



The Mike

The Newsletter of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Studio City, CA
VOLUME 21, ISSUE 8 • November 2012

Focus on Food

By the Reverend Dan Justin

Welcome to November. Holiday season is unofficially here. I say unofficially because, as Episcopalians, we know that Advent comes before Christmas and the Christmas season consists of the twelve days after December 25th. Someone forgot to tell the retail stores though. No sooner than the Halloween decorations are removed than the Christmas decoration and music begin. The holidays have been stretched out over a period of two months. And while hearing Christmas carols for two months might get a wee bit old by the end of it all—one can never get tired of all the food.

The holidays, and November in particular, are the season of feasting. Food abounds. We go to parties and eat. We throw parties and eat. We gather with family members and feast. It is all wonderful. But I wonder—do we ever take a moment to stop and reflect on all of this? I think it is important that we do. That is why this month's theme for the Generous Living Project is called **Focus on Food**.

The Christian tradition is one of feasting. Each Sunday we gather around the altar table and celebrate the Eucharistic feast. It is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet promised by God. When we remember the lives of various saints or important events in the life of Jesus—we call them feasts. Feasting is important in the Christian tradition. Food is a gift from God. Food helps us build community as we break bread together. Christianity is all about feasting.

In the days leading up to my ordination as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church I had the honor of meeting and getting to know the Rev. Henry Atkins. Henry led my ordination retreat. On the last day of our retreat, at the noon meal, Henry said grace. I will never forget his words. He said "Thank you for Lord for the food we are about to receive, and may you always forgive us that we feast while others starve." Feasting is an important part of the Christian tradition. And yet, we must never forget that we are also called to feed those who have no food. We must always remember that others are starving and that Jesus looks to the church expecting us to make the difference in their lives.

So how do these two sides of our view of food go together? Can we embrace our practice of feasting as while others go without food? Exploring and answering these questions is the goal of this month's Focus on Food. We are offering two Mid-Week learning



opportunities: Food for the Journey Part 1 and 2. We are also offering two outreach opportunities: Second Sunday Sack Lunches and the supporting the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. In addition, as we focus on food this

month, I encourage you to consider stepping up contributions to the food pantry on Sunday mornings.

The goal of the Generous Living Project is to allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and lives in order that we become more generous people. Last month we recognized that giving to the church through our tithes and offerings was the first step. This month we focus on food—remember that Jesus fed the hungry and calls to do that as well. After all, we are not the only ones invited to the feast—all humanity has been welcomed. And there is room at our table.

Blessings,

Dan+

St. Michael's Mid-Week for November

This month we have a two part class:

Food for the Journey Part 1 and 2

November 7th at 7pm—Focus on Food Pt 1: Food for the Soul

Food is one of the highlights of the holiday season. Most celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas will include gathering around a table for a feast. For the Christian, feasts are a wonderful religious symbol of God's love for the world. We have feast days scattered throughout the Christian Calendar. Our primary act of worship on Sunday mornings centers on a feast—the Eucharistic Feast. Join the Rev. Dan Justin for Part 1 of this series as we explore the theology of feasting and the deep meanings of the Eucharist.

November 14th at 7pm—Focus on Food Pt 2: Food for the Body

In Part 2, we will explore our beliefs about food in general. How can food be used to strengthen community, build family, and nurture our bodies? In a world where we are surrounded by the wrong things to eat, how can we discover what we should eat? We will welcome the Rev. Dr. Joanne Leslie who will help us discover answers to these and other questions. Joanne is the Archdeacon of the Diocese of Los Angeles. She holds a PhD in public health and was formerly a professor at UCLA.



Please be sure to RSVP at rector@stmikessc.org if you plan to attend. A family meal will be served at 7:00 pm. Children will have activities after the meal. Adults will participate in the classes and discussions.

It's Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Advent!

By Kristen Toedtman

After 2 years' break, I am thrilled to announce we will again hold a Lessons & Carols service on the afternoon of December 2nd, the first Sunday in Advent. Join us at 5pm in the sanctuary for one of my favorite services of the year, when we alternate readings and spoken lessons with music to illuminate the Advent of the Lord. We'll have anthems sung by the choir, special solos, and hymns sung by YOU! It will truly be a wonderful chance to 'Prepare the Way.'



