



The Mike

The Newsletter of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Studio City, CA

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What is NOT changing at St. Michael's?

By the Reverend Dan Justin

One of the most commonly given pieces of advice given to new rectors is "Don't make any major changes for the first year." Parishes need to time to grow to trust their new rectors and new rectors need time to learn the ways of their new parish. I can honestly say that when I came to St. Michael and All Angels in February that I had every intention of heeding this advice. Of course, somewhere between February and today—things changed.

If there is one thing I have learned over my years of being a Christian—it is that God is completely unpredictable. I believe it has always been this way. Just look at the early church we read about in the Acts of the Apostles. Just when the apostles thought they were on solid ground and they knew what was happening—God changes everything. In Acts 10 Peter is led by the Spirit to meet a Gentile named Cornelius. At that meeting Cornelius listens to Peter tell stories about Jesus. Cornelius and his entire family come to believe and they ask to be baptized. And as they are baptized the Holy Spirit descends on this Gentile family just like the Spirit had

descended on the disciples in the Upper Room. Suddenly, and without warning, God changes everything. The circle of God's love expanded that day. With God change seems to inevitable because God is always reaching to us and those around us. God is still active and working in the church to expand that circle of love. And we never know where God is going next!



I believe all that is happening here at St. Michael's is God working in this place. This parish is growing and changing in order to reach out to more

people. In order to allow us to expand the circle of God's love.

There is a lot of change happening at our parish. Our parish hall is becoming a Ministry Center. Our classrooms are being transformed. Our stage is changing from a storage locker to a unique and interesting meeting space

for youth and young adults. Our kitchen is being updated. Our Fireside Room is evolving. Our Meditation Garden is being made both beautiful and safe. Oh yeah, and there is another change—our parish is no longer a financially struggling place but a healthy, vibrant community which is attracting new members each week.

So with all this change the question must be asked—what is not changing? First and foremost, our willingness to follow as God expands that circle of love. We have always been and always will be a church offering radical hospitality. All have always been welcome at St. Michael's and that will not change. What else? We have always been a traditional Episcopal Church which deeply loves our prayer book and worship services and that will not change. We are a church which believes in taking a stand for justice and peace, respecting the dignity of every human being and that will not change. We are a parish that loves the scriptures, where sermons reflect on the lectionary readings and people are given the opportunity to learn about the Bible and that will not change. We are a people who love to learn and grow in conversation with one another and that will not change. We are community that cares for one another in times of need and that will not change. We are church that understands that our life of faith must give life to our service in the world and that will not change.

All the changes that are happening—from our new children's curriculum to our new furniture—are all happening to create the very best environment possible to practice all these things mentioned above which will never change. The core of what makes St. Michael and All Angels an amazing parish is what is NOT changing.

I hope you will weather these changes well and see them as opportunities to strengthen those things that will never change in this parish.

Blessings,

Dan+



The new nearly-completed nursery.

Calling All St. Michael's Teens!

We are excited to announce that the St. Michael's Youth Ministry is finally here! Teenagers grades sixth through twelve grade are welcome and invited to help launch the new St. Mike's Youth Group. We will be meeting every Sunday afternoon from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Our first meeting will be held Sunday, September 23, 2012, at 4:00 pm at the home of Annie Juzwiak –DeRose located at 4109 Shadyglade Ave, Studio City, CA 91604. For the first few weeks our gathering will take place at the Juzwiak-DeRose home as we await the completion of The Loft (St. Michael's new Youth Room located on the stage in the

Ministry Center).

Our first meeting will include a barbecue and pool party (so bring your swim suit and your appetite). We will also have some conversations about plans for the new youth group. I will share my ideas for the group and listen to your input. Together we will plan an exciting year of fun, friendship, creativity, service, and growth in faith. Don't want to come by yourself? No problem! Invite a friend. All are welcome.

If you have any questions please contact the Rev. Dan Justin at 818.763.9193 or at rector@stmikessc.org.

September Birthdays

Day	Name
2	Jane Mason
6	Margie Mullen
8	Amador Rondilla
10	Lexi Harvey
11	Sarah Lentz Lucy Juzwiak-DeRose
12	Emerson Diaz-Jones Julian Diaz-Jones
13	Barbara Beckner
18	Gail Write
18	Kyle Grace
22	Amy Friedman
24	Zofie Basta
25	David Connors
26	Julie Meine

September Anniversaries

Day	Name
6	Alex Morales & David Connors

Should you be listed here? Or, if you wish to leave your birthday or anniversary unpublished, give the church office a call or e-mail (administrator@stmikessc.org) to let us know. *Please Note: Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on the last Sunday of each month.*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Something New for Kids to Do!

