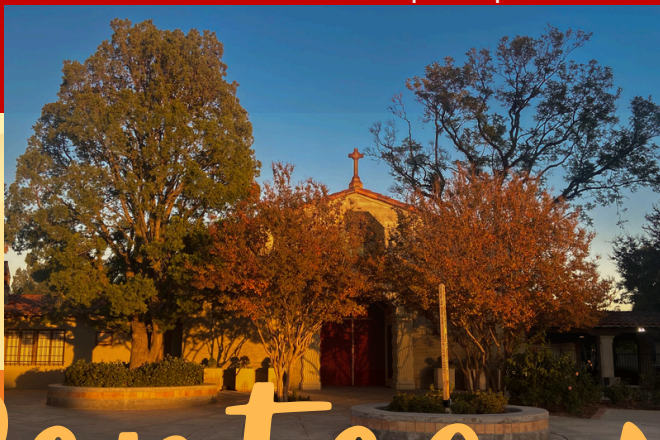


# THE GOOD NEWS

The Official Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church



## Pentecost

ON THE FEAST OF PENTECOST, WE CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL OF THE ADVOCATE, AN EVENT RECORDED IN ACTS 2. THIS EVENT IS TYPICALLY CONSIDERED THE FORMAL BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH CATHOLIC. BUT THIS ISN'T UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED. SOME HAVE ARGUED THAT THE CHURCH WAS ACTUALLY INSTITUTED BY JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF AT CALVARY. JOHN 19:25-27 READS:

“NEAR THE CROSS OF JESUS STOOD HIS MOTHER, HIS MOTHER’S SISTER, MARY THE WIFE OF CLOPAS, AND MARY MAGDALENE. WHEN JESUS SAW HIS MOTHER THERE, AND THE DISCIPLE WHOM HE LOVED STANDING NEARBY, HE SAID TO HER, “WOMAN HERE IS YOUR SON,” AND TO THE DISCIPLE “HERE IS YOUR MOTHER.” FROM THAT TIME ON, THIS DISCIPLE TOOK HER INTO HIS HOME.”

JESUS USES HIS DYING BREATH TO EXPLODE OUR DEFINITION OF KINSHIP, COMMISSIONING HIS DISCIPLES TO LIVE INTO A NEW PARADIGM FOR HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS WHERE NOBODY GETS LEFT BEHIND. WHAT WE SEE IN THE BOOK OF ACTS, IS THE GATHERED COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS LEARNING (AND SOMETIMES STRUGGLING) TO LEAN INTO THIS NEW REALITY. AS SOMEONE WHO OFTEN STRUGGLES WITH LONELINESS (AND STUDIES SHOW THAT I AM NOT ALONE IN THIS—THERE IS A REAL EPIDEMIC OF LONELINESS IN AMERICA RIGHT NOW), THE IDEA OF LIFE IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CONCEIVED THIS WAY REALLY RESONATES WITH ME. THE GREATEST GIFT I HAVE EVER BEEN GIVEN HAS BEEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE A GODPARENT TO MY GODSON ROWAN. WE MAY NOT BE BIOLOGICALLY RELATED, BUT WE ARE FAMILY, AND GETTING TO WATCH HIM GROW OVER THE LAST FIFTEEN MONTHS HAS BROUGHT SO MUCH JOY AND FULFILLMENT INTO MY LIFE.

EACH ONE OF US NEEDS TO DETERMINE THIS FOR OURSELVES, THROUGH PRAYER AND STUDY, WHY WE DO CHURCH. THANKFULLY THERE IS AN ENTIRE FIELD OF LITERATURE OUT THERE TO HELP US THINK THROUGH THIS TOPIC. ONE OF THE GREAT SPIRITUAL CLASSICS OF THE LAST CENTURY TO TOUCH ON THIS TOPIC MUST BE AVERY, CARDINAL DULLES’ BOOK MODELS OF THE CHURCH (WHICH MIGHT MAKE AN INTERESTING SUMMER READ, FOR THE THEOLOGICALLY ADVENTUROUS). THERE HE WRITES:

“THE CHURCH HAS ONE INESCAPABLE TASK: TO LIFT UP CHRIST.”  
SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT AS WE ENTER INTO A NEW SEASON.

BLESSINGS,  
RYAN+

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The mission of The Episcopal Church, as stated in the Book of Common Prayer's catechism, is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." In step with that mission, we follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God, with each other, and with the earth.