And for those who cannot easily make it to our sanctuary, we continue the tradition of bringing the holiday cheer to them in the form of Christmas Caroling! Please join us on Friday, December 14th at 6pm in the choir room (upper parking lot) where I'll hand out music and maps, warm us up, get us in the spirit and into cars for our Caroling Caravan! We plan together with the St. Mike's Outreach Committee to visit nursing homes and private homes in the area. It's truly a beautiful night. All are welcome (including children) and I promise, no solos! If you've sung a Christmas carol in your life, you are ready, trust me.

Children's Ministry— Growing Seasons of the Spirit

By Sarah Cook

It is an exciting time for the Children's Sunday School program. We've embraced the new Seasons of the Spirit curriculum and we've now expanded into two classes according to age. Not only have the number of children increased, but so has their involvement in their Sunday School lessons. They are reading to each other, asking insightful questions, making crafts, singing songs, and building friendships. We've also had a few teenagers helping with the younger children. It has been amazing to witness this growth on so many levels. However since the lessons are so rich many of the Sunday School teachers feel that they need a little more time to complete the lesson. Soon we will be asking parents to drop their kids off at Sunday School before church to lesson the time crunch. The children will still be returning to church at the Peace.

Second Sunday Sack Lunch Ready to Kick-Off!

By Julie Bellevue

Saint Micheal's Community Outreach Projects is excited to announce the kick-off of the Second Sunday Sack Lunch program at St. Micheal's and All Angels. The project is designed to provide ready to eat lunches for homeless individuals and families one Sunday each month. The program will begin with donations of lunch items from the parish family, then we will assemble the lunches and deliver them to Lutheran Social Services to distribute to those in need. Your help is needed! There will be a sign-up for food items at church on November 4 and we will be assembling lunches during coffee hour on November 11. If you have any questions or would like to help out, please speak with Julie Bellevue or email jewelybelle@gmail.com. Please join us in this opportunity to help those most in need in our community.

November Birthdays

Day	Name
5	Sean Grace
11	Sarah Valka
12	Sharon Renton
17	Gus Helmerk
18	Rafael Arias
13	Emily Magers
15	Marjie Hathaway
20	Stephen Billington Andrea Fuller
24	Marty Coha
28	Nancy Woods
28	Ryan King
29	Pablo Mooradian Amaya Washington

November Anniversaries

Day	Name
8	Andrea & DJ Fuller
12	Susan Guire & Cece Tsou
12	John & Laurie Vincent
13	Brooks & Kathleen 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 (administrator@stmikessc.org) to let us know. *Please Note: Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on the last Sunday of each month.*

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

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.

Treasurer's Corner

September 2012—Revenue and Expense Summary

	September Actual	September Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 36,537	\$ 30,265	\$303,064	\$287,699
Total Expense	26,013	30,690	273,716	283,528
Net	\$ 10,524	\$ (425)	\$ 29,348	\$ 4,171



The parish really has great cause to celebrate. The brand new Parish Ministry Center is soon to be commissioned!

For the past two months we have seen so much renovation occurring on our campus. The work on the classroom building was more or less completed within the month of September. The new windows make the building look so nice from the outside. The wonderful surprises, however, are inside. The next time you walk by the building make sure that check out the beautiful cabinets and counter tops that were installed. Each room also was painted and the floors are brand new. New age-appropriate furniture completes each room.

The changes in the Parish Ministry Center are even more dramatic.

The center has been completely transformed into an amazing place. There are so many changes that it is difficult to mention everything. I am most amazed at the transformation of the stage into "The Loft". It is a warm beautiful space with comfortable chairs, tables, and cabinets. Many parishioners have said that The Loft is such an inviting space that they are ready to move in. The kitchen also is amazing with beautiful new cabinets, counter tops and flooring. The main hall is also very vibrant and now has symbols of our Christian faith. There are beautiful icons hanging on the side walls and two crosses near the stage.

There were a few inconveniences for us during the remodeling; however, they really were quite mild. The result of all this work is what we are most excited

about. This new Parish Ministry Center will allow us to continue our current ministries and to expand into new areas. One of the new offerings has been the St. Michaels Mid-Week series. These evenings include a wonderful dinner followed by a class in spiritual studies presented by Father Dan. These occur on select Wednesday evenings and, if you have not yet had the opportunity, we would encourage you to attend the next Mid-Week event. The fellowship and spiritual education you will encounter is not to be missed.

