



The Mike

The Newsletter of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Studio City, CA
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Summer in Salt Lake

By the Reverend Dan Justin

The eyes of every Episcopalian will be on Salt Lake City, Utah, this summer. Well, that may be over selling it a bit. But, a rather large number of Episcopalians will be gathering in that city beginning June 25, 2015 for the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Our triennial convention welcomes deputations from every diocese in the church, along with every bishop of the church, to gather and take up the business of our denomination. The General Convention is the highest level of authority in the Episcopal Church. When it gathers it is the largest democratic body in the world.

Any decision about the life, worship, polity, doctrine, or discipline of our church must come through the General Convention. No one person or small group makes decisions alone. We make them together. Resolutions and canonical changes are discussed and voted on. The Convention is modeled after the United States government. There are two houses—the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. In order for a resolution to pass it must be voted on and approved by both houses. General Convention reminds us that we are not alone. St. Michael's is part of a much larger whole. We need one another. Individual parishes cannot (and should not) make arbitrary decisions to change things like liturgical rites or traditions. To do that, separate from the General Convention, is to say that we don't need one another. That is not how the Episcopal Church operates. That is why I say all Episcopal eyes will be on Salt Lake City this summer. The 78th General Convention will consider some very important issues.

First, and possibly the most visible, will be the election of the next Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Our current Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katherine Jefforts Schori, completes her term this summer. The bishop elected to this office serves for a nine year term. Only the bishops of the church are allowed to vote in this election. A nominating committee has considered a number of potential candidates and has produced four nominees. These include the Rt.

Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, Bishop of Southern Ohio, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, the Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas, Bishop of Connecticut, and the Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, Bishop of Southwest Florida. Many



have wondered why there are no female bishops included on the slate of nominees. According to reports from our own bishops, there is currently only one eligible female bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mary Gray Reeves, Bishop of El Camino Real. She decided she did not want to run due to personal reasons. It will be very interesting to see who the bishops select to be our next Presiding Bishop.

Second, and possibly the most controversial, will be the consideration of the report of the Task Force on the Study of Marriage. This Task Force was given the mandate to study the theological, historical, liturgical, and canonical dimensions of marriage. The church must respond to the changing understanding of marriage in our country. This report considers numerous trends in marriage, including same-sex marriage. The report offers a number of resolutions for the Convention to consider. If you are interested in reading this 122 page report you may download it at the General Convention website.

Third, the 78th General Convention will consider the report of the Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church. This group sought to examine the operations of the national church and make recommendations on ways to eliminate bureaucracy, save money, streamline process, and support local parish ministry. The Task Force has called for many and significant changes, including significant changes to the way the General Convention is organized and operated. This lengthy report is also available to be downloaded and read at the General Convention website.

And of course, in addition to these three major issues, there will be countless other resolutions considered, rejected, and approved by Convention. Some of them may very well impact our life and worship here at St. Michael's. Others will go into the books and be quickly forgotten about. Such is the work of General Convention.



If you are really intrigued, you are always welcome to travel to Salt Lake City to be an observer of all the action. You can't vote but you can watch. There are also some wonderful exhibits available. You will have to pay an admissions fee to get in though. If you go, please be sure to pick up a souvenir for me. Vestments are always the best choice for me! And there will be plenty of companies selling those.

Blessings,
Dan+

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Get On The Bus!

By Nancy Woods

Many thanks to all of you who gave so generously of your time and donations to make Get On The Bus a special time for the children going to see their dads at the California Men's Colony prison in San Luis Obispo. It is so typical of the community support for outreach projects at St. Michael's.

The deadline for this article is before the trip so I'll tell you what will happen. Some of us will meet in the upper parking lot at 3:30 am on Saturday morning on May 30th where we will carpool to the location of the bus at Mt. St. Mary's Doheny Campus in downtown Los Angeles to welcome the families before they leave for CMC at 4:45 am—a long and early trip for all. After a nap and breakfast, the children will use the items in their backpack/activity bag to keep them occupied until the bus arrives at the prison about 8:00am.

After they clear security, the children will greet their dads in the visiting room with squeals, hugs, and kisses. Along with the quiet conversations there will be board games and outside activities such as soccer and playing catch and they will also have their picture taken with dad to take home (dad gets the picture too). Then lunch, and more visiting. The children and dads will say a tearful goodbye then it will be time to board the bus about 2:00 pm. There will be a bear and a letter from dad on the bus for each child. Before heading back to LA, the children will go to a party at Congregation Beth David where they will wind down, play, and have snacks. A counselor will be there if any want to talk about their experience.

On the way home, the children and family members usually take a nap or read quietly until they return to LA about 7:30 pm exhausted. In the days and weeks following the trip, they will have stationary and stamps to send letters back to dad and stay connected.

Again, thank you for making this visit to dad so special for all the children.



