

THE GOOD NEWS

The Official Newsletter of All Saints Episcopal Church



Homecoming

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UPCOMING EVENTS @ All Saints

September

8th- Homecoming BBQ 11:45am (We're celebrating the start of the new program year! Meats and meat alternatives provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.)

14th- Inspire Gala (All Saints has reserved 16 seats at \$225 each. Please RSVP, to the church office, by 9/6)

22nd- Guest preacher (The Reverend Jeannie Martz)

29th- Father John Saville will be back and will preach at both services

October

6th- Blessing of the Animals

16th- Theology in the Public Sphere (All Saints will host the Reverend Dr. Robert W. Lee, author of *A Sin by Any Other Name: Reckoning with Racism and the Heritage of the South.*)

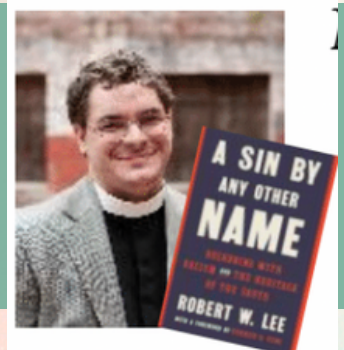
Stay Tuned...

Date TBD- Oktoberfest

November 2nd- All Souls Lantern Festival

November 2nd- Livestream from "815" (The installation of the Right Reverend Sean Rowe as Presiding Bishop. Details on how to join the livestream can be found [HERE](#))

November 3rd- All Saints Sunday!





ABE'S MUSIC NOTES

Dear saints,

As the choir returns to lead worship at the 10 o'clock service this Fall, I'd like you to consider the famous words attributed to St. Augustine: "One who sings, prays twice."

My prayer is that our worship this year will be filled with robust singing, expressing our souls' desires to God this year.

I am planning several stirring anthems this year for the choir to sing:

- On All Saints' Sunday, November 3, the choir will be singing a mash-up of "When the Saints Go Marching" with "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." This jazzy anthem, "Swingin' With the Saints" arranged by Mark Hayes, will feature trumpet and drum set. Also on All Saints' Sunday, the choir will sing a new anthem by popular choral composer, Dan Forrest: "No Night There."
- Our Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday evening, December 1st. The choir will again reprise "No Night There" by Dan Forrest, as well as a variety of seasonal hymns and anthems.
- For Christmas Eve (December 24), the choir will prepare our hearts for the Christ Mass at 9:20pm with a presentation of Benjamin Britten's beloved Christmas classic, "A Ceremony of Carols." These beautiful settings of medieval carols will be accompanied on the harp.

I have planned many more hymns and anthems that will open up space and ready your hearts for God's presence. Soli Deo Gloria! (To God alone be the Glory!)

Abe





Laundry Love

Laundry Love Riverside (LLR) is back! We had our first event at our new location, Rachel's Lavandería at 1340 Massachusetts Avenue on Wednesday July 17th. We began the night with \$500.00 in dollar coins. We ended the night with a balance of \$203.50. We spent a total of \$296.50 on laundry. Darlene has a standing order at the bank and will have the coins available the week before each event. Sherri Bradley will pick up \$500 in dollar coins for each event.

We served 18 families to complete approximately 84 loads of laundry. There were 8 volunteers. We were met at the laundromat for the kickoff by owner, Patrick and Site Manager, Marisol along with staff member, Adriana. Patrick, Marisol, and Adriana were pleased with our presence at the laundromat and were excited to help the clients get their laundry done.

Marisol passed flyers out at a local shelter, but they need to return to the shelter each evening by 8:00 pm so they were not expected to participate in this event. Most clients for the evening were regular customers that Marisol had given flyers to and knew Marisol by name. Marisol and Adriana worked closely with our volunteers to get them used to their machines.

We distributed toothbrush kits to clients. We also gave away balloons to the children present. They also received bead necklaces and cold bottles of water for the evening.

We had a \$10 donation made during the event. One other client offered to donate but as we were packing up at the end of the evening, he was invited to return next month and at that time he could donate. THANK YOU! We had two clients that asked how to volunteer, we asked them to return on the third Wednesday of each month and we would welcome their participation. More flyers are needed to pass out.

