ALL SAINTS’

ethos

Thinking about faith, culture and living intentionally.

All Saints’ Beverly Hills

90th Anniversary

Easter 2015
Easter 2015

90 years.

On the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church: Almighty God, to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer: We give you thanks for the fellowship of those who have worshiped in this place, and we pray that all who seek you here may find you, and be filled with your joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Ethos* is the quarterly journal for *All Saints' Episcopal Church* in Beverly Hills, CA.
Dear All Saints’ Family,

In this issue of Ethos we commemorate our 90th anniversary: April 12, 1925, the official birth date of the new Episcopal parish in Beverly Hills. Ninety years later we are a vibrant 21st Century destination church, known for our beautiful worship and music, and for extending a loving and inclusive welcome to all God’s people.

We’ve been doing a lot of research and digging to uncover the information and photos that appear in this issue. Our talented author, Nicole Gregory, has done an outstanding job of listening to parishioners’ stories about life at All Saints’ over the last nine decades. In the process, some quite amazing, even startling, information has been revealed, as Nicole shares in her ‘Did You Know” pieces in this issue.

Reading and hearing so many of the stories and looking at the pictures has caused me to reflect on what 90 years represents in the shared history of this community. All Saints’ has been through the Great Depression, World War II and the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the great social tumult of the 1960s, the devastating AIDS crisis and the horrors of September 11, 2001.

During these decades we’ve also lived through major changes in Church life: Prayer Book and liturgical reform, the full inclusion and ordination of women and LGBT people, and a changing Episcopal identity from a denomination of the privileged to one more defined by its embrace of contemporary issues of social justice as understood through the lens of the Gospel. In all of this, All Saints’ history reveals that we have embraced these changes with intellectual and theological rigor and a generosity of spirit that has respected differences of opinion and kept us grounded in love as a community.

And throughout it all, we have been All Saints’. A place where we worship and sing together and take seriously the Word of God and the binding grace of the sacraments. Our history shows that we have always loved a good party, we’re Episcopalians after all, and that we have always held each other when we mourn together. Fellowship, service, prayer and generosity have kept the Good News of Jesus alive in this place, which in turn we’ve taken into the world.

We are a place which thousands of Saints – past and present – have called home, and I am grateful to them for bringing us to this 90th birthday, and to each of you as we look forward to the next 90 years in loving response to Jesus’ call to be his disciples.

With love,

Reverend Steve Huber, Rector

A special MUSIC EDITION of Ethos will be published in late April to celebrate our Music Program at the time of our annual Spring Concert.
A small group of Episcopalians meets regularly in a recreation room in the Beverly Hills Hotel. The group purchases land at the corner of Camden Drive and Santa Monica Blvd. on which to build a church; Rev. J. Arthur Evans is asked by the Bishop to lead the group.

1935
The church consists of approximately 600 parishioners.

1939
The All Saints’ vestry forms a committee to begin a new “Building Fund.”

1941
All Saints’ grows to include approximately 800 parishioners.

1942
The Rev. J. Herbert Smith becomes the second rector of All Saints’ Church. His wife, Alys, also is deeply involved in all aspects of the church with a special emphasis on prayer groups.

1943-1955
The church raises $650,000 for capital expansion and a new All Saints’ Church is built to make room for the growing congregation.

1949
The Rev. Kermit “K.C.” Castellanos is brought in as associate rector with the purpose of expanding the childrens’ Sunday School program; it quickly grows to include 800 children with the help of approximately 70 adults.

1955
All Saints’ Church consists of approximately 3,000 parishioners at the time of the consecration of All Saints’ Church.

1925
The chapel is completed and the first service is held at Easter. Designed by Johnston, Kaufman, and Coate, the building wins an award from the American Institute of Architects for its reflection of Spanish colonial construction.

1929
After the death of Rev. J. Arthurs Evans, the Very Rev. William W. Fleetwood becomes the second vicar of All Saints’; in 1930 he becomes the first rector and the parish house is built.

On Film
A lot of movie stars have attended All Saints’ since it began, but the church itself had a role in the film 10 with Dudley Moore and Bo Derek.

