



# The Mike

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

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## Three Weeks in June: My Journey towards my Doctor of Ministry

By the Very Reverend Dan Justin

I have just returned from my three week residency at Luther Seminary. I thought it might be nice to share a little about my time there. The degree I am working on is a Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching. The program consists of three, three week residencies on the campus, followed by work completed within my ministry context—St. Michael's.

The first week consists of a core course. In year one the class is called *Preaching as the Proclaimed Word*. That course was taught by Dr. David Lose. Having the opportunity to take a class with Dr. Lose is the reason I chose to attend Luther Seminary. Dr. Lose is known for beginning a website called *Workingpreaching.org*. This site is visited by thousands of preachers every week. We all visit it because we want to read what Dr. Lose has written. This year, our core course was called *Preaching as the Performed Word*. My professor was Episcopal priest and scholar, Dr. Ruthanna Hooke. Dr. Hooke teaches homiletics (preaching) at Virginia Theological Seminary.

To be honest, I was skeptical about this year's core course. I was nervous about a class which emphasized the performance aspect of preaching. The initial exercise included selecting an extended passage of scripture, memorizing it, and then presenting it like it was a monologue from a play. I am happy



to say that I had the wrong idea about the purpose of the exercise. In fact, I learned a tremendous amount from this course. The class was far more experiential than lecture oriented. We learned a variety of vocal exercises which helped "free our natural voice, increase range, resonance, and overcome various obstacles." The professor used the Linklater method which is regularly studied by actors. It was fascinating to repurpose these tools most often employed by actors for use in the pulpit. It was a great experience. I may even consider

pursuing deeper study of the method here in Los Angeles. I had never considered that memorization and performance of a biblical text could be an interpretive exercise leading deeper into the meaning of a text. The sermon was the end result of the performance of the scripture.

The second week of the program is an elective course. In the first year my elective was called *Preaching and Stewardship*—a very practical course for a parish priest. This year the elective was called *Interpreting and Preaching the Acts of the Apostles*. This was a fascinating study of the book of Acts, the theology it presents, and how better to interpret the text. One of the most interesting exercises we did in this course was to randomly select an obscure passage from Acts (these were selected by the professor and then each student drew out of a hat) and then in one evening prepare a sermon to be delivered the next day in class. These were texts that NEVER get read in church. They were some of the oddest passages you could find. It was fun actually.

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## Second Sunday Sack Lunches—Hold the lunches for a while!

On the second Sunday of every month our parish makes and delivers about 100 bagged lunches. Julie Bellevue and Avi Aazami faithfully lead this ministry. These are then delivered by Rose Leibowitz to the Lutheran Social Services in Van Nuys. They distribute those lunches to the hungry and the needy. This is a really wonderful ministry which almost anyone can participate in. From the youngest to the oldest member of the parish—anyone can help bag up the lunches.

This June, on the second Sunday of the month, the parish faithfully prepared the bag lunches. The following Tuesday, Rose faithfully loaded them into her car to be delivered. But unlike any other month—

Rose had to return the lunches. Much to our dismay, Lutheran Social Services had experienced a fire in their facilities. The program is currently closed down while they assess the damage and make repairs. According to news reports, the fire was primarily in the roof of the facility. While the damage was enough to shut down operations—it was not a total loss.

Our prayers are now with the staff of Lutheran Social Services as they do the work that needs to be done. Our hope is that they will be able to return to business as usual in the relatively near future. Our prayer is also with all those who have been and are regularly served by Lutheran Social Services. Those who are hungry must now find a new

place to receive help.

We will continue to stay in contact with this outreach partner. If there is any way our parish can assist them we will be sure to let you know. In the meantime—there is another major outreach event coming up here at St. Michael's that you can assist with! SoldierCare is about to host its major weekend event. David Rosenburg faithfully leads this ministry. If you are interested in volunteering please see any member of the outreach committee—Julie Bellevue, Nancy Woods, Meredith Reese, Avi Aazami, Alex Morales, David Rosenburg and Catherine Leland (I may have left someone out—I apologize if I have)—for more information.