**The Episcopal Church** will have its General Convention this June 20-29 in Louisville, Kentucky. Each of the 112 Dioceses of the Episcopal Church will be represented by a deputation of lay and ordained people and by their bishops. Mother Kelli Grace is the First Clergy Alternate and will be present for the duration of General Convention. She'll attend hearings on resolutions in front of Convention, have time seated on the floor of Convention as a voting deputy, and make/renew connections across the Greater Episcopal Church for the benefit of the Diocese of Los Angeles and All Saints, Riverside. To learn more about General Convention and to follow along the business and work of the 81st General Convention, check out [www.GeneralConvention.org](http://www.GeneralConvention.org)

General Convention happens every three years and is the oldest continuing convention of a denomination or nonprofit in the United States. The first General Convention was held in 1785 where it authorized the first American Book of Common Prayer and named itself "The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America". The name was later shortened to "The Episcopal Church in the United States" or "ECUSA". Today it is an international gathering with Dioceses from Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Micronesia, Taiwan, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Central Ecuador, Honduras and Venezuela, and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe represented. It is the governing and legislative meeting of the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Church's framework is much like the federal government's, both being formed around the same time. There is an Executive Branch led by the Presiding Bishop with the President of the House of Deputies as 'second chair', the Judicial Branch, which oversees the implementation of canon law and the ecclesiastical court, and the Legislative Branch. General Convention is the gathering of the Legislative Branch. Much like the legislative branch of the federal government, it is divided into two houses: The House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. All bishops of The Episcopal Church, active or retired, have voice, seat, and vote in the House of Bishops; the body currently has around 140 active members. The House of Deputies currently has more than 750 members (including alternates) and is composed of up to four lay and four clerical deputies from each diocese or jurisdiction, based on size (number of souls) in each diocese. At each General Convention, the House of Deputies elects—or reelects—a president to serve a three-year term. Every nine years the House of Bishops elects from amongst its own the Presiding Bishop. Each House must have the concurrence of the other House on elections, resolutions, and adoptions. General Convention uses Robert's Rules of Order parliamentary procedures. A professional parliamentarian is on the dais during every session of General Convention to advise and explain. Interesting side note: Robert's Rules of Order was created in 1876 by Henry Robert after he was asked to lead a vestry meeting of his local CofE/Episcopal Church. Normally, the two Houses meet in joint session twice: once to hear from the Presiding Bishop and once to hold hearings on the budget. Historically, the House of Bishops, although some would say is the more powerful of the Houses, is referred to as the "Junior House", there being more say/more votes in the House of Deputies.

Every congregation elects delegates to their Diocesan Convention, held annually. Every Diocesan Convention elects deputies to General Convention. A delegate represents the will of its congregation and votes accordingly at diocesan convention. However, a deputy is elected to represent a diocese, but votes their own conscience at General Convention.

Significant about this summer's 81st General Convention: We will elect a new Presiding Bishop and there will be an election for President of the House of Deputies. PHOD serves a three-year term and is usually reelected twice, serving a total of 9 years while the PB is elected for one nine-year term. We'll be honoring Bishop Michael Curry who has led us these past nine years. At the 80th General Convention there were 430 pieces of legislation debated, revised/tabled, and ultimately voted on. The 81st GC has nearly 500 resolutions and action items going into Convention- many of which will be combined or tabled (due to conflicts with established canon law) before they get to the floor for vote. Among those are: resolutions to update the current canonical wording of who is welcomed to receive communion ("Open Table"), placing Bishop Barbara Harris, first Woman Bishop of ECUSA of blessed memory into the authorized Feasts and Fasts pantheon, now known as "Holy Women Holy Men" (our version of book of saints), the approval of full communion with the Episcopal Church in Bolivia, discussion on the next steps in liturgy as it relates to the Book of Common Prayer (do we need to revise the 1979 BCP, or continue to add liturgies as addendums?), socially responsible investing for the Church, Care of Creation, possible endorsement of "migration with dignity" and policies related to ongoing conflict between Israel & Hamas and Russia and Ukraine.

But General Convention is more than just legislation. It also includes official worship services, various seminaries and large ministries will host receptions and dinners, and there will be a large exhibit hall where groups around the church can show people who they are and offer items for sale (KGK is working on her shopping list), for example, Qumir Pilgrimages-Iyad, Rami, and Sami- All Saints leaders on pilgrimages to the Holy Land will be there. Other groups around the church - like Episcopal Church Women, Guild of Anglican Musicians, other organizations and seminaries - have their own events, and it often feels like a big reunion.

Mother Kelli Grace will be posting updates and news from General Convention on the All Saints Facebook group and on her own social media pages. Please hold General Convention, our Presiding Bishop and President of Deputies in prayer.

Wondrous God, who in love set the cosmos ablaze; refine, refresh, and revive your whole Church. By the power of your Holy Spirit, enliven the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement as we gather this summer in Louisville to worship, take counsel, and grow in love for you, one another, and your whole creation. In all that we say and do, help us to seek and embody the loving, liberating, and life-giving way of Jesus, so that the world might know the all-embracing power of his love; for it is in his name we pray, now and always. Amen.

