

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

February 2021 | March 2021



Station 1 — Jesus Is Condemned to Death

ALL SAINTS' MISSION STATEMENT

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

OUR VISION

"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."

On the cover: 1 Station—Jesus Is Condemned to Death

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

The first of twelve Stations of the Cross which hang on the North and South walls of All Saints' church. The photograph was taken by Todd Muffatti.

Pictures in this issue were taken by Teri Tremper.

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FROM YOUR RECTOR

Way of the Cross



One of the most popular devotional exercises during the Lenten Season is the Way of the Cross (*Via Crucis* in Latin). This devotion is particularly significant among the churches that follow the catholic tradition. Anglo-Catholic churches are among the ones that favor this tradition, but it is now common among most Episcopalians.

The Reformed Churches rejected this practice for centuries due to its association with indulgences by the Roman Catholic Church. Another objection made by Reformed Churches is that some of the stations are not based on biblical passages but on tradition.

In 1991, Pope John Paul II redacted a version of the Ways of the Cross based solely on Scriptural accounts. Although this version was favored by some who prefer to rely solely on Scripture, the more traditional form of the Stations of the Cross has remained strong among us and is in fact the one that The Book of Occasional Services of the Episcopal Church offers as a form of devotion for Fridays, particularly during Lent.

To give you an overall idea of the history and use of this practice, I am including a short article taken from the Encyclopedia Britannica here:

Stations of the Cross, also called **Way of the Cross**, a series of 14 pictures or carvings portraying events in the [Passion](#) of [Christ](#), from his condemnation by [Pontius Pilate](#) to his entombment. The series of stations is as follows: (1) Jesus is condemned to death, (2) he is made to bear his [cross](#), (3) he falls the first time, (4) he meets his [mother](#), (5) Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross, (6) [Veronica](#) wipes Jesus' face, (7) he falls the second time, (8) the women of [Jerusalem](#) weep over Jesus, (9) he falls the third time, (10) he is stripped of his garments, (11) he is nailed to the cross, (12) he dies on the cross, (13) he is taken down from the cross, and (14) he is placed in the sepulchre. The images are usually mounted on the inside walls of a [church](#) or chapel but may also be erected in such places as cemeteries, corridors of hospitals and religious houses, or on mountainsides.

FROM YOUR RECTOR

(continued)



Cross, Stations of the

First and Second Stations of the Cross, the Sacred Heart Basilica, Paris.

Didier B/Sam67fr

The devotional exercise of visiting and praying in front of each of the 14 stations and meditating on the Passion of Christ stems from the practice of early Christian pilgrims who visited the scenes of the events in Jerusalem and walked the traditional route from the supposed location of Pilate's house to [Calvary](#). Tradition holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, set up stone markers at her home outside Jerusalem to prayerfully retrace the steps of her son's Passion, but the origin of the devotion in its present form is not clear. The number of stations originally observed in Jerusalem was considerably smaller than 14.

FROM YOUR RECTOR

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In the early 16th century, Ways of the Cross were established in Europe, and the tradition of 14 stations probably derived from the best known of them, that at [Leuven](#) (1505). The [Franciscans](#) long popularized the practice, and in the 18th century they bowed to Western Christian devotional feeling and provided 14 stations in Jerusalem. The traditional stations have been recently supplemented with the Via Lucis (the Way of Light), in which the meditations focus on the resurrected Christ.

Prayerful meditation through the Stations of the Cross is especially common during [Lent](#) and on Fridays throughout the year, in commemoration of Christ's Crucifixion on [Good Friday](#). The devotion may be done individually or in a group and is particularly important in [Roman Catholic](#), [Anglican](#), and [Lutheran](#) traditions. Each station is commonly visited with some variation of the [prayer](#) "We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world" and with a reading from a relevant passage of Scripture. Both [St. Francis of Assisi](#) and [St. Alphonso Maria de' Liguori](#) wrote devotional guides for the Stations of the Cross that remain popular.

In Matthew 16:24 we find Jesus' invitation to those who want to come after Him to take up their cross and follow Him. Although the invitation has sometimes been misinterpreted by some who believe that it simply means to accept the sufferings that the normal course of life will bring us, Jesus' invitation to those then and to us now is to make a radical commitment to renounce the old selfish ways of the world and be willing to go through the hard ordeals that a life devoted to self-giving love involves.

