



# The Mike

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

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## Rector to Begin Doctor of Ministry Program

By the Very Reverend Dan Justin

One of my greatest joys as a priest is the opportunity to preach sermons each Sunday. Of all the work that I am called to do—preaching is by far my favorite. Each Tuesday I begin reading and reflecting on the scriptures that will be read on Sunday. I pray with them; I think about them; I ask questions about them. On Wednesday I usually spend about half my day studying the text using a variety of different commentaries. By Thursday I hope to have narrowed down the topic enough to know which of the four readings—Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament, or Gospel—that I want to preach on. Sometimes I combine a couple of the readings. Only a few times have I managed to touch on all four in a sermon. I spend the better part of Thursday doing an in-depth study of the text that I am going to be preaching on. I do some brainstorming and hard thinking in order to find interesting ways to present the sermon. That means I am searching for just the right story or illustration in order to make the sermon interesting. Each day of the week I spend time praying about the sermon. I ask God to open my heart and mind. I ask the Holy Spirit to speak and help me be creative. On Friday morning I turn on my computer and I write the sermon. Often times by Friday I have a hand written outline of what I want to say. Friday morning I piece it all together. By Friday afternoon I am preaching the sermon to an empty church and making necessary edits and corrections. Once those are done, I am done. I don't touch my sermon again until Sunday morning.

There are some weeks that my sermon seems to fly from my heart right onto the page with ease. Other weeks it is sheer agony. Fresh ideas seem to hide from me and I have to pull them out kicking and screaming. On those weeks I spend a lot of time praying on Saturday and Sunday that God will use my sermon despite its deficiencies to speak to you all. In fact, now that I think about, I am rarely happy with a sermon that I have written. That is when I must remember that Jesus is still alive and active today. The Holy Spirit will use whatever I present in the way the Spirit chooses. But deep

down, I always think that I could have done better.

Actually, the fact is that I can do better. And I want to do better. One of the ordination vows a priest makes asks, "Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?" The newly ordained answers, "I will." That means that as a priest I am committed to doing better! I must grow and challenge myself in all areas of my ministry to grow and be better.



I don't just want to be a good preacher; I want to be a great preacher! To this end, in my desire to grow and get better, I am extremely proud to say that I am about to embark on a new seminary degree. I have applied for and been accepted to the Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching program at Luther Seminary. Like most Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degrees, the program at Luther Seminary requires a three week period of intensive, residential course work on the campus each summer for a period of three years. The remainder of the work is done within the parish setting. Luther Seminary is an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) seminary. The Episcopal Church and the ELCA are in full communion with one another.

I selected Luther Seminary because I believe it currently has the premier program in homiletics (the study of preaching). Luther's faculty are on the cutting edge of scholarship in this field. Luther Seminary's WorkingPreacher.org website is one of the best resources available for clergy preparing sermons. The seminary, located in St. Paul, MN, only accepts twelve to eighteen new students into the D.Min. program each year.

I am incredibly grateful to the vestry and the parish for their decision to support me as I pursue this new degree. I am convinced that it will not only benefit me, but it will also benefit the parish. I begin the program this summer and therefore will be studying at the seminary for most of the month of June. I will be away for a total of three Sundays. I am pleased to announce that the Rev. Canon Mark Shier will once again return to St. Michael's to preside and preach during my three weeks away.

I ask for your prayers as I begin this new endeavor. I cannot tell you how excited I am to study, learn, grow and then return to St. Michael's. And on a side note, it is also a bit of a running joke with my friends that I am becoming a one person ecumenical movement. I grew up in a non-denominational church, attended a Southern Baptist college, a Presbyterian seminary, was ordained as an Episcopalian, and now will get a Doctor of Ministry from the Lutherans. But I guess that is okay. After all, we are all a part of the Body of Christ and I think we should and could do a better job of working together anyway.

Blessings,

Dan+

### Adult Formation

Don't miss our next St. Michael's Mid-Week, Wednesday, May 8th, at 6:30 pm. This month's class is called:

#### BYO BCP

Bring your own Book of Common Prayer. Next to the Bible, no other resource is more important to an Episcopalian than the Book of Common Prayer. And yet, so few Episcopalians really even know how to use one or what it contains. Join us as we explore the contents of the prayer book, learn how we can use the prayer book in our everyday lives, and discover how it shapes our life of worship and our theology.

