

Interrupting the Culture of Violence

FROM SUSAN RUSSELL, SENIOR ASSOCIATE FOR COMMUNICATION

As a peace and justice church, opposing violence in all its forms has been part of the DNA of All Saints Church for generations. Our history is a tapestry of standing up and speaking out as a beacon of God's love, justice and compassion in many dark moments in our nation's history — from the deportation of Japanese Americans during World War II to the profiling of Muslim Americans since 9/11 and so many other times and places along the way. In each and every one of those moments, All Saints has claimed its high calling to be a leadership voice in calling our nation to its better self as we continue the journey to making liberty and justice for all not just a pledge we make but a reality we live.

And in this Summer of 2016 we find ourselves in another one of those moments. We met to decide what the cover article in this issue of Saints Alive should be in the wake of the mass shooting in Orlando — recognizing that the interlocking issues of homophobia, Islamophobia and gun violence were all components of this national tragedy.

Since then there was Baton Rouge and the killing of Alton Sterling. And Minneapolis and the shooting of Philando Castile. And Altadena and the death of four year old Salvador Esparza in a drive by shooting. And the murder of five police officers in Dallas. And the ambush of three more in Baton Rouge. It seems that our national cycle of violence is spinning faster and faster as the web of interlocking issues expands: systemic racial inequality, lack of mental health care

for veterans damaged by the wages of war and an immobilized Congress unable to address even the most fundamental gun safety legislation.

In the face of this onslaught of overwhelming challenges there is a very real temptation to believe the lie that we are powerless against so much systemic evil. And that is exactly why we pray

"lead us not into temptation" every time we gather for worship.

Recognizing that we stand together at the crossroads of a critical moment in our nation's history let us most importantly recognize first that we stand together. We stand with allies around this church and this country — indeed around the world — committed to interrupting the culture of violence with love,



justice and compassion. We stand on the shoulders of those who have paved the way for us even as we work to make a way for those who will come after us.

In the days and weeks ahead we will continue to interrupt violence with peace in our prayers and our protests; our resolutions and our reflections; in our work and in our worship. We will continue to implement the Resolution on Racial Justice adopted by the Vestry earlier this year as we keep up the pressure to end gun violence and work to sustain our interfaith coalitions.

In the oft repeated words of William Sloane Coffin: "The world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love." All Saints Church is the place we come to speak the truth that will overcome the lie that we cannot make a difference. Because we have. And we will.

August

Transformational Journeys Annual Luncheon

Join us Sunday, August 7, 12:30 p.m. in Sweetland Hall, for this always-exciting event! Learn about upcoming local, national and international journeys guaranteed to inspire you and enable you to get to know other parishioners. You will hear how you can take a spiritual journey and be transformed through challenging encounters with other communities and how you can get involved & help plan future trips. Suggested donation of \$10 or pay what you can for an international lunch. For more information contact Ada Ramirez, 626.583.2734 or aramirez@allsaints-pas.org.

Conscientious Projector: Case Closed: Black Lives Matter

Educator/activist and Black Lives Matter spokesperson, Dr. Melina Abdullah, declares, "What we're seeing is the birth of a mass movement." in *#BlackLivesMatter*, a vivid, probing examination of the

#BLACK
LIVES
MATTER

far-reaching grassroots response to police killings of African-Americans in cities across the United States and their grossly disproportionate imprisonment in an unjust criminal justice system. *Conscientious Projector* screens the film on Thursday, August 11, 7:00 p.m. at All Saints Church (note change from our usual Armory Center for the Arts venue). A community discussion will follow. Parental advisory: The film includes adult language and graphic images of violence. Admission is free. Information = Ada Ramirez, 626.583.2734 or aramirez@allsaints-pas.org.

Summertime Giving

Summer vacation is here! Before you head out of town, ensure your generous giving continues throughout the summer months. The Giving Office can help you arrange automatic payments so you can go on vacation worry free this summer. Contact Jim Loduha in the Giving Office at 626.583.2736 or jloduha@allsaints-pas.org with questions, or visit www.allsaints-pas.org/support/donate to make online pledge payments and contributions. As always, thank you for your inspiring generosity!