June Birthdays

Day	Name
2	Scarlett LaMontagna
4	Polly Davis
9	Jack Beckner Leonard Harman
12	Don DeRose
15	Karen Rogers Everett Campbell
16	John Vincent
20	William Venable III Christian Tantalo
23	Mary Best
25	Annie Juzwiak-DeRose
26	Emily Taylor
27	Dalton Taylor
30	Joan Dektar

July Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Kathryn Argall
5	Melissa Basta
9	Karen Andrews Linda Andrews Caleb Fox
10	David Bassman Paris Carney Lillian Raesler
12	William Hendley
15	Milena Mooradian
23	Eileen Carhart Liam Daniels Porter Rodriguez
30	Val Farrelly Bailey Robertson
31	Sue Harris Scarlett Vos

July Anniversaries

Day	Name
6	Jack & Barbara Beckner
26	Nick & Sharon Renton

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.*

Thank you, St. Michael's!

I would like to say thank you for your gracious participation in my Doctor of Ministry research. Each Sunday, for the past four weeks, you took time to complete surveys regarding a particular style of sermon. I am happy to report that the surveys have accomplished my goals and I now have all the information I need in order to move into the next phase of my research. In the coming months I will analyze the results and come to my conclusions. Over the course of the next year I will write my doctoral thesis.

In addition to thanking you, I would also like to thank the good people of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in Santa Monica. The Rev. Nate Rugh participated in my research by also preaching this style of sermon on the same topics. The people of St. Augustine's also completed the surveys. Comparing the results between both congregations strengthens the research and widens the scope.

In addition, I would also like to once again thank the members of my focus group. These six people do not regularly attend St. Michael's and are not Episcopalian. This group allowed me to simulate the effectiveness of this style of preaching for new converts to the faith and to our tradition.

I am looking forward to the next phase of my doctoral program. So, thank you! Now, let the writing begin.

Blessings,
Dan+

Treasurer's Corner

April 2015—Revenue and Expense Summary

	April Actual	April Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 31,888	\$ 37,592	\$ 165,713	\$ 150,368
Total Expense	44,165	37,589	153,230	150,356
Net	\$ (12,277)	\$ 3	\$ 12,483	\$ 12

From the Vestry

*Tina Wilson, Senior Warden
Ron Schwartz, Junior Warden*



Last month we celebrated Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, occurring 50 days after Easter Sunday. Red is the traditional color for Pentecost, this represents the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost. Fr. Dan wore a beautiful red chasuble and stole and we had a glorious celebration. The children's choir shared in the music by singing a song.



The parish family met on May 17th at Beeman Park, after church, to enjoy our annual church picnic. This year we had a

taco cart which everyone enjoyed, along with a bounce house, face painting, live music and a baseball game. On May 30th, we participated in Get on The Bus as an outreach project of St. Michael's.

The children's ministry is very important to the church and we have just called Amber Russo, a member of our church, as our Children's Pastor. She will be developing and leading our children's formation programs.

St. Michael's Calls Amber Russo as Children's Pastor

I am thrilled to report that Amber Russo has accepted the call to be our Children's Pastor. Over the next few months Amber will get acclimated to the program and will be seeking to meet our kids, their parents, and the volunteers who work in our Sunday School. Amber brings tremendous creativity along with many gifts and talents to this position.



Amber will be building on the strong foundation provided by Don DeRose, Peter Juzwiak, and Sarah Cook. Each of these volunteers has worked diligently to administer our children's program over the past three years. Don reviewed the curriculum and prepared the classrooms each week so that Sunday School teachers were able to step into their rooms and hit the ground running. They always had all the materials they needed because Don had been there, behind the scenes, to make sure all was prepared. Peter maintained and administered the curriculum. He would prepare the lessons and send them via e-mail to the teachers. Peter, along with Betty Ferrell, also wrote and implemented an original fifth grade curriculum of publishable quality. Sarah Cook has faithfully worked with our volunteer teachers and assistants, scheduling them to teach on Sundays, as well as arranging a variety of events and activities for the kids. We thank them for their faithful service in this ministry.

Amber will now take over all these duties. In addition, Amber will serve as a pastor for our kids. She will take responsibility for more than just the administration of the program. She will be working on the spiritual formation of our youngest members. This will be built on a foundation of strong relationships, prayer, worship opportunities, and pastoral care.

We are so excited to see what God will do in our Sunday School and Children's programs. We want our children's programs to be a priority here at St. Michael's. Please join with me in praying for Amber as she begins her new ministry among us.

Blessings,
Dan+

An Update on the Election of the Next Bishop of Los Angeles

By the Reverend Dan Justin

At the 2014 Diocesan Convention the Rt. Rev. J. Jon Bruno announced his upcoming retirement and called for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor. A search committee consisting of priests, deacons, and laity from around the diocese has been formed. The clergy were recently provided with an update on the work of the search committee. I thought you might be interested in hearing what is happening with this.