# Looking for... A Few Good Communicators!

By Karen Andrews

Early this year, I was surprised and honored to be asked join the Vestry of St. Michael's. So surprised, that I remember double checking it "...are you sure I'm the one you meant to ask?" It was me, and even though I was a fairly new member myself, I just couldn't decline a ministry position with this wonderful parish.

At our Vestry retreat, we were given our Commission assignments. Mine was the newly created one called Communications. So here was this new, fresh, and exciting commission—and here was I, feeling a little bit overwhelmed! I flashed on the Exodus story: Moses and the burning bush and he wondered why he was called to his task and being bewildered that God had such a big job for him! However the more I pondered it, the more I realized Moses actually asked the same questions that we as a parish ask when it comes to connecting with our community such as "Who am I?", "Who are they?", and "What will I say to them?" I realized that developing a strategy means exploring ways in which we answer these and other questions, i.e., who are we as a church; what is our mission; who is God calling us to serve; and what and where are the easiest ways to reach them?

St. Michael's during this past year has been in an immense growth and transition period and the new Communications commission reflects that growth. What we are looking for is a parishioner who will head the committee and a small group of enthusiastic volunteers to make up the team. We will meet once a month, possibly after church or at a convenient time for all and work on ways we can reach out to our community at large and our parish community within to promote our parish ministries and outreach programs. If you are interested in joining our new Communications Committee, please contact myself, David Connors, or Fr. Dan Justin. You can reach me by email: fiddledee@roadrunner.com, or by phone: 818.980.9115 or just stop me at church on Sunday. We would love to have you on our team!

Read the MIKE Online! Go to the St. Michael's website, [www.stmikessc.org](http://www.stmikessc.org), and click on Newsletter. Back issues are available there as well.

## April Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Joyce Kim
5	James Reber
11	Bradley Robertson
13	Marilyn Ballowe
14	John Schmutz II
18	Reeve Carney
	Trevor Vincent
19	Lizzy Aukee
22	Zane Carney
24	Betty DuVall
25	Michael Mitchell
29	Liam Fields

## May Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Ayana Coho
2	Samuel Smith
3	Lise Friedman
7	Bodhi Dominguez-Reis
	Kaelyn Kirchoffer
11	Tom Hoffman
	Maddie Charlton
15	Amanda Schwartz
18	Lois Vaughan
19	Brooks Taylor
	Hailey Rafter
	Addie Smith
20	Lucas Greco
23	Anna Wilson
24	Gary Lucy
27	Marguerite Fortmann
28	Barbara King
30	Rae Markus
	Aiden Fields
31	Bonnie Winings

## April Anniversaries

Day	Name
9	Bill & Gail Wright

## May Anniversaries

Day	Name
26	Norma & Don Johnson
27	Gary Lucy & Jane Wilson

**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](mailto:administrator@stmikessc.org) to let us know. *Please Note: Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on the last Sunday of each month.*

## Peace and Justice Update

By Betsy Hailey

On Wednesday, March 6, 2013, I took Father Dan as my guest to an ICUJP-sponsored luncheon on immigration reform. ICUJP is the Interfaith Communities United for Justice & Peace. Immigration reform is a topic our committee will be addressing this spring in a Crucial Conversation (date TBD).

Also we will be joining NRCAT (National Religious Campaign Against Torture) to protest the use of prolonged solitary confinement in U.S. prisons as part of a larger focus on prison reform—also being

addressed by our partner PCU (Progressive Christians Uniting) in their "Justice Not Jails" campaign.

Dan will also be joining me on May 22 for the annual "Giants of Justice" luncheon sponsored by CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) which focuses on workers' rights. We have stood vigil in the past with car wash workers and grocery workers.

## Treasurer's Corner

March 2013—Revenue and Expense Summary

	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 35,515	\$ 33,805	\$ 125,719	\$ 101,416
Total Expense	26,858	31,228	106,236	101,649
Net	\$ 8,657	\$ 2,577	\$ 19,483	\$ (233)

# Spring Arrives in the Meditation Garden

By Peter Juzwiak

We're happy to report that our new Meditation Garden is taking shape and will be completed very soon—sometime in mid- to late-April. This project started almost a year ago, when we learned that the six large pine trees in the garden were no longer safe and had to be removed. Although that was a painful decision that dramatically changed the Meditation Garden, the Vestry focused on the positive and, in the spirit of Easter, envisioned a new beginning for an old garden. Now that vision is finally coming to life.

