



Church Mouse

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

October 2010

October 3 – 19th Pentecost
Blessing of the Beasts
7:45—Early Eucharist
10:00—Choral Eucharist

October 10 – 20th Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
Mission Trip Sunday
8:55 - Family Eucharist
10:00 – Church School
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

October 17 – 21st Pentecost
Nov. MOUSE articles due
7:45 – Early Eucharist
8:55 - Family Eucharist
10:00 – Church School
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

October 24 – 22nd Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
10:00 – Church School
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

October 30 – St. John's
Rewired Summit

October 31 – 23rd Pentecost
7:45 – Early Eucharist
8:55 - Pirate Eucharist
Trick or Treat
10:45 – Choral Eucharist

Trick or Treat at St. John's

Sunday, Oct. 31 2010

All kids are invited to Trick or Treat after the 8:55 a.m. pirate service. Dress in costume and bring a treat bag. All kids should start at the second tree on the front patio. There will be about 14 locations to T or T right here at our church. The Youth Group will be behind the doors. So plan to be there!



Rector's Message

The World's Best Sabbatical



Now you may be wondering what I am about to say given this fantastic introduction. Perhaps you imagine me visiting places like Bermuda, or Paris, or the Alps. I did, indeed, spend one week in Hawaii during my sabbatical. Perhaps reading tons of books or doing some writing is something that you can imagine me doing. I did read some good books and kept a daily journal, but no, this was not the focus of my time away. Perhaps going to the Holy Land and walking in the footsteps of Jesus comes to mind. Well, given that Jesus was a carpenter I did, in some way, walk in his footsteps this summer, but in Oakland. Places like Bermuda and Paris did not play into my itinerary. Instead, it was Home Depot.


I spent the last four months doing major work on my house. I demolished my half basement, put my house up on stilts, tore out the foundation, dug out the rest of the basement, lowered my sewer line, poured a new foundation, set the house back down on the new foundation and leveled it and, by the time you read this, I will have poured a new basement slab complete with radiant in-floor heating. My sabbatical schedule

could be easily summarized. I woke up each day before my alarm went off at 6am and worked like a dog. My feet have never been so sore. And yes, it was the best sabbatical ever! Why? Because I have been longing for years to have the time to do something about my sinking house and work with my hands once again. Over the last seven years many of you have asked me how my house was coming along. I always had to say that I really couldn't do anything until I fixed the foundation. Now that a new foundation has been created I am ready to work on the house itself. Can you hear a sermon in the works?

The truth is that this was probably the only kind of sabbatical that could have effectively made me let go of my real vocation because, it too, was so compelling. When your house is on stilts in earthquake country it keeps you focused. Every day I would wake up with my mind spinning around issues like "how will I design the drainage around the new basement...how will I drill the piers and form the grade beams for the foundation... how will I keep the old plumbing working while I install all the new stuff... how will I level my house... how will I lower the sewer line so as to accommodate the new basement slab height...how will I hold the house up while I tear out the foundation???" ... and so on. Currently I am living without hot water and

—Continued on Page 2

Senior Warden Letter

 This is an extraordinary time of the year: Our Rector has been successfully "ransomed" back from the pirates and is back among us. The Vestry had a creative, constructive all day meeting at the end of August talking about finances. The St. John's Rewired (Appreciative Inquiry process) is building towards a crescendo on October 30th. A new Stewardship effort is about to move into full gear for the pledge year 2011. We continue to move forward with the City of Oakland towards completion of our "Project" planning approval process.

All of this energy is coming together in a focused fashion informing us as to our understanding of what St. John's likes and will look like in the next three to five years. This is very important business in the life of this Parish. However, we are not there as yet and there re-

mains work to be done. If you have not been involved in an appreciative inquiry conversation as yet, find a partner, get the forms from Ann or the office and complete the "inquiry". Also, plan to attend the all-Parish "Summit" on the 30th of October 2010 at church from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The "summit" is the time in this process during which the congregation is invited to hear what themes have emerged from the "inquiry" and to begin to make meaning out of all that has been brought forth. And then establish directions and goals out into the future. The Vestry and leadership of the church will be using the results of this day to direct policy and resources in the coming years. I can not over emphasize the importance of your involvement during these next few months. We need your time, energy, insights, and voice.

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Rector's Message

—Continued from Page 1

so I take cold showers and once a week head up to St. Helena where, Kendace, my lovely fiancé lives, to do laundry. It feels a little like camping in my house but its luxury compared to the period of time when I took out my old sewer line, if you know what I mean.