St. Michael and All Angels is excited to introduce a new curriculum for our children on Sunday mornings: Seasons of the Spirit. Beginning Sunday, September 16th when our kids head to their classes after the opening hymn they will experience something different this year. Seasons of the Spirit is a high quality program providing exceptional resources that can equip and empower leaders to make a profound difference in the lives of children by bringing faith to life. The curriculum is a lectionary based curriculum. This means our children will be hearing and engaging the same readings adults are hearing in church. This allows families to continue the conversation at home about what they heard and read in church. Seasons of the Spirit will follow the church year and allow children to explore the meaning and mystery of the Bible, celebrate in worship, learn about service, and learn about God's inclusive love.

Some of the highlights of this new curriculum are that it offers resources for all 52 weeks of the year. It supports and encourages stewardship and care of the earth. It seeks to connect faith to life. It



nurtures imagination and creativity through the arts utilizing music and images. The curriculum is flexible and is easy for leaders to prepare. It provides age appropriate lessons allowing our children's program to grow as our parish grows. Finally, new content is written every year—so each year your children will continue to grow and experience something fresh and new.

Our goal is to begin the year with two classes—one class for younger children and one for older children—ages kindergarten through fifth grade.

We also invite you to take a peek at our new completely remodeled classrooms. By mid-September all five classrooms will be complete providing a fresh, new space for kids to learn and enjoy. Three of the rooms are designated as classrooms, one room is our nursery, and the final room will be an all arts and crafts room where kids can paint, draw, work with their hands, and have a blast. Each room will have all brand new furniture.

St. Michael's has always been a great church for families. We are excited that this year it just got even better with the introduction of Seasons of the Spirit and our remodeled classrooms.

Read the MIKE Online! All you do is go to the website, www.stmikessc.org, and click on Newsletter. Back issues are available there as well.

Treasurer's Corner

July 2012—Revenue and Expense Summary

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 33,795	\$ 30,304	\$214,111	\$203,242
Total Expense	32,031	32,637	218,988	226,222
Net	\$ 1,764	(\$ 2,333)	(\$ 4,877)	(\$ 22,980)



The last Sunday of September is the feast of St. Michael. As we approach this important feast day, we certainly have much to celebrate. One of our greatest reasons to celebrate is that God has brought Father Dan and St. Michael's together. September will be Father Dan's seventh month with us. He certainly has so many wonderful qualities - energy, enthusiasm, friendship, and his spiritual and intellectual breadth and depth - that have allowed St. Michael's to grow as an incredible community of faith. We are so thankful that God has brought us together.

The St. Michael's campus also is changing. The trees that were damaged and had weak root systems have been removed. They will soon be replaced with new trees and landscaping that will be more appropriate for southern California and for our campus. The Classroom Building has been undergoing renovation and is expected to be finished by early to mid September. Each classroom will be painted and will have new wood cabinets with beautiful granite counter tops, new flooring, and new windows.

The remodel of the Parish Hall (soon to be the Parish Ministry Center) is scheduled to begin in early September and should be completed within a few weeks. The renovation of our Parish Hall is quite extensive and it will include the renovation of the Fireside Room, the kitchen, and new bathrooms!

The St. Michael's Vestry also has a new member. Unfortunately, Scott Fuchs needed to step off the Vestry due to the added requirements of a new job. We thank him for his service on the Vestry. Parishioner Bill Fields has agreed to serve on the Vestry to complete the remaining time left on that term. I am pleased to share a little of Bill's background.

Bill Fields is originally from Texas. He heard the call of the West shortly after college and moved to Hollywood. After meeting Alan in 2001, he moved to Studio City which began their love affair with the San Fernando Valley. From 2004 to 2010 his family moved to Rancho Mirage where they attended St. Margaret's in Palm Desert. He served as Junior Warden and also sat on the school board for the church day school.

