

# Saints Alive

ALL SAINTS CHURCH PASADENA

JUNE 2018

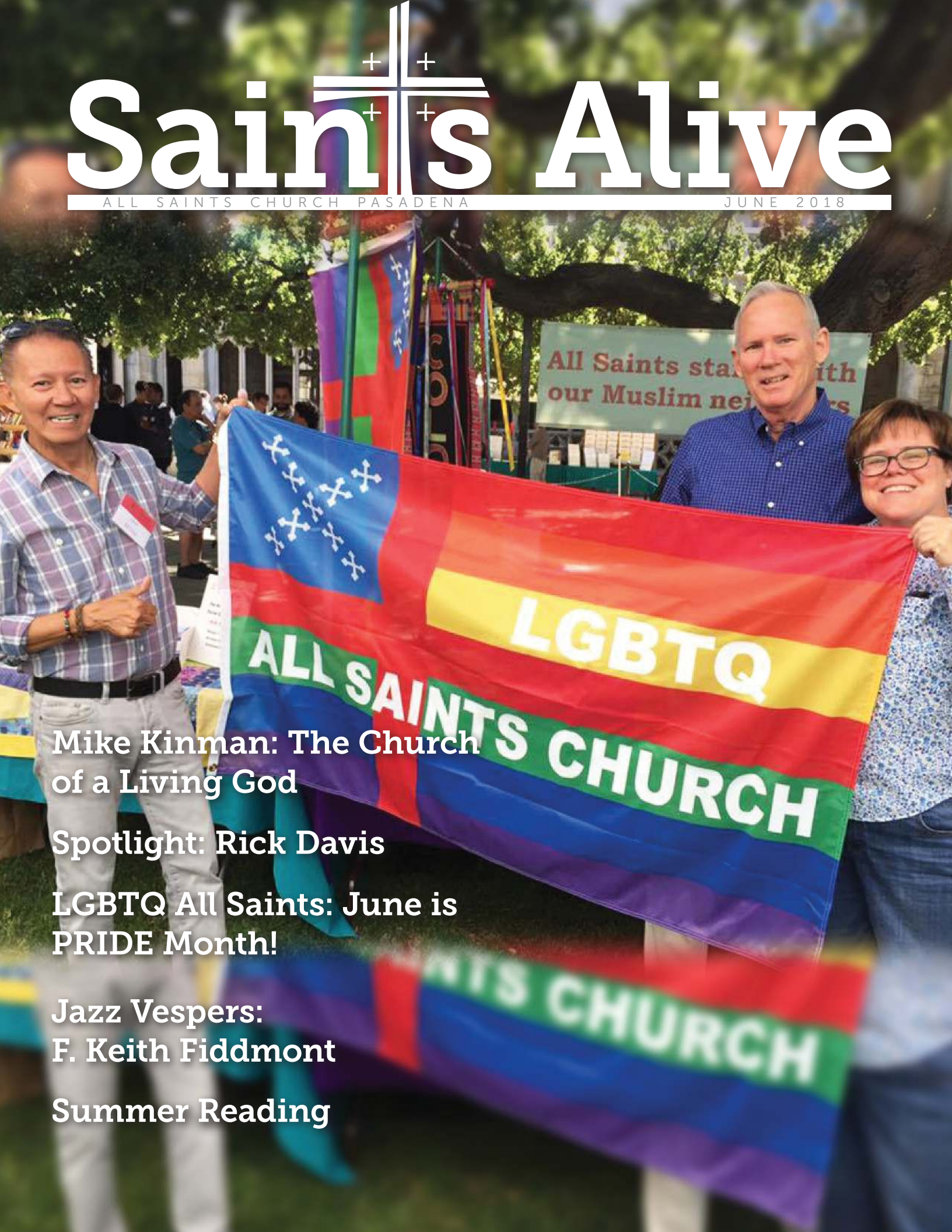
**Mike Kinman: The Church  
of a Living God**

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# The Church of a Living God

from Rector Mike Kinman

*"Your young people shall see visions  
And your elders shall dream dreams."*

We heard these words on the feast of Pentecost ... as the amazing diversity of our All Saints Church community poured forth in a myriad of different languages reading this text in a chorus that sounded like the rushing of a river.

Harkening back to the words of the prophet Joel, Peter is describing what happens when God's Spirit descends on and emerges from a community.

*Your young people shall see visions  
And your elders shall dream dreams.*

Peter is giving us a profound reminder that God's Spirit never rests solely on one generation. That it takes the Spirit working through multiple generations for the Church to be born and reborn and reborn in the world.

