



The Mike

The Newsletter of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Studio City, CA
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The Bethlehem Baby and the Orphan Abbas

By the Reverend Canon Mark Shier

Sermon given at St. Michael's on Christmas 2010.

Abbas Barabbas wrapped his thin cloak tighter around himself and tried not to shiver. The ground leached the warmth from him as he sat and held the lamb, as much for the warmth of the little body as to comfort the orphan. It was only three days since the wolf had terrified the flock and the young ewe had panicked and run off into the night, followed closely by the soft padding of the wolf's loping run. Abbas had found her lamb, pitifully bawling for her mother, and carried it to the campfire. The boy had barely enough strength to manage but was determined. His leg may be withered but his will was potent, toughened by a short lifetime of taunting from the other shepherd children and the effort not to let his lameness keep him from anything. He supposed it was the lamb's crooked leg, causing it to dip its head with every step it took, that had opened the boy's heart. That, and the fact that the lamb was now an orphan, just like Abbas himself.

The lamb slept peacefully in Abbas' arms, unaware of the shivering that the boy tried unsuccessfully to control. The hills around Bethlehem carried good forage for the flock, but it was cold during the longest nights of the year. The stars glittered unfeelingly across the heavens. Abbas did his part with his uncles to keep the flock safe, though each was contracted by the cold wind into his own little world. Nights were not easy in the Judean countryside.

Abbas hugged the lamb to his chest and gradually became aware that his shivering had stopped. The cold wind had turned to a warm breeze, and the shepherds looked around wondering for the cause of such mercy. They had little time to marvel at the warmth, for the night sky was suddenly brightened as if filled with many suns. In the light flickered forms of even greater brightness, and the air rustled with the whisper of a million wings. Abbas had heard of angels from his mother, but had discounted the stories as just so much wishful thinking. And then there was the music, beautiful music, almost unbearable in its loveliness. Words seemed to hover in the air, as if blessing all

that heard them: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace..."

The shepherds all ran together, as if to draw courage from one another, for they were very afraid. For once, Abbas was included, just one



of the crowd that trembled before the glorious heavens. Out of the brightness came a deep and comforting voice: "Don't be afraid.... A Savior has just been born in Bethlehem, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. Go and

find him. This is what you are to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger." The music came to an enthralling climax and then there was silence, a deep silence just as powerful. The skies were once more empty, dark, and cold.

The shepherds whispered among themselves, as if normal speech were out of place. Eventually, they decided to obey the angelic voice and to seek a baby lying in a manger, strange as that seemed. Leaving only one guard with the flock, the group set off across the hillside toward the dark walls of the town that was never thrilled at the visitation of shepherds. His uncles included Abbas in their group, but it was not long before his lame leg separated him from the hurrying crowd. And he was slowed even further by the lamb, who limped along after him. Abbas did not want to abandon her.

In the town, the boy struggled from one house to another, looking in all the outbuildings. Finally, near the outskirts of town and close to the inn, he saw his uncles gathered around a stable. Grabbing the little lamb by the fleece of its neck, Abbas pushed through the excited and whispering shepherds until he broke through into the stable.

Abbas saw the rough interior of a barn, lighted by the feeble glow of a single lantern, the air redolent with the rich smell of animal bodies

and softly sighing with the murmur of animal breathing. Yet the small room had all the feel of the glorious vision that had sent them running from the hillside. There indeed was a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in an animal trough, a manger filled with straw, just as the angel had said. There were a roughly dressed man and woman, hovering protectively over the manger. Abbas' heart ached: a family such as he would never have. The baby was sleeping but then stirred. Abbas wondered if such little ones could dream. The baby opened its eyes and gravely regarded its humble surroundings. The woman reached down into the manger and took him into her arms and sat down on a low stool. The man laid a hand gently on her shoulder.

Abbas, as if in a trance, crept forward and reached out one grubby hand to touch the baby. The woman hesitated for a moment, then smiled at the little boy. Encouraged, Abbas knelt down on good leg and bad before the baby. Abbas felt, for once, at home, included in a warmth and love that were only a faint memory. Something inside of him went out to the little form cuddled on the woman's lap. The baby's arms were circling in the air, as babies do. Briefly, one chubby hand from the manger touched the grubby hand of the boy from the hillside. Abbas felt a warmth flow through him, as if some unknown power bathed every part of his spindly body. It was but a moment and then was gone, but the memory would last a

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Sermon *from page 1*

lifetime, though the shepherd boy did not then know that.