Our next event will be held on August 21, 2024. (Liz may not be able to attend this event as it is Zach's 23rd birthday. Happy Birthday Zach!!) We will be distributing backpacks and school supplies to the children/families at our August Laundry Love event! Please consider donating backpacks and/or school supplies to the Blessing of the Backpacks event on Sunday August 11th. Items collected will be shared with the children/families on Wednesday August 21st.

We need volunteers! If you can volunteer, please contact me at lizatkinson@att.net.

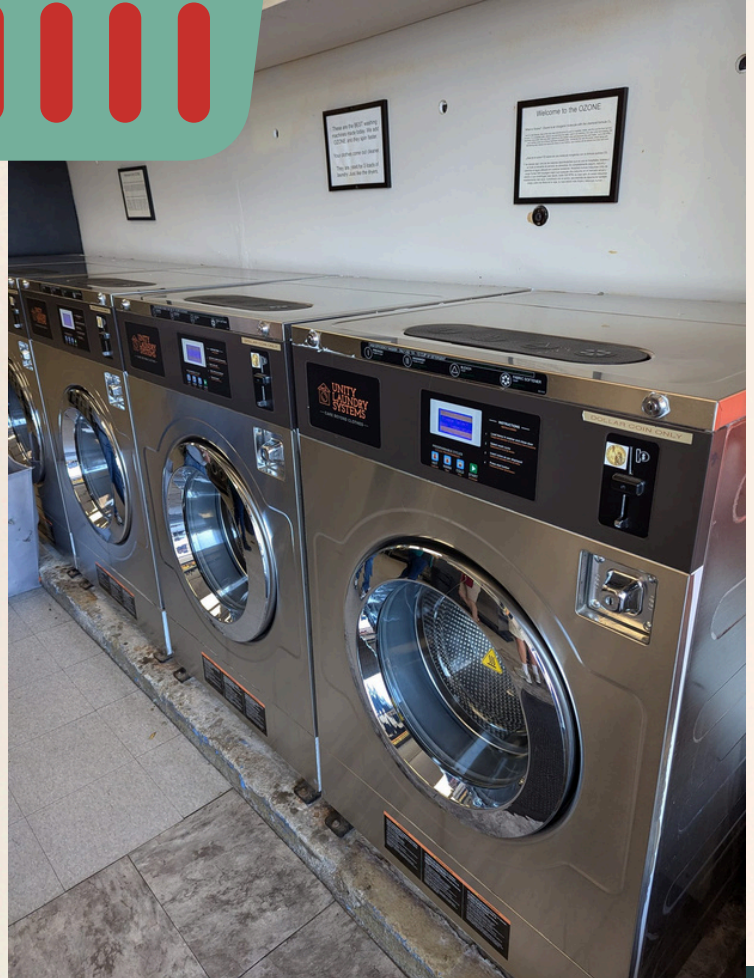
For more information about Laundry Love, please visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/laundryloveriverside>

Love never ends... neither does laundry!

See you on August 21st!

Liz Atkinson
lizatkinson@att.net

(Cont. on pg ###)



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Greetings to you, All Saints!

A Heartfelt Thank You to Father Ryan!

This month, we take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to Father Ryan for his unwavering dedication to the All Saints family.

For the past two years, Father Ryan has guided us with compassion, wisdom, and a genuine love of faith. His inspiring homilies, dedication to youth ministry at Camp Stevens, and ministering at the food share events at St. Michael's have touched countless lives within our community.

Whether celebrating joyous milestones or offering solace in times of hardship, Father Ryan has always been a source of strength and spiritual direction. His commitment to Camp Stevens has not only enriched our youth but also our church and fostered a deeper sense of connection amongst parishioners.

We are truly blessed to have had Father Ryan as our shepherd. We extend our heartfelt thanks for his service and wish him all the best in his graduate studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

On behalf of the entire parish family, thank you, Father Ryan! May God continue to bless you on your journey.

Faithfully submitted,
Liz Atkinson
Senior Warden



PLEASE KEEP FATHER RYAN IN YOUR PRAYERS

Here are a couple prayer points to get you started

- A smooth ongoing transition as he settles into his new city and a new campus, and as he begins to build community in Atlanta.
- Wisdom, focus, courage and clarity of heart as he begins work on his Master of Theology thesis.