By reenacting the ordeal that Jesus went through after he was unjustly condemned to death, we are invited to reflect on His suffering, that of His mother and those who loved Him, and on what this radical commitment to unconditional love means for us as His present-day followers.

The times we are living now, with so many people suffering and dying, with so much brokenness in our society, resonate powerfully with the devotion of the Way of the Cross. As we put it into practice during this Lent, let us reflect not only on what Our Lord and Savior went through on our behalf, but also on what He is calling us to do for this broken world right now.

PARISH LIFE

Treasurer's Report



This article is a slightly edited version of the written treasurer's report presented at the Annual Meeting of parishioners of All Saints' Episcopal Church on January 24, 2021

The treasurer's report at Annual Meeting of parishioners must include a presentation of the budget adopted by the Vestry for the current year. But before I get into the presentation of the

parish budget for 2021, I would like to say a few words about the contributions of our previous treasurer, John Gray III, and also comment on the reasons why All Saints' had a very good year financially in 2020 despite the coronavirus pandemic.

John Gray became treasurer of All Saints' Parish following the unexpected death of Mary Maust in 2016. Happily John had already served as assistant treasurer for a couple of years, but he took over the treasurer's job at a challenging time for the parish. At that time, we had fallen into a pattern of approving budgets with six-figure deficits, an approach that could easily have exhausted the resources of our "Ready Fund" account within a few years. In fact, the first budget that John presented to the annual meeting projected a deficit that could have gone as high as \$300,000. The Diocese of San Diego responded with a directive that we must immediately cut that deficit in half and present a plan for achieving a balanced budget within three years (or else).

Over the next three years, John led the Finance Committee and Vestry on a path that was crucial to restoring the financial stability of the parish. Under John's leadership, we worked hard to control expenditures and made a commitment to use the resources of our Ready Fund responsibly by limiting our annual distributions from that vital investment account to no more than four percent of its value. John also worked effectively with all

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those sent by the diocese to monitor and guide our financial decisions, particularly Steve Turnbull, Area One missionary for the diocese and former president of the diocesan Standing Committee. Because of John's cooperative approach and dedicated work, Mr. Turnbull realized that we at All Saints' actually did know what we were doing financially and released us from diocesan supervision. Thanks in large measure to John Gray's leadership, the value of the Ready Fund grew from a dangerously low \$600,000 to a much healthier figure of \$2.5 million by the end of 2020.

Unfortunately, the health challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic forced John to resign as parish treasurer last July. I very much wish that John could be with us today to present the treasurer's report at yet another annual meeting. Although that is not possible, I think it is essential that we continue on the financial path established under his leadership.

As much as I regret John's absence from this podium, I am pleased to report that All Saints' had a very good financial year in 2020 despite the many challenges of the pandemic and the dangerous winter spike in COVID-19 cases and deaths. As I wrote in the parish newsletter a few months ago, there are three major elements that help explain our financial well-being in 2020 – pledges, bequests, and grants.

Pledges are crucial to the health of any church, and the Finance Committee is grateful that pledge payments in 2020 exceeded by more than \$3,600 the amount anticipated when the Vestry adopted the parish budget in December 2019. In addition to pledges, we have received other generous contributions, notably for the support of our music program and choir soloists.

Bequests are another important source of support for the ministries of All Saints' Church. During 2020, we received two bequests from deceased parishioners totaling more than \$265,000. Happily, we were able to invest more than 90% of that amount in our Ready Fund brokerage account in order to generate income to meet future needs.

During the early months of the pandemic, we became concerned about the viability of our

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preschool, as enrollment was limited to a very small number of children of “essential workers.” Likewise, we could not be sure that our nonprofit tenants would be able to continue to pay their rents in full. At the same time, the Vestry was committed to doing as much as possible to keep employees of the parish and preschool on the payroll. Therefore, under the leadership of Mrs. Theresa Krist, our business administrator, we filed an application for a forgivable loan of \$121,000 under the federal Paycheck Protection Program. These funds allowed us to cover payrolls through June, and after months of filing documents to prove that we had complied with the goals of the program, we received notification in November that our loan had been converted to a grant. In addition, the preschool received \$21,385 from the San Diego County Childcare Provider Grant Program and another grant of \$5,433 from the Cleaning and Supply Funding/CSCP program. We are grateful to Mrs. Renika Battles, our preschool director, for locating these grant opportunities and filing successful applications on behalf of the preschool. In combination, these grants helped cover the church payroll through the early months of stay-home orders and assured the survival of the preschool. Looking ahead, we believe that the preschool will likely meet the criteria for another forgivable loan under the PPP program, and Theresa has begun the application process.

