



The Mike

The Newsletter of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Studio City, CA
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Dying and Rising to New Life

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

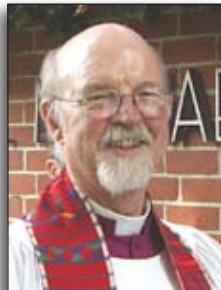
The four gospel accounts of the death and resurrection of Jesus were not written to try to convince people that Jesus had risen from the dead. The narratives assume that the readers of the text already had had an experience with the crucified, risen Christ. The texts were written for the Christian community to offer a basis for living as disciples of Jesus in light of the resurrection. The authors of the four gospels were primarily writing theology and not history.

Our Good Friday and Easter liturgical texts call us to an exploration of the implications of the death and resurrection of Jesus for our own lives. The writers, it is important to note, call us to explore not just the implications of resurrection but also of dying. Several Latin American theologians have stated that in their opinion the church in the so called "first world", the developed world, is much more at home with Easter than Good Friday. We like to move from Palm Sunday straight to Easter. The denial of death is ever present in our culture.

In the early church the death and resurrection of Jesus were both celebrated on Easter. The early church saw the connection between death and resurrected life. We move to the new transformed existence only by dying to the old. In the theology of the early church it literally was through dying that one came to new life. The willingness to go to the cross was a sign that one was willing to move out of one's old way of being in this world. The cross was a symbol of the possibility of new life.

In a contemplative prayer group that I once led participants personally addressed the theme of death and resurrection. One member of that group spoke of being addicted to alcohol and how that had led to a kind of death of the spirit. The person spoke of becoming aware of the need to be freed from the power of death. According to this person the acceptance of death was a powerful first step. The person had to admit

defeat and powerlessness. In admitting defeat the person had to become willing to die another death, a death to the old addicted self and trust in God for a new life. This person made a decision to turn their life over to the care of God and was granted a new life. The person no longer was the



same old addicted person, but a new creation freed from the powers of an alcoholic death. Some years ago I worked for over a year with a very exploited group of farm workers in New York State. The workers worked long hours for very low wages. They all lived in housing that had no indoor toilets. It was not unusual to find ten to fifteen men living in one very small cottage. These men were afraid to speak about their conditions because they had been told that they would lose their jobs and be deported if they named their reality. The community was in the grip of the power of death.

Several of us began working as organizers with this group of farm workers. They finally allowed us to make a video of their life and working conditions. They slowly began to move out of their fear. We began showing the video to local churches and community groups and the workers began to speak at these meetings. They began to face into the power of death that was their reality and move through it to new life. Not only was this community transformed but we were also able to get new legislation passed in New York State to better protect farm workers. This group of men experienced both death and resurrection.

In the four gospels not only is Jesus crucified and resurrected, but we are also called to look for the crucified and risen Christ in our world. In the New Testament the Christian Community is often called to move beyond

its secure boundaries seeking the crucified, resurrected Christ. The community would even reach out to the Gentiles.

Good Friday and Easter call us to dying and rising. We are called to ask where Jesus is being crucified today in the poor and the oppressed, and we are called to enter into solidarity with those being crucified. We enter deeply aware that entering into solidarity with the crucified of this world, whether they are crucified by addictions or unjust labor practices, will lead to a form of dying for us. However, we are also aware that Jesus is present to us in such dying and that the great promise of our faith is that we all shall be raised to new life. In that hope we can celebrate both Good Friday and Easter.

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

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Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

at St. Michael and All Angels

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

3646 Coldwater Canyon Avenue, Studio City 91604

818.763.9193 ✦ E-mail: mail@stmikessc.org

Sundays during Lent

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

3:30 p.m.

February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

Holy Eucharist

Children's Sunday School and Adult Forum

Bible Study

Provoked by God: Women at Risk in Holy Scripture. We will focus on five stories of women who defied authority, law, or cultural tradition to respond to what they understood as God's intentions for them. Two stories are from the First Testament and three are from the New Testament. Participants will be asked to explore how they understand these women to fit into the story of God. Each person will be asked to write briefly in the session about whatever personal resonance they experience with each story, about what becomes foreground for them in the story. On a completely voluntary basis, participants will be invited to read and discuss what they write with group members.

5:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross and Meditation

The Stations of the Cross originated in pilgrimages to Jerusalem. The object of the Stations is to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer, through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. The meditation will help us focus on the redeeming work of Christ's Passion and Crucifixion.

