

The Mike

The Newsletter of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Studio City, CA VOLUME 27, ISSUE 2 • March - April 2018

The Rector's Sabbatical

By the Reverend Dan Justin

ne of the great benefits the Episcopal Church provides for its clergy is sabbatical time. These times of rest, renewal, refreshment, study, prayer, and travel are beneficial to both priest and parish alike. Sabbatical time accrues in a similar fashion as vacation time, although they should never be confused with vacation time. Priests are eligible to take a sabbatical after five years of service. Time stops accruing after seven years of service. I am now in my seventh year as the rector of St. Michaels. That means it is time for me to take a

sabbatical. I announced my proposed sabbatical at the 2018 Annual Meeting. The proposal has since been approved by both the vestry and the diocese. Your vestry has generously been saving money for the sabbatical making this time possible. In this article I would like to



share my sabbatical plans.

I will begin my sabbatical on Tuesday, May 1, 2018. I will return to St. Michaels on Tuesday, July 24, 2018. I will away for a total of twelve weeks. During my sabbatical, Sunday morning services will be led by a supply priest, selected by the diocese. The Rev. Bonnie Brandon, the former rector of St. Andrews in Torrance, CA, has agreed to serve as our supply priest. She and Rev. Stefanie Wilson Brown will share the duties of leading worship. Rev. Bonnie will preach ten of the twelve Sundays. Rev. Stefanie will preach on two Sundays. Pastoral care will be handled by our deacon, The Rev. Patti Sells, Rev. Stefanie, and our amazing pastoral care team led by Nancy Woods. Mark Gaddis, our parish administrator, will hold down the fort in the office. Our wardens, Meredith Reese and Ron Schwartz, will monitor the administrative life of the parish. I have complete confidence that the parish will run like a well-oiled machine for the three short months I am away.

Please know, I am not going to completely disappear for these three months. In fact, I am presiding at a wedding in early July and will be back at St. Michaels for that service. In addition, I plan to replace the What I Did Not Preach On letter with Sights and Sounds of Sabbatical. Each week you will have the opportunity to read about where I am, what I am experiencing, and what I am learning during my journey.

Area of Focus:

he focus of the sabbatical is to explore the three core values which guide St. Michaels. These include:

- Traditional worship.
- Biblical preaching.
- · Progressive social action.

The activities of the sabbatical and the destinations selected each provide an opportunity to explore and test these values.

Traditional worship: during the sabbatical I will visit various churches and emergent communities which offer different styles of worship. These may include St. Lydia's Place in Brooklyn, styled as a "dinner church" where worship includes making a community meal together, comparing this style to something like St. Thomas on Fifth Ave, where a men and boys choir still sings. In addition to visiting and reflecting on various styles of worship services, I will also attend the Church Musicians Workshop offered by Nashotah House (one of our Episcopal seminaries). The clergy track of this conference provides individual instruction in aspects of Anglo-Catholic worship.

Biblical preaching: The sabbatical will provide an opportunity to seek out and hear preaching of various styles. I will attend Riverside Church in New York, known for prophetic preaching. I will also explore places like Church of the Redeemer in New York, a very large and evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Continuing my focus on preaching, I will also attend the Festival of Homiletics being held in Washington D.C.

Progressive social action: A commitment to social action has no need to be tested or explored. Rather, reflection on how worship and preaching leads to social action and outreach will be considered. Are there better ways to use worship and preaching to encourage service that can be discovered through the various visits I will be making? In addition, a portion of the sabbatical will be spent serving in outreach activities. I plan to volunteer for five consecutive days at the soup kitchen operated by Church of the Apostles in New York.

Secondary areas of focus:

• Deepening relationships – time will be spent with my family as we celebrate my parent's 50th anniversary in June. I will visit friends who serve in the Diocese of Washington. I will reconnect with members of my D. Min. Cohort who will be attending the Festival of Homiletics.

• Spiritual Retreat - One week of the sabbatical will be spent in spiritual retreat, preferably in Montana. I will dedicate time to experiencing the beauty of God's good creation, reading, reflection, writing, and prayer.

 Exploration – I have never been to New York, Washington D.C., or Montana. Each venue will provide ample opportunity for exploration, arts, museums, activities, and good food.

• Fun - Each and every activity of the sabbatical will be something that I enjoy. I plan to have a lot of fun during this experience.

