



The Mike

The Newsletter of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Studio City, CA
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Our Sacred Path The New Labyrinth at St. Michael and All Angels

By the Very Reverend Dan Justin

If you have been to church more than once over the past year I am certain you will have noticed the transformation that has taken place in our Meditation Garden. In August we removed six Canary Pine Trees which experts told us needed to either be removed or severely trimmed and cabled. The unfortunate side effect of removing those trees was that the remainder of our garden did not survive. By September our Meditation Garden looked a bit more like the Mojave than what we ever expected.

The vestry was faced with a choice—we could recreate the old garden by replanting new trees, bushes, and shrubs and by repairing the old fountain. Or, we could use this opportunity to do something new. The vestry chose to do something new. And I think we can all agree that what has been accomplished in that garden is almost nothing short of resurrection.

We now have an inviting and useful Meditation Garden and outdoor chapel. The old fountain has been replaced by a new waterfall which serves as a reredos for the new altar. We have four new trees and many new plants. But the real center point of the new garden is the labyrinth.

The labyrinth is an ancient tool of spirituality. They can take many different forms, sizes and shapes. The labyrinth is not a maze—a maze is meant to confuse the person trying to walk its path. The walker is required to make choices as to which way to turn and some of those choices will be wrong and lead to dead ends. A labyrinth has but one path. The walker will face many twists and turns, they will sometimes go where they did not expect, but if they stay on the path, they will make it to the center.

The labyrinth is a tool for meditation and prayer. Many have asked me to consider teaching a class on how to walk the labyrinth. I assure you—that will be available in the very near future. In the meantime, there are numerous resources and ideas that can help

you as you explore this tool. Our bookstore is currently selling the Rev. Lauren Artress' book *Walking a Sacred Path: Rediscovering the Labyrinth as a Spiritual Practice*. Lauren Artress is an Episcopal priest and has done extensive



research on the labyrinth. Her book will be a wonderful guide to get you started.

Alternatively, you could also just start to walk the labyrinth. As you walk you may choose to think about a particular problem

you are experiencing or seeking an answer for. You may choose to consider the path of your life—where you are heading, what is God calling you to do? When you reach the center just stand there and reflect, pray, offer your life to God, see how you feel. Then as you walk the labyrinth in reverse consider how you can go from this place out into the world living in the ways God has revealed to you. You may choose to read scripture as you walk the labyrinth. I have found that when I have a particularly difficult day or am frustrated I calm myself through the labyrinth walk. I pray

as I walk and offer to God that which troubles me. As I stand in the center I invite God to fill me with Christ's peace. Then as I walk the labyrinth the other direction I ask God to help bring that peace with me out into the world.

There are just as many ways to walk the sacred path as there are people who choose to walk it. The only wrong way to walk it is to not walk it at all. What will God speak to your heart as you quiet yourself and walk the labyrinth? There is only one way to find out...and the gate to that garden is always open.

Blessings,

Dan+

Adult Learning Opportunities

There will be No 9:15 am Adult Learning in June

Our 9:15 am Adult Learning will take a break during the month of June. We will return for four meetings in July with a new topic.

Supply Priest Welcome

The Rev. Canon Mark Shier Will Preside and Preach in June

St. Michael and All Angels welcomes the Rev. Canon Mark Shier as our presiding priest and preacher for three Sundays starting June 9th while Fr. Dan is away for his studies. We are thrilled to have Fr. Mark with us again. For those who may be newer to the parish, Fr. Mark led the church as our long-term supply priest during the transition from the time of the departure of our Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Canon Henry Atkins, until Fr. Dan was called as the new rector. Fr. Mark retired from full-time ministry after thirty-two years as Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fullerton, CA. He is married to Duane Steadman, St. Michael's Parish Administrator. You will certainly be blessed by Fr. Mark's ministry with us this month.



Why We Continue to Protest Against Torture?

By Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey

Our banner proclaims "Torture Is Always Wrong." Isn't this a given, especially for a community of faith? Every major religion sees every human being as a child of God and this concept informs our moral precepts. It was a founding principle of our country, beginning with

George Washington, who forbade his soldiers to use torture even though it was being used against them. But in the days following 9/11 our government went to "the dark side," attempting to redefine torture to justify its use.

In December 2013, by a bipartisan vote of 9 to 6, the Senate Intelligence Committee approved a more than 6,000-page report on the CIA's use of torture on post 9/11 detainees. The report was the result of a more than 3-year investigation during which the Committee reviewed over 5 million pages of documents. To date, none of the report has been made public.

