



Saints Alive

ALL SAINTS CHURCH PASADENA

SEPTEMBER 2019

Mike Kinman: Goin' Home

Spotlight: Rhonda Johnson

Spectacular September Sundays

Have You Taken the PACES Tour?

ASC Youth on Their Summer TJ's

Goin' Home

from Rector Mike Kinman

I am just a poor boy though my story's seldom told...

A few weeks ago, our old friend Gary Hall came home to All Saints Church. He preached on Jesus healing a woman whom Luke's Gospel describes as literally bent over because of her sickness. And then he said:

"I guess I'm drawn to the image of the woman doubled over with legs bowed together because these days I feel that way myself. Who do you know right now who isn't tied up in knots because of the hypocrisy, racism, and vitriol of our current national life? ... What sentient, breathing person can take in this stuff on a daily basis and not find herself all tied up in knots?"

I found myself nodding my head as Gary preached these words, and as I looked out over the congregation, I saw many, many heads, some almost imperceptibly, nodding as well.

I wonder how many of us knew, in that moment, that we weren't nodding alone?

It was 50 years ago in 1969, another year the world felt like it was being torn apart, that Paul Simon wrote "The Boxer." As it is for so many of us, it wasn't just what was happening in the world that left him feeling battered and alone, but things happening in his own life.

As the song nears its conclusion, Simon sings a lament
And I'm laying out my winter clothes and wishing I was gone Goin' home

Where the New York City winters aren't bleedin' me, leadin' me Goin' home

In the midst of all the battering and the bruising, the criticism and the judgment, his heart can only cry one wish:
Goin' home.

Home where, as he would sing in another song, "like emptiness in harmony, I need someone to comfort me."

Home where I know I am not alone. Where I know I am not the only one looking at the world around me and inside me and feeling tied up in knots and bent over.

Home where I know that we are all in this together.

Every year we have Homecoming at All Saints Church. It's an event ... a celebration ... and it's more than that.

Homecoming is a longing.

We want to go home.

We want to go to that place where we will be not just welcomed but embraced.

Where the harshness of life isn't bleeding us so much all the time.

Where we can love and be loved without judgment.

As the years roll by, we find that we are older than we once were, and younger than we'll be – that's not unusual. It isn't strange.

As the years roll by, we long for the place where we can look on each other and realize that despite how much we have changed, how much All Saints Church has changed and is changing ... that the home still remains. After changes upon changes, we are more or less the



PHOTO BY CAM SANDERS

same – beloved, beautiful, and good.

Homecoming is a longing. And Homecoming is promise fulfilled.

Homecoming at All Saints Church is our reminder that no matter what happens in the world, in our lives or even in the church, Christ will always be there with us and we will always be with each other.

Homecoming at All Saints Church is our reminder that we are the community where no one has to hide the scars we bear from ev'ry glove that lays us down or cuts us till we cry out in our anger and our shame. After all, that's the life we lay on the table together.

Homecoming at All Saints Church is long. And Homecoming is promise fulfilled.

Thomas Wolfe said that you can't go home again. I think he's dead wrong. Home is the only place that you can always go. The place, as Robert Frost wrote, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.

Come home to All Saints Church this Homecoming. Come as you are. Come to be embraced. Come to be beloved. Come to weep and lament. Come to love and dance and rejoice. Come together.

And if you know someone who hasn't been home to

All Saints Church in a while – reach out, invite them to come with you. Offer to go with them so they know the welcome, the Homecoming will be real.

And if you haven't been home to All Saints Church in a while ... come home.

Homecoming is a longing.

Homecoming is promise fulfilled.

Homecoming is for you.

Homecoming is for us all.

