



The Mike

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

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The Book of Acts and the “E” Word We All Fear

By the Very Reverend Dan Justin

We have celebrated the glory of Easter. The stone has been rolled away. Alleluia, Christ is risen! The church now enters the great fifty days of Easter. You may have already noticed, but our scripture lessons on Sunday mornings have taken an interesting shift—the Old Testament lesson has been replaced by a reading from the Acts of the Apostles. What is that about?

The book of Acts is an interesting book of the Bible. We are not always sure what to make of it. It is not a Gospel like Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. It is not a letter like the Epistles of St. Paul, St. Peter, or St. James. It is not a sermon like Hebrews or prophecy like the Revelation. Acts almost seems like a book of history—a narrative which tells us all about how the earliest followers of Jesus lived and organized themselves and spread out with their message across the known world. But the history we read in Acts does not always match up with the accounts we read in other places in the New Testament. We call the book “The Acts of the Apostles” but that might not be the best name for it. It is really only about a couple of Apostles. Most of the original twelve don’t really show up in the book at all. The first half of the book is about Peter. The second half is about Paul. Mixed in with them we get some cameo appearances from James. We are also introduced to some new people that certainly were not apostles. So what is Acts?

Acts is actually the second part of a two-volume work of literature. Volume one is what we know as the Gospel of Luke. The same author who wrote Luke also wrote Acts. They were intended to be read together as a consistent narrative. The two volumes—Luke and Acts—have a consistent theology, style, and message. Both books were written by a person named Theophilus (there are lots of theories on the identity of Theophilus, but that is too much to go into here). Some have argued that Luke is the story of Jesus and that Acts is the story of the Holy Spirit. Acts is not actually intended to be a book of history. Rather, Luke wrote Acts as a book

of theology—but that theology is told on the stage of history. So the book is far more interested in theology than history. Of course, we do learn a great deal from the history told in Acts. It is just that history is not the primary goal.



Acts is a bridge between the Gospels and the Epistles of the New Testament. Acts reveals how the followers of Jesus were transformed and empowered by the Holy Spirit and spread out across the known world sharing the Good News of God

in Christ. Acts shows how the church came to be and how it ordered itself. Acts shows how this group of believers in Jesus came to be the new community God envisioned and liberated humanity to be. Without reading Acts we cannot hope to understand the

rest of the New Testament. In fact, without reading Acts, we cannot fully comprehend the story of Salvation as it is presented through the entire Bible—the story told from Genesis to Revelation cannot be comprehended without reading the book of Acts. It is Acts that most clearly connects the Old Testament to the New and the Gospels to the Epistles. And finally, Acts reveals what it means to be the witnesses for Christ that Jesus asks all his followers to be.

And that is why we read this book in the season of Easter. Both because it connects the glorious events of the Gospels and Holy Week to the remaining portions of scripture and because at the end of the Gospel stories, Jesus tells his followers that they are to be his witnesses to all the world. As followers of Jesus today we are still meant to be witnesses for Christ. But for Episcopalians that can be a very scary thought. It brings us to the “E” word that we all tend to fear: Evangelism.

See *RECTOR*, page 2

Field Education Coming to a Close

Since September of 2013, St. Michaels has been incredibly lucky to welcome Christopher Montella to the parish as our seminarian. As the saying goes, “Time flies when you are having fun.” Christopher’s time with our parish is coming to a close. Officially, his Field Education experience comes to an end early in May. Christopher will stay with us through May, his last Sunday with us will be June 1st.

Christopher is a gifted preacher and we have all enjoyed the sermons he has offered. He has been providing pastoral care and started a new form of healing prayer. He has worked with a committee to help improve communications, and he has been invaluable serving in a variety of liturgical roles. I have been meeting with Christopher each Tuesday morning to review his ministry and reflect theologically on what has been happening. I will miss those regular meetings.

So where does Christopher go now? He will return to his home parish, All Saints in Beverly Hills. He has one more year of seminary to complete. And as I am quite certain he will continue to have fun doing ministry in the future – it will probably feel like just a few days have gone by before we have the opportunity to watch Christopher get ordained to Holy Orders. Let us continue to hold Christopher and his ongoing formation and ministry in our prayers.

