



The Mike

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

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

On the first day of the first philosophy class that I took as an undergraduate I learned that one of the great insights of the earliest Greek philosophers was that you could not step twice into the same river. The flowing river was constantly changing. Change is both external and situational, e.g. a new house. It is not the same thing as transition. Transition, according to William Bridges, is the psychological process we go through to come to terms with the new situation.

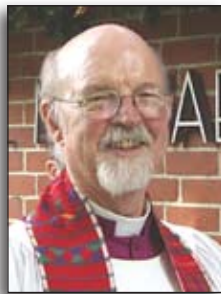
Change is often very hard for us. To move from one city or neighborhood to another is often very difficult. Even when we think we are ready to move it can be very trying. We move, our situation changes, we arrive at our new house and cannot find anything we are looking for and at once begin to miss the old house.

Almost every change involves at the transitional level—the psychological level—feelings of insecurity and uncertainty. This is especially true in a parish. This is especially true in relation to leadership change in a parish. It is critical to both acknowledge this reality and develop means to address change and transition.

The parish of St. Michael and All Angels is in a process of change and transition. I have had the privilege of serving as your Priest-in-Charge since December 2007. Together we have moved through a process that has led us to become the community that we are today. We are a community that is known for our liturgies, Biblical preaching and music, our inclusive hospitality, our concern for God's creation and our commitment to stand with the poor and the oppressed. Some of the most committed Christians that I have ever known in my life are members of this parish. My life has been greatly enriched by my being able to serve among you for these past two and a half years. I shall miss you greatly!

I came out of retirement and took the position of Priest-in-Charge of St. Michael and All

Angels at a time of crisis in the life of the parish. We all knew when I came that my time with you would only be for a couple of years. Together we have decided that it is now time for my ministry among you to come to a close, and for a new stage in the life of the parish



level a time to visualize a new future, to move toward God's promise of a new life.

At another level something is ending and that end involves loss and grief. Treadwell and I shall be leaving in June and the relationship we have had with you shall end. Our friendships with many of you hopefully will continue and our love for this community will not end, but our relationship will shift. At the external level we plan to drive back to New Hampshire and be on Mascoma Lake in Enfield, New Hampshire, until moving into the Pilgrim Place Community in Claremont, California, sometime around the first of November 2010. However, one never knows where the spirit may lead.

I have, throughout my ministry, had the policy of not returning to visit a parish that I have left for at least a year, unless there is an unusual situation. Please do not ask me to come and baptize your child or perform a wedding because my answer will be "no." I also have little need for input in relation to how well or poorly your new priest is functioning.

My hope is that you will acknowledge the loss and grief that is present in this change. Be aware that when the new priest arrives you may still be dealing with transitional issues. It is much better to be open about this than to

pretend that it is not your reality. Do not fear to speak with him/her about your feelings and concerns—deep relations are often developed in this way.

Welcome your new priest and allow her/him to get to know you and this faithful community. Be open to God acting in your life in a new way. The disciples, as we can see clearly in such texts as John 14, experienced difficult moments of transition following Jesus. Jesus had told them not to fear, he promised them he would send the Holy Spirit and that same promise is true today! During this process of transition, above all look for the Holy Spirit moving among you and let there be peace among you and never be the instrument of your own or anyone else's oppression.

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

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Community Outreach

By Jane Wilson

Lit.Up!

The next show will be on Saturday, June 12, the theme will be "Father's Day" and actors will be performing pieces from various plays by Oliver Hailey, acclaimed playwright and the late husband of St. Michael's very own Betsy Hailey. Again, suggested admission is \$10 and includes free childcare and delicious dessert and coffee! This month's box office recipient is St. Mike's Solar Panel Project. The event kicks off our ambitious 2010 goal of getting solar panels placed on MEND (Meeting Each Need With Dignity), a poverty center in Pacoima!

