



The Mike

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

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 8 • November 2014

Why We Need a Children’s Pastor

By the Reverend Dan Justin

There is a beautiful image in St. Paul’s second letter to Timothy. Paul is writing to a young man named Timothy whom he has mentored and who is now leading a church. The letter is meant to both encourage and instruct young Timothy. Paul writes, “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.”

This might be my favorite verse found in the Pastoral Epistles. I love this image of faith being lived and passed down through the generations. Lois was a woman of deep and sincere faith. She lived in the early days of Christianity. It was not an easy time to be a Christian. In fact, it was downright dangerous. But Lois was not afraid. And she lived and passed down her faith to her daughter, Eunice. She nurtured the seed of faith growing in Eunice. In time, Eunice matured into a woman of deep faith. The times certainly did not get any easier. They got harder and more dangerous. But that did not stop Eunice from raising her son in the faith. She taught the Christian faith to Timothy. Lois passed the faith to Eunice who, in turn, taught it to Timothy. Beautiful.

I believe that passing our faith on to the next generation is one of the most loving and important things we can do. Faith is of course a gift of the Holy Spirit. But how to live that faith is not just received by osmosis. “Exposing” children to church is not enough. We need to teach them what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We need to teach them about God’s love and unmerited grace, forgiveness, and welcome. We need to teach them about the life, ministry, sacrifice, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. We need to provide them opportunities to love and serve their neighbor and explain why that is important. We need to inspire them to identify their own gifts, talents, and abilities so that they can learn to use them in service to God. We need to show them what it looks like to be generous. We need to remind them (and just as importantly, ourselves) that they are

full members of the church right now—not just when they grow up. Our Sunday school teachers and volunteers are doing a great job already. But the church can do more to support them in this important work. The responsibility rests with all of us.

We make a vow each time a person is baptized at St. Michael’s. We vow to “Support this person in their life of faith.” We all make that vow. I worry that sometimes we assume the responsibility for teaching our



children the faith rests solely on parents of younger children. After all, if I don’t have a child in Sunday school why should I worry about Sunday school? But we all make that vow. It is part of what it means to be the church. We welcome the newly

baptized with the promise to support them in their life of faith. So the responsibility for passing on the faith rests with all of us.

Because this is true, I believe the time has come to hire a Children’s Pastor here at St. Michael’s. Many churches hire a Director of Religious Education. This position is responsible for organizing and scheduling the teachers, monitoring curriculum, and training volunteers. Those tasks are incredibly important and currently our wonderful volunteers are handling them. The new Children’s Pastor will partner with our volunteers, and where appropriate, take on some of those tasks. But this person will be more than an administrator. The goal is to hire a pastor: one whose calling is the spiritual nurture, formation, and care of children and families. Yes, they would handle administrative tasks—but their ministry would go deeper. They would also focus on relationships, prayer, education, and pastoral care for the children of the parish.

We envision this being a part-time, non-

ordained position. We believe the budget for this position needs to be \$12,000. Again, the new Children’s Pastor will work closely with our current volunteers and Sunday school teachers.

I hope you will join me in praying that God will open the door for us to move towards identifying and calling the right person. The vestry is currently reviewing the budget to determine the best way to fund this position.

Please keep this in your hearts as you make your 2015 pledge. Growing our budget enough to make this possible will be a challenge. It will be a stretch. That is why I am writing about it now. You should know where we are trying to go and what we are trying to do. We believe this is what God is calling us to do. Our children are worth it. This new position on the pastoral staff will be one more way we can emulate Lois and Eunice—who nurtured and passed on their faith to Timothy.

Please be sure to let me know if you have any questions. I am always happy to talk with you.

Blessings,
Dan+

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Join Us for Holiday Cheer 2014!

By Meredith Reese

It's that time of year again! Holiday Cheer, the annual Outreach party will be held on Saturday, December 13th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Holiday Cheer is an annual celebration of good cheer, food, crafts, activities, music, and gift-giving. We host two family shelters, Good Shepherd and MEND, at St. Michael's to celebrate together, show gratitude to each other, and share in holiday spirit. Every child walks away with a new toy and an outfit. There also are gifts for moms and dads. For many families, this is their only holiday celebration of the year. Every year the generosity of our community is deeply felt.

Holiday Cheer by the numbers

- **200 people** served a hot lunch
- **120 children** receive presents they asked for from Santa
- **55 volunteers** share their creativity and good spirit
- **50 moms** leave with gift bags and roses
- **10 craft and activity tables** including ornaments, card making, knitting, and gingerbread houses
- **6 musical acts and caroling**
- **4 professional comedians** teach improv classes for kids
- **3 rounds of soccer matches** on the church field
- **3 buses** donated by the city to transport our guests
- **2 shelters** hosted at St. Michael's
- **1 very special visit** from Santa Claus himself
- **1 unforgettable day**

There are many ways to get involved and we'd love your help! Please find Meredith Reese or Julie Bellevue at Coffee Hour. Or email Meredith: meredithannereese@gmail.com. You can also reach us at stmikesoutreach@gmail.com.

