



The Mike

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

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Living Generously

By the Reverend Dan Justin

Happy New Year! I am always amazed at how fast the year goes by. I feel as if it was just yesterday that I was packing up my car and preparing to drive across the country to come to St. Michael and All Angels. And what a year it has been. I have been so warmly welcomed in this parish. I cannot thank you enough for your enthusiasm, generosity, and hospitality. This parish is so wonderfully unique. And what we have accomplished in my first year still blows my mind.

I am sorry to say that most new priests coming to be the new rector do not have the same experience as I have had at St. Michael's. Often times, the transition is a difficult one. People resist change and new ideas. The new priest is compared to past priests and held to impossible standards—impossible because they expect the new priest to be someone they are not. I spend time with many colleagues who are new rectors. We swap stories. I almost find myself feeling badly sharing stories about all the amazing things going on here while their stories are all woes and laments about how much they are struggling.

I think what it all comes down to is one thing—hospitality. This parish understands the importance of hospitality. This is a place where all are welcomed and accepted for who they are. People are not expected to be anything they are not. You can be your authentic self here at St. Michael's and you will always be welcome here. Your practice of hospitality has made all the difference.

I frequently meet with new parishioners who have found their way to St. Michael's. I ask them what they think of the parish. One of the first things they comment on is how friendly everyone is and how warmly they were welcomed. They often relate stories of visiting other churches where no one ever spoke to them. That just does not happen at St. Michael's.

In September we began a program I have called "The Generous Living Project." It is a way to make a conscience decision to become more generous people. Jesus' life was marked by self-giving love; his life was marked by

generosity. If we want to live as his disciples then our lives must be marked by this same generosity. Each month we have identified a theme and a project. Each theme is a facet of what it means to be generous. This month our theme is hospitality.



I actually believe the word hospitality, along with generosity, is a word that can almost completely sum up the idea of discipleship.

I ask you to join me this month in the Generous Living Project by imagining new ways you can practice hospitality. Perhaps you can welcome fellow parishioners to your home for a dinner. Perhaps you can organize a fun outing and include people you would not normally include. Maybe you can take it upon yourself to be sure to greet and welcome visitors at church. There are countless ways that you can practice hospitality. And as you do so you will find that you are moving deeper into your

life of discipleship. You will become more like Jesus—who welcomed even the most unlikely of folks to the table with him.

Let us dedicate this month to the practice of hospitality. Not only will we grow in faith—it will just be fun!

Blessings,

Dan+

Mark your calendars.

St. Michael and All Angels Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 20, at noon in the Ministry Center

See page 4 for more information.

A Special Service for Martin Luther King Jr. Day— Sunday, January 20, 2013 at 5:00 pm

St. Michael and All Angels welcomes all to a special service for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Join us at 5:00 pm on Sunday, January 20, 2013. The service will follow the form of a Lessons and Carols service. Lessons will be drawn from Dr. King's famous writings and speeches. Each lesson will be followed by music from the St. Michael's Choir. Musical selections will be spirituals and hymns which respond to and relate to the words of Dr. King. This is a unique and original service that you will not want to miss.



Adult Learning Opportunities

This January we begin a new topic at our 9:15 am Sunday Adult Forums: **Speaking of Grace—A Study of the Book of Romans.** St. Paul's epistle to the Romans is his masterpiece of theology. It was the last epistle written by the great apostle. In Romans Paul identifies the true heart of the Christian faith—grace. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 as we read through the book of Romans. We will discover what makes it unique, we will identify its key themes and message, and most importantly—we will ask how it applies to our own lives.

A reading schedule can be found on the St. Michael's website—www.stmikessc.org—under the education, adult learning links.

We will read from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. If you do not own an NRSV Bible you will find one available for purchase in the St. Michael's Book Store on Sunday mornings. You may also find the text online. Participants are encouraged to read the selected reading for the day in order to fully participate in the conversation and benefit from the study. Please see the Rev. Dan Justin if you have any questions.

Mid-Week Schedule

St. Michael's Mid-Week returns in 2013 with a full schedule of classes and learning opportunities. As always, Mid-Week will begin with a family dinner. After dinner adults are welcome to attend the class. Children will have

activities and games. A room will be dedicated to homework as well. This year we plan to begin the dinner earlier in hopes to allow more families to attend. Mid-Week will begin at 6:30 pm. We will endeavor end the class by 8:30 pm at the latest.

Here is what is on the schedule:

An Overview of the Gospel of John— Wednesday, January 16th at 6:30 pm

The Gospel of John has been called the Maverick Gospel. When compared to Matthew, Mark and Luke it is completely different. Ever wonder why? Join us for an overview of this unique Gospel as we seek to understand its meaning, message and theology.

