball all over the neighborhood. We printed posters and visited all of our neighbors looking for Kismet. Two days later Elaine, one of my elderly neighbors, heard some meowing and couldn't find the source so she came over to see if the meowing might be from our missing beloved Bulgarian cat. Sure enough it was Kismet high in the biggest, tallest redwood tree in the neighborhood. This tree was huge and it was about 40 to 50 feet before the first branch. Kismet must have climbed straight up the trunk.

We found a very VERY tall ladder and still it wasn't tall enough to reach her. We tried the professionals (firefighters, animal control, and tree trimmers) but discovered that much to our dismay no one would or could help. Everyone said "Well, she got up there... she can come down. Put some food at the foot of the tree and wait". I am sure that works with most trees but this redwood was massive and my 11 year old cat probably spent the last two nights in the tree so... that wasn't a likely option. I opened a can of tuna and she cried, tried to come down only to find herself higher up in the tree. We kept calling professionals when one person suggested connecting a basket to the end of a mop handle and maybe you can reach her. We were just rigging it up when Kismet panicked and tried to come down but slipped and found herself in a part of the tree with no branches but still very high up. Tom grabbed the basket mop thingy and ran up the ladder. He was just able to barely reach her back legs with the basket at the end of the mop. She slipped again and was caught by the basket. The basket held on the end of the mop and Tom was able to slowly bring her down. We brought her home and she spent the next day sleeping, eating and being loved. What a scary ex-

perience for the Fregoso family. We are so glad she is back home and safe.

Even though it was a scary experience and I would prefer never to repeat it, it did get me out meeting the people in our neighborhood. If it wasn't for that well spent time and the support of our neighbors, we might have never found her. Community is a powerful resource! I realized how often I take it for granted until I need it. This past month I have been getting to know the St. John's community. You have an amazing, supportive, community! From the casserole brigade to the outreach projects St John's is a "can do" community.

September is a month where everyone gets busy. School starts and work projects ramp up. As our home lives get crazy-busy, sometimes the time we spend connecting with others and being in community and church gets put on the back burner. Spend some time reconnecting with your community. You never know when you just might need a ladder!

God bless and see you on Sunday, September 11th!

Krista

The Year in Worship

Eucharistic Lectionary: A
Daily Office Lectionary: Year One
Advent 2010 to Advent eve 2011

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



Finding Reasons to Say "Yes"

by Nancy Davis Kbo

When I received the call to chair St. John's pledge drive, my first reaction was "What's a good excuse for saying no?" As a working mom who's stretched thin with volunteer activities already, that reaction has become an automated reflex in response to those requests that claim what little free time I have left.

Then I took a deep breath, and thought more about the opportunity I was being given, and the fellowship into which I was being invited.

St. John's is where I have developed an adult understanding of stewardship as an opportunity to gain rather than a demand to give. It has been while listening to sermons and pledge speakers and fellow parishioners that I have come to see joyous giving as a way to focus on abundance rather than scarcity in my life. I know that it sounds counterintuitive, so let me explain three lessons I've learned here at St. John's.

Jim Glasse gave a sermon one year about how he considers his annual giving as a component of his income. He simply regards it not as a discretionary part or percentage of his spending, but rather as a sum of money that already belongs to others. Though he may earn it, the money is never his; it is what he owes back to the community for the great abundance and gifts he receives. That small but powerful shift in perspective resonated in me, and I try to consider my own gifts of time and talent in that way - treasures that help me "square up" with the loving community around me.

Another Stewardship speaker that affected me greatly was Bob Middleton, who works tirelessly with Oakland dock workers. Listening to him describe his long-standing involvement with people who are truly hidden in plain sight, I was struck by the gifts of time, of reliability, and of dignity that Bob provides. It reminded me to be creative in looking for needs to be addressed, and to be as steadfast as possible in supporting them as I can, even if the dollars aren't big.

