



The Mike

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

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The Lord Works in Collaborative Ways

By the Reverend Dan Justin

We have all heard the phrase “the Lord works in mysterious ways.” We say it when strange things happen, coincidences occur, or when fortuitous events take place. Somewhere in the back of our mind we might think of that famous verse from James, “Every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights...” (James 1:17). We credit God when good things happen to us. We don’t always understand them and we don’t always expect them. But we all know that the Lord works in mysterious ways.

But the Lord also works in collaborative ways. In fact, I suspect that the Lord works in collaborative ways far more than in mysterious ways. Jesus called his disciples and sent them out to continue his mission of reconciliation in the world. Jesus invites the church to work alongside him as he draws all people to himself. That is one of the best things about being a part of the church. We have the opportunity to work with Jesus carrying on God’s mission of love, grace, care, and compassion in the world.

This work blossoms from a sense of gratitude. It is indeed true that every gift we have has come from God. Our loving creator has given so much to us. In response to those blessings we are invited to become a blessing. That is the heart of stewardship. We do not just give money to keep the church open, pay the salaries of the staff, or meet budgetary goals. Stewardship, at its core, is an act of praise and worship. We are offering our first fruits back to God in thanksgiving and gratitude to God. We are also partnering with God in the work of ministry. We are collaborating with God. The Lord works in collaborative ways. This year we are making that phrase our stewardship theme.

I hope you will consider that phrase as you consider your pledge this year. How are you partnering with both God and all the members of this parish to do the work God is inviting us to do? I have always said, when you pledge you are actively supporting every ministry

of this church. We are collaborating together in order to spread the good news of God in Christ.

When we join our resources together we can make a difference. When it comes to stewardship here at St. Michael’s you may have noticed that we don’t really focus on the budget, or what our financial needs are, or even how much we hope people will give. Those things are important to be sure. But what is more important is that all of us participate. Our main goal for stewardship this year is 100% participation. We hope to see every single person who attends St. Michael’s complete a pledge card. How much you give is not our primary concern. We are not asking for equal gifts. We are asking for full collaboration and participation. Join with us as we join God in the work of ministry.



You may remember that last year we named our children’s ministry as our primary growth area for 2015. We wanted to welcome a Children’s Pastor to our team. We wanted our kids to know that they are full members of our parish. Their formation and faith is so important to us. We were thrilled to welcome Amber Russo as our Children’s Pastor and we are so excited to see the work she is doing. This year we want to continue to make ministry to our children our primary growth area. That means continuing the work of having the Children’s Pastor position fully funded in our budget.

In 2016 we want to focus not only on our young children, but also on our teenagers. We have a growing youth group. Each year more kids move up from the fifth grade into the sixth grade. Stefanie is doing a great job leading our youth, but we know we can continue to grow in this area as well. We believe it is time to begin searching for a part-time Youth Pastor as well. This person would partner with Stefanie and co-lead our youth

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Pet Blessings Sunday, October 4, 2015

Dogs, cats, and all other manner of pets are welcome to attend the 10:30 am service on Sunday, October 4th for our annual celebration of the Feast of St. Francis. A general blessing of all pets will be offered at the end of the service. Individual pet blessings will be available in the courtyard immediately following the service.

We ask that all dogs be kept on leashes during the event. We ask that all parents be mindful of their children during the event. There will be two coffee hour stations set up that morning. Our regular coffee and refreshments will be available in the Ministry Center. There will be an additional coffee station with refreshments available outside the Ministry Center that day. There will be bowls of water available around the campus for our four-legged visitors.



Rector

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group. This would allow for more activities for the teens. It would also mean meetings for youth every Sunday rather than just one Sunday per month.

It is always good to reflect on all God has done in our parish. Over the past four years we have fully funded our outreach ministries and our music program, eliminating the need for outside fundraisers. We have hired our part-time Children's Pastor. We have continued to increase our Mission Share Fund steadily moving toward giving the full 12% expected of all parishes in the Diocese of Los Angeles. As we turn toward the future we want to invest in our teenagers.

