



# The Mike

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

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 4 • June 2012

## Finding God in the Ordinary

By the Reverend Dan Justin

The months of December through May are pretty exciting times in the church. Most of our major holidays and feast days are packed into that span of time. Most of our special seasons which bring changes of color, style, and rhythm to our worship services are found in those months. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter are all celebrated during that span of time. Once we hit Pentecost Sunday though, things get—well—ordinary.

From June until the end of November there are no real big celebratory seasons of time. Sure we get a few important Sundays along the way, but they only last one Sunday. That is why the season after Pentecost has come to be known as Ordinary Time. It is also known as the Great Green Season. This is because the liturgical color of this season is green. So should we be getting ready for a big yawner of a time or is there something more significant going on?

Actually, there is something really wonderful about Ordinary Time. It is the season of growth. That is the reason the color is green. It signifies our opportunity to slow ourselves down, to really reflect on the story we have been telling through our celebrations of the other seasons. It allows us to give ourselves time to grow deep roots in our faith. St. Paul, in his writings to the early church, compares growing in faith to feeding a baby. There is a time when a baby can only have milk. Eventually though, in order to grow, the baby must begin to eat solid food. We also know

that we have to eat food that is good for us if we want to be strong. We must have a variety of servings of fruits and vegetables along with other foods that are healthy. We would never allow our children to only eat candy. In order to grow and be healthy they must eat the right things. The Green Season provides us with good food. We get a steady diet of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Epistles and the Gospels which



nourish our faith and allows the Holy Spirit to slowly mold us and make us into the people God calls us to be.

Mountain top experiences are wonderful. The joy of Christmas and Easter provide us beautiful celebrations in the

church. But only the Great Green Season provides us the opportunity to find God in the ordinary places of life. Barbara Brown Taylor, the author and Episcopal Priest, has written a wonderful book entitled *An Altar in the World*. In her book she explores this idea of finding God in the ordinary. Her book explores the idea that every activity in our life can become a sacrament. How can you find and experience the presence of God while folding laundry or pulling weeds or working in the garden? Ordinary time is the perfect time to explore this question. Even in the everyday experiences of our life we can learn to encounter the Holy.

Being a disciple of Jesus is no easy business. We are presented with choices each day as we encounter any number of situations in life in which we must face the question, "Will I be a disciple today? Will I act in love?" If we do not have deep roots of faith we are unlikely to make the best choice when the time comes. The deep roots we need to sustain us are grown during ordinary time.

As you think about your summer, what plans do you have to utilize this time to grow in your faith? How will you begin to experience God in the ordinary and the everyday moments? Perhaps you may want to read *An Altar in the World* this summer. Perhaps you may want to commit to attending the study of the Gospel on Mark on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.. Perhaps you may want to start a small group meeting in your home with other parishioners and reflect the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday. You may want to start keeping a journal of all the places you see God in your everyday experiences. These are just a few suggestions. Whatever you choose you can be sure of one thing—the Spirit will indeed meet you along the way and the ordinary may just turn out to be extraordinary.

### Save the Date...

The Men of St. Michael's invite you to the

### St. Michael's Parish Picnic

**When:** Sunday, June 10, 2012

**Where:** In the Church Courtyard and Parish Hall after the 10:30 am service.

**What to bring:** Bring food to share. Bring games—whiffle ball, croquet, badminton or anything else.

Feel free to drop off food in the parish hall kitchen when you arrive for church.

Join us and enjoy the Sunday with the parish family!

Feel free to contact the Rev. Dan Justin at 818.763.9193 or Patrick Holder with any questions.

## Close Encounters of the First Kind

Close Encounters of the First Kind, a new study of the Gospel of Mark, begins Sunday, June 3rd, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The Gospel of Mark is believed by most scholars to be the earliest Gospel written. For many first century readers this book of the Bible would have been their first encounter with this man named Jesus. The authors of Matthew and Luke liked Mark's account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus so much that they copied it almost verbatim as they wrote their own Gospel accounts. They took Mark's words and added to them in their own unique way and style. Not only is Mark the earliest Gospel—it is the first time this type of literary genre had ever been used. The author of Mark managed to be the first in all kinds of ways. I invite you to have a Close Encounter of the First Kind with the Gospel of Mark this summer. Learn the book's unique themes, theology, and purpose; explore its unique literary style. And maybe you will encounter Jesus anew—it might just be like seeing him again for the first time. Click here for the class schedule and reading list.