Something Wicked This Way Comes (Part 1)— Wednesday, February 27 at 6:30 pm

Why do bad things happen to good people? How can God be all loving and all powerful if evil exists in the world? These are the classic questions of Theodicy. For centuries theologians have been attempting to address the questions. Join us as we explore some of these attempts. This class will present a variety of differing opinions and theological viewpoints. These will range from very progressive to very conservative explanations. Note—the class will not attempt to convince participants to accept any particular point of view—rather each will be presented fairly and we will discuss each in turn.

Something Wicked This Way Comes (Part 2)— Wednesday, March 6 at 6:30 pm

In our previous class we identified several options for explaining evil. In part 2 of this class we will explore what our response should be to evil in the world. Again, each viewpoint will be presented and discussion will follow. The presentation will include a range of opinion from very progressive to very conservative theology. The class will not attempt to convince participants to accept any particular point of view—rather each will be presented fairly and we will discuss each in turn.

Shaped for Significance—Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30 pm

St. Paul tells us that every member of the body

of Christ has a part to play. We have each been given talents and gifts by our God. We can use those talents and gifts for ministry. Paul calls these Spiritual Gifts. But what are your spiritual gifts? How can you discover them? How can you put them into use? Join us as we explore our own personal spiritual gifts and learn how we have been shaped for significance.

BYO BCP—Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30 pm

Bring your own Book of Common Prayer. Next to the Bible, no other resource is more important to an Episcopalian than the Book of Common Prayer. And yet, so few Episcopalians really even know how to use one or what it contains. Join us as we explore the contents of the prayer book, learn how we can use the prayer book in our everyday lives, and discover how it shapes our life of worship and our theology.

If you plan to attend Mid-Week please RSVP by e-mailing Duane Steadman at administrator@stmikessc.org. Please indicate how many are planning to attend and how many children will be present. This assists us as we prepare food and organize children's activities.

As you do your weekly grocery shopping, remember these items that are always needed by the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry

*Canned fruit and vegetables.
Baby food in plastic jars.
Tuna.
Peanut butter in plastic jars.
Powdered milk in individual packets.
Individual size snacks.
Bags of dry beans and rice.
Plastic and paper shopping bags.
Diapers and feminine hygiene items.
Travel-size soap, toothpaste & disposable razors.
And money!*

January Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Lily Peterson
10	Nick Renton
12	Don DeRose Paul Reese Emily Stenquist
15	Mary Piser
18	Norma Johnson
19	Bea Andrews Brandon Nel
23	Kevin Mitchell
30	Anne Kelly

January Anniversaries

Day	Name
1	Lise & David Friedman

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.*

Treasurer's Corner

November 2012—Revenue and Expense Summary

	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 33,903	\$ 30,264	\$368,155	\$348,228
Total Expense	42,517	35,351	354,519	354,313
Net	\$ (8,614)	\$ (5,087)	\$ 13,636	\$ (6,085)

From the Vestry

Anne Kelly, Senior Warden
David Connors, Junior Warden



On January 1st we begin a new year and we have so much for which to be thankful.

Our parish family has grown, the campus has undergone an incredible transformation, and on January 30th we celebrate Dan's first anniversary at St. Michael's. On Sunday, January 20th we will have the Parish Annual Meeting. At that time we will elect new members to serve on the Vestry and we will thank those members who have completed their terms. Vestry members completing their service are Anne Kelly, Ron Schwartz, and Amador Rondilla.

Ron Schwartz is completing a three-year term on the Vestry. In addition to his Vestry service, he also is an active participant in the Altar Guild, he served as the Vestry liaison to Altar Guild, and serves as MC for the 10:30 service. Ron also participates in the Parish Clean Up Days, the newly reformed Men's Group, and may be counted on to assist with any project needing an extra hand. Ron has been very involved in St. Michael's for many years and we are so grateful for his many contributions to our community.

Amador Rondilla is also completing a three-year term on the Vestry. Amador served as our Treasurer for quite a while and he is an active member of the Finance Committee. On Sunday afternoons, Amador helps to deliver food to the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry. Amador is a relatively new member of St. Michael's (since 2008) and what is so amazing is how he immediately became very deeply involved with our community.

Anne Kelly also completes a three-year Vestry term. Anne began her service on the Vestry as the Clerk, and for the past three years she has served as our Senior Warden. It has been my great pleasure and honor to have served as the Junior Warden during this time. Anne has provided such incredible leadership for St. Michael's during the past three years. This was a period of much transition and Anne kept it as stress free as possible. Anne's duties were numerous and she approached her job as Senior Warden as a privilege rather than as a duty. Anne was instrumental in arranging for Mark Shier to be our temporary priest and she also served on the Rector Search Committee.

