



The Mike

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

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 9 • December 2012

Buy Less. Give More

By the Reverend Dan Justin

It is that time of year again. The days are shorter. The temperature is cooler. The houses and yards are covered in lights and decorations. And the stores are jammed beyond capacity. From Black Friday to Christmas Eve finding a parking spot in a lot even near a retail store is kind of like winning the lottery. Shopping seems to consume us. It is certainly good to give gifts to those we love and appreciate. Most of us will receive gifts from those who love us and appreciate us as well. Generosity is never a problem at this time of year. But it all does make me stop and think for a moment. Does the person I am buying a gift for really even need it? Sometimes I find myself agonizing over the question – what do I buy someone who already has all they need? These days, when I am asked about what I want for Christmas the answer is always "I don't know. I don't really need anything."

This is why this year my family and I have decided to buy less and give more. We have decided not to purchase gifts for one another that we don't really need. Instead, we are going to donate the money we would have spent to help those who are in greatest need. I plan to use the Episcopal Relief and Development program called "Gifts for Life." These are all sorts of opportunities to donate money to help people obtain things like clean drinking water, mosquito nets to help fight malaria, food distribution sites, sustainable gardens, wells, access to education, and a whole host of other life-saving and life-changing services. We are giving up our own gifts and we are giving to those who need it most.

As you know, this year at St. Michael and All Angels, we are participating in the Generous Living Project. Our goal is to grow spiritually becoming the generous people God calls us to be. Our theme for the month of December is Buy Less, Give More. I invite each of you to consider ways that you can celebrate Christmas this year through generosity. Consider the Episcopal Relief and Development Gifts for Life Program. Of course there are plenty of local needs as well.

Our own Holiday Cheer is a great way to buy less, give more. Over the next week or two, if

people ask you what you want for Christmas, give them the name of a child who will attend the Holiday Cheer event. Each child who attends will receive a toy and an outfit. For many of them the gifts they receive at Holiday Cheer are the only gifts they will receive



this year. Instead of giving you a gift you don't really need – encourage your friends and family to give to those in greatest need.

The Advent Conspiracy is another nationwide effort to assist in this kind of project. It calls

Christians of all different denominations to "Join the conspiracy." Their primary project is donating to help provide clean water to people who have none.

And by the way, you can always still give something to those you love and appreciate. Episcopal Relief and Development produces

cards which read "A donation of \$____ has been given in your name..." The card explains what the money was given for. I have made my own cards like this. Instead of giving a gift to a person that has everything they could ever want, I make them a card which explains that I donated money or a gift in their name to help those in greatest need. I can honestly say that I have never had anyone upset by this kind of gift.

I hope you will join me this year and Buy Less, Give More. Below are links to two of the organizations I mentioned above.

<http://www.er-d.org/GiftsForLife>
<http://www.adventconspiracy.org/>

Blessings,

Dan+

Holiday Service and Activity Schedule

Advent Lessons and Carols	Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 pm
Holiday Cheer	Saturday, December 15, at 10:00 am
Blue Christmas	Wednesday, December 19, at 7:00 pm
Children's Pageant	Monday, December 24, at 5:00 pm
The Holy Eucharist	Monday, December 24, immediately after pageant
Christmas Music	Monday, December 24, at 9:30 pm
The Holy Eucharist	Monday, December 24, at 10:00 pm
Christmas Morning Breakfast	Tuesday, December 25, at 9:00 am in Ministry Center
Christmas Day Service	Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 am

Christmas Pageant: Shepherds & Wise Men & Angels, Oh My!

By Kristen Toedtman



It's time to prepare for the Christmas Pageant and Sarah Cook and Peter Juzwiak are already on top of it! On the remaining Sundays before Christmas, the children will be singing carols from the pageant in Children's Church, as well as sorting out costumes and who will be playing what roles. Our goal, as always, is to keep the pageant inclusive and flexible so that friends visiting from afar or any children who show up on Christmas Eve and want to partake in the joy of the pageant can do so. Nevertheless, getting this leg up on the production will make it even more enjoyable for all involved. If your child would like to be in this year's pageant and won't be able to make it to Children's church, please let me, Sarah or Peter know.

Meanwhile, a reminder: Christmas Caroling is on Friday, December 14th and is not to be missed! We'll meet in the choir room to warm up our voices and pass out maps for the various homes we'll visit. All voices welcome, children too!

