

Episcopal News

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SERVING THE SIX-COUNTY DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

‘OneLight’

Interfaith event marks
anniversary of 9/11

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Holy Land, Pine Ridge, Belize,
Tanzania, Skid Row:
Youth walk the pilgrim way

Growing congregation of
St. Aidan’s in Malibu to
expand ‘chapel’ church





J. Jon Bruno
Bishop of Los Angeles

From the Bishop

One Light, One Peace, One World

Strengthening relationships old and new

Many of us recently gathered at the Church of the Messiah in Santa Ana when the parish honored its longtime rector, the Rev. Canon Brad Karelius, on his retirement after 30 years of ministry in that congregation. Earlier this year, St. Stephen's Church in Santa Clarita also said farewell to its longtime priest, the

and solidarity in those relationships. Think of the gifts that come from the friendships shared across this diocese. In my view, the deepening and strengthening of those relationships is one of the central priorities for us each time we gather for the annual meeting of Diocesan Convention, coming up this year on Dec. 2-3 in Riverside.

There we will revisit the theme of "One Light," carrying forward the spirit of the gathering that many of us shared on Sept.

ministers of the several Christian denominations.

A vision for Diocesan Convention

My vision is that our Diocesan Convention meeting will be an opportunity to widen the circle of these relationships by hearing more from those involved in interfaith and ecumenical work, and their perspectives on such vital issues of the day as creating a way forward for peacemaking in the Middle East. Again, it is relationships that make peace possible. Here I think of our companion diocese ties with the people of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and their bishop, the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani. I also commend to you the recent pastoral letter of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, emphasizing ongoing efforts for progress in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

Another example of generous and faith-filled relationships is the work now under way at Good Samaritan Hospital to build the new Frank R. Seaver Ambulatory Surgery Center. Please join me in thanking the Seaver family for the friendship and faithfulness shared within this diocese through so many generations.

In this spirit, let us stay in close relationship with one another, reaching out yet again with hands joined in healing, friendship and respect. In this way, may we deepen our relationship with Jesus the Christ, who calls us into the wider love of God, made known to us by the power of the Holy Spirit. †

Let us stay in close relationship with one another, reaching out yet again with hands joined in healing, friendship and respect.

Rev. Canon Lynn Jay, after 27 years of service, first as vicar and then as rector. In addition, All Saints, Pasadena, recently honored Anne Breck Peterson on her retirement after 33 years of lay ministry on its staff. And I understand that Nancy Jenkins, a longtime member of this diocese, is planning a coffee hour celebration at St. Matthias Church in Whittier to mark 65 years since arriving there with her beloved late husband, Al, when he began his ministry as rector.

All of these friends remind me of the importance of relationships – and the priority of faithful caring

10 at Los Angeles City Hall, when 1,500 Southern Californians came together to remember 9/11 by looking forward in interfaith harmony. (See story on page 4.) One of the great outcomes of this gathering was the deepening of relationships among people of many faith traditions, and especially among those of us who serve on the Los Angeles Council of Religious Leaders, who were welcomed by Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti to host the One Light observance.

The work of this council is enriched by wonderful and long-standing relationships across the shared tradition of the Abrahamic faiths. Together we are able to exchange ideas from many perspectives, sharing among the lead executives of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California and the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California as well as the archbishops, bishops and other leading

On the cover: Aminah Muscati, one of a group of youth representatives of various faith communities in the Southland, lights candles at OneLight, an ecumenical and interfaith event at Los Angeles City Hall marking the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks. The Sept. 10 event, originally suggested by Bishop J. Jon Bruno and planned by the Los Angeles Interfaith Council, emphasized unity and hope. Story begins on page 4. Photo/Mia Blackbear.

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Deaneries invite all to pre-convention assemblies

Pre-convention assemblies will be held in each deanery of the diocese beginning the last weekend of October. All delegates should plan to join one of the diocese's bishops and a diocesan staff member to discuss budget, resolutions and other matters. A schedule is also available at www.ladiocese.org/convention/home.html.

Deanery 1

Saturday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m. – 12 noon

All Saints by-the-Sea Church

83 Eucalyptus Lane, Santa Barbara or 805.969.4771 or info@allsaintsbythesea.org

Staff attending: Canon David Tumilty, Bishop J. Jon Bruno. The Very Rev. Melissa McCarthy, dean; Cliff Aggen, president.

Deanery 2

Saturday, Oct. 29, 9 a.m. – 12 noon

St. Stephen's Church

24901 Orchard Village Road, Santa Clarita 661.259.7307 or office@st-stephens.org

Staff attending: Ted Forbath, Bishop Mary Glasspool. The Very Rev. Bryan Jones, dean; Mark Young, president

Deanery 3 and Deanery 4

Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 am.

St. James' Church

3903 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles 213.388.3417 or ahiggs@saintjamesla.org

Staff attending: Ted Forbath. The Very Rev. Canon James Newman, dean; Canon Annette Graw, president (Deanery 3). The Very Rev. Mark Weitzel, dean; Nancy Frausto, president (Deanery 4).

Deanery 5 and Deanery 6

Sunday, Nov. 13, 3 p.m.

St. Martha's Church

520 South Lark Ellen Avenue, West Covina 626.919.5745 or smec@netzero.net

Staff: Canon David Tumilty, Bishop J. Jon Bruno. The Very Rev. Michael Bamberger, dean; Ann Seitz, president (Deanery 5). The Very Rev. Judith Heffron, dean; Robert Granger, president (Deanery 6).

'OneLight' theme to continue at Diocesan Convention

The reconciling, peacemaking theme of OneLight, introduced Sept. 10 at the interfaith commemoration of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, will continue at the 116th meeting of Diocesan Convention Dec. 2 and 3 at the Riverside Convention Center. (See related story on page 4.)

Delegates to convention will consider several resolutions, elect diocesan officers, and encounter a few changes in the meetings usual structure, according to Secretary of Convention Canon Janet Wylie.

A reception for delegates and visitors will replace the usual Friday evening Convention dinner this year, and will feature a variety of sustaining appetizers, a no-host bar, music and dancing. Tickets are \$15 each in advance; \$25 at the door.

The draft report of the Committee on Resolutions presents several matters to be voted on at convention. Resolutions have been submitted concerning the following topics:

- expanding the Program Group on Ministry in Higher Education mission to community colleges;
- reaffirming the 12% standard of giving to the Mission Share Fund of the diocese;
- redirecting funds from maintenance to mission by closing up to 15 mission

congregations over three years and investing the funds in mission projects;

- increased education and activism concerning conflict in the Holy Land, with a request that the U.S. government increase its efforts to achieve peace with justice;
- pursuit of a just peace in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, proposed on behalf of the Palestine Israel Network of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship;
- promoting education and action on the sacredness of water and environmental sustainability through diocesan-wide study of the book, *The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water*, by Charles Fishman, and becoming involved in water projects.

Full texts and explanations of resolutions are posted on the diocesan website at www.ladiocese.org/convention/home.html; select "Committee on Resolutions Draft Report. Also available is a report from the Committee on Constitutions and Canons that proposes several possible changes to the canons, or laws, of the diocese as proposed by the secretary of convention.

For further information about convention, visit www.ladiocese.org/convention/home.html. †

Deanery 7

Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. – 12 noon

St. John the Baptist Church

526 Old Magnolia Road (at Ontario) Corona 92879-3113

949.644.0463 or church@stmikescdm.org

Staff attending: Canon Larry Sawyer, treasurer; Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce. The Very Rev. John K. Saville, dean; the Rev. Debbie Royals, president.

Deanery 8

Sunday, Nov. 20, 3 p.m.

Deanery 8 Pre-Convention Meeting

Christ Church

408 South Broadway, Redondo Beach 310.540.1722 or christrb@aol.com

Staff attending: Canon David Tumilty, Bishop Mary Glasspool. The Very Reverend Robert Cornner, dean; Mr. Michael Bergeron, president.

