



The Mike

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

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2 • February 2013

Lent and Love

By the Reverend Dan Justin

This year Ash Wednesday is observed on February 13th, the day before Valentine's Day. Lent begins one day before we celebrate love. At first glance this may be a bit of an odd juxtaposition. On Wednesday we will come to church, have ashes smeared on our foreheads, we will be reminded that life is short, we will hear that we are dust and we will return to dust. Many of us will make Lenten promises to give up various vices. Swearing off chocolate is a popular Lenten practice. But then the very next night we will celebrate love. Many will give gifts of chocolates. How bizarre that these two events sit right next to each other this year?

And yet, on second thought, it is not bizarre at all. When we think about Ash Wednesday, remembering that life is short and that we are nothing more than dust, we are reminded that we should spend our time focusing on those things that are the most important to us. Because life is short we should seek to live lives that are marked by love—love for God; love of spouses and partners; love of families; love of neighbors; even love for our enemies. Perhaps coming to church for Ash Wednesday one night and then going out to celebrate love on Valentine's Day should be the most normal thing in the world!

When it comes right down to it, Lent is really all about love in the first place. In Lent we read the stories of the life of Jesus who loved the world so much that he was willing to give his own life to save it. This story of Jesus is the story that the church tells again and again. Everything we do in church tells this story. Lent helps us to prepare ourselves for the most important part of the story. We strip away all the distractions; we simplify everything. That is why we enter this period of self-denial and devotion. So we can intently focus on this message of love that is played out in the life of Jesus.

How will you embrace both Lent and love this year? I suggest doing something different than normal. Perhaps giving up chocolates or soda or television is not enough. What if you made it a priority this Lent to do something loving each week? Why not make a plan? The possibilities are endless. You could set a special

date night each Friday in Lent with your love. You could do something unique and special with the family or with the kids each week. You could invite a group of friends to your home for dinners. And while we are focusing on doing extra loving things this Lent, why not include loving neighbors and strangers



and others. Is there a soup kitchen to serve in each week of Lent? Could you find ways to collect extra food for the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry during this time? These are just a few suggestions. I am sure if you took the time to think about it you could

come up with so many other ideas for you and your family. Lent, at its most basic level, is all about love—God's love for us. Lent helps us as we prepare to hear the ultimate story of Christ's life, love, sacrifice and resurrection. So this year let's fully live into the fact that Ash Wednesday is followed by Valentine's Day. Let's make this Lent all about love!

Blessings,

Dan+

Adult Formation

Don't miss our next St. Michael's Mid-Week, February 27th at 6:30 pm. This month's class is called:

Something Wicked This Way Comes, Part One

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.

If you plan to attend Mid-Week please be sure to RSVP at administrator@stmikessc.org. This will help us as we plan for food. Our menu for the evening includes: Salad, Chicken Curry, Vegetable Curry, Toppings for Curry—Chutney, coconut, currants, scallions, slivered almonds, bacon pieces—rice, chicken nuggets for the kids, and of course some dessert.

Lent

at St. Michael and All Angels

Ash Wednesday

Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Sundays during Lent

8:00 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

February 13

Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes

February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17

Holy Eucharist

Adult Learning Opportunity

Family Sing

Children's Sunday School

Holy Eucharist

Small Steps in Outreach

By Alexa Roman

Outreach can be defined as extending further, beyond conventional limits, to exceed expectations.

Any visitor setting foot inside St. Michaels can tell that this community is different. From the welcoming signs and banners adorning the building to the personal greeting you receive when you walk inside, St. Michaels breathes outreach.

Beyond the initial signs of what Father Dan calls "radical hospitality", the fellowship at St. Michaels centers around giving - Giving to one another through coffee hour, healing prayer, or Bible study; Giving to the community through more structured outreach work like the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry, Get on the Bus, and Holiday Cheer. No matter how much we do, as Christians we sometimes feel we are not giving enough.

It is important to remember that every act of giving—of outreach—is crucial and meaningful. The act of giving time, skills, or money—it can be small and have impact. It can be a phone call to a homebound parishioner,

one can of food for the food pantry, or simply showing up to coffee hour.

