



The Mike

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

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 6 • June 2011

A Lifetime of Work and Transformation

By the Reverend Canon Mark Shier

Sermon given at St. Michael's on May 22 when Thomas Woodruff Dunning was baptized.

Well, Thomas, we want to apologize to you for what we're going to do to you this morning, baptizing you into the Christian community in the name of the Triune God, giving you living water to drink for the rest of your life. There are many benefits, but there are drawbacks as well. We are putting you at odds with your neighbor, your fellow citizen in this great nation, your friend in times to come. The Christian community commits a profoundly counter cultural act when it baptizes a human being into the Church, the Mystical Body of the resurrected Christ, the people of Christ serving the world in His Name and for His purposes.

Our culture will tell you that you must put yourself first, that no one else will look out for your welfare. Our religion says that you must put God first, and everything else will fall into place.

Our culture says the only reasonable way to live is selfishly; our religions says nonsense, the only way to live is altruistically, with a great devotion to the welfare of others.

Our culture will offer you several choices for what to do with your life: make money, be famous, take pleasure, have sex, create a family, serve your country, a myriad of others. Our religion will tell you, as it has told us for thousands of years, that your purpose in life is to learn how to love, to become the image of our loving God as we see Him living a passionately loving human life in Jesus of Nazareth.

Our culture will fawn on you for many reasons: you are handsome, you are smart, you are funny, you are powerful, you are talented. Our religion will stand in awe of you because you are a creature of God, a child of heaven, a brother to the Messiah who rules and serves the universe, one destined to live forever with God in joy.

Our culture will tell you that your religion is a relic of a superstitious past, best put aside in the interest of being a clear-eyed realist. Our religion will tell you that our culture is blind to the realities that make life really worthwhile, to dimensions of the truth that are closer to the core of humanity because they bring us into the heart of God, who is the sustainer of all that is.



Our culture will worship what is modern and new, ignoring the past as out-of-date and irrelevant. Our religion will be fascinated by what is novel in God's world

but will always look to the past to provide a context into which to fit what is new. Dead white men and women have a lot to say to us that is wise and important.

Our culture sees and hears only what is loud and fast; our religion says that in quietness and stillness we will find life's heartbeat and a tempered balance that will make us wise.

Our culture will tell you that you needn't work hard, that life owes you. Our religion will face you with the hard truth that we are guaranteed nothing but the infinite love of God which takes a lifetime of attention and engagement to understand.

Our culture will tell you that you must devote yourself to self-fulfillment; our religion will tell you that becoming holy is the only goal worthy of you. To be holy, that is, to become good and wise and compassionate and loving, as God is.

Our culture will offer you nothing permanent to live for, because death is the end of this world of space and time; our religion will ask, invite, cajole and demand that you respond to God and become Her ally in re-making the world, for life transcends death and we are

made to inherit a world beyond this world. What we do in our lives has infinite meaning, because the people we live with and do things with and do things to—these people live forever.

Our religion will offer you sacrifice as a theme to live your life by, the sacrifice we keep before us in the image of the crucified Lord of life, the willing giving of ourselves for others, because God returns all that matters to us in resurrection; our culture simply does not comprehend sacrifice.

Thomas, you begin to see the dimensions of what we are doing to you today. We apologize for that, and, at the same time, we are profoundly joyful, for we think we are giving you a great treasure, bringing you into a powerful tradition, imprinting the very likeness of God into your soul, and giving you a community to live in that takes compassion and love and holiness seriously. It is the best thing we have to offer you.

We're not making this up, Thomas. It is all there in the story of God's history with us that is the Bible, in the history of our people living with God through centuries, in the way we think and love with God's Spirit in our own lives.

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
Bishop Robert A. Anderson.....	4
Calendar	5

Sermon *from page 1*

You are being baptized in the church season of Easter, when we grapple with the meaning of a dead human being brought back to life by the love of God and what that resurrected life means. That resurrected man, Jesus, tells us God is not hidden from us but that we can see and hear God as we see and hear Jesus, that God is like a loving Father who wants only the best for His children. In the human life of Jesus we see the divine life of God. (John 14.1-14) That is why we Christians hold on so strongly to Jesus: He makes God real for us. You carry the name of a great saint, Thomas, who had his doubts about this resurrection business but who came to believe and accept what God is doing in Jesus Christ. (John 20.24-29) You will have your doubts, too, but trust yourself to your patron saint, whose example of humble acceptance can guide your life. Do the same, Thomas.

