

Saints Alive!

A NEWS BULLETIN OF EVENTS, PEOPLE AND THE COMMUNITY SERVED BY
ALL SAINTS PARISH, BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

Volume 13, Number 4

March/April 2009

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The Mission of All Saints Parish

is to be a Community — *searching* to know and accept God's purpose for us, *uplifted* by worship together, *sustained* by a sense of Christ being in our midst, and *inspired* by the Holy Spirit to become more than we are, here and in the world.

Statement of Policy

The policy of All Saints Parish is to welcome all people who seek the love of God, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, or age. We welcome all people on the basis of our Baptismal Covenant in which we promise to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" and "respect the dignity of every human being."

Holy Week and Easter

April 4/5	Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist with Procession of Palms, Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday at 10:30 am.
April 6	Way of the Cross at 7:00 pm.
April 8	Taizé Holy Eucharist at 6:15 pm. Tenebrae service at 7:00 pm.
April 9	Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist of the Lord's Supper, with washing of feet, at 6:30 pm.
April 10	Good Friday Way of the Cross at 8:30 am; Solemn Liturgy at 7:00 pm.
April 11	Great Vigil of Easter Lighting of new fire, Procession of Light, Holy Eucharist and Holy Baptism, 7:00 pm.
April 12	Easter Day Festal Holy Eucharist at 9:00 am. Solemn Festal Holy Eucharist at 11:00 am.

The Rev. Leslie K. Sterling receives the All Saints Distinguished Service Award on her last Sunday at All Saints on February 8, 2009. From left, Sue LeClaire, Leslie, and the Rev. David Killian (See pages 2, 7).
Photo by Jean Stringham.



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From the Rector

THANK YOU AND GODSPEED, LESLIE

Congratulations to the Rev. Leslie K. Sterling, who has been appointed Priest in Charge at St. Bartholomew's Church in Cambridge. On February 8, we thanked her for her service and wished her well in her new ministry. At the 10:30 am service, we presented the Distinguished Service Award to Leslie. The inscription read: "For over seven years you faithfully served All Saints Parish as a Deacon and a Priest. Your stirring sermons nourished our souls and led us to a deeper understanding of the Gospel and God's love. Your prophetic commitment to social justice moved us to action. Your compassionate pastoral care gave us comfort in times of illness, bereavement, and distress. Your insightful teaching helped us understand the Scriptures and our Christian faith. You are a dedicated co-worker with your clergy and lay colleagues in the Lord's vineyard. You show us how to live without fear so that our good works may give glory to God." Our prayers go with you, Leslie. May God bless you and your ministry with your new congregation.

TAIZÉ HOLY EUCHARIST

All are invited to the Taizé Holy Eucharist at 6:15 pm on the Wednesdays of Lent, March 4 through April 8. These candlelight services will feature the hauntingly beautiful meditative chants that we sing each Sunday at the 10:30 am service. If you would like to know more about Taizé and the Taizé Lenten services at All Saints, please go to the Taizé website: <http://www.taize.fr/en> If you have a musical instrument that you could play at the service, please contact me at rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

- ◆ Roberta and Bill Schnoor, recipients of this year's Yule Candle Award at the Annual Meeting, for their devoted service to the parish.
- ◆ Sue LeClaire, Senior Warden; Roberta Schnoor, Junior Warden; Ken Coleman, Treasurer; Kate Garms, Clerk; Vestry members Thomas Bridge, Charlotte Presler, Charles Rigg, and Jeffrey Thibault; and the delegates elected at the Annual Meeting on February 1.

THANK YOU TO . . .

- ◆ Daniel Eckroad, David Pfarrer, and Susan Wheeler who completed their service on the Vestry.
- ◆ Daniel Jurayj, chair, and the Nominating Committee for the excellent candidates presented at the Annual Meeting.
- ◆ All who contributed to the 2008 Annual Report on the ministries and activities of the parish (copies are available on the information tables at the church).
- ◆ Liz Beattie and all who helped prepare the delicious luncheon at the Annual Meeting on February 1.
- ◆ Marianne Evett and Maija Gray, co-chairs, and the Stewardship Committee for their leadership and to all who have made a pledge for 2009.
- ◆ Barbara MacDonald, Coordinator, and all who host the social hour after the 10:30 am service.
- ◆ Anne Harrington for leading the Women's Reading Circle and Peter Stringham for co-leading with me the Men's Group that meets on Saturdays.
- ◆ The Property Committee and all who help with the ongoing care of our building.