Angel Award Nominees

We will be again celebrating stellar volunteers in our community as well as leaders in the LA outreach community. This year's ceremony will be on Saturday, September 11, 2010. If there is anyone you wish to nominate to receive this award, please bring these people to the attention of anyone who serves on SMCOP. Writing up a brief description of the person and their contributions to people living in need in the LA area would be great. We'd like to receive all suggestions by no later than May 31. Written suggestions can be placed in Jane Wilson's mailbox in the church office.

SoldierCare

Please put August 6-9 on your calendar. That is when we will be hosting wounded soldiers from all around the country to come here to Southern California and have a great time. We will need people to do pick-ups, drop-off, entertain and just enjoy their company! If you know of a hotel that will offer free rooms, a business that might buy plane tickets or a restaurant that might wish to host a meal (or if you'd like to in your home!), please let Jane or David Rosenberg know as soon as possible. David's e-mail is inkdrone@gmail.com

Next SMCOP Meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 1, at 7:30 p.m. in the Projects/Youth Meeting Room (the one with the couches on the east side of the grassy quad!). We so need new people to jump on board and help with all our ambitious projects for this year, especially those familiar with doing PR/event planning. For further info please call Jane Wilson at 818.343.8438 or e-mail superquerrjane@yahoo.com.

Thanksgiving for a Job Well Done

To: The members of the Parish Profile Committee for their hard work in producing such a fine parish profile: David Connors, Betty Ferrell, Betsy Hailey, Betsy Meiman, John Pryor, Bill Wright. To read the parish profile to to www.stmikessc.org.

Bob and Sarah Thomas and Sunnyside Preschool for their very generous underwriting of the quad renovation. St. Michael's is very fortunate to have Sunnyside Preschool on campus.

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.

June Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Polly Davis
6	Jane Wilson
9	Jack Beckner
	Leonard Harman
10	Marj Carhart
	Darius Hoomani
14	Matt Davidson
15	Karen Rogers
	Alexis Walker
16	John Vincent
24	Joel Fisher
25	Annie Juzwiak-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.*

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

July/August 2010 MIKE Deadline: Please send copy and/or pictures via e-mail to administrator@stmikessc.org by Tuesday, June 22. If you don't have a computer, bring your articles to the Parish Office by that time.



From the Vestry

*Anne Kelly, Senior Warden
David Connors, Junior Warden*

This month we officially bid farewell to our beloved friends, Henry and Treadwell Atkins, who have provided such wonderful leadership and guidance to our parish over the past several years. We are so thankful for their presence and grateful for all they have given to us. Henry's leadership and Treadwell's willingness to get involved and lend helping hands in so many parish activities have been a great blessing to our parish.

Over the summer we will be experiencing the leadership of three

Episcopal clergy: the Rev. Pat O'Reilly during the last two Sundays of June, the Rev. Canon Warren S. Nyback during the first two Sundays of July, and the Rev. Canon Mark Shier during the last two weeks of July. More detailed profiles of each one are available elsewhere in the newsletter. We look forward to having each of them with us as we prepare for the appointment of our new Priest-in-Charge.

Our parish property continues to undergo significant improvement,

thanks in large part to our partnership with the Sunnyside Preschool. We are so pleased with the mutually beneficial relationship we have with the Preschool. In addition, Ed Sugar and Preston Fray have been leading an ongoing effort to improve the appearance of the sanctuary. The results are remarkable.

We look forward to continued growth and improvements as we welcome our new Priest in Charge later this year.



Treasurer's Corner *Margie Mullen, Treasurer*

April 2010—Revenue and Expense Summary

	<i>April Actual</i>	<i>April Budget</i>	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>YTD Budget</i>
Total Revenue	\$ 26,737	\$ 29,675	\$113,002	\$115,744
Total Expense	35,048	42,330	139,969	161,479
Net	(\$ 8,311)	(\$ 12,655)	(\$ 26,967)	(\$ 45,735)

Parish Profile Complete Document Is Available Online

By David Connors

On Sunday, May 2, 2010, the St. Michael and All Angels Parish Profile was presented to the congregation. The document represents a very thorough process of reflection that took about six months to complete. The Parish Profile will serve to guide us as we move into the next phase of our parish life. The Bishop will use this document to appoint our next Priest-In-Charge.