Ronald Reagan
In the 1970s, the men of All Saints’ invited speakers to dinner meetings – among them Gov. Ronald Reagan and Judge Herbert Walker, who handled the case of Sirhan Sirhan, accused killer of Senator Robert Kennedy.
1969
Jack Smith retires and the Rev. Castellanos becomes the third rector of All Saints’ continuing to support a strong children and youth program.

1976
Rev. Castellanos retires and the Rev. Clarke Oler is the fourth rector of All Saints’ – under his leadership the revised Book of Common Prayer is introduced in the parish.

1975-1985
Rev. Clarke Oler

1981
Rev. Oler resigns to pursue a career in pastoral care and counseling; The Rev. M. Gregory Richards becomes “priest in charge.”

1982
The Rev. M. Gregory Richards becomes the fifth rector of All Saints’ Church; he later retires to become chaplain at Campbell Hall Episcopal School in North Hollywood.

1985-1995
Rev. Carol Anderson

1985-1995
Rev. Carol Anderson

1989
The Rev. Carol Anderson, one of the first women ordained to priesthood, is installed as the sixth rector of All Saints’.

1990-1995
Rev. Carol Anderson

1994
The architectural firm Johnson, Fain and Pereira Associates, under the leadership of parishioner Bill Fain, is retained to develop plans for renovation and expansion of the buildings.

1995
On All Saints’ Sunday in November, the renovated worship space is rededicated.

1995-2005
Rev. Carol Anderson

1997
Parishioner and architect David A. Davis designs the metal cross for the choir screen, and creates the fresco in the apse.

1997-2005
Rev. Stephen Huber

2000
The latest renovation of the Parish House and church infrastructure and patio area is completed, allowing All Saints’ to conserve water and use its spaces for multiple purposes. The Parish Hall is renamed Sweetland Hall – and the Carol Anderson Discipleship Center.

2005-2015
Rev. Stephen Huber

2010
Carol Anderson retires; the Rev. Stephen Huber is installed as the seventh rector of All Saints’ Beverly Hills.

2015-2025
Rev. Stephen Huber

All Saints’ has a library.
Parishioner and professional librarian Gretchen Karl created and organized the Joyce Mendell Library on the second floor of the church building. Mendell was a parishioner and vestry member who collapsed and died during a vestry meeting in 1996.

All Star Revue
The annual All Saints’ fundraiser called the “All Star Revue” in the ’40s, ’50s and 60s featured celebrity parishioners such as Ethel Merman, Lena Horne, Robert Young, Van Johnson and others.
If you want to know about the colorful history of All Saints', all you really have to do is ask the parishioners who've been coming since they were children.

They can tell you about the TV and film stars of the 50s and 60s like Van Johnson and Ethel Merman who performed in All Saints’ fund-raiser talent shows.

How they watched as an already robust music program grew to international fame for its stellar Anglican repertoire and excellent execution.

How for years women were not allowed to be on the vestry and girls could not be acolytes – and how Carol Anderson, one of the first women ordained priests, was called to be rector.

How a “don’t ask, don’t tell” sentiment about gay parishioners persisted into the 1980s – and how All Saints’ became one of the first churches to perform blessings of same sex unions, and called former human rights activist Steve Huber to be its current rector.

The thread that runs through the stories is this: “It was a vibrant church then, and it’s a vibrant church now,” says Kathie Gauld, one of the parishioners who has witnessed more than half of the life span of All Saints'.

In the beginning

Our vibrant 90-year-old church was the inspiration of a handful of people who started meeting in a recreation room at the Beverly Hills Hotel. The group was an offshoot of St. Stephens' in Hollywood, and with the blessing of the bishop, the members raised $26,000 to purchase land and build a church at Camden and Santa Monica Boulevard.

The elite architectural firm of Johnson, Kaufman and Coate designed All Saints' Mission, as it was known then, and on April 5, 1925, Bishop William Bertrand Stevens dedicated what is now the All Saints’ Chapel. On April 12, the first worship service was held.