David

GOOD NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Men's Group will meet March 7, 21, and April 4 from 8:00 to 9:15 am to discuss *Under the Banner of Heaven* by Jon Krakauer. Bagels, juice, and coffee will be served. Copies of the book are available in the Guild Room. For more information, contact Peter Stringham, peter.stringham@gmail.com, or David Killian, rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org.

Unemployment and Underemployment Spiritual Support Group. Are you currently on a quest for a new job as well as a supportive network? Come visit this support group which meets on the first Tuesday of the month, 7:15-8:30 pm, March 3 and April 7. For more information, contact David Killian, rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org.

Automated Giving Program through ParishPay. All Saints now supports automated giving through an online service called ParishPay, the nation's largest automated giving service. To learn more, email John Plonowski at bookkeeper@allsaintsbrookline.org

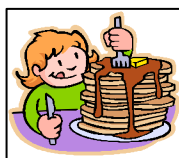
James Carroll on March 29
Author James Carroll will read from his new book *Practicing Catholic* on Sunday, March 29 at 7 pm. No fee but donations will be accepted for this fundraiser for Ruah and Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries. All are welcome.

Brian McLaren, one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals, will keynote the spring learning event of the diocese on **Saturday, March 7, 8:30 am**, at Boston University. Register at www.diomass.org.

Family Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 1 * 9:00 – 10:15 am,
\$5 donation/family

A chance to meet other families, learn about our programs and hear a talk by Peter Stringham,



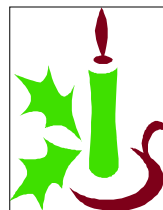
Phyllis Tickle, internationally renowned author and Episcopal leader, speaks on Thursday, March 26, at a learning event based on her new book *The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*. The event is at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street, Boston), 2:00-5:30 p.m. Cost: \$25. To register: <http://www.diomass.org/event/diocesan/join-phyllis-tickle-and-great-emergence>

Mary, Companion & Guide: A meditative Lenten retreat, facilitated by Brother Eldridge Pendleton, SSJE, is **Saturday, March 21, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm**, St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Dover. Cost: \$15 (with lunch); \$10 (without lunch). Please register with *Lois Murphy*: loism@diomass.org. Checks made out to "Diocese of Massachusetts" can be mailed to Lois at 138 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111, or brought to the retreat. *Registration deadline: March 16. Questions?* Contact Becky Taylor, 617-738-1810, reled@allsaintsbrookline.org;



Roberta and Bill Schnoor are awarded the Yule Candle for 2009 at the All Saints Parish Annual Meeting on February 1. **Congratulations!**

Photo by Jean Stringham.



Worship at All Saints

Holy Baptism will be celebrated next on Saturday, April 11 at 7:00 pm and Sunday May 31 at 10:30 am. To make reservations for baptism, please contact the Rector at 617-738-1810, ext 105 or rectord@allsaintsbrookline.org.

Healing. All Saints Parish offers prayers for healing with laying on of hands every Sunday during the 10:30 am Holy Eucharist. You may request prayers for healing for yourself or others during the service.

The Book of Thanksgivings and Concerns is placed at the entrance to the church before the service. Please write in your prayer requests and thanksgivings for those who need our prayers. The Intercessor brings the book forward during the Creed and incorporates those requests in the Prayers of the People. There is also a **Parish Prayer List** posted on the bulletin board where you can add prayer requests throughout the week.

Newcomers. If you are new to the parish, the Rector would like to welcome you to our parish. Please call the parish office at 617-738-1810 ext 105 to schedule an appointment.

Readings for Sundays:

March 1: Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15. **March 8:** Psalm 22:22-30; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38. **March 15:** Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22. **March 22:** Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21. **March 29:** Psalm 51:1-13; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33. **April 5:** Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47. **April 12:** Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18. **April 19:** Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31. **April 26:** Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48.

As a spiritual practice, we recommend that you read these lessons prior to the Sunday worship.

