



The Mike

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

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A New Program Year

By the Very Reverend Dan Justin

Well friends, it is one of my favorite times of the year! September means the start of a new program year here at St. Michael and All Angels. School is back in session, most people are back from vacation (including yours truly), and it is time to get back to business. I spend much of my summer prayerfully considering all the things I would like to see us do as a parish in the fall. And I must say—I am very excited about what we have planned.

We have a great year planned for our kids and teens! Family Sing will continue at 10:15 am in the Ministry Center for kids and their parents to gather, sing, and have fun before heading off to either Sunday School or the sanctuary. Kids will continue to learn and grow in their faith using the very successful Seasons of the Spirit curriculum in both the Red and Yellow Rooms. New this year—a whole new curriculum for our fifth grade students! Written by parishioners from St. Michael's, this new curriculum will be tailor made for our kids as they explore their faith and ways that faith can come alive for them. Be sure to see the article written by Peter Juzwiak describing this new, exciting opportunity. Fifth graders will meet in the Blue Room each Sunday following Family Sing.

The new fifth grade curriculum is not the only thing we have in store for our kids. We will soon be announcing the St. Michael's Children's Church program which will take place occasionally for all our kids. These will be opportunities for them to participate in special worship services designed just for them. More information on this will soon be released.

Teenagers have a lot to look forward to at St. Michael's this fall as well. The Rev. Stefanie Wilson has taken charge of the Youth Group. Her excitement and energy are simply contagious. The teens of St. Michael's will soon have a vibrant and wonderful youth group in which to participate. If you have any questions about the Youth Group please be sure to chat with Stefanie.

This fall we will have yet another new face around the altar on Sundays and occasionally in

the pulpit. I am thrilled to announce that we are welcoming a new seminarian to St. Michael's. Christopher Montella is a postulant for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Los Angeles. He is a student at Bloy House and at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. He will be



completing his field education experience with us. St. Michael's has the wonderful opportunity to become a training parish—providing future clergy with an opportunity to learn and grow practical ministry skills. Christopher will be a wonderful addition

to our ministry teams and will participate in a variety of ministries in the church providing him with the hands-on experience he will need for the future. You might remember Christopher from last spring when he served as a guest preacher shortly after Easter.

This fall will see the return of St. Michael's Mid-Week. These Wednesday evenings provide a family dinner, childcare and activities for kids, and are then followed by a topical class for adults. This edition of the newsletter will give you all the information you need about the upcoming Mid-Week offerings.

You might want to block out the weekend of September 27–29th. That Sunday is the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels—and we are going to make it a big celebration this year! We are currently planning a variety of activities including a special worship service and congregational dinner on Friday, a quiet day on Saturday morning, and a festival Eucharist on Sunday morning. There will also be opportunities for outreach activities that weekend as well for those who want to put their faith in action. We will welcome the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Nordquist as our guest preacher for our special patronal feast day. Dr. Nordquist is a much sought after spiritual director, retreat leader, speaker, author, and Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament. It is truly a

treat to have her join us for this special day.

And that is not all! As you may know, St. Michael's was one of the founding parishes for the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry. Each year the Food Pantry hosts a special Interfaith Thanksgiving service. This year the service will be hosted here at St. Michael and All Angels. The host parish generally plans the service in a style that is not only interfaith, but also representative of their tradition. This year the service will take the form of the most distinctly Anglican style of worship possible—Choral Evensong. This is an event you will not want to miss.

Well, I guess that is all for now. I did not have the space to cover all that we have planned. I did not even scratch the surface of what our Outreach efforts will be this fall. That is an entirely different article altogether.

Like I said, this fall is going to be great! Busy, but great! St. Michael and All Angels has become one of the fastest growing and vibrant parishes in the Diocese of Los Angeles. I am truly honored to serve as rector of this parish and I cannot wait to see all that God will do in our lives both individually and as a parish family this fall.