 Rest and renewal – While I have planned a lot of different activities, there will be plenty of down time. There will be several weeks at home in Los Angeles resting and preparing for the next leg of my journey.

Rector from page 1

Benefits to St. Michaels:

As I mentioned earlier, sabbaticals are beneficial to both the clergy and the parish. The sabbatical time provides unique opportunities for the parish family. These include:

• Learning and formation opportunities. The parish will be invited to participate in a minimum of two forums where the core values being explored in the sabbatical are discussed.

• **Collaborative leadership**. The vestry will take greater responsibility for parish leadership while the rector is away. Tasks normally completed by the rector can be done by different volunteers, increasing lay leadership opportunities.

• New voices in preaching and presiding. A supply priest will preach on 10 of 12 Sundays. This provides the parish a chance to hear a different style and voice in preaching. The supply priest will share presiding and preaching duties with the priest associate.

• More opportunity for diaconal ministry. Our deacon, the Rev. Patti Sells, will take more leadership roles for pastoral care during the sabbatical. This will provide her with an opportunity to grow in her ministry role here at St. Michaels.

• Unknown opportunities. Who knows what challenges and opportunities for growth will come up during the sabbatical? It could be anything.

As you might guess, I am very excited for this three-month adventure. I love being your rector. I love the work of being a priest. I love preaching sermons and writing the *What I Did Not Preach On* letters each week. I am not burnt out in any way, shape, or form. This sabbatical will help make sure that remains true.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding my upcoming sabbatical. I am happy to talk to you about it.

Blessings, Dan+



Daylight Savings Time

Don't forget to spring forward, setting your clocks one hour earlier, on Sunday, March 11th. You don't want to miss church, showing up only for Coffee Hour!

Sabbatical Itinerary*:

<u>Date</u>	Location	Activities/Plan	
May 1-14	New York City	Church visits; Service; tours	
May 14-27	Washington DC	Tours; visit friends; Festival of Homiletics	
May 28-31	Los Angeles	Time at home	
June 1-8	Gulf Shores, AL	Parents 50th Anniversary; time with family	
June 9-17	Los Angeles	Time at home	
June 18-24	Montana	Spiritual retreat	
June 25-July 15	Los Angeles	Time at home; wedding at St. Michael's	
July 16-21	Nashotah, WI	Church Musicians Workshop	
July 24	Sabbatical End	First day back in office	
July 29	St. Michaels	First Sunday back	

*Subject to Change

Mid-Week for March and April

Mid-Week continues in both March and April. We will gather in the Ministry Center at 6:30pm for dinner. The class begins at 7:00pm and is followed by discussion. Mid-Week will always end by 8:30pm. If you would like to join us for Mid-Week, please RSVP by e-mailing Mark Gaddis at *administrator@stmikessc.org.* Our March and April dates and topics are as follows:

Groundbreakers, Path Makers, and Other Episcopalians of Renown Wednesday, March 7, 2018

The history of the Episcopal Church is fascinating. Our denomination has always been on the cutting edge of many important social issues. Join us as we learn about the groundbreakers and path makers of our tradition. Discover who was the first to do something. Perhaps we will also discover how we can be groundbreakers as well.

How to Read a Church Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Sometimes theology hides in plain sight. One of the places it can hide is in church architecture. Many may not realize how much symbolism is found in the ways Christian church buildings are designed. Join us we explore the ways church architecture silently proclaims the good news of God in Christ.



Senior Warden's Report

By Meredith Reese

Welcome to 2018 and welcome to your new vestry. I'm your Rector's Warden,

Meredith, and Ron Schwartz will be serving as the People's Warden. Elected at the Annual Meeting in January, we welcome new vestry members Frank Barberia, Jennifer Best, and Gail Wright.



The vestry held our retreat this month in conjunction with Bishop Bruce's Walkabout. Her encouragement to assess one's local surroundings in a deliberate way opened our eyes and our hearts. The themes we gained fitted in nicely with the new retreat format which included an agenda heavy on vision building and goal setting for the coming year. All vestry members collaborated on setting major goals for the year to enforce our mission statement at St. Michaels: To be a welcoming, inclusive Christian community growing in faith through worship, prayer, study, social action, and generosity.

The goals include:

• Grow the parish from pastoral size to program size.