After being brought back to L.A. for work, they have finally settled back in Valley Glen. He currently serves as Controller for an Interior Architectural firm in Hollywood. Bill and Alan have been married for over 10 years and Alan is a C.F.O. of a graphics firm also in Hollywood. They have three amazing children who all attend Carpenter Elementary in Studio City. Liam, the oldest, is nine and in the 4th grade, Aiden is seven years old and in the 2nd grade, and Caitlyn is five and started Kindergarten this year. The family loves being outdoors and they get away in their R.V. as much as they can. They love to travel and enjoy barbecuing outdoors at home. They have fallen in love with St. Michael's and look forward to their family creating many memories here. We welcome Bill to the Vestry and thank him for being willing to serve St. Michael's in this important capacity.

As we approach the feast of St. Michael, we give thanks for the many blessings with which God has blessed our parish community. We look forward to the opportunities for service which our improved facilities will enable us to meet.

God With Skin On: The Healing Prayer Gathering

by Rae Markus

You would think that something called The Healing Prayer Gathering would be people gathering to pray to God for healing, and to most people, this means talking to God. And that is part of what we do. You might also surmise from the discussion topics in the weekly announcements that we have discussions about a variety of topics relating to healing and to different aspects of ourselves that might need healing. And we do that, too, using the topic as a spark to kindle discussions. But through the course of doing these things, something happens—healing happens—in a way we can't explain "logically".

There's an old story about a small child who comes into her parents' bed during a thunderstorm. After calming her down, her mother takes her back to her own room, but she's still afraid of being alone. "But you're not alone, dear," her mother said. "God is always with you." The little girl replied, "I know that, Mommy. But sometimes, I just need someone with skin on."

The truth is, when we're sick, when we're facing serious illness or surgery or maybe even

death or serious disability; when a marriage or treasured relationship sours, or we lose our job, or struggle with money problems, or weight issues, or addiction, or face any kind of loss, our own or that of someone we care about, we all get scared, and we all, whatever our age, need God with skin on. The disciples had the physical manifestation of God with skin on in the person of Jesus when he was alive; we don't. But when we gather together, when we listen to and witness each others' sharing of losses, concerns, and fears, and are fully present to each other, and really see and hear one another, we ourselves become the ears, eyes, hands and arms of the still-living Christ. Perhaps the biggest concern people have, beyond illness and other issues, and maybe even beyond the fear of death itself, is alienation—the feeling and fear of just being out there on our own, in free-fall without a net. We—collectively—provide that net. When we do this, we partner with God in the healing process, becoming a conduit for God's love. We do this not because of any particular training, knowledge or strength that we ourselves have, but from the compassion borne of the very wounds we ourselves have experienced within

our lifetimes.

And from within the emotional and spiritual safety of the sacred space we create, people have said that they experience safety and a feeling of belonging; that it's one place where they feel free to be who they truly are, to speak their truth and experience their authentic selves. And healing does take place, at a deep level. Sometimes this includes "cure" or recovery, sometimes it doesn't, but either way it invests our experience with meaning, and helps us to truly experience that God is present within our midst.

One of my favorite, modern hymns ("We Would See Jesus", by Roger Pym), contains the lines:

We would see Jesus in all we do!
We would be Jesus, his broken body on earth.

This is what we do in the Healing Prayer Gathering.

We meet the first and third Sundays (except during summer hiatus and certain holidays), usually in the Fireside Room.

St. Michael's Mid-Week

So you want a little more? A little more growth; a little more learning; a little more community? This fall St. Michael's is excited to introduce **St. Michael's Mid-Week**. Join us in the new Ministry Center for in-depth learning opportunities on a variety of topics. These learning opportunities are scattered throughout the fall months. Some are one time classes while others will be short series on a particular topic. Regardless, you don't have to worry about making a long-term commitment or coming every week. Attend the topics that interest you. Come to a few or join us for every class.

St. Michael's Mid-Week is not only just learning opportunities for adults. *It is community building for all ages.* Each Mid-Week will begin with a family dinner. All ages are welcome. After dinner there will be activities for kids in the courtyard, new craft room, and a room dedicated to homework. So your kids can enjoy Mid-Week as well. Adults will enjoy a presentation and participate in discussions after dinner.

A donation of five dollars per person with a maximum of twenty dollars per family is requested for those joining us for dinner. The menu for each Mid-Week event will appear in the Sunday bulletin in the weeks leading up to the event.