-KGK+





# ABE'S MUSIC NOTES

## Veni Sancte Spiritus—Come Holy Spirit!

Many churches will chant or sing the medieval hymn, "Veni, Sancte Spiritus" on Pentecost to celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit within our midst. Here is the English translation to the Latin text:

*Come, Holy Spirit,  
and send out from heaven  
the ray of your light.*

*Without the nod of your head,  
there is nothing in man,  
nothing that is harmless.*

*Come, father of the poor,  
come, giver of gifts,  
come, light of hearts.*

*Cleanse what is unclean,  
water what is parched,  
heal what is wounded.*

*Greatest comforter,  
sweet guest of the soul,  
sweet consolation.*

*Bend what is inflexible,  
warm what is chilled,  
correct what has gone astray.*

*In labour, rest,  
in heat, temperateness,  
in tears, solace.*

*Give to your faithful,  
who trust in you,  
the sevenfold gift.*

*O most blessed light,  
fill the inmost heart  
of your faithful.*

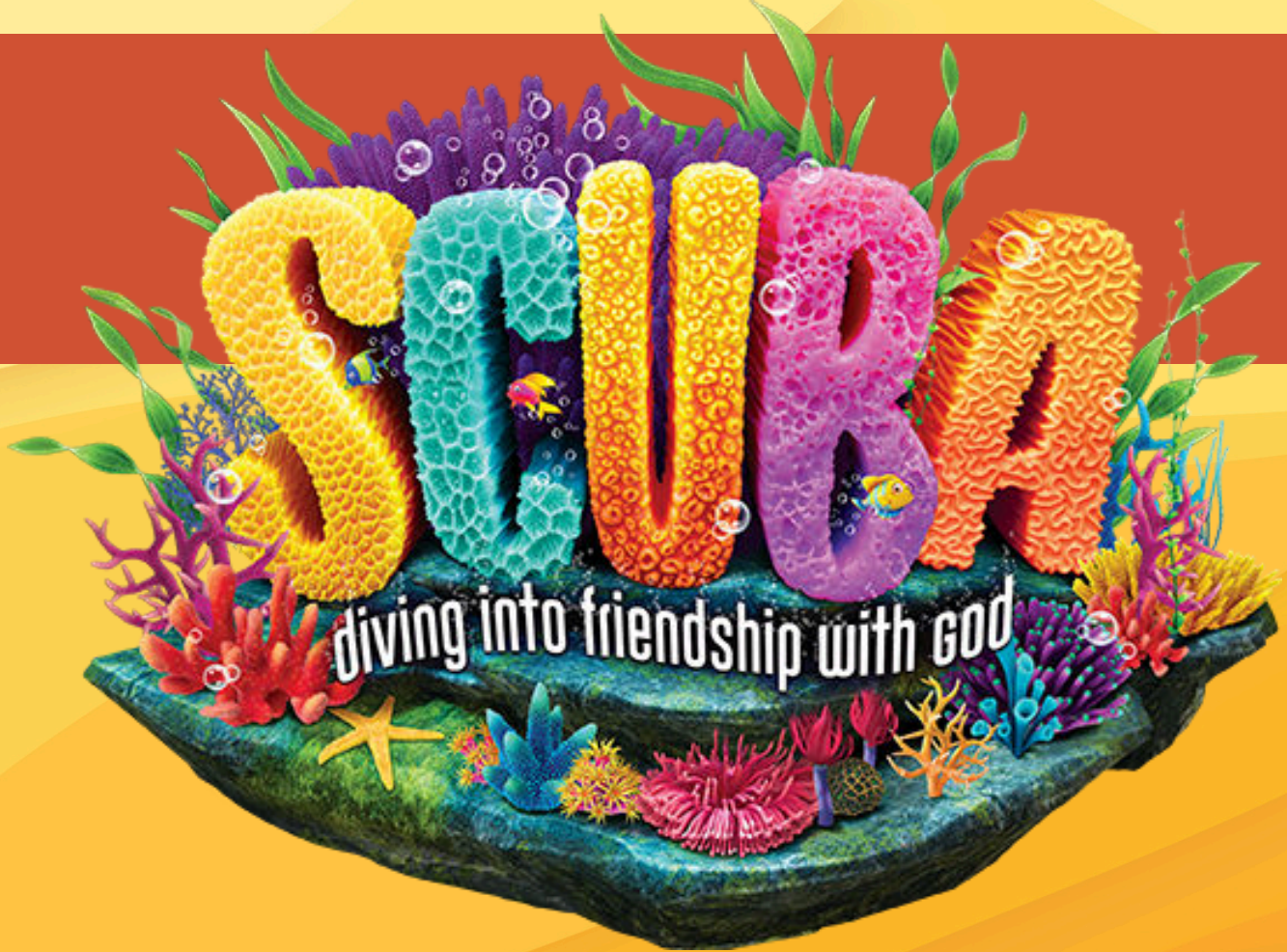
*Give virtue's reward,  
give salvation's end,  
give joy eternal.*

Composers have set this hymn to music throughout the centuries. One of my favorite settings is found in the fourth movement of *Lux Aeterna* written in 1997 by Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943) for the Los Angeles Master Chorale. This much beloved work continues to be one of the most performed classical compositions worldwide. I suggest you become familiar with the whole of *Lux Aeterna* and with many of Lauridsen's choral pieces. (All Saints' Choir performed his gorgeous "O Magnum Mysterium" at Christmas).