June is Torture Awareness Month, and the peace and justice committee of St. Michael's is working with our interfaith partners ICUJP (Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace) and NRCAT (National Religious Campaign Against Torture) to form an interfaith delegation to the LA office of Sen. Diane Feinstein, head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, asking her to release the report to the public. It is imperative that the facts about U.S. government-sponsored torture be made known to ensure that it never happens again. Members of the committee have said that, contrary to films like "Zero Dark Thirty," the report shows that torture did not provide critical intelligence and that its use may have been counterproductive for our national security.

So, torture is not only immoral but ineffective.

We are also joining in a letter-writing campaign to thank Sen. Feinstein for her leadership on this issue and to encourage her to release the report to the public. We urge all of you, as concerned Christians, to add your voices to this campaign. Letters should be faxed to 202.228.3954 then a hard copy mailed to:

Sen. Diane Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Summertime Music at St. Michael's

By Kristen Toedtman

June 2nd marks the last "choir Sunday" of the scheduled season until the fall. Following that, as in years past, we will shift to Summer mode. What's that, you ask? Based on our various availabilities, I devise a schedule in which we always have, at minimum, the organ plus a cantor. Periodically, that configuration is augmented to be organ plus 2 cantors; organ plus quartet, and even organ plus choir, once a month. Additionally, as we bid farewell to our soprano soloist Molly McKnight, I will be searching for a new soprano. Therefore, you may see a new face and hear a new voice as I go through that process. I'm very excited to bring the best to our church and continue to grow the music program at St. Michaels to the best it can be.

Incidentally, you may have heard the buzz ... or the ringing ... that by the enthusiasm and drive of some members of the congregation, St. Michaels is forming a hand bell choir! It's an exciting undertaking about which I am absolutely thrilled and our own Polly Davis will be directing. Stay tuned and keep your ears open!

And finally, from the stirrings within the choir and my long-standing desire to somehow, someday, carry over the beauty of Christmas caroling into the summer ... the choir will be scheduling a time to visit nearby nursing homes and share some of our favorite anthems from this year. If you'd like to help with planning, driving, a reception (we could reprise our set *chez toi?*) or simply join the entourage, do let me know by phone, e-mail or after worship. We have not yet planned this and a date has not yet been chosen, but I know already how meaningful it will surely be.

To quote myself a mere paragraph ago: Stay tuned and keep your ears [and hearts and minds] open!.

June Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Polly Davis
6	Jane Wilson
8	Rowan McCarthy
9	Jack Beckner
	Leonard Harman
10	Lily Rodriguez
	Darius Hoomani
15	Alexis Walker
16	John Vincent
20	Ricki Sawyer
25	Annie Juzwiak DeRose
26	Emily Taylor
27	Dalton Taylor
29	Lorraine Smith
30	Linda Andrews
	Joan Dektar

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.*

Communications Update

By Karen Andrews

The request for volunteers in the last newsletter for our newly created Communications Commission was well received. Thank you for volunteering! We have a bevy of creatively gifted people attending our parish every week and therefore the call goes out again that we are still in need of more team volunteers and especially a Commission Chair who will take charge of leading the team to realize our parish goals in communicating our parish ministries. Our Rector Fr. Dan, our Senior Warden David Connors and our Communications Commission team will then be in place and ready to roll. Please let us know of your interest in this wonderful ministry. Contact Karen Andrews at fiddledee@roadrunner.com or please talk to Fr. Dan or David Connors. We look forward to hearing from you!

Treasurer's Corner

April 2013—Revenue and Expense Summary

	April Actual	April Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 28,601	\$ 33,805	\$ 154,321	\$ 135,221
Total Expense	43,071	43,978	149,308	145,627
Net	\$ (14,470)	\$ (10,173)	\$ 5,013	\$ (10,406)



Paradigm, now that is a word that might scare many people. It only means change, but tends to strike fear in those that hear it especially if it pertains to them. Change is something that many of us struggle with, but in this particular case I must assure you that the many changes going on around our campus are for the better and for our future. The beautification process is still in full swing, which is most evident in the meditation garden that is almost completed. There are so many wonderful uses for this amazing outdoor space that I cannot wait to discover how we go about finding them—maybe outdoor services, an outdoor baptism, or a great space for the blessing of the animals?

Sunnyside Preschool has approached us about placing a large canopy over the playground in the back of the classrooms. It will be large enough to shade much of the play area which will be great news for all our little ones (or not so little ones) that will be able to continue to enjoy the apparatus and playground well into the hot summer months. The Vestry has approved this project so look for further progression and news on that front. One of the biggest changes to mention is the blast of cold air we have

been able to feel over the last few Sunday mornings. With the addition of the new air conditioning units over the last few months the sanctuary has been able to stay cool over the last few weeks, I truly think this blessing will not be fully noticed until around late July or August when that Valley heat really kicks in.