The committee is taking the preliminary steps necessary to produce a diocesan profile, which will be used to recruit qualified candidates. This profile is somewhat similar to what a parish would produce if they were searching for a new rector. Obviously, producing something that fairly represents the Diocese of Los Angeles is a tricky endeavor. Each parish obviously wants its voice heard. Having input on the profile is our opportunity to communicate what kind of candidate we hope to attract. To this end, the search committee has announced that they are hiring an outside consultant to facilitate this part of the process. The committee is just in the initial stages of this work. They are committed to providing the desired opportunity for each parish to have its voice heard in the process.

The timeline for the episcopal election has not changed. The 2016 Diocesan Convention will elect the next bishop. The Bishop Coadjutor will be consecrated in 2017. That person will then serve alongside Bishop Bruno until his retirement in 2018. He or she will then become the Bishop of Los Angeles.

Please continue to pray for this process and for the election of our next Bishop.

Sunday School Summer Schedule

By Diane Ballowe

After having a fun and informative year of study, the children of St. Michael's will be taking a break from their Sunday School lessons for part of the summer. The last Sunday School classes will be held on June 28th. After a six-week hiatus, the fall session will begin on August 16th. During the hiatus, children are encouraged to attend services each Sunday with their parents. Childcare for infants and young children will continue to be offered during the hiatus. With the addition of our Children's Pastor, Amber Russo, we look forward to exciting lessons in the fall!

Summer is Coming. Let's Go to Camp!

St. Michael's Parish Picnic

May 17, 2015

For most of my childhood and adolescence, summer meant one thing: camp. From a young age, my mother signed me up for all kinds of camps all summer long. There were the day camps, of course, like basketball camps and drama camps, but none of them held a candle to spending a week at Camp Stevens.

When I was in third grade, my mother signed me up for my first week at Camp Stevens. I was adamant that I did not want to go. It was my first overnight camp experience and I could not imagine spending a week away from home with a bunch of strangers. I cried the entire ride up to camp and begged her not to send me away. Lucky for me, my mother knew me better than I knew myself. She also knew the secret magic of summer camp. One week there, and I was hooked.



Days at Camp Stevens, our diocesan summer camp in Julian, outside of San Diego, then and now include hiking, archery, swimming, picking blackberries, and more. However, the real magic of summer camp, as any camp junky will tell you, is not the activities, but the friendships made, the self-knowledge gained, and the experience of knowing God in nature. It is the feeling of awe while sitting on Star Rock, sharing highs and lows of the day, and taking in the grandeur of the night sky.

This year, I get to go back to Camp Stevens to be the camp chaplain for one week. I'll be there Adventure Session Three, July 19th-25th. As you have probably guessed, I can't wait!

It is not too late to sign your child up for a week of camp. Registration and camp dates may be found at www.campstevens.org. The camp is 256 acres of outdoor fun that includes a 3-acre farm, chickens and pigs, a 6-target archery range, both high and low ropes courses, an old gold mine to explore, and so much more. A week at camp ends with a camp-wide Eucharist, allowing the whole community to thank God for new friends and new adventures.

Wishing you and your family a blessed summer,
Mo. Stefanie Wilson+







The Calendar

June 2015

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. It will resume July 3 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 The Visitation of the BVW	2	3	4 Corpus Christi	5	6
7 Pentecost 2 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:00 am St. Michael's Outreach (CO) 11:30 am Sunday Sack Lunches (MC) 12:00 noon Youth Group (L)	8	9 7:00 pm Finance Committee (CO)	10 7:00 pm Women's Group (FR)	11 St. Barnabas	12	13 1:00 pm Concerned United Birthparents (FR)
14 Pentecost 3 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Pentecost 4 <i>Fathers' Day</i> 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)	22	23	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25	26	27
28 Pentecost 5 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)	29 St. Peter & St. Paul	30				

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



The Calendar

July 2015

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

3

4 *Independence Day*

Locations:

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

5 Pentecost 6

6

7

8

9

10

11

8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 9:00 am St. Michael's Outreach
 (CO)
 11:30 am Sunday Sack Lunches
 (MC)
 12:00 noon Youth Group (L)

11:00 am Women's Group
 (FR)
 1:00 pm Concerned United
 Birthparents (FR)

12 Pentecost 7

13

14

15

16

17

18

8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 6:30 pm Book Discussion
 Group (Woods Home)

19 Pentecost 8

20

21

22 St. Mary
Magdalene

23

24

25 St. James
the Apostle
9:00 am New Member
Breakfast (MC)

8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)

7:00 pm Vestry (L)

26 Pentecost 9

27

28

29

30

31

8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
 (MC)

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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.