



# The Mike

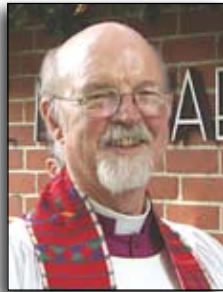
The Newsletter of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Studio City, CA  
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## Our Needed Missionary Method

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

In his book, *The Logic of Renewal*, William Abraham writes of a theological insight gained by the great missionary bishop in India Lesslie Newbigin. Newbigin, after working many years in India, returned to his native England. In 1979, while presiding over the Birmingham District Council of the United Reformed Church, he had to face the possibility of closing an old church in his district outside of Winson Green Prison. He could not make the decision to close the old church. Instead, Newbigin made the decision to become pastor of the church. In his new parish he quickly gained the insight that the industrial West is our newest, and one of our most difficult mission fields.

After only a short time in his new parish Lesslie Newbigin wrote, "The ministry here is much harder than anything I met in India. There is a cold contempt for the gospel which is harder to face than opposition. As I visit the Asian homes in the district, most of them Sikhs or Hindus, I find a welcome which is often denied on the doorsteps of the natives (English). I have been forced to recognize that the most difficult missionary frontier in the contemporary world is the one of which the churches have been—on the whole—so little conscious, the frontier that divides the world of biblical faith from the world whose values and beliefs are ceaselessly fed into every home on the television screen. Like others I had been accustomed especially in the 1960's to speak of England as a secular society. I have now come to realize that I was the easy victim of an illusion from which my reading of the Gospels should have saved me. No room remains empty for long. If God is driven out, the gods come trooping in. England is a pagan society and the development of a truly missionary encounter with this very tough form of paganism is the greatest intellectual and practical task facing the church."



Social critics, including Bill McKibben, have pointed out that in the United States we increasingly seem to know less and less about the Christian faith. Only 40 percent of U.S. citizens can name more than four of the Ten Commandments. Only half of us can name the four Gospels. Three quarters of us believe that the Bible teaches "God helps those who help themselves." Ben Franklin wrote that and it is a teaching that stands over against what the Bible teaches. Among the developed nations we appear to be the least Christian in terms of our behavior. One example of this is that we are ranked second to last, after Italy, among developed countries in government foreign aid.

We have turned from the God of the Bible who in Jesus lays down his life for us, and calls us to be people for others, to a god who helps those who help themselves to the resources of this world without a thought for the rest of the world. The most popular preachers today are not those who call us to transformation, but those who encourage us to be good to ourselves because "you deserve it." We no longer pray "Your will be done," but rather, "My will be satisfied; my passions be fulfilled." The God of the Bible who calls us to serving, loving and giving has been replaced by gods who call us to ambition, aggression and accumulation. These gods of wealth and power have led us into an egotistical belief that nothing and no one should stand in the way of our immediate wishes. These gods have tended to dehumanize us making violence among us the norm. When companions are turned into competitors and other persons simply into things to be used we are in the process

of being dehumanized. The ancient Romans used to say of this dehumanizing process: "Homo lupus homo", in English, "Men are wolves to each other". Yet, we also know that wolves do not usually prey on each other, as so many humans do in our society today. What Bishop Newbigin wrote of England in the 1970s is true of us today—we are a pagan society. In such a society we need a clear missionary method to address our "very tough form of paganism."

The great Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard was clear in his writings that the first step in proclaiming the Gospel in a pagan culture was that those who called themselves Christians had to authenticate that claim with their lives. Kierkegaard was clear that to live as a Christian in a pagan culture would place you at odds with worldly norms and even human nature. Jesus, he pointed out, taught his disciples to become leaders who serve rather than to be served, to rid themselves of pride and not to lord their authority over others. Jesus called his disciples to prefer the company of the "little ones" children, the poor, and the outcasts.

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To live as Jesus taught us to live, to follow Jesus, is to be on a collision course with the powers of this world. Kierkegaard believed that preachers had the task to "awaken the collision." "Woe", Kierkegaard wrote, "to those who dare to preach the Gospel without offense." The offense will come not just from our lips, but in the way we live our lives.

In our own times we have been given many examples of Christians who were willing to "awaken the collision." Dietrich Bonhoeffer was willing to confront the false god of Nazism in Germany, Oscar Romero was willing to confront the god of power and oppression in El Salvador, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. confronted the god of white supremacy in the United States. They were not afraid to "awaken the collision."

