



Saints Alive

ALL SAINTS CHURCH PASADENA

SEPTEMBER 2017

**Mike Kinman:
In the Face of Change**

**FAITH IN ACTION:
TRANSGENDER JUSTICE**

**Homecoming:
Under One Sky**

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Cy & Robyn Estabrook**

In the Face of Change

from Rector Mike Kinman

*New occasions teach new duties,
time makes ancient good uncouth,
They must upward still and onward,
who would keep abreast of truth.*

James Russell Lowell wrote these words in the 1840s in a poem called *The Present Crisis*, criticizing the United States' war with Mexico.

In this extraordinary and timeless turn of phrase, Lowell reminds us the world is always changing, and if we are to be people of truth and righteousness, we must always grow and change as well.

We know all about change here at All Saints Church.

It's been almost a year since we first met on Homecoming Sunday, 2016. Almost a year since I stood in the pulpit and together we sang "I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on freedom."

There has been a lot of change and there is more to come. We have bid farewell to Ed Bacon, Zelda Kennedy and James Walker ... people who were not only deeply faithful pastors but whose theology, leadership styles, and management philosophies shaped this congregation for decades.

I am different from Ed ... just as Ed was different from George. We are different people with different gifts and from different generations. I am already preaching differently and leading differently ... and soon we will be joined by new staff who also will be different from those that came before.

Similarly, the world is changing – sometimes in ways that make us rejoice and sometimes in ways that makes us anxious and afraid. And if we are to follow and be a part of what Christ is doing as these new occasions happen ... if we are to keep abreast of truth we must adapt and change as well.

And so I wanted to take this chance to say two things about that.

First, we all react to change differently. Depending on who we are and how we are wired ... and even what day it is ... we may experience change anywhere on the spectrums from exhilaration to exhaustion, from rejoicing to mourning. Because change involves destabilization, even change we have longed for can be unfamiliar and uncomfortable.

There is no right or wrong way to feel in the face of change. There is just how we feel. And part of how we love one another through change is to create space where we can articulate those feelings. That's why we have started to have community conversations about issues like applause in church and our alcohol policy – and we will be having more



PHOTO BY CAM SANDERS

on other topics and just for sharing in general.

As I and others suggest changes – or as we just by being who we are embody change – it's OK to agree or disagree or struggle or rejoice. But let's pray about it and talk about it together, OK?

Second, just because we are doing something differently or talking about something differently now doesn't mean the way it was done or talked about previously was wrong or bad.

The All Saints of rector George Regas was a certain way because that's what a faithful response to the new occasions of that age looked like. Same for the All Saints of rector Ed Bacon. And now together we get to figure out what new duties God is calling us to with the new occasions of today's "Present Crisis."

New generations are coming of age and a multiplicity of cultures and classes are coming together in new ways in this community.

Some "ancient goods" of the past will now seem uncouth. We will realize – as our ancestors will one day realize of us – that as humans our best efforts at faithfulness both accomplished wonderful things and also fell short of the kin-dom of God. And just as our ancestors will one day build on the work we are doing and will do together, so we are building on the faithful labor of generations past.

Yes, change is afoot. Lots of it. And we are well aware of it. New generations are coming of age and a multiplicity of cultures and classes are coming together in new ways in this community. A community of great diversity brings with it the gift and challenge of many different ways of doing things, and particularly those of us used to being in power must be conscious of Christ continually calling us to let the last be first and the first be last.

There are plenty of new occasions happening and we are learning new duties. And with Christ leading us, together we will continue, upward still and onward, striving to keep abreast of truth.

In 1985 then-Presiding Bishop Ed Browning proclaimed "in the Episcopal Church there will be no outcasts." That goal – which remains a work in progress – has put us on the forefront of the struggle for LGBTQ equality in general and ... most recently ... the struggle against transgender discrimination in particular.

While we have clearly not yet finished with the work of full inclusion for LGBTQ people in our church or in our nation, the accelerated and orchestrated targeting of transgender people has called on us to step up and to speak out. We have. And we will continue to.

Not only did our Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies – the "presiding officers" of the Episcopal Church – take the lead in [an amicus brief filed with the U.S. Supreme Court](#) protecting the dignity of transgender Americans in the so-called "Bathroom Bill" debate, last month Bishop Curry [issued this strong statement](#) in response to President Trump's tweet advocating discrimination against transgender service members:

"I am compelled to oppose these actions and to affirm the moral principle of equal rights for all persons, including the LGBTQ communities. I do so as a follower of Jesus Christ, as Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, and as a citizen who loves this country. This conviction is not born primarily of a social ideal, but of the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and the witness of our biblical and theological tradition."