Finally, a message that I've heard from multiple speakers and sermons is the notion that nothing makes us feel so rich as in giving of ourselves. If we have money

Reasons to Say “Yes”

—Continued from Page 2

or time enough to give to others, can we truly be poor? I think of this as the karma benefit. Over the years, in times of monetary stress in my own life - and I'm a former high-earning businessperson voluntarily turned penniless writer with a guilt complex and a family to help support - I whip out the checkbook and write a check to someone else, St. John's or Hopalong Animal Rescue or Beyond: Emancipation, which helps foster youth in Oakland. It may only be for \$10 or \$20, but if I can do that - how can I be poor?

The interesting thing about this practice is that I experience not only a lifting of worry, but something else in the universe

shifts - an editor calls to assign a story, or a payment that I'd forgotten about shows up, or a client picks up a tab I'd expected to pay. I'm not suggesting that there's a 1:1 balance out there, but it's happened enough times that I feel no fear as I write a check for a little more than I can really afford. It will all work out. God makes sure of that.

Those are things I've learned and that have been reinforced by St. John's. So it is my joy and my honor to take on this task of running the pledge drive, in thanksgiving for all I've received from this community. I hope you'll consider your pledge this year with the same gratitude with which I said “Yes” to the phone call.

Treasurer's Report

It is with extreme gratitude that I write that we are in the black as of July 31, 2011! Thank you to the people who decided to pay their pledge in full or in large part at a time of year when we stress the most about our finances! Although we have no reason to believe pledge revenue predicted for the year will exceed the amount budgeted, and although we know several pledging families are struggling to fulfill their commitment to St. John's, this showering of blessings is most appreciated!

As I thank those who gave early, let me take this time to gently remind all how we

really do rely on the paper commitment that is your pledge. If for any reason, you are concerned about being able to fulfill your commitment, please let Scott or Craig, our Pledge Secretary, or me know. Your concerns are our concerns. In these stormy financial times, it is best to stay in touch!

With love and gratitude,
Lilah Greene
Co-treasurer
greentiem@concast.net
(510) 693-6963

Buying Gold

“Should we sell all our stocks? Should we buy gold???” queried the panicked pre-retiree as the Dow Jones average, after ratcheting down steadily for two weeks suddenly plunged over 500 points.

In times of economic uncertainty-- such as our own-- investors have often sought refuge in buying precious metals that seem so solid. But, as I responded to the worried shareholder, this may not in fact be a good time to buy gold. The price of gold is already at a historical high— which is a risky time to buy anything, whether tulip bulb, real estate or a dot-com. Besides, a popular gold mutual fund is down 6.8% year to date.

My alternative? Not cash. While the price of a dollar does not go down, its purchasing power inexorably does. (No more five-cent chewing gum!)

Buying a gift annuity is better than buying gold in two important respects. First, it never goes down. A gift annuity is a contract that guarantees you a certain fixed-dollar income for as long as you live. This payment is determined by your age when you want the income to start. The amount of the income will remain the same no matter what happens to the stock market or to bank interest rates. Unlike a CD or a bond, a gift annuity does not terminate until you do.

Second, when you buy a gift annuity, you are virtually insuring that your purchase will one day result in a generous gift to the church. This is because 100% of the remaining principal of your annuity, after paying income to you for your lifetime, will transfer to your parish or other ministry.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasure on earth, where moth and rust corrupt and thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven...” (Matthew 9:17 ff) A gift annuity actually does both: provides you with reliable treasure on earth, while it also provides an ultimate gift for ministry in Christ's name.

To see your payout rate, visit www.EpiscopalGift.org. Or simply contact me for a printed personalized illustration. I'll be glad to help you. This is my ministry.

