



The Mike

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

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Journeys in Faith

By the Reverend Dan Justin

As summer approaches I have begun to think about vacations and all the possibilities of trips that I might want to take. I am not sure if you have ever considered it, but travel can be a real journey in faith. Allow me to explain: In April of 2007 I had the opportunity to take a trip that changed my life. I traveled with a group of seventeen people, most of whom I had never met, to Jerusalem. This was not a vacation. It was a pilgrimage. It was a journey in faith to a holy place with hopes of encountering God in a new way somewhere along the way.

Pilgrimages have been a part of the life of faith for a great many years. In some faith traditions they hold much more value than in others. Christians these days seem to have lost the idea of pilgrimages in their lives and I think that is unfortunate. An Episcopal Priest by the name of Kurt Nielson wrote a book which I read shortly after graduating from Seminary. The book is called *Urban Iona*. It is the story of Father Nielson's pilgrimage to the Iona Religious Community in Ireland. He tells the story of being unsettled in his life and unsatisfied in his faith. This dissatisfaction and unsettledness was growing and growing and nothing he was doing was able to address it. After a time he decided what he really needed to do was set off on a journey—an actual physical journey of faith in hopes of encountering the living God and experiencing a resurrection of his very own. The book tells of this journey; this pilgrimage.

My own pilgrimage was not prompted by my dissatisfaction in my life of faith. Rather, it was more like setting off to finally put a face to a name. I had read and studied the scriptures but the lands and places talked about only lived in my imagination. On my pilgrimage I was finally able to see these places with my own eyes. And I must say, there was indeed a resurrection experience. My faith was renewed. My love for the scriptures was deepened. I really did seem to experience God in new ways. I still have fond memories of this journey of faith. I still feel its impact in my life today.

I wonder how you might incorporate the idea of pilgrimage in your own life. Remember, spiritual disciplines and things like pilgrimages are a means to an end. They are avenues of grace. They are ways that we can encounter the living God anew in our lives today. The point is not where you go but it is the prayerful and expectant way you walk on your journey. I use this practice frequently when I



am trying to write a sermon. Inevitably there are times where I feel no inspiration and no creativity. I sit staring at an empty page on my screen. So I get up and begin a journey. Sometimes it is a walk around the block. Other times I wander to a church

or a park or to the ocean. Inspiration almost always strikes. An idea sparks. A new story is remembered, one that would work perfectly with what I am trying to say. It is like the stone is rolled away and I experience a resurrection moment.

Is there some place that is meaningful to you? Some place you have always wanted to visit? Is there some spiritually significant locale you can think of to try this idea of pilgrimage? As you journey, take time to pray, reflect, sit quietly, journal, and to experience the leading and prompting of the Spirit. Pick up your heavy heart and go. Travel to that place, praying all along the way. And maybe, just maybe, you will have that resurrection moment your soul longs for somewhere along the way.

Blessings to you on your journey.

Would you like to read more on this topic? Here are some book recommendations for further reading on the spiritual discipline of Pilgrimage:

Urban Iona by Kurt Nielson
The Art of Pilgrimage by Phil Cousineau

Sunday Morning Learning Opportunities

Each Sunday a group of St. Mike's parishioners have been gathering at 9:30 am to talk about Episcopal Beliefs and Practices. Our group usually numbers anywhere from fifteen to twenty people. The conversations have been wonderful. Our topic has helped us explore what the Episcopal Church believes and the ways in which those beliefs can be seen in our lives through our actions. We will be continuing with this topic through the end of May.

Traditionally, the learning opportunities come to an end over the summer months and start back up again in September. I am having so much fun with these conversations and I don't think we need to close up shop over the summer. When we finish our discussion of Episcopal Beliefs and Practices we will take just a one weekend break—and then we will begin a new topic.

This summer join us for *An Exploration of the Gospel of Mark* every Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the parish hall. All our Gospel Readings on Sundays during this liturgical year are drawn from Mark's Gospel. Mark is thought to be the earliest Gospel written and is also the foundation on which Matthew and Luke build. Together we will discover the key theological themes presented in this Gospel and learn the history of this unique presentation of the life of Jesus.

Don't miss it!

Father Dan

ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

Lit.Up! Shows—May, June, July

By Jane Wilson

About six years ago, St. Michael's Community Outreach Projects figured out an ingenious way to stretch our budget. We started the monthly Lit Up! shows—an evening of comedy, essays, songs, sketches and poetry—where the box office goes to people and organizations in Southern California living in extreme need and also organizations that work for peace and justice. These shows have been wonderful for building community as well as making it possible for us to support a lot more people in need than we are able to do using just the annual SMCOP budget. These evenings are funny and moving and sometimes a little provocative. Please do come by—all shows are in the Parish Hall at 8pm and include a small dessert/snack buffet and coffee, free childcare and tons of parking, all for only \$10! We have managed to raise over \$30,000 since we began doing these shows. Here's what's coming up:

Saturday, May 12th: Theme "Shake it Up" starring Rick Overton, Karen Kilgariff, Jimmy Doyle, Noah Belson, Rachel Quaintance and many others. Box office is going to Suzanne Whang a friend of the show who has been stricken with a rare form of cancer and has not had healthcare for the past two years as she battles it.