Later that Sunday, at the youth choir concert, we heard our young people say these words Common and John Legend wrote in *Glory*:

*No one can win the war individually  
It takes the wisdom of the elders and young people's energy*

The culture in which we live tempts us to view the world – and power – as a zero sum game. We talk of generations in terms of "turns." As in ... now it's OUR turn. Which means ... YOUR turn is over.

The truth of Pentecost is that the world is much more beautiful, much more expansive, much more interesting than that. Every generation has a role. And as time goes by those roles change as times change and our experiences and gifts change. And God's Spirit breaks through as the generations work together to discern their roles ... as they work to support one another.

New generations must be allowed to step forward and claim the power that is waiting for them. Their visions, their energy must be allowed to break loose and take shape and bring us to new places and new ways of being.

AND

That energy and the ongoing life of the community must be informed by the wisdom and dreams of the elders. The offering of those gifts that have gone through the refiners' fire of time and experience are not only what keeps us as a community rooted to the dreams that continue to develop from generations unto millennia but produce the offerings that only come to fruit after decades of living in this world.

During our Epiphany preaching series, Brinell Anderson embodied this when, before beginning her sermon at each service, she said:



PHOTO BY KEITH HOLEMAN

*In the custom of traditional African practice, I would like to acknowledge my place in the circle of life by asking an elder for permission to speak.*

It was an acknowledgment that not only do the young stand on the shoulders of their elders, but that their elders are still offering in the community.

And just as important was the elder's response.  
Yes. Speak.

The elders' joy is not to hold onto power and block the voice of the young, but from an honored position to encourage the voice of the young. To revel in their grasping power. To watch over them as they make their own mistakes and to offer their wisdom and gifts in ways that build up not hold back.

And the joy of the young is to honor and recognize the incredible gifts of our elders, and to receive them not as orders to be followed lockstep but as wisdom and strength and companionship for the journey.

And ... for those of us in the middle. Those of us Gen X types who find ourselves between large generations, at once still nurturing the young and not yet with the status of the elder (and in fact often caring for aging elders while we are still raising our young) ... our joy is to stand in the breach. To honor the gifts of each generation and resist the temptation to grab

power for ourselves. To model that God speaks and moves through everyone, and that the most beautiful choir comes when one voice doesn't overpower another but when all voices come together in harmony.

We are blessed with amazing people of every generation at All Saints Church.

Let us let loose the energy and visions of the young.

Let us be fed by the wisdom and dreams of the elders.

Let us, together, be born anew as the Church of a living God.

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# Spotlight

# Rick Davis

by Carolyn Ash

It is hard to miss Rick Davis as he walks around the All Saints campus. He is tall -- very tall -- and his hearty laugh resounds. He gets involved in lots of things around ASC, and our church benefits from his energetic leadership.

Rick came to All Saints twenty years ago. He was looking for a church when his children, Terrance and William, were young. While attending a San Gabriel Valley Pride event, he stopped by a table staffed by All Saints volunteers inviting gay and lesbian people to come to church. Raised Methodist, he knew nothing about the Episcopal Church, but he recognized that he and his kids would be welcome at a church represented at the Pride festival.

Rick visited All Saints. He appreciated Ed Bacon's preaching and the Rector's Forum speakers. Terrance and William liked the children's programs. The family returned again and again.

Soon Rick took the Newcomers Class and became involved in GALAS. William attended preschool Sunday school. Rick remembers how William would happily announce afterward that he got to blow out the candle. The boys joined the children's choir and became acolytes. Terrance gave the sermon at Youth Sunday the year he was a senior in high school. Rick's journey at All Saints had deepened.

Wanting to get more involved in the life of the parish,



Rick joined the CYF committee and became an Acolyte Coordinator. He was elected to Vestry, served as CYF chair, and participated on several Discernment

Committees, including Sally Howard's discernment for priesthood. A few years later, he was elected to a second term on Vestry. Because he had fundraising experience, he was appointed chair of Stewardship. He also served as Junior Warden during the interim between Ed's retirement and Mike's arrival. Rick expresses his gratitude and appreciation for the impressive professionalism and

collegiality of the staff during the transition.

As Rick has supported All Saints in so many ways, the church has also sustained him. He lost his job as a banking lawyer at the onset of the Great Recession. It was a scary and unsettling time for him and for so many others. He participated in the Life and Livelihood program, meeting with people who were unemployed or underemployed, finding encouragement throughout that difficult time, and networking with potential employers. He works now for Lambda Legal, where he serves as Western Regional Director with responsibility for administrative, fundraising and public outreach strategies for this organization which works on LGBTQ equality.

