

## One Book One Church: Find Your Way Home

FROM CHRISTINA HONCHELL, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, AND MIKE KINMAN, RECTOR-ELECT

A friend recently sent me a video of Joni Mitchell singing "California" in 1970, and it's been in my head ever since, and especially as I think of Homecoming. If you know the song, you know it could be our state anthem -- it's what I always sing to myself on my way back home from anywhere beyond our golden state: "ah, but my heart cried out for you..."

I feel that way every Sunday at All Saints. My heart cries out for this community, for the work and the struggle we engage in, for the wisdom and the stretching we invite, for the relationships, newly formed, and ancient and dear.

This Homecoming we invite all of you into a spiritual homecoming of sorts, through what we are calling *One Book One Church*. We asked Mike Kinman, our rector-elect, to select a book, so that we can use the time between Homecoming and his arrival as rector on November 1 to read, reflect, gather in small groups and prepare ourselves for this new relationship for all of us, and asked him to tell us why this book makes his heart beat fast:

*Find Your Way Home* is written by the Rev. Becca Stevens and the women of Magdalene/Thistle Farms -- a transformative community of women who have survived prostitution, violence and abuse. I first visited the Magdalene community nearly 20 years ago, and to this day it remains the closest thing I have experienced to what Dr. King called The Beloved Community and what Jesus called the Realm of God. It is a community of those whom society has most targeted, oppressed and marginalized finding their way to their rightful home in the heart of the God who created them and loves them without bounds.

Through the years, Becca and the women of Magdalene/Thistle Farms have been some of my most important spiritual guides and theologians. *Find Your Way Home* is both a description of how they strive to live together and their individual stories of that journey.

The book is modeled after the Rule of St. Benedict and is the 24 spiritual principles that guide the community. Each chapter is one principle, with some short sentences about the principle and then first-person brief stories/accounts from the women that fit with the principle. You can read a chapter in a couple of minutes. I suggest you read one a day for 24 days and allow some time after each chapter to invite the Holy Spirit to plant the words in your heart.

It is an embodiment of the Bartimaeus story (Mark 10:46-52) that is one of my guiding scriptures about us as the church bringing those among us who are most on the margins into the center of the community and letting the truth of that part of our community be heard first and loudest in setting the church's agenda.

*Find Your Way Home* isn't "about" the marginalized ... it IS the wisdom of the marginalized among us who have found deep love and hope and life in community with one another.

When I think about all the radical reconciliation work that we have to do -- particularly around race and class, but really everywhere -- the spiritual principles in this book

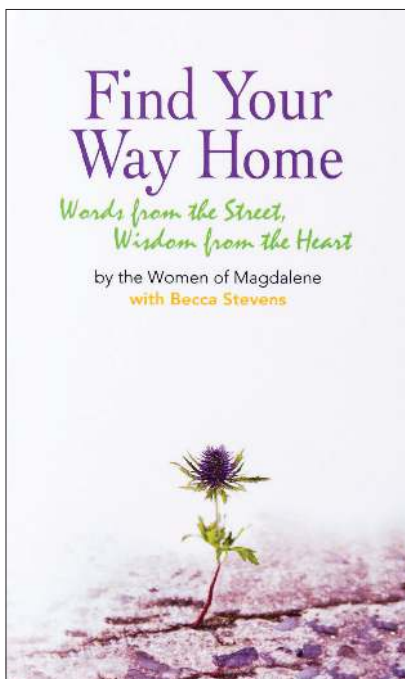
are the community ethic that makes us able to live with integrity, compassion, courage, humor and joy so God can get it done through us.

I'm excited to share this book with you -- and even more excited to hear what the Holy Spirit does with it in this wonderful community.

In Christ's love,  
Mike+

We will have copies of the book available for purchase on the lawn for two Sundays, starting September 25, and will begin sign-ups for small groups at the same time.

May this Homecoming remind you of all the things your heart cries out for, as we pray and party together, and, to paraphrase Joni Mitchell, "see all the folks we dig!"