Blue Christmas

You may have noticed a new service in our line-up of Holiday services: Blue Christmas. This is not to be confused with songs by Elvis. Blue Christmas is a service which recognizes that the holidays are not a source of joy for many people. They are a time of pain, depression, loneliness, and grief. Difficulty and depression at the holidays can be for any number of reasons.

Blue Christmas is, at its core, a healing service. It will not look like any other service offered here at St. Michael's. The sanctuary will be lit primarily by candle light. The music will be different. It will be a quiet, contemplative service with healing prayer and the anointing with oil made available. The service will also include the Holy Eucharist.

We gather as a community to honor, pray for, and bless those members or friends for whom this holiday is difficult. And of course, all are welcome to attend – even if you are not blue this Christmas. Join us as we pray for others.

The Blue Christmas service will take place on Wednesday, December 19, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the church.

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.

Adult Learning Opportunity

Watching and Waiting. That is the theme of Advent and it is the theme of our new Adult Formation opportunity on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Join us as we explore the scriptures to learn about those who were watching and waiting for the coming of the Christ Child in Bethlehem. We will learn about the prophet Isaiah who predicted the coming of the Messiah hundreds of years before his birth. We will meet Zachariah and Elizabeth who are the parents of John the Baptist. We will attempt to understand John the Baptist himself who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. Finally, we will take a peek at Mary, who said "Yes" to God. All watched for and waited for Jesus. What can we learn from them?

Each week will have an assigned reading from the Bible. Participants are encouraged to do the reading prior to the discussion. The reading schedule is available on our website – www.stmikessc.org – under the education link by clicking on Adult Learning Opportunities.

December Birthdays

Day Name

1	Mary Ann Jacobson Hallie Walker
11	Hanna Rafter Frances Burd
14	Anna Magers
15	Laz Meiman
17	Jenifer Schmutz
18	Caroline Smith
19	Preston Fray
21	Phyllis Bracey
24	Andre Herrmann
25	Amy Byrd Matthew Aukee
28	Avery Wright
29	Cliff Dektar Ed Sugar

December Anniversaries

Day Name

5	Jeff & Kendra Walker
10	Jay & Marjie Hathaway

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!

Treasurer's Corner

October 2012—Revenue and Expense Summary

	October Actual	October Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 31,188	\$ 30,264	\$334,252	\$317,963
Total Expense	38,259	34,684	312,001	318,962
Net	\$ (7,098)	\$ (4,420)	\$ 22,251	\$ (999)

From the Vestry

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



For the past three years, I have been privileged to serve as Senior Warden at St. Michaels. It was supposed to be an easy one-year term as we were concluding the leadership term of our beloved Henry and Treadwell Atkins and expecting a smooth transition to an appointed Priest in Charge.

In fact it turned into a three year commitment, which has been one of the best experiences of my life. Here's some of what I've learned:

- 1) **We felt God's leading throughout the pastoral search process and ever since.** Our Search Committee and Vestry made a conscious decision that we would trust God to guide us and that our responsibility was to be clear about our values and our needs. The search process took longer than we thought it would, but once we began communicating with Father Dan, we all felt that God had brought us the leader that we needed and had prayed for.

2) **The Vestry is gifted, spiritually centered and open to God's guidance.** We are blessed with a group of parish leaders who work well extraordinarily well together and carry out on a daily and weekly basis the various programs and priorities that make us the unique Christian community that we have chosen to be.

3) **Our parish community is involved, encouraging and supportive.** Over the past three years parish members were unfailingly interested in Vestry activities and decisions, positive and prayerfully supportive. Parish members have been so appreciative of our efforts to keep people informed and very trusting of the Vestry's decisions. When we made scary decisions to recarpet the sanctuary or paint the exterior of the buildings, people reached deep into their wallets and made these dreams a reality. Since then of course we have seen the transformation of our Parish Hall into a true Ministry

Center due to the generosity of a parish member.

I keep thinking of the words to the spiritual: "We've come this far by faith. Leaning on the Lord. Trusting in His Holy Word; He's never failed us yet." Those words continue to comfort and guide me. We have come so much further over the past three years than any of us could have dreamed. Certainly I had no idea that God had such audacious plans for us.