And there is another benefit to such a sabbatical. I am really looking forward to coming back!! As much as I have enjoyed laying cinder block, digging, installing rebar, pouring concrete etc., the truth is that I now need a break from my house. It's GREAT to be back!!

And from what I can see and hear, my sabbatical did all of you some good as well. For one thing it became even more clear that St. John's can run itself. Everyone stepped up to the plate and instead of slowing down, kept moving forward like the leaders you are. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to Ann and the staff for the way they not only filled the gaps in my absence, but also continued bringing their vision, talent and love out into the mission of St. John's. In particular, I also want to thank Bob Davidson for the confident, faithful and courageous way he kept leading the vestry during my time away. I loved receiving his updates because they were all so positive and made me want to be with you.

I am looking forward to hearing all about the listening process that you have been engaged in with Ann and to work with you on the results that will point us toward the future together. I have missed St. John's, but now it's time to miss Home Depot.

Scott+



Senior Warden

—Continued from Page 1

I am happy to report that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for our "Project" has been completed and been turned over to the City of Oakland. We now await the publication of the document and dissemination for public review and comment. We are moving slowly, closer to fulfilling a goal that will enable the people of St. John's to have options in terms of In-reach and Out-reach Programming unencumbered by lack of complete and adequate facilities.

Robert Davidson,
Senior Warden

The Year in Worship

Eucharistic Lectionary: Year C
Daily Office Lectionary: Year Two
Advent 2009 to Advent eve 2010

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



REWIRED SUMMIT

**DO NOT MISS THIS
EVENT!!!**

**GIVE ST. JOHN'S
A
SATURDAY
MORNING**

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 30TH**

**9:30 A.M. TO
12:30 P.M.**

A Final Testament

Will or trust is our ultimate statement ("testament") to the world. A will or trust arranges for "the distribution of your temporal goods" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 445). In doing so, we indicate what and who are important to us. For many of us, family is first—first, but not only.

A middle-aged father recently told me, "Betty and I always thought that we would leave everything to the children. But now we are re-thinking this," he ventured.

After all, our children are grown up and doing very well. Of course we want to leave them something as a sign of our deepest affection. But there are other things that are important to us: the church, and some other people who have far less. Our gifts here could make a real difference.

Another parent has prefaced her will in this way:

I, _____, of Livermore, California, do hereby make and publish this as my Last Will and Testament.

I believe in the Lord, Jesus Christ. I am secure in God's love for me and am confident of everlasting life procured for me through the life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I leave those who survive me the comfort of knowing that I have died in this faith and am now with my Lord in eternal glory.

As a final act of faith and thanksgiving for all the blessings of my life, I direct that a tithe (10%) of my estate be divided equally among my parish and the following ministries....

Reflect for a moment what comfort our loved ones might derive from such a final confession of our faith.

Our estate plan, of course, is an eminently practical document. But our legacy is more than a material residue—it is faith and values. Let these also find expression in the documents which will guide our survivors.

For more suggestions, contact your gift planning officer or visit www.EpiscopalGift.org.

*The Rev. Richard Schaper, CFP
Gift Planning Officer
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(415) 869-7812
RichardS@DioCal.org
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Thoughts From Our Treasurer

I The numbers always look grim at the end of the summer. This year has been grimmer than usual. But we have turned a corner and, I believe, seen the worst. Whereas our loss last month was \$64,000, as of August 31 our loss is smaller - just under \$49,000 - to be sure still a disturbing number, but better than last month, much better. Revenues have been coming in more slowly than usual this year, which has made our operating budget finances look worse than ever. And as I warned at the annual meeting, we have challenges in that our budgeted operations are not fully financed by our current pledged commitment. We have kept our expenses pretty much on target. We are blessed in that we have set aside rainy day funds in the past. The finance committee projects that we can keep our 2010 results to a place where those rainy day funds and the resources we will receive will allow us to break even for the year. However grim the picture has been, I remain as always optimistic about our ability to thrive.

My optimism is founded on the power of supporting St. Johns. Because when a person volunteers at an event or contributes to a cause as one, they are one person with one dollar and one set of arms and legs. But when St. John's contributes to any cause it brings with it all the time, talent and inspiration of our full community. It works to multiply each and every one of us to be more than we are alone. This is done because our lights are on, our leaders are inspirational, and our staff is the best. They connect all of us to each other and to the greater being that we can be, with God, with Oakland and with the world. That is why - although I support many organizations, St. John's gets the greatest share from me. Not because I like paying salaries, assessments, office expenses, utilities and insurance bills, but because I am blessed and through St. Johns I am blessed to be greater than just one person with one dollar.