Finally, I come to the portion of the treasurer’s report that is mandated by the canons of the church – the presentation of the parish budget for 2021. *To see a one-page budget presentation document, please click [here](#).* This document, headed “2020/2021 Budget Document,” shows the amount budgeted for the current year in each of 15 categories, and allows comparison of these figures to the budgeted and actual amounts for the same categories in 2020. So, I am happy to report that on December 15, the Vestry adopted a budget for this year that anticipates revenues of \$411,745 and expenses of \$434,310, including depreciation of our capital assets. For accounting purposes, that means that we are anticipating a deficit of \$22,565. Most of that deficit is due to the Vestry’s decision to provide a subsidy of a bit more than \$18,000 for operations of our preschool during the first six months of the year, support the Vestry concluded was essential as we work toward the goal of restoring preschool finances to the break-even point through steadily increasing enrollment. In short, we came very close to having a balanced budget for 2021. Looking at the budget figures in a bit more detail, perhaps the first key point about the

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2021 budget is that we expect that 23 percent of our revenue will come from pledges. (By the way, I would like to see that figure increase to approximately 30 percent, and please don't forget that it is never too late to make a pledge for the current year). The second key point is that 36 percent of our revenue will come from three major sources of investment income – which is possible because of our decision to use the resources of our Ready Fund responsibly. Third, property management revenue is expected to account for 1/3 of our income, which is sufficient to show that the financial health of the parish is dependent on the financial well-being of the preschool and our nonprofit tenants.

Our expenses are expected to be about the same as last year, which is not surprising given that most of our expenditures – salaries and benefits, insurance, and utilities, for example, are essentially fixed or set by contract.

As treasurer, I certainly believe that this is a good budget that keeps us heading in the right direction financially. But a budget like ours is always a prediction – and while I think Theresa did a tremendous job of projecting likely revenues and expenditures in preparing the budget the Vestry approved, there is always the possibility of surprises. Moreover, the continuation of the COVID crisis may impact us in ways that are difficult to predict. In short, I am confident that we have a good budget, BUT we need to be prepared for surprises and approach them in the spirit of being good stewards of our resources.

Also, I would invite any member of the parish who would like to see the full year-end financial reports that were presented to the Vestry on January 19 to send an email request to me at edheck46@gmail.com or to Theresa Krist at finance@allsaintschurch.org. Please feel free to address any questions to me, and I will do my best to answer them.

Edward Heck, Treasurer

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Lenten and Easter Schedule

Below is the schedule for Sunday services, special services and Lenten study opportunities. All of the Masses, Lenten Study and Stations of the Cross outlined below will be available via Zoom.

Weekly Lenten Schedule

- Tuesday Noon Mass will be held in the courtyard at noon
- Ash Wednesday service on February 17 at noon in the courtyard
- Stations of the Cross starting on Friday, February 19 at noon in the courtyard preceded by a Lenten Study (to be announced) at 10am
- Sunday Mass in the courtyard at 10am and also via Zoom for those who can not attend in person. If it is raining the Mass will move to the church where only Fr. Carlos, the acolyte, organist and solo quartet can be present due to covid-19 restrictions.

Holy Week Schedule

- Psalm Sunday Mass on March 28 at 10am in the courtyard preceded by a procession around the church grounds as in years past
- Maundy Thursday Mass on April 1 at 7pm in the courtyard
- Good Friday Mass on April 2 at 3pm in the courtyard
- Saturday Easter Vigil on April 3 at 7pm in the courtyard
- Easter Day Mass on April 4 at 10am in the courtyard

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February-March Memorial Garden News

Our garden has been trimmed up for the winter and many of the plants have been cut back. In addition, the ground squirrels have reappeared and have been also, trimming up some plants in their own way. I am currently trying to find a humane way to rid our garden of these pesky critters before it is destroyed. Cayenne pepper is my latest attempt to encourage them to move on.

Other than the squirrels, the garden is maintaining itself beautifully and much time was spent weeding and deadheading the plants this past month. Our table and chairs definitely need replacing and I am wondering if anyone in the congregation has a table with 4 chairs that they would like to donate to the garden? The preschool teachers take their breaks here and it is also a nice quiet place to meditate and find peace to reduce the stresses of our busy lives.