I think you will find the music of Morten Lauridsen to be captivating, beautiful, and worth cherishing for a lifetime.



**A Blessed Pentecost to All the Saints!**  
**Abe**



We are so excited to offer Vacation Bible School to our children again this summer! VBS will be held June 17-21. We still have items we are in need of that can be purchased from our Amazon wishlist and our [group.com](https://www.group.com) registry. The theme this year is SCUBA and the kids are already really excited! Thank you to everyone who has supported us so far and volunteered their time, dollars, and even cooking skills! Small Saints' is so lucky to have all of you!



# UPCOMING EVENTS @ All Saints

## May

- 19th Pentecost Potluck BBQ (see flyer below)  
25th Memorial Day Flag Tribute (see flyer below)  
31st Graduate's Photos/Info Due (see flyer below)

## June

- 15th "An Intimate Evening of Arias and Art Songs" with Marcela Pan and Abraham Fabella, 7pm  
16th Practice the Tithes  
17th-21st VBS (see page 5 for details)  
23rd-28th General Convention (see page 3)

## Stay Tuned...

Blessing of the Backpacks

## Pentecost 2024



May 19th please join us for a picnic & fun following the 10:00 a.m. service.

\*\*There will be a Bounce House for the kids!

**All Saints Episcopal Church  
Riverside, CA**

3847 Terracina Dr, Riverside CA 92506 (951) 683-8466

*Congratulations*  
to our  
**GRADUATES!**

Do you have a graduate in your family? We need to know! Send a picture & info to:  
[goodnews@allsaintsriverside.org](mailto:goodnews@allsaintsriverside.org)  
by May 31st!!

## "A FLAG FOR EVERY HERO" Memorial Day 2024

Please join us as we place flags for the Memorial Day weekend in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Date to Place Flags: Saturday May 25, 2024 (8:00 AM)  
Date to Retrieve Flags: Tuesday May 28, 2024

**RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY**  
22495 Van Buren Blvd.  
Riverside, CA 92518

For more details: [aflagforeveryhero@honoringourfallen.org](mailto:aflagforeveryhero@honoringourfallen.org)  
[www.honoringourfallen.org](http://www.honoringourfallen.org)  
[www.facebook.com/riversidenationalcemeteryaflagforeveryhero](https://www.facebook.com/riversidenationalcemeteryaflagforeveryhero)



# IN THE FACE OF WAR I'M SO SMALL. YET LOVE IS BIG.

I CAN'T MAKE THE  
WORLD BE PEACEFUL

I CAN'T STALL TANKS  
FROM ROARING DOWN ROADS

I CAN'T PREVENT CHILDREN  
FROM HAVING TO HIDE IN BUNKERS

I CAN'T CONVINCE THE NEWS TO  
STOP TURNING WAR INTO A VIDEO GAME

I CAN'T SILENCE THE SOUND OF BOMBS  
TEARING NEIGHBORHOODS APART

I CAN'T TURN A GUIDED MISSILE  
INTO A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS

I CAN'T MAKE A WARMONGER  
HAVE AN OUNCE OF EMPATHY

I CAN'T CONVINCE DIPLOMATS  
TO QUIT PLAYING TRUTH OR DARE

I CAN'T DEFLECT A SNIPER'S BULLET  
FROM TURNING A WIFE INTO A WIDOW

I CAN'T STAVE OFF A SCHOOLYARD BEING  
REDUCED TO ASH AND RUBBLE

I CAN'T DO ANY OF THAT

THE ONLY THING I CAN DO  
IS LOVE THE NEXT PERSON I ENCOUNTER  
WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS OR STRINGS

TO LOVE MY NEIGHBOR  
SO FEARLESSLY THAT  
IT STARTS A RIPPLE  
THAT STRETCHES FROM  
ONE HORIZON TO THE NEXT

I CAN'T FORCE PEACE  
ON THE WORLD

BUT I CAN BECOME A FORCE  
OF PEACE IN THE WORLD

BECAUSE

SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES  
IS A SINGLE LIT CANDLE  
IN THE DARKNESS