A follower of the great high priest, Jesus Christ, in a sermon for baptism that we today call the New Testament book of First Peter says that you are chosen and special. This thinker says that the Christian people to whom you now belong are priests, royalty, and a holy nation. You, along with us, are to turn darkness into light, to tell the nobodies of the world that they are somebodies, transformed into God's people, the most precious thing on the planet, that there is always compassion and understanding and kindness, that we have already found out how good the Lord is and now we must tell others, that we are builders and healers and beauty-makers in God's kingdom. (1 Peter 2.1-10) Do the same, Thomas.

As you grow up, you will learn what it is to be a people, a community, a nation, even to be a king. But being a priest is a little strange in the modern world, so let me take a moment to tell you what that is all about. A priest is simply a bridge to help people get to God; a priest is not a doorway that limits divine access; a priest is a bridge open 24/7 for folks to travel to the wonder that is our God. In the story of God's people that is the Bible, you will learn that God appointed the first high priest, a man named Aaron, brother to an exceptional leader, Moses. Aaron's task was to help the people to realize God's presence in their lives and to come close to God, to make their whole lives a worship of God's graciousness. We Christians see Jesus Christ as the inheritor of that task, the one, perfect High Priest who accomplished the union of God with His people. Do the same thing, Thomas. Be a priest, as all baptized Christians are, to bring the world's people to the God who loves them passionately. Help them to see that they are one with the Divine. It is a worthy lifetime calling for you, as it was for Moses' brother and for Jesus. Let people see in you the divine

reality breaking into this world and a life enriched beyond telling by that Divinity.

God binds Himself to Her people in an agreement we call covenant. By that covenant God liberates His people, rescues them from lostness, gives them a place and people to belong to, protects them, and calls for them to obey and worship and love. (Deuteronomy 6.20-25) Today you become a part of that covenant. Help others to do the same, Thomas.

I want to close by giving you a prayer by another Thomas, Dylan Thomas, a great poet of the last century. He wrote a verse play about an imaginary Welsh village called Milk Wood. One of the characters is the local pastor, the reverend Eli Jenkins, who recites his prayer/poem in the twilight. It's a good one to use all your life. Here it is:

Every morning when I wake,
Dear Lord, a little prayer I make,
O please to keep Thy lovely eye
On all poor creatures born to die.

And every evening at sun-down
I ask a blessing on the town
For whether we last the night or no
I'm sure is always touch-and-go.
We are not wholly bad or good
Who live our lives under Milk Wood,
And Thou, I know, wilt be the first
To see our best side, not our worst.

O let us see another day!
Bless us this night, I pray,
And to the sun we all will bow
And say good-bye—but just for now!

Dylan Thomas, *Under Milk Wood*, 1954

So much to do and be. A lifetime of work and transformation. Quiet and stillness and noise and tumult and work and sacrifice. Sadness and joy. Culture and counter culture. God and Jesus. Doubt and faith. Life and death and life again.

We apologize, Master Thomas, for what we do today. But we also rejoice. Amen.

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

June Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Polly Davis
6	Jane Wilson
9	Jack Beckner Leonard Harman
10	Marj Carhart Darius Hoomani
14	Matt Davidson
15	Alexis Walker
16	John Vincent
24	Joel Fisher
25	Annie DeRose
26	Emily Taylor
27	Dalton Taylor
29	Marj Jennings Ed Dunning
30	Joan Dektar

June Anniversaries

Day	Name
12	David & Mary Piser

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.*

July/August 2011 Summer MIKE Deadline

Please send copy and/or pictures via e-mail to administrator@stmikessc.org by Tuesday, June 21. If you don't have a computer, bring your articles to the Parish Office by that time.

Treasurer's Corner

April 2011—Revenue and Expense Summary

	April Actual	April Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 24,229	\$ 25,915	\$ 100,062	\$ 100,856
Total Expense	29,733	44,509	110,942	158,460
Net	(\$ 5,504)	(\$ 18,594)	(\$ 10,880)	(\$ 57,604)



The Memorial Day Holiday, the unofficial beginning of summer, has come and gone and many of us are moving into 'summer mode'. Those with school-age children are acutely aware that the school year will soon end. Your summer plans may include summer camps, little league, soccer, and a myriad of activities for your children as well as additional day care arrangements that must be made. Perhaps summer means time to clean out the garage or the backyard or, more time to read and relax. Many of us will travel to visit relatives and/or plan a trip to see someplace new, or vacation in a place where we can rest and relax.