The missionary method we need today is one that is not afraid of the great offense of the Gospel. We need to move from our great fear of cultural rejection to become those who "awaken the collision." We need to believe that the God who raised Jesus from the dead can bring authentic life out of our pagan culture.

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

NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

## 25th Annual Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING EVE  
Wednesday, November 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF NORTH HOLLYWOOD  
4832 Tujunga Ave., North Hollywood

A FAMILY SERVICE  
CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

Reception after the Service

Donations of staple  
foods or money are  
welcome and will  
benefit the Pantry.

Service is  
wheelchair accessible.



Information: 818.763.8231

## Middle East Forum Pathways to Peace

Sunday, November 8th, 2009  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Host: St. Michael and All Angels  
Episcopal Church  
3646 Coldwater Canyon Blvd.  
Studio City, CA 91604

### Speakers:

Salam Al Marayati, Executive Director, MPAC  
Eisha Mason, AFSC Regional Director  
Sanford Weiner, Americans for Peace Now  
Moderator: Sr. Anne Field, Sisters of Social Service

Public is welcome

The speakers will describe their  
organization's efforts to reach out  
to Israelis and Palestinians  
in the Middle East and  
in the United States  
to create Pathways to Peace.  
Light Refreshments Served

[www.vic-la.org](http://www.vic-la.org)



Betsy Meiman up on the Parish Hall roof, giving our solar panels a wash. Stay tuned for more news on the Solar Panel project in the December issue of THE MIKE.

Get THE MIKE in COLOR!

Go to: <http://www.stmikessc.org/THE MIKE>  
online and click on the month you want to view.



## From the Vestry *by Vestrymember Ed Sugar*

### Stewardship Phase II: Spit Polish And Elbow Grease

I would like to thank everyone who stepped up and made our annual stewardship program such a success. St. Michael's is off to a great start for the coming year. As we gear up for the year end holidays, this parish now enters a second phase of stewardship. It is now time for our parish to roll up its sleeves and devote the time needed to bring the shine back to our house of worship.

As responsible stewards of St. Michael and All Angels it is vital that we keep our sanctuary, parish hall and campus looking like, well, like an Angel. Unfortunately over the years, our church grounds and structures, for an assortment of reasons, have suffered from neglect and misuse. The words dingy, filthy and even squalid were appropriate descriptions.

Recently that has changed. Last year Tom Heuer and Patrick Holder gave their time to clean and paint the parish hall. In the last few months, Treadwell Atkins, Mary Ann Jacobson and Norma Johnson got out their scrub brushes and have given the parish kitchen a sparkle that has not seen since

"M.A.S.H." was on CBS. Since the end of August, members of the Men's Group (Preston Faye, Bill Haddock, Tom Heuer, Ron Schwartz, Brooks Taylor and John Vincent) have given up their Saturday mornings cleaning up the sanctuary, bringing a sense of freshness and cleanliness to the space we all worship in.

But our work is far from complete. The parish hall walls need washing and some additional window treatments. The kitchen's stove and oven need a massive cleaning. Meanwhile, the Men's Group mission to clean up the sanctuary has just "scratched the surface".

There are two important cleaning events coming up in November, that I encourage you to attend and participate. On Saturday, November 7th, at 10 AM, the Men's Group will be dusting off the Jesus in the sanctuary. Father Atkins will offer a prayer before the lads steady the ladder and clean up our Lord.

Then on Saturday, November 28th all parish members are invited to our "Holiday Clean Up Day". During the month of December St. Michael's will be having many guests and visitors to celebrate the holidays and

we need to make sure that the sanctuary, parish hall and kitchen are looking their best. I urge you set aside some time on this day and help get our parish ready for the year end festivities.

Trust me, I am no compulsive, anal retentive clean freak (just ask my wife, Marion). But just as we all have a financial responsibility to this parish, likewise we have the responsibility to make our facilities meet basic standards what is deemed clean and presentable. Remember our church is not only a house of worship, but historic landmark of famed architect A. Quincy Jones.

As some of you know I am in sales. In sales, first perceptions count the most. The first time I set foot in our sanctuary was on Sunday, April 10, 2005 and from that minute on its beauty and spirit has brought me back. If we are to grow and maintain as parish, we must make sure that all newcomers and visitors have the same sense of awe and inspiration, Please come out in November and help keep our stewardship of St. Michael's a reality.