We now have a wonderful spiritual leader, Father Dan, who is helping us grow and move forward in faith. I am confident that with his help and God's continued guidance, our parish will continue to deepen our understanding of how to be God's people in Studio City and in all of our various networks and activities.

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow.

Anne Kelly

A “Very” Odd Addition

by Dan Justin

You may have noticed something odd added to my title in our Sunday bulletins. It is the addition of the word “Very” to my title. Yes, I am now officially the Very Reverend Dan Justin.

Our diocese is actually divided up into a number of deaneries. St. Michael and All Angels is located in Deanery 2. Each deanery has a dean appointed by the bishop to assist the bishop with the pastoral care of the clergy who work in that deanery. In addition, each deanery elects both clergy and laity to represent their deanery at Diocesan Council. The point of all this is to help disseminate information and improve communication between the parishes of a deanery and the diocese. When a priest is named Dean they get the honorific “Very” added to their title.

Earlier this year I was in my office working away, minding my own business, when the phone rang. It

was Bishop Glasspool. She informed me that the current dean of Deanery 2 had resigned his position and that she was planning to reinvent the position moving forward. She did not want one person to be dean—she wanted two people to serve as co-deans. She asked if I would be willing to serve along with the rector of Trinity Parish in Lancaster, CA as co-deans of Deanery 2. I agreed to this appointment. In early November, at the pre-convention meeting of Deanery 2, the Rev. Nancy Brown and I were officially commissioned as co-deans by Bishop Glasspool. Both Nancy and I each received a beautiful Celtic cross to wear as the symbol of the office we hold together.

As a result of all of this—I am now the Very Reverend Dan Justin. I am both the Rector of St. Michael and All Angels and the Co-Dean of Deanery 2. But please, as always, just call me Dan.

The Season of Advent

“To dream of a world of peace and justice, where God's goodness is all in all, and to wake to the realization, is a cherished human hope. The figure in Dalí's Girl Standing at the Window waits with full attention for something. She looks expectantly out into the wide world beyond her familiar harbor. Attentive, hope-filled, alert, with her whole being trained on the horizon, she watches for the sign: the break in the meeting of sea and sky, the cloud of smoke that heralds the messengers arrival. Fully attentive—eyes and ears and imagination—she is ready to recognize and greet a hope-filled future.

“So the church waits the arrival of Jesus through Advent. Poised, we are alert to the signs of the times in nature, Scripture, newspaper, ready to greet wherever Christ appears. The Promise comes in unexpected peace blossoming like a garden in winter, in the wake-up call of the unlikely prophet, in the sudden courage to risk bringing God's future into being. In Mary's risk to bring Jesus into the world. Advent's color is the royal purple of the coming king. The king for whom we wait to come—both as the one who comes in the manger in Bethlehem and the one who will come in the clouds at the sound of trumpets.”

Adapted from unknown source

Art Show and Sale



where she focused on coloring "exotic" metals, specifically creating thin-film interference colors on reactive metals, titanium, niobium and tantalum. Her second Masters, a Masters in Fine Arts degree was in holography and reactive metals. Sandra was distinguished by being the first student in the history of the University of Iowa to graduate with honors from their School of Art and Art History. After graduating she taught metalsmithing at Iowa State University, University of Iowa and Dordt college before moving to Los Angeles. Three weeks later she received a contract from Disney studios to do jewelry for Disneyland. Soon after she began her career with Star Trek creating wall sculpture for the television shows. She produced numerous art pieces for the ships in all three Star Trek series, Next Generation, Voyager and Enterprise. Her art also appeared in Star Trek's video games and in the feature film Star Trek Insurrection.

Sandy says "I make jewelry and wall sculpture with titanium, niobium and tantalum. I'm able

to get a wide range of intense color through an electrolytic process called anodizing on the surface of these "reactive" metals. Through a masking process my wall work is very colorful and pictorial. I like most to create sky objects and aerial views of landscapes on my titanium. My jewelry is a combination of colorful titanium, sterling silver and a brilliantly colored material called niobium. I am inspired working with reactive metals. With titanium, tantalum and niobium I have discovered the best of two worlds, the beauty of an intense and pure painterly pallet and a tactile sense derived from working with metal. Both provide the perfect vehicle for expressing my abiding love for nature."