Buy a gift and/or an outfit for a child

We'll give you a wish list for a child. You can buy both the gift and the outfit or one or the other. 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 others. Monetary donations, for others to shop for you, is also encouraged. Wish lists will be available in November.

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.

Shop for prep supplies (Prep)

We need shoppers for the craft tables and baking supplies and all the food! Each year we serve breakfast and a full lunch. Cooking, baking, and catering skills very welcome!

Bake Gingerbread cakes (Prep)

We need 5-6 people to bake gingerbread cakes before Holiday Cheer. We reimburse for supplies and provide the pans. The bread freezes easily, so don't be shy about speaking up early and nabbing a pan.

Decorate/"Wrap" Party Friday night

We start decorating on Friday night, December 12, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm. We need lots of hands to wrap the new presents and stuff gift bags. It's a wonderful way to commune with volunteers if you can't make it to the party. Meredith will provide hot cider and snacks. All ages are welcome.

Elf Room (Day of event)

Help organize the gifts then, distribute 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 or more of the tables on the day. Also, we are still looking for team leaders to help organize the volunteers. New ideas for activities are also welcome!

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

Keep us running smoothly by joining our check-in or clean-up crews. Shifts will be listed on EventBrite and at Coffee Hour in November.

A very sincere thanks to all who have helped in the past and here's to another great year of Holiday Cheer!



November Birthdays

Day	Name
8	Charlie Kammer
9	Linnaea Sage
11	Sarah Valka
12	Sharon Renton
14	Eliza Diliberti
17	Mack Darrow
18	Rafael Arias
20	Stephen Billington Andrea Fuller
23	Nikolay Best
28	Nancy Woods
29	Marco hebbe-Zubiate
29	Pablo Mooradian
30	Jackie Eckberg Nolan Reber

November Anniversaries

Day	Name
8	Andrea & DJ Fuller
12	Susan Guire & Cece Tsou
12	John & Laurie Vincent
13	Brooks & Kathleen Taylor
24	William Hendley & Jon Albert
28	Polly Davis & Peter Epstein

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

September 2014—Revenue and Expense Summary

	September Actual	September Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 30,288	\$ 36,067	\$373,047	\$324,607
Total Expense	37,627	36,065	343,975	324,590
Net	\$ (7,339)	\$ 2	\$ 29,072	\$ 17



The month of November is dominated by the Thanksgiving Holiday at the end of the month. When I was young, the holiday meant a trip to my grandmother's house for a big turkey dinner with all the fixings. My grandmother played a large role in my life so I really looked forward to spending time with her. I knew that the holiday was a time for reflection and giving thanks. I was thankful for my grandmother.

Fast-forward many years. When I was in graduate school, one fall term I took a class in Cultural Diversity. The class met on Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. As there were only ten weeks in the quarter, we had class the night before Thanksgiving. Many students were grumbling over having to have class the night before the holiday. Just as class was ending and we all started to leave, the instructor said to us, "Don't forget, that to Native Americans, Thanksgiving is a holiday where Caucasian people celebrate the genocide of the Native American people."

I thought about that as I walked home and continued to think about it throughout the next four days. I was very reflective and began to think of all the wonderful gifts that God had given to me. I tried to think of the perspective that other people would have toward Thanksgiving. From that time, Thanksgiving has become a time for me to deepen my relationship with God. I have so much for which to be grateful.

I am grateful for St. Michael's and this community of faith. God is present in this parish and I am so blessed to be a part of it. We are now entering our Stewardship season. I would ask that you reflect on the blessings that God has given to you and prayerfully consider your own relationship with God as you make your 2015 pledge to the parish.

We wish a blessed Thanksgiving to you and your family!

A Requiem Mass for All Saints' Day

By Kristen Toedtman

Father Dan has, yet again, made a suggestion to enhance our worship here at St. Michael's. In place of the *Gloria, Sanctus and Fraction Anthem* which we have been singing since September (and which we will sing until Advent), the choir will sing portions of a Requiem Mass throughout the service on November 2nd, when we observe All Saints' Day.

