



The Mike

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

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 7 • October 2012

What *Would* Jesus Do?

By the Reverend Dan Justin

For years now people have been wearing little bracelets or necklaces with the initials WWJD—What Would Jesus Do? The intent of the bracelet is to inspire the wearer to reflect on their choices when faced with a dilemma. What would Jesus do in this situation?

While I kind doubt the effectiveness of these bracelets, the thought behind them is actually legitimate. One of the goals of the Christian life is to model our life on the life of Jesus. In Christ we see what it means to be truly human. In Christ we find the exemplar of love. Jesus gave his followers a new command—to love one another. In other words, we are to seek to live like Jesus lived.

One of the primary reasons we attend church is for spiritual growth. The Bible calls this growth sanctification—it is the process of God working in our lives to make and mold us into the people that God longs for us to be. It is the process by which our lives begin to look more like Jesus' life. As we grow spiritually we will begin to reflect God's love to the world.

The Holy Spirit is doing the work of sanctification in each of us. But even though that is true, we can also be intentional about that work. We participate in that work. In the book of James we heard the reminder—"Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you." (James 4:8a). We are active participants in our own spiritual growth. And we can engage in all kinds of activities that facilitate that growth. We open our hearts, minds and hands to the work the Spirit is doing in us.

My goal as your rector is to help you grow spiritually. That is why I am introducing a new program here at St. Michaels. It is designed to foster this growth by providing ample opportunity for learning, experimenting, and serving. I am calling it *The Generous Living Project*.

I believe "Generosity" is another way to describe the love that Jesus modeled. Jesus gave. He gave all that he could give. He gave to all he encountered. He gave healing, acceptance, hospitality, forgiveness, freedom, and redemption. We are the recipients of his

gracious giving as well. We experience and live in his generosity every day. Jesus says "Love one another." But I believe that could just as easily be phrased "Be generous to one another." I say that because in the Bible love is always a verb. Love is an action. It is an act



of generosity. Being generous is far more than just giving of our money. It is also the giving of kind words or being hospitable and opening our home to others. It can mean giving of our time or it could be taking time to pray for others. It includes being willing to listen

to someone or visit one who is sick or lonely. Generosity could be risking ourselves, our reputations, or even our safety to stand up for peace and fight against injustice. All of these examples, in addition to giving money, are ways we can be generous.

Each month, beginning with October, *The Generous Living Project* will have a different theme with an activity, learning opportunity and/or outreach opportunity. These themes will represent some of the aspects of what it means to be generous. The goal of the Project is to become more like Christ by the end of the program year; to become more generous people by June of 2013. Are you willing to open your heart to the Spirit's work in your life?

Are you interested in working on your own
See RECTOR, page 2

Young Adults Group Begins October 3

For those of us in our 20s and 30s, our adulthood is young. We are still discovering ourselves and our faith. Our lives are young, our careers are young, and our families—if we are so blest—are young. Because our journey is fresh, we may still be deciding how to shape our lives around God, and how to incorporate work for peace and justice. This young adult group is for those of us who seek to become more involved in the church, and who would like a Christian community of our peers in which to grow and thrive.

This group, as with St. Mike's, is welcome to all: lifelong Episcopalians, new Episcopalians, and people interested in exploring the Episcopal faith and community. Join us from wherever you are in your spirituality.

Because we are young, the long-term future is very important to us. Within this group, we will discuss how we as Christians can make the present and future resemble God's kingdom on Earth, for us and for future generations. As Christians, we must live the teachings of the Gospels, and take an active

role in the mission of the church to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty. My hope is that this young adult ministry will solidify its members' commitment to Christian action.

Regarding the form of the meetings, each meeting of the group will begin with a compline service (a short, evening prayer service) and segue into an activity or discussion topic. In addition to this basic structure, much of the group's details and objectives have yet to be defined. Members will have a big influence in how the group is organized and run.

St. Michael and All Angels is currently in a wonderful period of growth and transition. So is this young adult group. So are we as young adults.

The young adult group will meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the new ministry center. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, October 3. Please bring a snack to share.

—Eliza Diliberti

Rector *from page 1*

spiritual growth so that you are a more loving, caring, and generous disciple of Jesus? Then join us on this journey.

October's theme coincides with our annual Stewardship campaign. The *theme* this month is Spiritual Disciplines. Our *learning opportunity* on this theme will be the October Mid-Week class held on Wednesday, October 10th at 7:00 pm. We will explore the Spiritual Disciplines which help us grow closer to God. The *activity* for this month is prayerfully making our annual pledge to St. Michael's.