Money Matters!

Maximizing Your Social Security Benefits

For most retirees, Social Security benefits are an essential part of retirement income. However, navigating eligibility, maximizing benefits, ages and spouses all add to the confusion of determining the best pathway to claim benefits. Here are a few tips to help get you started:

- **What age should you begin your claim?** Even if you retire before age 70, waiting until then to claim your benefits gets you an 8% bonus for each year past normal retirement age, which varies depending upon your year of birth. If you begin claiming before your normal retirement age benefits will be reduced, sometimes by as much as 30%.
- **Should I claim my benefits early?** This option can work for married couples, but also varies due to income levels of each spouse. If Spouse A retires and claims a reduced benefit early, the Spouse B can then retire at normal retirement age and begin claiming spousal benefits. When B reaches the age of 70, B can switch to claim his/her own benefits.
- **Any special guidance for single retirees?** If you are single at the time of your retirement, and want to delay in order to get the 8% per year bonus, consider filing at your normal retirement age and ask to suspend your benefits. You will then be able to collect all of the benefits that accumulate after you file your claim.
- **What happens when one spouse dies?** If you have already been receiving the deceased spouse's benefits, consider delaying your own benefit until your normal retirement age. If your income was higher than your deceased spouse, you may want to take your deceased spouse's first, and switch to your own at/after your normal retirement age.
- **What if you're divorced?** If you were married for more than ten years, and are not currently married, you can claim spousal or survivor's benefits from your ex-spouse, assuming s/he is eligible for receiving benefits.

Up next month: Rolling Over Your 401(K)

Money Matters is a monthly feature in Saints Alive with financial hints, tips and other useful ideas. Contact Jim Loduha, Senior Director of Development and Giving, in the Giving Office with questions about giving or pledging at All Saints Church at JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org or 626.583.2736.

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Blessing of the Backpacks

All children and youth are invited to bring your backpack to church! We will have a special prayer Sunday, Aug. 21, during the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services, to bless children as they return to school. At the same time we will bless all the school supplies collected for Families in Transition. Information = Laura Thornton, 626.583.2764 or LThornton@allsaints-pas.org.



Transformational Journey to the BAPS Hindu Temple in Chino Hills



Everyone is welcome on Saturday, Aug. 27, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. as we tour the BAPS Hindu Temple (Mandir) and conference center. After our tour we will attend the 11:15 a.m. Arti or morning prayer service. Our guide will give us an overview of basic Hindu spirituality and beliefs. We will also tour the lovely grounds, learning how this temple was built. A full vegetarian lunch will be provided at the onsite cafe. The fee will be \$20 per person which includes lunch. For registration form and carpool information please contact Ada Ramirez at aramirez@allsaints-pas.org or call 626.583.2734. Registration and fee are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23.

August Adult Education Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

August 7

Exploring a Faith-Science Narrative for All Saints Church

with Matthew Graham

In the past two years at All Saints, we've had presentations on what modern science tells us about the very large and the very small, our position in the cosmos, and the implications of alien life to our identity. As we move forward, we would like to identify what the All Saints community needs to further its science-based faith perspective. Should we continue to consider the marvels of the universe, should we learn to identify the misuse and misrepresentation of science in our daily lives, or should we hear about the faith experiences of scientists? We will discuss what a potential faith-and-science ministry at All Saints might look like. SWEETLAND HALL

Recalibrating and Re-envisioning in Times of Growth and Change

with Anne Breck Peterson

Anne Peterson will explore the experience of Recalibrating: Life was going along just great until...a) the dog died; b) my spouse left me; c) my kid flunked out of college; d) I developed a rare exotic disease nobody's ever heard of. The best laid plans appear to invite disaster. Even less cataclysmic experiences can unbalance a person. Come to explore some strategies for getting back on track and reorienting yourself or helping a loved one to do so. GUILD ROOM