Together, we pray that Father Ryan continues to develop a thirst for learning, a deep respect for all people, and a profound love of the truth. We pray that God's peace replaces any and all fear, anxiety, and frustration Father Ryan may encounter along the way. May Father Ryan feel encouraged by the community gathered around him, including all the saints at All Saints, cheering him on from Riverside!



JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT



Hello fellow All Saints parishioners please find below items that have been taken care of in the last few months on campus.

- Replacement of entire HVAC unit for the lower north wing area for the TRF childcare development center.
- Reconfiguring a irrigation continues throughout the campus.
- Replacement of plants in the front circular planter for a more sun, tolerant variety.
- Re-Install of the Peace Pole (originally a gift from mother Kelli Grace with updated language signage).
- Updating memorial plaques in the memorial garden to reflect recent burials.
- Replacing toilets in the small Saints girls restroom area of the North wing.
- Entire new Wi-Fi system for the rectory.
- Restructuring of the staff email server.

Sincerely,
Francie Johnson
Junior Warden





Have you heard people talk about “white Christian nationalism”? What is it?

Often we Episcopalians are told that one of our strengths is that we are structurally and theologically a broad tent. That is, we are comfortable embracing a wide range of beliefs and practices. We aim to include everyone: all races; sexualities; economic, educational and social backgrounds; and political perspectives. We have mostly made peace with the multiple paths to God that are practiced by our siblings from other faith traditions.

However, we do not tolerate white Christian nationalism.

At a seminar at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reiterated The Episcopal Church’s position that “white Christian nationalism is a gross perversion of Christianity, and that Christians must refute such ideologies.” (Egan Millard, Episcopal News Service, [“White Christian nationalism is not Christianity, presiding bishop says during panel discussion,”](#) October 26, 2022.)

Why is this version of Christianity outside the tent?

Likely there is no single definition of Christian nationalism. In its most common iteration, it is a movement that promotes a blending of Christian values into national policies, contrary to the First Amendment’s separation of church and state. It demotes those who practice no religion or non-Christian religions to a kind of second-class citizenship. White Christian nationalism adds an affirmation of the superiority of white people, and limits the rights and opportunities of all other persons. It characterizes white people of a particular Christian subculture as those who have been in charge since the beginning, and are the rightful rulers; their culture should hold sway and should be institutionalized in American political life, according to seminar participant Samuel Perry, author of *The Flag and the Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy*.

’s impossible to square white Christian nationalist views with what Jesus taught. At the same time, being precise about who’s who is tricky. Do we not open city council meetings and sessions of Congress with prayer, most often Christian prayer? Do many churches not have American flags up front? Does the Pledge of Allegiance not include the words, added in 1954 at the request of mainline Protestants, “under God”?

Faithful Episcopalians can stand against white Christian nationalism without just declaring that “my Christianity is right and yours is wrong.” What Bishop Curry would have us oppose is the version that seeks to limit who can have access to the rights and privileges of power, influence and democratic life, especially if those limits are based on race. (See Beau Underwood, author and Disciples of Christ pastor, quoted in a June 17, 2024, interview by Mitchell Atencio, [“Are You Accidentally a Christian Nationalist?”](#)) We must stand against those trying to use the power of the state to impose their particular religious views on others.



For a deeper dive into this complex topic, mark your calendars for two upcoming events. The Christian Century is partnering with the organization Faith and Reason to host an online conversation called "Confronting White Christian Nationalism" on Thursday, September 19, at 3pm. This free event will feature experts Gary Dorrien, Obery Hendricks, and Grace Ji-Sun Kim, who will explore the Christian faith and the role that it can play for those committed to democracy, peace, and social justice. You can register and learn more [here](#).

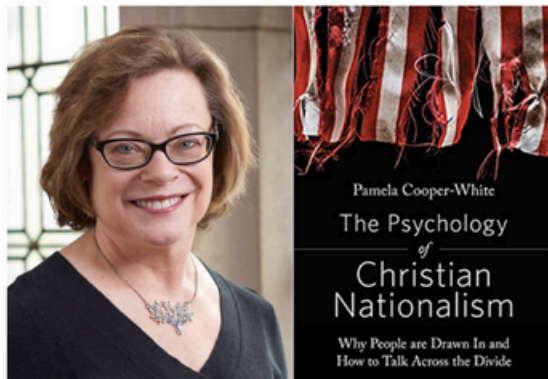
Following that, a lecture/discussion "Theology in the Public Square" will take place at All Saints on the evening of Wednesday, October 16. Presenter Robert W. Lee is the author of *A Sin by Any Other Name: Reckoning with Racism and the Heritage of the South*.