As we approach the official commission of the new Parish Ministry Center at St. Michaels, we give thanks for the many blessings with which God has blessed our parish community. We look forward to the opportunities for service which our improved facilities will enable us to meet.



St. Michael's Bookstore soon to open

St. Michael's is excited to offer a new resource for the parish—a small bookstore. When you enter the newly renovated Ministry Center the first thing you will pass by is our new welcome desk and bookstore. What will you find there? You will be able to pick up a New Revised Standard Version of the Bible in case you don't own one. How about a Book of Common Prayer? Those will be available as well. Are you new to the Episcopal Church? The book store sells Christopher Webber's book *Welcome to the Episcopal Church* which provides an easy and approachable explanation of what makes our tradition unique. Every once in a while the book store will have a new reading recommendation from the Rector. To get things started—the Rector recommends *Almost Christian* by Kenda Creasy Dean. In addition to these books you will find others on a variety of topics in Christian Spirituality. These include Episcopal Authors such as Sarah Miles and Barbara Brown Taylor. You may also want to pick up *Breathe* written by our very own Denise Schwartz.

Our goal is to offer books that will be helpful, insightful, and will assist you as you seek to cultivate a deep life of faith.

Denise Schwartz will be serving as our Bookstore Coordinator. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please see Denise for more details.

Stewardship Campaign Underway

By Alex Morales

The Stewardship Campaign is well on its way! Stewardship is a means of strengthening your relationship with God, as well as supporting St. Michaels. One hallmark of the campaign is having Stewardship Witnesses speak at each of the Sunday services. These talks allow us to hear from our peers about their viewpoints on and approaches toward stewardship. Thanks to this year's speakers for sharing their stories with us:

October 14	Ron Schwartz
October 21	Alexa Roman
October 28	Betty Ferrell
November 4	Alex Morales

By now, you should have received in the mail a Stewardship Letter and Estimate of Giving card. I'd like to remind you that our primary goal this year is 100% participation and we hope to receive an Estimate of Giving Card from each member household in the congregation. To quote from the "Did You Know" insert, "...membership at St. Michael and All Angels, as in all Episcopal Churches, is defined as 'A person or family who regularly attends worship at this parish and who make an annual financial pledge to the parish.'" Thank you to those in our parish family who have already completed and returned their cards. As of late-October, we have received 34 Estimate of Giving cards for a total of \$102,834.

There have been so many wonderful things happening at St. Michael's over the past year and we want to keep the momentum going! Some of Father Dan and the Vestry's aspirations are to increase the Music and Outreach budgets, build back the Mission Share Fund, and work towards eliminating the need for extra fundraisers throughout the year to bolster certain line items in the budget. The Stewardship Committee, the Vestry, and Father Dan ask that, when you complete your Estimate of Giving card, you set a goal of tithing and start to work towards that goal over time. One way to do that is to start by giving a percentage of your income and then increase the amount you pledge each year until you have become a tither.