Here is the line-up for the classes this fall:

September 26th, 7:00 p.m.—The Bible 101
For many the Bible and its contents are a complete mystery. It is one book made up of sixty six smaller books. Attempts to read it cover to cover and make any sense out of it usually end in frustration. And yet, the Bible is still an amazing book which has the power to speak the very word of God to us. If you have ever wanted to learn a bit more about the Bible but the task has always made your head spin—this class is for you. Join the Rev. Dan Justin as he provides an overview of the entire Bible—how the Bible came to be, who wrote it, what the various sections of it are, and what the overarching story told by it is for Christians today.

October 10th, 7:00 p.m.—Life on the Road: Avenues of Grace
The life of faith has often been described as an adventure. Each of us is on a journey of growth as God makes us and molds us into the people we are called to be. Unfortunately many get stalled, sidetracked, or even out and out lost on this journey. How can we find ways to keep moving forward and growing in our faith? The answer: Spiritual Disciplines. The disciplines have been called Avenues of Grace. They are

the roadways we travel as we seek to get closer to God. Join the Rev. Dan Justin in exploring a variety of spiritual disciplines that will point you in the right direction for your journey.

November 7th, 7:00 p.m.—A Focus on Food Part 1: Food for the Soul
Food. It is one of the highlights of the holiday season. Most celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas will include gathering around a table for a feast. For the Christian, feasts are a wonderful religious symbol of God's love for the world. We have feast days scattered throughout the Christian Calendar. Our primary act of worship on Sunday mornings centers on a feast—the Eucharistic Feast. Join the Rev. Dan Justin as we explore the theology of feasting and the deep meanings of the Eucharist.

November 14th, 7:00 p.m.—A Focus on Food Part 2: Food for the Body
Food. It is one of the highlights of the holiday season. Most celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas will include gathering around a table for a feast. Part 1 of this 2 part class explored the theology of the Eucharist and feasting. But what do we believe about food in general? How can food be used to strengthen community, build family, and nurture our bodies? In a world where we are surrounded by the wrong things to eat, how can we discover what we should eat? St. Michael and All Angels is proud to welcome the Rev. Dr. Joanne Leslie who will help us discover answers to these and other questions as we Focus on Food. Joanne is the Archdeacon of the Diocese of Los Angeles. She holds a PhD in public health and was formerly a professor at UCLA.

Please RSVP for any Mid-Week date you plan to attend by e-mailing Duane Steadman at administrator@stmikessc.org. In your e-mail please list: 1) Each date you wish to attend. 2) How many will be attending. 3) Please indicate the names and ages of children attending. This will assist us we plan menus, prepare food, and

Coloring Outside the Lines: A Study of the Book of Acts

The earliest followers of Jesus never believed they would start a new religion or change the world. They assumed that Jesus would return within their lifetime. They considered themselves faithful Jewish men and women who were also followers of Jesus. But God had other plans. It was not long before God began breaking through the boundaries of established religion and culture. Christianity began to spread across the known world. Join us each Sunday morning at 9:15 am as we explore the book of Acts and discover how God began to color outside the lines!

This class will be a ten week series beginning on Sunday, September 16, 2012, and ending Sunday, November 18, 2012. A reading schedule will be distributed on the first day of class. The schedule will also be available on the website, www.stmikessc.org, as a pdf file. We will use the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible for this class. If you have any questions please see the Rev. Dan Justin.

Please note the new time for the start of the Adult Learning Opportunity. By beginning fifteen minutes earlier we will both have more discussion time and make it easier for the 8:00 am attenders to participate in the class.

plan activities for the kids.

And one more thought...St. Michael's Mid-Week, with its family dinners and topical conversations, may just be the perfect place to invite friends you have always wanted to introduce to our community. Perhaps they are not ready to attend church. Mid-Week provides a great place to make new friends and explore burning questions. So feel free to invite away! All are welcome.

Summer Potluck Pool Party

One more potluck pool party coming up in September

Sunday, September 16th, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Home of Betsy Hailey
11747 Canton Place
Studio City, CA 91604

Please mark your calendars and join us for some fun in the sun. Invite a friend. Bring your favorite potluck dish for everyone to share.

We look forward to seeing you there!