Lilab Greene



Financial Update

Year to date	8/31/2010	8/31/2009	Budget	% Budget
Pledge revenue	289,983	325,021	332,586	87%
Other contributions	12,407	40,120	27,987	44%
Total contributed revenue	302,390	365,141	360,573	84%
Operating Expenses				
Personnel	230,550	261,976	235,227	98%
Assessment	69,118	70,676	68,469	101%
Utilities, Ins., Admin & Property	58,848	60,714	58,261	101%
Youth	3,185	4,099	6,754	47%
General Programs	17,364	15,018	19,071	91%
Total operating expenses	379,065	412,483	387,782	98%
Net Rent Income	27,933	37,055	35,179	79%
Year to date deficit	-48,742	-10,287	7,970	

St. Augustine Joins Faith Network

I Faith Network of the East Bay's president, Randy Roth, spoke at a Lenten Supper last Spring when it was hosted at St. Augustine Episcopal Church. Deacon Frank Sterling followed up with another talk that detailed the Excel reading program. The outcome is five new volunteers from St. Augustine's parish who have joined the St. John's reading tutors at Horace Mann School. Jeri Robinson has been trained and she joined our team for September 23 start date. The remaining four from St. Augustine's were scheduled for training, fingerprinting and TB testing and expected to be in place by September 30. The new St. John's/St. Augustine's team will total 10 people in October and hopes to add new recruits from both parishes.

The St. John's tutors include Linda Wright, Barbara Cadwalader, Susan Field and Frank Sterling. We also have Blanca Ruiz who is an adult sibling of two Horace Mann students. Laurie Bennett is a classroom assistant on Monday mornings. This year we added Anne Meyer and Irving Wilshire as Excel reading tutors, however their availability limitations have suggested that they move to a different school. This is being worked on with the Faith Network. The St. John's/St. Augustine tutors will work with the 3rd graders

because the reading proficiency for this grade is lower and the number of students who cannot read at the 3rd grade level is larger. The list of 3rd graders at risk is between 10 and 15 and team is asked to support two sessions back to back on Thursdays. The sessions this year will run from 12:55 to 1:45 followed by 1:50 to 2:40.

The new combined team represents the first Area Ministry Outreach Program in the East Bay -- something that has gotten Bishop Marc's attention. Moreover, we will soon be supporting two schools when Anne and Irving get their schedules and assignments. Frank Sterling continues to recruit at other parishes and may have more news soon. If you can join this successful and rewarding program, contact Frank Sterling at fms425@comcast.net or talk to any member of the team. Specific information on Faith Network of the East Bay is found at <http://www.faith-network.com>.



Join a Foyer Group!

Ok!
Wait.
What's a Foyer Group?

Great question! A Foyer Group is an informal gathering of St. John's folks who want to share a potluck meal, and simply get to know one another a bit better. They're called "foyer groups" because the idea is that people will gather in one another's homes. Groups are formed once a year in September with the first meeting held in October. Groups last one year, at which point they are reshuffled.

How do Foyer Groups work?

First, if you want to join a Foyer Group, you can sign up on the list posted on the Bulletin Board in the back hallway, you can call Susan Freeman at 510-465-3713 or email her at susanfreeman1@gmail.com

Second, your name will be organized into a small group (probably no more than 8 people or 4 couples). Couples will not be separated and singles are encouraged to sign up (we promise not to make you the odd person out!).

Third, once your group is formed, you can decide where and when you want to meet. Foyer Groups typically meet every other month and rotate through all the members' homes for a pot-luck dinner.

There's something great about gathering around a common table. Our relationships are deepened, we relax more, we laugh more than we might when we're in Church on Sunday morning. Sign Up today to be part of a Foyer Group. A great way to get to know others at St. John's. All are welcome.

North Oakland Village Kickoff Event

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 10. After the 10:45 service, North Oakland Village will host a tasty lunch and presentation explaining their upcoming plans to launch services. This vital program enables seniors to age safely in their own homes. The Village also offers many opportunities for volunteers to participate in serving this community.

While the Village primarily serves elders, all are encouraged to attend. Membership in a Village can provide peace of mind for the entire family and makes a great gift.

Horace Mann and St. John's Partnership Success



In July and August, St. John's families donated 50 backpacks filled with the basic school supplies that every child needs. Fantastic Response!! The school's principal, Alanna Lim, assistant principal Patty Sheehan, and staff devised a clever way to distribute them. Students who returned the emergency information forms on time were entered in a drawing for the backpacks. As expected, the forms came back MUCH faster than in previous years and the participation rate was very high. Each class could win two backpacks, and then there were a few held back for extreme hardship situations. This created great excitement and enthusiasm during the first week of school.