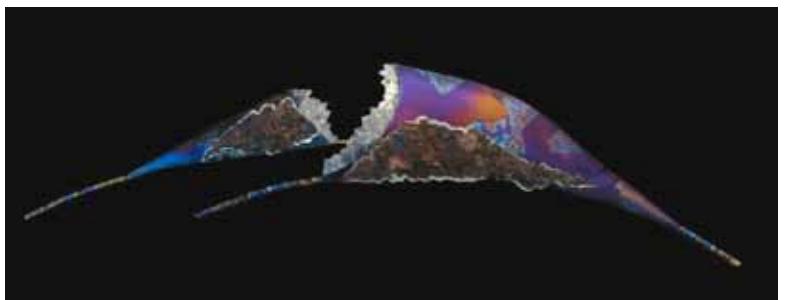
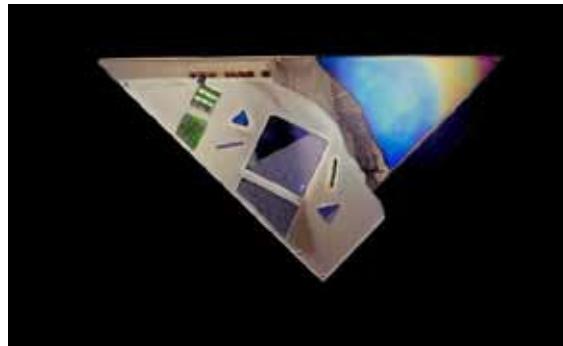
Examples of her work can be seen on this page and at www.futurelightmetalwork.com.

We look forward to seeing Sandy's work on display for the parish on December 2nd during coffee hour.

On Sunday, December 2nd, during coffee hour we have a special opportunity to view (and potentially purchase) the art and jewelry of Sandy VanderMey.

Sandy is new to our parish. She was on a run last March and decided to stop poke her head into the parish on a Sunday morning to see what this place was all about. She has been attending ever since. Sandy is an artist. Her work has been featured all over the world. She won first place awards in national and international art competitions for her unusual metalwork. She exhibited her jewelry and wall sculpture in galleries around the world including Great Britain, South Korea, Japan and Germany. Vogue Magazine commissioned her to design bracelets. Sandra's first wall piece "Winterplanes" was selected by the Smithsonian for the Air and Space Museum. The Smithsonian Magazine along with numerous other periodicals, newspapers and international publications, Ornament magazine, Metalsmith Magazine, American Craft magazine featured her metalwork. Public and private collectors, galleries and interior designers commissioned her wall work. With almost eighty galleries and stores worldwide selling Sandy's jewelry, from Colorado ski resorts, Caesar's Palace and the New York Holography museum to Neiman Marcus, her career bloomed.

Sandra's first Master's degree she earned from the University of Iowa



Holiday Cheer 2012

by Meredith Reese



Have no fear, it's all about CHEER! There is still time and many ways to help...

On Saturday, December 12, from 10am to 2pm, the members of St. Michael and All Angels and supporters of our Outreach Projects, will gather with over 150 needy kids and their families. We are hosting, for the 10th year in a row, charities who help those in the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valleys, Good Shepherd- Angel Guardian (a shelter for women and children) and M.E.N.D. (Meeting Each Need with Dignity, a center for poverty) to treat them to a day of fun, frolic, and fill everyone with the holiday spirit.

The moms and kids from Good Shepherd have escaped homelessness, domestic abuse situations, and addiction. Good Shepherd helps put them on a path back to employment and housing. Most of the moms we meet live in Good Shepherd's housing year after year. Those who have volunteered at Holiday Cheers in the past may recognize several kids who are now teenagers. It truly illustrates the lives of our neighbors who remain in a system begging for higher budgets and reform. Holiday Cheer is a way to spread joy to everyone in our community, regardless of socio-economic background.

The families from MEND are living in extreme poverty in the Pacoima area. For many of these kids and moms, this is their only holiday celebration. It is not unusual to see a family take their presents back to their shelter to open on Christmas, gifts are that precious. We also treat the moms to massages and gift bags of their own. Holiday Cheer provides a safe place for families of all ages.

Please join this joyous St. Mike's tradition. Make ornaments, decorate gingerbread houses, frost cookies, play sports, tell stories, serve a delicious buffet lunch, give each child a brand-new outfit, sing-along to holiday songs and then welcome Santa, who gives each and every child a gift especially selected for them from their wish-lists. If this is your first year, to say this day is magical is putting it mildly!