Sacred Space

During 2008-2009, All Saints has welcomed a number of speakers on the theme of "Sacred Space." This series is part of a parish-wide conversation on the use and configuration of the All Saints Sanctuary, as we contemplate whether to make changes, possibly in connection with a future heating system renovation.

On October 5, parishioner Rick Montross spoke on "The Windows of All Saints" and led a tour of the Sanctuary's stained glass windows, as part of the 2008 House Tours of Brookline. On October 26, we welcomed former Rector, the Rev. Louis Pitt, who spoke on "The Centrality of the Altar in Christian Worship." Peter Cormack, Honorary Director of the Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation, spoke on "Transatlantic Gothic: Aspects of Anglo-American Medievalism" at a program held at Marsh Chapel, Boston University. On January 25, former parishioner The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato returned to conduct a workshop on "Re-Envisioning the Worship Space of All Saints Parish." What follows are notes taken by Junior Warden Roberta Schnoor on the talks given by The Revs. Pitt and Brocato.

"The Centrality of the Altar in Christian Worship"

**The Rev. Louis Pitt, Jr.
October 26, 2008**

The Rev. Louis Pitt began his remarks by evoking a vision of the All Saints Parish Sanctuary from the past. Forty years ago in 1968, he told us, the sanctuary was configured very differently: Long rows of pews all facing forward went almost all the way up to the base of the steps to the choir. The high altar had a dossal hanging and canopy (in bad repair) just below the stained glass windows. The sanctuary ceiling had batting material in it, which muffled the sound in the room. Dark green clerestory windows had blown out in a hurricane and been replaced. The walls needed painting.

The "Green Book," had recently been brought into use in the Episcopal Church. This included experimental liturgy that parishes were asked to try out as the Church contemplated changes to the 1928

Prayer Book. A major change in the Green Book was the new focus on the Eucharist. Previously All Saints and many other Episcopal parishes celebrated Eucharist only once a month. There was now a movement to make the Eucharist central to worship and to engage the laity as more active participants in the service. The press to celebrate the Eucharist every week highlighted some of the problems with the Sanctuary configuration: the priest with his back to the congregation, looking like "chief intercessor" for the parish (a medieval notion); God as "out there somewhere," rather than in our midst.

The 75th anniversary of the All Saints church building (as distinct from the parish) was to be celebrated in 1969. All Saints, under the leadership of a 75th Anniversary Committee, began a spiritual journey towards a new arrangement in the Sanctuary "and as with most spiritual journeys, it wasn't clear at the outset where it would end up." This was a year-long process that began with an announcement to the congregation that there would be some experimentation with the Sanctuary arrangement, that the experiment would be tried for a finite time, that feedback would be solicited and evaluated before any final decision was made.

During the process, at least two locations for a nave altar were tried. In the end, the decision was made to locate the nave altar where it is placed today. Louis Pitt noted that a goal was to bring people around at least three sides of the table. He observed that we seem to have lost some of that with our current configuration where piano and empty chairs are on one side (if Schola isn't there) and on both sides the rows are set further back from the altar than they were formerly. (NOTE: some pews have recently been added to the left transept to address this situation.)

In April 1969, the Vestry voted to add a nave altar. The work cost \$6,000. Some donations were received including the large cross hanging from ceiling, the new altar and an Oriental rug. While the work was being done, services were held in another church for one month

and in the parish hall for another month. At the time, Rev. Pitt stated, the parish felt it had achieved a "conversation" and "balance" between traditional high altar, which still remained, and new nave altar. Most (with a few exceptions) parishioners were pleased with the outcome. "The best part was seeing each other across the table and God in our midst."

These changes were made in the midst of all the other tumult of 1968-69. The Rev. Pitt observed that, while it may seem counterintuitive initially, a time when things are in flux may actually be a good time to make further changes.

"Workshop on Re-Envisioning the Worship Space at All Saints" The Rev. Dr. Christian F. Brocato January 25, 2009

Christian opened his talk by characterizing all the items in the Sanctuary space as "furniture." He stressed that it is important to think about what mission particular furniture fulfills. The group present (about 25 people) then began to reflect on the qualities of sacred space. Some ideas: it is space that creates a desire to worship; has special features that invite worship; places where people have worshipped over and over. The following important qualities of sacred space were noted: calmness; openness; a special quality of light; the ability to allow for silence.