After the August and September clothing drive, 30 bags of children's clothes and shoes were delivered to Horace Mann School's nurse, Susan Bailey. Great Effort, St. John's!!! After sorting the items, an appropriate assortment was set aside for the everyday accidents that occur. The rest will be distributed through Horace Mann's "Second Cup of Coffee" program. On the first Wednesday of every month at 8:30 a.m., parents are invited to meet with the principal and nurse to have a cup of coffee, hear about upcoming events, ask questions, and become involved in the life of the school. When they also can pick out clothes that their children need, the attendance is much higher. So the donated clothes not only find a second home, they become a mechanism to improve communication and participation.

The Excel reading tutors started their Thursday afternoon sessions on September 23. Read all about it in the article "St. Augustine Joins Faith Network". Now in its third year, the reading tutors have been one of the factors that resulted in dramatic double digit test score improvement at Horace Mann. It is one of three district schools that completed the difficult task of emerging from Year 5 of Program Improvement. Statewide, just 28 schools accomplished this feat.

"We were thrilled to learn that our school emerged from Program Improvement status," said Principal Lim. "It's a testament to the hard work of our students, staff and

families and indicative of the kind of progress we've made to boost student performance and increase equity. We've created a culture of high expectations that also facilitates social growth and we're seeing the results in terms of improved school climate, higher proficiency rates and fewer students testing at the below basic level. It's incredibly rewarding to see the efforts of our community validated as well as the idea that, given the proper conditions, all students can achieve."

Does This Sound Like You?

St. John's is looking for new chairpeople for:

Ride/Carpool Ministry

The small group of volunteers who make themselves available to drive others to church seeks to add more drivers to their cohort. Each volunteer is asked to drive less than once a month. Currently two parishioners are being regularly driven, but others are on the waiting list. Please consider joining this important in-reach ministry. Contact interim coordinator Barbara Cadwalader at 510.547.0391 or bcadwalader@earthlink.net.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL the home of Neal Clark, who is very ill. Instead, call or write Barbara Cadwalader. Thank you.

Casserole Brigade

This in-reach ministry, in which a large group of volunteer foodies provide a little comfort by delivering a complete meal to individuals and families who are going through a challenging time, needs a new facilitator to replace Karen Notsund, who is stepping down in order to mentor a CnC youth. If you are interested in leading meal brigade, please contact InReach Ministry Catalyst Sarah Jones at sarahc-jones@mindspring.com or 510.682.5327.

You may also contact Karen Notsund. Thank you!

Sarah Jones
In-Reach Ministry Catalyst

5 Men, 5 hours and a Red Truck

A Report on Mission Trip Auction Item

I sat yesterday evening for an hour almost catatonic but full of gratitude, with little bits of wallpaper sticking to my left knee after the guys left. The house was a hurricane for a day - but one that left order in its wake instead of devastation. They pressure-washed and applied Thompson's water seal to about 700 sq ft of deck, installed a rotating tv wall mount (first taking apart the top of the TV cabinet) and put the tv etc all back together into operating order, demolished everything in the hallway bathroom, moved furniture, cleaned gutters which had developed entire ecosystems in them, installed a gate latch, poured concrete piers to surround and support 3 deteriorating posts on the lower deck, stripped the largest wall of wallpaper in the master bedroom (and showed me how to do it - it's a pain-in-the-neck job), inspected and reported on the condition of the skylights and took a big load to the dump plus a few things to urban ore for recycling. I may have forgotten something, but I guess you get the idea.

They did this work with grace, good humor, camaraderie, patience and a remarkable sense of fun. I did nothing but answer questions, put out a bit of food, make a couple of hardware store runs and learn from them as they worked, but I was tired. I can only imagine how tired they all were, but hopefully it was combined with a sense of accomplishment for sharing their gifts with the Mission Trip youth, and also with me and my family. My heartfelt thanks to the generous men of St. John's and in particular to Paul Brumbaum, David Brown, Bob Davidson, Bryan Culp and Robert Ferguson.

Susan Pierpoint



Great Labor Day at St. John's



On September 6th many of us gathered at St. John's to volunteer our time and talents. We accomplished quite a bit in four plus hours. Under the guidance of Bette Ingraham, most of the windows were cleaned, inside and out. Some, such as on the side patio where we barbecue, had not been cleaned in years (or so it appeared). The grease from many barbecue events is gone.