St. Michael and All Angels Church is also moving into summer mode. The full choir will be singing through Sunday, June 19th and children's programs are winding down. As parishioners travel and vacation, we miss them at Sunday services.

Although we will be in summer mode, there will still be many great things

happening at St. Michael's. Father Mark Shier will continue as our Interim Priest. He will be leading worship services each Sunday and guiding the Pastoral Care Committee. The Vestry meets regularly through the summer and continues its supervision of all parish activities and the Rector Search/Discernment Committee continues its work as well.

Although the full choir will be off for the summer, we will still have music at the 10:30 service. Emil will continue to play our favorite hymns and there will be one or two soloists singing each Sunday. We will still have coffee and doughnuts after the 8:00am service and our fantastic Coffee Hours will follow the 10:30 service. Lit Up will also continue through the summer.

There are several children's programs on our campus during the summer. The Sunnyside Preschool operates year round and Destination Science Camp will continue this summer as well. We will have a new program this summer called Cooking Italiano for Kids.

The maintenance of our property continues through the summer. Although he has now moved to Chicago, we are still thankful for Tom Heuer who painted the church sign (near Coldwater Canyon), the entrances to the church, and the doors to the church office and the Parish Hall. We are currently raising funds to repaint three buildings. We will paint the church office, the non-brick areas of the Parish Hall, and the classroom building across from the Parish Hall once the funds have been raised. We also thank Ed Sugar and Preston Fray who continue to supervise the cleaning and maintenance of our worship space as well as the outside grounds of the campus.

We would like to wish you all a very peaceful and relaxing summer. We give thanks for the wonderful spiritual community of St. Michael's and we celebrate the blessings of God's love for us that are ever present in our lives.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

National Religious Campaign Against Torture

By Betsy Hailey

"Torture Is A Moral Issue" is the central tenet of our partnership with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). June is "Torture Awareness Month" across the country and will be highlighted in Los Angeles by a staged reading of testimony from actual torture victims presented by the Los Angeles Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Entitled "Reckoning with Torture" and based on a script developed by the American Civil Liberties Union and PEN America, the event will be held at St. Michael's on Sunday afternoon, June 26, from 3:00 to 5:00. The reading, to be performed by local actors including David Selby (of "Dark Shadows" fame) and Susan Clark (who appeared most recently at St. Michael's in "A Woman of Independent Means"), is based on a Sundance-honored film. It will be followed by a brief panel discussion chaired by noted author and civil rights attorney Stephen

Rohde and a bountiful reception. The event is free and open to the public.

Co-sponsors include the Los Angeles Region Religious Campaign Against Torture, Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace, Program for Torture Victims, Rabbis for Human Rights—North America, Progressive Christians Uniting, ACLU—Southern California, and the American Friends Service Committee—Pacific Southwest Region.

Formed in response to worldwide outrage

over the photos from Abu Ghraib, NRCAT has enlisted the support of religious communities to end U.S. government-sponsored torture forever and to call for a commission of inquiry into how brutal interrogation policies became government policy after 9/11. President Obama issued an Executive Order the day after his Inauguration ending these practices but another administration could reverse the order unless Congress codifies it into law.

For more information on NRCAT, go to www.NRCAT.org.



The Right Reverend Robert M. Anderson

By Bob Williams and Pat McCaughan
Episcopal News Service



The Right Reverend Robert Marshall Anderson, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota from 1978 to 1993 and a former assisting bishop in the Diocese of Los Angeles, died May 3 in Minneapolis of pancreatic cancer. He was 77. Memorial services were held on May 9 at St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis, and on May 16 at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, Los Angeles.

As bishop of Minnesota, Anderson oversaw 126 parishes and missions as well as the construction of a diocesan House of Prayer on the grounds of St. John's Benedictine Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota. He also served as a representative to the Consultation on Church Union and made Native American ministries a priority. He helped write clergy discipline and misconduct guidelines and placed women, gay and lesbian clergy in church leadership positions.

He was awarded a doctor of divinity degree from Yale University in 1977; a year later the Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, recognized him with an honorary doctor of divinity degree. He attended four meetings of the Lambeth Conference.

Anderson retired from the Los Angeles diocese in 2008 after 47 years of ministry. At that time, Anderson and his wife, Mary Artemis Evans Anderson, took up permanent residence in the couple's 130-year-old Door County, Wisconsin, farmhouse.