The Parish Profile Committee was formed in the fall of 2009. Betty Ferrell, then the Senior Warden, and John Pryor, then the Junior Warden, graciously agreed to lead this project. They looked for committee members that would provide representation from the various facets and activities of our church life. The additional parishioners that joined the committee were Bill Wright, Betsy Meiman, Betsy Hailey, and David Connors.

The committee began meeting in early 2010. The first tasks were to define the committee's work and then to draft a calendar for completion. A questionnaire was developed with five questions. The questions asked why each of us originally came to St. Michael's and what we saw as the relative strengths of the parish as well as areas where we thought

improvement was needed.

A copy of the questionnaire was placed in the Sunday bulletins for a number of consecutive weeks and announcements were made encouraging parishioners to complete it. Several Adult Forums were dedicated to the Parish Profile and committee members were available to talk with parishioners during Coffee Hour after services. Committee members also addressed the various parish groups, for example, a substantial portion of one choir rehearsal was used to allow choir members to participate in discussion in addition to the written questionnaire. Members of the Vestry spent the majority of their retreat discussing the five questions on the questionnaire.

Approximately fifty completed questionnaires were returned. This represented a tremendous response rate as many returned questionnaires represented couples and families. The data were then compiled and analyzed by John Pryor who then shared the results with the Parish Profile Committee. The committee then decided what was additionally needed and who would have that information. After this was obtained, each committee member

was assigned to write portions of the report. John Pryor agreed to serve as the editor. It was important to the committee that, to the greatest extent possible, all individual voices and opinions would be represented in the document yet, at the same time, the document also needed to convey a single parish voice. This was not easy task but, the document was expertly crafted by John Pryor.

Quotes from a few people and some photographs were added to the text. The Parish Profile Committee then had the opportunity to collectively edit the document. Next, the Vestry was provided the opportunity to edit and to contribute additional feedback. The result of this process is a document that represents St. Michael's as we see ourselves. It was very thoughtfully and prayerfully constructed. We can all be proud of the document, proud of the work that went into it, and proud of what it represents. Thank you to all who contributed to this important step in the appointment of our next Priest-In-Charge.

To read the profile, go to www.stmikessc.org, and click on the link. Copies of the profile are also available at the back of the church.



The Calendar

June 2010

Sunday Schedule • Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.
 • Sunday School, Adult Choir, and Children's Church are on hiatus until September.
 • Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service unless otherwise noted.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:30 PM Community Outreach Projects Committee (YL)	2	3	4 12:00 noon Fourth Quarter Luncheon (CO)	5
6 Pentecost 2 12:15 PM Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	7 7:10 PM St. Michael's at the Dodgers (Dodger Stadium)	8 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	9	10	11 St. Barnabas the Apostle	12 8:00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
13 Pentecost 3 11:30 AM Atkins Farewell Fiesta (PH)	14	15 7:00 PM Vestry (UR)	16	17	18	19
20 Pentecost 4 Fathers' Day 12:15 PM Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	21	22	23	24 Nativity St. John Baptist	25	26
27 Pentecost 5	28 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (YL) 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry (YL)	29 St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles	30			

The Loving Ministry of Father Henry Atkins and Treadwell Atkins

By Betty Ferrell

"And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love."

The words from this cherished song written in the 1960's by Peter Scholtes and Carolyn Arends remind us of two important lessons of our faith. First, that we are to love. To care deeply for the other and to love generously is a message throughout scripture and a pillar of our Episcopal faith. The second lesson is that we are witnesses to our faith less often by our words; far more often by our acts.

As parishioners of St. Michael's and All Angels we have been given a great blessing from God to know the love of Father Henry Atkins and Treadwell Atkins. Their ministry has been the balm of Gilead, the soothing presence and healing needed at this time of our transition.