Spotlight

Rhonda Johnson

by Wendy Edwards

"My first thought when I showed up at All Saints one Sunday morning was 'What am I doing here? Why this place?' I guess that was my first prayer within those walls! I got no answer, except to keep coming back and I'd find out. I was baptized and grew up at Ward AME Church in South L.A. Every Sunday my parents, my two brothers, my sister and I would pile into the car and go to church. My parents sang in the choir and Mom taught Sunday School. As I got older I visited a few other churches, but I'd never been to an Episcopal church. I came to All Saints because I'd seen Ed Bacon on Oprah and I liked what he said. The Sunday I visited, though, Ed was on sabbatical. I looked around the congregation and saw a lot of white, older people – hardly anyone who looked like me. Then who should step into the pulpit but Zelda Kennedy! I felt comfortable immediately. Like Maya Angelou said, 'You don't remember what someone said as much as how they made you feel.' Before she retired, I got to tell Zelda that.

I've covered a lot of ground since then. I arrived during the big economic downturn in 2009. I was unemployed for a while, so I went to the Life & Livelihood meetings that offered community and practical support to people affected by the bad economy. From there I started helping out with New Member Classes, and in 2012 got an invitation from Ed Bacon to serve at the altar. That's a real ministry for me. I have a unique experience with each person I encounter at the Communion rail.

In 2012 my spiritual journey took me in another unexpected direction. I joined a small group reading and discussing Sister Joan Chittister's book *The Rule*

of Benedict. We met at the Community of Divine Love monastery with Brother Dennis and Sister Greta. Hospitality is an essential part of the Benedictine Order, and they invited our group to join them regularly in prayer. In the



PHOTO BY TAGGART LEE

process, I have developed a regular practice of Centering Prayer, and my connection with God/Spirit has really grown and deepened.

My life outside church involves a job that I didn't pick – it picked me. For most of 30 years I have advocated for the homeless population, particularly young people. I worked at an agency serving youth coming out of Foster Care. I got a Master's degree at Fuller Seminary in Intercultural Studies with emphasis on children at risk. Now, at the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), I manage a dynamic team of very smart young people with degrees in Social Work, Public Policy, and Public Administration. All they lack is life experience. I get a lot of joy from knowing I'm helping to shape their careers and they will do things that make a difference.

When I began to think about retirement, probably six years from now, I knew it would be important to discern what my particular gifts for ministry are. I don't plan to be idle! I felt called to Spiritual Direction and am about to start my second year in formal training with Stillpoint Center for Christian Spirituality. I've been in spiritual direction myself for the last six years, and seeing how powerful the process has been for my own healing, I know I want to be there for others on that journey. I'd like to expand on that, too. For instance, I would love to revive a Journaling Group like the one that was so meaningful to me a few years back at All Saints. Who knows what else God might have in mind?



Spectacular September Sundays

The 2019/2020 Program Year launches with four don't-miss Sundays: Children, Youth & Families Registration Sunday, Homecoming, Celebration of Ministries and the Blessing of the Animals. Mark your calendars and make your plans!

Children, Youth & Families Registration *and* Blessing of the Backpacks (Sunday, September 8)



Learn about Sunday School, Children's Chapel, Youth Group, Seekers, Acolytes, Parent Culture, and Children's & Youth Choirs — and REGISTER for all of these CYF programs, ages 0-18, as we celebrate children and families at All Saints! **Blessing of the Backpacks** will also be on Sunday, Sept. 8, at the 9:00, 11:15 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. services. All children and youth are invited to bring your backpack to church! At the same time we will bless all the school supplies collected for Families in Transition. Information = Kelly O'Phelan, 626.583.2764 or kophelan@allsaints-pas.org.

Homecoming 2019: Sing a New Song (Sunday, September 15)

Join the All Saints community for our annual Homecoming celebration as we launch the new program year with a "Sing a New Song"-themed outdoor festival. Enjoy California Pizza Kitchen food (with gluten free & veggie options available!) under the shade of canopies over tables on the lawn and in community with old friends and new. Photo booth, balloon animals and face painting — games for kids and adults, music and fun for all. Celebrate another new year of mission and ministry together as All Saints Church! For more information about everything Homecoming contact Christine Cox at 626.583.2732 or ccox@allsaints-pas.org.