God has given us so much. We have been blessed beyond measure. I hope you will join with us working collaboratively with the Lord to build the kingdom of heaven right here in our community. I am so excited to see what

God will do in this coming year. Yes, sometimes the Lord works in mysterious ways. It is always amazing when we see that happen. But I believe the Lord wants to work in collaborative ways. God joins us as we join together continuing the work God invites us to do in our community.

You will soon be receiving your 2016 Pledge Cards in the mail. Please prayerfully consider how you will become an active participant in the ministry of St. Michael's through giving. We understand not everyone can give the same amount. We are not asking for equal gifts, rather equal participation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about stewardship, pledging, or the ministry priorities of the church.

Blessings,
Dan+

October Birthdays

Day	Name
3	Caitlyn Fields
4	Diane Collins
5	Bruce Rankin
8	Matthew Roberts
11	Connor Smith
15	Marjie Hathaway
20	Hadley Brown
26	Ging Molera

October Anniversaries

Day	Name
2	Meredith & Paul Reese
3	Ging Molera & Amador Rondilla
10	David & Melissa Basta
18	Jaycen & Joyce Armstrong
24	Andre & Louisa Herrmann

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.

Musical Musings

By David Connors, Director of Music

It has been such a great honor and such a great pleasure to take over as the Director of Music. I first would like to thank Kristen Toedtman who did such a great job as the Director of Music for quite a few years. Kristen is a great musician, a great music leader, and a great person. She certainly will be a difficult act to follow!



am service each Sunday, the Choir will be singing the Evensong on Saturday, October 3rd. In December we will have a Lessons and Carols and we will continue the tradition of an evening of Christmas caroling.

If you are interested in participating in the 10:30am worship service through singing, consider joining the choir. We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:15-9:15 pm, on Sundays we warm up at 9:30 am, and then we participate in the service. Please let me know if you are interested! Contact me via email at david.connors@calstatela.edu.

Read the MIKE Online! Go to the St. Michael's website, www.stmikessc.org, and click on Newsletter. Back issues are available there as well.

From about the time I was in the fifth grade I knew that I wanted to have a career in music. My training is in voice and music education. In college I was a double major and I have a BM degree in Vocal Performance and a Bachelor of Music Education degree. After I graduated from college I taught Kindergarten—eighth grade music and choir, first in Minneapolis and then in New York City in the borough of The Bronx. I went to graduate school at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati and earned both my MM and DME degrees. In 1990 I moved to Los Angeles and started my college teaching career as a Professor of Music at Cal State LA.

I have been singing in the choir at St. Michael's since 2006 and I am very excited now to be taking on the responsibility of this new position. In addition to singing at the 10:30

Blessing of the Costumes

October 25, 2015, at the 10:30 am service

The children of the parish are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church on Sunday, October 25th. During the 10:30 am service all children will be invited to come forward to show off their costumes and receive a blessing.



Treasurer's Corner

August 2015—Revenue and Expense Summary

	August Actual	August Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 45,863	\$ 37,592	\$ 333,491	\$ 300,736
Total Expense	38,374	37,589	288,180	300,711
Net	\$ 7,489	\$ 3	\$ 45,311	\$ 25

Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

Photos from the Feast of St. Michael, 2014

The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels was celebrated with great enthusiasm on Sunday, September 27th, at both our 8:00 am and 10:30 am services. But the celebration is not yet over! All are invited to the Choral Evensong and Feast Event on Saturday, October 3, 2015. The Evensong begins at 5:00 pm. The feast will take place in the Ministry Center immediately following.

We will once again enjoy the culinary talents of Maureen Lisi-MacReady and her team from One Great Chef. Brooks Taylor and his band will provide music and entertainment. This event is always a highlight of the year. Who can pass up great music, great food, great fun, and even some great dancing?