SoldierCare

by the Reverend Dan Justin

Over the course of my short time as rector here at St. Michael's I have been trying to learn about all the wonderful ministries that are a part of this parish. I began to get some exposure to SoldierCare through our Big Sunday Family Picnic event. I knew that event was designed to raise money that would help bring wounded veterans to Los Angeles for special weekend. At the time I thought it was a lovely idea. I enjoyed the Big Sunday event and saw the special lunch provided for veterans. But I did not really have a full understanding of this amazing ministry of St. Michael's until I had the honor of attending the closing dinner at El Cholo and had the opportunity to meet the young veterans who participated in the event.

When I arrived at El Cholo I was, as usual, early. I was the only person dressed like a priest in the entire restaurant. I introduced myself to the hostess and told her why I was there. She introduced me to a man named Walter who was also there for the SoldierCare dinner. I chatted with him briefly. Walter did not seem to be a wounded vet and it took me a while to figure out exactly who he was. I later discovered he was Walter Koenig, the actor who played Chekov on Star Trek!

It did not take long for the van to arrive and for the group of about ten or twelve young veterans to make their way to the table. At the beginning of the evening it was just me, Walter and the marines. So I introduced myself and asked them to introduce themselves. We ended up having a great conversation. Each young marine I spoke with told me what an amazing time they were having. They had been all over Los Angeles—they had met celebrities, attended a Dodgers game, explored Universal Studios, eaten great food, and still had more to do.

Through dinner I sat with a young man, whose name I am ashamed to admit I have forgotten. He told me his story. He joined the marines just out of high school but just before being deployed he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He had gone through all of his training and just before heading off for active duty—his entire life came crashing to a halt. He now faced a very serious brain surgery. He underwent the surgery and spent the rest of his time in the marines recovering in the Naval Hospital at Balboa Park in San Diego. He had been there for two years. He told me that this event—SoldierCare—was the first time he had gotten to leave the area. It was the first time in two years that he got to do something just for fun. It was the first time he got to

escape the monotony of rehab and therapy. He was amazed that someone would offer the opportunity to do something like this. He went on and on about how great the weekend had been and how this was a once in a lifetime opportunity for him. As it turned out, he was to be discharged from the marines the day after the SoldierCare event concluded. He would be returning to Kentucky where he had no prospect of a job and where he would have to live with his parents again.

And his story was just one of the twelve marines that were there that evening. Each of them had experienced some type of traumatic injury or damage from their time at war. And each of them were equally amazed and equally grateful that anyone would give them the opportunity to live like celebrities in Los Angeles for even just one weekend.

By the end of the night I left thinking that SoldierCare was one of the most profound ministries St. Michael's offers. And it is a St. Michael's ministry. Some may assume that it is an outside organization or an outreach partner that we support. That is not true. SoldierCare is a ministry of St. Michael's—a great ministry. It is a ministry which freely shares the love of God with veterans who have given so much in service to their country. It is a ministry which asks for nothing back from these young people. It has no agenda other than to share love in a real and tangible way.

David and Suzanne Rosenberg lead this ministry and I would like to thank them for all they do. It is a tremendous amount of work and they accomplish so very much. I for one can't wait for next year's event! And I am sure there are ways you can participate! Keep an eye out for announcements about SoldierCare and feel free to ask David and Suzanne all about it.

I Hear the Sound of Angels

Dear members of St. Michaels, I'm happy to tell you we're nigh upon another season of singing. While I enjoy hearing choir members peppered throughout the congregation during the summer months (passing through 2 altos auspiciously positioned during a procession in July was a highlight), my favorite is unarguably when they're with me in the choir loft. I suspect you'd agree. And so, on the first Thursday of September we will again begin our bi-weekly rehearsals to prepare the music for the fall and into Advent.

You'll see a couple new faces in the choir, which is always exciting news. Listening to a changing group, you can truly hear the sometimes subtle and always glorious difference each person can make. I consider it no less than a gift to be able to join voices with others, and on a regular basis to boot!

Do you entertain thoughts of joining the choir? I would love to talk with you about such thoughts, if so. Please write or call me to discuss (323.496.1502; kristintoedtman@gmail.com). All levels are welcome and I promise we're a friendly bunch. In case that's not enough to convince you, you should see the snacks spread at every rehearsal! We rehearse every other Thursday from 7:30 to 9:30 in the choir room and at 9:30 am before the 10:30 service in the sanctuary.