What we commonly refer to as a Requiem is actually a Mass for the Dead, or *Missa Pro Defunctis*, as it is called in Latin. We have come to call it "Requiem" because of the first line of the mass: *Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine* (Rest eternal grant them, Lord). There are countless settings of the Requiem Mass. That is to say, many composers over the centuries have been inspired to use the text from the *Missa Pro Defunctis* and compose their own melodies and harmonies. The words of the liturgy were originally chanted in unison and, while there is scarce information from the 5th through 9th centuries, we do know that church choirs (usually men and boys) throughout Europe were singing plainchant with regional variations much like the development of languages and dialects. Pope Gregory I, known to be a lover of music and devoted to liturgical development, is credited to have compiled an antiphony, "gathering chants from among the regional



Antiphony of Hartker of the Monastery of Saint Gall, c. 1000

traditions as widely as he could manage." His goal was "to organize the bodies of chants from diverse traditions into a uniform and orderly whole for use by the entire western region of the Church." (thank you, Wikipedia) The story I—and many others—prefer to remember is that in which Pope Gregory I was

visited by the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove (see picture) who sang to him the melodies to be used. And so, there were commonly used chants, which we still sing today, centuries later!

Gregorian chant was not left behind once composers started to add additional voices. In fact, the Mass that we will sing, by Spanish composer Cristóbal de Morales, is based on the very same Gregorian chant sung over 1,000 years ago. The top line of the mass you'll hear on November 2nd varies only slightly from the chant, and you'll notice that many of the sections begin with a snippet of the chant, called an "incipit."

Cristóbal de Morales was born in Seville circa 1500 and is widely considered to be the most influential composer of Spain (before Victoria) during the height of Spain's golden age. Remember the Borjas were Spanish popes—therefore, the papal choir was known to have many Spanish singers. The influence of Spain's music on Europe was significant. Morales himself was employed at the Vatican on many occasions.

I chose Morales' mass for our service because of its seeming purity: the text is delivered simply, in a way that I hope will allow for meditation on the liturgy as we mark this special occasion.

Coming Up...

Mid-Week

November 12, 2014, at 6:30 pm

Our final Mid-Week of the year will be held on Wednesday, November 12th, at 6:30 pm. A family dinner will be served. Childcare is not available at Mid-Week but all ages are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please RSVP to the Rev. Dan Justin at rector@stmikessc.org.

Class topic: Descriptive Lenses

Many people are left scratching their heads when they try to read the Old Testament. It does not always make sense to us today. We are more likely to prefer the New Testament. And yet, the Old Testament is just as much a part of our faith as the New. So how can we learn to read the Old Testament in a way that begins to make sense to us? The answer may be learning to look at it through a new lens. Join the Rev. Dan Justin as we learn to read and understand the Old Testament through the lens of the New Testament

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 26, 2014, at 7:30 pm

Save the date! The Studio City Interfaith Thanksgiving Service benefiting the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City, 12355 Moorpark, Studio City, on Wednesday, November 26th, at 7:30 pm. The service will include a variety of participants from congregations in the area representing many different faith traditions.

All are encouraged to bring donations for the food pantry and drop them off in the truck outside. An offering benefiting the food pantry will also be collected during the service.

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service has been a tradition in Studio City for years. All members of St. Michael's are encouraged to attend and support the work of the food pantry. As is our tradition, our children will be completing a food drive during the month of November. The food they collect will be given at the service.

Advent Lessons and Carols

December 7, 2014, at 5:00 pm

Save the Date! Advent is just around the corner. It is the tradition of St. Michael's to begin advent with Lessons and Carols. This year our Lessons and Carols service will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 5:00 pm. Join us for this wonderful service of scriptures readings, anthems, and hymns as we prepare ourselves for the season of waiting and watching for the coming of Christ into our world.

The Season of Advent

Advent Begins Sunday, November 30



"To dream of a world of peace and justice, where God's goodness is all in all, and to wake to the realization, is a cherished human hope. The figure in Dali's *Girl Standing at the Window* waits with full attention for something. She looks expectantly out into the wide world beyond her familiar harbor. Attentive, hope-filled, alert, with her whole being trained on the horizon, she watches for the sign: the break in the meeting of sea and sky, the cloud of smoke that heralds the messenger's arrival. Fully attentive—eyes and ears and imagination—she is ready to recognize and greet a hope-filled future.

So the church waits for the arrival of Jesus through Advent. Poised, we are alert to the signs of the times in nature, Scripture, newspaper, ready to greet wherever Christ appears. The Promise comes in unexpected peace blossoming like a garden in winter, in the wake-up call of the unlikely prophet, in the sudden courage to risk bringing God's future into being, in Mary's risk to bring Jesus into the world. Advent's color is the royal purple of the coming king. The king for whom we wait to come—both as the one who comes in the manger in Bethlehem and the one who will come in the clouds at the sound of trumpets."



The Calendar

November 2014

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
						1
2 All Saints 12:00 noon Youth Group (L) 12:00 noon St. Michael's Outreach (CO)	3 6:15 pm Book Discussion Group (Jacobson Home)	4	5 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:30 pm Young Adults Group (L)	6 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	7	8
9 Pentecost 22	10	11 Veterans Day 7:00 pm Finance Committee (CO)	12 6:30 pm Mid-Week (MC) 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)	13 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	14	15
16 Pentecost 23	17	18 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	19 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)	20 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	21	22 9:00 am Women's Group (FR)
23 Pentecost Last 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)	24	25	26 7:30 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (Unitarian Universalist Church, 12355 Moorpark)	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 Advent 1 12:00 noon Pastoral Care Committee (FR)						

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

October 17, 2014



Dear Friends,

I want to share a short story with you.