Father Dan

# The Bishop is Coming!

By the Reverend Dan Justin

I am thrilled to announce that St. Michael and All Angels will have an Episcopal Visitation on Sunday, June 24, 2012. The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool will preside and preach at both our 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services that morning. I asked Bishop Glasspool to add St. Michael's to her visitation schedule earlier this spring when I discovered that there was not going to be an area Confirmation at the Pro-Cathedral this year. As you may know, Bill Wright had been leading a yearlong youth confirmation class and we were dismayed that after all the work the confirmands had accomplished – they might not have a chance to actually be confirmed. Bishop Glasspool responded immediately and added us to her very busy calendar.

As it turned out, due to family vacations and other scheduling conflicts, most of the confirmands would not have been available on June 24th. For that reason they all traveled to St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Westwood, CA on May 13th where they were confirmed by Bishop Glasspool. St. Michael's congratulates Elisabeth Aukee, Margaret Pasqua, Haily Rafter, Hannah Rafter, Celine Rauber, and Margaret Renton on this important step in their Christian journey.

Despite having already confirmed all six girls on May 13th, the Bishop has decided to keep St. Michael's on her visitation schedule. This will be her first visit to this parish. I am thrilled she is coming. This visit provides another opportunity as well—Adult Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation.

Why would an adult wish to be Confirmed or Received? Both of these have deep meaning and are important steps in your life of faith. In Confirmation you claim the promises made on your behalf in your baptism for yourself. For many of us who were baptized as infants our parents made promises that they would raise us in the Christian faith. Confirmation presents the opportunity to make that promise yourself. Confirmation is also the avenue by which we become Episcopalians. Many of us were raised in other Christian traditions but have now found our way to the Episcopal Church. Through Confirmation we formally become Episcopalians.

Of course many other Christian traditions offer Confirmation. The Roman Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, and the Presbyterian Church—to name a few—each offer Confirmation. Those Confirmed in other traditions need not be Confirmed again. Those wanting to formally become Episcopalians who have been previously Confirmed are then Received into the Episcopal Church.

Reaffirmation is a way to recommit yourself to

the life of faith. Some grew up in the church and wandered away. By God's grace they find themselves drawn back to the community; drawn back to the faith. They begin to attend church and worship on a regular basis once again. Reaffirmation is a way to make a public statement recommitting your life back to following the ways of God. Others have never stopped attending church or following Christ, and yet they long for a deeper walk with God. Reaffirmation is available for them as well. It is simply a public recommitting of one's life to the Lord.

Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation are deep topics and I have only scratched the surface of their meaning here. I wonder though—have I piqued your interest? Have you ever thought about formalizing your membership in the Episcopal Church? If you have, I encourage you to contact me at either 818.763.9193 or by e-mail at rector@stmikessc.org to talk about the possibility.

If there is interest I plan to offer a two part class this June available for adults interested in Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation. If you are intrigued please contact me to get signed up. Once I see who is interested I will set the dates for the class.

## June Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Polly Davis
6	Jane Wilson
8	Rowan McCarthy
9	Jack Beckner Leonard Harman
10	Lily Rodriguez Darius Hoomani
14	Matt Davidson
15	Alexis Walker
16	John Vincent
24	Joel Fisher
25	Annie Juzwiak DeRose
26	Emily Taylor
27	Dalton Taylor
29	Marj Jennings Ed Dunning Lorraine Smith
30	Linda Andrews 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.*



St. Michael's Confirmands on May 13 with Bill Wright and Bishop Mary Glasspool

## Treasurer's Corner

### April 2011—Revenue and Expense Summary

	April Actual	April Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 35,122	\$ 31,709	\$ 112,707	\$ 110,554
Total Expense	35,224	33,213	137,015	136,300
Net	(\$ 102)	(\$ 1,504)	(\$ 24,308)	(\$ 25,746)

# From the Vestry

Anne Kelly, Senior Warden  
David Connors, Junior Warden



As we move into summer, many of us tend to think of pool parties, backyard barbecues, and the kids home from school. Summer can also be a time to immerse oneself in the three Rs—rest, reflect, and reinvigorate. The warmer weather naturally causes us to slow down a little bit and, hopefully, get some needed rest. The slower pace allows time for reflection. As we think of what was accomplished over the past year, we gain a better perspective on life and often, we become reinvigorated and ready for a new season to begin in the fall.