Before talking about the wonderful new features you will see in the garden, let me tell you about a few important things you can't see. During construction, we discovered that the main water supply line feeding the church and the classroom buildings was badly damaged and had been poorly repaired—a crisis waiting to happen. It was replaced entirely with a brand new copper pipe, all the way to the DWP line on Coldwater Canyon. The garden's drainage system was half-covered and always inadequate, resulting in a swimming pool effect during severe storms. To ensure proper drainage in the future, we added a retaining wall on the south-side of the garden and new drains throughout the garden and at the sidewalk leading into the sacristy. We also installed a new irrigation system in the garden, together with a new state-of-the-art sprinkler control system for the entire campus. With these changes, we hope our new garden will be not only beautiful, but also structurally sound.

Now for what you can see. In short, we believe the Meditation Garden will be more beautiful and functional than ever. The central feature will be a prayer labyrinth, which will provide a tranquil place for contemplation and prayer, but will also double as a patio that will accommodate a variety of church services and special occasions. To create space for the labyrinth, the fountain has been moved against the east brick wall and restyled in a manner consistent with the church's contemporary architecture. A new altar and benches will be placed in



front of the fountain, providing a place to perform church services with a beautiful waterfall as background. For plantings, we will enjoy a new hedgerow along the south fence to provide privacy for the garden and the church, four new shade trees on the corners of the labyrinth, which will eventually spread across the entire labyrinth and garden, and a variety of other new plants and grass to create a vibrant green space. We are also painting the support beams extending from the church, the exterior doors of the church and the garden fence, all to match the rest of the campus, and we will install a new spring latch on the gate so that it will not need to be locked. Finally, we will keep a nook in the northwest corner for our old friend and garden overseer, St. Francis (or at least his statue, which has been a feature of the garden for many years).

We hope all of you will find many ways to enjoy the new Meditation Garden. It has been a long time coming, but certainly worth the wait!

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## A New Affiliated Clergy person to Join St. Michael's

By the Very Reverend Dan Justin

It is my great pleasure to announce that St. Michael's will soon welcome a new clergy person to our pastoral team. Stefanie Wilson is currently finishing her Master of Divinity at the General Theological Seminary. She will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on June 8, 2013, at St. John's Pro-Cathedral. Stefanie will then be ordained a priest in January, 2014.

Stefanie has been hired as the new, full-time Senior High Chaplain at Campbell Hall and will begin her ministry at the school on July 1, 2013. All clergy ordained in the Diocese of Los Angeles must also be affiliated with a local parish where they will have the opportunity to perform the Sacramental duties of their ministry. Our bishops, deployment officer, and the Headmaster at Campbell Hall each recommended that Stefanie affiliate with St. Michael and All Angels.

In March I had the opportunity to meet with this dynamic young woman. I was instantly impressed by her enthusiasm, energy, and passion for ministry. She has a deep love and is called to minister to children and teens. She is incredibly gifted in liturgy. She served as the chief sacristan at General Theological Seminary (and yes, that is a really big deal!).

Stefanie will begin her ministry with us sometime in mid-July. In her first six months here she will serve as a deacon on Sundays. She will join me in preaching duties offering sermons perhaps once per month or every other month. Once she is ordained a priest she will also preside on a regular basis. We must remember that Stefanie is employed full-time at Campbell Hall and is only going to be at St. Michael's on Sundays.

In addition to her liturgical roles, Stefanie eagerly agreed to take over leadership of the Youth Ministry here at St. Michael's. I cannot wait to see what God will do with this group now that they will have a leader dedicated to this ministry. While I certainly love youth ministry, I must confess that I have found it difficult to devote the time and attention to developing the youth ministry in the light of all my other responsibilities as rector.

Prior to seminary and ordination Stefanie was a school teacher in Chicago. She is originally from Orange County.

I am sure you will join with me in warmly welcoming Stefanie to our parish. I know she is looking forward to meeting you and serving as an affiliated deacon and priest in this parish.



# It's Time Again to GET ON THE BUS!

By Nancy Woods

For those of you not familiar with Get On The Bus (GOTB) it is a program that reunites children with their mothers and fathers in prison for Mother's Day and Father's Day. To learn more about Get On The Bus please visit their website at [www.getonthebus.us](http://www.getonthebus.us) and visit YouTube at [www.youtube.com/user/getonthebus1](http://www.youtube.com/user/getonthebus1).

This year we are changing directions and assisting buses for Mother's Day, going to two new locations.