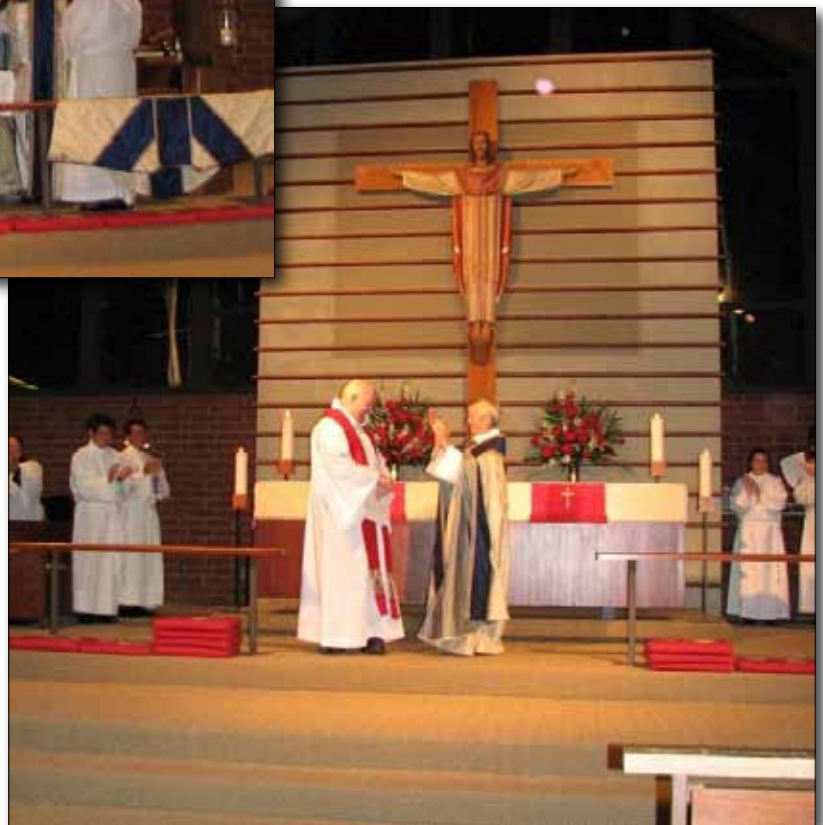
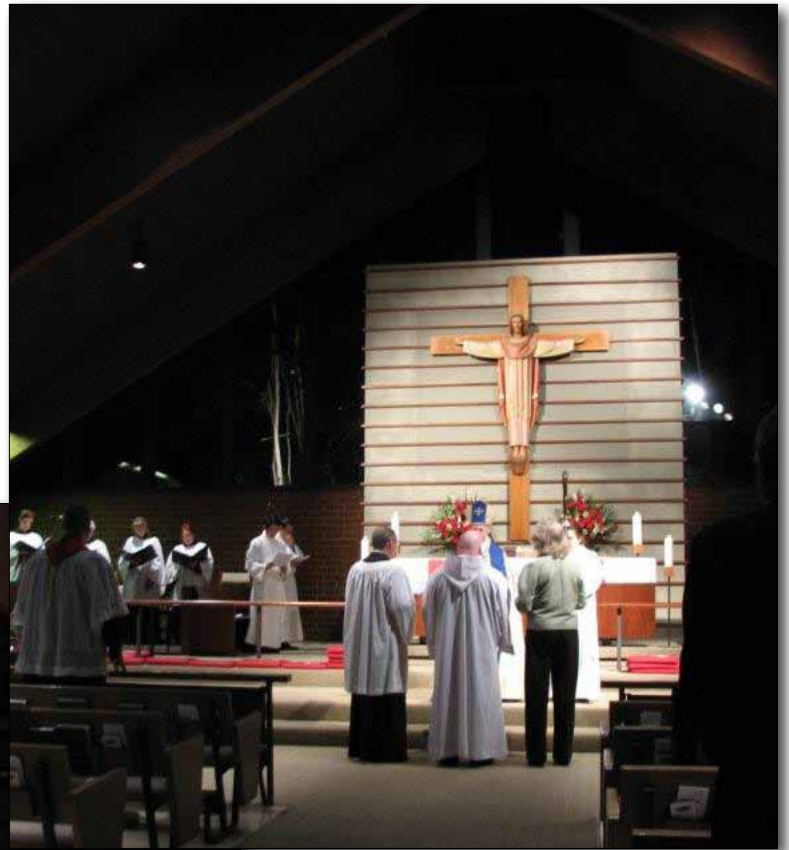
Stewardship benefits you by deepening your faith and trust in God and helps our parish to grow stronger. Prayerfully and generously consider your Estimate of Giving, as your generosity allows us, the St. Michael's family, to be the people that God calls us to be.