PHOTOS BY KEITH HOLEMAN

Celebration of Ministries (Sunday, September 22)

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? Whoever you are and whatever you're looking for the chances are it will be on display on our quad lawn during our annual Celebration of Ministries — after the 9:00 service and between the 11:15 and 1:00 services! This is the day the All Saints lawn becomes a veritable sacrament (outward and visible sign) of all the rich, inward and spiritual graces of the multitude of ministries that make up All Saints Church. Find ways to get connected and to serve the community and God through our work in the world. For more information contact Amanda Perez at aperez@allsaints-pas.org or 626.583.2765.



Blessing of the Animals (Sunday, September 29)

"Whoever you are and wherever you are in your journey there is a place for you here" includes pets of all descriptions at our annual Saint Francis Day Blessing of the Animals service on the lawn at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 30. All pets — and their owners — are asked to please arrive no later than 8:45 a.m. to participate in the procession. (Photos or even a stuffed animal also welcome!) All pets are invited to process in the Church and then adjourn to the outdoor worship service on the quad lawn which includes a blessing of animals. For photos from last year's St. Francis Day extravaganza visit our [flickr page](#). For more information contact Melissa Hayes at 626.583.2725 or mhayes@allsaints-pas.org.

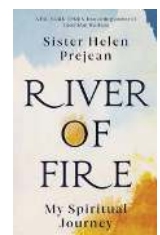


Vroman's Presents Sr. Helen Prejean



Vroman's Bookstore presents Sr. Helen Prejean in conversation with rector Mike Kinman, talking about (and signing) her new memoir, *River of Fire*, on Saturday, Sept. 7, 5:00 p.m., in the church.

This event is a ticketed Vroman's event and tickets are available through the Vroman's website: <https://www.vromansbookstore.com/event>, or call 626.449.5320. The ticket price is the price of the book.



Have You Taken the PACES Tour?

