



# The Mike

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

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 10 • December 2013

## Busy Time

*By the Very Reverend Dan Justin*

**"S**o, you must be getting ready for your busy time?" The question came from my doctor during a recent routine check-up. In between my flu shot and listening to my breathing, my doctor was making small talk asking about how I was preparing for Advent and Christmas. I said, "Yes, it is my busy time, but it is also my favorite time." I love Advent. The days grow darker earlier; there is a sense of expectancy in the air. Christmas is coming. Jesus is coming. Advent is the season of watching and waiting.

I must say though, selling the idea of Advent seems to be more and more difficult each year. Our consumer culture does everything in its power to skip Advent and jump right to Christmas. Amazingly enough, I started seeing Christmas commercials the week before Halloween! And the season of Advent does seem to become our busiest time. We have decorations to put up, gifts to buy, parties to go to, cards to mail, and cookies to bake. We have peace on earth and good will towards all people to spread and that takes a lot of time! Who has time for Advent anymore? Of course, the busier we become, the less peace we really have.

Advent is a season with a dual focus. Yes, we wait for the coming of the Christ child in Bethlehem; but we also watch and wait for Christ to come into our world again. Advent both looks back and looks forward at the same time. That is why our Gospel readings in Church on Sundays in this season begin with Jesus' messages about his second coming. The season begins with looking to the future—watching and waiting for Jesus to return. The season then moves to looking back—remembering the birth of Jesus. Advent should be the time when we slow down and take notice of these things. Advent should be the time when we become more attentive to the things of God. The busyness of the season can become a distraction. We are invited to watch and wait for all the ways that Christ comes to us in our everyday life.

**T**his year I want to invite you to consider ways you can live more fully into the season of Advent. How can you slow down and live more fully into the watching and waiting



this season gives us? How can you become more attentive to all the ways we see Christ coming to us in our everyday lives? There are actually lots of strategies for this. Two of the most popular are Advent calendars and Advent wreaths. Both of these are tools

that allow you to focus more intently on this idea of watching and waiting. In addition, you may want to consider an Advent devotional book. There are many to choose from. These books provide you with scripture readings and a reflection for each day of the Advent season. You could choose to either start your day or end your day with this tool. Another idea to focus on Advent is through the Episcopal Relief and Development's Gifts for Life program. ER-D provides opportunities to donate to specific projects that provide much needed relief and support for some of the

neediest people in the world. It is in the face of the needy, hungry, and suffering that we are most likely to see the face of Jesus. So setting ourselves to tasks of service and care for the poor is one of the best ways we can observe Advent this year.

Whichever way you choose to observe it, do not allow Advent to be lost in the busy time the holidays inevitably bring. As the great preacher and scholar Fred Craddock once said, "You can skip Advent and go directly to Christmas if you want—but you won't find Jesus there." Join me this Advent in watching and waiting for the coming of Christ. Let's embrace these days and live fully into this season. The joy of Christmas will be just that much richer when Advent comes to an end.

Blessings,

Dan+

## 2013 Advent and Christmas Schedule

<b>Advent Lessons and Carols</b>	Sunday, December 1st, at 5:00 pm
<b>Holiday Cheer</b>	Saturday, December 14th, at 10:00 am
<b>Blue Christmas</b>	Wednesday, December 18th, at 7:00 pm
<b>Children's Pageant</b>	Tuesday, December 24th, at 5:00 pm
<b>The Holy Eucharist</b>	Tuesday, December 24th, immediately after the pageant
<b>Christmas Eve Reception</b>	Tuesday, December 24th, immediately after 5:00 pm service
<b>Christmas Music</b>	Tuesday, December 24th, at 9:30 pm
<b>The Holy Eucharist</b>	Tuesday, December 24th, at 10:00 pm
<b>Christmas Morning Breakfast</b>	Wednesday, December 25th, at 9:00 am in Ministry Center
<b>Christmas Day Service</b>	Wednesday, December 25th, at 10:00 am



# St. Nicholas Celebration

St. Michael's will welcome a special guest on Sunday, December 8th—St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra, will once again visit our Sunday School. Children will leave their shoes outside their classrooms and the bishop will leave the traditional gifts for each child—chocolate coins and oranges.