As we begin this new year, Julie and I are considering the questions—What is the best method for providing outreach? How do we (and how does the parish) prioritize what seems like a limitless list of vital causes?

We believe it starts with small actions.

We'd like to invite you to make a short list of these small actions. For some inspiration, you can take a look at the projects we are currently involved in here: www.stmikessc.org/outreach-community/community-projects/

A few notable needs to get you started:

- Visit the "Visitor's Center & Bookstore" at coffee hour and greet visitors to the

church.

- 2nd Sunday Sack Lunches—Donate a food item or help us make sandwiches at coffee hour.
- North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry—Volunteer to drop off the food donations.
- PRISM—Volunteer to be a prison chaplain or lead a Bible study downtown at Twin Towers.

We look forward to continuing the important and worthwhile tradition of outreach at St. Michaels with you. This parish is one that serves with joy and gratitude, which is a rare quality in such a busy metropolis. We are grateful to be a part of it.

(Please contact us at stmikesoutreach@gmail.com if you want to volunteer or need more information.)

February Birthdays

Day Name

4	Jack Pescherine
5	Donald Robertson
8	Peter Juzwiak
	Sophie Schmutz
11	Glenn Sunness
13	James Harvey
14	Patrick Holder
15	David Basta
	Jon Albert
	George Byrd
16	Ron Schwartz
20	Meredith Reese
	Naomi Fox
21	Anaïs Rodriguez
25	Lynne Lange
	Mia Chapman-Young
26	Miranda Cornwell
28	Michel Rodriguez

February Anniversaries

Day Name

3	John & Jenifer Schmutz
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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.*

It's Not Delivery, It's St. Michael's Young Adult Group!!!

By Paul Reese

St. Michael's Young Adult Group will be hosting a pizza party for the kids and families of Good Shepherd, A Center for Homeless Women & Children on Sunday, February 10th. There will be several activities including Valentine Making (a real hit with the romantics), Cupcake Decorating (a real hit with the artists), and of course Pizza Making (a real hit with the foodies). Beyond a few more volunteers, the Young Adult Group could really use the following donations: craft supplies for Valentine making (markers, construction paper, glue, etc.), cookies, healthy snacks, and supplies for cupcake decorating (icing, sprinkles, jimmies, etc.). St. Michaels partnered with Good Shepherd for last year's Pizza Party along with many great past Holiday Cheer events. As someone that has had



the opportunity to spend time with this organization and the children and families they assist, let me tell you how wonderful it feels to give and to be a part of this special day. A representative from the Young Adult Group will be available during Coffee Hour for the next few Sundays to collect anything you'd like to donate. For more information about donations or volunteering opportunities please contact either myself, Paul Reese, at 818.512.7042 or Eliza Dilberti at 703.380.3586.

Treasurer's Corner

December 2012—Revenue and Expense Summary

	December Actual	December Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 52,400	\$ 32,115	\$420,554	\$380,342
Total Expense	62,386	26,988	416,905	381,301
Net	\$ (9,986)	\$ 5,127	\$ 3,649	\$ (959)

From the Vestry

David Connors, Senior Warden
Bill Fields, Junior Warden



At our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 20, 2013, we welcomed five new members to the Vestry—Karen Andrews, Bill Fields, Gail Green, Janet Kirkpatrick, and Bill Wright. Karen, Bill Fields, Janet, and Bill Wright were all elected to three-year terms. Gail was elected to a one-year term to complete a term for someone else who was only able to serve two years.



Karen Andrews has been a member of the parish for two years. She and her sister Linda are the caregivers for their mother Bea. Karen is an artist/jewelry maker/crafter and operates a dog sitting business from her home. Janet Kirkpatrick has been a member of the parish for thirty years and has previously served on the Vestry. She works in healthcare and currently works for a provider of radiology services reviewing the appropriateness

of imaging requests. She is part of the Altar Guild and has assisted with Coffee Hour. Gail Green has been a member of the parish for over twenty years and also has previously served on the Vestry. Gail is a retired church administrator. She heads the Altar Guild and sings in the choir. Bill Wright has been a member of the parish for over twelve years. He has taught Sunday School classes, participates in the Men's Group, and has conducted three confirmation classes. Currently he is a stay-at-home dad and volunteers at schools, on soccer teams, and with Girl Scout troops.

