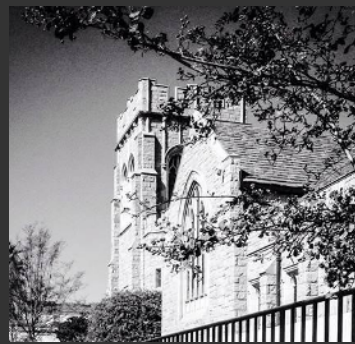




Centennial Time Line



A Brief History of All Saints Church

All Saints Church is located on Tovaangar, the ancestral homeland of the indigenous Tongva people, who were the original caretakers of this land we occupy, and who were dispossessed of it through the injustices brought about by colonization. The Tongva people continue to remain in relationship with these lands today through ceremony, culture, and stewardship, and we are grateful for their example and leadership. We are guests upon this land, with a responsibility to treat it with respect and care, and to seek justice for indigenous peoples. It is only by telling the whole story that we can tell a new story of this land together. As part of our commitment to seeking reconciliation with the land and all people who have lived on it, and according to our core values of Courageous Justice and Ethical Stewardship, All Saints Church is committed to acknowledging the land's history and working with the Tongva to implement reparative action.

All Saints was incorporated as a parish on April 28, 1886, the first Episcopal parish in Pasadena. In March 1887, the vestry voted to secure 200 feet of land on North Euclid Avenue, and the current site was purchased. The cornerstone of the "new church" was laid on September 6, 1888. The first services were held on Easter Day, April 21, 1889. As the congregation grew, so did the need for more space. In 1923 the parish commissioned the firm of Johnson, Kaufman and Coate, Architects, to design a new building; our current church. The cornerstone was laid on October 7, 1923 and the first service was held on December 21, 1924. Constructed of stone quarried from Bouquet Canyon in Southern California, and roofed with Vermont slate, the church houses a large display of decorative arts in the style popular in the early years of the 20th century. An architectural critic writing about the newly dedicated All Saints Church noted, "It has been said of the interior that it possesses the atmosphere of accumulated prayer. By color in walls and windows, by shadows shot through by softened radiance from a thousand sources in exquisite stained glass, the architects have reached such a result."

In the late 1980s, it became apparent, that the church needed seismic renovation to protect the building in the event of another major earthquake. As part of the 1991 renovation, the Rood Screen, which separated the nave from the chancel, was removed, the choir pews were also removed from the chancel, and the altar was moved to its current location.

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Pasadena



Part of the history of All Saints Church is its participation in the systemic segregation of the Jim Crow era. In 1923 African-Americans who were excluded from worshiping at All Saints Church planted St. Barnabas Church as an Episcopal mission. Families from All Saints Church donated land and provided funding for St. Barnabas to build its separate sanctuary on North Fair Oaks Ave, which was dedicated in 1933.

While we celebrate the decades of vibrant ministry of St. Barnabas Church as a neighbor congregation, we also acknowledge our complicity in the sin of racism which led to its founding - and commit to continuing to be engaged in an ongoing process of self-examination, repentance and reconciliation.

Faith in Action at All Saints Church: A Time Line

Putting faith into action in alignment with the Gospel values of love, justice and compassion has been part of the DNA of All Saints Church for decades. Here is a time line of some of the benchmarks along the way as we continue on the journey to become Beloved Community.

- 1936** - All Saints develops a "progressive" reputation as Rector Frank Scott abolishes paid pews.
- 1942** - Scott stands against relocation of Japanese-Americans to internment camps.
- 1963** - John Burt co-sponsors "Rally for Freedom" with Martin Luther King, Jr. and receives death threats at the rectory.
- 1966** - First woman, Mrs. Clarke (Ruth) Ewing, elected to the Associate Vestry for a three-year term. In 1969 she was the first woman elected to the Vestry.
- 1971** - Anti-war sermon, "Mr. President, The Jury is In" preached by George Regas leads to the establishment of the Peace Operations Center.
- 1973** - Leonard Beerman is appointed as the All Saints Rabbi in Residence.
- 1974** - Union Station Homeless Services is founded to serve the Pasadena unhoused community.
- 1976** - All Saints supports the successful campaign to secure votes at General Convention to regularize the ordination of women to the priesthood.
- 1975** - Elizabeth Morton is appointed the first woman Senior Warden.
- 1979** - Kathleen Dale is ordained and hired as the first woman priest at All Saints.
- 1980** - Inclusive language task force adopts use of inclusive language in liturgy.
- 1982** - Regas preaches on abortion rights followed by three-woman response in the Forum.
- 1984** - The Office of Creative Connections (OCC) is established as a gift to the City of Pasadena on the 100th birthday of the congregation bringing people together to work on creative solutions for the whole city through listening, discerning, reporting and connecting.
- 1984** - All Saints declares itself a Sanctuary for Central American refugees.
- 1985** - GALAS (Gays & Lesbians All Saints) is founded.
- 1986** - All Saints AIDS Service Center is created.

1987 - Lorentho Wooden is hired; the first African-American priest to serve at All Saints.

1987 - The All Saints Vestry adopts a resolution declaring All Saints a "Peace Church" and issues a strategy for peacemaking.

1989 - All Saints declares itself a prayerfully pro-choice church.

1990 - Regas preaches on "God, Sex and Justice" and announces his intention to bless same-sex covenants.