Abbas gradually came to himself and realized that his uncles were leaving. They had had more time than he with the baby and were now anxious about the flock on the hillside. Abbas stood up straight and reached for the lamb to help her on her way. They backed out of the doorway and turned to go. Only then did the lamed boy feel a difference in the lamb's motion; she was no longer limping. Looking closely, Abbas could see that her leg was no longer crooked, but straight and strong, or at least as strong as a lamb can be. Abbas took a few wondering steps and then stopped dead. For his own walking was different, too. He no longer limped. Looking down, he saw his once-withered leg as strong and as straight as the lamb he loved. Startled, he looked back into the stable, at the baby who had briefly touched him.

For once, someone had done something good for Abbas Barabbas.* He was to remember that kindness the rest of his life.

The angels still sang of glory in the skies, though no one on earth heard them. The light of divine love still shone through day and night, though no mortal eye could see it. God lay still in the lap of a young peasant woman, though no one would recognize him. The adventure had just begun.

* Luke 23:18-25

The full text of Canon Shier's sermons at St. Michael's may be read at www.stmikessc.org/sermons_index.htm.

February 2011 MIKE Deadline

Please send copy and/or pictures via e-mail to administrator@stmikessc.org by Tuesday, January 18. If you don't have a computer, bring your articles to the Parish Office by that time.

Read the MIKE Online! All you do is go to the website, www.stmikessc.org, and click on "THE MIKE ONLINE." Back issues are available there as well. And while you're at the website, you can shop at Amazon.com through its link. St. Michael's gets a small rebate for each purchase made through this link.

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!*

January Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Lily Peterson
10	Nick Renton
12	Don DeRose Paul Reese Emily Stenquist
15	Mary Piser
17	Benjamin Baklayan-D'Ambra
18	Norma Johnson
19	Dorinda Angelucci Brandon Nel
23	Kevin Mitchell
30	Anne Kelly Shaylor Schmitt

January Anniversaries

Day	Name
1	Lise & David Friedman
5	Betty & Bruce Ferrell

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.*

Thanksgiving for a Job Well Done

To: The Rector Search Committee, consisting of Anne Kelly, David Connors, Rodney Dickson, and Betty Ferrell, for their diligent work interviewing and screening candidates.

Tom Heuer for his ongoing work to beautify the sanctuary. Tom has refinished the wood on the altar, the pulpit, and the lectern as well as the wooden benches around the altar. Presently he is working on repainting around the outside doors.

Please give these individuals heartfelt thanks for their contributions.

In the months that follow, the Vestry will continue to recognize the gifts of work and time that help keep St. Michael's a beautiful and useful campus, and a thriving parish.

Treasurer's Corner

November 2010—Revenue and Expense Summary

	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 25,647	\$ 29,817	\$308,197	\$327,060
Total Expense	29,806	41,718	360,379	430,253
Net	(\$ 4,159)	(\$ 11,901)	(\$ 52,182)	(\$ 103,193)



From the Vestry

Anne Kelly, Senior Warden
David Connors, Junior Warden

As we look back at 2010, there are so many highlights for which we are very thankful:

- ❖ our community ministries that grow bigger and serve more families each year;
- ❖ our wonderful send-off of Henry and Treadwell Atkins after 2½ years of exemplary ministry and leadership;
- ❖ the blessing of having three outstanding clergy that have led our services over the past six months: Mark Shier, Warren Nyback, and Pat

- O'Reilly;
- ❖ the new sanctuary carpet and refurbishment;
- ❖ the Adult Education program that is enabling us to get to know other parishioners at a much deeper level;
- ❖ the continued successful partnership we have with the Sunnyside Preschool;
- ❖ a strong, cohesive Vestry guiding and leading us through the year, and
- ❖ a supportive and affirming parish: people who are praying for us during this time of a rector

search, the many people who see something that needs to be done and step up to do it, and the generous financial support we have received from so many of you throughout the year.

As we look forward to 2011, we anticipate new challenges, new successes and a new Rector. We thank God for all these blessings, and we trust that God will lead us through this coming year as He has in the past. We give thanks for God's faithfulness and love which never fail. Happy New Year!