Bill Fields has been a member of the parish for over three years. Bill is the Chief Financial Officer for an active wear company in Hollywood. At his previous church he served on the Vestry and as Junior Warden. He has already been serving on St. Michael's Vestry for the

past year as he was completing a term for someone who was not able to serve the entire three years. On January 20th Bill (along with Karen, Janet, and Bill Wright) was elected to a full three-year term. At the Vestry meeting on Tuesday, January 22nd, Bill Fields was elected by the Vestry to serve as the Junior Warden.

On Saturday, February 9th, the Vestry will have its annual retreat. At the retreat we will discuss the needs of our parish as well as the special gifts that each member of the Vestry brings to the team. At that time Vestry members will be paired with the parish ministry that best aligns with their own talents and we will make plans for 2013. If you have any issues of concern please let us know. The Vestry serve to assist with our worship and outreach as we all seek to become a more loving, caring, and prayerful community of faith.

Around the Campus

Meditation Garden

We are excited to report that work on our Meditation Garden has begun. When all is said and done we will have an amazing Meditation Garden and outdoor chapel. The vestry reviewed several different plans for this space. With the receipt of a very generous donation for the garden we are excited to see this space transformed. The new space will include a new waterfall, a labyrinth, an altar, new plants and trees, and new lighting. There will be additional benches for places to sit around the garden making the entire space much more user friendly. The current statue of St. Francis will remain in the garden but will be relocated to a new space surrounded by new

plants and shrubs. This will make the statue stand out even more. There will also be new plantings that will eventually grow around the fence. These will not only be very nice looking they will eventually grow tall enough to block the view of the restrooms and preschool area. Finally, the gate will have a new latch and will be self-closing in order to make the outdoor chapel and Meditation Garden accessible at all times. I am sure you will agree—the new garden will be a fantastic addition to our wonderful campus.

A New Fence

You will soon see a new feature on the campus—a seven and a half foot tall

privacy fence made of sail cloth designed to provide more safety and security for the Sunnyside Preschool. After our recent tree-trimming, the owners of the preschool and the parents of their students began to be concerned that the preschool had become a bit too visible from Coldwater Canyon Avenue. In the wake of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, the owners of Sunnyside submitted a request to the Vestry to add the privacy fence. After reviewing samples of the material and seeing an artist rendering of the proposed fence the Vestry unanimously voted to approve the plan.

The cloth fence will replace the current white picket fence which already surrounds the preschool. It will be a dark tan color. The advantage of the new fence is that it will allow greater continuity on the campus. Currently the preschool section of the campus is filled with bright colors and murals. This does not match the brown and red color scheme of the church. The new fence will now block the brightly colored preschool classrooms. As a result, the Vestry feels that the time is right to paint the east facing wall of the office building and the north facing wall of the Sunday School building so they match the rest of the campus.

The fence will be added to the campus in early February. The painting of the buildings, which will make all our buildings uniform, will take place shortly after the fence is completed.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—February 12, 6:30 pm

On Tuesday February 12th the Men's Group will be in the kitchen of the Ministry Center cooking up the traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Join us at 6:30 for an evening of fun for the whole family. This year there will be special events for children including games, Mardi Gras masks, and king cake. The children will close out the event with a mini Mardi Gras parade around the Ministry Center.



St. Michael's Men's Group Gears Up for February

By Ed Sugar

So far 2013 has gotten off to a great start for the Men's Group at St. Michael's. Our first meeting of the year was at the home of Ron Schwartz. The evening was filled with merriment and cheer as we chatted about the NFL playoffs, Oscar nominated films, and Manti Te'o's fake girlfriend. After enjoying a wonderful spaghetti dinner prepared by our host, Father Dan led us in a poignant discussion focusing on faith and fear in our current lives. We also unveiled and distributed our new line of St. Michael's Men's Group casual wear. A big Thank You! to Preston Fray, who put together this terrific ensemble of customized caps, t-shirts and hoodies!