Hours were spent on some landscaping projects, including the Meditation Garden where Tom Bowman and Quinn Freidenburg worked on the fountain. More painting was done on the Education Building, but time ran out prior to our completing the job. Under the leadership of Bob Davidson the re-stripping of the parking lot began and has been finished during September. I hope everyone has noticed the new white stripes and the large white arrows that are going in to help facilitate our parking situation and the exiting of cars to newcomers who are not familiar with the one-way street.

Many volunteers worked on transforming the Sanctuary for Ransom the Rector and the Reception Room for the Ministries Faire. Thank you for all your hard work! I have heard nothing but good feedback from many of you as to how you enjoy working side-by-side with fellow parishioners, getting to know some folks better who may attend a different service, while cleaning the Parish buildings and grounds. I have heard your suggestions and enthusiasm, and your interest in continuing this work. Instead of a cleaning/work day once a year we are planning on making this about once per quarter. This year we have done two such days (May and September). What with our busy schedules and the Christmas services I am suggesting that we do our next clean/work day in January.

Again, thank you.

Ken Fuller, Operations Catalyst+

News from KIDA in Uganda:

Karen and Gil Gleason returned in July from a two-week trip to visit KIDA with other Friends of Ruwenzori. The purpose of the trip was to tell the story of this very effective AIDS fighting organization on film. Jennifer Gleason, Gil and Karen's daughter-in-law is producing the documentary. A sneak preview will be shown at the Green and Yellow Festival on November 6th and a full screening sometime early next year. Watch for details. Contact Karen Gleason at gilgleason@comcast.net.

KIDA's new initiative to build a complete health center (a mini hospital) is making good progress. Thanks to some special donor funding, the first of four buildings is very nearly complete! After completion of this phase, KIDA will apply for a license to offer some limited medical services to the general rural population for the first time.

KIDA stands for Kitojo Integrated Development Association---an African operated nongovernmental organization founded and operated by Ugandans Rev. Ezra and Marjorie Musobozi. KIDA works to fight poverty and AIDS and enables vulnerable individuals affected by HIV/AIDS to take care of their own lives in rural areas of Uganda's Kabarole District. KIDA is financially supported by the Friends of Ruwenzori Foundation, a 501c3 charity founded by Karen and Gil Gleason of St. John's. To learn more about KIDA, visit www.FriendsOfRuwenzori.org and a new website from KIDA <www.kidauganda.org>. The KIDA website has lots of video with Rev. Ezra speaking about KIDA.

Upcoming Event

Green and Yellow Festival, Friends of Ruwenzori's major fundraiser, is coming! November 6th, 6 to 10 PM at the Piedmont Veterans Hall. It promises to be a wonderful evening of music and fun that includes an elegant dinner with catered entrée, live New Orleans style jazz, live and silent auctions and a short program showcasing KIDA's work. All proceeds of the event will go to work in Uganda supporting KIDA's comprehensive programs for the HIV-infected rural villagers, widows and orphans. Tickets \$50. Order by November 1st at gilgleason@comcast.net or send a check to Friends of Ruwenzori Foundation, 8 Altamount Drive, Orinda, CA 94563.

St. John's Family

A first for Kellor: Former Youth Group member, H.P. WORTHINGTON-RICHARDSON'S son TIGER is attending youth group and CNC. She says it makes her feel happy and old all at once...SARA and JOE EVINGER are back from a visit with family to attend her eldest niece's wedding in Toronto, followed by a week of R&R in Montreal...ALEC SLOANE is at the Pacific Conservatory at University of the Pacific, one of only three incoming composition students...ANGELA ARNOLD, our former Cantor, was selected to sing the National Anthem at Opera at the Ballpark in September "live" from the pitcher's mound of AT&T Park to kick off Opera at the Ballpark - San Francisco Opera's live simulcast of Verdi's Aida, on September 24... BETTINA GRAY will be a participant as an "Interfaith Visionary" representing the North American Interfaith Network among a group of 65 leaders including Karen Armstrong, Desmond Tutu and His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal. The "Interfaith Visionary Call to Action Conference on Sustainable Development" and awards banquet will be held in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Temple of Understanding in New York. Imam Rauf -- the Muslim Sufi leader in the news lately about the center in lower Manhattan -- will be attending with his wife; also BILL SWING (our former Bishop) and Charles Gibbs from the United Religions Initiative...

*Send your items to Sara E at
sevinger@comcast.net*

Letters to St. John's

Fran Tittmann Reports from Denver

I am living within a mile of my daughter and her husband, and also her two daughters and their husbands and four children (under age 4 1/2.- each has two, one boy and three girls total). This is the main reason for my move and it is a huge benefit.

My apartment is in a high rise retirement home which has three levels of care. It is comfortable, light, and overlooks the Rockies.