The stock market crash in 1929 hit the small parish hard, creating a $40,000 debt as the group had just purchased a new rectory and had made plans for enlarging the parish building.

All through the 1930s, the church was weighed down with debt, until the Rev. J. Herbert "Jack" Smith arrived in 1942 as the second rector, and possibly more important –
his wife Alys. With their influence, All Saints' experienced great growth – the debt was erased and a fund was created for expanding the buildings.

This is about when the personal memories begin for some of our long-time parishioners.

The ultimate power couple

“Jack Smith was an institution – he was widely known and admired,” says Clarke Morrow. He and his wife Pam have been coming to All Saints’ since 1969.

“Alys, his wife, she was a hell of a presence,” Clarke adds. “I don’t think anything happened in the church, in or out, that she didn’t have her finger on. She always sat in the same spot. If Jesus Christ had tried to sit in that seat he would have been thrown out.”

“People would laugh about her, but Alys Smith took me under wing,” says Susie Wiser. She and her husband Bill have been attending All Saints’ since 1952. “She would always sit in the back of the church in last pew on the aisle. If she spotted someone who was alone or sad or she thought needed comfort she would tend to them.”

At last in 1955 a bigger church was built – the one we use today. Just 10 years old at the time, Kathie Gauld was asked to perform the ceremonial ground-breaking with a toy shovel, and Bishop Bloy dedicated the new debt-free buildings.

But as powerful as Rev. Smith was, he was nearly overshadowed by the charismatic Rev. Kermit “K.C.” Castellanos who succeeded him.

K.C.

Coming from Brooklyn, New York, “K.C.” Castellanos was hired as Associate Rector. By all accounts he was charming, popular and so beloved by children, that he earned the nickname “The Pied Piper of Beverly Hills.”

“Kids just loved him,” remembers Chrissy Brant who, along with her two sisters, was baptized at All Saints’ in the 1950s. “When he was there, the Sunday School was huge. A lot of parents just dropped their kids off and didn’t go to church.” Chrissy remembers that Jayne Mansfield’s daughter was in her Sunday School class, as well as Humphrey Bogart’s son, Stephen. Ava Astaire, daughter of Fred, was another Sunday School pupil.

Major film stars could be seen in the pews. “Randolph Scott always sat in front of my mother,” says Bonnie McClure, referring to the heartthrob actor who played in many Westerns. “Fred Astaire – he always left right after communion, most likely to avoid the inevitable fans. Pia Lindström, whose mother was Ingrid Bergman, was there too.”

When Bergman ran off with director Roberto Rossellini, Lindström’s father sued for custody. “K.C. was asked to testify at her mother and father’s divorce trial,” remembers Bonnie. Indeed some believe that K.C. was like a surrogate parent to children of celebrities whose families were in disarray.

Prayer warriors

“Our parishioners believe in prayer and practice it,” proclaims a 1970 All Saints’ booklet, adding. “This is one of the distinguishing marks of All Saints’.”

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Women were not allowed on the vestry, and girls were not allowed to be acolytes, but females were a force in the church by way of their prayer groups. Alys Smith organized The Women’s Auxiliary with about 14 individual groups of about 30 women in each – and they focused on prayer. The groups were named St. Agnes, St. Catherine, St. Clare, St. Dorothea, St. Elizabeth, St. Helena, St. Margaret, St. Theresa and St. Ursula.

“I am still in this prayer group,” says Bonnie McClure. “We used to meet 25 years ago when we all had children.” Bonnie was baptized at All Saints’ as an infant and has attended ever since. “We said pretty intense out loud prayers.”

Kathy and Don Allison have been coming to All Saints’ since 1977, and back then parishioners rather than clergy led small groups and even services.

“I was involved with Zoreo, a charismatic group at All Saints,” explains Don. “We had large scale healing services in the main sanctuary on Friday nights. These were not led by priests but by lay people. People spoke in tongues and there was laying on of hands.”

**Women’s shifting roles**
The women of All Saints’ put on some major productions – the fall Country Fair was one. “They would close Camden, we’d set up booths, and people from all over the neighborhood would come,” says Kathy Allison. “It was a fundraiser and community builder.”