On Tuesday February 19th, the Men's Group will be in the kitchen of the Ministry Center cooking up the traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. For the last 6 years Shrove Tuesday has taken on a special meaning as we honor the legacy of Henry Larsen. For 20 plus years, Henry was our pancake chef supreme and "Henry's Heavenly Hotcakes" were eagerly

greeted by the parish with expectation and satisfaction. How good are these pancakes? Good enough to have Henry's recipe forever enshrined in the Ministry Center kitchen. If you should wish to try whipping up a batch at home, here is the recipe for Henry's Heavenly Hotcakes:

6 cups Bisquick Mix
10 whole eggs
2 cups buttermilk
2 cups milk
1/3 cup vegetable oil
1 cup sugar

Rounding out February, a mere four days later, the Men's Group will have its monthly meeting on Saturday the 23rd, at 8:00 am in the Ministry Center. After a hot breakfast, Father Dan will lead a discussion concerning the key issues that face the men of the parish and their families. All adult males of the parish are welcomed to attend and share in the spirit that is St. Michael and All Angels.

Crucial Conversation

By Betsy Hailey

A Documentary Film and Discussion on the Subject of Torture and the Movie "Zero Dark Thirty"

A "Crucial Conversation" on the topic of torture will be held in the Ministry Center from 7:00 to 8:30 pm on Wednesday, February 20th. A screening of the 20-minute documentary "Ending U.S. Sponsored Torture Forever" produced by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) will be followed by a community forum. The topic has become front-page news again with the release of the film "Zero Dark Thirty" which implies that "enhanced interrogation" (i.e. torture) produced information leading to the capture of Osama Bin Laden—a conclusion contradicted by the findings of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Refreshments will be served and childcare will be provided.



Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

The Reverend Daniel J. Justin, Rector

A Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

"We are an Episcopal Church and we worship in that tradition, yet this is the Lord's Table. All people are welcome to receive communion here." I begin each and every 10:30 am Sunday Service with these words. To me they illustrate one of the hallmarks of this parish - hospitality. That "All Are Welcome" is a core value of this church. And yet, I have observed a problem that impacts this value and practice of hospitality. It is the way our parish receives communion.

We gather, either kneeling or standing, at the altar rail to be fed and nourished by Christ's body and blood. But each week I watch members of our community struggle to navigate the steps that lead to that altar rail. In just one year of serving here I have seen three people fall on those steps. Each week I watch our faithful ushers attempt to help people up and down those steps. It is difficult to watch. The simple fact is that for many older member of our parish those steps are not safe.

I do not believe we can allow this to continue. Beginning on Ash Wednesday – February 13, 2013 – I am asking the parish to grant us a season of experimentation. I would like to distribute communion from two stations on the main floor. Communicants will form two lines as normal where they will walk forward to receive communion. The chalices will be positioned on either side allowing people to receive both the bread and the wine without having to navigate the steps. A third communion station will provide the Sacrament to the choir so they will not have to come down the steps to receive.

I realize that this means people will not have the opportunity to kneel to receive communion – which is a distinctly Anglican tradition. I would like to highlight that word "tradition." The practice of kneeling to receive the Eucharist is just that – a tradition. There is no *theological* reason to receive communion kneeling. We love and embrace our Episcopal/Anglican traditions here at St. Michael and All Angels. But this an issue of safety and hospitality.

I have taken the opportunity to discuss this with several members of the parish who struggle with the steps. They have thanked me profusely for offering this change. I have also discussed this with the vestry and have received unanimous support for the change.

Finally, I would like to reinforce that this is currently being changed just for a season. We will listen to your thoughts, assess the practice, and make decisions to the continuation of the practice at the end of Lent. Oh, and by the way, there is one major advantage of serving communion in this new way – it will go much faster!

Please know, this change is currently only being implemented at the 10:30 am service. If you really miss kneeling at the altar rail you are always welcome to attend the 8:00 am service where that practice will continue. Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns.