Blessings,

Dan+

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St. Michael's Mid-Week Returns

This fall, Mid-Week returns with three new exciting classes. Mid-Week offers stand-alone classes on various topics. We always begin at 6:30 pm with a family dinner. After we have eaten, children are invited to participate in fun and games in the Sunday School classrooms while adults participate in the class. We endeavor to wrap everything up by 8:30 pm so kids can get to bed at a reasonable time. If you plan to participate in Mid-Week it is best to RSVP. This helps us as we plan for the amount of food to prepare for dinner. Please RSVP by e-mailing Duane Steadman at administrator@stmikessc.org.

Here is our fall line-up:

September 11, 2013 at 6:30 pm: BYOBBCP

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. (If you don't have your own Book of Common Prayer we will have copies available.)

October 30, 2013 at 6:30 pm: Shaped for Significance

St. Paul tells us that every member of the body of Christ has a part to play. We have each been given talents and gifts by our God. We can use those talents and gifts for ministry. Paul calls these Spiritual Gifts. But what are your spiritual

gifts? How can you discover them? How can you put them into use? Join us as we explore our own personal spiritual gifts and learn how we have been shaped for significance.

November 20, 2013 at 6:30 pm: Gestures, Genuflects, and All That Jazz

Sometimes Episcopal worship services can begin to feel a bit like calisthenics. Stand up, sit down, kneel, stand back up. And just when you think you have it all figured out – you see someone near you doing something that you don't understand. When do you bow? How do you make the sign of the cross? What is a reverence? Why would you do all these things in the first place? Join the Rev. Dan Justin as he explores some of the different ways we can express our worship to God through our actions.

September Birthdays

Day	Name
2	Jane Mason
3	Jack Sage
6	Margie Mullen
8	Amador Rondilla
10	Lexi Harvey
11	Lucy Juzwiak-DeRose
12	Emerson Diaz-Jones Julian Diaz-Jones
13	Barbara Beckner
18	Gail Wright Lucy Schonweiler
22	Amy Friedman
24	Martha Shaw Zofie Basta
25	David Connors
26	Julie Meine

September Anniversaries

Day	Name
6	Alex Morales & David Connors

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.*

Torture in our own Backyard

By Betsy Hailey

Over 500 inmates in nine prisons across California are continuing a hunger strike which began on July 8th to protest cruel and inhumane conditions, the most egregious of which is prolonged solitary confinement. In so-called Supermax prisons, inmates are held, some for years at a time, in solitary confinement, deprived of human contact, for 23 hours a day. This constitutes torture, by any definition, and it is happening in our own backyard.

"Why should we care?" asks a recent editorial in the LA Times and then goes on to answer: "Our treatment of prisoners, even the most dangerous and irredeemable, is a fundamental expression of American values. A hunger strike may be the only way inmates in solitary can reach us with their message of protest."

So far, the lack of response from state officials reveals not only an appalling absence of moral rectitude but a counter-intelligent approach to rehabilitation, which should be the purpose of incarceration. Isolation under inhumane

conditions creates individuals who are more violent, often mentally impaired, and unable to function in social settings.

St. Michael and All Angels joins with our interfaith partner, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), in calling for a swift, just, and humane end to the hunger strike in California prisons, and we urge Governor Brown to honor the reasonable five core demands of the hunger strikers, in order to end the abusive and immoral use of solitary confinement in California prisons.

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

July 2013—Revenue and Expense Summary

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 27,285	\$ 33,805	\$ 206,032	\$ 236,637
Total Expense	33,373	32,443	248,989	240,527
Net	\$ (6,088)	\$ 1,362	\$ 11,043	\$ (3,890)



Summer time, Summer time, Sum Sum Summer time...

The beginning to a great song—but this time I am using it as the closing to a great season here at St. Michael and All Angels. I don't know about each of you but, we took full advantage of summer and really enjoyed it. I have to say, throughout the summer, the weather treated us kindly. We enjoyed two great pool parties as a parish (special thanks to Betsy Hailey and David and Alex for opening their homes to us all) so, I would chalk that up to the parish taking advantage of the summer as well. We also had an amazing time at Beeman Park as we held an All Parish Picnic at the beginning of the summer. The bounce house was the hit of the day and I was afraid some of the kids were going to try to stay in it even as it was being picked up.



Another reason summer might not have been so hard to battle was the air conditioning we have in the sanctuary. It is amazing, blessings like these and all the other improvements we continue to see on our campus that make us such a blessed group of followers.