All Saints makes Rick feel both comfortable and challenged. He values All Saints' progressive stance on social issues. The community embraces our LGBTQ siblings -- it is also where he started dating his partner, Barry Ward, seven years ago. We strive to make sacred space for all racial and ethnic groups. Rick feels challenged as All Saints wrestles with hard decisions around contemporary societal problems and the ways the church strives to be proactive, responsive, and sensitive.

Rick makes his contributions to All Saints--his financial as well as his personal involvement--with a sense of responsibility toward the church. "I'm part of the community, and I have ownership," he says. He has made the leap from "just giving" to giving "more substantially." "I support what I believe in, and I am blessed to do so," he adds.



PHOTO BY KEITH HOLEMAN



# LGBTQ All Saints: June is PRIDE Month!

by Susan Russell

In 1976, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church declared that “homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church” (1976-A069). Since then, the church has continued to work toward full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) Episcopalians – and All Saints Church has been part of leading the charge. Here’s just the tip-of-the-iceberg of that history:

**In 1985 GALAS** (Gays & Lesbians All Saints) was formed and in 1992 then-rector George Regas presided at the first blessing of a same-sex union (Mark Benson & Phil Straw). In 1997 All Saints launched its “Beyond Inclusion” ministry and in 2002 we joined with others organizations and individuals around the church to form “Claiming the Blessing” – an umbrella collaborative working toward the same goal of full inclusion.

**In 2003 Gene Robinson** – the first openly gay bishop – was elected and consecrated; in 2009, General Convention resolved that God’s call is open to all; in 2012, a provisional rite of blessing for same-gender relationships was authorized, and discrimination against transgender persons in the ordination process was officially prohibited; and in 2015, the canons of the church were changed to make the rite of marriage available to all people, regardless of gender.

**In 2018 the work continues** – and All Saints continues to be part of the struggle to dismantle homophobia and transphobia in all its forms. We asked a multi-generational cross-section of All Saintsers to answer the question:

**Is it still important for All Saints to offer an explicit welcome to members of the LGBTQ community ... and if so, why?**

The LGBTQ community is full of people who either think that all Christians are like the homophobic ones they see in the media or who have had the experience of being beaten up by theology that demeans, condemns and ostracizes LGBTQ people. For those who find their way into All Saints, it’s kind of hard to believe at first that what you’re hearing is actually real – that this is a place that doesn’t just accept or include people but really, helps us celebrate who we are – and makes sure that we know that God loves us just as we are. It was a shock to me 35 years ago – and we absolutely need to keep offering that message to people who are still finding their way here. That “explicit welcome” has become such a part of our DNA that it may seem repetitive or unnecessary to say it. But for those new people who have never heard it, it is an unbelievably moving “welcome home.” – **Jim White**

All Saints Church has done so much amazing work when it comes to working with the LGBTQ community and we have so much exciting work ahead of us. It is no longer uncommon for churches to be LGBTQ affirming. It’s still very uncommon for churches to center the voices of LGBTQ people – particularly trans and nonbinary people. When we center these voices we get to learn how the queer and trans community breathes new life into the Jesus Movement. All Saints Church has an opportunity to lead the way in making gender nonconforming people feel welcome in our sanctuary, in our main bathrooms, and in our theology. We can introduce our pronouns when meeting someone. We can look at our bathrooms and see who is welcomed. We can look at who we are excluding when we say brothers and sisters because

so many people here in Los Angeles do not identify as a brother or sister. We can look at all of these things and say ‘how will we proclaim God’s love is beyond binary?’ – **Kelly O’Phelan**



It takes diversity of identity, culture and background to build a community representative of the human race. And in doing so, we become better people who can challenge and empower each other to have a voice. – **Derek Wan**

Over the years that I have spoken to LGBTQ people at All Saints, one very common story is of crying in last pew after

hearing the statement that we are welcome – not just the generic “we sinners” but the specific mention of me – a gay man, trans woman. For many LGBTQ people who are raised in a church, the constant message is everybody but you ... so when they walk into church, their default is rejection. Everything they hear is thru the lens of ‘this does not include me.’ As a person becomes aware of their sexuality they come to a place where they have to reject the church, or deny their own self. Either process is destructive to the soul. So it is very important to correct the previous tapes that play over and over in our heads, and say ‘You the Queer are God’s child as you are and this faith community will affirm that.’ When someone who has come out to themselves and is seeking reconnection to a faith community hears “whoever YOU are” ...and knows that the you includes me – the lesbian – it matters. It heals. – **Janis Reid**