Saturday, June 9th: Theme is "Don't Dream, It's Over" and stars Valerie Watson, Gary Lucy and many others TBD. The Box office goes to Get On the Bus, a wonderful group that brings children to see their mothers and fathers in prison.

Saturday, July 14th: Theme is "Sisters are Doing It For Themselves", starring Emily Cutler, Jimmy Dore and many others. Box office goes to the Somaly Mam Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the eradication of slavery and the empowerment of its survivors (many who are children), under the vision of human rights activist Somaly Mam, a Cambodian survivor of sexual slavery. The Foundation works in three ways: first, grants and in-kind resources for rescue, shelter, and recovery programs at partner organizations address the needs of current victims in Southeast Asia, where the trafficking of women and children is widespread. Next, the Voices For Change program empowers survivors to become a part of the solution by involving them in every step of the process: outreach and rescue, recovery and skills training, reintegration, prevention and eradication efforts. Third, through SMF's Project Futures global activist network, awareness and advocacy campaigns shed light on the crime of human trafficking and involve individuals, corporations and governments in the fight against modern-day slavery.

May Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Ayana Coho
3	Lise Friedman
7	Alexandra Lake
11	Maddie Charlton
15	Amanda Schwartz
18	Lois Vaughan
19	Brooks Taylor Hailey Rafter
23	Anna Wilson
24	Gary Lucy
27	Marguerite Fortman
28	Barbara King
30	Rae Markus Aiden Fields
31	Bonnie Winings

May Anniversaries

Day	Name
26	Donald & Norma Johnson
27	Gary Lucy & Jane Wilson

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.*

Treasurer's Corner

By Peter Juzwiak

St. Michael's is right on track with its financial plan for 2012. At the end of the first quarter, our expenses of \$102,000 were about \$1,000 under budget. In addition, the Vestry has committed to a plan to reduce or eliminate our projected budget deficit. At the start of 2012, our expected deficit was \$137,000, clearly an unsustainable amount. Through a variety of measures, including additional donations from parishioners, reductions of certain expenses and increased rental income, the projected budget deficit for 2012 has been reduced to \$3,800. We continue to investigate other ways of generating revenue in order to balance the budget and perhaps even create a surplus for the first time in many years.

Although we are pleased with this progress, we should all keep in mind that our projected expenses for 2012, which total \$380,000, still vastly exceed our pledge income of \$193,000. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our pledge income alone could cover all of our expenses? Then our extra revenue from property rentals and investment income could be used to restore our buildings, enhance our programs and expand our community outreach. Please give that some thought as we approach stewardship season in a few months and we all have a chance to reevaluate how much St. Michael's means to us.

On Sunday, May 20th, the treasurer will be available in the Parish Hall after both services to meet informally with any parishioners who have questions about St. Michael's financial condition or budget. All are welcome.

March 2011—Revenue and Expense Summary

	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 27,113	\$ 26,861	\$ 77,586	\$ 78,845
Total Expense	26,358	27,074	101,791	103,087
Net	\$ 755	(\$ 213)	(\$ 24,205)	(\$ 24,242)

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!

From the Vestry

Anne Kelly, Senior Warden
David Connors, Junior Warden



Well, we are three months into Father Dan's tenure with us. What a wonderful start we are experiencing to this new phase of our parish life and ministry.

Since Father Dan's arrival we are seeing signs of new growth happening in many places. Our worship services, which were so deep and meaningful under Father Mark's leadership, have taken on even more depth and meaning. Small changes in worship have had very positive impact and have been well received. Father Dan's sermons are challenging us and are deepening our individual and communal spiritual life. His sense of humor invigorates his message and captures the attention of young and

old. There have been lots of new visitors to our services, many of whom are becoming involved in our parish community.

Under Father Dan's leadership, the Vestry has begun learning more about being an effective church. At a recent Vestry meeting we discussed our strengths as a parish and have started looking at ways to build on those strengths. We are reviewing our budget and looking for ways to reduce the deficit. We are continuing to focus on various options for revenue generation, many of which involve better use of our beautiful campus and facilities. Some of those new sources of revenue include: using the campus as a wedding destination and as a

film and television location, ensuring that the rents we charge our various tenants are fair and close to market value, applying for foundation grants for improvements to our historic sanctuary and educating parishioners about the opportunities to provide for St Michael's future through planned giving.