1990 - The OCC (Office for Creative Connections) launches Young & Healthy - a healthcare program providing free, quality health care services to uninsured children.

1992 - Mark Benson and Phil Straw are the first same-sex couple to have their union blessed at All Saints Church.

1992 - COLORS (Christians Offering Love to Overcome Racism in Society) is founded.

1992 - A partnership is established with Praises of Zion Church in Los Angeles following Los Angeles' civic unrest.

1995 - The Inclusion Task Force is established and charged with articulating a theology of inclusion.

1998 - Beyond Inclusion - a national ministry committed to securing liturgies for the blessing of same-sex unions in the Episcopal Church - is launched with its first conference at All Saints.

1999 - New Vision Partners founded to advance a peace and justice agenda from an interfaith basis.

1999 - For the first time both Senior and Junior Wardens (Elsie Sadler and Anina Minotto) are women.

1999 - All Saints Church begins intentional work with VISIONS, Inc. to teach skills in multiculturalism to the staff and congregation.

2000 - All Saints Vestry gives voice and vote to first official youth Vestry member: Edmund Roberts.

2001 - All Saints is the site of Los Angeles' post 9/11 Interfaith prayer services.

2002 - All Saints joins with other Episcopal justice organizations and leaders to form "Claiming the Blessing" (CTB): a collaborative ministry focused on securing equal rights for gays and lesbians.

2002 - Middle East Ministry is established following a visit by the Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek, founder of the Sabeel Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem.

2003 - Rector Ed Bacon and Rector Emeritus George Regas are arrested on Ash Wednesday protesting the American invasion of Iraq.

2003 - All Saints' CTB team leads the movement at General Convention to approve blessing same-sex covenants and secure consents to the election of Gene Robinson as the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church.

2004 - Rector Emeritus George Regas preaches "If Jesus Debated Senator Kerry and President Bush" the Sunday before the presidential election.

2005 - All Saints launches 1pm Bilingual Spanish-English service under the leadership of Abel Lopez

2005 - All Saints priest Susan Russell is part of Episcopal Church deputation charged with making the case for LGBTQ inclusion to the Anglican Consultative Council.

2005 - All Saints fights the IRS threat to remove its tax-exempt status over the George Regas' 2004 anti-war sermon.

2007 - The IRS drops anti-war sermon investigation.

2007 - COLORS Ministry produces music festival honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. bringing together multi-cultural choirs from around the So Cal region.

2007 - All Saints hosts Arizona First Nation leaders from Navajo, Hopi and Apache tribes on eve of historic appeal in 9th District Court to protect tribal lands from commercial developers.

2007 - On Memorial Day over 600 Muslims, Christians and Jews gathered at All Saints together to pray for peace and to celebrate the common heritage of their shared Abrahamic faiths.

2008 - Mel White and Gary Nixon become first same-sex couple married at All Saints Church which helps lead the (unsuccessful) effort to defeat Proposition 8 – the discriminatory anti-marriage equality initiative.

2008 - All Saints Vestry unanimously passes a resolution supporting ASC clergy in declining to act as agents of the state in marriage while the state discriminates against same-sex couples.

2009 - All Saints rector Ed Bacon joins with interfaith witnesses at the White House as part of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

2010 - All Saints' Vestry adopts a Gun Violence Prevention resolution.

2011 - "Voices of Witness: Out of the Box" - a documentary centering voices of transgender Episcopalians – is produced to influence transgender inclusive legislation at General Convention.

2012 - All Saints hosts the MPAC (Muslim Public Affairs Council) National Convention - the first time an American Muslim organization held their convention at a church.

2013 - The 9th U.S. Circuit Court lifts the ban on same-sex marriage in California and All Saints Church returns to equally blessing and protecting all marriages.

2016 - The Racial Justice Ministry (RJM) is established with a mission to challenge bias and racism at All Saints, and in our communities both locally and nationally, using faith and spirituality to change the culture of privilege and power.

2016 - All Saints Vestry Adopts Racial Justice Resolution proposed by the Racial Justice Ministry (RJM), and creates the Racial Justice Advisory Board (RJAB) to advise the Vestry in implementing the Resolution.

2019 - All Saints hosts its first annual TDOR (Transgender Day of Remembrance) service.

2021 - The Safe Haven Bridge to Housing program is established to help meet the direct needs of unhoused members of the Pasadena community.

2021 - "Telling the Whole Story" initiative begins with a three-fold charge to examine the history of the land on which All Saints is built; to tell the story of its complicity with racial segregation in the founding of St. Barnabas and to explore expansion of the diversity of the iconography in the church.

2022 - All Saints & Planned Parenthood host an interfaith vigil protesting the overturn of Roe v Wade.

2022 - AAPI (Asian-American Pacific Islander) Ministry is launched.

2023 - Rector Mike Kinman spearheads All Saints' support for Unite Here Local 11 campaign for fair wages for hospitality workers.

2024 - All Saints hosts a series of election year forums challenging the toxic narrative of Christian Nationalism.

This time line captures many of the incremental steps on the journey toward becoming the Beloved Community we believe All Saints Church is called to be, but it is incomplete -- not only because the journey is not yet finished, but because there are missing milestones yet to be included.
La lucha continua/The struggle continues

For more information contact communication@allsaints-pas.org