August 14

Victory through Feminization: The Gendered Logic of the Cross and Some Implications for Christian Identity

with Brian Robinson

The Roman cross was an instrument which not only executed a person but feminized them, humiliating them and making a public announcement that they were not strong enough to stand against Rome and were not "man" enough to be followed. The New Testament reflects just such an understanding of the cross but, counter-intuitively, adopts it as a sign of God's victory. This discussion will offer some thoughts about what placing such a scandalous, feminizing image at the heart of Christian identity meant for the use of power and among the early believers. SWEETLAND HALL

Recalibrating and Re-envisioning in Times of Growth and Change

with Anne Breck Peterson

Part 2 of two parts. Anne will turn the dial to Re-envisioning: In her poem "The Summer Day" Mary Oliver asks, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" How easy is it to fall into a routine, doing all that it takes to live at even the most basic level. Living more consciously along the way can help you to be alive and alert, making the most of each once-in-a-lifetime day. GUILD ROOM

August 21

God as Generation of Diversity: Multiculturalism through the Eyes of Teens and Pre-Teens

with Claudia Owens Shields

Learning through the eyes of teens and pre-teens, this unique two-part offering will examine the often invisible necessity of moving beyond political correctness and "color blindness" in order to form authentic relationships across racial, cultural and religious lines. The presentation will expose the ways in which the belief that "we are all the same" can actually be damaging to intergroup relations. The presentation will also offer skills needed for intergroup reconciliation, building empathy, and creating trust across lines of human diversity. SWEETLAND HALL

Out of Sight, Out of Mind!— A Workshop on Planned Giving

with Gloria Pitzer and Shelley De Leon

You can't take money with you after you die, but you should at least decide who gets it! During this practical workshop you will learn basic information intended to help you build a strong foundation to create a personalized estate plan. From wills to trusts, annuities to taxes, you will gain an array of tools and knowledge that will help you create or revise your estate plan. GUILD ROOM

August Adult Education *cont'd*

August 28

Making Art in this Time of War

with Seema Sueko

When Seema Sueko sought to direct *The Fantasticks* at The Pasadena Playhouse, Artistic Director Sheldon Epps recognized it was a beloved classic American musical, long-running, produced in high schools, colleges and professional stages around the world, but he asked a most important question, "Why is this musical necessary today?" Seema responded, "When I watch the news, check social media, read the newspaper, today feels so angry and full of hate. I feel we are a nation at war with itself. The Fantasticks is a musical that ultimately teaches us how to love. We learn this by watching Matt and Luisa's journey: the false happy ending love, the pulling apart and hurting each other, and finally, the return and learning how to love deeply, maturely, selflessly. It's a lesson that is sorely needed today." FORUM



God as Generation of Diversity: Multiculturalism through the Eyes of Teens and Pre-Teens

with Claudia Owens Shields

Part 2 of two parts. See August 21. SWEETLAND HALL

Healing Partners of All Saints Church

with Sally Howard and members of the Healing Partners team

A new ministry has been launched this summer by the Healing and Health team. Called "Healing Partners", the ministry is rooted in the sacrament of healing offered each Sunday at the rail during the Eucharist. Healing Partners extends healing prayer and the ancient practice of laying on of hands to our community during the week. Please join us to learn about healing in the Anglican tradition and the new Healing Partners ministry at All Saints Church. GUILD ROOM

Summer Fun 2016 Events

All Saints encourages everyone to take a break from their usual routines during the summer. Renewal of body, mind and spirit may consist of going to the beach for the day, traveling far and wide, or staying home and sleeping in! We hope all of you have some serious relaxation plans already in place.