I am so excited that we welcomed the Rev. Stefanie Wilson to our parish and have so enjoyed having her play a role in our continued growth. We will get to hear her preach occasionally and have benefited from having her serve as Deacon each Sunday.

Starting next month we also will add a new 5th grade curriculum to our ever expanding children's offerings on Sundays. It seems every Sunday I go by the nursery or hear the numbers of kids we had in children's church that we are being blessed with burgeoning growth and renewed excitement regarding the youngest members of our parish family.

Coming up soon we get to celebrate our namesake and so much is planned for the feast of St. Michael, it is our time to come together and celebrate our parish home and our parish family. Look for more news in the coming weeks and get ready for an amazing weekend of food, fun and fellowship.

Till next month,

Bill Fields

New "Senior" Sunday School Starts This Fall

by Peter Juzwiak

St. Michael's Sunday School has made great strides over the last year. We introduced the *Seasons of the Spirit* program, which explores Biblical stories through arts and crafts, music, and a variety of other fun activities. We kicked off "Family Sing," a time for our kids to gather, sing and enjoy each other's company before class begins. Also, our Children's Choir made a triumphant return, with very successful performances on both Easter and Pentecost Sunday.

With all these changes our program is booming and, beginning this fall, we will expand into an additional classroom. In the Yellow and Red Rooms we will continue the popular *Seasons of the Spirit* program for our children ages 3 through 4th grade. New this year, however, we will launch a "Senior" Sunday School program for our fifth graders, meeting in the Blue Room.

This new program has been prepared by our Sunday School volunteers, with the help and guidance of Father Dan Justin and the use of a variety of books and other resources from the Episcopal Church. The program is divided into four major parts:

- **Holy Mysteries**—where the kids will have a chance to discuss a wide variety of subjects—who is God, what is the Holy Trinity, what are Sacraments—that they hear about in church and Sunday School but don't always get a chance to discuss or understand more deeply.
- **Episcopal Church**—where the kids will learn about the history of the Episcopal Church and how churches are run—what is the role of priests, deacons, and lay ministers, who is the bishop, what is the vestry, and what about those wardens?

- **Episcopal Practice**—where the kids will learn "how we do church"—the parts of a church service, the people at the altar, how kids participate.
- **The Gospel of Matthew**—where the kids will read famous excerpts from the Gospel of Matthew and dive more deeply into their meaning.

Each Sunday we will focus on a new topic within one of these categories, alternating among them to keep it fresh and varied. The Blue Room will be furnished with a circle of new bean bag chairs, creating a relaxed atmosphere for talking and sharing. In place of weekly arts and crafts projects, the kids will work on a continuous beading project, making Episcopal prayer beads for our parishioners. Each child will have his or her own kit, and they can easily start and stop each week and work on their project during discussion time.

We are very excited about this new curriculum. We hope it will keep our fifth graders active in Sunday School, prepare them for future confirmation classes, and help them transition into new roles in Youth Group, acolyting, and volunteer activities. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Sarah Cook, Betty Ferrell or Peter Juzwiak.

Senior Sunday School starts **Sunday, September 8th, in the Blue Room**, right after Family Sing. We look forward to seeing all of our fifth graders there!

New Meditation Garden Is Blessed

On July 27th, members of the parish gathered to raise the new marriage equality banner and to dedicate and bless the new meditation garden.





St. Michael's Outreach

by Julie Bellevue

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve, Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless and the needy, for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The focus of the outreach committee this year has been "faith in action". One way that we have become more mindful of the concept of faith in action has been to develop the prayer above. We have added it to our outreach meetings and have it printed on prayer cards to be available at outreach activities. But what does it really mean? How can we be more mindful of what we are doing and why we are doing it?