Christian stated that the two most important pieces of "furniture" in the sanctuary are the altar and the baptismal font, as they are symbols of the sacraments of Eucharist and Baptism. He noted that the location of the font at the threshold of the All Saints sanctuary is very appropriate. With regard to altars, however, Christian pointed out that All Saints currently has 4 altars in the Sanctuary. While many European cathedrals have numerous altars, Christian posited that having more than one altar creates confusion: There should be one place where Eucharist is celebrated and attention focused. At All Saints, the high altar is used for Christmas and Easter services only. What does this say to visitors on

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Parish Voices

Sonnet for Barack Obama

This gift was finely made: It took
the world an age or two and many lives
to tune its simple strings. Who drew
his bow across these strings today was well devised
to play their notes. How they sing the Truth
this way; how they're catching in our throats,
banishing our country's past dismay. Now our youth
with all its childish games sounds faint, remote.
He who plays this instrument conveys
the churn of adult hopes and means. His score
was never written. It has never played before.
How it sounds a trembling break of day!
His perfect pitch is sounding in our ears;
What a gift, that we're alive to hear!

January 20, 2009
Inauguration Day

— *Charlotte Presler*

A Maze of Grace

The path has wound through rounded turns before:
its red rock slabs are angled now, precise
with curves a mason cut and bore through lasers.
This device has cut a perfect slice.

And so the labyrinth has marked its way
and changes every age and every life
that strides through Godly plans and has its say
and quarrels time with pristine lines--such strife
that rankles redirects us on this floor
that posits with a God who dreams our plan,
who, like the mason true, has known our score
and centers us with an omniscient scan.
Such turns of life that have confused our souls,
Here work our route towards heaven's distant goals.

— *Charlotte Presler*



[This sonnet appreciates the red rock labyrinth at St. John's Episcopal Church in Boulder, Colorado. Anne and Sandy Butterfield, the poet's aunt and uncle, designed and constructed the labyrinth.]

Middle School Trip to Heifer Farm

On Saturday, March 7th, the Charles River Youth Collaborative is sponsoring a trip to Rutland, Massachusetts. There, middle school students and their adult mentors will visit the Heifer Project's learning center at Overlook Farm and participate in the "World Neighbors" program. Through videos, hands-on activities, and immersion experiences, this program introduces participants to the challenges of global hunger and poverty, and how Heifer is addressing those needs. The farm itself is a working example of the sustainable agriculture that Heifer supports worldwide. The trip is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders in the parish, and their friends from outside the parish.

The cost is \$20/person. Please contact Becky Taylor to register: reled@allsaintsbrookline.org, 617-738-1810 Ext. 104.

The Charles River Youth Collaborative (CRYC) is a shared ministry of the Episcopal parishes in the towns of the Charles River deanery (Brookline, Dover, Needham, Newton, and Wellesley). It is open to all kids in Grades 6-8. In the 2008-2009 program year, the CRYC is exploring Jesus' command to "Feed my sheep." (John 21:17). For more information about the Heifer Project, please visit their website: www.heifer.org

Friday Film Series

“Building the Blessed Community” Continues With Two Award-Winners

Two poignant and informative films – each followed by a discussion – will continue the All Saints’ series, *Building the Blessed Community: Films Related to the Millennium Development Goals*.

On Friday, March 6, *Beyond Belief* tells the story of two 9/11 widows from suburban Boston who turn their grief into empowering women in Afghanistan. Susan Retik, one of the two, will be with us that evening to talk further about their journey.

On Friday, March 20, *Silent Killer*, a documentary originally made for public television, focuses on the tragedy of hunger, which affects more than a billion people in today’s world, and of the beginnings of some programs to prevent it.

Both films begin at 7:30 in the Guild Room at All Saints. Free admission. Popcorn and drinks are on sale to benefit the Mission & Outreach trip to Honduras next summer.