Here at All Saints we have a long history of advocacy on transgender justice issues. In 2009, All Saints members were in the forefront of the work with TransEpiscopal to adopt trans-inclusive policies at our General Convention in Anaheim. In 2012, All Saints parishioner Louise Brooks produced "Out of the Box" – a groundbreaking documentary film giving voice to the witness of transgender people of faith courageously

telling their stories of hope, healing and wholeness. And in the years since then we have continued to put our transgender advocacy into action: by standing with trans activists locally and nationally and – here at home – by transforming our longstanding GALAS Ministry into the LGBTQ Ministry and providing gender neutral



Faith in Action: Transgender Justice

By Susan Russell

restrooms across the ASC campus.

On Sunday, October 1st, we will have the chance to learn more about how we can partner in the struggle for transgender justice from Allison VanKuiken – a program director for Equality California and our first Rector's Forum speaker for the 2017/2018 program year. Allison came to Equality California with 15 years of experience as a leader and organizer with numerous political and educational campaigns across the country. She has successfully managed political campaigns for a diverse array of candidates in battleground states, and has been recognized as the only transgender person to lead an ultimately successful effort to fight a ballot-box challenge to an LGBTQ civil rights ordinance. Allison holds bachelor's degrees in public relations and political science from Grand Valley State University. She lives in Pasadena with her wife and baby daughter.



Allison VanKuiken

Mark your calendars now and plan to be in the Rector's Forum at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, October 1st, when we will learn from Allison how we can continue to be part of the struggle to make "no outcasts" a reality in our church, our city and our nation.



General Convention in Anaheim. In 2012, All Saints parishioner Louise Brooks produced "Out of the Box" – a groundbreaking documentary film giving voice to the witness of transgender people of faith courageously



Summer Adventure Arts Camp July 17-21



Melt ICE Protest August 3



La Misión Youth Transformational Journey August 4-7



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Senior Guild Training
August 5



Chris Vreeland Farewell
August 6



Charlottesville Prayer Vigil, August 12

It's been a
great summer!

PHOTOS BY CAM SANDERS, SAMANTHA HARRIS, KEITH HOLEMAN AND FRIENDS

Worship

Homecoming: Under One Sky

*"If you think you can't-
go-home-again
Because the might-haves
and
the should-haves and the
didn't-quotes
have taken hold,
Then think again."*

These words from "Homecoming," a poem penned by Anne Breck Peterson in 1982, once again call us all back to All Saints Church for Homecoming Sunday 2017. Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on Sunday, September 17th, join



the All Saints Church community as we celebrate the launch of a new program year and a renewed commitment to our ongoing work of bearing witness to God's love in the world.

Mike Kinman will preach at all three services: 7:30, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. Music at the 9:00 and 11:15 will include the Canterbury Choir, Trouvères, and 1pm Ensemble. The 11:15 a.m. service will be a bilingual Spanish/English celebration.

The theme for Homecoming this year is "Under One Sky" – celebrating the truth that we are one human family created in love and called to walk in love with God and with each other. In these turbulent times we claim both our unity and our diversity as we resist

those forces that would divide us, coming together as one community under one sky.

Homecoming plans include an outdoor festival of food, games for kids and adults, and music, all amid vibrant decorations and broad canopies providing lots of shade. This year, boxed lunches for purchase are being hand crafted by Hope Café and Catering – an awesome enterprise "delivering hope one order at a time," committed to giving second chances to the "outcast, the outsourced, and the overlooked." Options include Waldorf chicken wrap, vegetarian, gluten free and a children's sack lunch. Purchase your food tickets early so you don't have to wait in line as long. Tickets for the gourmet box lunches are \$10 and children's sack lunches are \$5. Visit www.allsaints-pas.org/sign-up-center/ to pre-purchase tickets – and print out your receipt to skip the lines (but don't worry, we will have a list of everyone who pre-purchased their lunches).

So be with us on Homecoming Sunday – September 17 – as we begin another year together of putting faith into action; of speaking truth to power; of making God's love tangible 24/7. And remembering that there are a lot of folks out there who have plenty of reasons not to be part of a church until they find one like All Saints, this is a great year to invite someone to Homecoming so we can say "Welcome Home" to them, too! All are welcome for what is going to be the best party in town!

For more information, contact Jamie Hebert at 626.582.2765 or jhebert@allsaints-pas.org

Spotlight

by Wendy Edwards

Cy & Robyn Estabrook

"It's not easy to go through a rethinking process of what you were taught about your faith when you were young. But if you're really seeking, you will go to a lot of different places, trying to listen to the Holy Spirit."

As we sat and talked about how Cy and Robyn Estabrook found themselves at All Saints, that statement from Cy stood out. They had both grown up going to church regularly with families who got involved. Robyn sang in the choir and was confirmed at an Episcopal Church in Arcadia. Cy's family attended the conservative evangelical church his great-grandfather had joined when he came to Pasadena from Minnesota.

Cy, a divorced father of one son, and Robyn were introduced by a dating service, the 1980s version of Match.com. They spent two hours on the phone discovering what a great match they were! Now they've been married 29 years, and have two grown daughters.