Sr. Greta stood in the Compton courtroom, a place that had become all too familiar over recent weeks. It was the day of sentencing for Cynthia, one might say a day of judgment.

The courtroom can be a hostile environment, where one can easily seem outnumbered and overmatched. Cynthia had sat through weeks of the trial process and endured a vicious attack from the prosecution, who's only goal was to portray Cynthia as cold-blooded and calculating, a danger to society and beyond redemption. And on this day, there were screams from the prosecution to "crucify her," and that she deserved to be tossed aside and left alone to live her life in incarcerated exile in prison, never to return. And it was all a lie.

But there was another voice in the courtroom. It was the voice of truth and it would not be silenced on this day. And that is why Sr. Greta was standing at the podium to address the court. You see, she knew Cynthia better than anyone in the room, because she had been walking with Cynthia, whose story is one of the most tragic we have ever heard, since her arrest. She was sexually assaulted for eight years by her step-father and horribly abused by her mother her entire life. She was convicted as an accomplice to the murder of her mother and step-father, although she had no direct participation in those murders, which were carried out by her abusive boyfriend. She was tried as an adult although she was just fifteen at the time.

During her abuse Cynthia had cried out for help in many ways. Authorities ignored those cries for help. Child Protective Services ignored those cries for help. Then she fell into the hands of a controlling, abusive boyfriend and what followed was the worst nightmare imaginable. In all of her cries for help, no one came to her aid. And then she met Sr. Greta.

Greta, in pure love and compassion, became a real lifeline and beacon of light and hope for Cynthia. The two of them walked together. Cynthia was transformed. Greta was transformed. We were all transformed. Through Greta's love, Cynthia was introduced to a real loving community for the first time in her life. We were introduced to a beautiful young woman who inspires us all with her grace in the midst of darkness. At Cynthia's baptism at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, Sr. Greta stood with her as her Godmother. Cynthia now had a real loving mother figure...at last.

And now as Sr. Greta stood at the podium in that courtroom, there was silence. It felt like a moment of truth, and it was. What happened next stunned the courtroom and held us all breathless. Sr. Greta stood to address the court and talk, for the first time, directly and openly about all those who were supposed to protect Cynthia and had failed to do so. She implored them to not fail Cynthia now. In a moment that is etched into my soul, Sr. Greta then turned to Cynthia – in full view of those present that day and said: *"Cynthia, we believe you and we believe in you. We will be with you every single day of the rest of your life loving you. We are your family now. We will always be there for you."*

Greta now exchanges letters and phone calls regularly with Cynthia. Cynthia now has the motherly love and the family she has always desired and deserved and we have a beautiful young woman who inspires us all. God's grace...it's no wonder they call it amazing.

PRISM chaplains and volunteers walk with some of the most marginalized of our society as we offer spiritual care for the incarcerated people of God. This past year a new proclamation has come to me and we are including in all of our materials: ***"No matter who you are, where you have been, or what you have done, no one is beyond the grace and love of God."*** In a world that all too often brings a different message of judgment and condemnation, this is a message of truth and hope, and it is one that people are desperate to hear and a truth that needs to be told.

We know that there is a host of prayer that accompanies us in our work. We know that it is your prayers that so often carry us through the moment at hand, and we are grateful. We also know that we need the practical financial support to keep things going.

Each year we offer what we always hope to be an opportunity for the holy exchange of gifts. These are events we offer in return for your contributions to our ministry. In years past, we have had Fr. Greg Boyle, artist John Swanson, Vijay Gupta from L.A. Phil and Street Symphony. We always hope to offer a program that is special and this year is no exception.

We are pleased to announce that on the evening of Wednesday, November 19, 2014, we will offer the unique and magical music duo of Norm Freeman and Katherine Cash known as N2K. This is sure to be yet another amazing evening and all proceeds support the work of Prism Restorative Justice.

We hope that you will join us on November 19 and be a part of the holy exchange of gifts on that holy night. I am quite sure that you will be glad you did.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Gibbs".

Rev. Dennis Gibbs, CDL – Director
Prism Restorative Justice

Holy Night

with **N2K**, a unique magical, musical duo



featuring

The Reverend Norm Freeman

and **Katherine Cash**

dinner · concert · silent auction

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

6pm - 9pm

The Church of Our Saviour

535 W. Roses Rd. · San Gabriel

\$75/person

All proceeds benefit Prism Restorative Justice

FOR INFORMATION AND TICKETS

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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.