St. Michael's is the perfect place for this! This summer there will be many opportunities to rest. In addition to our regular Coffee Hours after each service on Sunday, several parish

social events are planned. Two Sunday afternoon pool parties (one in August and one in September) will be held at parishioner's homes and a parish picnic is planned and, most likely, will be on our campus. Attending services on Sunday and hearing Father Dan's wonderful sermons are wonderful opportunities for spiritual rest.

As we reflect on the past year we think of how blessed we are that Father Dan was called to St. Michael's and that he has now been with us for four months. In some ways it's hard to believe that it has only been four months. There has been so much growth in the parish—new members have joined our community, participation in Adult Formation has increased, we are blessed with wonderful sermons every Sunday, and we have seen a few

changes in the worship service. Yet with all these changes, in some ways we are no different than we were a year ago—we are still a wonderful community of faith that gathers every week for worship and fellowship. We are truly blessed and we thank God for the many blessings bestowed on us.

Reflecting on the grace which God has given generates great excitement and reinvigorates us. We are so excited to be a part of St. Michael's. We have so many wonderful ministries and it feels so wonderful to be able to give something back to God in thanksgiving for our community. I hope that we are all able to use the summer to rest, reflect on our many blessings, and then rededicate ourselves to St. Michael's and its many wonderful ministries.

## It's Time Again to Get on the Bus!

By Nancy Woods

This year children from the San Fernando Valley will ride on the bus to visit their dads on June 16, the day before Father's day, at the prison in Soledad. This is always a very special time for both the kids and dads!

St. Michael's will again be supplying bag breakfasts and activity bags to keep the children entertained on the long ride to the prison.

How can you get involved?

Sign up to bring:

- Breakfast items such as pastries, granola bars, orange juice, juice boxes, non-perishable fruit and water.
- Fun things for the activity bags like small toys and games, activity books, crayons, pens/colored pencils, drawing paper, plus things like magazines, game books, etc. for the adult children and caregivers. [Nothing to overshadow the teddy bear gift from Dad. ☺] The 99c store is a great place to shop.
- Volunteer to deliver the breakfasts and activity bags to the pick-up location (not at St. Michael's this year) before the crack of dawn—like 3:30 or 4:00 a.m. Hey, it's fun!
- Help assemble the breakfast and activity bags during coffee hour on June 10th.

- Come to **Lit Up** on Saturday, June 9th at 8:00 p.m. as the gate goes to **Get On The Bus**.

Of course, donations made payable to St. Michael's designated for Get On The Bus are always welcome as we will purchase the bags. *The deadline to bring items to church is Sunday, June 10th.*

Most of the boys and girls have not seen their dad for years. Let's make this a wonderful day of reuniting families and strengthening the bond that will hold them close until they are back together again.

For those not familiar with **Get On The Bus**, it is a program to take children to visit their parents in prison for one fun filled day. In 1998, a group concerned with the plight of women in prison came together from churches and faith-based organizations across the state to visit women in prisons. This group approached prison officials and families to find out why children weren't brought for visits. What they quickly discovered was that family separation was not created by a lack of will, but instead by a lack of resources, and the location of prisons far away from urban centers. Families simply could not afford to visit their parents. Regular visits are the key to helping children work through the trauma of parental incarceration. Research has found that abiding family bonds



are the strongest predictor of successful re-entry, and that the costs of such efforts are repaid tenfold in savings created by decreased rates of recidivism and foster care placement. Today, Get On The Bus fills more than 100 buses with children from all over California to visit their moms and dads.

The day starts very early (4:00 a.m.) with a bag breakfast and where each child and caregiver receive an activity bag filled with fun things to keep them busy on the long bus ride. The most exciting part of the day is when the children reach the prison and run into the arms of their expectant dads. What a joyful reunion. There is plenty of time to play with dad—board games, books to read, ball games outside or best of all just to talk. After lunch, and more visiting, it is time to say goodbye. Always a tearful time. On the bus will be a teddy bear and a letter from dad to help with the sadness. They have photos to remember and stationary to write back.

If you have any questions, call Nancy Woods at 818.769.2820 or email at [nancy2k@adelphia.net](mailto:nancy2k@adelphia.net).

