



The Mike

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

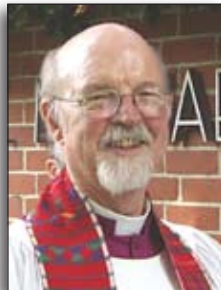
By the Reverend Canon Henry L. Atkins, Jr., D.Min.

The infancy narratives in the New Testament were not written as literal history but theology. The narratives are highly symbolic constructions that point us to profound theological insights. Many people find it rather difficult to move beyond the literal to the theological. The Feast of the Epiphany is one such celebration where we often get stuck in the literal.

Many people think of the Epiphany as three kings bringing three gifts to the baby Jesus in the manger at Bethlehem. In many parts of the world this reading has led to the giving of gifts during the Christmas season or literally on the 6th of January the date of the Epiphany. There is nothing wrong with gift giving, but the Feast was never intended primarily to be a celebration of a royal trio bringing gifts. The intention of the Feast is to point to the manifestation of Christ to the whole world. The wise men coming to the manger point to the universality of Christ's mission and the conflict that this mission will encounter with the empirical powers of this world as seen in Herod. The Epiphany calls us to the showing forth of God's love in Christ for the whole world and the ongoing struggle with those forces that seek to oppress God's people.

Liturgically we are in Year C, the year that belongs to St. Luke. Sunday after Sunday St Luke will remind us that the mission and message of Jesus is universally inclusive. St. Luke is very clear that there is not one who is not loved by God. The calling of the followers of Jesus is to learn to love as he did. More than any other gospel, St. Luke challenges us to rethink our perspective in relation to women, widows, orphans, and the poor. Women such as Mary, Elizabeth, Anna, Mary and Martha, Joanna and Mary Magdalene play key roles in his gospel. St. Luke invites us to broaden our vision and allow the compassion of God to transform our hearts. St. Luke invites us to enter the world of the woman, widow, orphan and the poor. His intention is that as we begin to enter their worlds and see them as loved by God we will have our vision and voice transformed by the voiceless of our world.

At our most recent Diocesan Convention in Riverside, California, on 4-5 December 2009, the Diocese of Los Angeles elected two new suffragan bishops. Both of the people who were elected are women. The Rev. Canon Diane Bruce is from the Diocese of Los Angeles and the Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool is from the



Diocese of Maryland. Canon Glasspool is the first openly partnered lesbian to be elected a bishop in the Episcopal Church. As the results of these elections were being announced, I remembered that when I was ordained a priest in the One Holy Catholic Church, that women not only could not be ordained in our communion they could not even serve as a member of a parish vestry.

It is a sign of hope, I believe, that, in spite of ongoing resistance, transformation is taking place in our church. The struggle has been long and there are still "miles to go", but the perspective of Jesus as presented by St. Luke is beginning to transform our reality. We are beginning to see, as St. Luke saw so many years ago, that the woman is a human person created in the image and likeness of God—beloved of God.

I believe that I am the only priest who has had the honor of participating in both of the elections of openly partnered gay priests as bishops. In the Diocese of New Hampshire after the election of Gene Robinson as our diocesan bishop, as we stood to sing the Gloria, it felt to me as if scales were falling from our eyes. We had been blind in relation to the homosexual person. We had not recognized the many gifts that they had brought to us over the years, but far worse, as with the women, we had failed to see them as full human persons. At last we were beginning to see, perhaps not with 20/20 vision, but a lot clearer than before. Our eyes were being opened by the very ones that we had sought to cast out of our sight.

There is an ancient prayer that says, "Lord, give us the courage to begin tasks that are longer than our lives." Shortly after the election of Gene Robinson, he began receiving death threats. At his ordination as a bishop he had to wear a bullet proof vest and every person attending the liturgy had to pass through a metal screening device. The struggle was by no means over.

Those who had not moved from the literal to the theological understanding of the Epiphany began to say that they would now leave the Episcopal Church. St. Luke's vision of the inclusion of all people calls us not to run, not to break away, but to struggle with the hard issues of inclusion. We are called as Mary did to make room in our hearts for the breaking in of God in the form of the other. On a daily basis we decide for or against the profound theological insight found in the Epiphany. We decide to exclude or include the woman, the gay person, the Muslim, the migrant brother or sister, and the one who wants to do things in a new way. The Epiphany calls us to be open, loving and deeply committed to God's ongoing work of transforming all of God's creation. Let us have the courage to continue with the work that is longer than our lives.

Pax, The Rev. Canon Henry L. Atkins, Jr.

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Thanks to Lauren Azeltine

Lauren Azeltine has served as the Communications Coordinator at St. Michael and All Angels since September 2005. She has been a faithful and valued member of our staff.