- Jane Wilson will ride the bus to Folsom Prison for Women on May 17th. This new women's facility is north of Sacramento. It's a very long trip and as you can imagine the women and their families are absolutely devastated by this distance. There is no way most of the families can afford the time or expense to travel that far to visit their moms. The event is bound to be incredibly emotional.
- Julie Bellevue will be riding a bus on Saturday, May 18th, to the Female Rehabilitation Correctional Complex in Bakersfield. This is a prison rehab and GOTB's first time at this facility. The bus will have all family members and not just children. These women are handpicked to go to this rehab and it is part of their program to actively try to repair family bonds.

How can you get involved with Get On The Bus this year? You can donate items and your time! Look for sign up sheets at the back of the church and in the Ministry Center:

- Breakfast items such as pastries, granola bars, orange juice, juice boxes, non-perishable fruit and water.
- Fun things for the "stay connected" bags. These are given to the children on the ride back home. We supply cards, paper, envelopes, stickers, crayons, pens/colored pencils, drawing paper, stamps, etc. so the children can write letters back to their moms. [The 99c store is a great place to shop.]
- Help assemble the breakfast and "stay connected" bags during coffee hour.
- Volunteer to deliver the breakfasts and "stay connected" bags to the buses (time and location to be determined). It's fun to meet the families and give them a warm send off.

Most of the boys and girls have not seen their mom for years. Let's make this a wonderful day of reuniting families and strengthening the bond that will hold them close until they are back together again.

If you have any questions, call Nancy Woods at 818.769.2820 or email at [nancy2k@adelphia.net](mailto:nancy2k@adelphia.net).



## St. Michael's Men's Group

By Ed Sugar

March was an active month for the St. Michael's Men's Group. On March 23rd we had our monthly meeting at the home of Ging Molera and Amador Rondilla. Our hosts got a hearty round of applause for inviting us into their lovely Valley Village home and preparing a simply wonderful meal (meatballs!) and a scrumptious desert that New York's Mayor Bloomberg might have declared illegal. Our meal time banter covered a range of subjects ranging from paparazzi to plumbing with a little basketball and baseball thrown in. This was followed by an engaging conversation led by Father Dan on compassion that effectively "set the table" as we prepared for the joys of Holy Week.

Two days later, the Men's Group was a driving force in the annual pre-Holy Week

sprucing up of the campus. For over 3½ hours members of the Men's Group, along with the Altar Guild, members of the Community Outreach Projects committee, and other parishioners dusted, polished, cleaned, weeded, raked, and planted. Thanks to all who gave the Sanctuary and the campus grounds that special "shine" for Holy Week and Easter.

The Men's Group meets next on Saturday, April 20th, at 8:00am in the Ministry Center. I encourage all the men of St. Michael's to attend this gathering of food (a hot breakfast will be served), fellowship, and faith. Now is the perfect time to get involved with this special group as we are starting to find our stride and define our role in the life of St. Michael and All Angels.

# Pastoral Care Committee

By Nancy Woods

The Pastoral Care Committee is made up of a number of groups involving many members of St. Michael's that serve the needs of not only our parishioners but those in the community as well. We encourage you to consider participating in any of the many aspects of this ministry!

The following are reflections from some of the members:

- As many of you know, the Eucharistic Visitors reach out to members of the parish that cannot attend church. This visit sometimes includes a small service and communion, but often is simply a gesture of fellowship. Recently, I have tagged along with Nancy Woods on a couple of these visits. Since I am a newer member at St. Michael's, it is wonderful to meet longtime parishioners and hear about their lives and our church before I was here. Nancy and I visited a very dynamic member of our church not too long ago. Although this member could not attend church for health reasons, it did not prevent some incredible stories from being shared. We also heard some hilarious jokes and even managed to sneak in a little singing. These visits have been as meaningful to me as they seem to be for the person we are visiting. They encourage humility, patience and gratitude in a profound way. They allow you to see the church as a living organism out in the world. And they bring home a message that we are one body united in one bread.  
—Alexa Roman

- **Goosebumps and Tears: The Prayer Rope**

The Prayer Rope, a sub-ministry of the Healing Prayer Gathering, is an ecumenical, nationwide group of members of St. Michael's and their family and friends who pray for others in response to emailed requests. Prayers are not limited to serious illness, but can be for

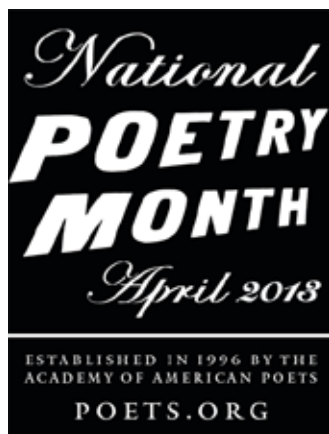
any challenge, or for positive things.