March Birthdays

Day Name

- 3 Tina Wilson
- 4 Gail Green
- 8 Mark Shier
- 8 Caitlyn Graves
- 9 Gabby Baca-Cardona
- 13 Jesse Causey
- 14 Sophia Tantalo
- 15 Betty Ferrell
- 15 Samantha Rupnik
- 17 Ella Sage
- 20 Julia Kirkpatrick
- 21 Axel Gomez
- 24 Tommie Kappler
- 26 Jaycen Armstrong
- 27 Steve Wright
- 28 Rosalia Rivera
- 28 Chris Long
- 28 Crystal Causey
- 29 Austin Baggett
- 29 JD Adams
- 31 Masha Best
- 31 Vitaly Beest

March Anniversaries

Day Name

- 3 Ron & Denise Schwartz
- 10 Julie Meine
- 16 Lois Vaughn
- 22 Crystal & Jesse Causey
- 25 Margie Mullen

• Make parish and community connections with the focus on social, not service activities.

• Provide care and maintenance of the church's buildings and grounds to empower and enable ministry.

- Aim for financial stability.
- Improve communication between parish members and leadership.
- Engage more volunteers for service activities.

While some of these goals may seem obvious, it was a helpful exercise to gain a common vision, and allows the vestry and our shared ministries to plan more effectively. We are especially keen to focus on Growth and Inclusion. Many members of our parish say they were first drawn to St. Michaels because it is a welcoming place. (I also think it has a lot to do with our church's beautiful architecture and Dan's incredible sermons.)

There will be much to plan and pray about as we enter the Easter season. I see new energy in the revived Young Adult Group, am encouraged by larger Sunday School attendance, and mindful about our commitment as Christians to help the less fortunate. I look forward to receiving thoughts and feedback anytime, especially over coffee and cake.

April Birthdays

Day Name

- 1 Joyce Armstrong
- 9 Scout Reese
- 11 Bradley Robertson
- 12 Max Schouweiler
- 15 Ann Hamilton
- 18 Trevor Vincent
- 19 Tiffany Ho
- 24 Betty DuVall
- 27 John Schouweiler
- 29 Liam Fields

April Anniversaries

- Day Name
- 9 Bill & Gail Wright

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. Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on the last Sunday of each month.

Junior Warden Report

By Ron Schwartz

am Junior Warden for 2018, sometimes known as the People's Warden. My main

area of responsibility on the Vestry is buildings and grounds. I coordinate with Fr. Dan on needed and future maintenance of our sanctuary and campus. If a parish member sees something that needs to be addressed at our church, please let me know.



Additionally, if you have any questions or concerns about St. Michaels, please let me know. If I can't answer the question, I will find out who can provide the information needed.

A Word from our Seminarian By Jamie Barnett

ew seminarians are as richly blessed as I am. That blessing comes from the fact that I was introduced to and accepted into such a loving, welcoming, committed community strong in faith, and filled with compassion known as St. Michaels. Every Sunday, without fail, even when I am tired and overwhelmed with heavy workloads, exams, and class projects, this wonderful St. Michaels family revives my spirit and renews my energy. From the uplifting liturgy, to the Fr. Dan-led Bible Study hour, to the friendly coffee and donut chats at the back of the church, I am overwhelmed and filled with gratitude for my time here with you all. I am certainly looking forward to the next several months and all the activities we have planned.

Some of those plans include the upcoming March Mid-Week, which I will lead, entitled Groundbreakers, Path Makers, and other Episcopalians of Renown. The evening will be dedicated to fellowship and fun as we discover and discuss not only some of the historymaking ministries of our Church but a path toward the discovery of our own Baptismal Ministries. Just as we all are made in God's image and likeness, we are all in our very being called to use our distinct gifts in service to others. Please join us as on March 7th, as we discuss ways of identifying our own specific ministries and the lifelong journey of growing into them.

would also like to invite you to stay tuned for more information coming soon announcing the formation of the new group, The Stablers! This is a new group for retired members of the parish, which will be forming in March. Plans for the group are to meet once a month during the week at noon in the Ministry Center. So all interested, start sharpening up your sack lunch toting skills and get ready to spend an hour or so eating and enjoying the company and companionship of one another as we discuss formation and mission for this group.