Deanery 9 and Deanery 10

Saturday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m. – 12 noon

St. Wilfrid of York Church

18631 Chapel Lane, Huntington Beach 714.962.7512 or terry@stwilfridschurch.org

Staff attending: Canon Larry Sawyer (treasurer) and Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce. The Very Rev. Rob Bethancourt, dean; Mimi Grant president (Deanery 9). The Very Rev. Canon Peter Haynes, dean; Cindy Louter president (Deanery 10). †

'OneLight' flame continues to shine in Southland

Bishop Bruno invites Southland Episcopalians to participate in Open Mosque Day

By Pat McCaughan

Bishop Jon Bruno recently invoked the 'OneLight' spirit of unity and peace — ignited during an interfaith commemoration of the Sept. 11 tragedy — by calling for solidarity among religious leaders and inviting Southland Episcopalians to participate in the Islamic Shura Council's Open Mosque Day.

Bruno renewed his appeal for interfaith collaboration after an Orange County jury convicted ten Muslim students Sept. 23 on two misdemeanor charges in connection with heckling the Israeli Ambassador to the United States during a speech last year at the University of California's Irvine campus (see story on page 12).

"Our Episcopal congregations will also increase participation in the ... Open Mosque Day on October 16 to demonstrate our understanding that Islam is at its core a religion of peace within our shared Abrahamic tradition, and deserving of equal protection under First Amendment freedoms," Bruno said Sept. 23.

Bruno had called for interfaith unity and collaboration at a Sept. 10 'OneLight' service marking the tenth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, attended by some 1,500 people. Special lanterns, lit from a huge flame, were distributed to designated lantern-bearers to take back to their congregation for use in worship services.

"Become the living hands of healing in this world around us," he told the gathering.

Etched into the glass globes were the symbols of the Abrahamic faiths — Muslims, Christians and Jews, with the 'hands in healing' symbol that has characterized Bruno's ministry reaching out one to the other.

"We need peace," he said. "We need tranquility. The only way that comes about is if your hands are the hands of Jesus."

At the Sept. 10 evening gathering, a standing-room-only interfaith crowd — young and old, male and female, gay and straight, politicians and priests, blacks, whites, Latinos, Asians — gathered at the steps of the Los Angeles city hall steps and held the lit lanterns to illuminate the darkness.

Bearing the flame

At St. Mark's, Altadena, Chuck Currey, a firefighter and senior warden, carried the globe of light into the sanctuary during Sunday, Sept. 11 services as Cantor Mark Saltzman from the Kol Ami Synagogue in West Hollywood chanted "Or Zarua," a song about light.

Parishioners shared the light, said the Rev. Carri



MIA BLACKBEAR

Above right: Bishop J. Jon Bruno of the Diocese of Los Angeles speaks at "OneLight," a gathering at Los Angeles City Hall on Sept. 10 of religious and civic leaders and representatives of many faiths to mark the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Patterson Grindon, rector. "At the end of the service, everybody had a little vigil light. Chuck brought the lantern out to the crossing and we had the lay Eucharistic ministers light their vigil lights from it and we lit one another's candles until it spread throughout the church," she said. "It connected them to the light and symbolized them taking the light out into the world."

Saltzman was presented with a globe as a gift to take back to the Kol Ami congregation, she added.

On Friday, Sept. 16, a OneLight lantern was used during Shabbat services at the Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles, and the Self-Realization Fellowship also used the lanterns at its Sept. 11 memorial events at the Hollywood Temple and the Mother Center in the Mount Washington area of Los Angeles.

At St. Mary's Church in Laguna Beach, Imam Yasir Fazaga of the Orange County Islamic Foundation, led the Sunday procession, bearing the lantern, and later spoke at an adult teaching forum about world religions.

'OneLight' illuminates common ground, hope

At the Sept. 10 event, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa welcomed hun- (continued on page 5)



MIA BLACKBEAR

Above: Surrounded by religious and civic leaders, Los Angeles City Councilman Eric Garcetti addresses the crowd at the OneLight event at Los Angeles City Hall on Sept. 10. **At right:** A OneLight lantern was placed on the table at a shabbat service at the Silverlake Independent Jewish Community Center on Sept. 16. Representatives from the center at the OneLight event were Mike and Erin Abrams and Ruthie and Jacob Shavit.

dreds of Muslims, Christians, Jews, Buddhists and Baha'i as well as civic and religious leaders from across Southern California, representing some 500 houses of worship, to begin the service by reaching out to a nearby stranger and exchanging the peace with them.

Villaraigosa told the gathering that the Sept. 10 service "is special because today we say a prayer ... together for peace. We pray for tolerance. We pray for understanding. We pray for perseverance. We continue not just to memorialize the fallen but also to celebrate our values, what makes us difference and yet what makes us all the same."

Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti called it an "historic" gathering.

"We light a light tonight ... what is most important is for you to take these lights, whether a physical one or a spiritual one, and to be that love in the world which we all must embrace," he said.

Garcetti thanked first responders, "some of who are here and some who aren't here," such as the Los Angeles police and fire departments, as well as religious leaders "who are first responders in our own lives every day." He also thanked Bishop Jon Bruno for conceiving the idea for the OneLight celebration "and bringing it to us and the Council of Religious Leaders."

The theme of the hour-long service, hosted by civic leaders and the Los Angeles Council of Religious Leaders, focused on symbols of light overcoming darkness. Applause erupted among the crowd as an interfaith procession of young people, to the beat of Taiko drums, marched up the steps of city hall and beneath a row of American flags waving in the breeze lit a huge torch, a central light signifying unity among all people.



MIKE ABRAMS

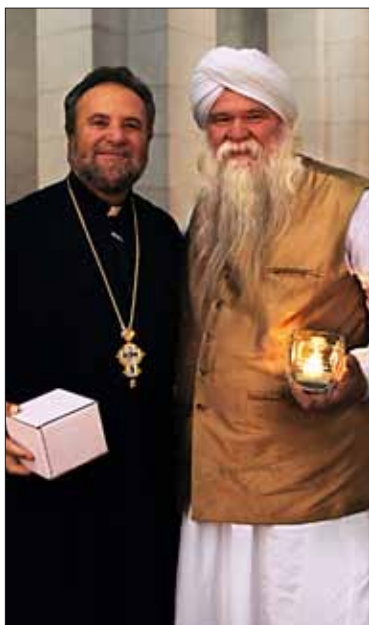
The lanterns, held aloft by those in the crowd as well as civic and religious leaders, lit up the night as the names of the 32 Southern Californians who died in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 were read aloud.

"David Angell. Lynn Angell. David Seima Aoyama. Yeneneh Betru. Dora Menchaca. Touri Bolourchi. Dorothy Dearaujo. Ronald Gamboa. Maclovio Lopez Jr. ..." were among the names that rang out in the silence.

A volunteer interfaith choir under the direction of Philip Smith, conservator of the organ at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, and music director at the Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel, performed a variety of musical selections, including "A Choral Quilt of Hope," an adaptation of the preamble to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.

Aviva Rosenbloom, cantor emerita of Temple Israel, Hollywood, sang the 23rd Psalm in Hebrew as Rabbi Mark Diamond, executive vice president of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, sounded the *shofar*, the ram's horn.

(continued on page 6)



Imam Salim Ghazaly of Santa Ana chanted from the Koran, "God is the light of the heavens and the earth. The likeness of divine light is as of a niche with a lamp inside," followed by Maher Hathout, chairman of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, who said "God does not belong to one religion. All religions belong to God."

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, primate of the Armenian Orthodox Church, Western Region, addressed the gathering, saying that

"Sept. 11, 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the darkest day of American history.

"However, September 11, 2011 will be the day of one light, one peace, one world for us all as religious and civic leaders as well as members of our respective communities. Tonight, we unite as one family of citizens of America and the entire world.