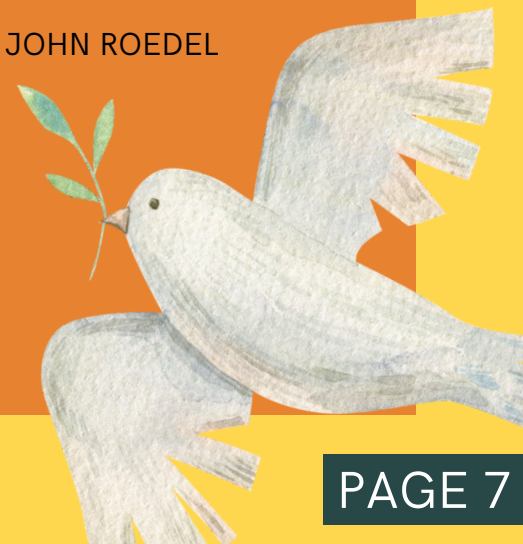
TO START A MOVEMENT

OH, SPIRIT,

LET ME BE A CANDLE  
OF COMFORT IN THIS WORLD

LET ME BURN WITH PEACE

~ JOHN ROEDEL





# Bringing the Family Together

by Father Conrad Nordquist

Late last year I was pondering, "What can an old man do to make himself useful?" I ran across a note in the Episcopal News about the need for sponsors of refugees coming into Los Angeles (and lots of other cities, too.) I live alone and I thought, "I could take someone in my small house, I guess." I called the phone number and talked to Guillermo Torres, a member of the staff of CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic justice). Their team of volunteers had just met a busload of refugees dropped off at Union Station with no one else to meet them. I agreed to house an Afghan boy of 19, Salar Mosawi, who had been detained for several months in a private prison that ICE uses to hold undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers. Salar had crossed the Rio Grande with his father, Sayed, after taking the trail through the Darien Gap through south and central America to reach the US, leaving the six remaining members of their family in a refugee shelter in Rio de Janeiro.

The family, all Shia Muslim, had fled for their lives when the Taliban took over Afghanistan. Sayed, a police commander who had worked with American contractors during the war, had a price on his head and the whole family was at risk. They all first crossed into Iran, and, after a year, obtained visas to go to Brazil, with the ultimate destination of Canada or the US.

When father and son crossed the border and turned themselves in to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) they were split up; Salar was sent to detention in Adelanto, CA, his father detained in Texas. Salar was released in October and in December, Sayed was released on parole and bussed to Los Angeles and from there brought to live with me. Both needed to apply for Asylum status, which requires legal help. Luckily CLUE was able to enlist a lawyer with African Communities Coalition to do the interviews and paperwork, and now Salar and Sayed have submitted their applications for asylum and have their first hearing in Santa Ana in July. Both are enrolled in ESL classes in Rubidoux Adult school, and Salar is in a class for US history to qualify for his High School diploma so he can enroll at RCC with a major in Information Technology. Sayed is taking a class in Corporate Security so that he can qualify for work in his field of law enforcement. It will still be several more months before either can obtain Work Permits and Social Security numbers.



Sayed's wife, Gulsom and three school-age children and their oldest son and a disabled brother all remain in shelter in Brazil. I have joined a Welcome Corps Sponsoring Committee to apply to Welcome Corps, a Jewish refugee agency which contracts with the US State Department, to reunite this family of eight together in Southern California. While the State Department is involved, they don't pick up the tab for transporting and settling the family; our Sponsoring Committee has to do that. We need to raise \$8700 to apply for the Welcome Corps resettlement program, and ultimately \$15,000 to bring the family together. We've started a GoFundMe non-profit site and I invite you to look at the site When father and son crossed the border and turned themselves in to ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) they were split up; Salar was sent to detention in Adelanto, CA, his father detained in Texas. Salar was released in October and in December, Sayed was released on parole and bussed to Los Angeles and from there brought to live with me. Both needed to apply for Asylum status, which requires legal help. Luckily CLUE was able to enlist a lawyer with African Communities Coalition to do the interviews and paperwork, and now Salar and Sayed have submitted their applications for asylum and have their first hearing in Santa Ana in July. Both are enrolled in ESL classes in Rubidoux Adult school, and Salar is in a class for US history to qualify for his High School diploma so he can enroll at RCC with a major in Information Technology. Sayed is taking a class in Corporate Security so that he can qualify for work in his field of law enforcement. It will still be several more months before either can obtain Work Permits and Social Security numbers. Sayed's wife, Gulsom and three school-age children and their oldest son and a disabled brother all remain in shelter in Brazil. I have joined a Welcome Corps Sponsoring Committee to apply to Welcome Corps, a Jewish refugee agency which contracts with the US State Department, to reunite this family of eight together in Southern California. While the State Department is involved, they don't pick up the tab for transporting and settling the family; our Sponsoring Committee has to do that. We need to raise \$8700 to apply for the Welcome Corps resettlement program, and ultimately \$15,000 to bring the family together. We've started a GoFundMe non-profit site and I invite you to look at the site [HERE](#) and hope that you will be moved to contribute. (It is not necessary to 'tip' the GoFundMe site, just set that to 0.) For me this has been a wonderfully inspiring experience of interfaith cooperation and compassion. If you have any questions, please call or text me 951-906-3190 or email me at con71633@gmail.com