# Pastoral Care Committee

By Nancy Woods

The Pastoral Care Committee is made up of a number of groups involving many members of St. Michaels that serve the needs of not only our parishioners but those in the community as well. We encourage you to consider participating in any of these ministries!

The **Healing Prayer Group** headed by Kathleen Taylor and Rae Markus meet with others twice a month after the 10:30 service for prayer and reflection. This is a very powerful experience for all involved.

**Eucharistic Visitors** are commissioned at the end of the 8:00 and 10:30 services then take communion and the well wishes of the congregation to members who are not able to attend church. Some are at local hospitals, nursing homes or are still in their own homes. Most of the Eucharistic Visitors are seasoned veterans; however, members of the congregation who feel led to this ministry should contact Fr. Dan.

For many years, members of St. Michael's have conducted services at the **Studio City Convalescent Home** located on Ventura Blvd in East Studio City at 9:00 on the first Sunday of the month. Patrick Holder and Elizabeth Charlton lead the service and members of our choir and others also participate by providing music which is enjoyed by all and reaches those very sick men and women who may not be able to visibly participate in other ways.

St. Michael's has its own version of "**Meals on Wheels to Shut-ins**". At times, when members of our church come home after a stay in the hospital or are recovering from an illness they

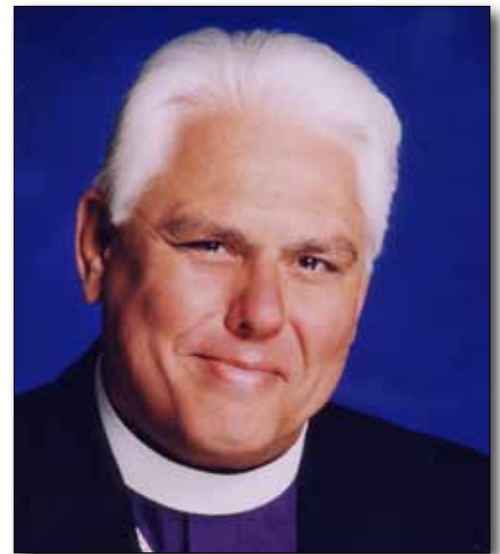
need prepared food for a while. It can be home cooked casseroles, take out from local eateries, etc. Kathleen Taylor and Brandy Robertson coordinate this food program.

**Rides for Parishioners** Some of our parishioners are not able to drive themselves to church or to appointments. Sometimes it is for a brief period of time or it can be ongoing. It is an opportunity to make a deeper, more personal connection with a fellow Christian while helping them out. We are looking for a coordinator for this ministry.

The **Prayer Shawl Ministry** is led by Norma Johnson. In the past, the group of knitters made shawls for both parishioners and others going through chemo treatments, recovering from surgery and the like. Fr. Dan requested crib sized blankets for little ones to receive when baptized – either knitted or crocheted. This has opened up new opportunities. Calling all knitters and those who crochet!

**PRISM** is the restorative justice ministry of our Diocese. Volunteer chaplains conduct communion services for inmates at the Twin Towers downtown and at other County facilities. There are also opportunities to lead Bible study groups. Prism is always looking for dedicated volunteers. You can contact Nancy Woods or Fr. Dan for more information.

If you are interested learning more about the Pastoral Care ministries, we meet on the 5th Sundays during the year. Our next meeting will be Sunday, July 29th, at 9:15 between the 8:00 and 10:30 services in the Fireside room. Pick up a cup of coffee and goodies on the way. All are welcome!!



## Bishop Bruno Says Leukemia Is in Remission; Further Treatment Planned

From *Episcopal News*

Bishop J. Jon Bruno has announced that his doctors have declared his acute monocytic leukemia is in full remission, and that they hope for a complete recovery.

"My physician team has indicated I may fully recover and believe it is because of the quick assessment and diagnosis at Good Samaritan Hospital and the treatment and care I have received at the City of Hope," Bruno wrote. "They also say, and I believe without a doubt, that this miraculous type of recovery has only been possible because of the outpouring of prayer from our faith communities."

He will undergo several more rounds of chemotherapy in coming weeks. Each series of treatments will be followed by a period of rest and recovery, he wrote, some of which will be spent at the hospital and some at his home. Because of the nature of the treatment, which destroys infection-fighting white blood cells, he must spend most of that time in protective isolation.