I have one meal a day and a tiny kitchenette for fill-in. Food is very good and very tasty, and having to go to meals means one meets others more easily. There are about

300 living here and many are in "assisted living", so the three elevators carry a lot of wheelies and make one aware of the handicapped. This population had been increased by the economic downturn. Many who are able bodied and wanted to come cannot sell their homes, leaving vacancies which are now filled with more people who are in assisted living.

The positives are that we have a wonderful indoor pool with instructed water exercises three days a week, and I am finding that my stiff shoulder is really improving from the workouts. There is a lot of bridge, and I am having to learn variations of duplicate bridge. There are lovely paths in three directions, so that I can easily walk my daily miles in safety and with interesting scenery. For anyone who knows Denver, we are within a mile of Washington Park, which is a super spot.

I have been attending the Cathedral, which is only ten minutes away, and it has a very open and welcoming congregation. Bishop Bill Swing will be here for an introduction to the United World Religions next week. Peter Gomes will be here this week from Harvard to stimulate and encourage the ecumenical strands of the congregation. There is gorgeous music. It's one of the very few places in this city where one sees and rubs shoulders with people other than Caucasians.

The city is clean and tidy with a Midwestern feel to it. People are warm and courteous! The churches look out for the homeless with food pantries and shelters, and I can only imagine that in winter it is very appreciated. Altogether, it's a very different feeling from the Bay Area but the economy has definitely affected all areas of living.

I am missing all my old friends, but know I made the proper move and would love to hear from anyone wandering through here. The heat is not oppressive because it is so dry.

My best to St. John's.

*Affectionately,
Fran
Parkplace, #1561
111 Emerson Street
Denver, CO 80218
frannymt@gmail.com
720-457-3215*

Youth Choir



Youth Choir resumed rehearsal in late September. The choir is preparing to sing at the Pirate Eucharist on October 31 and at the 9:00 a.m. service on November 14. Choristers are assisting Sara E with the script for their upcoming Advent concert: "Where Is Christmas?"

Youth Choir uses music and skits to explore current issues in age-appropriate ways, and to connect Sunday to the rest of the week. During fall and Advent, we discuss Truth in Advertising, and look at the ways we can better connect the secular and sacred aspects of the Christmas season.

Sara E writes a show each semester especially for the Youth Choir, offering them a chance to showcase their talents and explore a seasonal theme. Last spring our show, "Angels and Demons" looked at those aspects of each of us, using humor and serious texts and skits as well as sacred and secular music, solos, small groups and ensemble singing. On December 12, we will weave our theme, "Where Is Christmas?" through the 9:00 a.m. service and, following a brief intermission, will further explore the question during a 10:00 a.m. program.



Youth Choir fall kick-off: September 21

Interested choristers (first through twelfth graders) and/or their parents may contact Sara E (sevinger@comcast.net or 510-658-2792) to get a complete schedule. Rehearsals are held the first Tuesday following Pizza Club (contact Kellor for more info), and on the third Tuesday, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Church School Calendar – October/ November

Day	Date	Time	Activity	Church Calendar
Sunday	October 3	10am - 10:45am	Church School - Godly Play & 456	Blessing of the Beasts
Tuesday	October 5	7pm - 9pm	Church School Teachers Dinner Meeting - bring a side dish to share!	
Saturday	October 9	9am - 5pm	Godly Play Training - All Souls Parish, Berkeley, CA	
Sunday	October 10	10am - 10:45am	Church School - Godly Play & 456	Mission Trip Sunday
Sunday	October 17	10am - 10:45am	Church School - Godly Play & 456	
Sunday	October 24	10am - 10:45am	Church School - Godly Play & 456	
Sunday	October 31	10am - 10:45am	Trick or Treating at the Church! Wear a costume! (No Godly Play, 456)	Pirate Eucharist at 9am Service
Tuesday	November 2	7:30pm - 9pm	Church School Teachers Meeting	
Sunday	November 7	10am - 10:45am	Godly Play: Special Stewardship Story/456: Roundtable Discussion	Stewardship Sunday
Sunday	November 14	10am - 10:45am	Church School - Godly Play & 456	
Sunday	November 21	10am - 10:45am	Church School - Godly Play & 456	4th-6th Grade Service Field Trip
Sunday	November 28	10am - 10:45am	Church School - Godly Play & 456	

Happy October Birthday!