Their wedding was at Robyn's Episcopal church, and while Cy remembers it fondly, he felt a little ill at ease around all the robes and ritual there. So the two of them went back to Cy's church, and stayed for fourteen years. Robyn says of that time, "I learned a lot, and became better acquainted with the Bible there." During that period, the 1992 Los Angeles riots broke out. Cy read in a local paper that hundreds of All Saints parishioners had come to church

with bags of groceries for inner-city residents whose food markets had burned down. He was impressed by that example of putting faith into action and made a mental note to go check out All Saints some Sunday. Years later Cy happened to see one of Oprah Winfrey's Super Soul Sunday interviews with rector emeritus Ed Bacon, and he was even more intrigued.

When she visited All Saints, Robyn felt the full impact of, "Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here." She remembered a time when one of their daughters' friends stayed with them because he'd been kicked out by his parents after coming out to them. That young man had said, "I can't go to church, because Christians hate gay people." Robyn thought, "Here is a church more focused on loving our neighbors than on particular Bible verses." She realized that for regular church attendance to feel meaningful, it needed to be at a place where people are being transformed. "Big church or small, you need to be where things are happening in people's lives."

Fast forward to December 30, 2015, when Cy was enjoying a "guys night out" playing pool with friends. As he walked to his car, Cy slipped and fell hard against the curb, suffering compression fractures of two vertebrae. After surgery, Cy woke up in the hospital on New Year's Day to the news that he wouldn't walk again. His response was to keep moving forward, and with Robyn's unflinching encouragement, he enjoys a remarkably independent and full life. On the day he got his specially outfitted car, he drove himself to Laguna to watch a wheelchair tennis competition. He'd played in college and as an adult, so he decided a wheelchair wouldn't keep him from playing now! Now he is often on the lawn Sunday mornings greeting people at the Pathways ministry table, he volunteers with the New Members Class, and he serves on the City of Pasadena ADA Commission. And there's more! Cy was a high school math teacher, so he tutors kids who need a boost in math after school.

Expressing her joy over their belonging at All Saints, Robyn said, "Not so long ago I gave Cy a Book of Common Prayer as a gift. That was not something I'd thought would happen. It meant so much to me."

And we at All Saints are that much richer for having the Estabrooks with us on the journey!

Calendar of events for the month. Please check our website at www.allsaints-pas.org and the weekly *This Week At All Saints* for details and contact information.

September

3 – Sunday, **Immigration Information Forum**, 2:30–4:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall

Taize Labyrinth, 4:00–8:00 p.m., Chancel

8 – Friday, **Diocesan Dodger Night**, 7:10–10:00 p.m., Dodger Stadium

9 – Saturday, **Free Legal Clinic**, 9:00 a.m.–noon., Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena 91103

12 – Tuesday, **Vestry Meeting**, 6:00–9:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall

16 – Saturday, **Homecoming Volunteer Preparation**, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Campus-wide

17 – Sunday, **Homecoming**, 8:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Campus-wide

18 – Monday, **Training for Facilitating a Small Group**, 6:30–8:30 p.m., Seminar Room

22 – Friday, **Fiction Fun!**, 7:30–9:00 p.m., Guild Room

24 – Sunday, **Celebration of Ministries**, 8:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Campus-wide

Click on the blue titles to see more information.

Adult Education 10:15 a.m. Sundays

• *Adult Education will resume on Sunday, October 1st.*

Studio ASC Podcast

Look for Episode 2 of Studio ASC!

This month we feature:

• Susan Russell, Juliana Serrano and Mike Kinman on the Johnson amendment and the relationship between politics and religious organizations.

• Najeeba Syeed on “Being an Ally.”
• An interview with James Walker.

• Youth Ministers Jeremy Langill & Isaac Ruelas on the Bible and LGBTQ issues.

Find Studio ASC on iTunes, Stitcher or at allsaints-pas.org.

New Website Q&A!

Have you visited All Saints’ new website? It’s quite a change – one we hope you’ll love – though it may take a few minutes to get used to. It is a great fit for our witness and mission – and the fast-changing world we live in: image-driven and more accessible, content is easier to update and easier to read. It is compatible with and easily navigable on desktops, smart phones and tablets, and it automatically publishes all posts to Facebook and Twitter!

The new site includes the data from the old website in one comprehensive web portal, but the work isn’t yet complete. As with all reconstruction projects some of the migration of data takes more time than others.

In the meantime, the two most-asked questions about the new site are: 1) How do I live stream? and 2) Where are the video archives?

Ans. 1) The “Live Stream” link is on the top navigation bar, third from the left, on EVERY page!

Ans. 2) You can access our Video Archives via the YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/allsaintspasadena1/>. Click on “Videos,” 2nd from the left, on YouTube’s upper navigation to access the oldies.

Please take a few minutes to click through the the homepage. You’ll find sermon posts containing both videos and texts, upcoming Sunday schedules, event notifications and reminders, and breaking news. On the right side of all interior pages you’ll find, under “Connect with ASC,” the icons for our Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube channels. So connect and enjoy! Email questions or suggestions to info@allsaints-pas.org.

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