Sometimes you hear a list of pairings and immediately think “Those things go great together!” Chocolate and Peanut Butter, Vodka and Tomato juice, Imelda Marcos and shoes. Not on the list: LGBTQ people and Christianity. Doesn’t quite roll off the tongue, does it? I grew up going to Catholic Mass. As a child I always loved the incense – which was prophetic, because my favorite joke as an adult was “Hey Father: Love the dress, but your purse is on fire.” I needed humor. The church that taught me that Christ had a deep abiding love for all of us – and that it didn’t include me. Word from the Vatican was that LGBTQ people were harmful to the church and families. When I attended my first All Saints Eucharist and I heard LGBTQ people mentioned in the service it was like UFO sighting, radical and implausible. But there it was, all the same. All Saints Church was saying that yes, The Unconditional Love Of God, reached past all boundaries of prejudice, homophobia, ignorance, shame and my own self-loathing. And I listened. And it healed a big ouchie for me. The hurt of wanting to belong but of being kept at a distance. When All Saints says “Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you here,” they mean it. Happy Pride Month, everyone: You are loved! – **Alec Mapa**

“Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, there is a place for you here” are words of radical welcome that have been part of the DNA of All Saints

Church for decades. We believe we are called to offer a broadly inclusive message of hope and healing to all those seeking to find and be found by God. And so we continue to offer an explicit invitation to members of the LGBTQ community who have too often been rejected by the church because of who they are or who they love.

- We proudly hang the PRIDE flag at our Welcome Table as an outward and visible sign of that invitation.
- We strive to enhance the journey of faith of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community through opportunities to foster spiritual and educational growth,



social interaction, political advocacy and pastoral care.

- We have a long history of being in the forefront of LGBTQ equality in the church and in the world – from blessing same-sex unions since 1992 to working against Prop 8 here in California and leading the fight for full inclusion in the Episcopal Church.
- We offer LGBTQ mentors for newcomers finding their way and referrals to LGBTQ clergy for pastoral care.

The goal of LGBTQ mentorship at All Saints Church is to help LGBTQ individuals connect: with the greater All Saints community; with our parish LGBTQ community, and with the larger LGBTQ community of greater Los Angeles. We focus on providing welcome and information, providing a personal connection into our ASC community, and supporting mentees in accessing our community’s resources. Our LGBTQ mentors are of different genders, cultures, and are available to communicate in several languages. For more information or to be connected to an LGBTQ mentor, please contact Jamie Hebert at 626.583.2765 or [jhebert@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:jhebert@allsaints-pas.org).



# Summer Adventure 2018

This year's Summer Adventure will be held from July 23-27 for children and youth entering grades Kindergarten-8th grade – offering opportunities for High School-aged youth to participate as camp counselors. This year's camp will be focused on the earth and sustainability! Students will dig in the dirt to learn about God and ourselves and plant low-water gardens using a variety of succulent plants, create sustainable art projects such as welcome mats and coasters from recycled fabrics and other recycled materials, and play games outside in nature! They will also learn about how kids can reduce their carbon impact and why that's important. It will aim to inspire environmental



PHOTOS OF 2017'S SUMMER ADVENTURE BY CAM SANDERS

p.m. all five days, with before- and aftercare available at extra cost. Dance and aerobics will also be offered in the afternoons. Registration will open in early June. For more information contact Kelly O'Phelan at [kphelan@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:kphelan@allsaints-pas.org) or 626.583.2764.

creativity in your student through faith, fun and fellowship. The week

will end with the grand opening of our new low-water succulent garden on Friday afternoon, July 27th! Parents and friends will be invited to celebrate at our Garden Party here at All Saints.

Summer Adventure is curated for the children and youth of All Saints Church with a curriculum that reflects our values – making God's inclusive, transforming love tangible for all of our campers. The camp will run from 9 a.m.-2



## Jazz Vespers for June: F. Keith Fiddmont



On Sunday, June 24, at 5:00 p.m. on the Chancel we will welcome saxophonist F. Keith Fiddmont to our June Jazz Vespers. Born in the jazz rich city of St. Louis, Missouri, he has recorded or performed live with such legends as Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Jennifer Holliday, Natalie Cole, Cy Coleman, Dr. John, and Little Anthony, as well as gifted artists like Kenny Rankin, Billy Childs, Gary Taylor, Michael Bublé, John Pizzarelli, Diana Krall, and Marcus Miller. Keith has been a member of the music faculty of Santa Monica College since 1996 where he teaches music history and directs the school's jazz instrumental and vocal ensembles.