Once our critter issue is resolved, more plants will be taking root in the garden. I have some cuttings at home that I am trying to propagate to add to our collection. The Flower Guild continues to use the garden bounty to adorn our altar and church. Visit your garden to see how lovely it is at this time of year!

Sue Johnston



EASTER FLOWERS

We are offering an opportunity for parishioners to sponsor memorial Easter flowers, which will decorate the courtyard for Easter. Each person memorialized will be noted in the Easter bulletins. The cost of each sponsorship will be \$25. Flower forms will be available in March on tables in the courtyard and in the Parish Office. The deadline for ordering is Monday, March 29th.

PARISH LIFE

Life Stories of Members of All Saints'

In this December/January issue of our bi-monthly newsletter we continue with our ongoing series of the life stories of members of our parish. In this issue Teri Tremper, the newly appointed Senior Warden and Kay Philips, a member of the Vestry, share their life stories.

Teri Tremper



I was born in the United States, lived, studied and worked abroad, then moved back to the United States as an adult. I am the oldest of four children and many here have met my mother, Glendora, my sister Glendora (or Dori as we call her) and my brothers Arthur and Brian. I graduated from the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada, with a BS in History and Political Science. I moved back to Venezuela where my family lived while my father worked for Procter & Gamble. I worked for Berlitz School of Languages in Caracas, opened my own language school teaching Spanish to US employees of Reynolds Aluminum in Puerto Ordaz, and Bechtel

Construction at the Simón Bolívar Hydroelectric Plant, or Guri Dam. I left Venezuela in 1983, when the Bolivar was devalued and I lost my savings. When I moved back to the United States, I lived with my mother in San Francisco and worked for the US Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) as an interpreter. I accepted a job with the US Border Patrol, then part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and moved to El Paso, TX. From 1985 to 2007, I continued to work for INS and then DHS, working and living in Seattle, Havana (Cuba), Washington DC, El Centro, and ending up in San Diego where I retired.

Because I spent most of the first 32 years of life living in Canada, Belgium, Italy, and Venezuela, I used to say I lived most of my life foreign. I also used to say I was Roman Catholic, at least in theory, but time and God changed that in 2003. I was living and working in Washington, DC, and for two weeks on a Wednesday, I had to walk home past a large, beautiful church. The first time I resisted but the next week, the light from the open red doors pulled me in and there, at The Church of Ascension and St. Agnes, I

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found my spiritual home and re-discovered my connection to God and His Sacraments. It was also there I met Fr. Tony Noble and so found All Saints'.

I moved back to the San Diego area in 2007, and would come to All Saints, but would also go to an Episcopal church within three miles of my house, St. John's in Chula Vista. My nephew, Geoffrey, changed that. I gave Geoffrey a choice as to where we would worship, and he always chose All Saints'. He developed a quiet but firm connection with Fr. Tony, and decided he wanted to be baptized by him at All Saints'.

Slowly, but surely, I was pushed, pulled, drawn, and inspired to participate in the more mundane aspects of life in a church community. I started as an usher, or sidesmen (the best way to meet people and learn their names) volunteered to help with writing notes to the shut-ins, worked to get an updated directory (because I have a bad memory for names) and eventually volunteered for and was elected to the Vestry. By my reckoning, working on the Vestry is a lesson of humility, and a test of one's commitment to the path set for each of us in living our life in love and prayer. It's not as difficult as I appear to portray it, it is a manner of prayer and devotion. I can't express how thankful I am for the love and support of my All Saints' family, and I am looking forward to continuing my service to All Saints' in my capacity as Senior Warden.

Kay Philips



Born and raised the first few years of my life in Ohio and Indiana and baptized by immersion in the First Christian Church, becoming an Episcopalian was a dramatic change, to say the least! Al was born and raised in the Episcopal church in Illinois (baptized at St. George's in Belleville where Fr. Rob is now Interim Rector). He was not comfortable in the fundamentalist Christian church so I agreed to try his church - at the time, St. Alban's in El Cajon, complete with chanting and all the bells and smells! I slowly acclimated and our oldest

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son, Ron, was baptized there. Moving to Imperial Valley brought a lesson in "Low" church. The priest there was a Church Army missionary; he was so nurturing and helpful; I was confirmed soon after.