"Through our prayers we will be committing our lives for the realization of dreams and aspirations of the victims (continued on page 7)

Above left: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa of Los Angeles welcomes the crowd to the OneLight commemoration. Above center: Imam Salim Ghazaly chants from the Quran. Above right: Aviva Rosenbloom, cantor emerita of Temple Israel of Hollywood, sings the 23rd Psalm in Hebrew as Rabbi Mark Diamond of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, sounded the shofar, the ram's horn. Left: the Rt. Rev. John Bakkas, dean of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Los Angeles, and Nirinjan Khalsa of the California Sikh Council attend the gathering. Below left and right: lantern bearers carry candle-lit globes, which they returned to their congregations for use during worship the following week. Below center: Episcopal Church members attend the event.





Left: A view of the OneLight crowd from the steps of Los Angeles City Hall. Sitting on the steps are members of the interfaith choir, which was coordinated and conducted by Phil Smith of Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel. Below right: Participants raise up their lanterns in token of unity. Bottom: Religious leaders and congregation representatives carry their lanterns away after the event. From left, they include a woman from the Muslim community; Bishop Dean Nelson of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Southwest California Synod; Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, primate of the Armenian Church, Western Diocese; and a member of a local congregation.

of the Sept. 11 attacks ... (whose) spirits will forever remain in our hearts."

He also thanked Bruno, a founding member of the religious leaders council, for "sharing his dream with us as the religious and civic leaders of city of L.A. and guiding the citizens of this great city with his dream, of one light, one peace, one world," he said amid applause.

Bruno told the gathering about the Hands in Healing project he created after Sept. 11, in which a multiethnic group of young people traveled around the country sharing with others "about the abundance of life and ... about the power what it is to be gracious, forgiving and compassionate. Not just tolerant, but incorporating our lives with one another, linking each other in peace, in tranquility and in compassion.

"When we stand alone we are weak," Bruno said. "But when we bond ourselves together we are strong." ✝



PHOTOS: MIA BLACKBEAR

Worlds away from home, diocesan youth discover joy, relationship, faith

From Tanzania to Pine Ridge, from the Holy Land to Belize and Skid Row, young people find what life and ministry are all about.

By Pat McCaughan

Dozens of young Southland Episcopalians traveled both near and far during the summer of 2011 to learn what only experience teaches — lessons of gratitude, humility, compassion, respect for others, building relationships and discovering joy in the midst of difficulty.

Some traveled across continents and more than 10,000 miles to live briefly among orphaned teenage peers in Tanzania. Others journeyed a half-hour westward to spend a week with the homeless in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles.

Worlds away from the comfort of their own homes, what six groups of young people did over their summer vacations — including mission trips to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and to the Central American nation of Belize, as well as a Holy Land immersion — was nothing short of transformational.

“It was a life-changing experience,” said Damian Kassoff, 11, a member of St. Wilfrid of York, Huntington Beach. He was the youngest of a group of eight youth and five adults who participated in the congregation’s Aug. 3 - 20 first-ever ‘Road to Tanzania’ Youth Mission.

Befriending “Pascal,” Damian’s host student at the Peace House Secondary School in Arusha, Tanzania, included spending time together and learning about each other’s lives. “We had a good time. He was very creative and nice,” Damian recalled.

“We ate beans and rice. I went with him to one of his night classes. They’re really hard workers and they’re really devoted to work. Some of the students work till midnight, just to study,” he said during a recent telephone interview from his home.

It also meant inevitable comparisons and a broader perspective. “In Tanzania, they are poor, but very happy with what they have and they still give to others,” while the opposite is often true in this country, Damian said.

Mere miles away, worlds apart; a visit to Skid Row

Initially, Tina Lopez, 16, a member of St. John’s Church, LaVerne, said she had reservations about a July 30 - Aug. 5 visit to Los Angeles and to Skid Row, led by the church’s vicar, the Rev. Kelli Grace Kurtz.

Now Lopez and others are planning a return trip Oct. 14 and hope to establish ongoing contact with Las Familias, a daycare center and charter school where



CHRISTIAN KASSOFF

the group played with homeless children.

“It was a real eye-opener,” said Erin Winsor, 18, a freshman at the University of California at Santa Barbara. “We were told at Las Familias that the kids would want to play with us. I thought they’d have to warm up to you first. But not at all — when I walked in, five little girls grabbed me and we started playing tag immediately. We played tag for three hours. The amount of love they show is so instantaneous — you just don’t see that often.”

Lopez agreed. The only conversation she’d had previously with a homeless person was being asked for money, she said. But one afternoon’s assignment involved buying a pastry and sharing it with a homeless person in MacArthur Park.

“I talked with a woman who [became homeless after she] was struck by a car,” she recalled. “She wasn’t given much time to live but a year later, she’s able to sit there and say what happened to her. She has nothing, but she’s grateful to be alive.”

Most shocking of all was recognizing disparity. “Seeing people on Skid Row, how they were living, just a couple of blocks away from what they call the future financial district of the world, was very surprising,” Lopez said. “They didn’t have anything and just a few blocks away are people who are very wealthy.”

Mike McNew, 28, a mentor for the group, said he didn’t think the youth had realized what was going on so close to home. But then, neither did he.

“I used to work in L.A. and (continued on page 9)

Above: 11-year old Damian Kassoff of St. Wilfrid of York Church, Huntington Beach, visits Maasai women at Endupoto Primary School in the village of Kerere, Tanzania.



had to go through Skid Row sometimes,” he said during a recent telephone interview. “I thought I knew what it was like and why people were there. But, I came to the realization that my former opinions were completely wrong, they weren’t even on the same planet.”

McNew says he became a mentor for the youth group when invited by clergy. “It struck me that had I, as a teenager, had somebody I could talk to that I trusted, I could have gotten through high school and through some of the stuff I went through a little easier,” he said. “I thought, ‘I could be that person. I could help someone else.’”

Which is why he especially appreciated a visit from Bishop Suffragan Mary Glasspool who showed up at MacArthur Park to pray with and talk with the youth about their experiences.

“It was absolutely the coolest thing ever. She didn’t have to come to MacArthur Park at 10 o’clock in the morning to meet with us, but she did and did it eagerly. It was awesome, it showed me what kind of person she is,” said McNew.

Glasspool said the St. John’s Skid Row experience serves as both educational model “and a gift to those of us who are older.

“Young people are naturally adept at imagining what it might be like to be someone else,” she said. “So when they have the opportunity to engage with the ‘other’ — and when that “other” is very different (i.e. speaks a different language, looks different, is from a different social class, ethnic group, country, or context) — the possibility of deep transformational thinking and being and behaving takes place,” she said.

Left: Dylan Larkin, 15, of St. Wilfrid’s, Huntington Beach, teaches a game to 120 preschoolers at Nyota Preschool students in the Diocese of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. **Above:** Members of the St. John’s, La Verne, pilgrimage team pose in front of a street mural at the Center for Student Ministries on L.A.’s Skid Row. From left are John Benge, Erin Winsor, Christina Lopez, Emily Phelps, Shaun Coulon and Mike McNew.



PHOTOS: KELLI GRACE KURTZ

Coming to grips with God at Pine Ridge

Glasspool also turned up at St. Thomas’ Church, Hacienda Heights, to bless and send off participants as the 11th annual trip to Red Shirt Table on the Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota got underway, said the Rev. Michael Cunningham, rector of St. Mary’s Church, Lompoc, who organized the July 17-31 event locally.

The journey involves road trips, spontaneous prayer, sleeping on the ground in tents, learning and respecting unfamiliar customs “and coming to grips with God,” he said. The youth are without cell phones, video players and computers; they spend their time helping to make minor repairs and doing clean-up work on the reservation.

They also “build relationships with people of different worship practices, certainly of different-colored skin, different socioeconomic circumstances. They discover things about their faith they just can’t while sitting with Mom and Dad in the pew,” Cunningham said.

“They are going to the poorest place in America. The poverty is immense, but the people there are the most giving and loving and generous people I’ve ever known,” he added. “They [the young people] discover the poverty of their own spirit. Regardless of their own circumstances, it’s worlds away from the poverty we’re talking about

on the reservation.”

They also learn about dependability, the value of hard work and unfamiliar customs. “There are aspects of Native American life that everyone enters into,” he added. “The first thing they learn is that the elders go first.