*Fr Con*

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH INVITATION FOR A NEW DIRECTION

by Piotr Górecki

One of the many remarkable attributes of our All Saints spiritual community is civic engagement—directed far and wide, under the leadership of several extraordinary members of our congregation. Ever since Renata's and my own presence at All Saints and in the Episcopal Church, and more recently for me on our Vestry, I have been interested and engaged in developing one direction of community service, related to my professional work as a teacher and writer. That direction is tutoring—in my case, in reading and writing. Toward that end, after a bit of search, I have identified two programs in our great city that address this need. After several months of work on both programs, I would like to inform you about them, and encourage you to consider volunteering for one or both.

The first is an literacy program, based in the Riverside Public Library. This program is directed at adults who need assistance with skills ranging from basic, entry-level reading and writing, through more intermediate capacities (such as smooth reading out loud, or in-depth comprehension of read texts, or practicing written composition), to enhancement, through writing and feedback, of more specialized kinds of prose, such as producing, or reading and analyzing, longer texts about interesting subjects, or texts that facilitate communication and self-presentation in the context of employment.

The second program also includes literacy, but in the context of English as a Second Language. It is directed at students ranging in age from childhood through full adulthood, from the refugee community in and near Riverside, principally from Afghanistan. This program is based at the Human Migration Institute, a remarkable group of volunteers assisted Middle Eastern refugee families with their resettlement in our region. Apart from its work with literacy and ESL, the Institute provides many other kinds of assistance to the refugee community—which open additional possibilities of volunteering, something you might wish to inquire about.

Each program is flexible in terms of the time commitment requested of the volunteers. Students bear significant family, work, and personal responsibilities, so that the commitment is also flexible on the students' part. Your entrance into the work requires a pairing of volunteers with students—sometimes a time-consuming process, as I found out, but, if there is a wait, it is worth your patience! Finally, what I am not qualified to address responsibly is the requirements of formal training and security in each (especially since one of involves minors), for which subjects I refer you directly to the contacts below.

Here they are, for your expressions of interest in volunteering, or for any further inquiries you may have about each. I add the formal names of both programs, so you can identify that subject in your correspondence, or phone conversation.

**Riverside Public Library—Literacy Office**

→951.826.2238

→LiteracyVolunteers@RiversideCA.gov

\*Formal name of program: Adult Tutor Volunteers

**Human Migration Institute**

→HMIR.org/ESL

→Ms. Sedef Altug, Human Resources and Finance Coordinator, at hr@hmir.org

\*Formal name of program: Community ESL Program

You are also most welcome to contact me with any more specific questions, at [gorecki@ucr.edu](mailto:gorecki@ucr.edu) or [krakowianin55@gmail.com](mailto:krakowianin55@gmail.com).

*I have one more request, almost as important as for volunteering: PUBLICITY. My associates at both programs report that limited literacy is a partly hidden, but perennial problem in our community, as indeed it is nationwide. Students can be difficult to find, because, it seems, PEOPLE ARE ASHAMED to ask for these services.*

*I was astounded to learn that!*

*I urgently request our congregation to encourage anyone whom, or about whom, you may know who needs literacy assistance, to overcome that obstacle—and turn that sentiment into an act of strength and pride that skill acquisition actually is. It is such an honor to work with these students! That should be our message. We have an opportunity to engage in a wide-reaching, community-based service and ministry.*

*Piotr Górecki*

# FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

***Greetings to you, All Saints!***

## **Vestry**

We were extremely blessed to receive a generous gift from an anonymous donor in 2023 which paid our mortgages on the rectory as well as the Inspire House property. Since that time, I have wondered how All Saints would respond in the future by the generosity of donors to our parish. The Vestry and the Endowment Committee are working on prioritizing needs of All Saints when funds become available.

What if we receive more generous donations in the future? What if we utilize funds from our endowments to meet current needs? And what are our needs at All Saints exactly? Our church building is 75 years old and while it's a magnificent space, sometimes it shows its age. Are we prepared to repair or replace what needs our attention? The roof will need attention. The windows will need attention. The organ pipes will need attention. And many more projects to be named.

I encourage the Vestry as well as our congregation to consider what our needs are from buildings and grounds to missions and ministries. By naming our needs and organizing them by prioritized need, we have a better idea of what our strategic plan for All Saints is now and in the future. Strategic planning is a process used by organizations to identify their goals, the strategies necessary to accomplish those goals and the internal performance management system used to monitor and evaluate progress. Are you interested in assisting a sub-committee of the Vestry in strategic planning? Please contact me at [seniorwarden@allsaints.org](mailto:seniorwarden@allsaints.org).