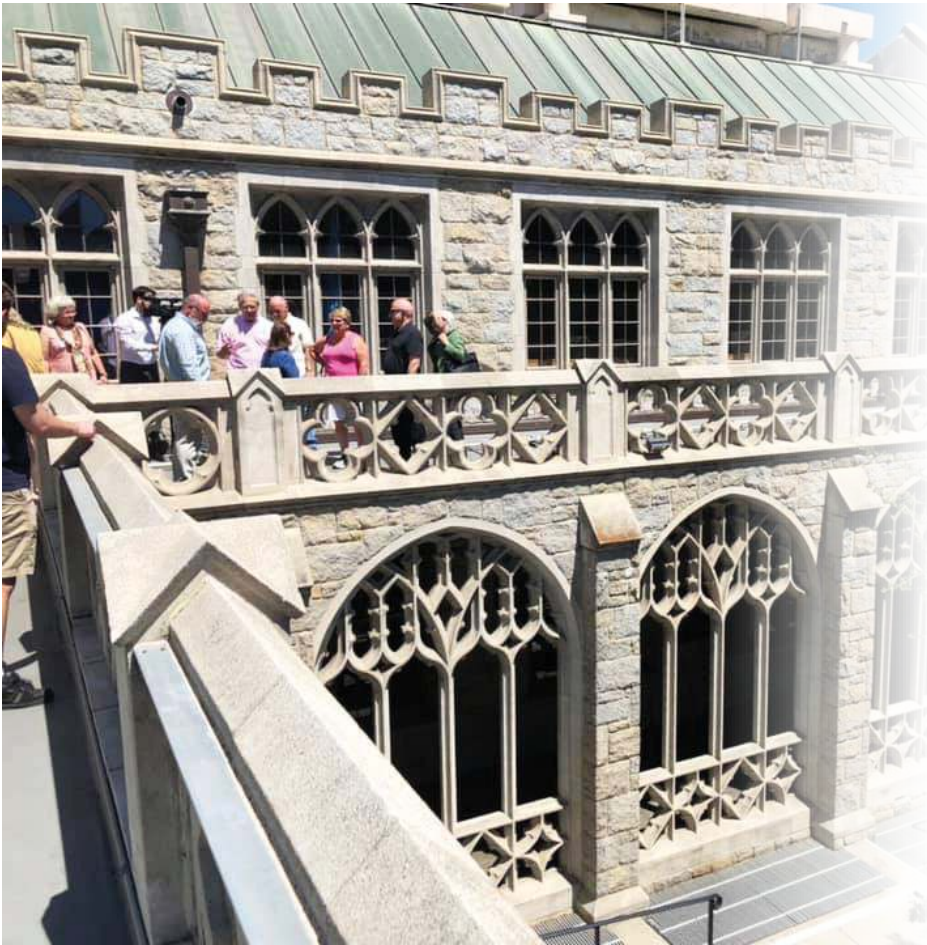


PHOTO BY JANE BRUST

Have you taken the behind-the-scenes tour of All Saints Church?

More than 80 parishioners have toured in recent months, learning some of our All Saints history and seeing firsthand some of our building needs and opportunities. Sponsored by the PACES Task Force, the 90-minute tours allow congregants to see examples of the church's needs and hear ideas for campus redevelopment that will create a more welcoming place.

PACES Co-chair Phil Naecker has led many of the tours, calling out specific needs that relate to accessibility, storage, staff offices and facility wear and tear, among other topics. Parishioners also are invited to envision for themselves how the campus might look if it were more welcoming, more energy-efficient and better organized to foster various ministries.

"As a result of taking a campus tour, individuals will be better prepared to offer feedback on how to prioritize various projects when they are presented by our task force," Naecker said.

According to Vestry member Juan Mejia, "The tour is a must-see event for every member of All Saints. It was very informative. Among

other observations, my eyes were opened to the difficult circumstances under which our staff work."

Gary DePew explained, "Phil Naecker and Lonnie Schield took our group 'backstage' through the maze of offices in the former rectory and Regas House, and even to the spooky basement below the church. They're both very knowledgeable about the history of the campus and shared their insights on the challenges we all face in keeping the machine running."

The Planning and Campus Enrichment Strategies (PACES) Task Force was appointed by the Vestry earlier this year to research options and explore costs for both deferred maintenance needs and campus development opportunities—both short- and long-term projects.

"We have about 80 volunteers with all kinds of expertise, including space planning and architecture.

We are working to assess our

campus needs, opportunities and costs, so that we can have informed discussion among members of the All Saints community to determine what our congregation believes is affordable and what is a priority," Naecker explained.

The PACES task force is expected to deliver a report of recommendations to the Vestry – reflecting feedback from the congregation – in Spring 2020.

"Church members will receive communication in various forms to inform and engage them in conversation as the PACES work progresses," said PACES Co-Chair Lonnie Schield.

"The goal of this engagement is to receive from the All Saints community the feedback needed to help us select, size, and prioritize the campus enhancement activities to be recommended to the Vestry. Feedback from All Saints members is critical in guiding the PACES work."

For more information about PACES and the schedule of campus tours, visit the PACES task force page on the All Saints website. Comments and questions addressed to paces@allsaints-pas.org are welcome.

Worship

Another summer
to remember

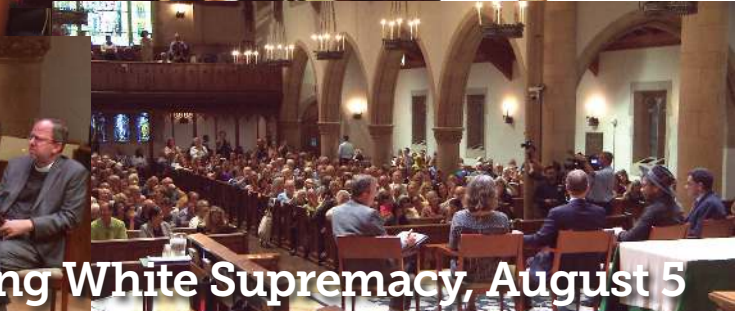
PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA HARRIS, JENNIFER COWIE KING, NINA SCHERER & KEITH HOLEMAN