My husband's, Al, work at Cubic Corp. allowed us many travel opportunities - to Hinesville GA where we helped to start an Episcopal church (St. Philip's)!!; to Chincoteague VA where the wild ponies are rounded up each summer; to Sardinia (we had never heard of the place!); the outskirts of Seoul, Korea and to Okinawa. We always took side trips to explore so even our 4 children learned a lot about other people and places.

In 1970, my sister and I visited All Saints' at the suggestion of a friend; was pleasantly surprised to meet several of my San Diego High School friends. We went back as a family soon after and have never left. As we had done in our community, we soon became involved in church life. I believe that if you belong to an organization, you should be an active participant, rather than sit on the sidelines. Mel Watling commandeered Al to help with the school carnival and our involvement began!

At one point in the late 60's, I was volunteering 5 days a week (PTA, church, Women's club) and decided to get paid for my time, so went to work for Stationers Corp. (great world of office supplies and gifts). Left after 10 years for our year long trip to Sardinia. When Alyne, our youngest, was in Junior High (now called Middle School) I volunteered and worked for 5 years at Taft Jr. High School. In 1989, an opportunity arose to work at Warwick's in La Jolla (office supplies, gifts, stationery); a wonderful place to work plus the opportunity to meet many famous authors when they came to sign books. My favorites were Colin Powell and Margaret Thatcher although Frankie Laine and Kirk Douglas came close.

Throughout the years, I have always participated in craft shows as a way to share my love of creative arts (and occasionally make a little extra money), so in 1998, I retired and pursued the Craft show circuit full time. Was a great way to still be active and enjoy other crafters who had become "family". Much as I love it, I have become very selective in how many shows to do. It's time for "ME" time!

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We've been attending reunions of the USS Collett (Al's Navy ship) since 1991 and I've been part of the Planning community for past ten years. Never thought I'd continue after Al's death and wondered why other widows continued to come, but quickly learned it's the "family" again.

Having our children and grandchildren in different parts of the country is difficult, but does provide opportunity for travel (in normal times); Jean, in Lafayette, IN (son, Scott and his two children also); daughter, Kathy and husband in Sacramento (their two sons and daughter are close by); granddaughter Devon, husband and two boys in Wilmington, NC. If only covid-19 would go away and we could resume these visits! Son David and family are close by as is Alyne (Rancho Bernardo) but, even so, we visit socially distanced outside on my patio.

I feel very blessed to be physically able to enjoy so much of God's wonderful world and especially thankful to have staff and parishioners of All Saints' as my church family.

RECTOR'S REPORT

At The Annual Meeting 01/24/2021



“I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me.” *Philippians 4: 12-13*

And there is no doubt that this year has been one of facing harsh circumstances, for our church, for the city, the county, the nation, the world.

We started the year with some plans. Plans of staying strong as a community of faith, of consolidating what we had and expanding, growing, and reaching out to more people, opening new ministries. Then we were suddenly halted by a pandemic. We had to rethink our plans, and devise ways of serving our community in a totally different situation, and we are still in this stage, at the start of a new year, in another annual meeting.

But as St. Paul says in his letter to the Philippians, he, and also we, as followers of Christ, can do all things in Him who strengthens us. Maybe not the same things we used to do, but the things that need to be done to keep on being His witness for this much needed community in this part of the world where we have been called to serve.

As the rector of All Saints’ in San Diego, I can attest to the willingness, the perseverance,

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the resiliency, the generosity and the relentless faith of all parishioners, who have found ways of staying in touch without being able to meet in person, who have contributed even remotely, as readers, as leaders of different ministries, praying for one another and supporting one another in hard times, sending out their contributions and fulfilling their pledges, and what is more astounding still, surpassing the previous year's pledges during a time of economic crisis and physical distancing.

The Vestry worked harder than ever this year, adapting to the constantly changing situation, drafting, and revising worship guidelines and reopening plans for different settings, going back and forth as the pandemic situation and the diocesan guidelines moved accordingly. Even so, some achievements were made and are worth mentioning: the redaction of our Mission and Vision statements, and a brochure for visitors to get to know what our church is essentially about. I would like to mention the special effort and contribution of Derek Fish, our Junior Warden, in making this possible. My thanks and appreciation to him.