New Directions for the Vestry

Each February the vestry gathers for its annual retreat. We share a meal, listen to one another's story, learn about the role of the vestry, and begin the process of planning for the year ahead. In the past, the vestry has always operated using a commission structure. Each member of the vestry was assigned to a commission, serving as a liaison between that particular ministry and the vestry. Commissions included outreach, finance, building and grounds, pastoral care, altar guild, music, and communications just to name a few. Some years we would eliminate commissions, while other years we would create new ones. The lion's share of each vestry meeting was taken up by listening to commission reports. This allowed all the members of the vestry to learn about what the various ministries of the church were working on. It also provided an opportunity for occasional problem solving when issues popped up. A vestry organized this way keeps things humming along and makes sure necessary work is being accomplished. The downside of this structure is that, by default, it maintains the status quo. A commission structure is generally how small churches operate.

The smallest parishes are called family size parishes. The category just above family size is known as pastoral size, which is the category St. Michaels currently fits. Medium sized parishes are referred to as program sized. Large parishes are called resource size parishes. Our parish is on the cusp of becoming a program size parish. It has long been a goal of the vestry for our church to make this transition to be a program sized parish. There is one problem with that. All church growth literature agrees: the transition from pastoral size to program size is the most difficult to achieve. Maintaining a commission structure for the vestry is practically a guarantee that growth will not happen.

That is why this year we are eliminating commissions from the vestry. Instead, the vestry is taking ownership of our vision statement – To be a welcoming, inclusive Christian community growing in faith through worship, prayer, study, and social action. Guided by that vision statement, the vestry is setting goals and focusing its time on articulating, communicating, and accomplishing those goals. Going hand in hand with this, the vestry is taking actions to empower members of the congregation to use their gifts and talents to help accomplish goals. The vestry cannot and should not be doing all the work. Their role is not to accomplish small tasks, but rather to focus on the larger picture. Their role is to make sure the congregation has the resources it needs to succeed, making our vision a reality.

The vestry has identified six goals for 2018. These are large goals. Strategies for accomplishing these goals still need to be considered. The six goals are as follows:

• Grow the parish from pastoral size to program size.

• Strengthen the sense of community in the parish, creating more opportunity for social engagement.

• Maintenance and care of the buildings and grounds of the parish.

• Achieve financial stability.

• Increase communication between the vestry and wider parish.

• Engage volunteers - recruiting, training, and empowering members to use their gifts and abilities for ministry.

Vestry members will now spend the majority of their time talking about what we need to do to make these goals a reality. One big topic will be selected for each vestry meeting. The focus will no longer be on small tasks being done, but on big picture issues that make the achievement of the vision possible. The group will also be guided by a planning calendar. This allows the vestry to be more proactive. The planning calendar includes events and projects that need to be accomplished over the course of the year. The planning calendar plots when work should both begin and when projects must be completed.

You will hear much more about these six goals as the year proceeds. We are looking forward to a far more productive vestry. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Blessings, Dan+

St. Michaels Young Adult Group

By Hannah Bowman

The St. Michaels Young Adults Group is reforming! We began the year with a potluck on February 3rd, which was a hit. Twelve people came (including the parish's youngest members, Jameson and Zoë!). In addition to food and fellowship, the potluck was a chance for us to talk and dream about the future of the group.

One decision we reached: the Young Adults are forming our own Altar Guild team.

Young Adult Altar Guild

t is Altar Guild that prepares the church for worship every Sunday—doing everything

from hanging seasonal linens to filling candles with wax to setting out the wine and hosts to be blessed. After the Sunday services, Altar Guild cleans everything and puts it back in its place for the cycle to begin again the next week. There are currently four Altar Guild teams who each take one weekend a month, and rotate coverage for the fifth Sundays of the month that occur four times each year. The young adults (20s, 30s, 40s) will take over the fifth Sundays, beginning with Sunday, April 29th.

Altar Guild involves learning a new dimension to the way St. Michael and All Angels functions (and worships). To help get the group started, Dan will be giving the group an orientation into the theology behind Altar Guild. Because understanding more about the altar setup, vestments, and order of worship can deepen everyone's spiritual engagement on Sundays, this orientation with Dan will be open to all parishioners who are interested. It will take place **Saturday, April 21st, at 11:00am.**

The following Saturday (April 28th, late morning time TBD), Gail Green (who leads the Altar Guild ministry) will give our group an understanding of how to perform all the tasks of Altar Guild. Altar Guild is a communal activity and hinges on team work and consistency across various people (like our Episcopal faith!). We are planning to go out for lunch together afterward.