Blessings,



The Very Reverend Daniel Justin
Rector

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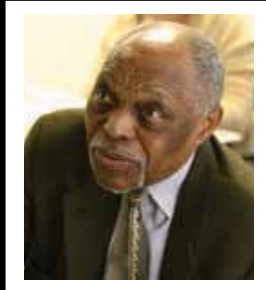
Members of St. Mike's are invited to attend the 6PM reception as guests of PCU in appreciation of your hosting the event. Voluntary contributions will still be welcomed. Reserve your space as a St. Mike's member directly with PCU Administrator Sean Patrick Coady: spcoady@pcu-la.org.

PCU'S ANNUAL EVENT: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

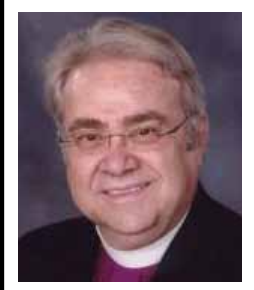
St. Michael & All Angel's Church: 3646 Coldwater Canyon Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604

6:00 PM ticketed cocktail reception and 7:00 PM free public program

HONORING OUR PROPHETIC ELDERS



Rev. Dr. Cecil Murray



Bishop Dean Nelson

The Gala Reception will feature delectable "finger food" and drinks

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: 35

(COUPLE TICKET: 60

STUDENT TICKET: 20

CREATIVELY MALADJUSTED

SUSTAINING A PROPHETIC MINISTRY ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

Free Public Program at 7:00 PM

YOUNGER SPIRITED ACTIVISTS WHO WILL SPEAK:



La Mikia Castillo is a recent masters graduate of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. She has worked as the lead organizer on several campaigns promoting economic justice, dignity and respect for security officers, hotel workers and farm workers, among others. She currently serves as a policy analyst with the LA County Department of Public Health's PLACE Program.



Patrisse Marie Cullors is a social justice organizer/artist based in Los Angeles. She is the founder and lead organizer of the coalition to End Sheriff Violence in L.A. Jails. She is also touring her latest performance artwork: *Stained: An Intimate Portrayal of State Violence and Mass Incarceration*.



Sarah Nolan is the Director of The Abundant Table, an Episcopal ministry in Ventura County focusing on creating sustainable relationships to land and community that are rooted in faith traditions. Sarah is also a worker/owner of the South Central Farmers' Cooperative and runs their Community Supported Agriculture Program, which provides locally grown organic vegetables to families throughout LA County.



The Calendar

February 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 10:15 with Family Sing in the Ministry Center; 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
 MR Music Room
 FR Fireside Room
 MC Ministry Center
 L The Loft (formerly the stage)
 S Sanctuary

1
 12:00 NOON
 Fourth Quarter
 Luncheon (MC)

2 Presentation of
 Our Lord

3 Epiphany 4

12:00 NOON Healing
 Prayer Gathering
 (Cancelled)
 12:00 NOON Youth
 Group (L)

4

6:15 PM Book
 Discussion
 Group (Jacobson
 home)

5

6

7:30 PM Young
 Adults Group (L)

7

7:30 PM Choir
 Rehearsal (MR)

8

9

10 Epiphany Last

11

12

6:30 PM Shrove
 Tuesday Pancake
 Supper (MC)
*See page 3 for
 details.*

13 Ash Wednesday

12:00 NOON Ash
 Wednesday
 Liturgy (S)
 7:00 PM Ash
 Wednesday
 Liturgy (S)

14

15

16

17 Lent 1

12:00 NOON Healing
 Prayer Gathering (FR)

18 Presidents' Day

6:00 PM PCU
 Event (MC, S)

19

7:00 PM Vestry (L)

20

7:00 PM Crucial
 Conversation
 (MC) *See page 4
 for details.*

21

7:30 PM Choir
 Rehearsal (MR)

22

23

24 Lent 2

25 St. Matthias

26

27

6:30 PM Mid-Week
 (MC)

28

St. Michael and All Angels Church

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William Fields, Junior Warden

Peter Juzwiak, Treasurer

Alex Morales, Clerk

Karen Andrews

Sarah Cook

Gail Green

Betsy Hailey

Mary Ann Jacobson

Janet Kirkpatrick

Hank Meiman

Meredith Reese

William Wright

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THE MIKE STAFF

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Duane Steadman

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Editor Emerita

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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.