



The Mike

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

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 3 • March 2011

Global Warming and the Footstool of God

By the Reverend Canon Mark Shier

Sermon given at St. Michael's on February 13, 2011.

If someone told us there was a way we could save 2.5 million to 3 million lives a year and simultaneously halt global warming, reduce air and water pollution and develop secure, reliable energy sources—why wouldn't we do it? Especially if we could do this with existing technology and at costs comparable with what we spend on energy today.

According to a new study from Stanford University we could accomplish all that by converting the world to clean, renewable energy sources and dispense with our addiction to fossil fuels.

Mark Jacobson, a professor of civil and environmental engineering wrote, "Based on our findings, there are no technological or economic barriers to converting the entire world to clean, renewable energy sources. It is a question of whether we have the societal and political will."^{*}

I read this article earlier this week and came away from it much encouraged. We often hear that the environmental problems we face are almost insurmountable. It was good to hear an engineering and scientific voice say that, based on solid research, we can make the changes needed at almost no cost above what we will be spending anyway. But it will require change. We must forswear fossil fuels (they are running out anyway). We must turn to renewable wind, water, and solar resources. We must plan and decide and make our political representatives take action that will safeguard our children and their future. I won't bore you with the details in the report, but if you're an engineer you may want to read reputable fellow voices showing the way.

Today we are joining churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques throughout the world in focusing on the threat to our civilizations from global warming in the context of our human stewardship of God's creation. In

our pew bulletins are facts sheets and pre-addressed postcards to our Senators; all you have to do is add 28 cents postage and fill in the reverse side and mail the postcard. Knowing the facts and urging our government is part of "the societal and political will" that the report cites.



Well, let us turn our attention from these encouraging engineering and scientific findings to what we as Christians can add to the conversation: our prayers and our commitment to God as His stewards. No

better place to go than the Bible.

In today's gospel reading, we hear Jesus turn his followers away from the ethic of minimalism to the ethic of love. His followers do well not to murder, commit adultery, or throw out an adulterous mate. But Jesus says there is more to a moral life than these easy-to-see situations; it is also immoral to allow anger or lust or indifference a place in our lives. In other words, it is not only what we do but what we are that is important—important to God, important for our own welfare and healthy living. The general principle here is to use the obvious transgressions to search out the more subtle ones. If we do that, if we accept the work of a really moral life, we will come to a fullness of life here and hereafter that we name salvation, the health of our soul.

So what might this principle mean in our current environmental situation? I think it is this: except for a few seemingly-willful deniers of reality, most of us are aware of the necessity of preserving and conserving limited resources—food, potable water, energy, plants, animals—for our own welfare. But our own welfare leads us inevitably to consider the welfare of others, the others in

this case being those not-yet-born or newly born. We are in the process of learning and accepting the morality of denying ourselves now for the lives and well-being of those to come. Our world is not what we have inherited from our grandparents but what we have borrowed from our children. This is not extraordinary goodness on our part; it is part and parcel of an all-encompassing, God-centered morality that is how Jesus would have us see things. He calls the heavens God's throne and the earth God's footstool and cities God's dwelling place. Old-fashioned metaphors perhaps but telling nonetheless. The heavens and the earth and all that is in them are not ours to loot but God's to share.

Even more stark are the words of the prophet Moses in today's reading from the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy. Addressing the people he has led out of slavery in Egypt and whom he must soon leave in death, Moses rehearses God's call to His people, God's mercy and blessings, and the temptations and choices that are to come. Then Moses says, "...I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you

See SERMON, page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sermon from Our Interim Priest	1
Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Treasurer's Corner	2
From the Vestry	3
Community Partners	3
SMCOP	4
Calendar	5

Sermon *from page 1*

and length of days,...” (30:19-20) For those ancient people of God and for us modern people of God, I think this statement is both metaphorical and literal. We have choices to make and there are consequences. When we align ourselves with God and Her vision, we are walking the way of life for ourselves, for all humanity, indeed for all earthly life. To depart from God’s all-encompassing passion for the welfare of all earthly life is to enter into death. Except, perhaps, for the mentally ill, the choice is clear, the way we should go not in doubt. Let us choose the life that God desires for us and for all.