—Fr. Dan+

# There Will Be Singing—St. Mike's Music in the Summer Months

By Kristen Toedtman

As in years past, the choir takes a break for the summer months. No Thursday night rehearsals, no 9:30 am call for a 10:30 am Eucharist. But unlike schoolchildren dreaming of summer break all winter long, we actually do enjoy singing, and all the more together! And so we have made a plan to work with schedules and travel plans as well as our desire to come together and sing in harmony the praises of God. On the last Sunday of June, July and August, the choir will again gather at the front of the sanctuary to lead the congregation in the singing of hymns, psalms, and service music (we will continue with the service music we began singing on Trinity Sunday until September).

Meanwhile, your four cantors have selected anthems to offer up on Sundays throughout the summer. Colleen, Mark, David, and I had a meeting that resembled what I imagine what an old fashioned trading room might have looked like. We laid out the Sundays before us with our travel schedules to see who would be in and out of town, what scripture readings fell on what days and what assortment of voices we had available to us. You can expect solos, duets, trios and hopefully even a quartet!

Finally, as is our tradition, we had an end of the year rehearsal/potluck dinner at Kim O'Reilly's home. In the words of soprano Chanel Bosh: "YAY FOR POTLUCKS & SINGING!" Upon reflecting on those words, I realized that very truly (joking and caps lock aside), these were two of the absolute best things we humans come together to do: eat and sing.

Here attached are a couple photos I grabbed before filling my plate. May your summer be full of good gatherings, good food, and good music.



## July Birthdays

| Day | Name  |
|-----|---|
| 1   | Kathryn Argall                              |
| 5   | Melissa Basta                               |
| 9   | Karen Andrews<br>Linda Andrews<br>Caleb Fox |
| 10  | Paris Carney<br>Lillian Raesler             |
| 12  | William Hendley                             |
| 15  | Milena Mooradian                            |
| 23  | Eileen Carhart<br>Liam Daniels              |
| 23  | Porter Rodriguez                            |
| 30  | Bailey Robertson                            |
| 31  | Sue Harris<br>Scarlett Vos                  |

## July Anniversaries

| Day | Name                   |
|-----|------------------------|
| 6   | Jack & Barbara Beckner |
| 26  | Nick & Sharon Renton   |

### 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  |
|-----|---|
| 3   | June Van Dusen<br>Alex Morales                  |
| 4   | DJ Fuller                                       |
| 5   | Jennifer Best                                   |
| 9   | Denise Schwartz                                 |
| 12  | Rachel Albert-Hendley<br>Rebecca Albert-Hendley |
| 16  | Elizabeth Bartolomea                            |
| 17  | Ethan Friedman                                  |
| 27  | Monie Wright                                    |
| 29  | Mason Darrow                                    |
| 30  | Bella Holleman                                  |
| 31  | Johann Agerbeek<br>Betsy Hailey                 |

## August Anniversaries

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

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.

## Treasurer's Corner

### May 2014—Revenue and Expense Summary

|               | May Actual | May Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total Revenue | \$ 35,938  | \$ 36,067  | \$203,767  | \$180,337  |
| Total Expense | 31,367     | 36,065     | 195,399    | 180,328    |
| Net           | \$ 4,571   | \$ 2       | \$ 8,368   | \$ 9       |



**P**entecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means “fiftieth day” and is celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday. The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year in the Episcopal Church. The Reverend Canon Mark Shier was our celebrant and led us in a glorious celebration of Pentecost.



The season after Pentecost, according to the calendar of the church year, begins on the Monday following Pentecost, and continues through most of the summer and autumn. It may include as many as twenty-eight Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. This includes Trinity Sunday which is the First Sunday after Pentecost. This period is also understood by some as “ordinary time,” a period of the church year not dedicated to a particular season or observance. The Reverend Stefanie Wilson was our celebrant for Trinity Sunday.

This “ordinary time” is a great opportunity to slow our schedules down and take more time for reflection. One way to accomplish this is to attend our Adult Learning class at 9:15 am, each Sunday. We have been studying the Books of Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. We continue our study of the first five books of the Bible and on June 22nd, we start Numbers. Father Dan has been away for his second summer session as he works toward completing his Doctor of Ministry degree. He returned the week of June 23rd and was our celebrant on June 29th.