St. Nicholas lived in the early days of Christianity. It is thought that he was one of the bishops who attended the Council of Nicaea in 325. He was honored as a Saint in the sixth century. Little is actually known about the life of St. Nicholas. He is

remembered as the traditional patron of seafarers and sailors, and more especially, of children. As a bearer of gifts to Children, his name was brought to America by Dutch colonists in New York, from whom he is popularly known as Santa Claus.

His feast day is on December 6th and Episcopal Churches in many places celebrate this feast day on the closest Sunday to December 6th. The visit of St. Nicholas is a fun time for kids as well as providing an opportunity to learn a little bit about the history of the church.



## Blue Christmas

Blue Christmas is a service which recognizes that the holidays are not a source of joy for many people. For some, they are a time of pain, depression, loneliness, and grief. Difficulty and depression at the holidays can be present for any number of reasons.

Blue Christmas is, at its core, a healing service. It will not look like any other service offered here at St. Michael's. The sanctuary will be lit primarily by candle light. The music will be different. It will be a quiet, contemplative service with healing prayer and the anointing with oil made available. The service will also include the Holy Eucharist.

We gather as a community to honor, pray for, and bless those members or friends for whom

this holiday is difficult. And of course, all are welcome to attend—even if you are not blue this Christmas. Join us as we pray for others.

The Blue Christmas service will take place on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, at 7:00 pm in the church.

## December Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Mary Ann Jacobson Hallie Walker
2	Brett Wong
11	Hanna Rafter Frances Burd
15	Laz Meiman
18	Caroline Smith
19	Preston Fray
24	André Herrmann
25	Amy Byrd Matthew Aukee
28	Avery Wright
29	Cliff Dektar Ed Sugar
31	Nancy Zeller

## December Anniversaries

Day	Name
5	Jeff & Kendra Walker
10	Jay & Marjie Hathaway

### 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.*

**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!*

## Treasurer's Corner

### October 2013—Revenue and Expense Summary

	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 30,885	\$ 33,805	\$380,568	\$338,053
Total Expense	34,171	32,443	342,848	335,426
Net	\$( 3,286)	\$ 1,362	\$ 37,720	\$ 2,627



Christmas can still change the world. This is on one of the banners hanging in front of the church. It reads: Christmas can still change the world. This season, Spend less, Give more, Help those in need. Every time I see that banner it reminds of what Christmas (and being a Christian) is all about.



Whereas I do admit that I really love Christmas music, I also really love Advent music as well. Our church has been decorated with the Advent greens and with the Advent wreath. We begin each Sunday service with the lighting of the Advent wreath and our service music has changed to reflect the new season. This environment helps me to keep the meaning of Christmas in focus.

The rampant commercialization of Christmas makes it difficult for us to spend less. Every time we watch TV, see a billboard, or go online, society is flooding with all the new gadgets that are available. The overwhelming message is to spend, spend, spend. I am trying to resist the urge to spend and concentrate on giving. Giving of our time and talent is as important as giving of our treasure. It may be as simple as a friendly greeting to coworkers at 6:30 am on the elevator. It may be volunteering to assist with Holiday Cheer on Saturday, December 14th.

There are many ways to help those in need. One thing that helps me is the fellowship I experience every Sunday at St. Michael's. This season I will try to spend less, give more, and help those in need. I invite you to join me on this journey.