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace

By Betsy Hailey



With our membership in ICUJP (Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace) St. Michael's joins religious leaders and lay people of many faiths in affirming our rejection of war as a means of achieving peace. The group was founded in the days following 9/11 by George Regas, rector emeritus of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena with the mission statement "Religious Communities Must Stop Blessing War and Violence." He was joined by other prominent religious leaders in opposing a military response to the attack with invasions of Afghanistan and later Iraq. He brought his message to the pulpit at St. Michael's on the Sunday after the presidential election of 2004 with a stirring and passionate sermon asking "How can we say the life of an American baby is worth more than the life of an Iraqi baby?"

The Adult Forum that day featured four speakers representing different faith traditions participating in the weekly ICUJP meetings—a Quaker, a Catholic who converted to Judaism, a Muslim woman, and a Buddhist. Following a fascinating session, they joined us for our service.

I was present for both the forum and the service and I was hooked. I had become cynical and disillusioned with the political process but was energized and inspired by a call to action based on religious principles. The very next Friday I attended the weekly ICUJP gathering which

takes place from 7 to 9 a.m. at Immanuel Presbyterian Church on the corner of Wilshire and Berendo (two blocks west of Vermont) and I've been in regular attendance ever since. The meetings are open to everyone and participants have come and gone over the years, with a faithful core group that has been there from the beginning.

Over the years ICUJP has sponsored educational programs and lectures, including a well-attended screening last January at St. Michael's of the Robert Greenwald documentary "Rethinking Afghanistan." This year's focus is on "The Costs of War" with screenings at varied religious venues of the film "War Made Easy" and a major conference in the spring.

ICUJP works in concert with other organizations including Progressive Christians Uniting and CLUE (both of which St. Michael's supports through our Peace and Justice Committee) and is a participating member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture which will be celebrating its fifth anniversary in January. NRCAT is working to build the moral consensus that torture is always wrong—a campaign which St. Michael's supports by displaying a banner and by sponsoring screenings of the DVD "Ending U.S. Sponsored Torture Forever."

For more information go to www.icujp.org or come with me to a Friday meeting. To be continued...

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 23, at noon

Join your parish family on Sunday, January 23, for the annual meeting of St. Michael's parish. We will hear reports of work in 2010, plans for 2011, and elect new vestry members and diocesan convention delegates.

Reports from parish organizations and committees are due Monday, January 17. Please e-mail reports to administrator@stmikessc.org.

Diocese of Los Angeles “Rejoices, Reflects, Renews” at 115th Annual Convention

By Pat McCaughan
Episcopal News

St. Michael's was represented at the convention by Gail Green, Betsy Haily, and John Pryor. The delegation was joined by the Rev. Canon Mark Shier.

Bishop Jon Bruno called upon the 115th annual convention meeting of the Los Angeles diocese December 3-4 in Riverside to continue to “work hard now and into the future” engaging local and global partnerships, to be a “bold witness for just action” and evangelism, and to help “save trees” by increasing electronic communications.

About 800 lay and clergy delegates and visitors from 147 congregations gathered at the Riverside Convention Center for the two-day meeting, themed “Rejoice, Reflect, Renew”.

The convention also featured Sojourners founder Jim Wallis as keynote speaker for the second biennial Margaret Parker Memorial Lecture on women, faith and justice; a presentation by archivist Dr. Lowell Irwin commemorating the 125th anniversary of Good Samaritan Hospital, an institution of the diocese; and a recognition of the ministry of the Rev. Canon George Regas, rector emeritus of All Saints, Pasadena.

Bruno also celebrated the ministries of his predecessors as well as the Southland's first two women bishops—Bishops Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce and Mary Douglas Glasspool—elected one year earlier.

In an especially poignant moment December 3 delegates heard from retired Los Angeles assisting Bishop Robert and Mary Anderson. Anderson, 76, who also served as diocesan bishop of Minnesota from 1978 to 1993, thanked convention via telephone from Minneapolis for prayer and other support as he deals with pancreatic cancer.

‘Hard work ... now and in the future’

Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce offered personal and corporate thanksgivings for the people and ministries of the diocese while preaching during opening worship. “I rejoice that we are not doing cookie-cutter ministry, but ministry that is authentic and which

spreads the Gospel,” she said. Her reflection sparked sustained applause when she announced that she had received “the one-year, all-clear news in June. Anyone who has undergone cancer treatment understands how important it is hear those few little words,” said Bruce.

Despite tough economic times, vibrant and creative ministries continue to emerge within the diocese, Bruno told the gathering.