In *Beyond Belief*, Susan Retik and Patti Quigley are two ordinary suburban moms until the tragedy of 9/11 strikes. Rather than turning inwards, grief compels these women to focus on the country where the terrorists who took their husbands’ lives were trained: Afghanistan. Over the course of two years, as



they cope with loss and struggle to raise their families as single mothers, these extraordinary women dedicate themselves to empowering Afghan widows whose lives have been ravaged by decades of war, poverty and oppression - factors they consider to be the root

causes of terrorism. As Susan and Patti make the courageous journey from their comfortable neighborhoods to the most desperate Afghan villages, they discover a powerful bond with each other, an unlikely kinship with widows halfway around the world, and a profound way to move beyond tragedy.

Silent Killer begins in the 100-degree heat of South Africa’s Kalahari Desert, where three members of the Khomani San tribe search for the Hoodia, a cactus-like plant with appetite-suppressant properties. The razor-thin San use the cactus to fend off hunger, but now, a pharmaceutical firm has patented the appetite-suppressant properties of Hoodia and is using it to make a diet product for obese Americans and Europeans. The Hoodia is a metaphor for a world where some people have too much food, but millions of others have far too little. The film then shows scientists who are working with farmers in Kenya to make agriculture more productive, and the World Food Summit in Rome, where we learn how activists have been working



to end hunger. A visit to Brazil finds a nation energized by a new national campaign called Fome Zero (Zero Hunger).

Can we end hunger or will it always be with us? What will it take? How do U.S. efforts to end hunger compare with those of other developed countries? Can biotechnology play a role, and if so, how? Is hunger just a problem of distribution or do we still need to produce more and better crops? The film takes up all these important questions – and shows us the beginnings of some answers.

Sacred Space

(Continued from page 4)

those days about what type of church we are? What are we saying to ourselves about the nave altar when we don’t use it on the two most important church holidays? The high altar is not accessible to those with disabilities. Christian reminded us that “liturgy” means the work of the people. He suggested that the nave altar in the midst of the people is most reflective of this notion.

Some ideas that the group discussed: If the high altar were to be removed, the choir could face forward towards the parish. Would this distract parishioners from the action at the altar or would it complete the circle around the table? Many large cathedrals (as well as smaller churches) do not have fixed pews but use chairs. Christian suggested that this allows for better heat circulation, improves sound and permits a more flexible use of space.

The final "Sacred Space" lecture will be Sunday, March 22, 12 noon: Ethan Anthony AIA, President, HDB/Cram and Ferguson Inc., the successor to the Cram firm and author of *The Architecture of Ralph Adams Cram and His Office*, will speak on “Ralph Adams Cram’s Vision of Sacred Space at All Saints Parish.” All are welcome.

Nightwatch 2009

An overnight event at All Saints Parish for kids in Grades 3 - 12
Maundy Thursday, April 9 -
Good Friday, April 10
"Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

- Starts with supper on Thursday at 5:30pm and includes the Maundy Thursday service with foot washing
- Invites prayerful response to the stations of the cross
- Is a sleepover with friends
- Serves breakfast on Friday and ends with worship on Friday morning
 Cost: \$20.

Friends are welcome! To register, contact Becky Taylor 617-738-1810 X 104; reled@allsaintsbrookline.org

From the Director of Children's, Youth & Family Ministries

Getting organized for B-SAFE 2009

Last summer All Saints Parish was one of 50 Episcopal congregations that participated in the Bishop's Summer Academic & Fun Enrichment (B-SAFE) Program. From June to August, 700 volunteers served 530 urban youth in this summer day camp supported by the diocese. Our parish partnered with the children attending camp at the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin in Roxbury. If you'd like to be part of the 2009 All Saints B-SAFE team, please contact Eileen Sweeney (eileen.sweeney@bc.edu) or Becky Taylor (reled@allsaintsbrookline.org) and consider attending an orientation meeting on Sunday, March 15th, 1-3pm at Church of the Redeemer, 379 Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill.



During the five Sundays in Lent, our children and young people will learn about what life at El Hogar is like for the 100 young children who live at the orphanage/school, and the other 100 teens who are living and learning a trade at the agricultural institute and the technical school that El Hogar operates. Our kids will also learn a little about Honduras, especially how extreme poverty undermines success on many levels. This will give us a chance to teach about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and how the Episcopal Church has embraced these MDGs as its mission in the world.