## Let's get to work...

by Christopher Montella

In seminary, many of our discussions tend to focus on the concept of mission. These discussions are engaged on several levels relating to the mission of the Church in the world, the mission of our congregations and our personal missions. The Rector recently closed one of his sermons with a call to action. While preaching on a passage from Paul's Second Letter to the Thessalonians, he warned us against idleness and invited us to "get to work". I admit that I left church that day challenged to figure out, in the context of the studies I am doing in seminary and what I am doing here at St. Michael's and the work I hope to do in the future, what getting to work means for me. It seemed like a daunting task but then I realized that the perfect opportunity to engage this was being presented to me in the form of the season of Advent. This is a time of preparation as we wait, with hope, for the birth of Jesus Christ. While many focus on the fact that another year is about to come to a close and tend to reflect back on the year that has past, we are actually at the beginning of a new year in the life of the Church.

Of course, this is also the time of year when people start thinking about the calendar year ahead and begin planning what they are going to pick as a new year's resolution. Resolutions lift up something we intend to do and most often they are for our personal benefit. We are going to work on something about ourselves. We say that we are going to work on our fitness, or our finances, or our homes or our eating habits or any number of other things that we feel we need improve about our lives. What I have been thinking about and what I think might be exciting for all of us is that we should lean into the invitation from the Rector and from Paul and consider what work we are being called to in the

context of our lives in the world as Christians. Use the season of Advent as a time of personal reflection with the intention of determining what you are called to do in the world and then cast your gaze forward and go out and do the work.



You don't need any fancy tools to figure out what your personal mission is, just your open heart and the desire. Here at St. Michael and All Angels it is through our worship and practice

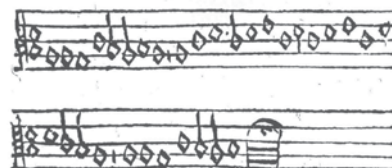
that we seek to grow in our faith, which leads to service in the world so that we can be what Dan described in that same sermon as "love-spreading difference makers". Author James Lemler in his book *Transforming Congregations* writes "Christian practices 'perfect' the experience of faith within us" and he goes on to describe some of these practices as service, evangelism, stewardship, and hospitality all of which take time and effort. The Book of Common Prayer even has what it calls "A Form of Commitment to Christian Service" which is intended for those who wish to "make or renew a commitment to the service of Christ in the world, either in general terms or upon undertaking some special responsibility". It ends with a prayer that asks God to "strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness and service to the world, and of service to others". I invite you to reflect on that this Advent. Think about what you can do. Think about what we can do as a community. Then, rather than making a resolution for the new year, make a commitment to service and then let's get to work!

## New 9:15 am Adult Learning Topic—The Songs of the Season (the Advent season that is!)

This year our Advent Study will be an exploration of four different hymns we will sing in church during the weeks of Advent. We will look at the text of the hymn, discover the story it tells, explore the theology it presents, and search for the scriptural basis for the text. Our goal will be to gain a better understanding of the themes presented each week of Advent. Not only that, but we will be able to sing these hymns in church with an even greater appreciation bringing new life to our worship. Here is the schedule we will follow:

<b>December 1st</b>	Hymn 73
<i>The King shall come when morning dawns</i>	
<b>December 8th</b>	Hymn 75
<i>There's a voice in the wilderness crying</i>	
<b>December 15th</b>	Hymn 66
<i>Come, thou long-expected Jesus</i>	
<b>December 22nd</b>	Hymn 54
<i>Savior of the nations come!</i>	

¶ Hymnus. Veni redemptor gentium.



¶ Du komm der Heyden heyland der Jungfrauen  
kynd erkennend. Das sich wunder alle welt / Gott  
solch gepurt yhm befehl.



## HOLIDAY CHEER! 2013

# Join us for Holiday Cheer!

By Alexa Roman

It's that time of year again—Holiday Cheer is Saturday, December 14th from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

For any new members, Holiday Cheer is an annual holiday celebration of good cheer, food, crafts, activities, and gift-giving. We partner with Good Shepherd and Mend to invite families in need to St. Michaels so we can celebrate together and share in the holiday spirit. There are many ways to get involved and we'd love your help!