# September

## An Historic Homecoming!

Attention All Saints! Homecoming 2016 is Sunday, Sept. 18! Mark your calendars now for this historic day



in the life of our church. Rector-elect Mike Kinman will be in the pulpit at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. and we will have our annual festivities with food, fun and music for the whole family, on the lawn and in the street. This



year's Homecoming is about transformation, peace, unity and love. The L.A. area's hottest food trucks – including Grilled Cheese Truck, Ice Cream Truck, India Jones, Pie 'n Burger, Slammin' Sliders and Tropical Sno Shaved Ice – will offer food for purchase as we gather for a memorable day of fun, food and fellowship. It's also a great opportunity to volunteer just for an hour or two on one day. Information = Amanda Perez at 626.583.2765 or [aperez@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:aperez@allsaints-pas.org).

## Celebration of Ministries

Looking to make a difference...to meet new people... to deepen your faith journey... to discuss a great book... to have a good time...to serve others? On Sunday, Sept. 25, step out onto the quad lawn for the Celebration of Ministries! Everything you ever wanted to know about All Saints ministries can be found at the tables on the



lawn. Learn about the ministries of All Saints up close and personal. You can also chat with our mentors at the signup kiosk

about ministries that might be a good fit for you. Find ways to get connected and to serve the community and God through our work in the world. Information = Debbie Daniels, 626.583.2750 or [ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org).

## Money Matters!

### Rolling Over Your 401(k)

Many employers offer 401(k) or 403 (b) plans as a benefit for their employees. When you switch jobs from one employer to another, "rolling over" your employer-sponsored plan can help you keep track of your retirement funds. Here are a few tips to rolling over your accounts:

- **Know what your old account has in it.** Collect your old account's recent statements, documents, passwords, etc. Make sure you know your account balance, and gather documents noting how much you and your previous employer contributed. It is helpful to know how the funds were invested and what the growth rate was so you can make good investment choices with your new account.
- **Call the administrator/custodian of your old account.** They help clients do this all the time so ask for their help. Take detailed notes so you know how to complete the paperwork properly.
- **Make decisions about your new account.** You will probably roll over from one 401(k)/403(b) to another. However, if you are launching your own business or leaving the corporate world, you may want to rollover to an IRA. Either way, your investment decisions within the account will ultimately be more important.
- **Initiate a "direct rollover."** This is critical. When completing the paperwork for the rollover, you want the money to go directly from one custodian to another. If you mistakenly request a check to be written to you, the IRS will withhold 20% of the funds! It's possible to get it back with a special form on that year's taxes, but why go through that struggle.
- **Set up the new account.** In talking with your new administrator/custodian and reviewing their investment options, you can make wise decisions that will help you meet your retirement goals. You will also want to maximize your new employer's benefits, such as contributing at least as much as their match. Finally, ensure that you set up communications for your new account, so you receive statements, emails and can perform your regular check-ups on your account.

### Up next month: Your Digital Wallet

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, with questions about giving or pledging at All Saints Church at [JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org) or 626.583.2736.

CONNECT  
INSPIRE  
TRANSFORM

## Celebrate Three Amazing Women on September 11!

On Sunday, Sept. 11, join us to celebrate the transformative ministries of Adriana Lizarraga, Laura Thornton, and Zanaida Robles, with love, gratitude and cake on the lawn, after the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services. Adriana, after serving in All Saints' Buildings & Grounds department for 30 years, and Laura, who has been doing Children's Ministry at All Saints for 8 years, are leaving to spend more time with their families. Zanaida, who has been soprano section leader/soloist of Coventry Choir for 14 years, has accepted the position of Director of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Community of Santa Monica. As they each begin this new chapter of their lives, don't miss this chance to tell them personally how much they have meant to you, and to the All Saints family.



(L to R): Adriana Lizarraga, Laura Thornton, and Zanaida Robles

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

Sunday, September 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 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](mailto:jangill@allsaints-pas.org).