## **Laundry Love**

It's been a little over a year since we held our last Laundry Love event. During that time, Laundry Love Riverside has diligently been seeking a partnership with a new laundromat. Currently, we have not found a new home. We are discussing some possibilities with our community partners on how Laundry Love Riverside can assist our neighbors in need. Please continue to pray for Laundry Love Riverside and how loving our neighbors through this ministry might enter a new chapter.

As I reflect on Fr. John Saville's sermon on baptism and being re-born, I wonder how Laundry Love Riverside can be renewed and how God's plan for us in this ministry can be realized.

*"For we live by faith not by sight." -2 Corinthians 5:7*

(Continued on page 13)

## *The Joy of Giving: Practice the Tithe*

The act of giving back is a cornerstone of our faith. We are called to be generous with our time, talents, and treasures. Prior to "Practice the Tithe Sunday" on June 16th, let's explore the concept of tithing, a practice referenced throughout scripture.

Traditionally, a tithe refers to giving the first 10% of one's income to God. However, it's important to remember that tithing is more than just a number. At its heart, it's an act of worship and a recognition that everything we have comes from God.

### **The Benefits of Generous Giving**

The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). Tithing isn't about pressuring ourselves or feeling obligated. Instead, it's about acknowledging God's provision in our lives and allowing ourselves to participate in the important work of the church. Through your tithes, you support:

- Essential ministries: Your contributions help fund our outreach programs, youth activities, and pastoral care.
- Building a strong community: The church thrives because of the collective generosity of its members.
- Your own spiritual growth: Giving back can deepen your connection to God and foster a sense of joy and purpose.

### **Tithing on Your Terms**

The Bible doesn't prescribe a specific amount for everyone. Tithing is a personal decision, and the most important aspect is giving from the heart. Here are some tips for approaching tithing:

- Start small: If you're new to tithing, begin with a manageable percentage and gradually increase it as you feel comfortable.
- Pray about it: Seek guidance from God on how much to give and how He would like you to use your resources.
- Explore different methods: All Saints offers online giving options for your convenience.

### **More Than Money**

Remember, financial giving is just one way to express your generosity. Your time and talents are valuable as well. Consider volunteering your skills or participating in church activities.

Tithing is a journey, not a destination. As you explore this practice, may you experience the joy of giving back, and the blessings that come from trusting God with your resources.

For further information on tithing, Practice the Tithe Sunday (June 16th) or stewardship, please don't hesitate to reach out to our chairperson, Kristin Varner, or Mother Kelli Grace.

Heavenly Father, open our eyes, not to see the world more clearly, but to see you. Open our eyes to see you working around us and in us. Nothing happens by accident. You orchestrate every day of our lives. Allow us to see your hand in the mundane and the fantastic. Help us to trust in what we cannot see and believe in your invisible presence. Amen.

*Remember, you're in good hands at All Saints.*

Liz Atkinson  
lizatkinson@att.net



# JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT



Repairs and improvements continued over the last six weeks first and foremost, being the removal of the large ailing Jacaranda tree on the south side of the sanctuary. It was necessary to protect the integrity of the side chapel and main sanctuary roof.

We also made repairs to the entire irrigation system on the main church campus, which is a step in the direction of implementing our new drought tolerant landscape plan.

The conversion to solar energy project continues to move along, we look forward to breaking ground in the not too distant future!

*Francie Johnson*  
All Saints Junior Warden  
951-377-5339





Three years ago, the US officially added a new holiday to our calendar, Juneteenth, to be celebrated each year on June 19, to recognize the date of the final liberation of enslaved persons in the United States.

Declaring freedom for enslaved persons was not a simple thing. The end of slavery did – and did not -- take place with the Emancipation Proclamation which President Lincoln signed in January 1863, during the Civil War. At that time, some parts of the Confederacy were held by the Union army; enslaved persons there were immediately declared free. For other parts of the US, it took longer. For some, it was well after the last battle of the Civil War.

Two years after the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and two months after the end of the war in April 1865, news of freedom reached the remotest parts of the Confederacy. Some 250,000 enslaved persons in Galveston, Texas, learned of their liberation when Union General Gordon Granger arrived there on June 19, 1865, and announced that the president had declared the end of slavery. Granger told them, "The people of Texas are informed that ... all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor."

In June, 2021, in creating the new federal holiday, President Biden said, "On Juneteenth, we recommit ourselves to the work of equity, equality, and justice. And, we celebrate the centuries of struggle, courage, and hope that have brought us to this time of progress and possibility. That work has been led throughout our history by abolitionists and educators, civil rights advocates and lawyers, courageous activists and trade unionists, public officials, and everyday Americans who have helped make real the ideals of our founding documents for all." ([A Proclamation on Juneteenth Day of Observance, June 18, 2021](#)).