He will be joined by Brian Swartz on trumpet, Edwin Livingston on bass, Kendall Kay on Drums and Daniel Szabo on piano. For more information contact Melissa Hayes at [mhayes@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:mhayes@allsaints-pas.org) or 626.583.2725.

# Summer Reading

Click on any title for more information

We thought you might be interested in what the All Saints staff is reading this summer so we sat down on the woodslat dock, dropped a baited fishing line into the lake and this is what we reeled in. In alphabetical order:

## Ana Camacho

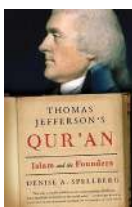
### Origin by Dan Brown

I love the books of Dan Brown! *Origin* is the fifth novel about Harvard professor Robert Langdon, the symbologist who first uncovered secrets and thrilling conspiracies in *The Da Vinci Code*.

## Keith Holeman

### Thomas Jefferson's Qur'an: Islam and the Founders by Denise Spellberg

I'm intrigued by the process through which our founding thinkers came up with a pluralistic vision for the country based both on freedom from religion and freedom of religion — that in theory was much more tolerant than they actually were. I recently came upon this book at Book Alley—traded them some of my own books for it—and can't wait to dig in.



## Christina Honchell

### The Overstory by Richard Powers

Richard Powers' novel *The Echo Maker* launched me into my obsessive love for sandhill cranes; I fully expect his latest to make me an obsessed listener to trees. I just hope that afterward I will be able to walk on my wood floors without weeping (as one reviewer reported his reaction to be). I plan to read it in Point Reyes, where I have been known to hug a tree or two....I love his writing and his passion for the natural world.

## Sally Howard

### Persepolis: The Story of Childhood by Marjane Satrapi

### Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jasmyn Ward

### Unforgettable: The Bold Flavors of Paula Wolfert's Renegade Life by Emily Thelin

## Mike Kinman

### ImprovNation: How We Made a Great American Art by Sam Wasson

The history of improv from its roots with Del Close, Mike Nichols and Elaine May to Second City and Stephen Colbert.

### Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How it Can Revitalize Christianity by Elizabeth Edman

A deep dive into queer ethics and Christian theology. Meeting a Jesus who boldly explodes binaries and disrupts traditional ways of thinking.

### The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Young adult fiction that is great for adults, too. Powerful, convicting and moving story of a black teen girl's struggle living in multiple worlds while she deals with the trauma of witnessing the police killing of her best friend.



## Jeremy Langill

Let's see ... currently it's such amazing titles as:

### Good Night Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

### Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae

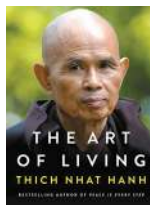
### Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed by Eileen Christelow

... such is my life at the moment!

## Jim Loduha

### The Art of Living by Thich Nhat Hanh

For me, spirituality transcends any particular religious framework. Additionally, we're living in a time of lots of noise. I'm looking forward to digging my heart into the words of this Zen Master for both inward centeredness and outward interconnectedness.



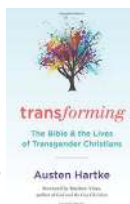
## Christina Ortega

I want to recommend a favorite used-book store instead: Century Books on Green Street is the time-forgotten temple where avid Pasadena readers regularly worship. Caltech professors often give lectures and local jazz musicians share their talents from the loft while guests hunt for their next treasure among shelves laden with the residual love that lingers in the presence of used books. The ever-genial proprietors offer refreshments as soon as you enter and welcome all into their family. The shop's latest feature is the Jane Austen Alcove. If Century Books is indeed a temple, this alcove serves as a chapel for the wandering Austenophile. I encourage all to make a pilgrimage as soon as you are able!

## Kelly O'Phelan

### Transforming – The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke

Austen's book speaks about God, gender and the church and how he found a welcoming faith community as a trans Christian. I've followed



Austen's work for years on twitter and I'm really excited to read his new book (and spend a weekend with him this summer!).

## Ada Ramirez

### War on Peace, The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence by Ronan Farrow (2018 Pulitzer winner)

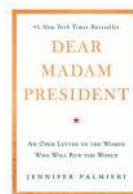
### A Higher Loyalty by James Comey

I am hoping for a deeper understanding of how we got to where we are as a country and for some inspiration as we move forward.