## Summer Fun 2016: Mariachi Divas

The Mariachi Divas will perform at Levitt Pavilion, Memorial Park, Pasadena, on Saturday, Sept. 3. Founded in 1999, the Mariachi Divas continue to lead the way in the mariachi genre. A multiple Grammy Award winner, the Mariachi Divas are a multicultural, all-female ensemble imbued with the unique musical flavor of Los Angeles. Bring a picnic! Admission is free, and our All Saints hosts will be friends from the Sunday 1 p.m. service. Festival begins at 6:30 p.m., music at 8:00 p.m. For details visit our website or call 626.796.1172.

## Conscientious Projector: New Understanding on the Journey toward Human Transformation

Thursday, Sept. 8, 7:00 p.m. at Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond in Old Pasadena. In *Crossroads: Labor Pains of a New World View*, filmmaker Joseph Ohayon explores how we can and must adapt to an increasingly interdependent world. Ohayon forges a comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities we humans face in steering our consciousness and actions toward both inner and collective transformation. A discussion follows the film. Admission is free and the facility is accessible to disabled persons. Information = Marty Coleman at 818.517.8878 or [crossroadsfilm.com](http://crossroadsfilm.com).



## Vroman's Presents

Vroman's presents Carl Hiaasen to speak about and sign his latest book, *Razor Girl*. Thursday, Sept. 15, in the Forum, 7 p.m. This is a ticketed Vroman's event -- call 626.449.5320 for ticket information. A limited number of free tickets are available by emailing Debbie Daniels at [ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org).

## Transformational Journey to Homeboy Industries/ Learning Works Charter School

Looking for some inspiration? We have the journey for you! Join us Friday, Sept. 16, from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m., when we will make our annual trip to Homeboy Industries (L.A.) and Learning Works Charter School in Boyle Heights (Homeboy's school). We will tour both campuses and hear amazing stories from program participants and staffers. We'll take the Metro Gold Line to both facilities and have breakfast at Home Girl Café (participants are responsible for transportation fee and breakfast). Required registration form available from Ada at [aramirez@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:aramirez@allsaints-pas.org) or 626.583.2734; or pick up a form at the Transformational Journey table on the lawn. Registration deadline is September 11—or until the limited spaces fill—so register now!

## Transformational Journey with Habitat for Humanity

Join us for one or more mornings of helping build the nine new "Desiderio" homes located in the Arroyo in Pasadena. NO previous experience of any kind is required. Volunteers of all skill levels needed to help construct safe, decent and affordable homes along side these deserving families. Our next work Saturdays will be September 24 and November 12. To sign up and for further information, contact Sharyn Delahousie at 626.375.7606. Spaces will fill quickly. Sign up to volunteer today!

## All Saints Theatre Ministry to see *The Fantasticks*

Book and Lyrics by Tom Jones, music by Harvey Schmidt, directed by Seema Sueko. Friday, Sept. 30, 8:00 p.m. at Pasadena Playhouse. Tickets are \$61, available at <http://qrs.ly/eh58f62>. There will be a pre-show beverage and cheese reception. *The Fantasticks* is the longest running musical in history. It is a lyrical, romantic and allegorical love story about a boy, a girl, two fathers and a wall. It has been seen in over 67 countries and performed in locations ranging from The Peking Opera to The White House.

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

Adult Education options will resume on Sunday, October 2.

Please greet each other on the lawn, and put your faith into action at the Action Table.

## We Are All Saints: Spotlight on Mernie Meier

*An ongoing series spotlighting the amazing individuals who have found their place and make up the "we" in We Are All Saints.*

Who would guess that 16-year-old Mernie Migacz, a high school honor student, President of the Speech Club, stats keeper for the boys' basketball team, active in her church youth group and working in the church nursery, was also living in the fifth of seven foster homes?