Additional article regarding the Episcopal point of view on Christian Nationalism:

The Psychology of Christian Nationalism

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 5:30 PM

Have you wondered how people get drawn to Christian Nationalism or how to engage with someone who supports that view? The ECR Social Justice Committee offers answers in an exciting online webinar with the Rev. Pamela Cooper-White. Pamela is the author of the award-winning book *The Psychology of Christian Nationalism*. An Episcopal priest and psychotherapist, she is the Johnson Professor Emerita of Psychology and Religion at Union Theological Seminary, New York. We are delighted to welcome her virtually to California!



This event will be held in two parts, one on Tuesday, September 3, and the other on September 17, both at 5:30.

There is no charge to participate, but please click the button register in advance.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

In the first session, Pamela will give an overview of Christian Nationalism – a socio-political movement that aims to restore the U.S. to a fictional origin as a "Christian nation," and promotes white supremacy and patriarchy through a distorted right-wing version of Christianity (as seen in Project 2025). She will explain how good people get drawn into such extremism. In the second session, she will talk about how we can have respectful conversations across the widening political and theological divide in America. There will be ample time for discussion and Q&A in both sessions.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A MAJOR NEW VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY!

by Piotr Górecki

Warmest greetings to all of you, friends and members of the All Saints Episcopal Church and community, on this truly, truly warm August afternoon!

This is Piotr again, with an important update to a message I sent in the May issue of Good News. At that time, I passed on information about one direction of our Vestry's Community Outreach in which I have been involved: tutoring, through the Literacy Program at the Riverside Public Library, and through the Human Migration Institute, a remarkable group of volunteers assisting refugee families with resettlement in our region.

Today, I write to pass on to you a major development in the work of the Institute, and to ask you to consider VOLUNTEERING in light of that development. Riverside is anticipating the arrival of approximately a dozen refugee families. The Institute and our Church community are perfectly positioned together to assist that new population.

This is for three fortunate reasons.

First, a key agency of the Episcopal Church, the Episcopal Migration Ministries, has been designated by the US State Department as the agency responsible for refugee settlement in our region of California.

Second, that Ministries is partnering with the Human Migration Institute—and its staff, remarkable, dedicated, super-experienced group of individuals who have been doing work in refugee resettlement for many years. Some of you may recall two of them, Dr. Selin Nielsen and Ms. Leen Kawas, who visited us on August 4, during and after the services 4, with much information and publicity regarding these plans. They were warmly and generously introduced by Mother Kelli Grace✙, to whom I again extend my thanks.

Third, several people within our All Saints community have over the past several years joined in the same labor of refugee resettlement, in collaboration or in parallel with the Institute's staff, across a wide range of volunteering commitments.

In short, it makes all the sense in the world for us—our All Saints community—to be core part of the response by the people of Riverside to the forthcoming need. The need will be upon us soon, since, as I understand, the arrivals are expected in the fall. For that exact timing and all other information, I refer you to the contacts with the Institute staff indicated below, in this message. At the moment, let me pass on the following general points:



1. Please consider, as especially pressing for the newly arriving families, hospitality at your home: hosting a family for up to a few weeks—as the search progresses for permanent rental lodging. Also, please feel free to provide any information you may have that may help in that search.

2. Please consider a wide range of other volunteering activities. From my experience, those include: giving our newcomers rides to various destinations—including medical care, government offices, educational institutions; helping parents and children with school registration (typically K-12), or with higher-level enrollment (RCC, for example); helping with paperwork-at-large; assistance in search for employment; and (my specialization) tutoring (middle school to just past twelfth grade), in my case in reading and writing. And there is more!

3. Gifts, both of specific items and financial, are most welcome—though, for that especially, I refer you to the contacts. I am very bad with money advice...

And so, here are the contacts. The people involved are wonderful! Please feel free to direct to them all questions you may have.