Two things have developed from this ministry that give me goosebumps and bring tears to my eyes. One is the community that has been created through it, whose participants feel connected to one another and care about one another, even though they may never have met in person, to the extent that they now communicate directly with one another. The other is what I consider a deeper healing, which is the prayer requests received from people who had lacked or lost their faith, and where what has been healed has been their faith. In some cases, their heads may still not believe, but at another level, they know. To request prayer, or to become a participant in this ministry, contact me at [rae.markus@my.csun.edu](mailto:rae.markus@my.csun.edu).—Rae Markus

- I have been involved in Pastoral Care for many years and I have been tremendously blessed by the opportunity to serve. One memory I have from being a Eucharistic visitor was bringing communion to an elderly parishioner who had declining eyesight and had recently become completely blind. As I began to read the scriptures and prayers with her for the Eucharistic service, I realized that this woman knew all of the scriptures by heart so I was reciting each even though unable to read. It struck me that I certainly didn't know the scriptures this well. If I were to become blind I was ashamed to think of how limited I would be. This was but one of many times that I have gone to serve another and realized that I am the one who is served. Whether doing a LEV visit, visiting a sick parishioner or even in my services with prisoners at Twin Towers through the PRISM project, I have found that I am the child still growing in my faith and learning from so many who are so deep in their faith and love of God.—Betty Ferrell

## Calling All Poets, Songwriters, and Actors/Readers—Wednesday, April 24

April is National Poetry Month, and St. Mike's is celebrating with a poetry reading/musical performance of original work, primarily by the talented folks at St. Mike's (this means you!), on Wednesday evening, April 24th, starting 7:30 or 8:00 (exact time TBD). It will be an opportunity for you to showcase your work and/or express your "voice" to the people at St. Mike's and others. Actors/readers will read the work of former members and friends of St. Mike's who are unable to be here.



If you are interested in participating (or at least willing to), please contact Rae Markus at: [rae.markus@my.csun.edu](mailto:rae.markus@my.csun.edu); 818-606-6895.

## Destination Science Summer Camp Will Be at St. Michael's June 10–August 16

Once again this year, Destination Science Camp will be at St. Michael's for the summer. The camp provides innovative, imaginative, and unexpected science adventures for boys and girls ages 5 to 11 in a fun, safe environment. STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning is more important than ever before. In fact, it's a national movement. Camp is in session Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. (Extended hours are available.) For more information, go to their website, [www.destination-science.org](http://www.destination-science.org), or phone 888.909.2822. Flyers are available on Sundays at the back of the church.





## Fr. Dan Blesses the LADWP Construction Project

Fr. Dan and members of St. Michael's gathered on Saturday, March 23, to bless the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power construction site. Local media covered the event. Since that day, Coldwater Canyon Avenue has been closed to normal traffic as LADWP crews complete the replacement of a major water trunk line. Reports are that work is proceeding on schedule and we expect the road closure to end on April 25th as planned.



## *Easter at St. Michael's*





# The Calendar

May 2013

**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 10:15 with Family Sing in the Ministry Center; the children are brought into Eucharist for the Peace.  
 • Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service unless otherwise noted.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 St. Philip and St. James 7:30 PM Young Adults Group (L)	2	3 12:00 NOON Fourth Quarter Luncheon (MC)	4
5 Easter 6 12:00 NOON Healing Prayer Gathering 12:00 NOON Youth Group (L)	6	7	8 6:30 PM Mid-Week (MC)	9 Ascension Day	10	11
12 Easter 7	13	14	15 7:00 PM Men's Group	16	17	18
19 Pentecost 12:00 NOON Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	20	21 7:00 PM Vestry (L)	22	23	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday	27 Memorial Day Holiday	28	29	30	31 Visitation of Mary	

# St. Michael and All Angels Church

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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## VESTRY

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*Bill Fields, Junior Warden*

*Peter Juzwiak, Treasurer*

*Alex Morales, Clerk*

*Karen Andrews*

*Sarah Cook*

*Gail Green*

*Betsy Hailey*

*Mary Ann Jacobson*

*Janet Kirkpatrick*

*Hank Meiman*

*Meredith Reese*

*William Wright*

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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.*