Wednesdays during Lent February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24

7:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

March 28

Holy Eucharist

Holy Eucharist with Palm Sunday procession

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week

7:00 p.m.

March 29, 30, and 31

Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

6:30 p.m.

April 1

Agapé Supper and Holy Eucharist

Good Friday

12:00 noon

April 2

Good Friday Liturgy and Stations of the Cross

Easter Eve

7:30 p.m.

April 3

The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

April 4

Holy Eucharist

Holy Eucharist

Thanksgiving for a Job Well Done

To: The Men's Group for all their hard work to make the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper 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.

April 2010 MIKE Deadline: Please send copy and/or pictures via e-mail to administrator@stmikessc.org by Tuesday, March 16. If you don't have a computer, bring your articles to the Parish Office by that time.

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.

As you do your weekly grocery shopping, remember these items that are always needed by the 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*



As your new Senior and Junior Wardens, we are pleased to be able to serve St. Michael's in this capacity. We have been examining the roles of the wardens and we have identified four goals for ourselves. They are: 1) To maintain our own personal spiritual growth and development, 2) To provide support and encouragement to the Rector, 3) To develop a strong Vestry that works well together to oversee parish programs, and 4) To provide constructive

leadership to the parish community. Although we have been involved in St. Michael's for quite a while in a number of capacities, the position of warden is new to both of us. We will continue to examine our roles and will trust God to guide us.

Our search for a new Rector is foremost in our minds and the work of the Parish Profile Committee is now well on its way. The committee has created a means by which we all may contribute

to the profile. A simple questionnaire with five questions was compiled, a copy of which has been placed each week in the Sunday bulletin. It is crucial that we all complete the questionnaire so that the profile accurately reflects our parish community. We should look upon this process as a wonderful opportunity to recognize all of the many qualities that make St. Michael's such a beautiful, spiritual, loving, and supporting community.



Treasurer's Corner *Margie Mullen, Treasurer*

January 2010—Revenue and Expense Summary

	<i>January Actual</i>	<i>January Budget</i>	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>YTD Budget</i>
Total Revenue	\$ 32,491	\$ 29,199	\$ 32,491	\$ 29,199
Total Expense	36,286	41,854	36,286	41,854
Net	(\$ 3,795)	(\$ 12,655)	(\$ 3,795)	(\$ 12,655)

St. Michael's Celebrates *Mardi Gras*



Tom Heuer, Bill Wright, Leonard Harman, Ron Schwartz, and Brooks Taylor prepare the feast.



Pancakes and sausage were enjoyed by all.



The Calendar

March 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 6.15 PM Book discussion group	2 7.00 PM Executive Committee (CO) 7.30 PM SMCOP Meeting (UR)	3 7.00 PM Holy Eucharist (S)	4 7.30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	5 12.00 noon Fourth Quarter Luncheon (CO)	6
7 ^{Lent 3} 3.30 PM Bible Study (PH) 5.00 PM Stations of the Cross & Meditation (S) 12.15 PM Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	8	9 7.00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	10 7.00 PM Holy Eucharist (S) 7.00 PM Bioneers SFV (PH)	11 7.30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	12	13 11.15 AM Adult Education Committee (CO) 8.00 PM Lit.Up! (PH)
14 ^{Lent 4} 12.15 PM Liturgical Committee (CO) 3.30 PM Bible Study (PH) 5.00 PM Stations of the Cross & Meditation (S)	15	16 7.00 PM Vestry Meeting (UR)	17 7.00 PM Holy Eucharist (S)	18 7.30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	19 ^{Saint Joseph}	20
21 ^{Lent 5} 12.15 PM Healing Prayer Gathering (FR) 12.30 PM Youth Group (YL) 3.30 PM Bible Study (PH) 5.00 PM Stations of the Cross & Meditation (S)	22	23	24 7.00 PM Holy Eucharist (S)	25 ^{Annunciation} 7.30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	26	27 10.00 AM Parish Clean-Up Day (S)
28 ^{Palm Sunday}	29 ^{Monday in Holy Week} 10.00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry (FR) 7.00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry (FR) 7.00 PM Holy Eucharist (S)	30 ^{Tuesday in Holy Week} 7.00 PM Holy Eucharist (S)	31 ^{Wednesday in Holy Week} 7.00 PM Holy Eucharist (S)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>See page 2 for more details about the schedule for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.</p> </div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p><i>Locations:</i> CO: Church Office CR: Choir Room FR: Fireside Room PH: Parish Hall UR: Upper Room YL: Youth Lounge S: Sanctuary</p> </div>