Giving to the church is a spiritual discipline. It is a means to an end. It is one of the ways that God helps us become more generous people.

The Wonders of Music

I'm sure many of you have had the experience of looking at somebody you think you know very well (a spouse, a friend, a coworker, you name it) and not believing your eyes. This has been my experience with music lately. I've been into music since I've grown my first memory cells, but what I've seen and heard here in L.A. during the last few years is nothing short of miraculous. Thanks to Walt Disney Concert Hall, I have been able to marvel at the work of the most brilliant musicians on the planet. Thanks to Los Angeles being home to some of the best instruments on earth, I realized what an organ can do. And thanks to studying with some amazing people in town, I was made aware of knowledge that would have probably slipped by me otherwise. All of which is wonderful, and I am very thankful for it!

However, you have to give it to seventh graders to put it best. One day, during lunch break at La Canada High School, a kid yelled: "It ain't worth a thing if it ain't shared!". Maybe it was over lunch, or the newest game gadget, I wasn't really paying attention. But the point was made. Unless we share our gifts, who cares that we have them? I can play beautifully and know what I know, so what? That is why I am inviting everybody to share with me the gift of learning to play a keyboard instrument. One can say that piano is the dough and butter of learning music, but the organ is the whole fancy restaurant. You begin with the basic ingredients, and then your imagination is the only limit. Of course, when I started on

If we are not willing to give then how can ever hope to begin to live like Jesus? The practical side of giving to St. Michael's is that you become a full participant in the mission and ministry of this parish. Your pledge will help us grow the ministries of this place. It will allow us to continue to build the kingdom of heaven right here in Studio City. So please—give generously. Challenge yourself to give like you have never given before—and through the act of giving God will begin to teach you what it is to be generous.

Blessings,

Dan+

that route 38 years ago, I had no idea where it would take me (it took me to America!), but that's part of the thrill. Looking back, I can say with certainty that one cannot get luckier, to have embarked on that trip. And it only gets better with time...

Yours truly,

Emil Iliev, St. Michael's Organist
323.308.9327
emil_iliev@yahoo.com

October Birthdays

Day	Name
3	Caitlyn Fields
4	Diane Collins
5	Bruce Rankin
6	Irene Gibson
9	Justin Adams
13	Emily Magers
15	Marjie Hathaway
18	Peter Stenquist
20	Hadley Brown
22	Olivier Whelan
24	James Benjamin
26	Ging Molera
31	Kyra Grace Kitty Roche

October Anniversaries

Day	Name
2	Paul & Meredith Reese
3	Ging Molera & Amador Rondilla
10	David & Melissa Basta
24	Andre & Louisa Herrmann

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.*

Paintings by Doreen Dean Exhibited in Santa Barbara

St. Michael's is pleased to report that paintings by long-time member Doreen Dean were once again accepted for showing at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History during the City of Santa Barbara's annual Artwalk week 2012. Doreen's paintings this year include a seascape and landscape scene.

Doreen began her artistic career in the British Isles. She was born in the county of Warwickshire in England, which was the home of William Shakespeare.

Doreen has been an artist all of her working life. She attended Liverpool's School of Art, a section of the City of Liverpool University (England). She was an accomplished fashion illustrator both in Britain and here in the United States.

Her work has been accepted for many years by the Santa Barbara Artwalk committee of judges. The work of several artists chosen was on exhibit at the museum on Saturday and Sunday September 29th & 30th, 2012.

Treasurer's Corner

August 2012—Revenue and Expense Summary

	August Actual	August Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 52,416	\$ 54,465	\$266,527	\$257,434
Total Expense	28,715	26,120	247,703	252,341
Net	\$ 23,701	\$ 28,345	\$ 18,824	\$ 5,093

Read the MIKE Online! All you do is go to the website, www.stmikessc.org, and click on Newsletter. Back issues are available there as well.



We are very pleased to announce that on Wednesday, October 17, at 7:00 pm the Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool will be installing Father Dan Justin as the Rector of St. Michael and All Angels. This Celebration of New Ministry Service will be our opportunity to show our love and support for Father Dan. Bishop Glasspool will be presiding at the service. Father Dan's former Rector during the time he served at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Park Ridge, Illinois, the Rev. Sarah Odderstol, will be our

special guest and our preacher that evening.