When I was first called to be the Priest-In-Charge of St. Michael and All Angels in 2007 Lauren was one of the first persons to contact me with information about the parish. I was greatly assisted in my transition into St. Michael and All Angels by the data, information and insight Lauren provided for me. She has remained an important member of our staff during my entire time at St. Michael and All Angels.

At the end of December Lauren will be leaving us. We simply no longer have the resources to maintain her position. She shall be greatly missed, especially by those of us who work with her on a daily basis.

Lauren is a gifted Communications Coordinator and a committed Christian and I want to thank her for all she has done for us at St. Michael and All Angels and pray that God will continue to bless her work in the future.

The Rev. Canon Henry L. Atkins, Jr.



Diocese of Los Angeles Met in Convention December 4 and 5

At the recent diocesan convention, St. Michael's was represented by Betsy Hailey, John Pryor, Karen Rogers, Treadwell Atkins, Fr. Henry Atkins, and Deacon Catherine Wagar. In addition to the highlights mentioned in the article below, the Rev. Julian Bull was named a Canon of the Cathedral Center of St. Paul by Bishop Bruno in recognition of his significant service to the larger church.

By Pat McCaughan of The Episcopal News Staff

Bishop Jon Bruno celebrated the historic election of two suffragan bishops and recently-achieved parish status for St. Stephen's Church, Santa Clarita, welcomed home parishioners of St. Luke's in-the-Mountains Church in La Crescenta during "Faith & Our Future," the 114th annual convention meeting of the Diocese of Los Angeles Dec. 4-5 at the Riverside Convention Center.

Bruno incorporated the concept of "HOME" as an acronym during his Dec. 4 annual convention address to describe a five-year diocesan mission plan to deepen congregational spiritual connections via: Health & Hospitality; Openness & Outreach; Mutuality & Via Media and Equality & Education.

He called for "getting back to basics" and core principles as a way of grappling with rapid global change, a theme expanded by Brian McLaren, emergent church author and founder of the Cedar Ridge Community Church in Spencerville, Maryland, and the convention



Bishop Suffragan candidates at the altar during Eucharist at Diocesan Convention. Left to right, the Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool, the Rev. John Kirkley, the Rev. Irineo Martir Vasquez, the Rev. Zelda Kennedy, the Rev. Silvestre Romero, and the Rev. Canon Diane Jardine Bruce.

keynote speaker.

During the two-day gathering, some 680 delegates participated in two historic elections for bishops suffragan. The Rev. Canon Diane Jardine Bruce, 53, rector of St. Clement's by-the-Sea in San Clemente, became the first woman elected a bishop suffragan in the diocese on Dec. 4. A day later, clergy and lay delegates elected the Rev. Canon Mary Douglas Glasspool, 55, canon to the bishops in the Diocese of Maryland, as the diocese's first openly gay bishop suffragan. Their consecrations are planned for May 15, pending receipt of consents from bishops with jurisdiction and the standing committees of the other 109 dioceses of the Episcopal Church.

Convention also elected other diocesan officers and celebrated the ministries of retiring Bishop Suffragan Chester L. Talton and Bishop

See CONVENTION, page 3



From the Vestry *Betty Ferrell, Senior Warden; John Pryor, Junior Warden* Endings and Beginnings

This Vestry Message is our last as both of us will end our terms as Junior and Senior Wardens as of the January annual meeting. We would like to thank the many parish members who have served with us on the Vestry and the support of all the parish. We are very excited about the future of our parish and believe that despite our challenges St. Michael's is evolving to be a beacon of light for our community, a place where Christ is alive in our many activities in our church and through our outreach.

We would like to offer a special thanks to Margie Mullen who has served and will continue to serve as Treasurer for St. Michael's. Few people recognize how much Margie has done over these years every week in volunteering her time as Treasurer, working on Stewardship, serving on the Vestry, and making important financial decisions about our resources. Margie is a Saint. She gives generously of herself, uses the gifts God has given her to serve others and brings great love and compassion to

her work. Thank you Margie for making our lives infinitely easier.

In the season of Advent and the joyful celebration of Christmas, we thank all of you for the gift you have given us in allowing us to serve as Wardens of St. Michael's.

Betty Ferrell, Senior Warden
John H. Pryor, Jr., Junior Warden



Treasurer's Corner *by Margie Mullen, Treasurer*

November 2009—Revenue and Expense Summary

	November Actual	November Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 28,124	\$ 32,199	\$317,345	\$353,448
Total Expense	43,558	46,110	438,248	490,776
Net	(\$ 15,434)	(\$ 13,911)	(\$120,903)	(\$137,328)

The final budget for 2010 was approved by the Vestry at November's meeting. The summaries for the last four budgets are:

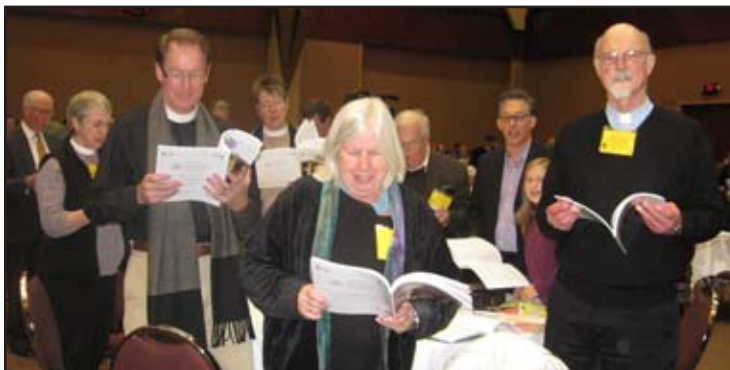
	2010	2009	2008	2007
Total Revenue	\$356,736	\$385,684	\$391,379	\$437,781
Total Expense	467,071	531,440	611,235	746,847
Net	(\$110,335)	(\$145,756)	(\$219,856)	(\$309,066)

Although we still have a ways to go, I am sure you can agree that we have made enormous progress towards living within our means. The four years' budgeted expenses have been reduced \$279,776, while the budgeted revenues have decreased only \$81,045, and that is with significantly fewer pledging families. Tremendous work has been done and the Vestry thanks you.

Margie Mullen, Treasurer

Convention From page 2

Assistant Sergio Carranza. Bishop Bruno invited the entire diocesan community to a daylong celebration and tribute to Talton and Carranza, planned for May 29, 2010.



St. Michael's folk stand to sing during Diocesan Convention. Left to right, Catherine Wagar, Julian Bull, Betsy Hailey, John and Meg Pryor, Henry Atkins.

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 web site, you can shop at Amazon.com through its link. St. Mike's gets a small rebate for each purchase made through this link.

February 2010 MIKE Deadline: Please send copy and/or pictures via e-mail to administrator@stmikessc.org by Tuesday, January 19. If you don't have a computer, bring your articles to the Parish Office by that time.



The Calendar

January 2010

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 Purple 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 Holy Name of Jesus New Year's Day: <i>Parish Office closed</i>	2
3 Christmas 2 12.15 PM Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	4	5 7.00 PM Executive Committee (CO) 7.30 PM SMCOP Meeting (UR)	6 Epiphany	7 7.30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	8 12.00 noon Fourth Quarter Luncheon (CO)	9 8.00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
10 Epiphany 1 Baptism of Jesus 10.30 AM Holy Eucharist and Baptisms (S) 3.00 PM "Rethinking Afghanistan" (PH)	11 6.15 PM Book Discussion Group	12 7.00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	13 7.00 PM Bioneers SFV (PH)	14 7.30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	15	16 11.15 AM Liturgical Committee (UR)
17 Epiphany 2 11.30 AM Annual Parish Meeting (PH)	18 Confession of Peter M. L. King Day: <i>Parish Office closed</i>	19 7.00 PM Vestry Meeting (UR)	20	21 7.30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	22	23
24 Epiphany 3	25 Conversion of Paul 10.00 AM Prayer Shawl Group (FR) 7.00 PM Prayer Shawl Group (FR)	26	27	28 7.30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	29	30
31 Epiphany 4 12.30 PM Pastoral Care Committee (FR)						

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

GOINGS ON AT ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Thanksgiving for a Job Well Done

To: Bruce Rankin, Treadwell Atkins, David Connors, Alex Morales, Anne Kelly, Leonard Harman, Preston Fray, Amador Rondilla, and Brooks Taylor for their work cleaning in the church.

and to Jane Wilson, the St. Michael's Community Outreach Committee, and all those who helped make Holiday Cheer such a success.

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.



Alex Morales risks life and limb to clean Jesus. Alex is assisted by Ed Sugar and Anne Kelly.

January Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Lily Peterson
10	Nick Renton
11	Shyra Costas
12	Don DeRose Emily Stenquist
15	Mary Piser
17	Benjamin Baklayan-D'Ambra
18	Norma Johnson
19	Dorinda Angelucci Brandon Nel
20	Sarah Hewes
23	Kevin Mitchell
25	Aly Beckner
26	Jack Crane
27	Cynthia Beckert
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.*

Always-Needed Food Pantry Items

*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!*



David Connors

David Connors has taught at Cal State LA since 1990. He teaches general music methods courses, courses in the master's program in music education, applied voice, supervises student teachers, and serves as Director of the Orff Schulwerk Certification Program.

David and his partner Alex Morales have been attending St. Michael's for over 10 years; David has been the tenor section leader in the choir since 2006 and has served on the Vestry since 2008, completing a partial term of office.