## Susan Russell

### Dear Madame President by Jennifer Palmieri

An awesome, short, accessible and inspiring "open letter to the women who will run the world" by long-time political campaign communications director Jennifer Palmieri.



### The Soul of America: The Battle

### for Our Better Angels by John Meacham

A brilliant look back at our history to inform how we work to shape our future..

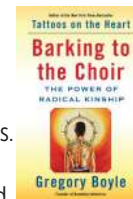
### A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo by John Oliver

Adorable story of two bunnies finding love in spite of the where they live.

## Juliana Serrano

### Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship by Greg Boyle

Greg Boyle's *Barking to the Choir* reveals how compassion is transforming the neighborhood that has the highest concentration of murderous gang activity in Los Angeles. In a nation deeply divided and a neighborhood plagued by poverty and violence, *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life in "the barrio." It is guaranteed to shake up our ideas about God and about people with a glimpse at a world defined by more compassion and fewer barriers.



**Did you know?** In addition to supporting our local bookshops — Vroman's and the other great independent used book stores in Pasadena — you can support All Saints when you shop on Amazon. Simply log into your Amazon account on [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select All Saints Church Pasadena. More info is here: <https://allsaints-pas.org/donate/amazonsmile/>.



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

# June

*Click on blue titles for more information*

**2** – Saturday, **Ordination of Antonio Gallardo**, 10:00 a.m., St. John's Pro-Cathedral, 514 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles  
**Reception for Antonio Gallardo**, 12:30 p.m., All Saints Quad Lawn  
**3** – Sunday, **Voices from the Heart: Honoring Marty Coleman**, 1:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall  
**Canterbury & Coventry Choirs Spring Concert** 5:00 p.m., Church  
**Spring Concert Reception**, 6:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall  
**5** – Tuesday, **Vestry Meeting**, 7:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall  
**7** – Thursday, **Senior Saints Listening Session**, 12:30 p.m., Sweetland Hall  
**8** – Friday, **Summer Fun: Not So Bored Game Night**, 6:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall  
**Theatre Ministry: Culture Clash's Bordertown Now**, 8:00 p.m.,

Pasadena Playhouse  
**9** – Saturday, **Free Legal Clinic**, 9:00 a.m.-noon., Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena 91103  
**12** – Tuesday, **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 7:00 p.m., Scott Hall 6  
**21** – Thursday, **Senior Saints Spiritual Reading Group**, 12:30 p.m., Seminar Room  
**22** – Friday, **Fiction Fun!**, 7:30 p.m., Guild Room  
**Theatre Ministry: Her Portmanteau**, 8:00 p.m., @ Boston Court  
**23** – Saturday, **Sacred Stillness Retreats**, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., Church  
**24** – Sunday, **Jazz Vespers: F. Keith Fiddmont**, 5:00 p.m., Chancel  
**26** – Tuesday, **Vestry Meeting**, 7:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall  
**30** – Saturday, **Transformational Journey to Uncommon Good**, 10:00 a.m., off-campus

## Save the Dates: Ordinations!

A reminder that **Antonio Gallardo** will be ordained as a transitional deacon on Saturday, June 2nd, 10:00 a.m., at St. John's Pro-Cathedral, 514 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles 90007.



And **Lauren Grubaugh** will be ordained, also as a transitional deacon, on Saturday, July 21st, at 10:00 a.m. here at All Saints Church!

Come out and support them!

## All Saints Summer Interns for 2018

This summer All Saints Church is excited to welcome two formation interns. We're fortunate that our talented 2017 summer intern, Anna Mohr, is returning to become the program's first second-year intern. Anna recently



Anna Mohr

graduated from Azusa Pacific University with her Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies and Honors Humanities. Anna is currently pursuing priesthood in the Episcopal church and will attend Yale Divinity School this Fall.

Our second intern, Phillip Valdes, graduated from Gordon College in Massachusetts in 2014 with a major in Political Science, and after graduation started a small business in real estate development. Upon leaving this career, he heard a call to ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church. Phil will be attending Boston University School of Theology in the Fall.

Anna and Phil will be working with several ministries, including CYF, and on several projects in Congregational Development and Adult Education. They are part of an All Saints pilot internship



Phillip Valdes

program aimed at providing a space for young adults to discern their ministry calls – and aligned with our commitment to include more voices of young adults in the church. Anna and Phil will be in the office during the week and you'll see them working hard on Sundays. If you have a chance, say hi!

We look forward to the work Anna and Phil will do this summer!