In Riverside, Juneteenth has been celebrated for more than two decades, from long before it became a federal holiday. This year's celebration will take place at Fairmount Park on Saturday, June 15, 1-6pm, hosted for the fourth time by the B.L.A.C.K. Collective. Black Leaders Achieving Cultural Knowledge Collectively is committed to be the change necessary to move the Black community forward through entrepreneurship, self-sufficiency, and empowering themselves socially, economically and politically. For Juneteenth, they are welcoming the community to come together to celebrate freedom, heritage, and resilience. See the flier elsewhere in the newsletter and/or search Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/>. For more information and updates, visit the B.L.A.C.K. Collective <https://linktr.ee/theblackcollective6>. The Juneteenth celebration is family-friendly and free.

# RIVERSIDE INTERFAITH COUNCIL

by Andrea Briggs



## What does the Riverside Interfaith Council do?

The Riverside Interfaith Council (RIC) is a local non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the awareness of Riverside's religious diversity, and the appreciation of the faiths' differences and similarities. All Saints is a supporter of RIC, and often offers space for events, and/or financial assistance.

RIC hosted two events recently. On Sunday afternoon, April 21, 40-50 people including some Saints participated in the annual Faith Walk. They visited First Congregational Church, then walked to and visited the Baha'i Center, and then the Universalist Unitarian Church, all in downtown Riverside. At each stop, a faith community leader spoke about the beliefs and practices of that community, and its history. Along the way, participants greeted one another, and learned about other faiths represented.

Following that, on Thursday, May 2, RIC hosted an interfaith celebration of the National Day of Prayer. The National Day of Prayer doesn't get a lot of publicity, but could. By an act of Congress in the 1950s, each year the current US President sets aside the first Thursday in May for Americans to gather for prayer, for naming our blessings, and seeking the wellbeing of our nation, and its leaders, and its people.

This was perhaps the first acknowledgment in Riverside of the fact that the National Day of Prayer is intended to be an interfaith event. Representatives from more than a dozen local faith communities participated, including Islam, Buddhism, Latter-day Saints, Religious Society of Friends, Baha'i, and more. More than 60 participants joined in chanting in Sanskrit, and then in Japanese, and in singing with the Threshold Choir. Speakers again and again called for unity among people of faith, and lifted up the common aspiration of all people for peace, belonging, abundant life, and compassion. RIC President Gernaro Waheed, a Muslim, commended those attending for being the special people who understand that each faith's distinct beliefs and practices were a valuable path toward reaching those things we all seek.

The Saints attending included Mother Kelli Grace, Father Ryan Macias, and Vestry member Nerni Miller. The organizing of the event was led by All Saints Minister of Community Engagement Andrea Briggs. Next year's National Day of Prayer will take place on Thursday, May 1, 2025.

The Riverside Interfaith Council welcomes all who would like to join in learning about other Riverside faith communities, and in planning additional events. For more information see <https://www.riversideinterfaithcouncil.org/> or [www.facebook.com/RiversideInterfaithCouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/RiversideInterfaithCouncil/).



# Author Event- Reflection by Kathryn Morton

*On Sunday, April 21, All Saints Riverside and the Sisters in Spirit hosted an Author Event with the writer whose memoir they had just finished reading and discussing. Mother Kelli Grace welcomed members of the community at large as well as All Saints' regulars who came to hear Ellen Estilai presenting her new memoir, *Exit Prohibited*. The author read some passages recounting her family's life in Iran, their touching experiences and dramatic journeys back and forth between the very different cultures of California and Iran during 9 years - before and during the Islamic Revolution. This provoked extended questions from the audience and discussion by all, including the author and her Iranian husband Ali. A number of people were happy to get copies of the book and Ellen Estilai signed books as well. Everyone enjoyed iced rose tea and Persian refreshments.*



# Prayer Shawl Ministry Field Trip by Penny Ellien

*The Prayer Shawl Ministry on a field trip to The Knitters Hideout in Riverside. A joyful time of knitting and crocheting and looking at beautiful yarns. Then off to lunch at The Little Green Onion. A very fun time. You can find us in the Library on the first Thursday of the month, 9:00 to 11:00. We can teach you knitting or crocheting or just come join us for goodies and fun conversation.*



# NARTHEX DEDICATION

On Sunday, May 5th, the Narthex was dedicated to Roy Harris , a wonderful, godly man who is greatly missed at All Saints. Roy was one of the first faces that ushered and greeted this congregation for a multitude of years.



This Narthex  
is dedicated to

**Mr. Roy Harris**

January 7, 1936-May 4, 2023

in thanksgiving for  
his 50+ years as usher  
and 25 years as Head Usher

*"May the angels greet thee"*



# Easter Reflections