While Father Atkins came to us for only two and a half years, his love of God, passion for social justice, dedication to the Episcopal Church and his guidance will have a life long impact on our parish as a whole and our individual lives as Christians. Early in his short tenure, a parishioner commented "I know God loves St. Michael's—he sent us Henry Atkins!"

The song lyrics continue: "We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord. And we pray that all unity may one day be restored".

Father Atkins' ministry at St. Michael's has been a testimony of unity. Through his actions, we have become a strong force in the Los Angeles diocese for unity. We stand together for economic justice, a love of God's precious but threatened planet and amidst economic crisis and uncertainty as a unified community. His strength has given us strength.

The lyrics say, "We will work with each other, we will work side by side. And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each other's pride".

Upon arrival at St. Michael's, it took Treadwell Atkins about 10 nanoseconds to immerse herself in our faith community. Treadwell is the model of Christian service. Whether in the kitchen, the garden, the food bank efforts or as a loving supporter of Lit.Up! or children's programs—Treadwell has shown us God's love. She gives tirelessly but also with great joy. She is the face of a loving God amidst a time of doubt and cynicism. She reminds us that a loving mother, partner and friend offers



comfort to all around her. The families and the children of St. Michael's have been blessed by Treadwell's being with us.

The song concludes, "Love is patient, love is kind. Never boasts, not full of pride. Always loves, always trusts. The evidence of Christ in us."

The ministry of Father Atkins has lifted St. Michael's to a new place. As a child who receives the love of a parent and is able to enter the world with love, we as a parish are now ready to move to the next phase of our life. Father Atkins' sermons leave us with lessons for life; our own personal lives and our life as a parish. We are challenged to live as he has lived with a deep commitment to love the other, to seek social justice, to advocate for the poor and to speak for those things Christ speaks for—equality for all people, an end to hunger and a parish committed to a better community and world. We will honor his ministry by remembering the words of his amazing sermons.

"And they will know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love".

Thank you, Father Atkins and Treadwell. You have been a gift from God to our parish. Your "handprints" are left behind in many places. We are grateful that you left your New Hampshire home to come to this Southern

California community in need of your love, service and guidance. Your faith in us has given us the faith to be God's people of love.

A Fond Farewell

Sunday, June 13, will be our last Sunday with Henry and Treadwell Atkins. There will be a Farewell Fiesta in their honor to celebrate and thank them for their time at St. Michael's. It will be in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service with a short program and a potluck lunch to follow. Starting Sunday, May 16, through June 6 there will be sign-up sheets in the parish hall for the potluck (salads, main dish and dessert). Beverages will be provided. Note cards will be provided for parish members and friends to fill out with any personal farewell messages they wish to give. These cards will be put in an album and presented to Henry and Treadwell on Sunday the 13th.

In lieu of gifts, we suggest that a contribution be made to the "Atkins Farewell Gift Fund," which will be donated in their names to their favorite charity(ies). Checks should be payable to St. Michael's with "Atkins Farewell Gift Fund" on the memo line. Contributions may be placed in the offering plates, included with farewell note cards, or sent to the parish office.

Should there be any questions, please contact any member of the vestry.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

A FIESTA

IN HONOR OF OUR BELOVED
HENRY AND TREADWELL ATKINS
TO CELEBRATE THEIR TIME WITH US
AND TO SAY
MUCHAS GRACIAS and ADIOS

SUNDAY JUNE 13, 2010

IN THE PARISH HALL
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE
MAIN DISH, SALAD OR DESSERT
ALONG WITH SOME TO SHARE

In lieu of gifts we suggest a contribution to the "The Atkins Farewell Gift Fund" which will be donated to their favorite Charity(ies). Clearly marked contributions for this fund can be put in the collection plate, given to any Vestry member, or sent to the parish office.



Around St. Michael's...



Above: Arthur Stern (left) spoke to the Adult Forum on April 11 about Holocaust Remembrance Day. Bruce Rankin (right) facilitated the discussion.

Below: Gary Lucy entertaining the crowd at Lit.Up! The June 12 Lit.Up! performance will feature scenes from plays by Oliver Hailey, acclaimed playwright and the late husband of St. Michael's very own Betsy Hailey. See page 2 for more information.