“The kids may have been working all day and be hot and tired and really hungry, but if you’re young, you’re not going to eat first. (continued on page 10)

All types of services for all types of people.

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You're going to wait your turn until the elders from the village who eat with us are served."

In all, 19 young people made the trip, aided by a \$9,000 grant from the Bishop Stevens Foundation. Cunningham said he is always seeking donations to support trips for young people who otherwise would miss out on an experience to "grow in faith and confidence."

"The kids ... certainly get a much clearer understanding of all the stuff they have in their life that they don't really need," he said. "When you strip things down to the basics, it's amazing what you learn about yourself. They learn who they are in Christ. They learn what this Jesus thing is. They come to grips with God as their Creator."

Seeing needs, finding vocation in Belize

The Rev. Julie Bryant, rector of Church of the Transfiguration, Arcadia, has been taking young people to Belize since 1999. This year, she organized two trips, with adults and youth from her congregation and from St. Matthew's Church, Pacific Palisades.

The first group partnered with a sewing cooperative of 15 Holy Cross Anglican Primary School mothers, offering instruction and assistance in making uniforms for 420 students and defraying school costs. The group also did mechanical and engineering work and painted classrooms in preparation for the coming school year.

The second group involved 15 youth, and included everything from painting the school's exterior to telling stories designed to promote literacy and supervising play activities.

"It's really important to take young people because they are at the time of their lives when they're trying to discern who they want to be in the world," Bryant said during a recent telephone interview.

"If they have the opportunity, before they're on an academic or professional track, to have the experience of seeing a need and being able to respond to a need, and to be able to live in a community long enough to be able to understand the complexity — that it is not just one need, one moment, but a longer term issue at hand — they have a chance to work their capacity to respond into an eventual vocation," she said.



Above: Members of the 2011 Hands in Healing Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land — the third such from the Diocese of Los Angeles — gather at the Jordan River. **Right:** Pilgrims play basketball with young people of Zababdeh, a Palestinian town in which many Christian children attend school on scholarships provided by Educate for Hope, a program founded by Mary Bruno and supported by parishioners of the Los Angeles diocese.



PHOTOS: CHRIS TUMILTY

tion," she said.

The youth helped prepare classrooms for the coming school year and focused on other tasks while building relationships, she said.

"They see that they can feed a child one day but that child will still be hungry two days later. It allows them to shift their brain and their heart away from patting themselves on the back for making a short-term response to an immediate need and to being able to see the longer-term need.

"They do make a difference. They can make a difference, but the problem doesn't go away when they leave."

Visit to the Holy Land means 'getting kids outside the box'

Deb Neal, who until recently served as the diocesan coordinator for the program group on youth ministry, has taken 48 Southland youth on three youth pilgrimages to the Holy Land, along with co-leader Chris Tumilty, who was appointed this year as diocesan youth officer, and also produces the Just Action video series for the diocesan community relations department.

"It's important initially to get a kid outside their box," Neal said in a telephone interview from Jerusalem, where she now is serving as Bishop Suheil Dawani's secretary on a two-year mission assignment.

"It's important to show them the world is a much bigger place than where they're used to, and really showing them how others live, especially here in the Holy Land," she said. "Not only is it a place for our faith to grow and deepen but we're also faced with some of the injustices of the world and what that means for us as Christians. And what are we going to do with this when we go home?"

This year's group included Bishop Jon Bruno as chaplain and 17 young people — "our largest group yet," Neal said.

Some group members quickly discovered common ground with students at the Latin-Patriarch School in Zababdeh in the northern West Bank, she added.

"Throw a basketball among a bunch of boys and they're all high fives and picking up each other's lingo and asking each other questions and realizing at the end of the day that everybody really is the same."

Some 56 chil- (continued on page 11)



Above left: Red Shirt pilgrimage group visits Wounded Knee, South Dakota, with friends from the Pine Ridge reservation. **Above right and at right:** Travelers from the Diocese of Los Angeles take a walk in a village in Belize, take local youngsters for a swim, and take a break to share a book.

dren are attending the school on scholarships provided by Educate for Hope, a 'Hands in Healing' initiative founded by Mary Bruno and administered through St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Zabadbeh. It is one of several partnerships between the dioceses of Los Angeles and Jerusalem, which share a companion relationship.

The Holy Land pilgrimage also deepens the faith of young people, who carry "not only their prayers, but the prayers from their parishes and people they know to the Western Wall, or the Wailing Wall," Neal said. "They place the prayers in the wall, and the prayers become tangible for them."

Going to Tanzania opens eyes to a greater world view

Christian and Shannon Kassoff are diocesan world mission group partners and members of St. Wilfrid of York who organized the Tanzania visit and hoped it would make global citizenship tangible for participants.

The voices of their own vocation inspired the trip, the first of its kind at St. Wilfrid's, although they are already planning to return in 2013 and to offer the opportunity to young people throughout the diocese.

A friend's passion for Tanzania ignited their own curiosity. A few years ago the family spent three months living in the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro in the East African country. "It gave us a world view, instead of a narrow, local view," Christian Kassoff recalled recently.

The couple felt moved to share that experience with others, particularly youth. "Our goal was to give them the experience of getting out of here and just seeing that the rest of the world doesn't live like this country or this state, or this county especially," said Christian Kassoff, who is Damian's father.

"We wanted them to just open their eyes and to see that they are global citizens. The seed we wanted to plant in the youth was a greater vision."

Over the past seven years, the Huntington Beach congregation has helped to start a four-classroom school in Kerere, a rural Maasai village where there had been no educational opportunity within 20 miles. "We helped provide a soccer field for the school as well," he added.

While visiting local schools during this trip, "we noticed that at the Nyota Nursery School there was no playground," said Shannon Kassoff. "We had some extra funds in our budget so we funded a playground for the school."

A portion of the trip cost also went toward funding scholarships for local students, added Christian Kassoff.

"Now that we're home, it is interesting to notice the language of the youth is starting to change as they are understanding the experience they were having," he said.

Shannon Kassoff agreed. "The infrastructure in Tanzania is very difficult; things like power and water and food are so unpredictable that people are forced to live day to day and sometimes moment to moment. The kids really got that.



PHOTOS: REYNALDO MACIAS

"They saw the daily struggle the people endured. It hit home with them that our life is so much easier. Yet the people in Tanzania are extremely happy. They are so welcoming. They taught us a lesson of hospitality like we've never known before. [The kids] fell in love with the people of Tanzania."

Continents away, Erin Winsor said also she fell in love with L.A.'s Skid Row although her brief time there "was probably some of the emotionally hardest things I've ever seen or experienced."

It was also some of the most fun, particularly the evening they went to a local church and sang karaoke. "Everybody got up and sang, we all sang as a group and it was great. We sang the song from Journey, 'Don't Stop Believing.'" †

'Irvine 11' verdict draws protests from Episcopalians

Muslim students who heckled Israeli ambassador are found guilty on misdemeanor charges

By Pat McCaughan

In a surprising rollercoaster of a day, 10 Muslim students — arrested for heckling the Israeli ambassador to the United States during a speech at the University of California's Irvine campus last year — on Sept. 23 were convicted, sentenced and said they will appeal the guilty verdict.

Gasps and muffled weeping filled the packed Southern California courtroom as a clerk read the unanimous verdicts for the ten defendants: guilty of conspiracy to disrupt a public meeting and guilty of disrupting a public meeting. Each charge carried a possible maximum six-month jail sentence.

Immediately, more than a dozen supporters of the students, known as the "Irvine 11", angrily walked out of the courtroom, muttering, "This isn't justice."

Marya Bangee, a spokesperson for Stand with the Eleven, said she was surprised and saddened by the verdict. "Obviously, this is emotionally devastating for people of conscience. This is going to have repercussions for freedom of speech for every American.

"But we're going to fight this," she added.

The Rev. Wilfredo Benitez, rector of St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Garden Grove, called the verdict "a travesty of justice."

"This attack against Muslim students and the Muslim community is an attack on democracy," he said at a gathering of media representatives following the verdict. "It's an attack on all of those who believe in the U.S. Constitution and in freedom of speech.

