



# The Mike

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

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 6 • July/August 2013

## St. Michael's Celebrates Marriage Equality

*By the Very Reverend Dan Justin*

Like many others I waited with great anticipation to hear the Supreme Court's decisions regarding Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act. Like many others I practically leapt with joy when these two laws were declared unconstitutional. The Episcopal Church, through its General Convention, and the Diocese of Los Angeles, to quote Bishop Bruno, has "long affirmed that marriage equality indeed means marriage equality for all".

We here at St. Michael's have always taken our baptismal covenant seriously. We mean it when we say that we will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves. And that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. Two of the ways we have tangibly tried to live and declare these values have been through our Resolution on Marriage—which resolved that clergy of this parish would not sign marriage certificates for any couple until marriage was legal for all couples—and the Repeal Prop 8 banner which has hung on the front of our building since that unjust law was passed. It gives me great joy to declare that we can now set both of these aside.

On Wednesday, June 26th, I sent a message to the Executive Committee suggesting three ways our parish family will celebrate. First, we are developing a new banner which will replace our old banner. As soon as the new banner is ready we will plan a Saturday morning event where we will remove the Repeal Prop 8 banner. In its place we will display a banner that reads "We celebrate marriage equality." After the changing of the banners the congregation will be invited to our newly completed Meditation Garden where we will celebrate the Eucharist for the first time in that space. In addition, we will also use this opportunity to bless and dedicate the garden.

Finally, with the Executive Committee, I will be drafting a new Resolution on Marriage which

will declare that the clergy of St. Michael's will once again sign marriage certificates and weddings will resume in our parish. Because there are occasions where priests are invited to officiate at weddings in other states, the resolution will also state that the clergy of this parish will not sign marriage certificates in states where same-sex marriage is not legal. This new resolution will be presented to the Vestry at our July meeting.



I am looking forward

to our upcoming celebration and will provide you with more information regarding dates and times as soon I am able. Let us rejoice in the words that St. Paul once wrote to the Galatian church, "With Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." I am certain Paul would have included—in Christ there is also no longer straight or gay—because we are all one in the family of God, equally beloved in Christ.

Blessings,

*Dan+*

### The Rev. Stefanie Wilson to join St. Michael's

Stefanie Wilson is a recent graduate of the General Theological Seminary in New York. She hails from San Juan Capistrano and is excited to be returning to Southern California and to explore Los Angeles. She was ordained as a deacon on June 8, 2013.

Stefanie is thrilled to be joining the St. Michael's community. In addition to affiliating with St. Michael and All Angels, Stefanie is the new, full-time high school chaplain at Campbell Hall School in Studio City. She is thoroughly looking forward to getting to know and working with both communities.

While studying in New York, Stefanie enjoyed soaking up all she could in her classes, working as a chaplain for the New York Fire Department, and preparing worship services in the seminary chapel. She also can be found running, enjoying the theater scene, or voraciously reading.

Before coming to seminary, Stefanie taught fourth and fifth grade in Chicago for two years with the Inner City Teaching Corps. She received her Bachelor's degree from Kenyon College, in Gambier, Ohio. Go Lords!

Read Stefanie's letter to the parish on page 3.



# Dream Big with Imagine LA

By Julie Bellevue and Alexa Roman

It's an exciting time for our Outreach ministry—there are many volunteer opportunities throughout the summer from Soldier Care to 2nd Sunday Sack Lunches to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. You can donate a few minutes during coffee hour or make a promise to serve with one of our many programs over the next year or two. One of our newest opportunities is to work with Imagine LA.

Imagine LA supports families that are transitioning out of homelessness by matching them with faith partners (like St. Michael's) and building a team of support. Imagine LA was established in 2006 by the Rev. Dr. Mark Brewer from Bel Air Presbyterian who saw a connection between the number of homeless families and the number of faith communities in Los Angeles. He thought that if each faith organization could partner with just one family, we might have a chance at ending homelessness. Since 2007, the program has grown to include 29 faith communities and has served 53 local families.

St. Michael's will be partnering with Imagine LA to work with a North Hollywood family of a mother and her son. We are recruiting a team of volunteers to work with this family over the two year program length. The team is comprised of 2 co-leaders, 1 budget mentor, 1 Mom's mentor and 1 historian. We are still in need of one more co-leader and the Mom's mentor. The co-leaders speak with the family a few times per month to check in about upcoming needs and challenges. The Mom's mentor provides a kind ear for support, career advice and friendship. Imagine LA's staff will support the family as well as our team with case managers and important resources. In addition, over the course of the program, we'd like to host cooking nights or movie nights to invite the family to meet the greater parish community. Let us know if you are interested in planning one of these with us.