The Rev. Richard L. Schaper, CFP
Gift Planning Officer, Diocese of California
(415) 869-7812 or RichardS@diocal.org
www.EpiscopalGift.org

	31-Jul-11	31-Jul-10	Budget	% Budget
	Year to date	Year to date	Year to date	YTD
Pledge revenue	286,990	236,075	235,570	122%
Other contributions	12,530	11,336	12,675	99%
Total contributed revenue	299,520	247,411	248,245	121%
Operating Expenses				
Personnel	209,629	205,146	207,575	101%
Assessment	59,909	60,935	60,909	98%
Utilities, Ins., Admin & Property	45,868	50,827	45,912	100%
Youth	4,312	3,071	3,177	136%
General Programs	6,936	17,327	7,524	92%
Total Operating Expenses	326,654	337,306	325,097	100%
Net Rent Income	35,189	23,049	31,059	113%
Year to date deficit	8,056	-66,846	-45,793	

The Building Project: Reaching a Milestone

P Our long journey in this process is nearing a very important milestone. The Environmental Impact Report (over two years in the making) is in the final stages of completion before submittal to the city of Oakland Planning Commission. There is a strong indication that this presentation will take place this fall and we will know more within a month. It is also a time when we need to gather as a family and support our church as a vital institution within the larger community. We are now planning our presentation before the commission and we will welcome everyone's support and prayers.

The vision of St. John's begun in 1952 is that to which we remain dedicated. Our existing sanctuary was designed to be a parish hall and that will work fine if we can build a sanctuary. In the 1950's and 60's our focus and energies were not on safety and the automobile as they are today. Therefore the steep entry / exit and tandem parking situation that worked then doesn't serve as well today. Our solution to these issues - (sanctuary, parking and safety) - can be resolved by utilizing the additional property on Thornhill that the forward thinking members of St. John's purchased in 1999.

This report will put to rest many of the misunderstandings and half truths about the project that have been spreading over the years, that's right: YEARS. I believe that much of the resistance to our plans is based on fear of the unknown. Specifically, there is fear that St. John's and the environs' physical character will be detrimentally altered. Every attempt has been made in the planning and design to keep the atmosphere we and our neighbors now enjoy. The major trees on our property will be retained. The trees to be removed will be replaced with more than we are removing. The new parking lot will have the feeling of an orchard. Our primary entry and exit will be on a major thoroughfare, relieving traffic on Gouldin Road. And student pick-up and drop-off for Thornhill Elementary School will be much safer. The church patio, so important to our worship experience and church family gatherings, will be expanded by 30%.

Church history is very important to most Episcopalians. But the future should be equally so. Maybe you've heard the saying,

"you can't learn to drive by looking in the rear view mirror." This is appropriate to our St. John's building project.

If you have any questions, please contact me or co-chair Jerry Moran.

John Seals

Come to a "Garden Party" (aka Parish Work Day)



September 5th, 2011 is Labor Day, and once again I am asking that you join me at St. John's to experience a labor of love for our parish. This year's event will start at 8 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m. It will be followed by a Labor Day picnic/barbecue! All are invited to attend the picnic/barbecue whether you work one hour, eight hours, or NO hours.

This day we will put a large effort into the gardens/grounds/exterior. The Men's Group will be working on a structural project. There seems to always be more painting to do, windows to wash, and carpets to clean. In addition many of us will be in the gardens doing landscaping projects. Please bring your own equipment, such as gloves, cleaning solvents, yard tools, building tools, hats, etc. I need several 6-8 foot ladders.

As always it helps to know who is coming, how long you are staying, and what project you would care to work on. Where do I sign-up? In the narthex. And please indicate if you will be attending the barbecue. You are asked to bring something to grill for yourself and also something to share.

Can't make the work day, but would like to contribute in another way? If so, please consider a donation to the landscaping/operations funds to support the work we need to do to beautify and/or to do repairs at St. John's (suggested donation is \$50).

Questions/Comments? Ask Ken Fuller thunder572002@Yahoo.com. I am on the Vestry and the Ministry Catalyst for Operations. I want to hear your ideas for repairs and improvements to our parish.

Adult Faith Formation: Readings from the Green Bible.

P "Is God green? Did Jesus have anything to say about the environment? What is my role as a Christian in caring for the Earth? People are starting to ask these questions as we confront a new situation unique to our history-are we killing our planet? And for Christians the Bible is a natural place to look for answers..." We will use the Green Bible Trail guide to study six main themes of creation care and God's role in creation.