Lenten Focus: El Hogar: The Home of Love & Hope



At home, families will be asked to keep the children of El Hogar in prayer during the 40 days of Lent. As they give thanks for the love and hope that they find in their own home life together, parents and children will express that gratitude with small daily donations to their mite boxes. The money we raise as a result of these Lenten family devotions will be used to help purchase building supplies that the mission team will be using in Tegucigalpa in July.

My involvement with El Hogar for the past several years has deepened my own sense of what it means to follow Jesus. My hope is that our children and young people will begin to see how prayer and simple acts of kindness can help bring the light of Christ more fully into the world, especially to those who are living with little, or no, hope.

During the five Sundays in March, the children in our Church School, along with the middle school and high school teens in our Journey to Adulthood program will be learning about El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza - "The Home of Love and Hope" in Tegucigalpa, Honduras (www.elhogar.org). A team of five teens and four adults will be travelling to El

Hogar in early July for a week-long mission project. The goal of our Lenten program in the Church School and Youth Program is to help kids understand how El Hogar's mission to serve desperately poor children is a concrete example of how Christians obey Jesus' great commandment. On the night before he died, Jesus told his disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

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A prayer for the poor and neglected
Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(From the Book of Common Prayer, page 826)

Preparing for Summer Mission Trip

On July 4th, five high school young people and four adult mentors from our parish will travel to Honduras for one week. They will live and work at El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza. El Hogar is an orphanage and school that provides a loving home and education for abandoned, orphaned, and hopelessly poor children living in and around the capital city of Tegucigalpa. The program is a vital ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras. The team will be putting the finishing touches on a new dormitory that is currently under construction.

Meet the members of the mission team and learn what this trip is starting to mean for them:

Anita Chu (11th Grade, Brookline High): Sometimes, I feel like I have many problems to worry about, such as getting a good SAT score or saving enough money to buy a new phone. The Honduras trip makes me think about the lives of people in developing nations. We don't need to worry about clean drinking water, or hot water for showers, or whether we have enough food. I take piano lessons and have a part-time job. What about kids elsewhere? Do they worry about their next meal or whether they can stay healthy? By going there and living for a week, I will be able to experience a different life. I think I

(Continued on page 8)

will appreciate more what I have and pay more attention to the less fortunate and think about what I can do to help and to make a difference. We will show hope, love and care to those in need and show them that God will never abandon them. I also think we can learn a lot from them. I hope to take this opportunity to practice my Spanish, too!

Grace Foxworthy (9th Grade, Brookline High): I would like to go to El Hogar because I think it is going to be a fun and helpful mission trip. I am really excited to practice my Spanish while meeting the children there.

Tom Schnoor (9th Grade, Milton Academy): I'm going on the mission trip this summer because I want to feel like I'm making a difference. Here in Brookline I feel like I'm not doing that much to help those in need. These kids at El Hogar have a much tougher life than I do. I want to help them in any way possible so that they can live a better life. Hopefully after this trip I will feel that we have helped and that the children at El Hogar are better off than they were when we arrived.

Elizabeth Speyer Besancon (9th Grade, Brookline High): I want to go to Honduras because I want to help the people there who live in extreme poverty. We live a shielded life in America. We tend to know very little about the conditions of those who live in the poorer countries in the world. If anyone got into such horrible poverty, charities would help them get back on their feet. In Honduras, this isn't the case. Many go without enough food to eat. In El

Hogar, children born into such poverty are given a second chance. I want to go because I want to help them.

Marie Wheeler (9th Grade, Brookline High): There are many reasons why I think going to Honduras would be a positive experience for me. One reason is that it will help the school to which we are going because we are giving them money and a helping hand. Another reason I wish to go on this trip is because I want to meet the people there and get a new experience of what the culture of Honduras has to offer us. And lastly, I want to go because I can bond with the other church people going to Honduras, who will also be having a good time as I am. I hope that I will have had a great overall experience.