In the spring, the All Saints’ rummage sale was the big event – volunteers collected items all year and people came from around the city to sort through the treasures.

But as the ’70s progressed, women began finding jobs outside the home, which meant they had less time to volunteer at church. “All of those things that were more traditional went by the wayside,” Kathy Allison says, “when women started working.” The time was right for the next All Saints’ rector.

**Carol Anderson is called**
“I was on her search committee – I knew her before her name was in the hopper,” says Bonnie McClure. “When we interviewed her, Carol put me on the spot. She asked me, ‘Do you think All Saints’ is ready for a woman rector?’ I said yes, but I wasn’t sure.”

Some parishioners left the church when Carol arrived, but those who didn’t were inspired. She started the Alpha program – classes that offered a grounding in the Christian faith and were open to all – and brought in new young priests who hadn’t necessarily followed traditional Episcopal paths.

“Not in my wildest dreams did I think that Carol would have had the evangelist – the right sense of the word – outreach that she did,” says Bonnie McClure. “On the search committee we said that we wanted a preacher and a teacher and that's what Carol was. She was fabulous because she drew all kinds of people from all kinds of places.”

Reviving prayer was a priority: Visiting speakers came to All Saints’ from far and wide. “J. John came in 1999,” remembers Susie Wiser. “The church was on fire with his preaching. Jim Glennon was a healer who came too – we had many dinners and small group meetings where we prayed for people.”

**Welcoming the gay community**
In the early 1990s, “the gay community was still flying under the radar at All Saints,” says Mark Denton, who started coming to All Saints’ in 1992 and later married partner Joe Becci here. But encouraged by Carol Anderson, that began to change. Gay parishioners began to meet and share their experiences, with each other and with the clergy. When Alpha started, gay parishioners asked for a class of their own. “It was a big deal!” remembers Mark.

Carol organized Town Hall discussions at the church to talk about gay issues as a parish. “Those conversations were handled beautifully,” remembers Kathy Allison. “People came to them with a good spirit. I really think that’s an important piece of who All Saints’ is.”

It was not too many years later when Chris Cook and Jeff Healy, a couple with two small boys became the first same-sex couple to have a ceremony at here. “Jeff and I were coming up on our 10th anniversary in 2006 and we wanted to have a big church wedding,” says Chris. Carol agreed and Jimmy Bartz officiated.

“We loved the idea of recognizing our relationship with our family and friends. The whole thing was fantastic. It was very meaningful to stand up there.”

After Carol Anderson retired in 2011, Rev. Stephen Huber was called as the seventh rector of All Saints’, from Washington’s National Cathedral, and under his direction the music program, kids programs and Bible study classes continue to flourish.

So what would that tiny original group of people who started All Saints’ think of our church today?

Well, they’d certainly be amazed that we can download sermons on our smartphones, but they’d have to recognize that same vibrant spirit that moved them to start All Saints’ in 1925 is alive and well in this energetic church today.
Presidential Visit
George H.W. Bush and his wife Barbara once quietly visited All Saints’. “When I was senior warden, Carol took me aside one evening and said, ‘I think you should come to the 8 a.m. service tomorrow. You cannot tell anyone, but George and Barbara Bush are going to be there,’” says Bonnie McClure. “When I got there early the next morning, Secret Service dogs were walking up and down the pews in the chapel.” (Yes, there were pews in the Chapel until 2009, when they were removed, sold to raise money for the Capital Campaign to renovate the Parish House and replaced with the current chairs)

Let Them Eat
When Eileen Ridout saw that Jean-Luc Gignac badly needed equipment in the parish kitchen, she along with other women in her prayer group – Susie Wiser, Phyllis Sandifer and Patty Woodruff – collected recipes from All Saints’ parishioners and created a cookbook called “The Bread of Life.” Sales of the 2001 cookbook raised $24,000, which was used to buy appliances and utensils for the parish kitchen.