Anyone who is interested, even if you are not sure if you can commit, is invited to attend the training sessions about the program and homeless sensitivity. Upcoming sessions are Monday, July 22nd, from 6:30–9:00 pm, Saturday, August 24th, from 10:00am–12:30 pm, and Monday, September 23rd, from 6:30–9:00 pm. Training is held on the Miracle Mile at 5455 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1001, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Please reach out for more info: [stmikesoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:stmikesoutreach@gmail.com) or check out [stmikesoutreach.eventbrite.com](http://stmikesoutreach.eventbrite.com) and [imaginela.org](http://imaginela.org).

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.



## July Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Kathryn Argall
3	Aidan McCarthy
5	Melissa Basta
9	Karen Andrews Caleb Fox
10	Paris Carney Lillian Raesler
12	William Hendley
15	Milena Mooradian
16	Gabriel Diaz-Jones
23	Eileen Carhart Porter Rodriguez
30	Bailey Robertson
31	Sue Harris

## July Anniversaries

Day	Name
6	Jack & Barbara Beckner
26	Nick & Sharon Renton
30	Rafael Arias & Clinton Leupp

### 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.*

## August Birthdays

Day	Name
1	Dan Justin
2	Alexa Roman
3	Alex Morales
4	DJ Fuller
5	Avi Aazami
9	Denise Schwartz
12	Rachel Albert-Hendley Rebecca Albert-Hendley
16	Elizabeth Bartolomea Bob Postma
17	Ethan Friedman
20	Preston Lucy
21	Harmony Roche
23	Max Jacomb
27	Robin Prybil Clinton Leupp Monie Wright
28	Ryan Prybil
29	Len Thompson
31	Johan Agerbeek Betsy Hailey

## August Anniversaries

Day	Name
14	Cliff & Joan Dektar
30	Tom Hoffman & Sarah Valka

## Treasurer's Corner

### May 2013—Revenue and Expense Summary

	May Actual	May Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 32,353	\$ 33,805	\$ 186,674	\$ 169,027
Total Expense	31,701	31,228	181,009	176,855
Net	\$ 652	\$ 2,577	\$ 5,665	\$ (7,828)



I have always associated summer with the “Three R’s”—rest, relaxation, and renewal. The hotter weather makes us naturally slow down the pace a bit. With school not in session, parents are not dropping children off at school in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon. This helps with our traffic so that we experience “summer lite” traffic on the freeways. This allows us to get to our destinations a few minutes earlier and, hopefully, causes a little less stress for us in our day.



Certainly parents are still busy with summer camps and all the various activities in which their children are involved. Hopefully, there is still some time for relaxation. The parish started off the summer season with a pool party at Betsy Hailey’s home. This was followed by a Parish Picnic in Beeman Park on June 30th. There is still one more parish pool party on Sunday, August 18th, at 3:00pm at the home of Alex Morales and David Connors, 13346 Valley Vista Boulevard, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. I hope that you can make it.

Summer is also a time for renewal. To celebrate Marriage Equality returning to California, the parish is going to ceremonially remove the “Repeal Prop 8” banner and replace it with a “We Celebrate Marriage Equality” banner. This will be accompanied with an outdoor service in our new Meditation Garden where Father Dan will also bless and dedicate the garden (please see the Rector’s article on page 1).

St. Michael’s Outreach is very active and there are many opportunities in which to get involved. Volunteering a few hours can really help renew the spirit. One of the best opportunities for renewal is attending our Sunday services. I really love the fellowship and Father Dan’s outstanding sermons. Each and every week I feel a sense of renewal. St. Michael’s is a loving, caring, and prayerful community of faith. I give thanks every day for St. Michael’s and rejoice in love and renewal of spirit.

David Connors

## St. Michael’s Men’s Group

By Ed Sugar

Since the “re-boot” of the St. Michael’s Men’s Group last October, I have been getting a number of questions about the group. Here are some of the questions that are often asked:

*“Is this just one big Bible study group for the men of the Parish?”*

Not really. The Men’s Group is a once-a-month gathering of the men of the parish to engage in candid conversation about life, faith, family, spirit, and soul, to name just a few items of discussion. Though we often center each meeting around scripture, sometimes our discussions involve current moral, ethical, political, and socio-economic issues. For example, this past June our central discussion topic was about St. Michael’s being a place where we cultivate a deep life of faith which gives life to service in the world. This led to a discussion on how and in what ways our faith has grown and how that growth has led us to service by participating in volunteer work and other charitable efforts.