St. Michael's Community Outreach Projects

By Jane Wilson

Lit.Up! Saturday, March 13

The show's theme will be "I Confess" and stars Lauri Hendler, Dylan Brody, Nosmo King, Pam Moore, Chris Young, Jon Kinnally and emcee Gary Lucy. The box office will go to Valley Wildlife Care, a non-profit, volunteer organization serving the San Fernando Valley and surrounding areas. VWC is dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating native wildlife species and releasing them back into their natural environment. www.facebook.com/l/beeecb; www.valleywildlifecare.org. Please let us know if you wish to help with set up or clean up at this event.

Big Sunday

Save the date of Sunday, May 2, 2010. Again we will be a hub for this amazing city-wide day of "Mitzvah". Our event will focus on wounded soldiers and their needs. David Rosenberg is event coordinator on this and can be reached at 818.769.1431.

SMCOP Needs You!

Are you good at coordinating events, coming up with creative ideas, asking people or businesses for donations and/or lending a hand to a person living in extreme need? We need your ideas and elbow grease! We have grown more and more ambitious each year with the projects we decide to tackle and this year will be our busiest ever. We are also in need of a SMCOP secretary to take minutes and report to the vestry. Please attend our next meeting or contact Jane Wilson if you have any interest in joining our vital outreach work!

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the south end of the Project Room/Junior High Meeting Room (the one on the east side of the quad that has the couches and TV). Please call or e-mail Jane Wilson with any questions: superqueerjane@yahoo.com or 818.343.8438.

SMCOP Hosts Valentine's Party at Good Shepherd Center



March Birthdays

Day	Name
3	Jay Hathaway
4	Gail Green
10	Stephanie Dunning Oliver Helmink
11	Karen Haddock Bill Haddock Kyle Bolyard
15	Betty Ferrell Dennis Vasquez
18	Blue Bookhard
20	Adam LoCascio
21	Sasha Matustik Gwynneth Renton
23	Margaret Renton Jackson Prybil
27	Steve Wright
28	Chris Long Jade Jacomb
29	Leslie Chapman-Rose Austin Baggett JD Adams
30	George Harrison Dolly Rogers
31	Loretta Coha

March Anniversaries

Day	Name
3	Ron & Denise Schwartz
10	Julie Meine & Richard Bate
16	Paul & Lois Vaughan
25	Margie & Liz Mullen

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.*

Parish Work Day Planned

Saturday, March 27

On Saturday, March 27, we will break out the rags and cleaning products to give the Sanctuary a good shine to make it ready for this year's Holy Week and Easter festivities. All members of the parish are invited to stop by between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to lend a hand. We need folks to help dust, clean windows, knock down cob webs, as well as to assist with cleaning the carpets and buffing the floors. If you have any questions, please contact either Preston Fray (fraypeacock@gmail.com) or Ed Sugar (edsugar@ca.rr.com).

St. Michael and All Angels Church

3646 Coldwater Canyon Ave., Studio City, CA 91604

phone • 818.763.9193

fax • 818.763.2172

general e-mail • mail@stmikessc.org

web address • www.stmikessc.org

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David Connors, Junior Warden
Margie Mullen, Treasurer
Alex Morales, Clerk
Phyllis Bracey
Rodney Dickson
Preston Fray
Gail Green
Betsy Hailey
Leonard Harman
Mary Ann Jacobson
Norma Johnson
Amador Rondilla
Ron Schwartz
Ed Sugar

PARISH STAFF

Priest-In-Charge The Rev. Canon Henry L. Atkins, Jr.
(fratkins@stmikessc.org)
Priest Associate The Rev. Julian Bull (bullj@campbellhall.org)
Deacon The Rev. Catherine Wagar (ctswagar2@aol.com)
Parish Administrator Duane Steadman (administrator@stmikessc.org)
Director of Music Kristen Toedtman (kristentoedtman@gmail.com)
Organist Emil Iliev (emil_iliev@yahoo.com)

THE MIKE STAFF

Publisher Duane Steadman
Editor Emerita Soni Wright

Vision Statement

We are a welcoming and evolving community of conscience engaged in the renewal of our faith by embracing diversity and encouraging growth through prayer, scholarship, social action, and artistic endeavor.

Our Mission Priority

Our mission priority is to focus on the United Nations' First Millennium Goal: To eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.