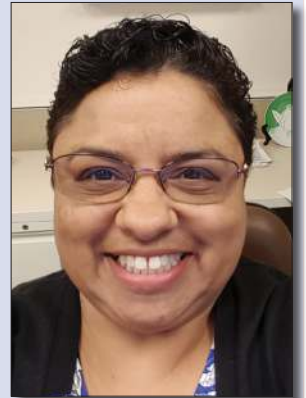
After early years of instability, Mernie's single mom managed to keep things loosely together for the five years between 5th and 9th grade. Her Mother's alcoholism created an unstable home life, and contributed to many problems, including eviction. Mernie asked a family from her church, who paid her to do housecleaning, if she could stay with them to finish her sophomore year. Mernie became a ward of the court and was placed with that same family. Health issues in that family required her to change homes at the end of 11th grade, which meant moving to a new school district.

Fast forward to 1997 when Mernie had earned a bachelor's degree in Deaf Studies at CSUN. She began dating a woman who attended All Saints; and in 1999, she and Karen Meier were married by Ed Bacon! In 2003, Mernie completed nursing school, and a few years later, she earned a Master's in Nursing Education. Currently, she is a Nurse Educator at Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital. To quote Mernie, "One of the most important things I learned from my sixth foster mom and personal hero, Isabelle Iyer, is that the only thing life owes you is an opportunity, and what you do with that opportunity is completely up to you."

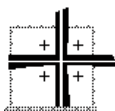
After nursing school, she joined the dynamic Foster Care Project (FCP). She appreciated their efforts to effect policy change, such as extending the age of emancipation from foster care; providing birthday gifts to foster children via the Birthday Club; and Christmas gifts via the Angel Tree. There are diaper drives, Thanksgiving basket food drives, tutoring, and mentoring. Another great accomplishment is FCP's furnishing and providing toys and books for a new visitation center in Pasadena, where families can have monitored visits with their children who are in foster care. As Mernie describes it, helping FCP makes her feel like she has come full circle! In 2008, Mernie and Karen became licensed foster parents to 17-year-old Lydia.

Occasionally, someone who knows Mernie's story asks her how she is so well balanced. "Attitude is a choice," she told me, "I have been the recipient of many kindnesses throughout my life, and I choose to focus on that, rather than the hardships I endured. We all experience our own challenges and hurdles; how we choose to face them makes all the difference in the world."

~by Wendy Edwards



Mernie Meier



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## Events and Opportunities

### • Adult Choir Openings!

• There are currently openings for tenors and basses in both Canterbury and Coventry choirs. Now is the time to join one of these wonderful singing communities. James Walker will be auditioning after September 6. For further information, contact Debbie Daniels at [ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:ddaniels@allsaints-pas.org) or 626.583.2750.

### • 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). Through Sunday, Sept.

11. Items Needed: School Supplies, Clothing for Girls and Boys and Toiletries. Information = Ada Ramirez, 626.583.2734 or [aramirez@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:aramirez@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.

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. 3) Submit your

employer's matching gift form online or on paper. 4) 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](mailto:JLoduha@allsaints-pas.org) to help walk you through this simple - but rewarding - process.

### • Lay Counseling Ministry

• The ministers are volunteer lay counselors, trained to assist persons undergoing situational and emotional difficulties. If you are experiencing situational difficulties, you may leave a confidential message on the dedicated line at 626.583.2706 and a coordinator will call you to schedule a meeting.

### • Interested in Children and Youth Choirs?

• Do you know someone in PreK - 12th Grade who loves to sing but the idea of auditioning for a choir makes them too nervous to get involved? Did you know that we have 6 children's and youth choirs at All Saints and they are all non-auditioned? The program is thriving with 130 choristers from All Saints and the greater community. Come join one of our choirs! Registration Day is Sept. 11 from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in Sweetland Hall. Information = Jenny Tisi at [jtisi@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:jtisi@allsaints-pas.org).

**Praying for Others:** If you are interested in praying for others, please call the Prayer Line at 626.583.2707 or [prayers@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:prayers@allsaints-pas.org).

Altar flowers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a special event, or to give thanks for someone who has touched your life. To donate flowers for the altars, please call 626.796.1172.

**Have you included All Saints in your will or estate plan? Let us know! If you'd like to learn more about making a pledge or planned gift, call the Giving Office at 626.583.2736**