So now we see that “the societal and political will” that the Stanford University report talks about is for Christians part of our relationship to God and therefore part of our spiritual life. We are called to believe and trust in God and to act for His purposes. Some of us will be called to more work and activity than others, but all of us will be called to a basic minimum of informing ourselves, praying for the welfare of our planet—“our island home”—and doing what we can. Please take home those postcards in your pew bulletin and mail them to our Senators. Read and meditate on those facts sheets. Be as concerned about those to come as we are about today’s necessities. Let us do our share in holding up God’s throne of the heavens and God’s footstool, the earth. After all, it is God’s work we share in, and no one ever lost out by working for God. The wages may be minimal, but the retirement benefits are out of this world.

Let us finish our meditations this morning by praying from our Prayer Book: Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty. Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insights into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, pages 827 and 828)

*Stanford University. “World can be powered by alternative energy, using today’s technology, in 20-40 years, experts say.” *Science Daily* 27 January 2011. 28 January 2011 <<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/01/110126091443.htm>>.

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

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!*

March Birthdays

Day	Name
3	Jay Hathaway
4	Gail Green
10	Stephanie Dunning Oliver Helmink
11	Kyle Bolyard
15	Betty Ferrell Dennis Vasquez
18	Blue Bookhard
21	Sasha Matustik Gwynneth Renton
23	Margaret Renton Jackson Prybil
27	Steve Wright
28	Chris Long Jade Jacomb
29	Leslie Chapman-Rose Austin Baggett JD Adams
31	Loretta Coha

March Anniversaries

Day	Name
3	Ron and Denise Schwartz
10	Julie and Dick Meine
16	Lois and Paul Vaughan
25	Margie and Liz Mullen

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: Leslie Chapman, Don DeRose & Peter Juzwiak, Betsy Meiman, Ed Sugar, Alex Morales and others for providing dinners for the Wright family while Gail was recovering from surgery and Bill from a strained back. They really appreciated it.

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

January 2011—Revenue and Expense Summary

	January Actual	January Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 26,514	\$ 24,537	\$ 26,514	\$ 24,537
Total Expense	27,670	39,989	27,670	39,989
Net	(\$ 1,156)	(\$ 15,452)	(\$ 1,156)	(\$ 15,452)



FROM THE VESTRY

Faith Journeys

Anne Kelly, Senior Warden
David Connors, Junior Warden



In the past few months, our parish has placed a lot of emphasis on understanding our personal faith journeys.

We've been hearing from various members each Sunday in our Adult Education class about how God has moved in their lives, through joys and trials. In our recent Vestry retreat, we spent several hours listening to each other recount how we came to St. Michael's, whether we grew up in the church or not, when God seemed far away, and when we felt His closeness.

These have been precious times. We've laughed at shared experiences and shed tears as we've recounted painful and difficult times. We've learned so much about each other and through our stories become closer to each other and stronger as a Christian community. We've learned about the mystery of how God is always working in each of our lives, gently, lovingly. Often it's only by looking back that we can see God moving through circumstances and people, always for our good.

In the past few weeks as we interview candidates for our Rector position we've been privileged to hear our candidates tell their stories. In their writings, in phone conversations and now most recently in personal contacts, we are getting to know the men and women that God has placed in this discernment process.

These are exciting times. We feel so blessed and strengthened by the strong heroes of faith that are in our parish. And we are confident that God is guiding us toward the person who will be our new Rector, our leader as we move forward.

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

San Fernando Valley Interfaith Council

By Betsy Hailey

St. Michael's has been part of the Valley Interfaith Council since its beginning in the early sixties. In 1963 a group of religious leaders and lay people got together to oppose a proposition to overturn the Rumford Act which guaranteed open housing regardless of race. "We thought that with the support of the religious community, we could end racism in the Valley," one of the founding members, Mary Larson, a Methodist lay leader, said.

The proposition, which was heavily backed by Valley realtors, passed but was later overturned by the courts. Discouraged by the defeat but determined to continue working for social justice in the Valley, the group called a meeting at St. Michael's where the rector Ray Riebs had been an early supporter. They decided to rename themselves the San Fernando Valley Interfaith Commission. "We were acting on the precepts of our religions and determined to keep the dialogue going," said Florence Adler, another founding member representing the Jewish community who continues to be actively involved today.

The group joined forces with a secular organization, the Fair Housing Council, and



Mary Larson became the first executive director. Later the name was changed to the San Fernando Interfaith Council. Though VIC continues to address social justice issues

through its Social Concerns Committee, its focus has changed to services to senior citizens through its three multipurpose senior centers, eleven nutrition sites, four adult day care centers, and meal delivery and transportation services.