Youth Yosemite Retreat, June 25-28



Union of Black Episcopalians Youth Service, July 24



Adam Schiff: Countering White Supremacy, August 5



La Mision, Mexico, Youth TJ, August 2-5



Temporary Protected Status March & Rally, August 14

Celebrating Our Youth

Reflections on trips All Saints Youth experienced this summer

Yosemite - Elise Viapiano



Hi All Saints! My name is Elise. I'm a part of the youth here at church (I sing in the Trouveres children's choir, and also participate in youth activities such as 'Not So Bored Game Night'). Every summer, the staff plans exciting activities for the youth of All Saints. This summer, some of the youth coordinators planned a 4-day trip to Yosemite, which I happened to sign up for. I had never been on any sort of long, overnight trips with All Saints before, so I was quite nervous about it. Would I enjoy being away from home for that long? Would I like the people who were coming on the trip with me? Would I enjoy being up in the mountains, a huge contrast to life in the suburbs?

Turns out, all of my worries were for naught. I had a great time! There was a small group going on the trip, totaling nine including chaperones, and we stayed in a gorgeous little cabin near a lake. Each day, we did something new and fun. The first day, after the long 6-hour drive, we relaxed in the cabin and got used to our temporary home. The second day, we spent time at the neighboring lake. We even swam across the lake to a rope swing, which we thoroughly used. The third day, we all went on a hike in a nearby forest, where we decided to picnic. The fourth day, we said goodbye to our lovely cabin and got in the car for the long ride back to Pasadena.

Though I had many apprehensions about this trip, it turned out to be an amazing experience. I bonded with my friends, and had a go at living life away from the city, phone-free and stress-free. It really cleared my mind and let me focus on my relationships with others around me. I'd recommend the Yosemite trip to all the youth at All Saints!

La Mision, Mexico - Samantha Harris

This year was my fifth Youth Transformational Journey to La Mision in Baja California. Each year, participants work on projects requested by the community in La Mision, from donating school and hygiene supplies to giving the local elementary or high school a new coat of paint. And every year I document our hard work with my camera. This year, about 32 youth and adults visited the local elementary school to repaint the iron stair and gate railings and some of the buildings. We worked from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. over two days: on Saturday, we started by scraping off the rust and old paint from the railings, and were also able to repaint some of the lunch benches. On Sunday, we painted the railings and the exterior of one of the school buildings. Each night we had a group reflection to share about what stood out to us that day or any thoughts or feelings we had. I shared that I felt that we were really making a difference in this community even if it was something as small as giving the buildings a new coat of paint. Many of us were repeat participants and we always enjoy this trip; every person who experiences it for the first time is always excited to sign up for the next year.



La Mision, Mexico - Nina Scherer, Staff Leader



On August 2nd, 30 excited faces - and an extraordinarily large amount of luggage - were waiting at the All Saints church parking lot to squeeze into cars and vans to start the journey to La Mision, Baja California, Mexico. For the next four days we enjoyed a unique adventure with transformative experiences that will stay with most of us for a lifetime.

Crossing the US-Mexico border, driving alongside the fence that we know so well from recent news and media reports, scrubbing the rust off of metal railings at an Elementary school site in the afternoon heat, and ending the day with the magic of the Pacific Ocean where horses gallop along the beach at sunset are just some of the ways to describe how this trip was full of extremes and emotions.

Every evening we took a good amount of time to debrief our observations, questions and struggles. Each of us shared openly with the group about our unique perspectives and learning experiences, and in the hospitable and welcoming home where we stayed, we created a family-style setting that allowed us as a group to hold all these feelings together. To me, that was the heart of this journey.

Thanks to everyone who participated and a special THANK YOU to Kathleen Dwyer and family - who make all of this possible every year. I am sure I am not the only one who came home truly transformed.

Our New Associate Organist/Choirmaster

We are pleased to announce that Grace Chung will be our next Associate Organist/Choirmaster! Grace began her musical studies at the age of four, and her love of music has continuously grown since then. She received her Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance from La Sierra University and went on to study at the Manhattan School of Music where she received her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance. Grace then returned to California where she taught as an Adjunct Professor of Piano at La Sierra University. After several years, Grace returned to school to complete her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Keyboard Collaborative Arts as well a Graduate Certificate in Organ Performance at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music. Grace will be with us beginning Sept. 1. Please introduce yourself and welcome her!