You can find all these opportunities on: [holidaycheer13.eventbrite.com](http://holidaycheer13.eventbrite.com)

### Buy a gift and/or an outfit for a child (Prep)

We'll give you a wishlist for a child. You can buy both the gift and the outfit or one or the other. We usually recommend that people spend around \$25-50 on the gifts and outfits. You should feel free to spend whatever you are comfortable with, but we ask that you don't spend more than around \$50 on any one thing so that no child gets more than the others.

### Be Santa Claus! (Day of event)

We need a Santa and have the outfit ready! If you or someone you know and trust is willing to be our Santa, please let us know by sending

an email to [stmikesoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesoutreach@gmail.com)

### Shop for prep supplies (Prep)

We need shoppers for the craft tables and baking supplies.

### Bake gingerbread cakes (Prep)

We need 5 to 6 people to bake gingerbread cakes the day or two before Holiday Cheer. We reimburse supplies and provide the pans.

### Decorate Friday night

We start decorating on Friday night from 5:00 to 9:00pm. There are a few shifts available.

### Elf Room (Day of event)

Help organize the gifts and wrap any gifts that are not wrapped. Then, help distribute the gifts to the kids (the best part!)

### Craft Tables, Knitting, Sports, Comedy and Activities (Day of event)

There are many different tables as well as outdoor activities for the kids. Help out at one of the tables on the actual day!

### Check-In or Clean-Up Crew (Day of event)

Keep up running smoothly by joining our check-in or clean-up crews. Check out the shifts on EventBrite.

Please check out all of the opportunities on [holidaycheer13.eventbrite.com](http://holidaycheer13.eventbrite.com) or, find Meredith, Julie, or Alexa at coffee hour.

You can also reach us at [stmikesoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesoutreach@gmail.com)

Here's to another great Holiday Cheer!



Scenes from Holiday Cheer 2012.

# Meet Parke Perine—Bringing a Little Broadway to St. Michael's

By Alexa Roman

Anyone who has met Parke Perine knows that he is one special guy. He always greets you with a big smile, a comfortable chair, and a joke or two. Never at a loss for words, Parke tells incredible stories of his days on Broadway and working in the studios of Hollywood. Beyond his professional success, Parke has been a faithful member of St. Michael and All Angels, along with his late wife Flavia. Together, they brought life and light to this parish for years and continue to do so through heartwarming stories and everlasting fellowship.

I have had the pleasure of visiting Parke a few times this past year and while I was not fortunate enough to meet Flavia—I feel like I know her through tales I've heard from Parke and other parishioners. In the times I have visited Parke, he has told such vibrant, comedic stories. I wanted to share a few of them with you in hopes that they would be retold for years to come.

Parke grew up in a small town in Delaware where he also attended college. He describes his childhood fondly and even has a painting of his hometown from one of his art teachers on his wall in his home. He moved to New York City in pursuit of acting on the grand stages of Broadway. It wasn't long before he got his big break in "The World of Susie Wong".

Parke tells the story of that first audition—remembering carefully when he watched the play for the first time. He was taking over a role from another actor and was studying his new part in action. Parke says he couldn't believe the beauty of his co-star when he first saw her. That co-star was Flavia and they hit it off (nearly) right away [Parke says Flavia wasn't sure about him]. They traveled around the country in that show and became close friends. The two wed in 1960 (and lived happily ever after.)

They moved out to LA in the mid-60s and Parke started assistant directing and producing theater and local broadcasting. One day, he received an opportunity to become an associate producer on *The Rookies*. It was a huge win for Parke because not only was he producing a big show, but he started writing scripts. When Parke retells this story, he says something like "you know they pay you to write screenplays?!" To this day, he seems incredulous that he's been paid to write, produce, and act—in his words, paid to have fun—his whole life.

Parke and Flavia raised quite a family of two daughters as well as several grandchildren. Flavia became a teacher and school librarian in Los Angeles, while Parke wrote, acted, and produced for several famous shows including *Fame*, *Starsky and Hutch*, *Our House*, *Knots Landing*, *Dennis the Menace*, and *The Hatfields and the McCoys*.