In Los Angeles, Anderson served as area bishop to congregations in Orange County and the Inland Empire from 1995-1998, assisting Bishop Diocesan Frederick H. Borsch. He returned in 2002 at the invitation of Diocesan Bishop J. Jon Bruno. During his Los Angeles service, he made pastoral visits to nearly all of the diocese's 147 congregations.

In between he had served as an associate at the Church of the Holy Spirit, a large, active congregation in Lake Forest, Illinois.

The hallmark of Anderson's distinguished ministry was the baptismal covenant, and he developed a reputation for promoting wellness and renewal. Nationally, he served as a faculty member for the Church Pension Group-sponsored CREDO, which offers clergy and laity an eight-day opportunity to examine various aspects of their lives and to prayerfully discern future vocation.

Anderson frequently summarized his ministry in three words: the baptismal covenant. "I tell congregations, this is our common life, our work together," he said in 2008 when he retired. "It's what I speak about almost every time I go to a church," he added, emphasizing the promises to strive for justice and peace and to respect the dignity of every human being.

Anderson distinguished himself as a collegial leader of great spiritual depth, a compassionate pastoral presence and a champion of lay empowerment. In 1996, he became the second recipient of the Colman J. Barry Award for Distinguished Contributions to Religion and Society, a prestigious award presented by St. John's University in Minnesota.

Robert Anderson was born December 18, 1933, to Arthur and Hazel Anderson and while growing up at Christ Church, Staten Island, had no inkling he would be a priest, much less a bishop.

A high school basketball player and athlete, he graduated from Colgate University in upstate New York in 1955. He said his understanding of Asian culture grew while he served in the U.S. Army's 24th Infantry Division in Korea from 1955 to 1956.

He enrolled in the Berkeley Divinity School at

Yale University and was awarded a Danforth fellowship to serve for a year as a college chaplain at Northwestern University in Evanston. There he met Mary Artemis Evans, a Minneapolis native and history and English senior. They were married August 24, 1960, and returned to New Haven where Mary taught school for a time and he completed his final year of seminary at Berkeley, graduating cum laude in 1961.

He was ordained a deacon June 13, 1961, and a priest on April 1, 1962. He served several Connecticut congregations, including stints as curate (1961-1963) and later as associate rector (1968-1972) at historic St. John's Church, Stamford. He also served as vicar of a yoked parish, Christ Church, Middle Haddam, and St. John's, East Hampton, from 1963-1968.

In 1972, the family headed west to Salt Lake City, Utah, when he was called as dean of St. Mark's Cathedral. He was elected the seventh bishop of Minnesota and consecrated February 11, 1978. At the time of his election he was the youngest bishop in the Episcopal Church. By the time he retired, he was the second-longest serving bishop in the Anglican Communion.

Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Mary Artemis Evans Anderson, and three daughters; Martha Anderson (Paul Lehman), Elizabeth (Magnus) Kempe, Catherine (William) Gregg; son Thomas Robert (Lea) Anderson; grandchildren Quinn, Simon and Benjamin Lehman; William, Charlotte Mary and Jonathan Gregg; Olivia Kempe and Winter Rose Anderson; sister-in-law Susan C. Evans, and brother-in-law Tom (Lorraine) Evans, two nieces and a nephew.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Department of Indian Work with the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, 1730 Clifton Place, #201, Minneapolis, MN 55403; The House of Prayer, P.O. Box 5888 Collegeville, MN 56321, or to St Mark's Cathedral, 519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

—Bob Williams is canon for community relations for the Diocese of Los Angeles. The Rev. Pat McCaughan is correspondent for Episcopal News Service. Janet Kawamoto, editor of *The Episcopal News of the Diocese of Los Angeles*, and Wendy Johnson, missioner for communications for the Diocese of Minneapolis, contributed to this story.



The Calendar

June 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 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	3	4 Get on the Bus
5 Easter 7 12:00 noon Healing Prayer Gathering (FR) 12:15 PM SMCOP (YL)	6	7	8	9	10	11 8:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
12 Pentecost	13	14 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	15	16 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	17	18
19 Trinity Sunday 12:00 noon Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	20 Destination Science Camp Begins	21 7:00 PM Vestry (UR)	22	23	24	25
26 Pentecost 2 (Proper 8) 3:00 PM "Reckoning with Torture" (PH)	27 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Group (YL) 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Group (YL)	28	29	30	<div data-bbox="1360 1724 1528 1927" data-label="Text"> <p>Locations: CO: Church Office CR: Choir Room MR: Music Room FR: Fireside Room PH: Parish Hall UR: Upper Room YL: Youth Lounge S: Sanctuary</p> </div>	

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.