All young adults are warmly invited to participate in this ministry. If you are unsure whether Altar Guild is something you'd like to be part of, we encourage you to come to one or both of these orientations to hear more about it.

Additionally, since St. Michael and All Angels is blessed with an abundance of young adults (who are represented in nearly every ministry of our parish) we will be hosting Coffee Hour on Sunday, April 29th (the fifth Sunday). If you are interested in helping with Coffee Hour on that day, please contact Hannah Bowman at newfplunk@gmail.com or 630-251-6802.

Young Adult Potluck Dinners

We also plan to continue holding Young Adult potlucks. The next dates planned are **Saturday, March 24th** and **Saturday, May 19th**. Potlucks are held at Hannah and Joshua Bowman's house in West Hills.

We want to use the potlucks as an opportunity to dive more deeply into our spiritual lives. At the Lenten potluck on March 24th, we plan to focus our discussion on compassion, exploring how each of us live out our commitment to compassionate work in various aspects of our lives: whether through our jobs, our families, our participation in Outreach or Peace and Justice ministries in the parish, or other volunteer work we do. Our goal is to explore the connections between the work we are already doing or dream of doing and our faith, and the way we as a community can support one another in the variety of activities we are already engaged in—not to start any new projects or ministries.

At the May potluck, we are planning to include an old-fashioned hymn sing, so come with favorite hymns in mind!

Our group is always open to anyone who wants to participate, focusing primarily on folks in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. And of course, children are always welcome with their parents.

St. Michaels Faith Factory

By Amber Russo

The St. Michaels Faith Factory will be under

construction until Easter as our children build their faith and relationships with God. We will soon celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead, but until then, we observe a season of prayer and reflection: Lent.



The children of St. Michael and All Angels kicked off this time of year with our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake feast and Mardi Gras party. It was such fun to see them parading around the Ministry Center dressed in masks and beads and competing in the pancake toss. They left with full bellies and happy hearts as they made their way into the season of Lent.

This is a special time for the children of St. Michaels to stop and reflect on their lives. Our children are busy little bees, running from one activity to the next. Between school, homework, and soccer practice, they have little time to stop and think about what they are doing. This season they will have that opportunity to take a minute, and look around. They will listen to God by learning about the Bible and taking time to pray. Are they doing what God wants them to do? Are they becoming the sort of person God wants them to be? These are some of the questions the children will ask themselves during the season of Lent.

In Sunday School, here at St. Michaels, the children often hear the same lessons that are being discussed in church. The season of Lent a great opportunity for us to STOP, LOOK, and LISTEN with our children so we can make sure our lives our lined up with our families and with God.

SHROVE TUESDAY!





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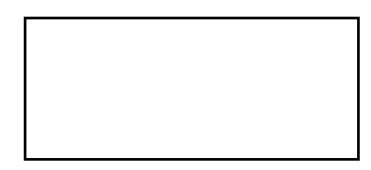
	Sunday Schedule Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary. • Rector's Bible Study begins at 9:15 in the Ministry Center • Sunday School begins at 10:30 am. • Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service.					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Day 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:00 am Coffee Hour (MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)	2 ^{Monday in Easter} Week	3 Week	4 Wednesday in Easter Week	5 Easter Week	6 Friday in Easter Wek	Zsaturday in Easter Week 9:00 am Greek Class (BR) 11:30 Pastoral Care (FR)
8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:15 am Rector's Bible Study(MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC) 11:30 am Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)	9	10 6:30 pm Finance Committee (CO)	11	12	13	14 1:00 pm Concerned United Birthparents (FR)
15 Easter 2 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:15 am Rector's Bible Study (MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)	16	17 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	18 6:30 pm Mid-Week (MC)	19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	20	21
222 Easter 3 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:15 am Rector's Bible Study (MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)	23	24	25 ^{St. Mark}	26 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	27	28 9:00 am Greek Class (BR)
299 Easter 4 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:00 am Pastoral Care (FR) 9:15 am Rector's Bible Study(MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC) 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	30				Locations: CO Church MR Music Re FR Fireside MC Ministry L The Loft S Sanctua	oom Room y Center t (formerly the stage)

Volume 27, Issue 2

St. Michael and All Angels Church

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Vision Statement

To be a welcoming, inclusive Christian community growing in faith through worship, prayer, study, and social action.

Our Mission Priority

Our mission priority is to focus on the United Nations' First Millennium Goal: To eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.