Left: The Prayer Shawl Group at work. Left to right, Melissa Basta, Kathryn Argall, Elizabeth Bartolomea, and Charlotte Oliver.



BIG SUNDAY

Avery Wright smiles for the camera.



Above: Laz Meiman and Zofie Basta in full face paint. Tom Heuer works security in the background.



Left: Charlotte Oliver helping to raise funds for SoldierCare..

Mothers' Day

Coffee hour on Mothers' Day was extra special thanks to the efforts of Norma Johnson and Mary Ann Jacobson (right). Below, children are eager to sample the goodies.



Summer Supply Clergy

During the summer months, we will be fortunate to have several clergy of the diocese with us on Sunday mornings. Take a few moments to meet those who will be at St. Michael's in June and July.



Warren Nyback

A third generation Californian, the Reverend Canon Warren Nyback was born in East Los Angeles and grew up in Indio. He received his Bachelor's in History at USC in 1961, and attended the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, graduating in 1964. In the late 1990s he took several courses in Gerontology at Cal State Long Beach, working towards, but not completing, a certificate in Gerontology.

On March 11 of this year, he celebrated 45 years as a priest in the Episcopal Church. In that time, he has served in three congregations: 2½ years as a Curate at St. Luke's, Long Beach, 5½ years as Rector, Headmaster and Chair of St. Timothy's Manor Corporation (provides low cost housing for senior citizens) at St. Timothy's, Compton, and 29 years as Rector and Headmaster at St. Paul's, Pomona. He retired in 2001, and, since then, has been the Bishop's Chaplain to Retired Clergy, Widows, and Clergy Survivors in the Diocese of Los Angeles. While no longer paid for that half time job, he continues in that position on a volunteer basis.

The Reverend Canon Warren Nyback will be at St. Michael's on June 20 and 27.



Patricia O'Reilly

The Reverend Pat O'Reilly began serving as the Director of the Ecumenical Council of Pasadena Area Churches, a program providing services for low income and homeless people in the Pasadena area, in November of 2006. She has been an Episcopal priest for 27 years, and has worked in a variety of settings particularly among the poor and low income. She has served as the School Chaplain at St. Matthew's in Pacific Palisades, the Director of Episcopal Chaplaincy of Los Angeles County Facilities (hospitals and jails), Associate at St. Stephen's in Hollywood and in several other church positions. Before coming to ECPAC Pat worked as the Interim Pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church on Orange Grove Boulevard.

The Reverend Patricia O'Reilly will be at St. Michael's on July 4 and 11.



Mark Shier

The Reverend Canon Mark Shier is the rector emeritus of Saint Andrew's Parish, Fullerton. He retired last year after 32 years as their rector. His particular interests are science (especially science and religion), psychology and spirituality, and casting traditional theological truths into modern idiom. His hobbies are reading, classical music, gardening, and three dogs (Emily, a miniature long-haired dachshund; Foxy, a welsh corgi; and Morgan, a mutt).

He was born on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, in 1944, grew up in the Air Force, attended Seattle University, served in the Army in Vietnam, went to graduate school at Cal Berkeley, UCLA, Bloy Episcopal School of Theology, and the School of Theology at Claremont. He describes himself as a theological conservative and a social liberal—yes, the two really can go together. His latest adventure is a Celtic spirituality pilgrimage to England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland.

The Reverend Canon Mark Shier will be at St. Michael's on July 18 and 25.

An Afternoon at MEND

St. Michael's Solar Outreach Project

By Betsy Foldes Meiman

Sometimes, you doubt your mission, especially if it's untested. The Solar Outreach Project is a big idea, maybe a good idea, but is it really attainable or just "Pie in the Sky?" Especially in the struggling first stages of a new idea, you have to let go of the big picture and just put your head down and focus on the immediate task or you'll never start. So we had a successful fundraiser ("A Woman of Independent Means"), we have a product to sell (Origami Sun Necklaces), we have had some notable donors (Ed Begley, Jr.), great support and response, and the website is finally up and running. So of course I stupidly lifted my head and saw the huge empty canvas on which we've only dabbled a little paint. I broke out in a cold sweat and and thought "Yeesh. Me and my big mouth. How can we get this done? What was I thinking?"