This is an exciting time in the life of St. Michael's. We have already experienced many blessings in the eight months since Father Dan came to lead our parish: in our worship services, in our community ministries, in the many new members and visitors who are coming to our services and in our individual spiritual growth. We invite you to join us on October 17 to receive and welcome Father Dan as our permanent

Rector. There will be a champagne reception in our newly refurbished Ministry Center immediately following the Service.

The Vestry has established a Continuing Education Fund, which will be used to enable Father Dan to work towards a Doctorate in Ministry that focuses on Biblical Preaching. We welcome your contributions to this fund as a way of recognizing Father Dan's ministry gifts and his desire to develop and use them for God's glory.

Stewardship

By Alex Morales

We are entering into Stewardship season, which, after 23 years of attending the Episcopal Church, has become a familiar ritual to me. However, being raised Roman Catholic, this wasn't always the case. Growing up, I recall attending Sunday services with my sister. Our parents always gave us \$1, which we dutifully placed in the Sunday collection plate. This would have been in the mid-60s, and at the time, my parents may have considered \$1 a week a lot of money.

In 1989, when I began to attend the Episcopal Church, the concept of pledging was new to me, as this never was part of my Roman Catholic upbringing nor experience. Whereas the concept of pledging, the act of making a commitment to the church and to God, was new to me, it made perfect sense, as I have been a person of faith throughout my entire life. What better way, I thought, to truly place my faith in God, to trust that He would provide, than to make a pledge to the church.

At first, I decided to best my parents' \$1 per week by pledging \$5 a week (\$260/year). After that first year, I realized that \$5 was very manageable, and challenged myself to double it to \$10 per week (\$520/year). A year later I thought, let's see if I can double it to \$20 per week, which I did. At that point, I felt pretty good that I was pledging \$1040 a year to the church.

In 1991, my Rector, the Rev. Jon Bruno (our current Bishop), asked me to serve as Stewardship Chair, which I gladly accepted. However, once I began to do a bit more studying and reflecting in preparation for the Stewardship Campaign, I realized that my yearly pledge was just a start. Whereas I

had been perfectly content with \$1040 a year, I finally began to view my pledge in terms of the tithe. Here I was, about to talk to the congregation about pledging and tithing, yet I had never considered the percentage of my own giving. I soon realized that my yearly pledge was a far cry from 10%. In reality, I knew that I could afford to give more and I also knew that I wasn't quite ready to commit to giving 10%. From that day forward, I vowed to challenge myself, to set an example, by working towards the tithe.

Fast-forward 21 years...every year since 1991 I have increased my pledge as I worked towards the tithe. Each year, as I completed my pledge card, I knew that my increased pledge was an act of faith, that I was trusting God to provide. I feel that I am proof that God has been my support and my guide. FYI—currently, David and I pledge 10% of our net income or 7.5% of our gross income. I state both because there always seems to be the question—on which amount do you base the tithe, gross or net? Whereas pledging 10% of our net income can be considered to be doing our part, I know that, when it comes to giving to God and the church, we can do better. Therefore, we will challenge ourselves to increase our pledge as we continue to work towards 10% of our gross income. I also know that it may take us several years to achieve this; what's far more important is that we've set this as our goal.

Although I'm far from a Biblical scholar and couldn't quote a scripture verse if you paid me, I believe there's great truth in the following:

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each

one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

I willingly choose to sow bountifully. I do it, not out of guilt, nor obligation, rather as a personal covenant with God. It is a great thing to know that I can place my trust, my life, if you will, into God's hands, and that He is willing to carry the burden.

Blessing of Animals Sunday, October 7

St. Michael and All Angels will observe our annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 7, 2012, at

the 10:30 am service. Pets are welcome in church that Sunday. There will be a general blessing of all pets during the service. The blessing of individual pets will take place in the quad after the service.



Halloween Potluck Saturday, October 20, 5:00 pm

Costumes/Halloween dress is optional. The party will be at the home of Alex Morales and David Connors, 13346 Valley Vista Boulevard (just east of Dixie Canyon) Sherman Oaks. Parking on Valley Vista is restricted (read the parking signs!) so park around the corner on Dixie Canyon, SOUTH of Valley Vista (heading uphill). RSVP to Alex at aminla3@gmail.com.

Coming Up at St. Michaels...

Life on the Road: Avenues of Grace— Wednesday, October 10th, at 7:00 pm

The life of faith has often been described as an adventure. Each of us is on a journey of growth as God makes us and molds us into the people we are called to be. Unfortunately many get stalled, sidetracked, or even out-and-out lost on this journey. How can we find ways to keep moving forward and growing in our faith? The answer: Spiritual Disciplines. The disciplines have been called "Avenues of Grace". They are the roadways we travel as we seek to get closer to God. Join the Rev. Dan Justin in exploring a variety of spiritual disciplines that will point you in the right direction for your journey.