Her guidance and leadership on the Search Committee was crucial and she helped us all to trust in God and to be patient so that we would wait for the right person. Once we all met Dan Justin, it was evident that this was the person who God had intended as the new Rector for St. Michael's. Anne's contributions to St. Michael's are too numerous to mention. She has been a wonderful leader and we are so blessed to have her with us.

Ron, Amador and Anne, have all given much to St. Michael's and I am very grateful for their presence, their contributions, and their leadership over the past several years. If you have an opportunity please let them know how appreciative you are of all their work on our behalf. A grateful St. Michael's thanks you for all that you have done for us!

May we all experience the peace and joy of God's grace in this blessed New Year.

Blessings,

David Connors

Meditation Garden

I am happy to share with you some wonderful news about a new opportunity and a generous donation to the parish.

As you are aware, this past summer we received the news that six trees located in our Meditation Garden needed to be removed to maintain the safety of our campus. That work was done in August. The removal of those trees has left our garden looking rather bleak and dry. Most of the other plants in the garden did not survive this change. The vestry was faced with an interesting option—we could replant and recreate our garden to look exactly as it once did. Or, on the other hand, we could see this turn events as providing us with an interesting opportunity to improve the garden. We began investigating options and ideas. I am pleased to report that the result of all of this investigating is the reception of an exciting design for the garden and the reception of an incredibly generous donation which will make our new garden a reality. The gift we have received will cover 100% of the work done in the garden.

The garden will still be a lush and lovely place for meditation and spiritual seeking. It will include new plants and trees along

with appropriately designed irrigation and drainage system. The new design includes a labyrinth, a feature this parish has attempted to add to the campus for years now. It will add new lighting and pathways into and around the garden. The garden will also incorporate a new altar which will allow the garden to be used as an outdoor chapel at times. With the addition of the labyrinth, walkways and altar there will need to be a change to the fountain. The existing fountain will be removed and a new fountain will be added. The new fountain will be a waterfall which will be located on the east wall of the garden. It will provide the back drop (somewhat of a reredos) you will see when facing the altar and will be the feature you look up to see when you come to the center of the labyrinth.

The new meditation garden has been designed in consultation with Virginie Boinot, who designed our children's classrooms and Ministry Center, our contractor, and our landscape architect. The vestry is very excited about this new design and all the possibilities an outdoor chapel and labyrinth will bring to our life of worship here at St. Michael and All Angels. Work will begin on the new garden in early January.

Dan+

New Year, New Co-Chairs for Outreach

Julie Bellevue and Alexa Roman are proud to announce that they will be the new co-chairs for St. Michael's Community Outreach Project starting in January 2013! We would like to thank Meredith for doing a fantastic job leading multiple outreach efforts and building a solid foundation. We are grateful to her for all of her work and for passing the torch on to us. We are looking forward to connecting with our fellow parishioners and with the community through outreach activities. As newer parishioners, we are enthused by the generosity of the St. Michael's parish to give their time and money to these efforts. Please reach out and let us know what you would like to see from the SMCOP in 2013!

Sunday School Begins “Family Sing” on Sunday, January 27th

New Gathering Time for Sunday School

Beginning on Sunday, January 27th, we will introduce a new part of our Sunday School program, the “Family Sing.” Each Sunday, starting at 10:15 am, our children will meet their Sunday School teachers in the Ministry Center, where we will join together in fun and inspirational songs (for example, “This Little Light of Mine,” “Arky Arky,” “I’m Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”). At 10:30, once all of our children have gathered, we will go directly from the Ministry Center to the Sunday School classrooms for our “Seasons of the Spirit” activities. The children will rejoin their parents in church at the “Peace” as they have done in the past.

We believe the kids will really love the new Family Sing. The lyrics of the songs will put them in the spirit of Sunday, but also give them a chance to interact with the music through pantomime, movement and dance that puts their energy into action. We hope Family Sing will also be helpful to parents, as it will give them a chance to get their kids settled safely into Sunday School before the start of church services (although we will start the Family Sing at 10:15, parents are welcome to bring their kids to the Ministry Center any time between 10:15 and the start of Sunday School). And finally our Sunday School teachers will enjoy a few extra minutes in class, so they can more fully explore the rich material we are enjoying in our “Seasons of the Spirit” curriculum.

We hope everyone will enjoy the new Family Sing program. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for songs for the program or if you would like to participate by leading the singing or playing an instrument like guitar or piano (we have one in the Ministry Center). Everyone is invited to join in Family Sing—just touch base with Sarah Cook, our Sunday School director, or one of our other Sunday School teachers.