See I told you that change was not all bad ... we are such a blessed group of people and want to remain thankful for all this and more that God has given to our parish.

In more local news we are still continuing to stay close to the Harvard-Westlake parking structure proposal. We are continuing to stay abreast of all the information so that, if needed, we can lend our support to such an important issue for our parish.

Stay cool and let the Summer begin—our first parish activity kicking off the season is a pool party at the home of Betsy Hailey on June 2nd—look for the details and we'll see you all there!

Bill Fields

The SoldierCare Project

By David Rosenberg

The SoldierCare Project, part of Saint Michael's Outreach Ministries is entering its seventh year of compassionate connecting to the wounded and PTSD veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. This year, SoldierCare is looking to expand the opportunities for hosting these remarkable young men and women, as well as encouraging more participation from parishioners.

In past years, SoldierCare has hosted a luncheon during Big Sunday for veterans, followed by a big three-day weekend for eight to ten veterans, including a Dodgers game, a private movie studio tour, and meals with actors from television and film. With the increased number of veterans surviving amputations, repeated traumatic brain injury, and multiple tours of duty, we have been asked by various veteran groups to step up and create more support for this community.

The goal is to be able to expand the number of events during the year. SoldierCare already put together a day of support and R and R for eight severe PTSD veterans in April that included a sailing expedition, a studio tour, and a meal with actors. The big summer

weekend will be July 27-29, 2013, and we are looking forward to hopefully creating an event in the fall.

Parishioners are being asked to suggest experiences that they can offer as program components—a restaurant that can host them for a meal (donation), special events like amusement park tickets or a sporting event or a VIP house party, a BBQ/pool party, tours, or special one-of-a-kind experiences. In addition, we are providing year-round one-on-one experiences for veterans coming through town or needing help—from taking a vet who is having surgery out for lunch to supporting a young vet with a family who needs household items.

Please watch this newsletter for the date of an overview meeting during coffee hour, as well as participation opportunities. For these opportunities and more, check out the Outreach eventbrite: www.stmikesoutreach.eventbrite.com.

We are also looking for volunteers to form a SoldierCare Committee. To sign up or for more information, please contact Julie and Alexa at stmikesoutreach@gmail.com.

St. Michael's Men's Group

By Ed Sugar

For those who were unable to attend, the Men's Group had a fabulous May meeting at the home of Alex Morales and David Connors. The pre-meal discussion covered a variety of topics ranging from the state of Virginia, raising children, favorite dogs, youthful indiscretions and the LA mayoral race. After our chicken dinner, courtesy of our hosts, we engaged in a discussion on the second commandment against worshipping idols. We spoke about the different things in our lives that can become idols for us and how we, as men of the parish, can start putting God first before that which can become or is an idol for us today. And then we went back discussing more youthful indiscretions.

The Men's Group has a number of events on their docket for the month of June. On June 2nd, we will be lending a hand setting up, bartending, and cleaning up at the Pool Party on June 2nd at Betsy Hailey's home. On June 15th we will gather for our monthly meeting at the Ministry Center. For those of you who have not attended these mornings of food, faith, and fellowship, we start at 8:00am with a hot breakfast. Not to be missed. Finally on June 30th our grilling team will be out in full force cooking up a storm at Beeman Park for St. Michael's first picnic of the summer.

If you have any questions or require more information about the Men's Group, please feel free to contact me at 818.364.9412 or at edsugar@ca.rr.com.



The Calendar

June 2013

Sunday Schedule • Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.
 • Adult Learning Opportunity will not meet in June, but will resume in July.
 • 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

9:00 AM
Newcomers
Breakfast and
Class (MC)

2 Pentecost 2

12:00 NOON Healing
Prayer Gathering
12:00 NOON Youth
Group (L)
3:00 PM Pool Party
(Haily Residence)

3

6:15 PM Book
Discussion
Group (Woods
Residence)

4

5

7:30 PM Young
Adults Group (L)

6

7

8

9 Pentecost 3

11:30 AM Second Sunday
Sack Lunches (MC)

10

11 St. Barnabas
the Apostle

12

13

14

12:00 NOON
Fourth Quarter
Luncheon (MC)

15

8:00 AM Men's
Group (MC)

16 Pentecost 4

17

18

7:00 PM Vestry (L)

19

20

21

22

23 Pentecost 5

11:30 AM Prayer Shawl
Ministry (MC)

24 Nativity of John
the Baptist

25

26

27

28

29 St. Peter and
St. Paul

30 Pentecost 6

9:15 AM Pastoral Care
Committee (FR)

12:00 NOON Parish
Picnic (Beeman Park)

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