The last Second Sunday Sack Lunch was eye opening for me as I think about faith in action. As always, I went out Saturday morning, bought all the supplies and brought them to church on Sunday. Somehow the plastic table cloths, that I had gone out of my way to make sure we had, were missing. I had seen them when I got out of the car, and by the time I got to the Ministry Center, they were gone. And I let it get to my head. I couldn't get on to any of the other things I needed to do because of those tablecloths. But I never found them. Eventually, other people had clearer heads and found tablecloths (not the tablecloths but tablecloths none the less). That Sunday, my head was everywhere except on what was going on in front of me. Sure I was making sandwiches—lay out the bread, meat on top, cover with another piece of bread. But my head was elsewhere—on my Sunday

afternoon plans, on things going on at work, on *where in the world did those table cloths go?* I chatted with others and put on a smile, but I just could not get in the right head space.

So what do we do when this happens? When logistics get in the way, when our plans for helping others and following by Jesus' example don't go the way we are expecting? That is the time to think about why we are serving others in the first place. We are doing it because it is our call as Christians—To help the needy, to help the least of us, just as Jesus would have done. Take a deep breath, say a prayer, and get on with task at hand.

In the end, were the sandwiches we made any less nutritious? Were the lunches any less appreciated? No, probably not. But faith in action is about more than just good works, it is about the place those works come from. My goal is to become more mindful and prayerful in my outreach. That is how I will put my faith in action.

And, by the way, if anyone figures out where those table cloths went, would you please let me know?

St. Michael's Men's Group

By Ed Sugar

Well, so much for the "Dog Days of Summer" as both Men's Group meetings for the summer of 2013 had record attendance.

Back in July, close to 20 of the men of St. Michael's gathered at the home of Chris Flick for a fabulous pasta feast courteous of our host. The evening was packed with discussions about the lack of decent summer movies, kids and college, and the Dodgers. The evening was capped with a discussion led by Father Dan on vacations and how they can spiritually impact our lives. Then in August, we had one of our largest gatherings for a Saturday morning meeting. Chef Peter Juzwiak prepared a lovely hot meal and Father Dan led us through a thoughtful examination of our own personal journey and relationship with God.

The Men's Group continues its ministry going into the fall with our next meeting at the home of Ron Schwartz on Wednesday evening, September 18th at 7 pm. Due to a scheduling conflict in the Ministry Center, our October meeting has been moved to Wednesday evening, October 16th. We are looking for someone to host this meeting. If you would like to host this potluck affair please contact either Father Dan or me (edsugar@ca.rr.com).

Our lives begin
to end the
day we become
silent about things
that matter.

Martin Luther King

St. Michael's Welcomes Our New Seminarian—Christopher Montella

St. Michael's is excited to welcome Christopher Montella as our new seminarian. Christopher is a postulant for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Los Angeles and is a student at Bloy House as well as at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. He will begin his work with us on Sunday, September 8th. This field education experience is designed to help Christopher as he prepares for the life and work of being a priest. To that end, his time with us will be spent participating in many of the various ministries of the church. This will include pastoral care, adult education, outreach, planning, liturgy, and preaching.



Christopher is being sponsored for ordination by All Saints in Beverly Hills where he has also served as the Junior Warden. Prior to moving to Los Angeles, Christopher was a long time parishioner and vestry member at the Church of the Ascension in New York City. Christopher lives in Los Angeles with his partner of ten years, Chris DeMenno. They have two Labradors, Sadie and Pepper. We are very excited to have Christopher joining us for the year.



The Calendar

September 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 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 Pentecost 15	2 Labor Day	3	4 7:30 pm Young Adults Group (L) 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (MR)	5	6	7
8 Pentecost 16 12:00 noon Youth Group (L) 12:00 noon SMCOP (CO)	9	10	11 7:00 pm Finance Committee (CO) 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (MR)	12 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	13 7:10 pm St. Michael's Night at Dodger Stadium (vs. San Francisco Giants)	14 Holy Cross Day
15 Pentecost 17 11:30 am Second Sunday Sack Lunches (MC) 12:15 pm Healing Prayer Gathering (FR)	16	17 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	18 7:00 pm Men's Group (Schwartz Home) 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (MR)	19 7:30 pm Informal Choir Practice (MR)	20	21 Saint Matthew 9:00 am Women's Group (MC)
22 Pentecost 18 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)	23 6:30 pm Imagine LA Training (5455 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles 90036)	24	25 7:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (MR)	26 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	27	28
29 Saint Michael and All Angels 12:00 noon Pastoral Care Committee (FR)	30					

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

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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.