You may have seen construction activity around the sanctuary these past few weeks. Our aging pipes, both water and gas, have had to be replaced. Repairs have been completed and all systems are now working properly.

On June 29, as part of our outreach ministry, a cast from St. Michael’s did a series of readings commenting on the issue of torture as part of a citywide series of events marking Torture Awareness Month.

## Youth Group Movie Night

By the Rev. Stefanie Wilson

**Y**outh Group movie night was a huge hit! With the help of Chef Maureen Lisi-MacReady and One Great Chef, we took over the concession stand and created our own movie goodies. We made nachos with the works, bacon-wrapped and cheese stuffed hot dogs, Maureen’s secret recipe deep fried meatballs, and flavored popcorn. Youth Group member Brett Wong said, “My favorite part was hanging out with my friends and helping to make the food for everyone.” The youth group gives this night two thumbs up! Interested in being part of or helping out with the Youth Group? Contact Stefanie Wilson at wilsons@campbellhall.org or at 818.358.5729.



## Rector

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The sermons drawn from these strange passages were some of the best I have ever heard on the book of Acts. It was refreshing to be able to play with a text that is never provided by the Revised Common Lectionary.

The third week of the program is called the Colloquy. This is not so much a course as it is a discussion. The topic of the colloquy week is our doctoral thesis. We selected our topics for this final project in the third week of the first year. Over the course of the past year we completed an Integrative Paper. This was a thirty page document about our topic and why it is of interest. This paper is the foundation for the literature review of the thesis. This year we will complete a formal thesis proposal. The proposal will include a summary of our literature review. It will also add a biblical and theological review, and a methodology of assessment. Our thesis must include qualitative and quantitative research. In order for the project to be approved the proposal must include the research questions we plan to use. I certainly have my work cut out for me as I move forward.

I want to thank the parish for the support and the opportunity to pursue this degree. I am enjoying the course of study. I have made some wonderful friends in the program. I am having the opportunity to study with some of the scholars who inspire me on a regular basis. Yes, it is a lot of work. In my first year residency I listened to fifty three sermons in three weeks. This year it was sixty two sermons in three weeks. But as I have said before, I think that might be my idea of heaven! One thing is for sure—I am growing as a preacher as result of this program.

Blessings,  
Dan+



# The Calendar

July–August 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                                |
|---|--|--|---|-----------|---|---|
|   |  | <b>1</b><br>July                           | <b>2</b><br>8:00 pm Young Adults Group (L)                                      | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b> Independence Day<br>Parish office closed | <b>5</b>                                |
| <b>6</b> Pentecost 4<br>12:00 noon St. Michael's Outreach (CO)  | <b>7</b><br>6:15 pm Book Discussion Group (Woods Home) | <b>8</b><br>7:00 pm Finance Committee (CO) | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b>                               |
| <b>13</b> Pentecost 5   | <b>14</b>  | <b>15</b><br>7:00 pm Vestry (L)            | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b>   | <b>19</b><br>9:00 am Women's Group (FR) |
| <b>20</b> Pentecost 6   | <b>21</b>  | <b>22</b> St. Mary Magdalene               | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b> St. James the Apostle                   | <b>26</b>                               |
| <b>27</b> Pentecost 7<br>11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)<br>2:00 pm Pool Party (Connors-Morales Home) | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b>                                  | <b>30</b>   | <b>31</b> | <b>1</b><br>August                                | <b>2</b>                                |
| <b>3</b> Pentecost 8<br>12:00 noon St. Michael's Outreach (CO)  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>                                   | <b>6</b> Transfiguration<br>8:00 pm Young Adults Group (L)                      | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b>                                |
| <b>10</b> Pentecost 9   | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b>                                  | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b> St. Mary the Virgin                     | <b>16</b>                               |
| <b>17</b> Pentecost 10  | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b><br>7:00 pm Vestry (L)            | <b>20</b><br>7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)                               | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>                               |
| <b>24</b> Pentecost 11<br>11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)   | <b>25</b> St. Bartholomew                              | <b>26</b>                                  | <b>27</b><br>7:00 pm Women's Group (FR)<br>7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S) | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>                               |
| <b>31</b> Pentecost 12<br>12:00 noon Pastoral Care Committee (FR)   |  |  |   |           |   |   |

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