- *Regarding volunteering in general, please contact Ms. Sedef Altug, at hr@hmir.org or (657)877-9858.*
- *Regarding hospitality in your home, please contact Ms. Leen Kawas, at lk@hmir.org or 913.705.0546.*
- *You are also most welcome to contact Dr. Selin Nielsen, the Institute's President and Founder, at syn@hmir.org. I, too, can answer some questions, at gorecki@ucr.edu or krakowianin55@gmail.com.*

Here, in addition, are the websites for the Institute, and for the Episcopal Migration Ministries. Please note the wealth of information presented in both.

<http://www.hmir.org>

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/episcopal-migration-ministries>



I cannot thank you enough for your attention now, and for the welcome to Selin and Leen a few days ago. I thank God for you, for the great people of our city, for All Saints, and for our community.

Piotr Górecki
6 August 2024

(Continued on page 11)

Help Us Welcome Our New Neighbors!

Join HMI – a dedicated nonprofit making a real difference in the lives of refugees right here in Riverside. **We're committed to helping our new neighbors integrate and thrive in our community.**

Building Community Through Empowerment


MAKE A DIFFERENCE RIGHT HERE IN RIVERSIDE!

Why Volunteer With Us?

- ☒ Help Build Stronger, Inclusive Communities
- ☒ Create Lasting Friendships Across Cultures
- ☒ Address Global Issues Locally
- ☒ Leave a Legacy of Kindness



Get in touch with us to get started:

 **(951) 237-2513**
(Text only)

 **HR@hmir.org**
(Sedef Altug, HR Coordinator)

HMIR.org



TRANSPORTATION TEAM

Greet and assist refugees upon arrival at the airport & provide local transportation support within the community.



HOUSING TEAM

Help newcomers adjust to their new surroundings & secure safe, suitable housing through cultural orientation and support.



EDUCATION TEAM

Guide families through school enrollment & provide English language tutoring to help them adapt to their new environment.



HEALTHCARE TEAM

Connect refugees with local healthcare resources & educate them about health practices & available medical support.



CAREER TEAM

Assist in finding employment & developing job skills, & offer specialized English tutoring tailored to specific career fields.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



TRANSFORM LIVES.

LANGUAGES NEEDED

- Spanish
- Dari & Pashto
- Arabic
- Mandarin

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP



For questions regarding volunteering, please email our HR Coordinator, Sedef Altug at HR@HMIR.org.



Welcome Items List

HMI ensures that each refugee family has a home with all the essentials when they arrive in the U.S. The below items are required and suggested for refugee home set-ups. HMI accepts most of the items listed below at our Riverside office during office hours with prior scheduling (contact info listed at bottom of page). We **DO NOT** accept any items which are not found on this list. All items should be in new or good condition. **Thank you for welcoming new families to our community.**

Furniture

- Mattress and box spring
- Bed frame
- Set of drawers, shelves, or other appropriate clothing storage
- Couches or equivalent seating
- Lamps and light bulbs
- Kitchen table and chairs



Baby Items

- Baby food
- Clothing
- Diapers
- Car seats/booster seats
- Cribs
- Baby gates



Linens & Other Household Supplies

- Bath towels
- Sheets
- Blanket(s), comforter(s)
- Pillows and pillowcases
- Paper, pens, and/or pencils



Toiletries (New)

- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene items
- Razors



Kitchen Items

- Tableware (forks, knives, spoons)
- Dishes (plates, bowls and cups)
- Pots and pans (saucepans, frying pans, and baking dishes)
- Mixing/serving bowls
- Kitchen utensils (spatulas, wooden spoons, knives, serving utensils, etc.)
- Can openers



Cleaning Supplies

- Dish soap
- Bathroom/kitchen cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Sponges, cleaning rags, and/or paper towels
- Wastebaskets
- Trash bags
- Mops or brooms



Schedule Donation/Furniture Drop-Off:

To schedule a donation drop-off at our office, please contact:

Sedef Altug, HR Coordinator
HR@HMIR.org



1424 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92507

HMIR.org



SIGNS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

by Father Conrad Nordquist

My father, Conrad Adolph Nordquist Sr., was three years old when his father, Gust, a crusty young immigrant from Sweden, started a small business making and painting signs in Minneapolis. I remember the pencils, memo pads, and stationery from the business embossed with "Nordquist Sign Company." "Signs of Every Description" was the motto, and following the address, 312 W. Lake Street, and phone number, "Founded 1903." My dad wanted to be a mining engineer. After his freshman year at the University of Minnesota, he spent the summer working in the open pit mine of the Mesabi Iron Range in northern Minnesota. His dream was not to be. Grandpa made him give up college and go to work in the sign business. Dad never said so, but he must have hated every minute, six days a week, of his next thirty-five years managing the shop under the thumb of his father and older brother, who did the front office and sales work.