Globally, Bruno cited ongoing companion relationships with the Dioceses of Jerusalem and El Salvador—partnerships convention delegates later enthusiastically renewed for another five-year period. “We also have new initiatives emerging in the Diocese of Cuernavaca, Mexico” and several mission partner relationships in Belize, Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania, he added.

‘A bold witness ...’

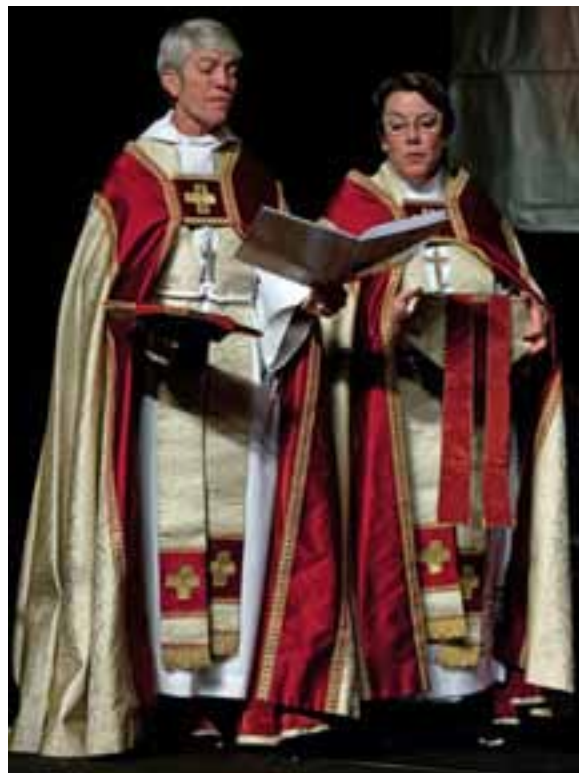
Bruno, accompanied by well-known musician Fran McKendree, challenged visitors and delegates during a convention teaching to become “great reflectors and reflect the presence of the holy to the world so that other people's hearts and minds are touched by the presence of Christ.”

One such witness, he said, is Project New Hope, a 25-year ministry founded by Canon Jack Plimpton, which offers more than 270 housing units to persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, along with other services and resources.

He also invited convention to in-depth study of issues leading to Middle East peace and of the Anglican Covenant.

‘... Just Action’

Examining compensation disparities among male and female clergy and changes in church disciplinary canons, enriching interfaith and ecumenical connections, strengthening multicultural and cross-cultural relationships and congregations are “just action” efforts available to all, Bruno said.



Bishops Suffragan Mary Glasspool and Diane Jardine Bruce celebrate Eucharist during Diocesan Convention. Photo/Don Anderson

Standing up for the rights of others has also involved the “daunting challenge” of more than six years of costly litigation, he said in an update of church property dispute cases, which have been returned to the California Supreme Court for limited review. But progress made “has benefitted the whole church, and especially neighboring California dioceses,” Bruno said.

One property—St. Luke of-the-Mountains Church in La Crescenta—was returned to the Los Angeles diocese in 2009 and “celebration has come back to that community,” he said as delegates cheered and applauded.

Fighting for the return of three other church properties still held by breakaway groups—St. James', Newport Beach, All Saints', Long Beach and St. David's, North Hollywood—“has involved the outlay in excess of \$6 million from the Corporation Sole,” he said. But he is hopeful about the eventual outcome.

Delegates approved a change to bring diocesan Canon 33 into conformity with Episcopal Church Title IV disciplinary canons, which were revised by the 76th General Convention in Anaheim in 2009. Bishop Bruce presented those changes, which take effect July 31, 2011, to convention.

In other convention business, delegates
See CONVENTION, page 7



The Calendar

January 2011

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Sunday School (Godly Play, Middle School, Sr. High, and Adult Forums) and Adult Choir begin at 9:30 am.*
 • *Children's Church begins at 10:30 in the Blue Room and 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 Holy Name of Jesus
2 Christmas 2 12:15 PM Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	3	4 7:30 PM SMCOP (Youth Lounge)	5	6 Epiphany 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	7 12:00 NOON Fourth Quarter Luncheon (CO)	8 8:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
9 Epiphany 1	10 6:15 PM Book Discussion Group (Woods Home)	11 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	12	13 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	14	15
16 Epiphany 2 12:15 PM Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	17	18 The Confession of Saint Peter 7:00 PM Vestry (UR)	19	20 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	21	22
23 Epiphany 3 12:00 NOON Annual Meeting (PH)	24 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group (YL) 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group (YL)	25 The Conversion of Saint Paul	26	27 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	28	29
30 Epiphany 4	31					