September 11 - Week Number 1 –
Theme "And It Was Good"

Please read the following Bible passages:

Genesis 1:1-31; 2: 1-4
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 24:1-2
Job 38-39
Psalm 104

Room 12 (Library) Sundays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. – September 11 through October 16. Join Anne Meyer and Sandra Ahn for a lively discussion and to share your perspectives on these important questions.

Do you have questions? Email either Anne at Anne.Meyer@Schindlerlaw.com or Sandra at sjahn_vienna@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing you soon.

We Celebrate the Life of
Asger Frederiksen
Apr. 20, 1915 - Aug. 14, 2011
"Thank You"

touch

This is a repeat-after-me song, the leader cried, walking backwards. Schoolchildren trailed her, bouncing their fingers in time on the chain link fence

Tom Fregoso



It is my pleasure to come to St. John's as your new Church School Coordinator. My name is Tom Fregoso and I was born and raised in San Francisco, attended U.C. Berkeley, worked in the travel and tech industry, and then went to Seminary at CDSP where I met my lovely wife. Since then I have had the opportunity to work in various capacities as a youth minister, family minister, and Christian Education Director at various churches in the Diocese of California and Los Angeles. It is a real privilege to come and work and worship with you all.

Children have amazing spiritual lives. I first learned this in the Godly Play classroom at CDSP. The children shared their work and prayers with me and I remember being struck by how much they are capable of leading adults into spiritual understandings. Something struck a chord with me when we brought them back to worship. I remember a sharp contrast of the children's behavior, as soon as they came into the chapel they disengaged and disappeared into books, toys and iPhones. The spiritual leadership I just experienced disappeared. I felt the community's loss of the powerful spirituality I experienced in the classroom.

From this experience, I have come to a belief of expectation. Based on what I have seen of young children in classrooms, if we expect children to just be quiet, squirmy pew sitters, then that's all we'll see. But if we allow our perception to grow and we go out to meet them in various settings, or better yet move them into spaces where they can see and engage with what's going on in church they might surprise us. We might just come to see them as spiritual beings who can lead us deeper into our own awareness of connecting to the sacred. I can just imagine someone cringing reading this as they think of "that child" or their own child, but for me creating the right context pushes against such anxieties.

What does it take? In the Godly Play classrooms children take off their shoes, are invited in when they can display a sense of calm, and then engage in a variety of multi-modal prayerful activities. I can just imagine what would happen if we put a doorkeeper at St. John's that told people to

take off their shoes, told others that they needed to calm down before entering, and then someone inside directed them a variety of prayerful stations. Hilarious imagery aside, the point is that children can uniquely guide us in what it means to connect to God.

As I come to St. John's, a place which is rich in its sense of community and its generosity of time and talent, I encourage you to spend a moment and think about the children here (and that are not here yet). I know children can be rambunctious or noisy but they are also capable, growing spiritual beings. They may be little, but they are potential spiritual leaders that can share with us truths that might resonate and cause us to go deeper in our own spiritual understandings.

*Your servant in Christ,
Tom Fregoso*

Youth Mission Trip 2012

The Youth Mission Trip next June will be to New Orleans to volunteer in social services projects. New Orleans is an area still in so much need; many have already forgotten the work that remains to do and a lot of volunteers have chosen to move on to other hard-hit areas.

All youth entering 9th grade in the fall of 2012 or graduating from 12th grade in the spring of 2012 are eligible to participate. Our first meeting will be Sunday, Sept 11 at 12 pm (after the 10:00 a.m. service). This is a must for parents and youth if you are considering going on the mission trip. Contact Kellor for more information.

All Adults and Youth 10th Grade and Up: WE NEED YOU!