Finally, I have some good news and some bad news. I'm thrilled to be invited to tour the east coast this September with my friend and long-time collaborator Brendan Hines. We'll visit cities from North Carolina to Toronto, ending in New York. Naturally, that means I'll be missing Sundays at St. Michael's for 3 weeks. However, I'm ending the tour early to make it back in time for Michaelmas, so all's well that ends well! David Connors will be taking the helm in my stead and I know from past experience that the choir is in good hands when those hands are David's.

Meanwhile, sing often and sing joyfully!

Kristen Toedtman

Jane Wilson and Gary Lucy Honored at Final Lit.Up! Performance

At the final Lit.Up! performance on Saturday, August 11, St. Michael's parish honored Jane Wilson and Gary Lucy for their tremendous work over the years on the Lit.Up! performances that have benefitted so many. Fr. Dan presented Jane and Gary with—what else?—a crystal lamp as a reminder of the light that they have brought into the lives of so many.



Photos of Renovations in Progress



New cabinets and countertops in the kitchen



Six Canary Island pines being removed from the meditation garden.



The Calendar

September 2012

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Adult Forum begins at 9:30 am.*
 • *Sunday School begins at 10:30 and the children are brought into Eucharist for the Peace.*
 • *Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service unless otherwise noted.*

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Locations:
 CO: Church Office
 CR: Choir Room
 MR: Music Room
 FR: Fireside Room
 MC: Ministry Center
 UR: Upper Room
 YL: Youth Lounge
 S: Sanctuary

1

2 Pentecost 14
 12:15 PM SMCOP (CO)

3 Labor Day Holiday
 Parish Office close

4

5

6

7
 12:00 Fourth
 Quarter
 Luncheon

8

9 Pentecost 15

10
 6:15 PM Book
 Discussion
 Group (Beckner
 Home)

11

12
 7:00 PM Finance
 Committee (CO)

13

14 Holy Cross Day

15

16 Pentecost 16
 12:00 noon Healing
 Prayer Gathering
 3:00 PM Potluck Pool
 Party (Hailey Home)

17

18
 7:00 PM Vestry

19

20

21 St. Matthew

22

23 Pentecost 17
 4:00 PM Youth Group
 (Juzwiak-DeRose
 Home)

24

25

26
 7:00 PM Mid-Week
 (MC)

27

28

29

30 St. Michael & All
 Angels (observed)
 9:15 am Pastoral Care
 Committee
 4:00 PM Youth Group
 (Juzwiak-DeRose
 Home)

St. Michael and All Angels Church

3646 Coldwater Canyon Ave., Studio City, CA 91604

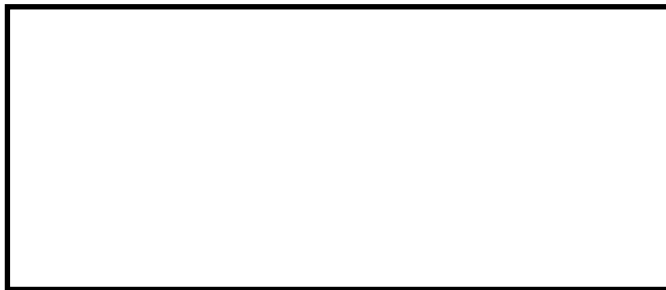
phone • 818.763.9193

fax • 818.763.2172

general e-mail • mail@stmikessc.org

web address • www.stmikessc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



VESTRY

Anne Kelly, Senior Warden

David Connors, Junior Warden

Peter Juzwiak, Treasurer

Alex Morales, Clerk

Sarah Cook

William Fields

Betsy Hailey

Mary Ann Jacobson

Hank Meiman

Meredith Reese

Amador Rondilla

Ron Schwartz

PARISH STAFF

Rector

The Rev. Dan Justin (rector@stmikessc.org)

Parish Administrator

Duane Steadman (administrator@stmikessc.org)

Director of Music

Kristen Toedtman (kristentoedtman@gmail.com)

Organist

Emil Iliev (emil_iliev@yahoo.com)

THE MIKE STAFF

Publisher

Duane Steadman

Editor Emerita

Soni Wright

Vision Statement

We are a welcoming and evolving community of conscience engaged in the renewal of our faith by embracing diversity and encouraging growth through prayer, scholarship, social action, and artistic endeavor.

Our Mission Priority

Our mission priority is to focus on the United Nations' First Millennium Goal: To eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.