Interfaith activities include annual celebrations on Martin Luther King's birthday, Gandhi Day, and Labor Day as well as an annual Awards luncheon honoring community leaders who have been a force for change.

Coming Up at St. Michael's

Shrove Tuesday

March 8

6:00 p.m.

Pancake Supper

Join us in the parish hall for fabulous pancakes made by the Men's Group.

Ash Wednesday

March 9

Noon and 7:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes

Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church presents

LIT.UP!

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

Sunday
March 13th

FEATURING

Paul Reese & Guests

7:00 PM

In the Parish Hall

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10

FREE PARKING & CHILDCARE

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church
3646 Coldwater Canyon Avenue
Studio City, CA 91604
818.763.9193
www.stmikessc.org

Proceeds From This
Performance Benefit

**EPISCOPAL URBAN
INTERNSHIP**

PROGRAM (EUIP)

The Episcopal Urban
Intern Program is a
unique experience
bringing together young
adults from all over the
United States to live
in community and to work
in social service agencies
in and around Los Angeles.

**Elisabeth Foldes
Meiman
Curator**

**Free childcare is
provided.**

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





The Calendar

March 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	2	3 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	4 12:00 noon Fourth Quarter Luncheon (CO)	5
6 Epiphany Last 12:15 PM Liturgy Committee (CO) 12:15 PM Healing Prayer Gathering (FR) 12:15 PM SMCOP (YL)	7 6:15 PM Book Discussion Group (Beckner Home)	8 6:00 PM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (PH) 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	9 Ash Wednesday 12:00 noon Ash Wednesday Liturgy (S) 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Liturgy (S)	10	11	12
13 Lent 1 7:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)	14	15 7:00 PM Vestry (UR)	16	17 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	18	19 Saint Joseph
20 Lent 2 12:15 PM Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	21	22	23	24	25 The Annunciation	26
27 Lent 3	28 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group (YL) 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group (YL)	29	30	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

St. Michael and All Angels Church

3646 Coldwater Canyon Ave., Studio City, CA 91604

phone • 818.763.9193

fax • 818.763.2172

general e-mail • mail@stmikessc.org

web address • www.stmikessc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



VESTRY

Anne Kelly, Senior Warden
David Connors, Junior Warden
Amador Rondilla, Treasurer
Alex Morales, Clerk
Rodney Dickson
Diane Collins
Sarah Cook
Gail Green
Betsy Hailey
Norma Johnson
Hank Meiman
Meredith Reese
Ron Schwartz

PARISH STAFF

Parish Administrator Duane Steadman (administrator@stmikessc.org)
Director of Music Kristen Toedtman (kristentoedtman@gmail.com)
Organist Emil Iliev (emil_iliev@yahoo.com)

THE MIKE STAFF

Publisher Duane Steadman
Editor Emerita Soni Wright

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.

To Those Needing Support,

The DPSS Mobile Food Stamp Outreach Vehicle to be on site at The First Christian Church of North Hollywood on Friday, March 25th, 2011 as an extended service of the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry. This unique opportunity will bring the Food Stamp application process to people in your community rather than them having to come into one of our District offices to apply. The truck will be onsite from 9:00AM-1:00PM.

It is staff by DPSS Eligibility Workers, Clerks, and a Eligibility Supervisor who work as a team to interview the applicants and process the applications to the fullest extent possible. Because this project is definitely in its infancy, the mobile unit does not have the capability to issue Electronic Benefit Cards (EBT). EBT cards are the avenue through which our participants access their Food Stamp benefits. For those applicants who are approved for Food Stamps, the EBT will be sent to them from the District office.

Applicants need to provide proof of the following; however they are *not* required to provide all of this on the date of application. The Eligibility Worker who interviews them will give them a checklist of items they need to provide that they might not have with them while they are on site to apply.

Valid Identification (such as driver's license, DMV ID, card or Consulate Card)

Birth Certificate or

Valid Alien Registration Card or

Proof of Naturalization

Social Security Card

Current bank statements

Proof of current income (paycheck stubs, UIB stub, child support, etc.)

Current rent receipt or rental/lease agreement

Current mortgage payment (if purchasing home)

Property tax bill (if purchasing home, not renting)

Current utility bills

Valid DMV vehicle registration form

Any item indicated as "current" should be no more than 30 days old.