How you can help:

- 1 SPONSOR A CHILD for a gift or a new outfit (or both!) You can sponsor as many children as you like! See Meredith and Jane at coffee hour or email Jane Wilson: superqueerjane@yahoo.com.

- 2 VOLUNTEER! We need folks who craft, cook, entertain, wrap gifts, play sports -- Many of these young guys have no dad in their lives and thrill to kick around a soccer ball or toss a football with you! --- You can also teach knitting, lead songs, make goodie bags for the Moms, make bouquets, watch little ones on the playground or just hang out and make new friends with our lovely guests.

All open spots are up on our eventbrite page with more info: <http://holidaycheer2012.eventbrite.com/>

Or email Alex Morales at holidaycheer2012@gmail.com with "Holiday Cheer Volunteer" in the subject line.

3. BRING STUFF! We need wrapping paper, ribbon, tape, frosting and candies for the gingerbread houses, crafting supplies for ornaments, glue sticks, pinecones, knitting needles and yarn, beverages, paper goods, utensils, individually wrapped chocolates and beauty products for the mom gift-bags.

Contact Julie Bellevue jewelybelle@gmail.com for a full list.

Or go shopping! I am also still looking for some shoppers to help pick up purchased items.

4. MAKE A MONETARY DONATION Either mail a check to the church (3646 Coldwater Canyon Ave, Studio City, CA 91604), made out to St. Michael and All Angels with "Holiday Cheer 2012" in the memo. Or use your Visa or Mastercard by calling church administrator Duane Steadman, weekdays between 9am and 3pm (PST) at 818-763-9193.

If you can't make it the 15th – you can help wrap presents and set-up on Friday, Dec. 14th 5pm-9pm. It should be fun and great way to meet our Outreach group!

Contact me anytime... Meredith Reese meredithannereese@gmail.com, cell: 323-698-5030.

"God bless us everyone!"



St. Michael's Community Outreach Projects Committee
Invites You to Be a Part of

Holiday Cheer! 2012

Saturday, December 15th

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We Need Volunteers & Donations for One of Our

BIGGEST
Events of the Year!

Benefitting: MEND
(Meeting Each Need With Dignity)

& Good Shepherd Shelters
(for Women and Children)

Donate Food
for Lunch,
Snacks & Drinks

Sign Up to Give a
Child a New Outfit

Donate a
New Toy

Or Donate Cash

(write on memo line "Holiday Cheer 2012")

Bring the
Whole Family!

FREE Parking!

Decorate Cookies, Make Crafts, Sing Christmas Songs, Play Games!

Cooks, Giftwrappers, & Cleaner-Uppers are ALL Welcome!

Questions? Call Meredith Reese, 323.698.5030 • e-mail: meredithannereese@gmail.com

Sign up to volunteer at www.holidaycheer2012.eventbrite.com

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3646 COLDWATER CANYON AVE., STUDIO CITY, CA 91604

818.763.9193 • WWW.STMIKESSC.ORG



The Calendar

December 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
<p><i>Locations:</i></p> <p>CO Church Office MR Music Room FR Fireside Room MC Ministry Center L The Loft (formerly the stage) S Sanctuary</p>						1
2 Advent 1 12:00 NOON Healing Prayer Gathering (FR) 12:00 NOON Youth Group (L) 5:00 PM Lessons & Carols (S)	3 6:15 PM Book Discussion (Woods home)	4	5 7:30 PM Young Adults Group (L)	6 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	7 12:00 NOON Fourth Quarter Luncheon	8 10:00 AM Holiday Cheer!
9 Advent 2	10	11	12	13)	14 6:30 PM Christmas Caroling	15
16 Advent 3 12:00 NOON Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	17	18 7:00 PM Vestry	19 7:00 PM Blue Christmas (S)	20 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (MR)	21 St. Thomas	22
23 Advent 4	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 PM Eucharist & Christmas Pageant (S) 9:30 PM Christmas Music (S) 10:00 PM Holy Eucharist (S)	25 Christmas Day 9:00 AM Christmas Morning Breakfast (MC) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (S)	26 St. Stephen	27 St. John	28 Holy Innocents	29
30 Christmas 1	31					

St. Michael and All Angels Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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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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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.