Rector

from page 1

In our baptismal covenant we vow to "Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ." This is our post-Easter mission given to us by the Risen Christ. But the idea of evangelism gives us the heebie jeebies. We imagine those who knock on doors or hand out tracks. We think of those who are always trying to convince everyone to believe the way they believe. Our minds conjure up those who are self-righteous and telling everyone to repent or burn. But that is not what evangelism really is.

Evangelism is really nothing more than the willingness to share your story of gratitude for God's grace in your life. It is based on our deep delight in the community of the church and our love for God. It is grounded on the understanding that God loves each and every person—that the criteria for being God's beloved is being born a human being.

When we have the opportunity to share stories of our gratitude for God's grace in our lives we never know what might happen. This is a spiritual practice and our trust is in the Holy Spirit. We need no further agenda. Our goals in being witnesses to God's amazing love are not that someone will be converted or even that they will join St. Michael's. Our job is to be a witness and the best way to do that is to share our stories. The Holy Spirit is present and active in the lives of people. We never know what may happen. Perhaps your story will touch another's heart. Perhaps your sharing will encourage them. Maybe that person will want to know more about the faith. Maybe someone will want to come to St. Michael's and join the community. Maybe any number of things will happen. What happens when we share the Good News of God in Christ and our delight in God's grace is not our business. That is God's job. God knows why you were there to share with that particular person at that particular time. We have no way of knowing what God is doing in another person's life at any given time. Our role is to be witnesses—to share our stories of gratitude for God's grace in our lives. The Spirit's role is to do the rest.

The Acts of the Apostles is filled with tales of people sharing their stories of God's grace in Jesus Christ. In the book of Acts the Holy Spirit uses those words to do amazing things. As we read the book of Acts in church this year, let us remember Christ's call to His followers to be his witnesses. Let us no longer fear the "E" word. After all, we are just telling our stories of God's grace to those we love.

Blessings,
Dan+

ImagineLA Needs You to Join the Team

by Julianne Bellevue

Maybe you have heard ImagineLA mentioned during the prayers of the people and wondered what it is. Maybe you have heard myself or someone from the Outreach committee talking about ImagineLA and wondered, exactly what this project is. ImagineLA is an organization that was started back in 2006 in an effort to support families coming out of homelessness to build lives where they will be able to support themselves. Specifically, ImagineLA partners faith communities with families in need of mentorship. The mentorship teams work with the family to learn skills that they need to sustain and grow as a family.

St. Michael's has been paired with a wonderful family and we have begun the mentorship process. The family is small, a mother, Flora, and her son Eli. The team is led by Caron Smith, with Jenni Hernandez acting as a budget mentor and myself working with Flora. Currently, Flora is transitioning from a work situation where she was commuting from North Hollywood to Santa Monica using public transportation six days a week. She has been working as an office assistant and is considering taking classes in accounting to improve her skills and make her more marketable.

We are looking for someone that has experience and/or training in accounting or finance that would be able to tutor Flora one day a week once her program begins in June. This is a fantastic opportunity to help us grow our mentorship and help this wonderful family toward independence. All members of the ImagineLA team need to attend a one-time training at the ImagineLA office. The next upcoming trainings are:

Saturday May 17, 10:00am-4:00pm
Sunday June 8, 10:00am-4:00pm

If you are interested in joining the team in ANY capacity, please feel free to email stmikesoutreach@gmail.com or feel free to talk to Jenni, Caron or myself on Sunday. We look forward to hearing from you.



May Birthdays

Day	Name
2	Samuel Smith
3	Lise Friedman Jon King
7	Bodhi Dominguez-Reis
11	Tom Hoffman Maddie Charlton
15	Amanda Schwartz
18	Lois Vaughan
19	Brooks Taylor Hailey Rafter Addie Smith
23	Anna Wilson
27	Marguerite Fortmann
28	Barbara King
30	Aiden Fields
31	Bonnie Winings

May Anniversaries

Day	Name
7	Duane Steadman & Mark Shier
20	Jenni & Nick Hernandez
26	Norman & Don Johnson

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.

