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**MINEARDS'
MISCELLANY**



All Saints by The Sea saved by the bell? Church launches drive for \$11 million. P. 6

MONTE ITO MISCELLANY

by *Richard Mineards*



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, and a commentator on the KTLA Morning News. He moved to Montecito eight years ago.

Leslie to the Rescue

One of our community's oldest churches is looking for saviors!

The 116-year-old rustic wooden-built All Saints by The Sea Episcopal Church on Eucalyptus Lane has just launched its public campaign to raise a total of \$11 million to save the bell tower from collapsing and put the church structure on a proper foundation.

Montecito architect **Bob Easton**, who is overseeing the essential work, says the church, which was originally built in six weeks, was last "upgraded" in 1930, five years after the 1925 earthquake.

"The bell tower is not reinforced masonry, just a pile of stones," says Bob. "But that's just the first of some



Philanthropist Leslie Ridley-Tree, who has donated \$3 million for the church's renovation (photo by Priscilla)

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major problems, because the building itself is not laterally reinforced, so steel beams need to be added to reinforce the walls and roof.

“Overall, the building, being a wooden structure, is in relatively good repair because it can wiggle and shake if we have another earthquake.”

The major overhaul, with Bob working with Santa Monica structural engineer **Bruce Resnick**, should be completed by 2018, with the first phase – the bell tower – finished this year.

More than 65 percent of the monies needed has already been raised, including a hefty \$3 million donation from philanthropist **Leslie Ridley-Tree**, a regular member of the congregation, says **Ed Birch**, campaign co-chair with **Bitsy Bacon**, former head of CAMA, and **Sheri Benninghoven**.

“Of the \$11 million target, \$2 million is for an endowment to make sure we are okay for many years ahead,” says Ed. “This is now the public phase of the fund raising and, given the community, I have no doubt we’ll reach our target.”

While the bell tower is undergoing necessary seismic reinforcement, the church will still be used for regular services. But when work starts on the church building itself, an alternative will have to be sought.

“It is a wonderful church and much loved. The response shows that.”

Rector **Aimee Eyer-Delevett** says she had been amazed by the outpouring of support for the restoration project, as well as the amount of monies raised in a relatively short time.

“It is a really extraordinary community which clearly loves its church,” she adds.

It also helps, no doubt, that

Montecito is the fifth-richest ZIP code in the United States, according to *Forbes*.

Amen to that.