Locations:
 CO: Church Office
 CR: Choir Room
 MR: Music Room
 FR: Fireside Room
 PH: Parish Hall
 UR: Upper Room
 YL: Youth Lounge
 S: Sanctuary

All proceeds from
this event go the

**Santé D'Or
Foundation**

All proceeds benefit Santé D'Or Foundation, a no-kill animal shelter that offers adoption, fostering, and personal counseling services to the Southern California community. The mission of Santé D'Or Foundation is to rescue and provide shelter and holistically-based medical care to animals, while attempting to secure them permanent homes. This charity was suggested by Preston Lucy as a tribute to his beloved late cat Elphie and the first venture of his fundraising group P.E.C.K. (Preston & Elphie Corporation of Kindness). Preston will be offering framed original art for sale at this event.

**Gary Lucy
Emcee**

**Jane Edith Wilson
Curator**

**Host
St. Michael's
Community Outreach
Projects
Committee**

Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church presents

LIT.UP!

Readings, Standup, Poetry and a Little Music
by some of LA's Finest Talent!

**Saturday
January 8th**

"I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT"

Back by popular demand, this is a "Tag, You're It" show where comics riff off of one another in rapid-fire 2-minute sets. We start with the theme and see where it takes us. It is fun fun fun!

FEATURING

**Jimmy Dore, Eddie Pepitone, Carol Ann Leif,
Murray Valeriano, Vance Sanders, Sharon Houston,
Dylan Brody and the sketch group
Oh You and Your Bone Spurs!**

8:00 PM

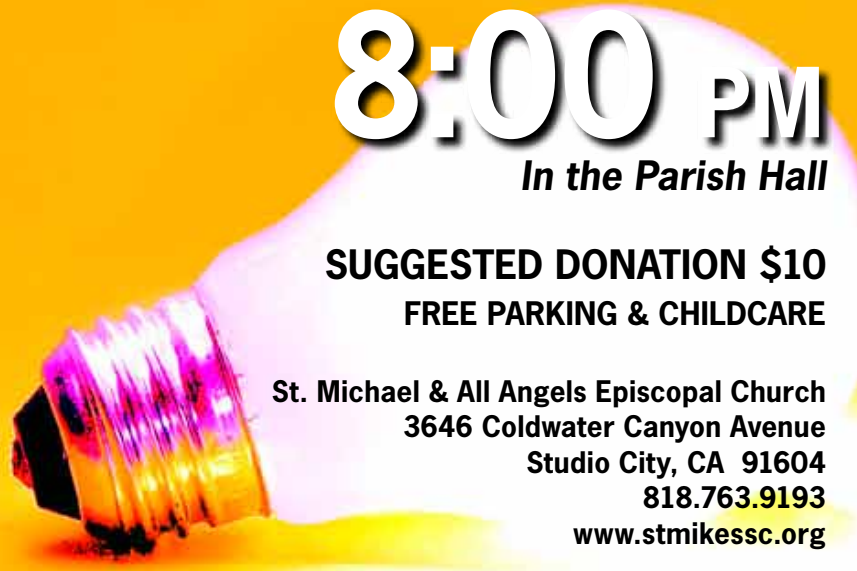
In the Parish Hall

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10

FREE PARKING & CHILDCARE

**St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church
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www.stmikessc.org



Happy New Year from SMCOP

By Jane Wilson

St. Michael's Community Outreach Projects enters 2011 with a full plate of outreach work that we need to get done. As we look at what lies ahead, I again am sending out a plea to our faith community at St. Michael's that we need your involvement and would love to have you join our team. SMCOP is a part of St. Michael's that is attracting and inspiring new members to our church—we need all hands on deck! Here are some areas where we are looking for team leaders to step in and take on a deeper commitment to the work we are doing to help those living in extreme need in Los Angeles.