So, I put my head back down and went to the source of why we are doing it in the first place. I called Jenny Gutierrez, former volunteer and now Chief Operating Officer of Meeting Each Need with Dignity (MEND) and asked to meet with them to talk about this project in earnest. Up until now it was a "Yeah, sure, let's do this! Sounds good..." type of arrangement on both our parts. Treadwell Atkins and I went up to Pacoima to see our site, meet the administrators, volunteers and clients of MEND and see their operation first hand.

I'm familiar with MEND's work and many of their clients and staff through St. Mike's community outreach and Holiday Cheer which our own Jane Wilson coordinates every year. I know them to be pretty wonderful, but I was not prepared for the scope of their operation. It was truly awe inspiring. Even a half hour of NPR couldn't bring me down on the half hour ride home. The space is beautiful and bright and inviting. Home made Cinco de Mayo flags and decorations floated color above our heads. The intake waiting area bustled with families,



flanked on one side by a food distribution center with regiments of boxes filled with fresh healthy groceries on conveyer belts, saluting with an added Mother's Day bouquet. On the other side is the clothing center, which looks like a retail store where clients and every member of their family can choose 8 items from the racks of prescreened clothing. In the back area are showers for the homeless where they can also trade in their clothes for clean ones, so they can visit families or interview for jobs or just hold their head high.

And this is just the first floor. All of MEND's services are free. 90% of MEND's work force is volunteers. And it runs like clock work. There is a state of the art dental clinic, medical exam rooms, a triage first aid, optometry center, yoga rooms, counseling, education center teaching English as a second language. All run by dentists, hygienists, optometrists, and other professionals in the health and education fields. For a full list of services and stats, go to <http://mendpoverty.org/glance.html>. The ultimate goal is not for hand out, but rather to empower those in need by relieving the effects of poverty so they can work towards self sufficiency. Truly a hand up and not a hand out.

We met informally with Marianne, Jenny and Ward. Treadwell and I discussed where the project was, how we planned to move forward and how this is our first project, so basically, we are learning as we go. Marianne, Jenny and Ward asked questions, gave ideas and assured us that they, in view of their own history, were willing to

walk with us into the unknown and knew that we would all get it done.

At the end of our tour, we ran in to Ed Rose. Unassuming in jeans, MEND T-shirt and baseball cap, he was working in the food distribution center. He was excited about the solar prospect and was crackling with ideas. He talked briefly, and matter of factly (he was, of course, too modest) about how they'd started MEND in his garage with just a few people bringing and distributing clothing, food, and furniture helping families down on their luck keep their dignity and their sense of self as they struggled financially.

As I walked out of that oasis of comfort and relief into the Pacoima industrial desert, I marveled at the force of goodwill and humanity that operates such a huge and successful organization. I'd walked in to MEND doubting everything, the veracity of the project, our ability to accomplish it and walked out with a renewed will to face the challenge. Just like all the other people in need going through MEND's doors.



St. Michael and All Angels Church

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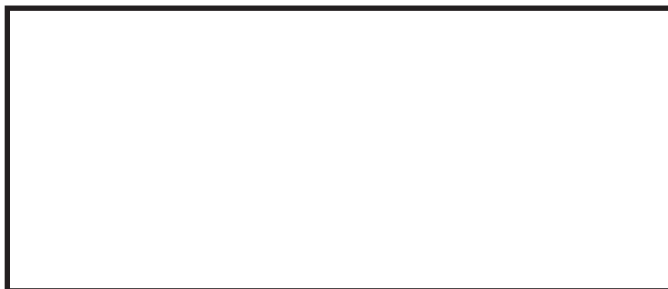
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Vision Statement

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.