Please RSVP by e-mailing Duane Steadman at administrator@stmikessc.org. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person, \$40 maximum per family.

Family Sing

By Amber Russo, Children's Pastor

As the new Children's Pastor, I have discovered that one of my favorite things to do is lead Family Sing. I have always been musical. Through the years I have taught piano, sung with various choirs, and participated in musical theater. I had not previously had much experience leading children in singing music. Family Sing has been such a blessing to me and is now something I look forward to each week.

We start our Sunday School program with Family Sing for a good reason. Music speaks to people of all ages. It wakes them up and brings them together. Some children come through the door eager to participate. Some kids still have sleep in their eyes when they arrive. They come in rubbing their eyeballs and dragging their feet. Other kids are a little shy or reserved. Once we start singing you can see their walls come down. You can see their spirits lift. The gift of song is a beautiful thing, and it is one of many ways we can worship and give thanks to God. It is also special to be able to share this with family members and friends. That's why we call it "Family" Sing. It is not just for kids. We really want parents to join in with their kids. In fact, any member of the parish is welcome to join in and sing with us.

I have big dreams for the future of Family Sing. I look forward to expanding our repertoire, and someday even having a Family Sing band! I'm hoping the more our community knows about what we're doing each Sunday, the greater participation we will have.

Family Sing begins at 10:15 am every Sunday. I know those extra 15 minutes can be quite precious when trying to get out the door Sunday morning. It could mean setting those alarms just 15 minutes earlier, but it will be worth it. Singing together is a great way for all of us, both kids and adults alike, to begin our worship on Sundays. So please come out and join us!



Youth Group Calendar

Date	Event	Time/Place/Details
10/10/2015 (Saturday)	Diocesan Family Game Day	11am-2 pm at the Cathedral Center. More details to follow!
10/11/2015 (Sunday)	Youth Group Meeting	After the 10:30 am service. Meeting from 11:30-1:00.
11/01/2015 (Sunday) Daylight Savings Time Begins	Youth Group Meeting	After the 10:30 am service. Meeting from 11:30-1:00.
11/14/2015 (Saturday)	Games and Movie Night	7-10 pm at St. Michael's.
12/06/2015 (Sunday)	Youth Group Meeting	After the 10:30 am service. Meeting from 11:30-1:00.
12/12/2015 (Saturday)	Service Project	Details to follow.
01/03/2016 (Sunday)	Youth Group Meeting	After the 10:30 am service. Meeting from 11:30-1:00.
01/30/2016 (Saturday)	Bishop's Ball (High School only)	This year, St. Michael's is hosting the Bishop's Ball! Get ready to dance the night away.

You are Invited!

To the

*The Feast of
St. Michael and All Angels*

Saturday, October 3, 2015

*Join us for
A Choral Evensong at 5:00 pm
In the church*

*Followed by
Dinner and Music
In the Ministry Center*

Suggested Donation: \$10 per person, \$40 maximum per family

Please RSVP to administrator@stmikessc.org or by calling (818) 763-9193



The Calendar

October 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

Locations:

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

1
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

2

3
5:00 pm Evensong (S)
6:00 pm Feast of St. Michael (MC)

4 Pentecost 19
8:00 Holy Eucharist (S)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Blessing of Animals (S)
11:30 am Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)
12:00 noon St. Michael's Outreach (FR)

5

6

7
7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)

8
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

9

10
1:00 pm Concerned United Birthparents (FR)

11 Pentecost 20
8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
11:30 am Youth Group (L)

12

13

14
7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)

15
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

16

17

18 Pentecost 21
8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)

19 Saint Luke

20
7:00 pm Vestry (L)

21
7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)

22 Cathedral Center Day
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

23 Saint James of Jerusalem

24

25 Pentecost 22
8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S)
11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)

26

27

28 Saint Simon & Saint Jude
7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)

29
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)

30

31

St. Michael and All Angels Church

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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.