We thank God for the growth we experienced during our transition period. We have now begun a new phase in our ministry in Studio City. We welcome the new opportunities we have to deepen our spiritual life together and expand our service to those in need around us. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

St. Michael's Music Beyond the Sanctuary

By Kristen Toedtman, Director of Music

We are fortunate to have singers among our congregation who want to lend their voices to worship and to have not only a fine piano but also a glorious organ in our sanctuary with which to lift our voices and prayers higher. Yet, we also aim to take our music beyond our Coldwater Canyon home and in the past two years have begun to do just that. Starting in 2010, we visited two nursing homes and three private homes during the Christmas holiday season to bring carols and cheer to those who don't get to partake in our Sunday services. Those who attended know it was a highlight of the year. New parishioners, long-time parishioners, singers and non-singers all joined in with smiles and laughter as we spent the night spreading the cheer in the form of song. We capped the night off with refreshments at David Connors and Alex Morales' home and I promise not one of us left untouched by the beauty of the night in witnessing the power of music to touch souls. The Christmas season brings us many things, yet one of my favorites is the ability to bring many voices together due to the

familiarity of the music to all. Would that we had a May/June holiday with the same catalog of songs. In fact, I would love to organize a "caroling" outing in the spring/summer with songs we can gather to sing with minimal rehearsal.



A visit to Sylvia McHugh who joined in the singing of Christmas carols.



Brooks entertains at our fall fundraiser while Kathleen sings harmonies.

Have any ideas? Perhaps a favorite songbook collecting dust at home? Please contact me and let's discuss!

Meanwhile, though no one wants to discuss fundraising, we had such a nice time at our fall fundraiser—graciously hosted by Brooks and Kathleen Taylor—that I can't wait to do it again. We're looking to do it again soon, in fact. Stay tuned for the announcement. Over 30 parishioners gathered for an intimate house concert of music by Brooks and yours truly. What a blast we had. You can see how intimate it was and get a hint at how delightful in the attached photo.

As always, thank you all for your continued support of our music program. Every bit helps! Have you considered singing with the choir? Want to give it a try? Feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail, or better yet—after church on Sundays.

Around St. Michael's... Holy Week...Palm Sunday Procession



Maundy Thursday Agapé Supper





The Calendar

May 2012

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Adult Forum begins at 9:30 am.*
 • *Sunday School begins at 10:30 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 Saint Philip and Saint James	2	3 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	4	5
6 Easter 5 Big Sunday 11:30 AM Healing Prayer Gathering (Memorial Garden)	7	8	9 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	10	11	12 10:30 AM Book Discussion Group Trip to LA Central Library 8:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
13 Easter 6	14	15 7:00 PM Vestry	16	17 Ascension Day 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	18	19
20 Easter 7 12:00 Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Pentecost	28 Memorial Day Parish Office Closed	29	30	31 The Visitation of the BVM		

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



The Calendar

June 2012

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Adult Forum begins at 9:30 am.*
 • *Sunday School begins at 10:30 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

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

1
 12:00 Fourth
 Quarter
 Luncheon

2

3 Trinity Sunday
 12:00 Healing Prayer
 Gathering (FR)
 12:15 PM SMCOP (YL)

4

5

6

7
 7:30 PM Choir
 Rehearsal (MR)

8

9
 8:00 PM Lit.Up!
 (PH)

10 Pentecost 2

11 St. Barnabas

12

13
 7:00 PM Finance
 Committee (CO)

14

15

16

17 Pentecost 3
 12:00 Healing Prayer
 Gathering (FR)

18

19
 7:00 PM Vestry

20

21

22

23

24 Pentecost 4

25 Nativity of
 St. John the
 Baptist

26

27

28

29 Saints Peter
 & Paul

30

BIG SUNDAY



**SUNDAY
MAY 6
12-3 pm**

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING
BIG SUNDAY, MAY 6?**

*Saint Michael & All Angels Church
& St. Michael's Community Outreach
Projects Committee Invite You to a*

FAMILY FESTIVAL

*Benefiting wounded soldiers
& soldiers on the front line.*

Entertainment by
New Directions Choir
(whose members are formerly homeless vets)
BBQ & GAMES

ALSO

- ★ *Letter writing station for frontline troops* ★
- ★ *Donation drop-off for frontline/wounded troops* ★
- ★ *Sponsor two triple amputee Marines (pictured at left)
for a visit to California* ★
- ★ *Luncheon with special veteran guests of honor* ★

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SoldierCare

**A non-political wounded soldier mentoring project providing year-round support for
wounded veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.**



Todd Simpson Love



Tyler Southern

Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

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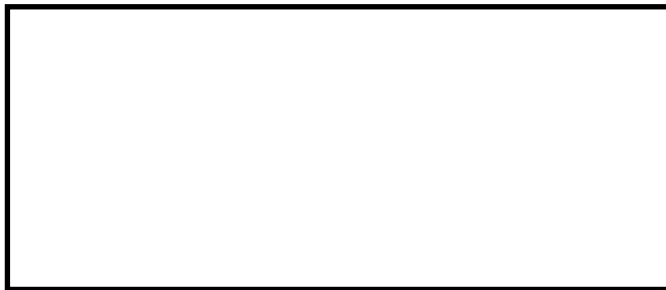
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Alex Morales, Clerk

Diane Collins

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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.