Treasurer's Corner

March 2014—Revenue and Expense Summary

	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 32,825	\$ 36,067	\$ 129,611	\$ 108,202
Total Expense	34,469	36,065	110,587	108,197
Net	\$(1,644)	\$ 2	\$ 19,024	\$ 5



*Christ is risen! Alleluia!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!*



We began Holy Week with our Palm Sunday service remembering Jesus' entrance into the city of Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday we remembered the Last Supper through our own Agapé Supper and the washing of the feet. On Good Friday we pondered Jesus' death through the Passion and the Stations of the Cross. At the Easter Vigil service we renewed our baptismal vows and celebrated Jesus' resurrection. On Easter Sunday we celebrated a baptism and continued our rejoicing over Jesus' triumph over death.

How do we now keep that Easter joy alive in our daily lives? It is important to remember that Easter is not just a yearly celebration it is the very core of our Christian beliefs. There are many opportunities at St. Michael's to deepen your faith.

One opportunity is to attend the Adult Formation classes held each Sunday from 9:15-10:15am in the Ministry Center. The topic for the next few weeks is the first five books of the Bible. Rev. Dan and Rev. Stephanie will be providing historical and cultural context as well as leading spiritual discussions. Another opportunity is to get involved in one of the many Outreach activities. Get on the Bus is scheduled for Saturday, July 26th. You can donate your time, materials, or both to this wonderful event. (Please see the article by Nancy Woods in this issue.)

One of the easiest ways to keep the Easter joy alive is to attend Sunday services. Next Sunday, as you are about to enter the church, remind yourself that we are still in the Easter season and say:

*Christ is risen! Alleluia!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

It's Time Again to GET ON THE BUS!

by Nancy Woods

For many years, St. Michael's has been involved with Get on the Bus, a program that takes children to visit their parent in prison. This year we are helping out with a bus that is going to the men's prison at Folsom, north of Sacramento, on Saturday, July 26th. Children with a parent or caregiver climb on the bus for the long ride. There are activity bags with fun things to do as well as videos and lots of snacks to keep them busy until they take a nap before arriving at the prison. Once there, they have a visit with their father and do activities with him like playing soccer, board games, and always quiet conversations as many may not have seen or talked to their dad for a long time. After lunch and more fun, it's time to go. Tearful goodbyes are said and the children head back to the bus and find a letter and stuffed bear from dad that helps with the sadness. There is also paper to write letters back to dad in order to stay connected until the next visit.

For those not familiar with Get On The Bus (GOTB), you can learn more about this great program by visiting their website at www.getonthebus.us and on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/getonthebus1>.

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 starting Sunday, June 29th:

- Fun items for "activity" bags for things to do on the long ride to the prison such as coloring books, crayons, drawing paper, pens and markers, books, magazines, small games, snacks, etc.
- Fun things for the "stay-connected" bags like cards, paper, envelopes, crayons, pens/colored pencils, drawing paper, stamps, etc. so the children can write letters back to their dads.
- The 99c store is a great place to shop. No glue, stickers, or glitter as they are not allowed in the prison!
- Help assemble activity and stay-connected bags on Sunday, July 20th, at Coffee Hour after the 10:30 am service in the Ministry Center.



- Volunteer to deliver the activity 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 dad 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 nancyjwoods@roadrunner.com

St. Michael's Member Spotlight

A lot has been happening in the parish family. The Member Spotlight is a new section of the Mike Online and will be a great way to share good news, events, or achievements in the life of the parish. If you have someone who should be in the spotlight—be sure to send us the information. We will endeavor to get that information in the next issue of the Mike!

Margaret Renton is an avid musician and scholar. She plays the piano, viola, sings at the Colburn School, and is also a part of a youth symphony. She also enjoys traveling, and will be going to Europe and Korea this summer. In addition, Margaret was chosen to be a member of the Teen Advisory Council for the Burbank Public Library system. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, reading, hiking, and participating in math competitions around Los Angeles. Here at St. Michael's Margaret assists each Sunday with the Sunday School program and regularly plays for Family Sing. Next year she will attend Harvard-Westlake.