*The more volunteers we have, the better the team,
the fewer times you'll be needed in class.*



*4th through -6th grade
class is now called
BUZZ!*

➤ **Class is from 10:00-10:45a.m. between services on 2nd through 5th Sundays.**

- First Sundays all will attend the 10 a.m. service.
- There will be a mix of guest speakers, pre-made skits and fun.
- BUZZ offers a Bible-based lesson plan that's really easy to use.
- You will only need a ½-hour intro on how to use the materials.
- No Saturday-night panic or stop at the art store!
- The kids will like it as it is very hands-on, and full of games to introduce and bring the point home each Sunday.
- On whatever Sunday you choose to volunteer, you just show up 15 minutes early to set up and focus on your lesson.
- High School youth are welcome to volunteer to teach this class.

Grateful. Glad and Giving for Community in September

Our year-long program of focusing on gratitude is now in full swing! In July, we explored together our gratitude for **Family** then turned our attention to **Rest and Renewal** in August. September has traditionally been our month to "Open the Doors" at St. Johns as we launch into the school year, move to three services on Sunday and ramp up our programs for children and youth. So our focus this month is on gratitude for **Community**. It's wonderful to belong here, to be a part of our church community and we will celebrate that this month in several ways: Look for a little gift, survey the bulletin board in the Narthex, attend some of the BBQ's, the work party, the CnC movie night and think about some practices in your private life. We'll have suggestions and opportunities for thinking about and appreciating **Community** this month.

Speaking of the bulletin board, did you notice all the little post-it's that members of our community put on the board naming something for which we are grateful? In July and August, here are the things we named:

Today I am Thankful For:

Dogs
My Boys
Good Health
Our Kids and our health
Our Children's destinies
The Holy Spirit and abundance of grace
My Friends
Good Health and a positive outlook in these not always positive times
Linda Manzi who cares for my dad
That kids have fun together!
For being with me in a stressful computer problem
Friendship!
Love (surrounded by heart symbols)
Food for my family and friends
Hands to work with
Commitment to my marriage. We take the time to work it (the conflict) out.
Hope
Puppies and Kittens
the health of my family and the health of others
the Dream, My house, my food.

The Commons Are Coming

Another emphasis for September's Grateful, Glad and Giving focus on community is the new St. John's Commons. All month and all Fall, you can attend trainings to learn about and use the new St. John's Commons website.

This site is not the public website we see at www.stjohnsoakland.org. As an intranet, secure web space, St. John's Commons makes it easier for groups of any kind to self-organize, communicate, collaborate, and connect with each other. It eliminates the need to create and join multiple Yahoo mailing lists and manage bulky "Reply to all" lists. All communications within a group will be permanently archived and searchable, so you won't have to dig through your email to find information that someone emailed months ago.

Training on St. John's Commons for ministry leaders and interested parishioners will be in the vestry room on September 18 and 25 at 10 a.m. and Oct. 2 at 9 a.m. Explore the public website and the Commons to become more familiar with St. John's ministries.

The St. John's Commons planning team

*Michelle Ziegmann, Laurie Bennett
and Will Berkeley*

New Year for EfM

EfM (Education for Ministry) begins on September 12th, in Berkeley at St. Clement's Episcopal Church. The EfM program was developed to help lay people gain an understanding of their faith through the study of the Bible, church history, and theology and by bringing that material into dialogue with the events of everyday life. EfM encourages lay people to discover and reflect on that call to ministry in the church and in the world.

This is a four-year program, and participants at all levels meet together weekly on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., from September through May. Some people take all four years straight through and others take time off before completing the program. Participants pay an annual fee for materials and spend anywhere from one to three hours of reading to prepare for each meeting. Although there is a common discussion, there are different readings for the four levels. The first four chapters of material are available on the EfM website www.Sewanee.edu/efm.

Please contact either Pam, at pamala.jester@gmail.com or Megan, at megancolwell@yahoo.com for more information.

*The 7th through 12th grade class is now
called **OMG**.*

- **Class is from 10:00-10:45a.m. between services on 2nd through 5th Sundays.**
- First Sundays all will attend the 10 a.m. service.
- Guest speakers, skits and a great DVD series throughout the year.
- No prep when using the DVDs: You just show the 10-minute clip, then follow the leader's questions in the DVD handout.
- Only adult volunteers for this class, please.

