

# Centennial Conversations

~ interview by Susan Russell

## Meet Gloria Pitzer



This month's Centennial Conversation is with the inimitable Gloria Pitzer -- who took time from her busy schedule as attorney, chorister, vestry member, Dodger fan and sometimes-stand-up-comedian to share her reflections of growing up at All Saints Church. Gloria writes:

I started out life as a military brat and daughter of a career military West Point grad. My first ten years of life involved a lot of moves, including two years in India. My family (parents and seven siblings) finally landed in Pasadena when I was ten years old and, as the granddaughter of an Italian Episcopal priest, we, of course, found our way to All Saints. John Burt was our Rector at the time.

I am grateful for the tremendous impact All Saints has had on my life over the last 60 years -- support for all the many milestones of my life from my marriage at the church, the baptism of our son, the funerals of my parents and grandparents and the tremendous pastoral care provided by our clergy and staff throughout those milestones.

I've appreciated the opportunities I've had to work closely with our last three Rectors as a member of Vestry, with involvement on many governing committees and serving multiple terms as senior and junior warden for both George Regas and Ed

Bacon. There have clearly been challenging times over the years and we are currently experiencing great challenges, but I feel confident that we can do the hard work necessary to move us towards being a more beloved community and continuing to take bold stands on issues of justice that can serve as an example in our community, the wider church and the world.

### **Question 1: What's one thing you're the most grateful for about All Saints Church?**

*"I am especially grateful for the opportunity to have participated in the music ministry over all those years, from children's choir to the adult choir. The choir has been my most important community over the years. During my 55 years in the adult choir I've seen so much growth and so many milestones reached. I've also outlasted a whole bunch of music directors. It is interesting to note that I am the only common link in the loss of every single music director in the last 60 years."*

### **Question 2: Tell us a story of a favorite memory of your years at All Saints?**

*"I participated in all the things kids did at All Saints at that time -- joined the children's choir, and participated in youth group in which our favorite pastime was roller skating around the basement meeting room (current site of our forum). Sunday school, more often than not, consisted of praying that we wouldn't be caught sneaking down the street to the Thrifty's at Euclid and Colorado for ice cream."*

### **Question 3: What is your greatest hope for All Saints as we move into this next century here at 132 N. Euclid?**

*"My hope for the next 100 years is that we reflect on the work we have done the last 100 years, learn from our mistakes of the past, build on the many successes and put in the hard work necessary to be a light in this increasingly divisive world. Oh -- and installing a zip line somewhere on the All Saints campus can help increase our membership."*