*Ed Sugar,*



## Treasurer's Corner *by Margie Mullen, Treasurer*

### September, 2009 – Revenues and Expense Summary

	September Actual	September Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenues:	\$29,823	\$30,812	\$255,993	\$290,438
Total Expenses:	\$39,991	\$40,321	\$341,854	\$394,072
Net Total:	(\$10,168)	(\$9,509)	(\$ 85,861)	(\$103,634)

The Stewardship drive for 2010 is officially over, but we are still accepting pledges from those who were unable to come to Consecration Sunday. Those pledges trickle in daily.

The next task is creating the budget for 2010. Our preliminary goal is to reduce our budgeted deficit from (\$145,756) in 2009 to a budgeted deficit in 2010 to less than (\$100,000). For those of you who are newer to the parish, the budgeted deficit in 2007 was (\$309,000), in 2008 it was (\$222,056), and in 2009 it is (\$145,756). Another drop to (\$100,000) means an improvement of \$209,000 over three years.

At the same time we were making painful cuts in expenses, we experienced decreasing pledge income, partially offset, though, by renting out our campus during the week to a preschool. In 2010 our preschool income continues its climb, but we have to make even more painful budget cuts to bring our costs down. The ultimate goal is to have income and expenses equal, so we can be self supporting through our own contributions.

In the next Mike I should be able to give you more information about the 2010 budget, but in the meantime, please turn in your pledges, if you have not yet done so. If you need a pledge card, please call or e-mail the office.

*Margie Mullen, Treasurer*



# The Calendar

## November, 2009

### 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 for all ages 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.
- Choirsters meet in the Music Room at 10:30 am, and the children are brought into Eucharist for the Peace (unless otherwise noted).
- Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 AM service unless otherwise noted.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> ALL SAINTS DAY Women's Care Cottage Clothing Collection 9:00 AM Men's Group Morning Prayer 10:30 AM Baptisms 12 NOON Executive Committee (CO) 12:15 PM Healing Prayer (MG)	<b>2</b> 6:15 PM Book Discussion Group Home of Mary Ann Jacobson	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (CO) 7:30 PM Community Outreach Projects Committee (UR)	<b>4</b> 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	<b>5</b> NO Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 12:00 NOON Fourth Quarter (CO)	<b>7</b> 8:00 PM Screening of <i>Laffghanistan</i> (PH)
<b>8</b> 3:00 PM Pathways to Peace Middle East Forum (PH)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (CO) 7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)	<b>11</b> Veterans Day Parish Office Closed 7:00 PM Bioneers (PH)	<b>12</b> 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:00 PM Lit.UP! (PH)
<b>15</b> 12:15 PM Healing Prayer (FR) 12:30 PM TBD Youth Group (YL) 3:00 PM Deanery 2 Pre-Convention Meeting. St. Andrew and St. Charles in Granada Hills, CA	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (CO)  <i>November '09            Newsletter Articles            DUE</i>	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting (UR)	<b>19</b> 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CR)	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Bishops Suffragan Nominee Webcast 11:15 AM Liturgical Committee (CO)
<b>22</b> 9:30 AM Choristers Rehearsal (CR)	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Knitting Groups (FR)	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting (CO)	<b>25</b> 7:30 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, First United Methodist Church of North Hollywood	<b>26</b> Thanksgiving Parish Office Closed NO Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> Parish Office Closed	<b>28</b> Parish Cleanup Day
<b>29</b> The First Sunday of Advent NO Choristers Rehearsal 12:30 PM Pastoral Care Committee Mtg. (FR)	<b>30</b>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <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>				

# GOINGS ON AT ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

## Thanksgiving for a Job Well Done

To: **Anne Kelly and Margie Mullen**, for heading up the 2009 Stewardship campaign;

**Amador Rondilla and Ging Molera**, for asking that Amador's birthday gifts be monetary donations to St. Michael's;

**Treadwell Atkins**, and **Mary Ann Jacobson** keeping the Parish Hall kitchen clean,

and **Bruce Rankin** for giving loving care to our beautiful roses.