Parishioners celebrating this month:

Colleen Bazeley	Sarah Booth
Phoebe Church	Elizabeth Coen
Rhys Conger	Leone Evans
Katie Ferguson	Judith Fleming
Elizabeth Freeman	Leigh Gourdin
Stuart Jones	Sarah Jones
Madeleine Jones	Jonathan Kitt
Katie Kroger	Tracey Landstrom
Jana Lane	Jim MacIlvaine
Rebecca McQueen	Karen Medford
Dennis Reeve	Betsy Robinson
Kate Walker	

The traditional October birthstone is opal. The modern October birthstone is tourmaline. Did you know that October is Clergy Appreciation Month? (according to www.parsonage.org)

Editor's note: Birth dates were taken from the church database. If you wish to be recognized send your birth month and day to lebenett1950@yahoo.com. Due to personal security considerations, birth dates will no longer be printed in the parish directory.

Church School News

Registration Forms:

Don't forget to turn in your registration forms and signed Student/Parent Covenant forms ASAP!! Extra copies are available on Sunday mornings at the sign-in table for each class.

Godly Play Training:

When: Saturday, October 9th, 9am-5pm
Where: All Souls Parish
2220 Cedar St.
Berkeley, CA
Cost: \$25

This is a GREAT way to get started as a Godly Play volunteer! Also great for parents who want to learn a little more about this program



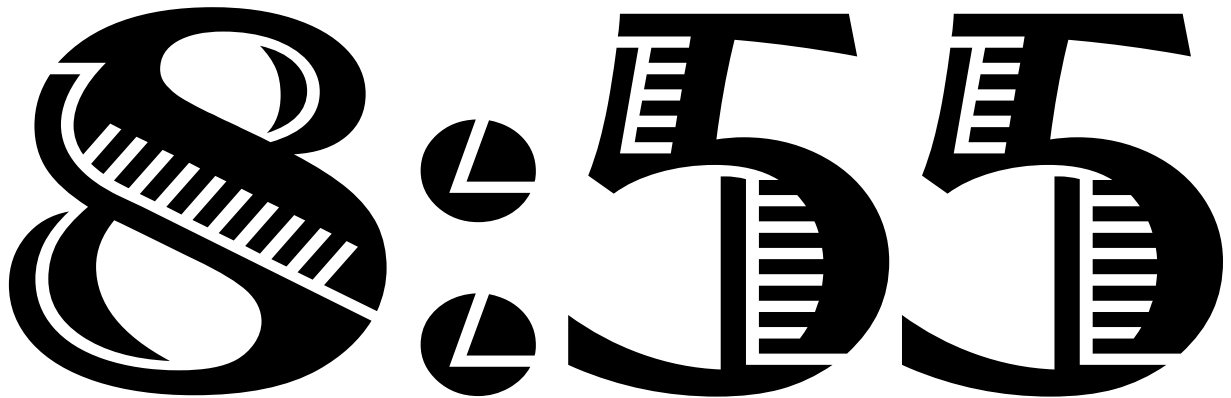
Deacon Sunday

Have you wondered just what deacons do in our church? There is an old saying that deacons are like duck billed platypuses; God made them but doesn't know what they are for. Come and hear Frank (our deacon) preach on Deacon's Sunday, October 17. Learn about the School for Deacons, and honor the deacons among us.



On September 25th 100 deacons and their guests celebrated the School for Deacons 30th anniversary and honored its deans Shirley Woods, Judith Dunlop, Otis Charles, and Rod Dugliss. Deans Charles and Dugliss and Bishop Marc Andrus were present to address the gathering and join in the fun.

Introducing...the



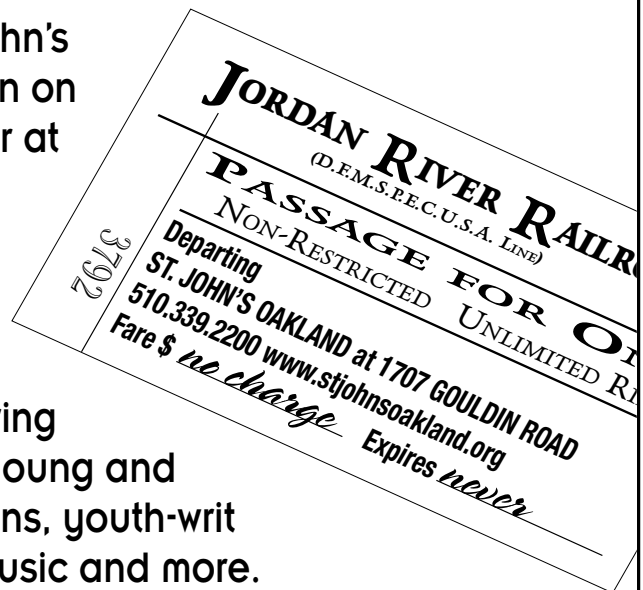
"8:55" is a new vision for the St. John's second service. The 8:55 will begin on time — with gathering in the Foyer at 8:55 — and end on time, so folks can get to Sunday School (which in turn can start on time!).