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

September

5 – Thursday, **Senior Saints**, 12:30 p.m., Sweetland Hall
Foster Care Project & CAPA Training, 6:00 p.m., Scott Hall 5

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

7 – Saturday, **Vroman's Presents An Evening with Sr. Helen Prejean**, 5:00 p.m., Church

8 – Sunday, **Children, Youth & Families Registration Day and Blessing of the Backpacks**, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall, Guild Room and Church
Interfaith Study Group, 5:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall

9 – Monday, **TJ to Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos Informational Meeting**, 6:00 p.m., Seminar Room

10 – Tuesday, **Vestry Meeting**, 7:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall
Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7:00 p.m., Scott Hall 6

11 – Wednesday, **Youth Night Begins**, 7:00 p.m., Learning Center

13 – Friday, **Not-So-Bored Game Night**, 6:00 p.m., Sweetland Hall

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

Homecoming Volunteer Preparation, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Campus-wide

15 – Sunday, **Homecoming**, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Campus-wide

19 – Thursday, **Bring a Buddy to Choir!**, 5:00 p.m., Choir Room/Forum

22 – Sunday, **Celebration of Ministries**, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Campus-wide

24 – Tuesday, **20/30's Theological Reflections**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Rectory

27 – Friday, **Transformational**

Journey to Homeboy Industries & Learning Works Charter School, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Off-campus

Fiction Fun!, 7:30 p.m., Guild Room
Theatre Ministry: Little Shop of Horrors, 8:00 p.m., Pasadena Playhouse

28 – Saturday, **Women's Community Retreat**, 9:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Learning Center

29 – Sunday, **St. Francis Sunday, Blessing of the Animals**, 9:00 a.m. Church, Quad Lawn

Adult Ed in September 10:15 a.m. Sundays

• **Adult Education will resume on Sunday, October 6**

Save the Date:

Rectory Reception!

Friday, October 4, 2019

All are invited to the Rectory to help launch the 2020 pledge campaign. Activities for children and youth, inspiring remarks about the year ahead, and delicious food for everyone will all come together for one festive evening. Check your email and the service leaflets soon for more details.

New Member Class

Begins October 6

If you are looking for a way to connect and meet people, to make friends and to find your place by getting involved in our many ministries, consider the New Member Class. Details coming soon!
Info = Amanda Perez at 626.583.2732 or aperez@allsaints-pas.org.

Our New Associate Rector: Alfredo Feregrino

From Rector Mike Kinman:

Dear Ones,

I am beyond thrilled to share that the Rev. Alfredo Feregrino has accepted a call to become an Associate Rector of All Saints Church, beginning Nov. 1, 2019.

Alfredo comes to us from Seattle, where for the past five years he has been the founding priest and mission developer for Our Lady of Guadalupe Episcopal Church, a multicultural/bilingual (Spanish-English) mission congregation with a focus on unity and radical inclusion. As part of the All Saints team, his primary work will be in congregational development ... particularly working with the existing Latino-Hispanic portion of our community and continuing the journey of bringing the entire All Saints Church community together as a multilingual, multicultural Beloved Community.

At every stage of the search process the search committee (co-chaired by Flor Quintanilla and Juan Mejia) and I were absolutely enthralled with Alfredo, his energy, love, passion, humor, expertise and creativity. Their support and that of the wardens for this call was unanimous and enthusiastic.

Initially, Alfredo's wife, Jenifer, and their twins, Maya and Joshua, will remain in Seattle as the children are just now beginning their senior year of high school (a situation with which I am familiar!) We will keep you updated on how we can welcome all of them as their various arrival dates approach.

I am continuing to work with the search committee on filling the other open Associate Rector position. We are looking at a number of exciting and intriguing candidates and hope to have more to share on this in the weeks and months to come.

Please join me in giving thanks for Alfredo, Jenifer, Maya and Joshua ... and holding them — and the entire All Saints Church community — in your prayers.

Con el amor de Cristo,
Mike