*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.*

## November Birthdays

Day	Name
2	Addison Beaulieu
5	Sean Grace
6	Paul Vaughan
9	Tom Heuer
10	Sandra Cuneo
11	Robert Perry
12	Sharon Renton
13	Jeanne Perry
16	Scott Shelton
18	Rafael Arias
20	Stephen Billington Andrea Odinov Fuller
22	Claude Swonger
24	Marty Coha
26	KB VanHorn
27	The Rev. Julian Bull Sarah Simon
28	Nancy Woods Ryan Mitchelle
29	Pablo Mooradian Amaya Washington

## November Anniversaries

Day	Name
1	Robert Perry & Dennis Vasquez
8	Andrea Odinov Fuller & DJ Fuller
12	Laurie & John Vincent
13	Kathleen & Brooks Taylor
24	William Hendley & Jon Albert
28	Polly Davis & Peter Epstein

**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 ([lauren@stmikessc.org](mailto:lauren@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!*

## Quotation for November

*"[It is] Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."*

*W.T. Purkiser (1910-1992)*

*Preacher, scholar, and author in the Church of the Nazarene*

Read the MIKE Online! All you do is go to the website, [www.stmikessc.org](http://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.

**December 2009 MIKE Deadline:** Please send copy and/or pictures via e-mail to [lauren@stmikessc.org](mailto:lauren@stmikessc.org) by Tuesday, November 17. If you don't have a computer, bring your articles to the Parish Office by that time.

# St. Michael's Community Outreach Projects *By Jane Wilson, Committee Chair*

## News and Upcoming Events

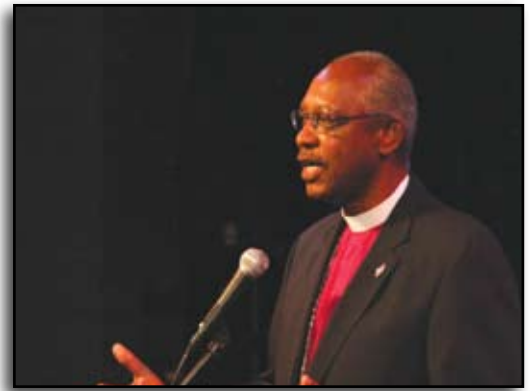
### *ANGEL AWARD DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS*

On September 12th, we held the 4th Annual Angel Awards with a wonderful dinner and ceremony. This year the award went to two people, Dennis Gibbs for his outstanding service in prison outreach ministry and Sally Martinez, a city case-worker that does citizen-advocacy work that is above and beyond! We also honored, as our Angel Emerita, Soni Wright, who was so instrumental in organizing and growing the Wig Exchange as well as all the programs that we do with SMCOP. Finally we honored our "Seraphim and Cherubim", stellar volunteers that help SMCOP achieve all we do each year: Ellen Harrigan, Jennifer MacLean, Daniel Frank and Danielle Koenig. The evening was a huge success as we used ticket sales and a silent raffle to raise thousands of dollars for PRISM, the prison outreach ministry associated with the Episcopal Diocese. Bishop Chester Talton honored us by presenting the award to Dennis Gibbs and vibrant community activist Amy Elaine Wakeland was Sally Martinez' presenter.

Many thanks to the endless number of volunteers and donors that made the entire event come off without a hitch: the entire SMCOP team for planning the event itself, Lauren Azeltine for designing and executing the super duper lovely invites, Duane Steadman for his help with processing finances for the event, Hank Meiman for designing the entire technical flow of the evening as well as the lighting and tenting with help from Kevin Hughes and Betsy Meiman, Treadwell Atkins, Nancy Woods, Betty Ferrell, Gail Wright and Avery Wright for helping with set-up the evening before the event, Louisa Herrmann for her gorgeous flower arrangements, Mary Ann Jacobson for her help with the flowers as well as baking the dessert brownies and helping with set-up, the Basta family for help with food prep and shopping, Zofie Basta and Meg Pryor for serving during the reception hour, Willie Pryor, Lily Peterson and Miranda Cornwell helped to serve the dinner and replenish water and coffee and without Karen Rogers and Alex Morales in the kitchen, helping chefs Derek and James (from St. Joseph's center) there is no way we would have made it through the night! Thanks also to Alex, Karen, Mary Ann, Nancy, Hank, Betsy and Betty for staying until the bitter end to clean the whole place up. Neda Rafati and Treadwell Atkins made sure the silent auction items were wrapped spectacularly. Honoree Soni Wright donated a gorgeous painting to the silent auction as did St. Mike's members Gail Green and Diane Collins—all three paintings were fought over, garnering huge donations. Honoree Ellen Harrigan and the Dodger organization donated oodles of Dodger swag and tickets to the silent auction. Rich Cando designed the fabulous program and Scott Martin donated the printing of the program.