Holland Noël was cast in the play *AltarBoyz*. He was cast as the understudy for the lead role and will perform that role on April 20th, May 2nd, May 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. Performances are at the Chromolume Theater in Santa Monica.



Trevor Vincent will graduate from Campbell Hall Episcopal School on June 9th. The graduation ceremony will be at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Trevor has been at Campbell Hall through high school and ran on the track team. While in school, he created an extensive portfolio of video art and is very passionate about photography. Soon after graduating, he will travel to Argentina with his mother. There he will visit his Argentine relatives for the first

time and visit the city where his mother grew up. Upon his return from Argentina, he hopes to find a summer job. In the fall, he will begin classes at Pasadena City College, where he will study photography and graphic arts. A long time St. Michael's member, Trevor was baptized at the church, served as an acolyte during the 10:30am service, and participated in parish clean-up days as well as many Outreach activities. Trevor is very appreciative of the friends he has at St. Michael's.



Crystal Kusiak was married to Jesse Causey on Saturday, March 22nd at 2:30 pm. The small service was held in the Meditation Garden here at St. Michael's. It was a beautiful day and the garden was a wonderful setting for the wedding.

Ed Sugar has gotten all settled in his new home in Bellingham, Washington. Ed sends his regards to all the members of the parish and wanted everyone to know that he and his wife are doing well. They love their new place and could not be happier with the way everything worked out. They will miss the St. Michael's family immensely. The good news—Ed has already found a new Episcopal Church to join and is already getting involved!



Avery Wright will graduate from Notre Dame High School on May 24th. Avery has been involved at St. Michael's in a variety of ways over the years. This includes serving as an acolyte, participating in Outreach, and being a member of the youth group. She has been accepted to several colleges and is still in the process of making her final decision. Currently she is deciding between the University of Oregon, the University of Portland, and the University of Nevada at Reno. She plans to major in Psychology.



Erin Nolan Smith and James Smith have welcomed a new baby girl to their family. Katherine Rose Veronica Smith was born on March 24th. Baby Katherine was so eager to join the family that mom did not even have time to make it to the hospital. Dad delivered the baby at home before the paramedics arrived. Their son, Connor, is very excited to have a baby sister.



Kristen Toedtman went to Baltimore last November to record a handful of songs for an upcoming record, a double EP of her original songs, slated for June release. Reflecting two cities she considers home, Kristen enlisted a friend and bandleader to capture the R&B and soul elements of her new songs with some of the best musicians in Baltimore. Meanwhile in Los Angeles, Kristen is hard at work recording "Side Two: Los Angeles" working against the clock to have CDs ready for June, when the Baltimore band will tour the east coast. She plans to have a limited run of vinyl records as well.

ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

SUNDAY, MAY 18th

12:00 to 3:00

BEEMAN PARK IN STUDIO CITY

Delicious Picnic Lunch Courtesy of St. Michael's Men's Group

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Drinks

You are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share

Lots of Fun Activities for the Kids

Giant Moon Bounce with Slide, Face Painting, Balloon Animals and Games

Live Music

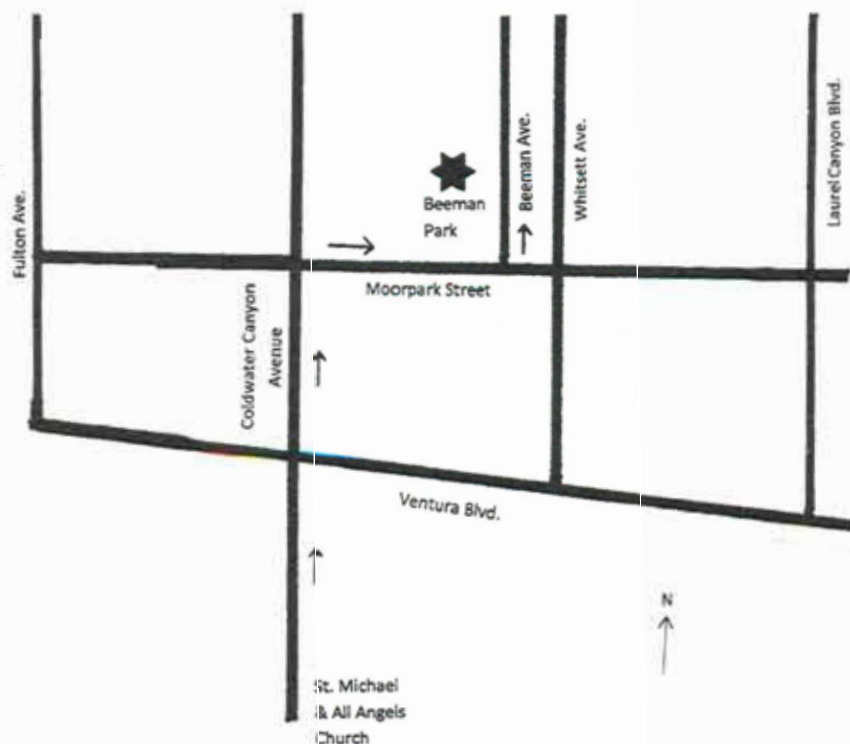
From the traditional American folk music band King Baby, featuring guitar, mandolin, fiddle and banjo, as well as our own Chris Flick on washtub bass

Sunday School in the Park

Drop your kids off at the park at 10:00 am and return afterwards to join the picnic

Invite Your Friends and Family

A great chance to introduce your friends and family to the St. Michael's community, especially those with kids



Beeman Park
12621. Rye Street
Studio City, CA
91604



The Calendar

May 2014

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 in the Ministry Center*
 • *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.*

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 Saint Philip and
Saint James
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
(MR)

2

3
6:00 pm Youth Group
Movie Night (L)

4 Easter 3
12:00 noon Youth Group (L)

5
6:15 pm Book Discussion
Group (Beckner Home)

6

7
8:00 pm Young Adults
Group (L)

8
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
(MR)

9

10
9:00 am Women's Group
(FR)

11 Easter 4
11:30 am Second Sunday Sack
Lunches (MC)

12

13

14
7:00 pm Handbell Choir
Rehearsal (S)

15
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
(MR)

16

17

18 Easter 5
10:00 am Sunday School (Beeman
Park, 12621 Rye St., Studio City)
12:00 noon Parish Picnic (Beeman
Park, 12621 Rye St., Studio City)

19

20
7:00 pm Vestry (L)

21
7:00 pm Men's Group
7:00 pm Handbell Choir
Rehearsal (S)

22
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
(MR)

23

24

25 Easter 6
11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
(MC)

26 Memorial Day
Parish office closed

27

28
7:00 pm Handbell Choir
Rehearsal (S)

29 Ascension Day
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
(MR)

30

31 Visitation of
the BVM



The Calendar

June 2014

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 in the Ministry Center*
 • *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.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter 7 12:00 noon St. Michael's Outreach (Parish Office) 12:00 noon Youth Group (L)	2	3	4 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S) 8:00 pm Young Adults Group (L)	5 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	6	7
8 Pentecost 11:30 am Second Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)	9	10	11 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)	12	13	14
15 Trinity Sunday	16	17 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	18 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)	19 Corpus Christi	20	21
22 Pentecost 2 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)	23	24 Nativity John the Baptist	25 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)	26	27	28
29 Pentecost 3 3:00 pm Torture Awareness Month Event (MC)	30 St. Peter & St. Paul					

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

St. Michael and All Angels Church

3646 Coldwater Canyon Ave., Studio City, CA 91604

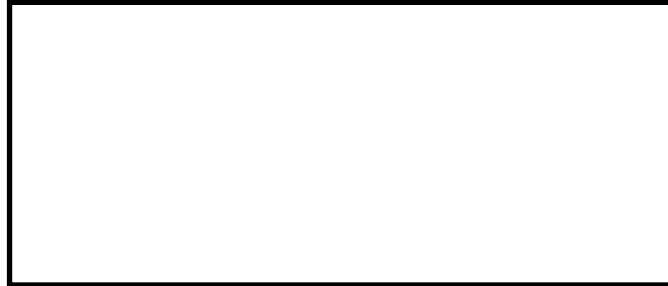
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Vision Statement

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.