Chris Jones: In this parish, and in the Episcopal Church generally, we talk a great deal about mission and outreach. One of the stated goals of this diocese is to establish connections with our brothers and sisters outside the United States. It is shameful to admit that, for all my talk about supporting foreign missions, and all the reasons I give others who ask "why?," I have never actually engaged in the activity of mission outside of my home country. I am undertaking this trip to Honduras to leave my comfort zone, to engage the Gospel by interacting with those who are among the most needful, and to establish a lasting connection with those involved in the ministry of El Hogar.

Carol Piñeiro: While much of Central

America is a tropical paradise, centuries of political and economic turmoil have made development difficult. Honduras has a high rate of illiteracy and low per capita income. Knowing that there are efforts being made in El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza to educate poor children so they can support a family gives me hope that the cycle of poverty can be reversed. I'd like to give a small portion of my time and talent to that effort. I'd also like to receive the love and peace of the happy children and dedicated adults who reside there.

Andy Taylor: Our adventure in July will mark my second trip to El Hogar, and I'm extremely excited to return. It's a wonderful place, with some of the most incredible people I've encountered in my life. My experience with the kids at the orphanage a little over a year ago was so energetic and heart warming, it will be great to see all of them again. They are able to turn a very tough situation into something overwhelmingly positive, and I really admire that. I'm looking forward to being a part of the construction team and giving back to kids who truly deserve it!

Becky Taylor: This will be my third trip to El Hogar, a place where I have experienced the Kingdom of God "coming near," as Jesus proclaims. I am excited to introduce this wonderful place to my friends at All Saints and hope that Christ will open up for all of us new ways of knowing and serving him. I am very, very grateful that All Saints is supporting our mission trip, both with prayer and financial support.

***James Carroll's Constantine's Sword* Screening & Discussion — Sunday, March 8**

A community-wide screening and discussion of *James Carroll's Constantine's Sword*, a critically acclaimed new documentary film by Oren Jacoby, will be presented at All Saints Parish on **Sunday, March 8, 7:00-9:30 pm**. A post-screening discussion with interfaith clergy will be hosted by the Rev. Dr. David A. Killian, Rector of All Saints Parish. Based on the book by author and columnist James Carroll, the film examines the roots of religious violence and its relationship to the long history of Christian anti-Semitism. It also examines the contemporary context of religiously enflamed violence, and dangerous new stresses among Christians, Jews, and Muslims. *James*

Carroll's Constantine's Sword has been extremely well received by audiences and critics alike, and was shown at the Coolidge Corner Theatre and West Newton Theatre last summer. The March 8th program is co-sponsored by the RUAH Spirituality Institute, Facing History and Ourselves, the Brookline Clergy Association, and Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM). The event is open to the public. A suggested donation of \$12 is appreciated for this fundraiser for CMM and RUAH. For more information, please contact Barbara Bembery at RUAH Spirituality Institute (www.ruahspirit.org) at 617-277-0036 or ruahspirit@gmail.com.

Outreach Opportunities

- ◆ **The All Saints Mission & Outreach Committee:** For more information, contact Erica Topolski, chair, at etopolsk@nbnet.nb.ca.
- ◆ **St. John's Dinner: On March 5 and May 14,** please help us prepare food for people who live on the margins. Food is prepared at All Saints at 2:30 pm and brought to St. John's on Bowdoin St. at 5:30 pm. Helpers are needed to shop, chop, boil, stir, and carry. Please sign up or contact AnneMarie Ellis, ame43quilt@comcast.net.
- ◆ **Greater Boston Interfaith Organization:** GBIO member congregations are meeting to explore the impact of the current economic struggles on our members and to look for practical ways to respond. Dave Evett and Sarah Leinbach, our GBIO coordinators, would like to meet with parishioners one-to-one to get your advice and ideas on how our parish can pray and talk together about these things. If you can meet with one of them, please contact Sarah at sleinbach@verizon.net, 617-277-0233 or Dave at d.evett@csuohio.edu, 781-316-8470.
- ◆ **Food Pantry.** The Brookline Food Pantry at Saint Paul's Church needs additional volunteers. If you can help out for two hours per week between 10 am and 2 pm on a Tuesday or Thursday, please contact Jim Margolis at 617-901-0848. For this and other ways to help, please call 617-566-4953.
- ◆ **Goddard House Ministry.** You are invited to take part in the worship service for seniors at Goddard House. For more information, contact David Killian, rec-tord@allsaintbrookline.org.