"We stand together today," he added. "The Muslim community is not alone in this. On this day I am a Muslim."

Bishop J. Jon Bruno of the Diocese of Los Angeles issued a statement after the verdict calling upon "Orange County bishops, rabbis, and Islamic leaders to come together immediately in renewed solidarity to address the issues and injustices raised in relation to these verdicts.

"Our Episcopal congregations will also increase participation in the Shura Council's Open Mosque Day on October 16 to demonstrate our understanding that Islam is at its core a religion of peace within our shared Abrahamic tradition, and deserving of equal protection under First Amendment freedoms," he said.

Shakeel Syed, executive director of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, an umbrella group of mosques and Muslim organizations serving more



than 500,000 Muslims, called the day's proceedings "jaundiced" justice. He saluted the students for having the courage of their convictions and vowed to support their continued struggle.

Students sentenced to community service, probation

Just a few hours later, Orange County Superior Judge Peter Wilson sentenced the students to 56 hours of community service and three years' probation, to be reduced to one year after completion of the community service.

Before imposing the sentence, Wilson said he considered the students' "clear records" and that they were "productive members of their respective communities and that ... according to the evidence presented were motivated by their beliefs. He also lifted a gag order that had prevented the defendants and attorneys from speaking with the media.

Throughout the trial, prosecutors had maintained that the students had effectively censored Ambassador Michael Oren's Feb. 8, 2010 speech at the University of California at Irvine (UCI). The defense attorneys had said the behavior of the students — seven from UCI and three from the University of California at Riverside (UCR) — amounted to normal student activism and that arresting them for protesting Oren's speech constituted a First Amendment violation.

The defendants and their attorneys said they were disappointed and surprised at the verdict, but not deterred. Defendants included: Mohamed Abdelgany, Khalid Akari, Aslam Akhtar, Joseph Haider, Taher Herzallah, Shaheen Nassar, Mohammad Qureashi, Ali Sayeed, Osama Shabaik and Asaad Traina. Charges against an eleventh student, Hakim Kebir, were dismissed pending completion of community service at a nearby soup kitchen.

After the Sept. 23 court proceedings, defense attorney Tarek Shawky called the students heroes.

"This conviction, this (continued on page 13)

Above: The Rev. Wilfredo Benitez, rector of St. Anselm of Canterbury Episcopal Church in Garden Grove, addresses supporters of the Irvine 11 after the guilty verdict. At left is Cathy Masoaka of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress; at right is Shakeel Syed, executive director of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California, an umbrella group of mosques and Muslim organizations serving over 500,000 Muslims in Southern California.

jury verdict, should be worn as a badge of courage,” he told a gathering of media representatives outside the courthouse. “They (will) go down in history with great Americans like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, who also were convicted for their beliefs, their integrity, and their convictions.”

Attorney Lisa Holder said the students “stand out in a world that has become very apathetic.” She said the defense team will appeal the conviction and expects “to make some changes in the law to make room for this type of dissent, which is valid, which is important and which is critical to our democracy.”

The Irvine 11 case has already sparked a movement, added defense attorney Dan Mayfield.

“People are pledging to do volunteer work alongside these young men. When they do the 56 hours (community service) they will bring other people with them to do volunteer work in our community,” he said.

Irvine 11 vow to continue activism

Qureashi told a gathering of media representatives that he would continue to “fight ... to be heard. This is not a right that can be taken by a D.A. (district attorney). This is a right given us by God.”

Shaheen Nassar said that while he “respects the court’s decision ... I intend to continue my activism, to give a voice to the voiceless, including my cousins who died during the Gaza Massacre and the 1,400 civilians who lost their lives during that massacre as well. May God rest their souls.”

Herzallah urged supporters not to let “this case falter your activism. Make this the platform to intensify activism on Palestine issues in this country.”

Asaad Traina said the students had tried to follow the legacy of civil rights heroes like King and read a quote from the slain civil rights leader that “embodies a lot of what we did that day.”

“Ordinarily, a person leaving a courtroom with a conviction behind him would wear a somber face,” said Traina. “But I left with a smile. I knew I was convicted but I was proud of my crime.”

The students shouted at Michael Oren shortly after the Israeli ambassador to the

United States began his speech on the UCI campus. Oren had been invited to speak by several UCI groups, including Anteaters for Israel and the school’s law and political science departments.

A videotape of the event shown during the trial depicted the students rising in turn and shouting such statements as: “Michael Oren, propagating murder isn’t free speech.” And, “You sir, are an accomplice to genocide.” Following each statement, the student was escorted peacefully from the room, amid both cheering and jeering, by campus security. They were later “processed” — handcuffed, arrested, and fingerprinted, defense attorneys said.

Oren left the podium but later returned. Deputy District Attorney Dan Wagner had argued that the student disruptions prevented him from completing his speech and from participating in a subsequent question-and-answer session.

The students had objected to the university’s invitation to the American-born Oren, who emigrated to Israel in 1979 and joined the Israeli Defense Forces. He served multiple tours in the Israeli Army including the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. According to a statement by the UCI Muslim Students Council (MSU), Oren is “an outspoken supporter of the recent war on Gaza.”

He “stands in the way of international law by refusing to cooperate with the United Nation’s Goldstone Report, a fact-finding mission endorsed by the United Nations Human Rights Council,” the statement said. “The Goldstone Report accuses the Israeli government of committing war crimes and possible crimes against humanity in the densely populated Gaza Strip.”

Attorneys suspect selective prosecution

Defense attorneys and Irvine 11 supporters believe the students were targeted because they are Muslim.

“We brought witness after witness during the trial who talked about how they protested in a very similar manner” (to these students), said defense attorney Reem Salahi. “None of those individuals were arrested, none of them were prosecuted and so it is strange that these students were selected in the manner they were and prosecuted for protesting in a

manner that was peaceful, limited, restricted — not violent, no property damage, no hate speech,” she said.

But Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas dismissed notions that he selectively prosecuted anyone for political or religious reasons and said it was “absurd” to consider the students civil rights heroes.

Rather, he said, the jury delivered a “landmark” verdict that sent a strong message nationwide “that we don’t have to tolerate some small group of people wanting to shut down speeches on a campus or anywhere.”

During a meeting with media representatives after the sentencing, Rackauckas said the case was about the rule of law and that the actions of the students constituted a conspiracy because of the “meticulous planning involved” before protesting Oren’s speech. Oren’s speech was announced two weeks prior to his actual visit, Rackauckas said.

“I thought it was important for them to take responsibility and to ... understand that this is a violation of law, a violation of the First Amendment rights of those people who want to have a speaker on their campus and who want to listen to a speaker and have an exchange of ideas.” ✝



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Bursting at the seams, St. Aidan's steps out in faith, embarks on expansion

Malibu parish plans to enlarge 'chapel-size' church in spite of tough economic times

By Pat McCaughan

It's a tight fit just to squeeze parishioners into the pews at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Malibu on any given Sunday, so in late September the Rev. Joyce Stickney was wondering about maneuverability as she contemplated this year's Blessing of the Animals service, planned for early October.

"I have to laugh because I have a very open policy about allowing pets into church and we have humorous dogs," she said. "We have ducks; we have just about any kind of animal that people consider a pet. It's like the roof is gonna pop off."

It's a "problem" many churches yearn for: despite the devastating economy, despite the 55-year-old parish's location in a city with little, if any, population growth, "we're bursting at the seams," says Stickney, who has been rector of St. Aidan's for six years.

Similarly, the weekday toddler preschool program is at capacity with 50 students and had to establish a waiting list this year.

Stickney isn't entirely sure of the reason for the good news, but she tries to maintain a healthy sense of humor about it.

"We just can't seat people, so once in a while when they come in late, I have them come up and sit in the altar area. It's the only seat in the house and it's the best seat in the house," laughed Stickney during a recent telephone interview.

She recalls a vespers series the congregation hosted. "The poor string instrumentalists were elbowing each other. They were tripping over each other at the altar."