Rodney Dickson

Rodney Dickson and his partner, Jeffrey Georgianni, have been attending St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church since 2007, at the 8:00 am Sunday service. Rodney was raised in non-denominational bible churches and has made St Michaels his home where he was baptized during the Great Vigil of Easter in 2008. Since attending St Michael's, he has participated in numerous church activities including this past summer's Be a Village, the Healing Prayer Gathering, the Adult Forum and this year's Stewardship Committee for New Consecration Sunday. As a Director of Global Marketing, Branding and Conventions for an international healthcare company, Rodney travels a great deal but always makes time for his family and friends at St Michaels.



Anne Kelly

Anne Kelly has played leadership roles in human rights and civil rights organizations for many years. She was a consultant to the National Association of Realtors on issues related to civil rights and fair housing, followed by accepting the post of senior executive, in the early 1990s, with World Vision, an international relief and development agency. The Director of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's Southern California regional office is the post that she has held since 1998. Anne has also been a Big Sister, a foster parent, and has legally adopted five special needs children with her husband, Ken. They now live in Los Angeles.



Amador Rondilla

Amador found St. Michael and All Angels when seeking a new church. After the passage of Proposition 8, he and Ging, his partner, left the church they were attending and became attracted to St. Mike's by the banner supporting our Bishop and rejecting Prop 8. They are now both very active members of the church, usually attending the 8:00 a.m. service. Amador has an educational background in systems and industrial engineering. He has worked in various sectors of the entertainment industry where he is currently Executive Director in charge of the Sony Pictures Participation Reporting system..



Ron Schwartz

I was born in Boston, but have lived in Los Angeles since the age of eight. After serving in the military, my first career was as a manufacturer's agent for the electronic industry, eventually becoming the owner of the business. My last career has been in teaching for the past 10 years. I enjoy substitute teaching, working with various grades and subject matter. Denise and I have been married 35 years. We met at St. Michael's in 1973 and in 1990 we were blessed with the birth of Amanda. She is now a sophomore at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. My son, Robert, is in the Navy, presently stationed in Ohio. My older daughter, Tracy, and her husband have given us three beautiful granddaughters. They live in Chicago. I came to St. Michael's in 1967 and left in 1974 when Denise and I married. We attended St. Mark's, Van Nuys, for 17 years, where I served several times on the vestry. We returned to St. Michael's in 1991 and have been involved in parish life ever since. I am privileged to serve at the altar as an MC; additionally I am responsible for the acolytes who also serve at the altar on Sunday morning.



Gail Green

Gail Green has been a member of the parish for 17 years. During these years she has served on two previous vestries, twice been junior warden, served several terms as a delegate to Diocesan Convention and was chair of the search committee in 2003. On the diocesan level, she was secretary of Diocesan Council for several years and then a member of the Council. Currently she heads the parish altar guild and is a member of the choir. She spent 20 years in church administration, retiring in 1999. Gail has a grown son, Chris, who lives in Topanga village. She lost her husband, Jack, last January and is adjusting to being home alone in Studio City.

St. Michael's Community Outreach Projects

By Jane Wilson

Holiday Cheer

A huge thanks to all who participated in this amazing day on December 12th. A full report will be in next month's Mike!

Lit Up!, Saturday, January 9, 8:00 p.m.

The theme for this month's show is "Dirty Work" and stars Scott Carter (writer/producer Real Time with Bill Maher), Mary Lynn Rajskub (Chloe on Fox' 24), Marcia Wilkie (co-author, with Marie Osmond, of Might As Well Laugh About It Now), Nancy Pimental, Sarah Stanley, Matt Price, Joe Wilson and Wendy Wilkins Decker-Elias. The recipient of the box office will be the Episcopal Urban Internship Program. EUIP is a year-long service learning project. Each fall, EUIP gathers a new class of young adults from across the United States to live in community and to work as interns for change in various Los Angeles County social service agencies. This year they will serve Chrysalis (a nonprofit helping poor/homeless find employment opportunities), Common Ground (the only comprehensive HIV agency serving the west side of Los Angeles), St. Joseph Center (a multi-faceted social service agency located in Venice Beach that serves the homeless and low-income communities), and Hillside Education Center (a school for children with special needs that include emotional disturbance, learning disabilities, and other health impairments).

Next SMCOP Meeting?

Love to help people in need? We need you as we are about to embark upon our most ambitious year so far! Our next meeting will be in the Upper Room on Tuesday, January 5, at 7:30 p.m. Bring your enthusiasm and ideas! For more info call Jane Wilson at 818-343-8438 or e-mail project@stmikessc.org.



St. Michael's Community Outreach Wig Project receives help from KidsLA washing wigs.

“We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men; and among those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects.”
Herman Melville (1819-1891)
Author of *Moby Dick*

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John Pryor, Junior Warden

Margie Mullen, Treasurer

Anne Kelly, Clerk

Phyllis Bracey

David Connors

Preston Fray

Gail Green

Leonard Harman

Mary Ann Jacobson

Norma Johnson

Ed Sugar

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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.