My special thanks also to Maureen Moore, our clerk and leader of the Altar Guild, for her constant and faithful dedication to both tasks. I would also like to thank all members of the altar guild for their willingness to help in this essential task: Kay Philips, Lucretia Locke, Teri Tremper and Kathryn Dreyer. Special mention needs to be made of Norma Dreyer, for her years of dedication to the Altar Guild and her willingness to teach other how to carry out this loving and dedicated ministry.

Cree Craig, our Senior Warden, has worked all year round in close collaboration with me in making important decisions and providing me with useful feedback. His constant dedication and good energy have been invaluable for me as the rector and for the whole Vestry in carrying out the needed tasks. His work in the financial committee has also been of great help. My appreciation and thankfulness to Cree Craig for this year's hard work. Due to the pandemic, our Preschool lost many of its students, and this has brought about an income deficit for our church. In fact, during the last months, our church has been subsidizing the Preschool. Careful and well-thought-out adjustments have had to be made in our finances to make this possible. My thanks and appreciation to both John Gray and

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Edward Heck, as our treasurer, working with Theresa Kirst as our business administrator, and all the members of the Finance Committee, in close collaboration with the Preschool Oversight Committee.

Thanks to our business administrator working in coordination with Renika Battles, the director of the Preschool, and our POC and Finance Committee, we obtained a substantial PPP loan that became a grant, plus two other minor grants that have helped to ease the Preschool financial deficit. At this moment, our business administrator is working on the application for a second PPP loan.

John Gray did a conscientious job to keep our finances in good health, and when he had to renounce to the position due to health issues, Edward Heck was graceful to accept the position and has done a great job during this hard time and pushed up our Stewardship Campaign with wonderful results.

Louise Lawson, our Parish Administrator has been relentlessly working hard every single week, notwithstanding the pandemic, to get our physical and electronic bulletins and newsletter published with the best possible quality and artistic taste. Special thanks to her. Barbara Wilder has been volunteering to proofread and Teri Tremper has done mailing and some other volunteer office work to help Louise. My thanks and appreciation to both. Sue Johnston with the help of others, like Laura Shell, has done a great job in our Memorial Garden and in the flower ministry. Leo Rocca played a significant role in placing a new gate for the Memorial Garden that can be accessed from the Preschool parking lot.

My thanks and appreciation to Michael Lockridge for his faithfulness in serving as an acolyte and reader for the Tuesday masses after Dr. Clyde Jones' passing.

Our Social Action Committee has kept on working in the collection of food for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. The collection of clothes and blankets for Scripps Mercy Hospital was halted due to pandemic restrictions. Recently, an initiative was taken by the Social Action Committee to collect money for an organization that helps homeless and disfranchised teenagers. Around a thousand dollars were donated by our parishioners.

RECTOR'S REPORT

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Todd Muffati, together with other artists in our congregation and others from outside our church, set up an arts and crafts festival, even amid the pandemic. Other parishioners also contributed with a wine auction, which was a real success in raising funds.

Our music program has been affected by the pandemic. We had to halt the choir due to the regulations limiting the number of singers. We still use our choir master and our professional quarter in our services. They have been doing a great job. Recently a new piano for rehearsals was donated to our church. This piano is in much better condition than the old one.

George Dreyer has been giving his time and effort to make our services available online since the beginning of the pandemic. Zoom services and recorded outdoor and indoor services have been done thanks to his efforts. We have had to learn how to do these things during the pandemic. The good thing about this is that we can keep on livestreaming and recording our services even after the pandemic is over, which is something that most churches normally do nowadays. Recently, it was decided to buy more professional equipment for this livestreaming and recording of services. They will be put into practice soon. We encourage parishioners to learn how to use the camera so that more than one person can be trained in this essential ministry.

I would also like to thank Eva Dreyer for her willingness to be part of our finance committee and because of her major in college, who knows if she can be our future treasurer.

Our janitor, Homero Zapata, has done a great work in cleaning and sanitizing our premises and the Preschool during this year with special requirements. Recently he was diagnosed with lung cancer. A few days later he was infected with Covid-19 and had to be hospitalized. His health situation at this moment is extremely precarious and the doctors have summoned his family at the hospital to bid him their goodbye. We know he is in God's hands and only He knows what the outcome will be. We will always be grateful to Homero for his years of dedicated work. We will not forget him or his family in this hard

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time.