The Rule of Three
When parishioner Jennifer Hodges became pregnant with triplets in 2005, associate rector Doyt Conn organized care for Hodges and her family for the first year of the triplets’ lives. Women who called themselves the Triplets Task Force helped hold and feed the preemies, and brought food for Hodges and husband John Edwards.

Youth
Under the leadership of Rev. Kermit "K.C." Castellanos, approximately 800 children attended the All Saints’ Sunday School.

All Saints’ School
Parishioners realized a long-held dream of starting a nursery school at All Saints’ – and in 1985 a Montessori-based preschool was launched. It was later closed so that the church could focus resources on the Sunday School.

A Huge Production
"Noye’s Fludde," or Noah’s Flood, a children’s opera written by Benjamin Britton, was performed in 1978 and 1979, with 300 All Saints’ families involved. "The most fun thing – aside from hoards of cute singing five-year-old “mice” – was the incredible back-lit chiffon rainbow that rose into the top of the arch at the end of the performance,” remembers Kathy Allison who worked on the shows. "The costume designer was Emmy-award winner Bill Bonhert, and many of the other participants were professionals generously donating time and talent – “God” had a fabulous British accent!"

Medical Missions
All Saints’ has sponsored a medical mission to Honduras nearly every year since 1998 when Hurricane Mitch caused tremendous damage to the already poor country. Parishioner and nurse Nancy Traina has been coordinating these trips – which serve 1200 adults and children in four separate clinics – since 2006.

Young Adult Ministry
In 1954 a group called “The Christophers” started at All Saints’ – about 150 young people age 20-35 who met every week for fun and fellowship. Their aim was to bring into the fold unattached parishioners and Beverly Hills pagans. Their motto was, "Why should the devil have all the best tunes?"
The Beauty of All Saints’, Inside and Out

The Chapel was the original All Saints’ church – and was designed by architect Roland Coate, who designed many homes of the rich and famous in the area. The Chapel won an award from the Southern California chapter of the American Institute of Architects for its pleasing Spanish style.

The Parish Hall used to feature a stage platform at the north end, where fashion shows and children’s plays were performed. It was most recently renovated in 2007-2009, and was renamed Sweetland Hall to honor a prominent donor, parishioner John Sweetland.

The Memorial Chapel – to the right of the altar as you face it – was dedicated to the 17 All Saints’ parishioners who died fighting in World War II. It is sometimes called the Lady’s Chapel because the stained glass windows feature women from the Bible.

The apse features a fresco by artist and architect David A. Davis and art director John Goldsmith. David also designed the metal cross that is attached to the choir screen. This replaced a wooden cross which had hung in the space for many years, and is still missed by some parishioners.

Stained glass windows “The stained glass windows in chapel and church are original,” says Sam Williamson, who was the Parish Administrator for 20 years. “The windows in church high up on one side are disciples – on the other side are saints. Windows on the Santa Monica side next to pews start bottom left go right depict the annunciation through the resurrection.”

The kneeling cushions are needlepoint masterpieces made by the women’s groups and feature Christian and Episcopal symbols. “These cushions are a significant contribution to our worship,” says Sam. “We are placing ourselves in a very vulnerable position of worship with some comfort, thanks to people who took the time to think about it.”

The organ in the main church was built in 1951 by the Casavant firm. According to Music Director Craig Phillips, Rosales Organ Builders of Los Angeles made significant tonal improvements in 1978-79, which created a more assertive sound. In 1981, the worship space was acoustically renovated. Absorptive material was removed from the ceiling and walls, which again improved the sound of the organ in the room. By 1986, normal deterioration after 35 years of service necessitated the re-leathering of all wind reservoirs. Two additional stops have been added in recent years thanks to generous gifts from parishioner Pat Gillis. In 1997 a new Fanfare Trumpet at 8-foot pitch was added.

The Chapel organ, built in 1969 by Abbott & Sieker Co. of Los Angeles was re-voiced and slightly enlarged in 1992 by Schlicker Organ Builders of Buffalo, NY. The church also owns a six-foot Steinway & Sons grand piano and a Roland D-70 synthesizer – the primary instrument used to accompany services in the style of Taizé.