The 8:55 will feature kinesthetic liturgical elements designed to bring the Gospel alive to parishioners young and old — including interactive sermons, youth-writ Prayers of the People, up-beat music and more.

Please join us beginning **Sunday, Oct. 10**, when the 8:55 will leave the station.

All aboard!

For more information, contact an 8:55 Committee member: Annie Pierpoint, Sara Evinger, Ann Hallisey, Sarah Jones, Betsy Robinson or Kellor Smith



St. John's Church has been in a months-long process of appreciative inquiry (AI) during which we have shared stories about what we like best about ourselves and our parish, and our other experiences with "church" outside of St. John's.

On Saturday, Oct. 30, we invite you to participate in the culmination of the AI process, **The Rewired Summit**.

From 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., national trainer the Rev. Ann Hallisey will lead us in a guided review of the results of the appreciative inquiry process, helping us select our most prized dreams and then articulating how we might make those dreams a reality for the future of our parish.

Won't you come — and be shocked?

The Rewired Summit

Saturday, Oct. 30, 2010

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Register in the narthex beginning Oct. 3 — or e-mail Tim Johnson at tjohnson@stearnsjohnson.com

Ages nine to ninety-nine are encouraged to participate

Ages zero to nine will enjoy free childcare

Coffee and hearty refreshments will be served

You'll be done before lunch and have the rest of your Saturday free!





It is the heart that gives. The fingers merely let go.

NIGERIAN WISDOM

Save the date—

Sunday, November 7, 2010, at 10 a.m.

Please join the community of St. John's for a single joint service on **Sunday, Nov. 7, at 10:00 a.m.** This year's pledge drive invites all of us to share worship, food, fellowship and a lively discussion on the spirituality of generosity with guest speaker **the Rev. Britt Olson**, Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Northern California!

To enable the planners to ensure sufficient place settings and food, please either RSVP on the list posted at the church entrance, e-mail **stjohnsbreakfast@gmail.com** or call Stewardship Chair Michelle Inama at 510.338.0911.

Youth and children are most welcome and will have special programming.

All are welcome at God's table

St. John's Episcopal Church ✻ 1707 Gouldin Road, Oakland ✻ www.stjohnsoakland.org

St. John's Bulletin Board

StJ "Summer" BBQ

The St. John's second and final Summer Family BBQ was a smash! This time, our expert grill master was Will Berkey. He kept careful watch over a variety of burgers, hot dogs, kebabs, and sausages. We huddled indoors to eat, as it was a typically freezing Bay Area summer evening. After filling our bellies with amazing side dishes and grilled things, the lovely and talented Sara Evinger led a group to the sanctuary piano for a rousing hymn sing. Tunes included Rock of Ages, I Come To the Garden Alone, and Amazing Grace. A few parishioners shared memories of Baptist upbringings, and how much these hymns meant to them. The evening ended with kids of all ages gathering around the grill for s'mores! Thanks to everyone for contributing to a great event!



Armchair Travel Resumes October 6

Join us for the noon Eucharist and lunch October 6 as Armchair Travelers join the Davidsons for a fascinating look at ancient Native American rock art and southwestern sites. Presentation begins at 1 PM.

Armchair Travels will continue on the first Wednesdays of November and December. If Elaine's digital camera works, one of those events may feature the boxer shorts journey to our wounded soldiers.



Last Women's Group of 2010

Thursday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. the women of St. John's will gather in the Reception Room. Since November and December normally create crowded schedules for women, this will be the last opportunity to potluck, share stories and grow friendships until we meet again in January. Contact Lilah Greene (greentiem@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

Youth Mission Trip Sunday

October 10 - 8:55 and 10:45 a.m. services

The youth will share the high lights and insight of their mission work to the Yakama Indian Reservation in June 2010. They will share both great personal stories and photos.

It is our way of saying thank you for helping them go be apart of this life changing for all us trip!! The youth and their families will host the coffee hour too.

Elderberries Seeks New Name

St. John's ministry to those age 60 and better is in need of a new name. While Elderberries originally conveyed an upbeat, slightly humorous attitude to our senior years, a number of folks find it off-putting. Since folks in this age group tend to be active, eager to volunteer and involved in sharing their many gifts with the community, we're hoping you can help us come up with a lively new name. Please submit your suggestions to Rev. Elaine or to Sandra Davidson by October 15. Winner will receive a nice prize.

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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