Summer is also a great time to try new ways of being in community with each other! With that in mind, here's a list of Summer Fun events to add to your calendar. Friends from All Saints will be on the lookout to welcome you to any and all of these events:

- **Thursday, August 4. The Party Animals Kids' Concert** at Levitt Pavilion, Memorial Park, Pasadena. Festival begins at 5:30, music at 7 p.m. Where else can you see a fox, a bear, a kangaroo, and a lion perform rock music for free? Bring a picnic! Friends from our Children, Youth & Families ministry will be there to greet you, and you don't have to have kids to come!

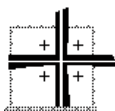
- **Friday, September 2, Episcopal Diocese Night at Dodger Stadium.**

Los Angeles Dodgers vs. the San Diego Padres – with after game Fireworks! Tickets are \$21 and will be available (at the Sign-Up Center on the lawn and online) through Aug. 7. Game begins at 7:10 p.m.



- **Saturday, September 3, Mariachi Divas**, the Grammy-winning all female mariachi ensemble will perform at Levitt Pavilion, Memorial Park, Pasadena. Bring a picnic! Festival begins at 6:30, music at 8 p.m.

For more information call 626.796.1172.



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Events and Opportunities

• All Saints Back to School Supply Drive for PUSD Homeless Children and Youth •

Serving Pasadena Unified School District, Families in Transition. Please bring your donation to the Action Table on Sundays or the Main Office and Regas House Lobby (Mon.-Fri. from 8:30 am - 5 pm). From Sunday, Aug. 21 - Sept. 11. Items Needed: School Supplies, Clothing for Girls and Boys and Toiletries. Information = Ada Ramirez, 626.583.2734 or aramirez@allsaints-pas.org.

• Fiction Fun! Reads Poetry for August •

Fiction Fun! isn't strictly fictional. August, for the group, is traditionally poetry month, and each person normally brings a poem from a published

work (or even self-authored), preferably bringing copies for others. This is an exceptionally fun gathering. All are welcome. Discussion begins at 7:30 p.m. Please join us on Friday, August 26 for this evening of readings, memories and conversation. Information = Amanda Perez at aperez@allsaints-pas.org or 626.583.2765.

• Children, Youth and Family Ministries Program and Choir Registration Day •

Sunday, Sept. 11, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Learn more about Sunday School, Youth Group, Seekers, Acolytes, Parent Culture, and Children's & Youth Choirs and to register your children for the program year. We will also present options for adults to engage in the work of

nurturing and mentoring our children and youth. Bring your calendars, checkbooks and medical insurance info so you are ready to fill out forms. Information = Jeremy Langill, 626.583.2782 or jangill@allsaints-pas.org.

• Matching Gifts at All Saints •

Your contributions to All Saints Church make a huge difference in the impact we have on our community. Your company's matching gift can help make that impact even greater! Companies of all sizes match employee contributions to a wide range of non-profit organizations, including faith-based organizations and organizations with major community outreach and social justice programs, such as All Saints.

The matching gift process is quick and simple. Here are simple steps you can take: 1) Donate to All Saints Church. 2) Determine if your employer will match your contributions, OR ask us to help find out. 4) Submit your employer's matching gift form online or on paper. 5) Be happy, knowing that your generosity is having an even greater impact!

Ask your company if they match, or contact Jim Loduha in the Giving Office at 626.583.2736 or JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org to help walk you through this simple - but rewarding - process.

• Speakers Fund •

One of Ed Bacon's many gifts to All Saints Church was the renowned array of speakers for the Rector's Forum, workshops and conferences

throughout his tenure. The Ed Bacon Transformational Speakers Fund honors this legacy to ensure we continue to benefit from the nation's leading voices on important issues that our community is passionate about. Here's how you can contribute: Call: 626.583.2736. Click: <http://tinyurl.com/SpeakersFund>. Scan:

Or send:



All Saints Church, Ed

Bacon Transformational Speakers Fund, 132 N. Euclid Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101. Please write "Transformational Speakers Fund" in the memo line of checks. If you have any questions please contact Jim Loduha at 626.583.2736 or jloduha@allsaints-pas.org.