*Will you please pray and consider Church School ministry?
My goal is a team of 6 volunteers per class, so you'll only be needed every 6th to 8th Sunday.*

***BUZZ** teacher training on Sunday, September 18
10:00 to 10:45 a.m. in the Rector's Office*

*Sunday Church School is important to all of us. Just email me questions or a YES, I do **so** want to be a part of church school! kellor@stjohnsoakland.org*



St. John's Family

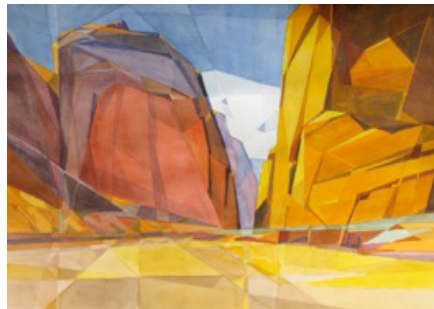
When not at Woodroe Woods Summer Camp, STUART and MADELEINE JONES enjoyed a week at St. Dorothy's Rest and Vacation Bible school, this year themed "Fractured Fairy Tales," at First Covenant Church. The JONES Family also enjoyed some time together at Lassen National Park...NANCY DAVIS KHO's blog, Midlife Mixtape (<http://midlifemixtape.com>) was voted a Top-3 Bay Area Mom's Blog in a Circle of Mom's poll last month – Nancy is grateful to all the St. John's readers who helped vote her in and who stop by to comment on her posts. Some of us even heard her read her post on NPR!...MADDY KHO flew solo to New York to attend two weeks of summer camp in the Adirondack Mountains, at the same camp where her extended Davis clan has attended Family Camp since the 1960s. NANCY, ANDREW and LUCY then flew out to join her - as well as assorted grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins - for Family Camp, during the last week of August...SARA and JOE EVINGER toured the Clabber Girl Museum in Terre Haute, IN as part of a larger midwest swing which included Chicago's Art Institute and the Smithsonian of Stained Glass, college and high school friends, and a variety of interesting relatives. If only it hadn't been over 100 degrees every day...NANCY and GORDON EVERETT met family in Maui: daughter ALLISON, husband DAVE and the kids, daughter MEREDITH, her husband BRIAN, and Nancy's nephew Brandon and his wife Amber, flew over from the Big Island. Brandon heads off soon to Kuwait or Afghanistan, first stopping in Texas for additional helicopter training in September. Please keep him in your prayers...



HILARY HELMS (2nd from left) and friends at Macchu Picchu, part of her 10 weeks in Peru. She will be living in Urubamba, a small town that lies between Cuz-

co and Machu Picchu, to work as a teaching assistant. She will stay with a young couple and their 2 year-old, who live above a restaurant they've just opened. . .BOB DAVIDSON has had a painting accepted in the 42nd National Exhibition sponsored by the California Watercolor Association. The exhibit runs from Sept 8 to Oct 9 at the Marin Art and Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross, CA...

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Ann Hallisey's Farewell

On August 14th the parish had the opportunity to thank Rev. Ann Hallisey for her inspiring tenure as St. John's Interim Associate Rector. And she shared that her new assignment would begin the very next day at Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) as the dean of students. We expect her to shock and rewire CDSP even more than she did at St. John's. Follow this link to read the details of her new position. <http://www.cdsp.edu/news.php>



Saints and Sinners Triumph

The Saints & Sinners softball team ended the 2011 season with a respectable record of five wins and three losses. Following is a recap of our Aug. 4 game vs. Murphy's Law:

With an ideal lineup of six men and four women (and **Herb Johnson** coaching third base), it was a night for the history books. Led by the steady **Mark Stutzman** on the mound, the Saints & Sinners shut out Murphy's Law 6-0. With Mark, **Molly Marion** completed the battery, **Sarah Jones** covered first, **Molly Stutzman** played a strong second and **Bryan Farley** and **David Johnson** controlled the left side of the infield. In the outfield, **Scott Crocker** defended left, **Rosemary Bristow** commanded left center, and **Mike Hoffman** and **Tim Johnson** WERE the right field WALL.