Even amid the pandemic, on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi last year, I was officially installed as the rector of this church by our Bishop Susan Brown Snook, and I feel more than blessed by God for this.

Please, forgive my memory if I have failed to mention other important events or people who have contributed to significant things happening in our church this past year.

Despite the losses and the suffering, the changes and the frustrations, I have abundant reasons to feel grateful to so many special people, to the whole congregation, and I am certain that this new year will bring us new challenges that we will face with the same conviction that “we can do all things in Him that strengthens us.”

COMMEMORATIONS

St. Simeon, Bishop and Martyr

February 18



In St. Matthew's Gospel,

ch. xiii, we read of St.

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(continued)

Simon or Simeon who is described as one of our Lord's brethren of kinsmen. His father was Cleophas, St. Joseph's brother, and his mother, according to some early writers, was our Lady's sister. He would therefore be our Lord's first cousin and is supposed to have been about eight years older than He. No doubt he was one of those brethren of Christ who are mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles as having received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. St. Epiphanius says that when the Jews massacred St. James the Lesser, his brother Simeon upbraided them for their cruelty. The apostles and disciples afterwards met together to appoint a successor to James as bishop of Jerusalem, and they unanimously chose Simeon, who had probably assisted his brother in the government of that church. In the year 66 civil war broke out in Palestine, as a consequence of Jewish opposition to the Romans. The Christians in Jerusalem were warned of the impending destruction of the city and appear to have been divinely ordered to leave it. Accordingly that same year, before Vespasian entered Judaea, they retired with St. Simeon at their head to the other side of the Jordan, occupying a small city called Pella. After the capture and burning of Jerusalem, the Christians returned and settled among the ruins until the Emperor Hadrian afterwards entirely razed it. We are told by St. Epiphanius and by Eusebius that the church here flourished greatly, and that many Jews were converted by the miracles wrought by the saints.

When Vespasian and Domitian had ordered the destruction of all who were of the race of David, St. Simeon had escaped their search; but when Trajan gave a similar injunction, he was denounced as being not only one of David's descendants but also a Christian, and he was brought before Atticus, the Roman governor. He was condemned to death and, after being tortured, was crucified. Although he was extremely old - tradition reports him to have attained the age of 120 - Simeon endured his sufferings with a degree of fortitude which roused the admiration of Atticus himself.

Source: Butler's Lives of the Saints

COMMEMORATIONS

Patrick of Ireland

17 March ca.461



COMMEMORATIONS

(continued)

Patrick was born about 390, in southwest Britain, somewhere between the Severn and the Clyde rivers, son of a deacon and grandson of a priest. When about sixteen years old, he was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. Until this time, he had, by his own account, cared nothing for God, but now he turned to God for help. After six years, he either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away, and there persuaded some sailors to take him onto their ship. He returned to his family much changed, and began to prepare for the priesthood, and to study the Bible.\

Around 435, Patrick was commissioned, perhaps by bishops in Gaul and perhaps by the Pope, to go to Ireland as a bishop and missionary. Four years earlier another bishop, Palladius, had gone to Ireland to preach, but he was no longer there (my sources disagree on whether he had died, or had become discouraged and left Ireland to preach in Scotland). Patrick made his headquarters at Armagh in the North, where he built a school, and had the protection of the local monarch. From this base he made extensive missionary journeys, with considerable success. To say that he single-handedly turned Ireland from a pagan to a Christian country is an exaggeration, but is not far from the truth.

Almost everything we know about him comes from his own writings, available in English in the *Ancient Christian Writers* series. He has left us an autobiography (called the *Confession*), a *Letter to Coroticus* in which he denounces the slave trade and rebukes the British chieftain Coroticus for taking part in it, and the *Lorica* (or "Breastplate" a poem of disputed authorship traditionally attributed to Patrick), a work that has been called "part prayer, part anthem, and part incantation." The *Lorica* is a truly magnificent hymn, found today in many hymnals (usually abridged by the omission of the two stanzas bracketed below). The translation into English as given here is by Cecil Frances Alexander, whose husband was Archbishop of Armagh, and thus the direct successor of Patrick. She published nearly 400 poems and hymns of her own, including the well-known "There is a green hill far away," "Once in royal David's city," "Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult," and "All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small."

Source: James Kiefer BIO

PARISH LIFE

SERVICES IN ALL SAINTS' COURTYARD SUMMER AND FALL



PARISH LIFE

(continued)





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