Those who are tall sometimes have particular problems, she says. "When Bishop Bruno [who stands at 6 feet, 3 inches] comes to visit, he can barely stand up behind the altar without knocking his head into the feet of Jesus."

On a serious note, however, Stickney says the downside is that some weeks "there just isn't room and we can't bring the kids back in from Sunday school for Eucharist, which is a crime."

Also of concern are compliance issues, because "getting a wheelchair in here is tough," she added.

Yet, despite a shaky economy, St. Aidan's is stepping out on faith and embarking upon expansion plans.

"Many people believe this is what we need to do to fulfill our mission," says Margaret Bowles, a retired



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educator and an 18-year parishioner who is chair of the building committee.

Diverse congregation overflows church

St. Aidan's is a "sweet" church with a congregation that's "pretty diverse" economically, politically and ethnically for Malibu, with some crossover membership between church and school, Stickney said. It was founded in 1956 as a mission congregation of St. Augustine's by-the-Sea Church in Santa Monica.

"For a church our size we do have quite a few children and families, but we do also have a lot of seniors. It fits comfortably between 80 and 90 people — it's more of a chapel than a church," Stickney said. With more than two dozen Sunday schoolers and a growing contingent from nearby Pepperdine College, "it makes sense that we grew out of it," Stickney said.

Located on a hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean, St. Aidan's was designed by modernist architect A. Quincy Jones, a Gardena resident and pioneer of green design.

"St. Aidan's architectural style combines Asian and modern; it has an indoor-outdoor feel," Stickney said. "The buildings are very simple, very affordably made and constructed with rectangular shapes, very modern. He designed a beautiful church space."

Jones also designed Campbell Hall school in North Hollywood and numerous buildings in the University of California system, including research library buildings in Los Angeles, a biological sciences building in Santa Barbara and a campus arts center in La Jolla. He also designed the USC Faculty Center and two buildings for its Annenberg School of Communications.

Now, with average Sunday attendance over 100 between the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services, the congregation has taken the bold step of raising a million dollars to "help us push out the wall toward the ocean and try to retain the intimacy in the architecture we love but still add more seating" and more flexibility, Stickney said.

(continued on page 15)

Above: Parishioners spill out of the pews and on to folding chairs as Bishop J. Jon Bruno conducts a service of confirmation at St. Aidan's Church, Malibu. Rapid growth has caused the congregation to embark on a fundraising and building program.

An anonymous donation of \$250,000 made in 2005 jump-started the project, which is designed to enhance as well as to enlarge the current church, she said.

A 'time for witness' in St. Aidan's future

Stickney believes the congregation said yes to the expansion project despite tough economic times because "people are figuring out what's really important to them right now."

"Margaret Bowles was really good at saying 'let's use this recession to our advantage, as a time for being a witness and for a time of drawing together and putting our treasure where we feel it really is important and matters,'" Stickney added.

Bowles, a Woodland Hills resident who commutes to the church, recalls arriving at St. Aidan's in the summer of 1992 and finding only "eleven of us in church."

Over time, the congregation's growth has exploded, mostly because of clergy leadership "and the faith and the courage of a number of members to stand up and get on with this," she said. "We're looking forward to seeing this project completed and we're keeping up our courage and our energy to make sure it does happen."

According to the design, the church will go from "bowling-alley style with the choir in back" to moving the choir up front, Bowles said.

There will be movable pews, she explained. "We'll have seats, arranged in a kind of semi-circle. We'll keep some of the pews and add movable chairs with little kneelers. My hope is to eventually get rid of pews altogether and open up the space.

"I'd love to see us do drama, liturgical dance, sacred music, orchestra," she added. "Malibu is so full of the arts and we have fabulous acoustics and a beautiful sanctuary."

"The altar will be repositioned to bring people closer; the wall of the altar is going from the front to the side, so instead of being long and narrow, we'll be wide. We'll have more of a center aisle and clear front doors to the church. Nobody can ever find the church in the first place and then when they do find it, they can't get into it, so we'll have a clear entrance and easy access."

There are also plans for a small prayer chapel space. "Right now we don't have any place to do healing prayer — we have

to pray with people outside during the Eucharist. It's awkward," Stickney said.

She also hopes to create an outdoor meditation and memorial garden. "There is no place in Malibu right now for ashes to be memorialized, but we've designated a space for that."

Bowles said the plan will provide 34 new seats and an overflow area for about 25 additional chairs. "It will give us better accommodations for events, for weddings, memorial services and baptisms, as well as a flexibility about how to arrange the space," she added.

The expansion will also make the church accessible for those with walkers or adaptive communications devices, she added.

With about 60 percent of the money raised, she hopes to wrap up fundraising by the fall and to complete construction within the next few years.

'A holy moment' — committed to being church

For now, Stickney doesn't delve into the whys and hows of growth; she is more focused on enjoying the growth and the ministry.

"I don't know that we're doing something here that isn't happening at other places," she said. "I definitely think our trying to be grateful for our situation and to look at the positive rather than be filled with fear, worried about how long will this last, those sorts of questions, is being really committed to being church."

Although she isn't sure of the eventual outcome, she is sure the congregation is moving forward, stepping out on faith.

"There's a lot of change going on right now. We're saying, 'let's recognize this as a new time, a new day,' and ten years from now — we don't know. The church may

be a lot bigger and we'll be thanking ourselves for the enlargement, but we're not enlarging it so much that if the numbers don't grow, this space will still feel full and good to us."

It's hard to nail down the source of the growth, she says. "We ask ourselves this question, what are we doing right? I think people find God at St. Aidan's. They experience joy, love and peace and that's God's doing. It's not like we're doing some magic or figured out a trick or a good program.

"I do know that we have more small groups than ever before. They're natural, organic, ... because we love to be together. We're a family. The word family comes up all the time here — brotherly, sisterly, Christly love."

Small groups run the gamut, from a women's group that visits "tea houses all over Los Angeles ... and we're not all women with bonnets and silver hair. There are girls in high school, grandmothers, professionals who zoom in after dropping off three kids for soccer," she said.

"There is a men's breakfast group starting," she added. "Someone came up to me and said that he sees in our community — in every community — people suffering from loneliness. He's getting the men together for breakfast on Wednesdays. He put out a sign-up sheet and 20 people signed up. Not because these people have time. They're incredibly busy, but they value community and growing together and also value asking the hard questions."


As does a women's bible study and prayer group, begun a year ago by Stickney with two vestry members. "We also sometimes go see movies together. We have a lot of parties.

"We have a lot of fun," she added. "It's like a holy moment." †



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CONNECTIONS

◆ Three parishioners of St. Anselm's, Garden Grove, were licensed as on Sept. 3 as lay preachers specializing in ministry in the Vietnamese community by Bishop Suf-fragan Diane Jardine Bruce. **Thieu Ngoc Bui**, **Hoa-Mai Huynh**, and **Quy-Dung (Dzung) Nguyen** have each completed three years of study and mentoring led by the Rev. Minh-Hahn Nguyen, associate rector of St. Anselm's, and were licensed by Bishop J. Jon Bruno.

◆ The Rev. **Susan Bek** is priest-in-charge at St. Stephen's, Santa Clarita, where she previously was curate.

◆ The Rev. **Sandy Casey-Martus** has been called as associate rector at All Saints by-the-Sea, Santa Barbara. She had most recently served as rector of All Saints Church, Corpus Christi, Texas.

◆ The Rev. **Jason Cox**, former executive director of the Episcopal Urban Intern Program, has been called as the associate rector for youth ministry at St. Columba's, Washington, D.C.

◆ The Rev. **William Garrison**, formerly assistant rector and chaplain at St. Marga-

ret of Scotland Church, San Juan Capistrano, has been called as rector of St. Matthias, Whittier.



◆ A capacity congregation of more than 450 people gathered at St. Stephen's, Santa Clarita, on July 31 to celebrate the ministry of the Rev. Canon **Lynn Jay** as she retired after 27 years of service to the parish, first as vicar and then as rector. Jay, a native of Santa Monica, earned her master's degree in divinity at the Episcopal School of Theology at Claremont (Bloy House) and was ordained to the diaconate in 1982 and the priesthood the following year by Bishop Robert C. Rusack. She began her long tenure at St. Stephen's as curate in 1982.