SMCOP had a dream that we might be able to sew chair covers for the over 100 chairs we planned to have at the tables for this event; well, Treadwell just took this idea and ran with it and really did organize this endeavor so quickly and efficiently that every chair had a lovely cover on it at the event thanks to the busy sewing hands of Treadwell, Charlotte Oliver, Susan Guire, Catherine Wagar, and Elizabeth Bartolomea. Finally, there are always members of the parish that donate so generously to every endeavor we have—thanks to Kathryn Argall and Betsy Hailey for their wonderful financial gifts and a special thanks to Margie and Liz Mullen who donated wine and other beverages (and served it!) as well as a full-page ad in the program!

A huge thanks to all who participated—you are helping to put our church on the map as a leader in the community in outreach and this evening was not only moving and fun and important, it also truly helped us to raise our profile amongst people that can help us to achieve even more of our outreach dreams!



Bishop Talton



Dennis Gibbs



Sally Martinez



Dr. Peter Carlson, Soni Wright, Jane Wilson

## **LAFGGHANISTAN SCREENING!**

On Saturday, November 7th at 8 p.m., we will be screening the funny and deeply moving documentary LAFGGHANISTAN in the Parish Hall at St. Mike's. The documentary, produced by and featuring comic Graham Elwood, chronicles his journey, along with several other comics, to entertain the troops in Afghanistan. The suggested donation will be \$10 (with proceeds going to the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America,) but all are encouraged to attend regardless of ability to pay. If you'd like to help with the set-up for the evening, please contact Jane Wilson.

## **LIT.UP! for NOVEMBER**

The theme for the show on November 14th will be "I Will Survive" and will star Adrian Colesberry, Jackie Kashian, Sarah Hersack, Brett Paesel, Karen Kilgariff, J. Keith Van Straaten and Laurence Dumortier. Suggested donation for the evening of comedy, essays, song and poetry is \$10 with this month's proceeds going to Team Survivor Los Angeles.

Team Survivor Los Angeles (TSLA) provides free exercise, health education and support programs for women living with cancer. Our mission is to enable women to regain and maintain their physical and emotional well-being. We welcome women of all ages and fitness levels in all stages of cancer treatment and recovery.

## **THANKSGIVING COLLECTION FOR NVCS**

We will again be collecting items for the huge Thanksgiving dinner for the poor and homeless being served at North Valley Caring Services. Please look for sign-up sheets in the back of the church starting on Sunday, November 8th or email or call Jane Wilson with what you might wish to donate. They need 30 frozen 8-11 pound frozen bone-in turkey breasts, 100 lbs of baking potatoes, canned yams, boxes of dressing, lemonade and punch mix, butter, rolls, pies, canned chicken broth and canned gravy. Also, if you wish to purchase table decorations for the day or design some with your kids, they love that as well! Final collections will be on Sunday, November 22 so it can all be delivered the following morning to NVCS.

## **HOLIDAY CHEER—DATE SET!**

Holiday Cheer will take place on Saturday, December 12th, 2009, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is a magical day where we have a holiday party for over 140 kids and their moms from area shelters and poverty centers. More info to follow soon, but please contact Jane Wilson if you have any interest in coming on board as a team leader for this great event. Signups for donations and volunteers will begin in mid-November.

## **SMCOP'S NEXT MEETING—WE NEED YOU!**

This is truly the busiest of busy season for outreach at St. Mike's! If you have a passion for doing outreach to people in need, please join us. We are particularly in need of a person to oversee the Wig Exchange's outreach to area hospitals, but can use enormous help with all of our outreach endeavors. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:30 pm in the Upper Room. For more info on anything to do with SMCOP, please call Jane Wilson at 818.343.8438 or e-mail [superqueerjane@yahoo.com](mailto:superqueerjane@yahoo.com).

## **Around the Parish**



Father Atkins with Father Will Wheation, who visited St. Michael's on September 26 to promote his new book, *People of the Lie Versus Prophets of Truth in the Americas and the Price of Passion for the Truth: Crucifixion and Resurrection in History*.



Nancy Bullock was our preacher on New Consecration Sunday, October 11.



Babysitters Rosy and Olivia enjoying our new nursery in the Purple Room.

# St. Michael and All Angels Church

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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*John Pryor, Junior Warden*  
*Margie Mullen, Treasurer*  
*Anne Kelly, Clerk*  
*Phyllis Bracey*  
*Bob Bucker*  
*David Connors*  
*Preston Fray*  
*Leonard Harman*  
*Mary Ann Jacobson*  
*Norma Johnson*  
*Ed Sugar*

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	Phyllis Bracey	Liz Mullen

### 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.*