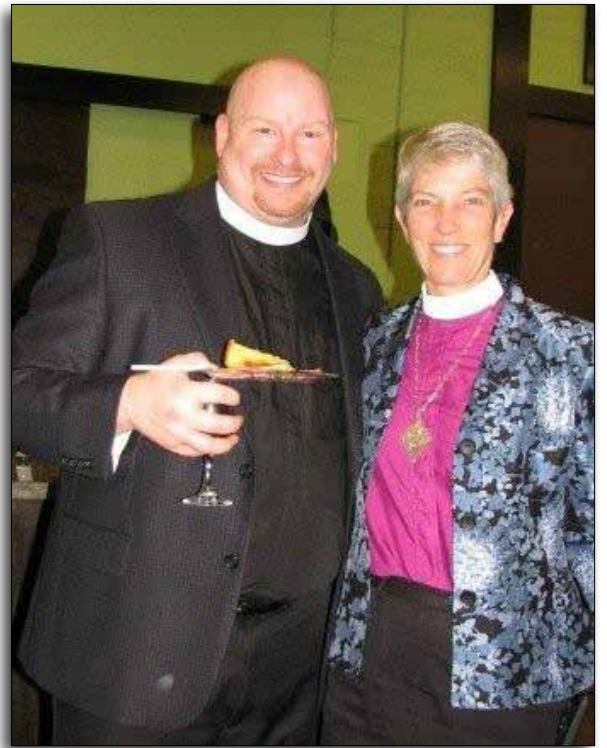
The St. Michael's Youth Ministry

continues to meet on the first Sunday of the month from 4 pm to 6 pm. Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 4th at 4 pm. We will meet in the Loft (the stage) in the Ministry Center. Please contact the Rev. Dan Justin with any questions.

The Reverend Daniel Justin Installed as Seventh Rector of St. Michael and All Angels

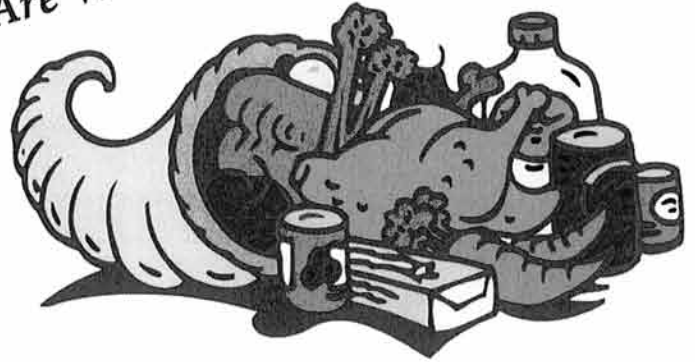
On Wednesday, October 7, the Right Reverend Mary Glasspool joined us to install Daniel Justin as the Seventh Rector of St. Michael's.





North
Hollywood
Interfaith
Food
Pantry

*A Family Service -
Children Are Welcome!!*



Wednesday, Nov. 21st, 7:30 pm

*The North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry
presents our 28th Annual*

Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving

Adat Ari El

12020 Burbank Blvd., Valley Village 91607

Info: 818.766. 9426

**DONATIONS OF STAPLE FOODS
AND MONEY ARE WELCOME**

visit us at: www.NHIFP.org

This service is wheelchair accessible

Suggested Food Donation:
*Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken,
Beans (pinto, navy, etc.), Peanut Butter*



The Calendar

November 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 All Saints' Day
 7:30 PM Choir
 Rehearsal (MR)

2

3

4 Pentecost 23
Standard Time Resumes
Grand Opening of
Ministry Center
 12:00 NOON Healing
 Prayer Gathering (S)
 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 Mid-Week
 (MC)

15 7:00 PM Men's
 Ministry
 (Capodice Home)
 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

3646 Coldwater Canyon Ave., Studio City, CA 91604

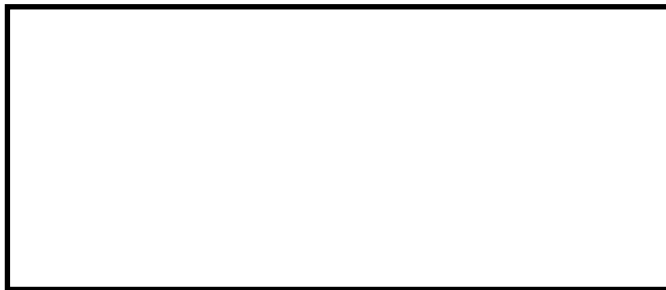
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David Connors, Junior Warden

Peter Juzwiak, Treasurer

Alex Morales, Clerk

Sarah Cook

William Fields

Betsy Hailey

Mary Ann Jacobson

Hank Meiman

Meredith Reese

Amador Rondilla

Ron Schwartz

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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.