◆ The Rev. Canon **Bradford L. Karelius** on Oct. 2 celebrated the last Sunday of his 30-year tenure as rector of Church of the Messiah. Karelius was previously associate rector and priest-in-charge of St. Mary's Church, Laguna Beach. Born and raised in Pasadena, Karelius attended Baldwin-Wallace College and the University of Southern California. He received his M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, in 1970. He has since 1973 been an associate professor of philosophy and world religions at Saddleback College, Mission Viejo. He has served as chair of the diocese's Commission on Liturgy and Church Music, chair of worship for the 1985 General Convention, chair of the Diocesan Camping Commission, and the on Standing Committee (as president in 1994 and 1996). He is has also served on the Ecclesiastical Trial Court and as dean of Deanery IX.

◆ The Rev. **Melissa Langdell** has been called as priest-in-charge at All Saints' Church, Oxnard.

◆ The Rev. **Sarah Lapenta-H** has been called as associate to the rector at St. John's, Norwood, in the Diocese of Washington, D.C.

◆ The Rev. **James Livingston** has been called as associate rector and chaplain at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, San Juan Capistrano.

◆ The Rev. **Sally Monastiere** retired as chaplain at the Scripps Kensington Home in Alhambra on June 30.

◆ **Deborah Neal** has begun a two-year missionary assignment as a personal office assistant to Bishop Suheil Dawani of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. She has served as diocesan youth pilgrimage coordinator to the Holy Land, as well as database and front desk administrator at the Cathedral Center and as the chair of the program group on youth ministry.

◆ The Rev. **Marilyn Omernick** is priest in charge at St. Michael the Archangel Church, El Segundo.



◆ All Saints Church, Pasadena, bade farewell during Sept. 25 services to **Anne Breck Peterson**, senior associate, who first joined the parish staff in 1978 as executive assistant to then-rector George Regas. Her most recent work has included responsibility for liturgy and leadership development. A Sunday forum multimedia presentation traced Peterson's many contributions to parish life, including the preparation and implementation of inclusive-language liturgies. Summing up her work at All Saints, Peterson encouraged those in the forum audience to "listen to your life" and learn from its varied lessons, noting that all of "life is grace."

◆ The Rev. **Nathan Rugh** began his ministry as rector of St. Augustine by-the-Sea, Santa Monica, in September.

◆ The Rev. **Vincent Schwahn** is priest in charge under special circumstances at St. Mark's, Van Nuys.

◆ The Rev. **Mark Stuart** is serving as interim rector at the Church of the Messiah, Santa Ana.

◆ The Rev. **Norman Whitmire Jr.** is serving as assistant to the rector of St. David's Church in Ashburn, Virginia. ✝



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'Make jobs, not war,' say interfaith activists at rally

by Pat McCaughan

Singing "we shall overcome," the Rev. Canon George Regas and more than a dozen other anti-war protestors were arrested Oct. 7 in front of the Federal Building in downtown Los Angeles after rallying against the war in Afghanistan.

The rally — to draw attention to the 10th anniversary of the war — drew a multi-ethnic interfaith crowd of several hundred. Among the protestors were Hollywood actors Mike Farrell (*MASH*) and Mimi Kennedy (*Dharma & Greg*), along with supporters from the Occupy Los Angeles tent city a few blocks away and a surprise visit from Princeton University Professor Cornel West and radio and television personality Tavis Smiley.

The Rev. Tom Carey, a Franciscan monk at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Los Angeles was also arrested at the rally, organized by Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace. ICUJP was founded by Regas after the Sept. 11 attacks.

For Regas, who turned 81 that week, the Oct. 7 arrest was a symbolic gesture to call attention to the "obscenity" of the war and what he called the staggering need to "make jobs, not war." That chant was often repeated as protestors marched a half-mile from La Placita Church to the Federal Building.

West told the cheering crowd he was in Los Angeles to visit with Occupy Los Angeles, the local version of a grassroots organization springing up across the country, from Wall Street in Manhattan to Philadelphia and elsewhere, protesting the plight of the poor and corporate greed. "Something's happening; Los Angeles is standing up for justice," West said amid cheers and applause.

Farrell told the protestors: "We cannot allow this country to be taken over by forces that want it to be their way and not our way. We cannot allow a \$700 billion defense budget to make beggars of people on the streets, to make jobless Americans, to make people hungry in our country

while they make profits out of war. This cannot be allowed to become the American way. I want my country back."

Also addressing the crowd were Shakeel Syed, executive director of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California and Maria Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, as well as Rabbi Leonard Beerman, founding rabbi of Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles, where he served for 37 years. Beerman told the gathering that he opposed the war because "we are called to a different vision of the world, in which the essential dignity of every human being is honored."

Regas, rector emeritus of All Saints, Pasadena, and other clergy and faith leaders in vestments led the group, praying, chanting and singing from La Placita. He and others called for an end to the war




KEITH YAMAMOTO

Retired Episcopal priests George Regas, front, and John Forney, center, and actor-activist Mike Farrell listen to speakers at an Oct. 7 rally protesting the war in Afghanistan.

and for the government to create jobs and to assist the poor. Noting that the Afghanistan war is the longest running conflict in U.S. history, accounting for the deaths of more than 1,700 soldiers, Regas said: "We just want to hold up the concept that America must choose between a life for all of its people, jobs for people, health care for people, taking care of the poor and the children as a priority — that has a greater claim on us than the perpetuation of America as using war as the primary instrument of a national policy."

A longer version of this story appears at www.episcopalnews.org. †


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◆ The Rev. James Furnas Bogardus, Jr., who was for many years an assistant priest at St. Andrew's Church, Torrance, died on Aug. 26. He was 85. A memorial service was held on Sept. 13 at St. Gregory's Church, Long Beach, where Bogardus was a member for the past year. A "worker priest," Bogardus was for many years employed by American Airlines.



◆ Pamela Chinnis, the first woman to lead the Episcopal Church's House of Deputies, died Aug. 24 at her home in Virginia Beach, Virginia. She was 86. Chinnis served three

terms as president of the House of Deputies from 1991 to 2000. She was first elected by acclamation in July 1991.



◆ The Rev. Dr. Richard Lamar Horton, rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Los Angeles, from 1971 to 1978, died on Aug. 22. He later served congregations in Boston and Newark, eventually resigning his orders in the Episcopal Church to become a Baptist minister. In later years he was pastor of Park Hills Community Church, Los Angeles, where his memorial service was held Sept. 10.

◆ Stuart Kellogg, editor of The Advocate in the 1980s and a writer for the High Desert Daily Press, died Aug. 3 at age 63. His memorial service was held Aug. 27



at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Apple Valley. Kellogg was managing editor of The Advocate in the '80s, rising to editor in 1987, according to the book *Long Road to Freedom: The Advocate History of the Gay and Lesbian Movement*, edited by Mark Thompson.

◆ A memorial service was held on Aug. 27 at St. Matthew's Church, Pacific Palisades, for Mary Muller, a founding parishioner, lay leader and active member for more than 60 years. She was predeceased earlier this year by her husband, Wayne; the parish has established a scholarship fund in honor of the couple and their tireless volunteer service to St. Matthew's Thrift Shop in support of the Neighborhood Youth Association. †

Obituaries may be read in full at www.episcopalnews.com

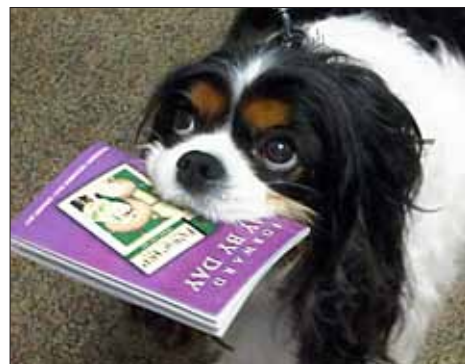
'Episcopups' featured in calendar

Two photos of dogs from the Diocese of Los Angeles — "Billie," mascot of the Sixth Day pet ministry at St. Stephen's Church, Whittier, and "Louie," a frequent visitor to the Scripps-Kensington (the Episcopal Home in Alhambra), will be featured in a new 'Episcopups' calendar created by Forward Movement.