In one memorable play, with runners on first and second, the batter hit a shot into right center field. Mike Hoffman dove for the ball but missed — yet Tim Johnson was backing up. Tim picked up the ball and threw it to the incomparable Boy Wonder, David Johnson, who relayed it home to the sure-gloved Molly Marion from short right field, nailing the runner who was attempting to score from second base by half a step. Molly then tossed the ball to Mark Stutzman, who was standing ten feet away, who in turn wheeled and sent it to Brian Farley at third, getting the second runner — again by half a step — all in what was quite possibly the longest, most convoluted double play involving multiple assists in the history of the game.

Although we left runners on base nearly every inning, the game was scoreless for the first three innings. We hit well all night but had trouble bringing runners home. In the fourth we got two on, setting up for the offensive play of the game: David Johnson's stellar three-run homer. He nearly hit another in a later inning (it was caught at the fence.) In addition, David had another single. Bryan Farley and Mark Stutzman singled too. Tim Johnson and Scott Crocker had two singles each. The women performed well at the plate as well. Wish I could remember what we did. I'd love a proper scorekeeper next year, if anyone's interested!

Sarah Jones

Friday, Sept. 9: BBQ Hosted by the Men's Group; CnC Movie Night Fundraiser to Follow

BBQ to feature a lesson in grilling meat for the next generation

The Men's Group is hosting the last summer barbecue of 2011 in style. They have offered to both provide the meat and demonstrate the art of grilling, with an especial view to training the next generation (youth ages 12+ over come early, at 5:30, for your apprenticeship!). (Can we all say, "Hoo-wah!")

From 6 to 8 p.m., the men will provide and prepare chicken and burgers, seasoned with John Cullom's Secret BBQ Sauce. In return, they will pass the hat for donations to defray costs. The church will provide drinks and chips and dip. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, and a neighbor or friend for fellowship and repast.

At 7:30 p.m., the CnC youth will screen the locally filmed biographical drama "The Pursuit of Happyness," as well as offer popcorn and baked goodies for sale, to raise funds to Glide Memorial Church's "Meals for the Hungry" fund. (\$10/person or \$25/family of 3 or more). Concurrently, "Rio" will be offered upstairs for younger kids.*



So they can plan for enough meat, please RSVP on the website (<http://www.stjohnsoakland.org/content/september-9-parish-bbq-rsvp>) or sign up in the Narthex.

LOCATION: St. John's Episcopal Church, 1707 Gouldin Rd., Oakland, CA 94611

(*Common Sense Media rates "The Pursuit of Happyness" as appropriate for age 12 and up due to language, violence and emotionally wrenching situations. <http://www.common SenseMedia.org/movie-reviews/pursuit-happyness>)

Episcopal Charities Convenes 2011-2012 Alameda Action Network

You are invited to the first meeting of the 2011-2012 Alameda Action Network (ALAN) on Tuesday, October 4 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 114 Montecito Avenue, Oakland. Episcopal congregants, clergy, and the wider community are invited to help identify the needs within Alameda County and brainstorm a list of projects to be investigated for possible Episcopal Charities funding and professional service volunteer support. We will be seeking volunteers to do further research on the projects identified. Please, also, save the date for the second ALAN meeting on Tuesday, November 8, from 7-9 p.m., at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Oakland. Action Network members are a crucial part of fulfilling Episcopal Charities' mission to address the root causes of poverty in the Bay Area. We are grateful for your involvement and support.

Horace Mann Clothing Pantry

Did your children grow quickly this summer? As you sort through their clothes during September, please set aside the too small, but gently used clothing for needy students at Horace Mann Elementary School. As the school nurse wrote after the Spring drive, every item finds a new home and is truly appreciated. Underwear, socks, jeans, and t-shirts are in really short supply at the beginning of the school year when young students are adjusting to the school schedule. Put donations in the boxes that are located in the breezeway between the Fischer Room and the Education Building.