Moving platform in chancel area There is a scissor lift in chancel area (usually in the up position) that was built in the 1995 renovation. This floor piece can be lowered into the basement so that the piano or other large pieces can be moved on it and then brought up to the performance level. Also, the choir screen was designed to come apart and so it too can be easily moved out of the way for performances.

Youth Missions In 2003 Karlyn Johnson initiated annual summer trips for All Saints’ teens (C.A.S.T.) to travel to Navajoland in Utah, to help run a week-long Bible school camp for Navajo children, and they’ve been going ever since.

The Alternative Market that we see on the patio at Christmas used to be a year-round project coordinated by Gretchen Karl and Kathy Allison.
About our guest contributor

Nicole Gregory, who wrote all of the articles in this issue of Ethos, is a writer and editor who has been attending All Saints’ for about 20 years with her husband, Daniel Tamm.

On behalf of the Ethos Editorial Board, we offer our heartfelt thanks!

Dear Bible Guy,

Dear Bible Guy,

Why all the fuss about a 90th anniversary? Doesn’t sound very biblical to me. What good does it do to dwell in the past? Does the Bible condone this sort of thing?

-Future Facing

Dear Facing,

Actually, both the Old and New Testaments encourage celebrations and commemorations to help us remember God’s mighty works and past blessings. The point of remembering in this way is to help us recognize and bring to mind who God is and what God has done among us, so that we can be grateful and trusting. Deuteronomy 16 spells out a series of annual celebrations to do just this. Deuteronomy 4:9-14 stresses the importance of bringing God’s acts to mind, and telling them to our children. In the New Testament, Jesus proclaims that an act of devotion will be remembered wherever the good news is preached (Matt. 26:13). 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 summarizes the importance of commemorating the meal that Christ initiated at what we call the Last Supper—every Sunday as we worship we commemorate that moment in the Eucharistic meal. It is in this spirit—a spirit of gratitude, humility, and praise—that we commemorate and celebrate the wonderful things God has done with, in, and through this parish over the last 90 years.

-Gregarious

Dear Gregarious,

The Bible is pretty clear that the “body of Christ” is ALL believers (1 Cor. 12); that worshipping together is essential (Heb. 10:24-25); that when we gather together Jesus is present (Matt. 18:20); and that our formation happens when we interact with one another (Prov. 27:17; Col. 3:16). The earliest believers not only met together constantly, they held all things in common (Acts 2:43-47).

Besides, it’s just plain great to spend time in God’s house (Psalm 84:10)! Meeting together, singing together, reciting the Psalms together—these are all ways to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:19), but the individual contributions each of us brings and contributes to everyone else is the key: we need each other to become truly the body—and eventually the bride (Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 21:9-10)—of Christ.

All Saints’ Parish has been a place where people have been coming together to worship God, commemorate Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, form community, learn, and grow together for 90 years. We are all—those part of All Saints’ now, and those who came before and passed along this place to us—All Saints’. It’s Biblical, important, and truly something to celebrate!

That’s it for this issue. If you have questions for the Bible Guy, email him at BibleGuy@allsaintsbh.org. And remember: these are only the opinions of one fellow follower. If you want to know that the Bible REALLY says, read it for yourself!

Our Traditions

The Blessing of the Animals event began in the 1940s and has continued ever since. In 2010 a horse belonging to Natasha Ryan was allowed to be walked up the center aisle to receive a blessing.

The Eucharist

There was no Eucharist on Sundays until 1979 when the new book of prayer was introduced. Until that time a "morning prayer" service took place on Sundays, and Eucharist was considered too special to do more than twice a year — at Christmas and Easter.
One Worship Service 10:30 am
One Parish Birthday Lunch 12:00 noon
One Community
One Opportunity to Celebrate our 90th Birthday – don’t miss it!

**Sunday, April 12, 2015**
This day in 1925 was Easter Sunday and All Saints’ held its first ever worship service.

We invite all families and children* to attend the service on April 12. There will be a special presentation for children in Upper Sweetland Hall.

*Childcare for 2 and under available. No children or youth classes today.