Goodbye from The Rev. Leslie K. Sterling

How hard it is to say goodbye after more than seven years of loving and being loved at All Saints Parish! All Saints has been the perfect training ground for beginning my life in ordained ministry. I could not have asked for anything more.

The day I arrived in August of 2001, I walked into the upstairs office to find placed three enormous sunflowers on my desk as a surprise greeting. From the very first moment of my ministry here, I felt completely welcomed and perfectly at home. During that diaconate year, fresh with the idealistic glow of a recent seminary graduate, I found out quickly how much I still had to learn. I can still remember how full my heart was as I blessed dozens of people around and around the altar the day after I was priested. And I felt such tenderness each and every week toward the upturned faces that locked eyes with me as I placed communion in an outstretched hand.

I will always remember the kindness shown to my mother during the short time that she was healthy enough to worship with us, especially from the healing ministers who prayed with her every week, and the caring attention from so many who sent cards and well-wishes to brighten the end of her life and make her feel that this was her church too. And when my mother went to be with the Lord I was carried along by the outpouring of affection from the congregation, the unexpected generosity from those who made the anonymous gift to help with funeral expenses, and the gift of time from people who pierced my fog of grief to help sort through mom's possessions when I moved.

The emotion of this leavetaking is much more intense than I imagined it would be. My first draft of this goodbye letter was like an Oscar acceptance speech where I went on too long and named so many names until the theme music started playing louder and louder. So instead I will not name any names so that I do not have to apologize for leaving anyone out. I just want to thank everyone! I love you all!!!

On many Sunday evenings I sat alone in the church after everyone was gone, for private quiet time. I sang favorite hymns and heard them echo back off the walls. I mourned my mother and prayed for the pastoral needs of my family and friends and parishioners. Most of all I gave thanks for God's hand on my life and my great good fortune in being called and chosen to serve here at All Saints. You have all formed me as a priest and as a person—reflecting the reality of God's love in ways I can hardly describe. I did my best to give back from the wealth of blessings I have received. I am especially honored by the trust so many of you placed in me as you poured out your hearts in confidence in times of need. It was at those times I felt I was fulfilling my call most completely: to reflect the face of Christ and channel the love of God so that everyone who asks and seeks and knocks might receive and find and be opened. I carry each of you with me and I can only hope that, as I go to serve at my new parish, something of my presence and influence will remain here at All Saints and in each of your individual hearts.

Live without fear! For your creator has made you holy, has always loved you, and will never leave you or forsake you, even unto the end of the age.

With many blessings and love in Christ,
Leslie+

**March/April 2009
Saints Alive !**

Visit us on the web at
www.allsaintsbrookline.org.

Articles for the May/June 2009 issue
should be sent by April 1, to
kari_hannibal@hms.harvard.edu.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**We join together in Prayers
for Peace and Healing for all
of God's people throughout
the world**

Saturday

5:00 pm Celtic Holy Eucharist

Sunday

10:30 am Holy Eucharist, with
Prayers for Healing
(Child care during the 10:30 am
Service)

Wednesday

6:15 pm Taizé Holy Eucharist

Things to Remember

March 3	Unemployment Support Group , 7:00 pm
March 5	Dinner at St. John's , 2:30 pm
March 6	Movie Night: "Beyond Belief" , 7:30 pm
March 7 and 21	Men's Group meeting , 8:00 am
March 7	Diocesan Learning Day at Boston University
March 8	"Constantine's Sword: Film" , 7:00 pm
March 14	Celtic Mini-Retreat on St. Patrick , 3:00-4:30 pm
March 14 and 28	Women's Book Group , 9:00 am
March 18	Vestry Meeting , 6:45 pm
March 20	Movie Night: "Silent Killer" , 7:30 pm
March 22	Sacred Space series , 12 noon
March 29	"Practicing Catholic" with author James Carroll , 7:00 pm
April 4 and 18	Men's Group meeting , 8:00 am
April 5-12	Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter . See schedule on page 1.
April 7	Unemployment Support Group , 7:00 pm
April 11	Women's Book Group , 9:00 am
April 15	Vestry Meeting , 6:45 pm
April 19	New Member Sunday , 10:30 am