Something else he never told me, but I finally figured out, was that he would have done anything to spare me from following him into the family sign business. I was encouraged to go to college, to go to law school, to do graduate work, and eventually to seminary—anything but go to work for him, my uncle, and my cousin in the Nordquist Sign Company.

Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign...." (Matthew 12:39a, 16:4a NRSV) The Greek word semeion is usually translated as the word sign in modern English bibles. In the King James version, it was often translated as the word miracle. Thus, in John's Gospel, the miracle of the changing water into wine at the wedding feast concludes with the statement: "Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory and his disciples believed in him. (John 2:11 NRSV)

I think the word miracle has an unfortunate association with events that seem to violate the laws of nature: the chemistry of fermentation, the physics of gravity, the nature of space, and the quality of probability. The custom seems to put the word miracle in the same class of events like card tricks or performance magic that make us ask, often silently to ourselves, "How did they do that?" But we educated twenty-first-century Americans, and when we witness an extraordinary, mind-boggling event, we rarely ask, "What does this mean?"

(Cont. on pg ###)

Not so for the First Century Jews who saw and heard Jesus heal the sick, restore sight to the blind, drive out demons, and raise the dead. So, we modern folk would do well to read our New Testament with the same query: "What's going on here when Jesus remotely restores life to a Roman officer's daughter? What does it mean when Jesus squats in the dust and writes on the ground in the presence of a woman caught having sex with a man, not her husband? Why do the disciples complain that they can't cast out a demon afflicting an epileptic boy?"

Call these events miracles or signs, if you will, but ask, "To what do they point?" I believe that in the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, such signs pointed first to Jesus himself and then, with interpretation, to the truth that God is at work in the world to reveal who God is and what is truly important. Taken together, the signs Jesus wrought in his ministry reveal a God who is compassionate, inclusive, and creatively active in the world God created. And when we are surprised with acts of unexpected compassion and inclusiveness, are these not signs of God's continuing loving action in the world around us today? I've rarely been aware, at the time, of God's redeeming work in my own life, of the signs right in front of me, but I chalk that up to the fact that I wasn't paying attention. In the lives of others: people who get well, people who don't get well and still live out lives of grace and patience, people who lay down their lives for their country, and in people who live their lives for others, I see Christ Jesus present and at work. I'm not just talking about Christians.

It makes me think that I wound up in the sign business after all. It's been my business to point out that what is happening around me, daily, if I'm paying attention, is the love of God acted out by people of my religion, people of another faith, or even people who claim no religious affiliation at all. Thanks be to God.



A Look Back...



Parishioners' Reflections

We all received or should have received a letter from Diocesan Bishop Taylor today. As I read his letter calling for a Coadjutor in the Diocese, I could not help but think back to the period of time when interviews were held to fill the same role for Bishop Borsch. As I recall, each candidate gave an opening statement, and then questions were taken from the delegates. I can't speak for others who may have participated in the process, but I remember thinking that if this man could assist President Richard Nixon in transitioning from the White House following Watergate to the founding of the Richard Nixon Library, he could certainly lead a community of Christians in Los Angeles! Well, he certainly did not disappoint!

It was a celebratory process for many of us as this experience does not come around every day! I recall that we were privileged to participate in the consecration service as Chalice Bearers, which was held at the Music Center. We arranged for a bus for parishioners from All Saints and had the opportunity to celebrate with congregations across the Diocese.

I have had the pleasure of serving as a delegate to numerous conventions during Bishop Taylor's tenure. I look back on the interviews in San Bernardino and our decisions and feel, as Churchill stated, "It was our finest hour!"

-Mary Ellen Gruendyke



I just wanted to leave a little note of thanks to you all for welcoming me into the position of editor with open arms; I'm loving every minute & consider it an honor & great joy to serve alongside you!

♥ Amy López

Leading Wednesday evening prayer at All Saints is something I truly enjoy.

It's a meaningful opportunity to guide the congregation in reflection and spiritual connection, fostering a sense of peace and community in the middle of the week.

-Luke #4