- 1. Wig Exchange:** We need someone to work with Louisa Herrmann in various capacities: intake of wigs, scheduling wig washings, outreach to local hospitals and cancer patient outreach groups, help with wrangling hats, scarves and other items for our huge wellness event in June where we come into contact with hundreds of women undergoing cancer treatment. Louisa can be emailed at herrmann24@earthlink.net.
- 2. Sponsored Family:** We are helping a single mom who is raising six kids in South Central. Three of her kids are being treated at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Her husband has abandoned her and all responsibilities to her, including financial ones. We are working with the city and various agencies to help her with housing, work and transportation issues, but for the time being they need help with groceries, work opportunities (she cleans houses), clothes and outings for the kids. This mom is working harder than any person I have ever met to keep it together and she and all of her kids are just delightful to be around. If you have a home with a pool, maybe consider having them over for a little party; you have no idea what an afternoon of swimming and barbecue would mean to this family.
- 3. Lit.Up!:** We do this fun show the second Saturday of each and every month. Over the past four years we have raised tens of thousands of dollars for local charities thru the box-office from this show—everything from Get on the Bus to the Episcopal Urban Intern Program to Team Survivor. This is the way we take our tiny SMCOP budget and stretch it to serve more groups in need. We need folks to volunteer for set-up, clean-up, to bring food and drink for the buffet, to do PR for the shows and to run the tech side of things. The next shows are January 8th and February 12th; please let us know if you

can help in any capacity. Also, we are always open to partnering with anyone who has a charity idea for us. Please note: the recipient of the money must serve a community in Los Angeles serving an extreme need or issue.

- 4. Valentine Pizza Party:** We go to the Good Shepherd shelter in East Hollywood and make Valentines with the kids and bake pizzas. We need someone to oversee this entire event, which will be on Sunday, February 13th.
- 5. Get on the Bus:** This group brings kids to see their incarcerated parents on Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day. Simply put, we need a team leader for this as we like to be a hub each year for the Fathers' day trip and, if possible, send folks on the bus. Please contact Nancy Woods if you wish to be involved in this great endeavor: nancyz2k@adelphia.net.
- 6. SMCOP Secretary:** We need a person to attend our monthly meetings, take minutes, and send them to the group and the Vestry. The meeting is the first Tuesday of each month.
- 7. Big Sunday:** We are a major hub for this yearly day of city-wide charity (the event this year is Sunday, May 15th). Our hub focuses on wounded soldiers and their families as well as collecting items for soldiers that are still deployed. We need help with PR, neighborhood outreach, outreach to local soldiers, food, activities, outreach to faith communities and local schools. If you can do this and wish to partner with SoldierCare chairperson David Rosenberg, please email him ASAP: inkdrone@gmail.com.
- 8. Auction Items:** We are already prepping for next September's Angel Award Dinner. Please, if you have any ideas for or access to good items for the silent auction, let us know. Things like weekends at a vacation home, tickets to events, electronics/computers, services and consultations are always a big money-maker for this event and are all tax-deductible.

Upcoming Meetings: We will be meeting Tuesday, January 4th, and again Tuesday, February 1st. All meetings are at 7:30 p.m. in the Junior High/Projects Room (the room with the couches and TVs on the east side of the grassy quad).

If you have an interest in taking over/helping with any of the items listed, please call the contact person listed or call me directly, Jane Wilson, 818.267.4058, e-mail superqueerjane@yahoo.com. Also, if you have friends outside of St. Michael's interested in getting involved, they are welcome to join SMCOP without being members of the church—we need all the help we can get as we continue to grow our wonderful programs.

Convention from page 5

approved a \$4 million budget.

Delegates also elected diocesan officers and deputies to the Episcopal Church's 77th General Convention, set for 2012 in Indianapolis.

'Save a tree,' stewardship, communication, renewal

Stewardship of resources ranges from conducting energy audits of church properties to expanding "our capacity for communication by conventional e-mail," Bruno told the gathering.

Urging clergy and lay leaders to complete energy audits of their facilities, he told the gathering that a recent retrofit saves the Cathedral Center more than \$24,600 yearly in lighting costs.

As for communication, the diocese has its own Facebook page with more than 800 "friends" as well as a YouTube presence. "Just Action" videos, detailing various ministries and opportunities within the diocese, are posted weekly.

Bruno unveiled "Vineyard," a regional publication to debut in 2011 with five online, print-ready editions. Local congregations may also receive assistance via a new communications class to debut in January at Bloy House, the Episcopal Theological School at Claremont, he added.

A new web page, "Horizons and Heritage" is available for congregations to describe their ministries and goals as well as their histories, Bruno added. It will offer demographic information and will also be a tool "to identify common efforts and themes of ministry," he said.

The 2011 annual convention will be held December 2-3 in Riverside.

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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.