"I long to be in your midst and give thanks to each of you for every prayer, every tear, vigil, healing service, card, email, guestbook entry on Caring Bridge, drawing, cartoon, picture, and encouraging word," he said, asking for continued prayers of healing and thanksgiving.

Members of the diocesan community and friends may send messages to the bishop on the Caring Bridge website ([www.caringbridge.org/visit/bishopjonbruno](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/bishopjonbruno)). Cards and letters may be sent to the Cathedral Center at 840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026.

## Summer Music and a Message to the Choir

By Kristen Toedtman

As the scholastic year comes to an end and families ready for summer excursions, so, too, does the choir season at St. Michael's come to a close. But unlike school years, I'm not running through the halls singing "Chooooir's out- for- summer!" In fact, it seems too soon and I start already to miss our time together in the choir room and the sanctuary! But fret not. The music will play on at our Coldwater Canyon home.

What can you expect during your summer worship? As in summers past, we will have a dedicated cantor each Sunday for the 10:30 a.m. service. One of our soloists will take the

helm to lead the hymns and service music, and to offer an anthem during the offertory. On certain Sundays, we'll have two or three cantors in order to sing a duet or trio anthem (always fun for us singing), and we'll even have the choir back for old times' sake about once a month.

And to the choir, I would like to extend an extra Thank You. Thank you for your hard work and positive attitudes, for daring to step outside of your comfort zones and for accepting and supporting me—strange metaphors, unrisen banana bread and all! I look forward to more (music, not banana bread).



# BIG SUNDAY

May 6, 2012





# 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  
 12:15 PM SMCOP (YL)

**4**

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

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

**10** Pentecost 2  
 11:30 AM Parish Picnic  
 12:00 Healing Prayer  
 Gathering (FR)

**11** St. Barnabas

**12**

**13**  
 7:00 PM Finance  
 Committee (CO)

**14**

**15**

**16** Get on the Bus

**17** Pentecost 3  
 Fathers' Day

**18**

**19**  
 7:00 PM Vestry

**20**

**21**

**22**

**23**

**24** Pentecost 4  
 Episcopal Visitation by  
 Bishop Mary Glasspool

**25** Nativity of  
 St. John the  
 Baptist

**26**

**27**

**28**

**29** Saints Peter  
 & Paul

**30**



# The Calendar

July 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 <sup>Pentecost 5</sup>	2	3	4 <sup>Independence Day</sup>	5	6 12:00 Fourth Quarter Luncheon	7
8 <sup>Pentecost 6</sup> 12:15 PM SMCOP (YL)	9	10	11 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	12	13	14 8:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
15 <sup>Pentecost 7</sup>	16	17 7:00 PM Vestry	18	19	20	21
22 <sup>Pentecost 8</sup>	23 <sup>St. Mary Magdalene</sup>	24	25 <sup>St. James the Apostle</sup>	26	27	28
29 <sup>Pentecost 9</sup> 9:15 AM Pastoral Care Committee (FR)	30	31				

*Locations:*  
 CO: Church Office  
 CR: Choir Room  
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 PH: Parish Hall  
 UR: Upper Room  
 YL: Youth Lounge  
 S: Sanctuary

## **St. Michael and All Angels Church**

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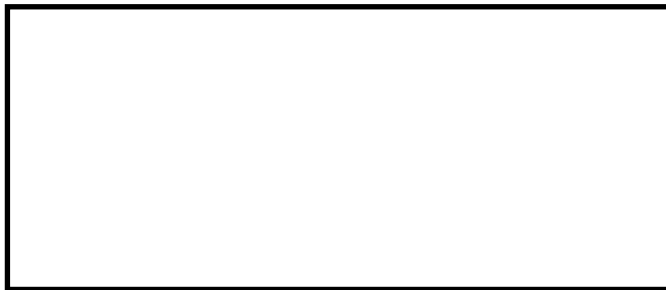
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*David Connors, Junior Warden*

*Peter Juzwiak, Treasurer*

*Alex Morales, Clerk*

*Diane Collins*

*Sarah Cook*

*Betsy Hailey*

*Mary Ann Jacobson*

*Hank Meiman*

*Meredith Reese*

*Amador Rondilla*

*Ron Schwartz*

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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.*