Please be sure to RSVP with Duane at administrator@stmikessc.org or at 818.763.9193. The evening begins with a family dinner followed by activities for kids and the class for adults.

Grand Opening Sunday—October 21

Our renovations in the new Ministry Center and in the Sunday School Building are nearly complete! Over the next few weeks you will begin to see the dust begin to settle. By October 5th we expect the major work to be complete in the Ministry Center, kitchen, classrooms, and Fireside Room. We expect the new restrooms to be completed by October 11th.

The parish family is invited to special Grand Opening Coffee Hour and Open House event on Sunday, October 21st after the 10:30 am service. Everything will be open and on display. We will bless our newly renovated spaces—rededicating them to God and rededicating ourselves to the ministry to which God has called this parish.

Crucial Conversations Begin Wednesday, October 24

St. Michael and All Angels Peace and Justice Committee introduces Crucial Conversations this month. Crucial Conversations takes up issues of peace and justice providing a community forum for exploration and discussion.

Our first Crucial Conversation will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2012, at 7:00 pm in the Ministry Center. Our topic this month:

A Matter of Life and Death: A Conversation on the Death Penalty

Since the 1950s the Episcopal Church has expressed its opposition to capital punishment. This November voters will be asked to



consider Proposition 34, sponsored by SAFE California. If passed, Prop 34 will replace the death penalty in California with life in prison without the possibility of parole. Join the Rev. Dennis Gibbs, a representative of SAFE California, and a man sentenced to death row who was later proven innocent as they lead us in this Crucial Conversation.

A Note on Stewardship

So much has happened over the past year. We have called a new rector, we have completed a mini capital campaign, we have renovated much of our facility, and we have welcomed new members. Our finance committee has reported that the parish is no longer in red. In the beginning of 2012, we expected to have a budget deficit of approximately \$130,000 which would have to come from our reserve funds. Due to the hard work of the finance committee and vestry—that is no longer true. We won't have to touch our reserve. We are in a very different place now from where we were just one year ago. We are no longer a struggling parish. We are a strong, vibrant and growing parish. God is at work in this place. It is a new day. And we believe that God is calling us to do even more.

Now is the time to begin to grow our

ministries. As we look ahead to 2013 we dream of strengthening our worship services and our music program. We see the needs of the world around us and feel God's leading to strengthen our outreach ministries. We know we must begin build up our Mission Share Fund in order to give to the Diocese of Los Angeles the full 12% we are asked to give. While there have certainly been amazing renovations, we know there are still many areas of deferred maintenance on our campus.

We give in response to God's love and grace in our lives. We give back to God as an act of worship. We give because through giving God makes us into the generous people God calls us to be. But the practical side of giving is that we can build and grow our ministries allowing us to be the church. Did you know that in 2012 our budget for our

music program, excluding salaries for Kristen and Emil and instrument maintenance, was \$-0-? The music program relied on fundraisers. Did you know that our Outreach budget has been greatly reduced and it also has relied on fundraising? Imagine what we could do if we could fully fund these ministries through our budget. Imagine what we could do if we each increase our giving. Let's end the need for additional fundraising. We seek to fully fund our music and outreach budgets.

We are not asking for equal gifts—we understand that not everyone has the means to give the same amounts. We are asking for equal participation though. We are praying that 100% of the people and families of St. Michael's choose to make a financial commitment. After all, being a pledger is one half of what it means to be a member.

Work Is Progressing in the New Ministry Center

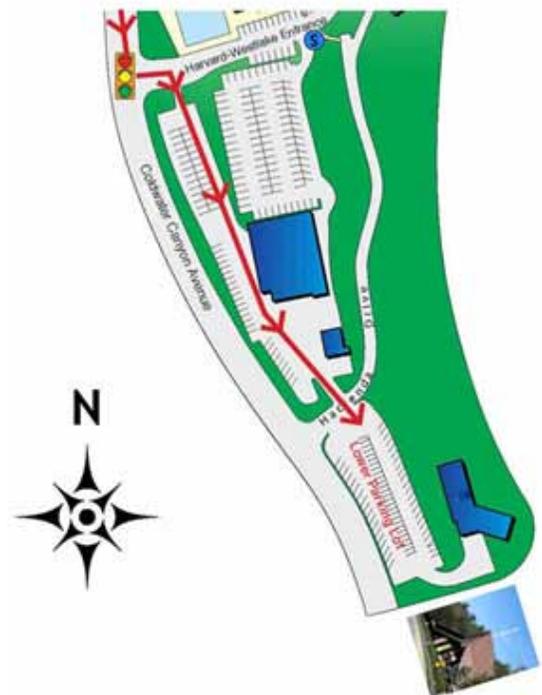


An Important message about the Coldwater Construction and Parking

This month the construction project on Coldwater Canyon Avenue creeps closer to the church. The potential impact on St. Michael's is that drivers may lose the ability to turn left onto Hacienda Avenue from the southbound lane. This will impact access to the lower parking lot.