Billie, canine companion to the Rev. Mary Trainor, rector of St. Stephen's, will appear as featured pup for January 2013 (the last month included in the 2012 calendar), sporting an enormous pair of sun-

glasses. The caption is "On the eighth day, God made style."

Louie belonged to a former staff member at Scripps Kensington, according to the Rev. Sally Monastiere, recently retired chaplain, who said the dog was a favorite of the residents and staff. "Sharon and Louie came into my office one day, and Louie picked up the *Forward Day by Day* and carried it around," Monastiere said. "Jamie Villalobos, the former admissions person for the care center, took the picture." The caption on Louie's photo (November 2012) reads, "I know you said slippers, but I think this should come first."



JAMIE VILLALOBOS

Forward Movement will also continue to publish its popular "Episcocats" calendar.

For more about both calendars, or to submit photos for future editions (read submission guidelines carefully for directions), visit forwardmovement.org. †



MARY TRAINOR

St. Mark's, Los Olivos, aids Circle V Camp

Representatives of St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, Los Olivos, on Aug. 28 presented the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Circle V Ranch Camp with a \$5,000 donation for camperships, raised at its recent Cellar Classic wine auction. The camp is one of more than 40 non-profit organizations and programs St. Mark's assisted in 2010-11.



ST. MARK'S CHURCH, LOS OLIVOS

Circle V, located in the Santa Ynez Valley near Cachuma Lake, holds nine summer sessions for boys and girls ages 7 to 13. †

Creatures great and small



JANET KAWAMOTO

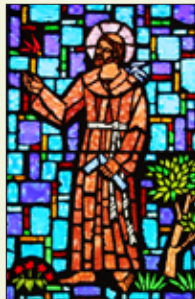
Bishop Jon Bruno blesses pets at St. Francis' Mission Outreach Center.

The fish of the sea are represented in the animal blessing at All Saints, Pasadena.

SUSAN RUSSELL

St. Francis of Assisi,

beloved patron saint of animals (as well as the environment, merchants, Italy and — oddly enough — stowaways), was born in 1181 or 1182 and died October 3, 1226.



He devoted his life to poverty, charity and service, establishing the Friars Minor, now known as the Franciscan order. This stained-glass depiction of the saint is located at St. Francis' Mission Outreach Center in San Bernardino.

Blessing animals at services on or around St. Francis' feast day, Oct. 4, is a longstanding tradition in Episcopal churches — and 2011 was no exception.

MARY ANN HENKLE



Christopher Potter, visiting priest at St. Stephen's Church, Whittier, blesses a pet turtle.



SUSAN RUSSELL

Ed Bacon, rector, welcomes pets and their humans to All Saints Church, Pasadena.



A member of Trinity, Orange, brings his rat to be blessed.

AMY MORALES



RICK SANDONA

Donna Petrokowitz brings "Sophie," a Western screech owl, to Grace Church, Glendora, to be blessed by Susan Scranton, rector, assisted by acolyte Kiana Lui, as Barbara Dexter looks on. Sophie is one of several owls Petrokowitz keeps as a volunteer with Wild Wings of California, which rescues sick, orphaned or injured birds.



DAVID GERHARDT

Susan Bek, priest-in-charge at St. Stephen's Church, Santa Clarita, chats with children before blessing their favorite plush pets.

Blair Hinz, left, brings her cat to Sarah Phelps, rector of St. Francis' Church, Palos Verdes Estates, for a blessing.



AMY MORALES

Jeannie Martz, rector of Trinity, Orange, bestows an equine blessing.



Bishop's Guild Garden Party coming Oct. 15

The diocesan community is invited to the annual Bishop's Guild Garden Party, to be held at the home of Bishop Jon Bruno and Mary Bruno from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15. Hand-crafted jewelry from artisans around the diocese will be featured for show and purchase. The cost is \$25 per person; proceeds will help the Bishop's Guild support seminarians. For information and reservations, contact Donna Keller, 951.279.4236 or donnakeller68@yahoo.com.



Misconduct prevention training now available online

The Church Pension Group has made on-line training in Safeguarding God's Children: The Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse available at no cost to the diocese or to individual churches and institutions. "This change has made the training — mandated every five years for all staff and all volunteers who work with children and families — much more convenient for all concerned, as it can take place at any time on any computer with internet access," wrote Anilin Collado, diocesan human resources director, and Serena Beeks, executive director of the Diocesan Commission on Schools. Information: http://episcopalnews.ladiocese.net/dfc/newsdetail_2/444.



Title IV procedures will address clergy misconduct cases

At its Sept. 7 meeting, the recently constituted diocesan Disciplinary Board continued its review of the Episcopal Church's revised clergy disciplinary canons (Title IV) that took effect July 1. Among changes to previous procedures is the designation of intake officers to whom incidents or allegations of misconduct are to be reported. Intake officers for the Diocese of Los Angeles are the Rev. Canon Joanna Satorius, canon for clergy formation and development (joannasatorius@ladiocese.org; 213 482 2040, ext. 263, confidential voicemail)

and Canon David Tumilty, bishop's executive for operations (dtumilty@ladiocese.org; 213 482 2040, ext. 238, confidential voicemail). Details and links to church-wide canons are posted at www.ladiocese.org/resources/misconduct-prevention-reporting.html.



Diocese to enter Medical Trust, reducing premiums while retaining physicians

Following General Convention's 2009 resolution that all dioceses participate in the Episcopal Church Medical Trust, Bishop Jon Bruno has affirmed the unanimous recommendation of the diocesan Benefits Committee to move the Diocese of Los Angeles' medical, vision and pharmacy plans into this program, resulting in lower 2012 premiums for all participating congregations and schools while retaining virtually all providers participating in the current 2011 plans. Medical Trust coverage options include two Kaiser plans, two Empire Blue Cross-Blue Shield plans, and one Cigna plan, much the same as the 2011 coverage. Full transition details, as well as workshops for plan administrators, will be provided in the weeks ahead by the Medical Trust and the diocesan Human Resources Office.

Brass-rubbing center at St. Luke's gets new name, interfaith scope

The former London Brass Rubbing Center that has settled into St. Luke's Episco-



pal Church each fall since 1986 has a new name — "The Brass Rubbing Medieval Arts Center" — for this year's run, Oct. 26 - Nov. 19. A new element of diversity can be found in a set of tiles, described as "Reflections of Five World Religions." Group rates for an experience that includes a docent talk, demonstrations and materials — as well as hangers for display — are \$6.50 per person. Material and rubbing costs for individuals are \$5 and up. Workshop reservations can be made by e-mail to brass.rubbing.lb@gmail.com. For information, call the church at 562.436.4047.



EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

New resources available for Haiti appeal

Updated resources for dioceses and congregations that are about to launch campaigns to support the Episcopal Church's Rebuild Our Church in Haiti appeal are now available online, according to a release from the Episcopal Church Foundation, which is coordinating the appeal. In addition to practical tools, news, and progress reports already available, newly updated communications materials (weekly bulletin inserts and e-communications), as well as seasonally relevant materials, have now been issued. More information and links are at http://episcopalnews.ladiocese.net/dfc/newsdetail_2/443. ☩

Did you know?

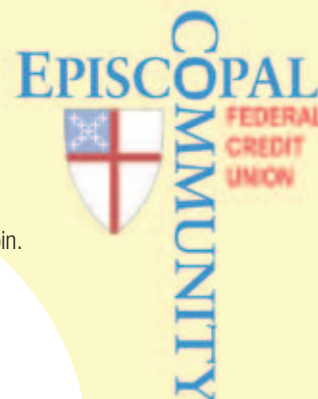
The Diocese of Los Angeles has a full-service Credit Union.

The Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union has been in existence for 14 years, and any Episcopalian in the diocese can join.

ECFCU offers a full line of financial products:

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