If you have a chance to meet Parke, you'll find that he has more life in him than you see in most young people these days. He's a gentle, joyful, and tremendously entertaining person. I feel lucky to have met him. He represents what makes St. Michael and All Angels such a unique parish—gratitude, kindness, generosity, and the ability to enjoy every minute.



You can read more about Parke and Flavia here:

**The Story of FAME on TV**  
<http://bit.ly/FameTV>

**Flavia and Parke on learning Chinese**  
<http://bit.ly/FlaviaParke>

**Flavia's Story**  
<http://bit.ly/FlaviaPerine>

**Parke's IMDB profile**  
<http://bit.ly/ParkePerine>





# HOLIDAY CHEER!

2013

*A Celebration for Families in Need (of Good Cheer!)*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> FROM 8AM – 2PM



## VOLUNTEER TO:

SHOP for a child

DECORATE and set up on Friday, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>

PITCH IN on the day of Saturday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

## SIGN UP:

[www.holidaycheer13.eventbrite.com](http://www.holidaycheer13.eventbrite.com)



*Holiday Cheer benefits the families of*  
MEND and Good Shepherd-Angel Guardian Shelters

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
3646 Coldwater Canyon Ave, Studio City, CA 91604  
[stmikesoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesoutreach@gmail.com)



# The Calendar

December 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 in the Ministry Center*  
 • *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
<b>1</b> Advent 1 11:30 am Healing Prayer Gathering (FR) 12:00 noon St. Michael's Outreach (CO) 12:00 noon Youth Group (L) 5:00 pm Advent Lessons and Carols (S)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm Young Adults Group (L) 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (MR)	<b>5</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	<b>6</b> Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342 Diocesan Convention, December 6 & 7	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Advent 2 11:30 am Second Sunday Sack Lunches (MC) 11:30 am Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Finance Committee (CO)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (MR)	<b>12</b> 7:30 pm Informal Choir Practice (MR)	<b>13</b> 5:00 pm Setup for Holiday Cheer! (MC) 6:00 pm Christmas Caroling (Meet in Music Room)	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Holiday Cheer! (MC)
<b>15</b> Advent 3 11:30 am Healing Prayer Gathering (FR) 12:15 pm Young Adults Group (Panera, 12131 Ventura Blvd)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service (S) 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (MR)	<b>19</b> 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Saint Thomas
<b>22</b> Advent 4 11:30 am Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve <i>Parish Office closed</i> 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist & Christmas Pageant (S) 10:00 pm Holy Eucharist (S)	<b>25</b> Christmas Day <i>Parish Office closed</i> 9:00 am Christmas Day Breakfast (MC) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (S)	<b>26</b> Saint Stephen <i>Parish Office closed</i>	<b>27</b> Saint John	<b>28</b> Holy Innocents
<b>29</b> Christmas 1 11:30 am Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve <i>Parish Office closed</i>				

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

## St. Michael and All Angels Church

3646 Coldwater Canyon Ave., Studio City, CA 91604

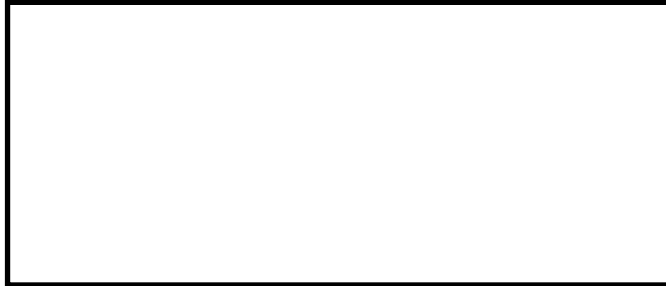
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### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### VESTRY

*David Connors, Senior Warden*

*Bill Fields, Junior Warden*

*Peter Juzwiak, Treasurer*

*Alex Morales, Clerk*

*Karen Andrews*

*Sarah Cook*

*Gail Green*

*Betsy Hailey*

*Mary Ann Jacobson*

*Janet Kirkpatrick*

*Meredith Reese*

*William Wright*

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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.*