*“What else do you all do besides meet and talk about stuff?”*

The Men’s Group has been quite active in a number of Parish related activities ranging from assisting with the maintenance of the building and grounds, as well as lending a hand at off-site events. In fact, this past June was a busy month for the Men’s Group.

The month started off as a team lead, by Peter Juzwiak, who was on hand to help with the pool party at Betsy Hailey’s home, helping to set up, manage the food and beverage offerings and staying to help with clean up. June ended with the big parish picnic at Beeman Park, where our “grill team” was on hand to oversee the BBQ duties and assist with set up and clean up.

*“When do you meet?”*

We meet once a month. In “even” numbered months, we meet on the third Saturday at 8am, in the Ministry Center. These meetings begin with a hot breakfast. On “odd” numbered months we meet on the third Wednesday at 7:99 pm. This meeting is at someone’s home and is usually a pot luck affair. July’s meeting will be on July 17th at the home of Chris Flick.

*“Can I bring my son to a meeting?”*

As long as he is 21 years or older. This is a Men’s Group and we do speak openly about a number of adult related topics, which is one of the main reasons this group has been so successful over the years.

If you have any other questions about the St. Michael’s Men’s Group, please feel free to contact Father Dan or me.

## From Our New Deacon, Stefanie Wilson

May 22, 2013

Dear St. Mike’s Parish,

I am overjoyed to be joining your community. I am blessed to be called to a parish that is clearly so loving and active.

I met with Father Dan in March and toured St. Michael’s. He spoke of your community with a deep affection. You are clearly deeply involved in the work of Christ in the world and living out the gospel message.

Just last week I graduated from General Theological Seminary and now I am packing boxes and sending them to California. I am filled with excitement to meet all of you and serve as your deacon, and hopefully soon as one of your priests. I am especially excited to work with the Youth Group.

In addition to affiliating with St. Michael and All Angels, I will also work at Campbell Hall as the high school chaplain. I will be available to the students for spiritual guidance, leading their chapel programs, working with the community service program, leading programming for their new spirituality center, and more I have yet to discover.

Thank you for welcoming me into your community. I look forward to learning and growing with you.

In Peace,

Stefanie



# Parish Picnic

Beeman Park, June 30



## Kathryn Argall turns 100!

*By Betsy Hailey*

Members of the Fourth Quarter held an early celebration of Kathryn Argall's 100th birthday at Sunrise Senior Living, where she currently resides, and an official celebration took place there on her actual birthday, July 1. The address, for anyone who would care to send a card, is 4610 Coldwater Canyon Avenue #102, Studio City CA 91604-1031. Kathryn is enjoying glorious good health and takes part in everything from chair exercises to movie screenings.









# The Calendar

July 2013

**Sunday Schedule** • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*  
 • *Adult Learning Opportunity 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
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:30 pm Young Adults Group (L)	<b>4</b> <i>Independence Day</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Pentecost 7 12:00 noon Youth Group (L)	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Pentecost 8 11:30 am Second Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Men's Group (Flick Residence)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Pentecost 9 12:15 pm Young Adults Group Lunch (Panera, 12131 Ventura Blvd, Studio City)	<b>22</b> Saint Mary Magdalene 6:30 pm Imagine LA Training (5455 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles 90036)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> SoldierCare (through Sunday, July 28)
<b>28</b> Pentecost 10 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			



# The Calendar

August 2013

**Sunday Schedule** • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*  
 • *Adult Learning Opportunity will not meet in August, but will resume in September.*  
 • *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	2	3
4 Pentecost 11 12:00 noon Youth Group (L) 12:00 noon SMCOP (CO)	5 6:15 pm Book Discussion Group (Hailey Residence)	6 Transfiguration	7 7:30 pm Young Adults Group (L)	8	9	10
11 Pentecost 12 11:30 am Second Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)	12	13	14	15 Saint Mary the Virgin	16	17 8:00 am Men's Group (MC)
18 Pentecost 13 3:00 pm Pool Party (Connors- Morales Residence)	19	20 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	21	22	23	24 Saint Bartholomew 10:00 am Imagine LA Training (5455 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles 90036)
25 Pentecost 14 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)	26	27	28	29	30	31

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### VESTRY

*David Connors, Senior Warden*

*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.*