We are currently working LADOT and Harvard Westlake School to maintain the right to turn left onto Hacienda. In the event that we are unable to turn left onto Hacienda Avenue drivers may:

- Park in the St. Michael's upper lot accessed from Avenida del Sol.
- Drivers may use the upper lot accessed from Avenida del Sol to turn around and return to Hacienda where they can access the road by making a right turn.
- Drivers may turn left into the main entrance of Harvard Westlake. Take the first right and drive to the end of that parking lot to gain access to the church lot. Please see map at the right this option. The map is available in a larger size on St. Michael's website.





The Calendar

October 2012

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Adult Learning Opportunity begins at 9:15 am.*
 • *Sunday School begins at 10:30 and the children are brought into Eucharist for the Peace.*
 • *Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service unless otherwise noted.*

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Locations:

- CO Church Office
- MR Music Room
- FR Fireside Room
- MC Ministry Center
- L The Loft (formerly the stage)
- S Sanctuary

1

2

3

7:30 PM Young Adults Group (L)

4

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)

5

12:00 NOON Fourth Quarter Luncheon

6

7 Pentecost 19

Blessing of Animals at 10:30 Eucharist
 12:00 NOON Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)
 12:15 PM SMCOP (CO)
 4:00 PM Youth Group (L)

8

9

10

7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)
 7:00 PM Mid-Week (MC)

11

12

13

14 Pentecost 20

15

16

7:00 PM Vestry

17

7:00 PM Installation of the Rev. Dan Justin as Rector of St. Michael's (S)

18 St. Luke the Evangelist

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)

19

20

5:00 PM Halloween Potluck (13346 Valley Vista Blvd, Sherman Oaks)

21 Pentecost 21

12:00 NOON Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)

22

23 St. James of Jerusalem

24

7:00 pm Crucial Conversations: A Conversation on the Death Penalty (MC)

25

26

27

28 Pentecost 22

29 St. Simon and St. Jude

30

31 All Hallows' Eve



The Calendar

November 2012

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 • *Adult Learning Opportunity begins at 9:15 am.*
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Saturday

Locations:

- CO Church Office
- MR Music Room
- FR Fireside Room
- MC Ministry Center
- L The Loft (formerly the stage)
- S Sanctuary

1 All Saints' Day

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)

2

12:00 NOON Fourth Quarter Luncheon (MC)

3

4 Pentecost 23
Standard Time Resumes

12:00 NOON Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)
 12:15 PM SMCOP (CO)
 4:00 PM Youth Group (L)

5

6 Election Day

7

7:00 PM Mid-Week (MC)
 7:30 PM Young Adults Group (FR)

8

9

10

11 Pentecost 24
Veterans' Day

12

13

14

7:00 PM Finance Committee (CO)
 7:00 PM Mid-Week (MC)

15

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)

16

17

18 Pentecost 25

12:00 NOON Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)

19

20

7:00 PM Vestry

21

7:30 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (Adat Ari El, 12020 Burgank Blvd, Valley Village)

22 Thanksgiving Day

23

24

25 Pentecost Last

26

27

28

29

7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)

30 St. Andrew the Apostle

St. Michael and All Angels Church

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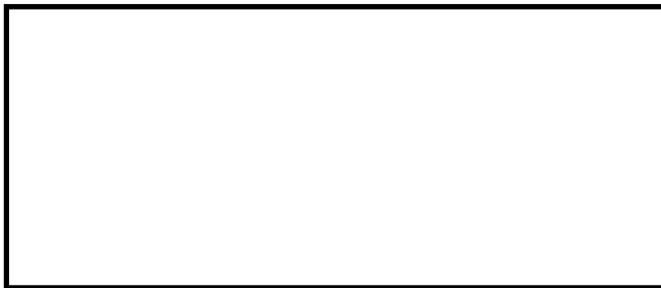
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Vision Statement

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.