Contact Laurie Bennett, 562-5666 or lebenett1950@yahoo.com if you have questions or suggestions or if you want to help at Horace Mann.



Loved the Wedding, Please Invite Me to the Marriage, Love, God

An Episcopal Marriage Encounter weekend can help you do that! Marriage

Encounter is 44 hours where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones - and focus only on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference an Episcopal Marriage Encounter weekend can make! The next local weekend is October 21-23. You may register for the weekend online at www.episcopalme.com, and select "Bay Area". For more information, please contact: Curt & Arlene McClelland, 408-371-5581, or curt@sbcglobal.net.

Registration is limited so a quick response is encouraged.

Backpack Blessings

Sunday, September 11 at the 10:00 a.m. service

Students of all ages will be blessed along with their backpacks for the start of the new school year. We will also bless the backpacks contributed for Horace Mann School in Oakland. Deadline to make your donation of new, full backpacks is September 11.

Please put these items and others of your choice in each backpack: scissors, colored markers, pens, pencils, 3-ring binder, lined paper, pencil sharpener, ruler, 2-3 pocket folders, glue sticks. Lists of these items and other details are posted in the narthex for you to take shopping. And there is a box to hold extra supplies for Horace Mann.

fall

sunlight slants sooner
than my summer lake could glint
each ray in return

nature

Tea steam in a breeze
starts to rise up like a tree
then changes its mind

St. John's Bulletin Board

Church Mouse Reader Prizes

In the narthex next to the bulletin board is a box labeled Mouse Reader survey and on top of it is a short survey about this month's Mouse articles. Fill out the survey, put the result in the box and you are GUARANTEED a prize.

With your help, we will make the Mouse a better newsletter.

Editor

SAVE THE DATE: "Pennies from Heaven" — Episcopal Charities 2011 Night of Light

The Right Reverend Marc Handley Andrus and Episcopal Charities Board of Directors invite you to the 2011 Night of Light, "Pennies from Heaven," celebrating the work of Episcopal Charities. The gala will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at Delancey Street, 600 Embarcadero Street, San Francisco. Cocktails at 6:30; dinner & live auction at 7:30; followed by dancing.

To order tickets, or for more information, visit www.episcopalcharities.org/gala or contact Kathleen Piraino, kpiraino@episcopalcharities.org, or Sue Malick, suemalick@gmail.com.

Announcing New Java Corps Facilitator

It gives me great pleasure to report that beginning in September, Rosemary Bristow will facilitate Java Corps (AKA Sunday morning hospitality) for the coming year. Please welcome Rosemary to this ministry.

Sarah Jones

September Java Corps Schedule

Sept. 4 Operations/Facilities
Ken Fuller

Sept. 11 The Clergy
Scott Denman

Sept. 18 Ministry Catalysts
Laurie Bennett

Sept. 25 Ecology Group
Bonnie Moran

Electronics Recycling

Saturday, October 1st, 2011
from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Come to St. John's, drive up, and the youth will unload your items.

Support the 2012 Youth Mission trip to New Orleans

St John's "Needs" List

Here are items that St. John's is currently looking for:

1. Baking trays (4-8) for the kitchen (need to fit in standard ovens - half sheets not full sheets)
2. Plastic earthquake latches for the kitchen (that you have to push to release/open the cabinet)
3. Large font label maker (for kitchen cabinet signage)
4. Misc. First Aid supplies (to boost our first aid kits)
5. A large flat propane powered grill/griddle for pancake diners and other events
6. A new fridge for the youth room — **STILL NEED THIS ONE**

If you would like to donate any of these items or you can think of any additions to this list, please contact vestry members William Berkey at 510.914.3855 or william.berkey@gmail.com or Elizabeth Clayton at 510.301.9354 elizabethclayton@gmail.com.

bushel

Shy, freckled skin keeps
eager fruit from busting out.
Golden delicious

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



St. John's Episcopal Church

1707 GOULDIN ROAD, OAKLAND, CA 94611 510/ 339-2200