St. Michael’s Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 20, 12:00 Noon

The Annual Meeting of St. Michael and All Angels Parish will convene on Sunday, January 20, at noon in the Ministry Center. We will hear reports of work, review the old year and hear plans for the next year, and elect new vestry members. Read on to learn more about those nominated for the vestry.

Karen Andrews

I live in Valley Village where I’ve owned my home for 15 years. I’m caregiver to my mother, Bea, who moved from Texas after my father passed away five years ago. My sister, Linda now lives with me and helps with my mother’s care. I have worked at NBC Universal Studios over 25 years. I’ve been a member of St. Michael & All Angels over 2 years. I’m a musician who plays Traditional Irish fiddle and currently a member of 2 bands performing locally and within other musical ensembles, as well. I’m an artist/jewelry maker/crafter and have a dog sitting business which I operate from my home.

Bill Fields

Bill Fields, along with his husband Alan and their three kids, Liam, age 9, Aiden, age 7 and Caitlyn, age 6 have attended St. Michaels for a little over three years now. We have slowly become involved in several areas of the church and enjoy having a church home here. I currently serve on the vestry helping to finish out another member’s term. At our previous parish I also served on the vestry and as Junior Warden. I appreciate and respect the church family we have here and enjoy working with such a talented group of people. We currently live in Valley Village and I work for an activewear clothing company in Hollywood as their Chief Financial Officer.

Gail Green

Gail Green has been a member of the parish since 1992. During these years she has served on three previous vestries, twice been junior warden, served a number of terms as a delegate to Diocesan Convention and was chair of the search committee in 2003. On the diocesan level, she was secretary of Diocesan Council for several years and then a member of the Council. Currently she heads the parish altar guild and is a member of the choir. Retired now, she was a church administrator for 20 years at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. Gail spent her early life in the Boston area, graduated from Wellesley College and later came to Los Angeles in 1969 with her

then one-year-old son Chris, who now lives in the West Valley.

Janet Kirkpatrick

It doesn’t seem possible that St. Michael’s has been a part of my life for 30 years. My three children were baptized here and attended St. Michael’s Parish Day School. I have found friends that have become my family. In the past, I have served on the Vestry, done Coffee Hour and now I am part of the Altar Guild. During this time I have been working full time in healthcare and currently work for a provider of radiology services reviewing the appropriateness of imaging requests. I am very happy to have been asked to join the Vestry and look forward to helping grow this community.

Bill Wright

Bill Wright has been a member of St. Michael and All Angels parish since 2000, along with his wife, Gail and two daughters, Avery, 16 and Monie, 12, who was baptized at St. Mike’s. He has taught Sunday School, taking on the junior high group for six years, and conducted three confirmation classes. He has participated regularly in Men’s Group activities, introducing “monkey pancakes” to the Shrove Tuesday supper, MC-ing events at Big Sunday, and barbecuing at various events. He was born and raised in West Los Angeles, and from the time he was a toddler was schooled in sporting goods retail at his parents’ Beverly Hills ski and dive shop, Sunland Sports Lodge. He worked there through his years at University High School (class of ’76), two years at Pierce College and a transfer to Pepperdine University’s Seaver College (graduated 1983). His parents sold the business and after working for the new owner running a scuba diving store, Bill and partners purchased it and Bill managed it until it closed in 2006. He has since been a stay-at-home Dad and frequent volunteer at schools, on soccer teams, with Girl Scout troops and more, and in those early years also cared for his ailing parents.

Holiday Cheer

December 15, 2012



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The Calendar

January 2013

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Adult Learning Opportunity begins at 9:15 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
		1	2 7:30 PM Young Adults Group (L)	3 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	4 12:00 NOON Fourth Quarter Luncheon	5
6 Epiphany 12:00 NOON Healing Prayer Gathering (FR) 12:15 PM SMCOP 12:00 NOON Youth Group (L)	7	8	9	10 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	11	12
13 Epiphany 1 Baptism of Jesus	14	15	16	17 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	18 Confession of St. Peter	19
20 Epiphany 3 12:00 NOON Annual Meeting (MC) 5:00 PM Martin Luther King Commemoration (S)	21	22 7:00 PM Vestry	23	24 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	25 Conversion of St. Paul	26
27 Epiphany 4 12:00 NOON Pastoral Care Committee (FR)	28	29	30	31 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)		

Locations:
 CO Church Office
 MR Music Room
 FR Fireside Room
 MC Ministry Center
 L The Loft (for-
 merly the stage)
 S Sanctuary