



The Mike

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

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Where Are You Going?

By the Reverend Dan Justin

Where are you going? The question came up in the context of our weekly 9:15 am Bible Study. Over the past several months the group has been studying the beginnings of the Bible. We embarked on an ambitious project of reading Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. I say that it was ambitious because those three books are often the reason many people's Bible reading plans get derailed. The details of Israel's system of sacrificial worship, the exact dimensions of the various objects of worship in Exodus, the restrictive laws of Leviticus, and the mind-numbing "begats" of Numbers are enough to make a reader close the book. But our group pushed through and stayed the course. In the end, we were left with the question—where are you going? It is an important question for all people of faith to consider.

The narrative told in these three books of the Bible is the story of Israel being rescued from slavery in Egypt and setting out into the desert wilderness on their way to the promised land. It is the event known as the Exodus. It was a journey filled with ups and downs, miracles and disasters, failures and forgiveness, unfaithfulness by the people met with promises of fidelity by God.

It is no secret that the people of Israel made many mistakes along the way. They continually failed to trust God. They murmured and complained constantly. They wanted to give up and go back to Egypt—there at least they knew they had food and water. We read stories of rebellion and we see how God reacts to that. There is a pattern that emerges. The people murmur and/or rebel, God decides that God has had enough of these people and plans to wipe them out, Moses intercedes through prayer, and then God relents and forgives. Usually there is some kind of consequence—but as a whole—the people are given a second chance.

What I find most interesting about the story is that the Israelites seem to have the most

problems when they begin to stay in the same place too long. When you examine the text it becomes clear—when the people begin to stay or to dwell—things go south for them.

God set them free from slavery and sent them to the promised land. They were on a journey. They were never meant to stay in the desert. They were never meant to dwell there. They needed to keep moving forward. They needed to keep asking that question, "Where are we going?"



If you think about it, the people of God

are always in motion. Faith is a journey. We are moving from here to there. Here is no longer tenable. There is where God wants us to go. The moment we begin to stay here too long we begin to stagnate, we begin to settle for less than what God wants for us. God's people are always in motion. We are going somewhere. We are pilgrims in a foreign land moving to the place God has promised.

This is still true in our lives today. We may not be asked to literally pick up and move to some new place. But we are still going somewhere. God wants to do something in our lives. God is always leading us to new things. Where are you going? That is the question we need to regularly be asking ourselves.

What aspects of your life of faith should you be working on? What kind of person does God want you to be? Is it growth in prayer for you? Are you feeling like you need to be a more compassionate person? Do you need to learn to trust God in times of need? Do you feel like you need to be more generous? Is leadership in the church on the docket for you? Where are you going? And that question is followed up with another question—How do you get there?

The simple fact of the matter is, when it comes to faith, we never arrive. Well, not until we die—and who knows—maybe we keep learning and growing for all eternity. But as long as we are alive we should always be growing, changing, learning, and seeking to move ever closer to God. The Israelites always made their worst choices when they stopped moving and decided to settle for their present location. Faith will stagnate and fail us when we settle in thinking we have arrived. So keep asking the question! Where am I going? Where is God leading me? How will I get there? Remember—faith is an adventure. We discover our greatest joy and deepest satisfaction as we keep moving forward.

Blessings,
Dan+

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Crop Hunger Walk (5k and Tot Walk)

Save the Date—Sunday, November 2nd

By Nancy Woods

St. Michael's mission priority focuses on the United Nations' First Millennium Goal: To eradicate extreme hunger and poverty. (For starters, think North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry and the Second Sunday Sack Lunch program.) Crop Hunger Walk is a charitable walking event that fights hunger here in the San Fernando Valley and worldwide.

Our local Crop Hunger Walk is a community fundraising event sponsored by faith communities in the San Fernando Valley. This year the walk route is at the Northridge United Methodist Church. The money raised helps our neighbors in need and also provides food, medical care, disaster relief and self-help development for needy people around the world.

This fun event is for everyone! You can walk the walk, the kids can do the tot walk, others can volunteer that day, cheer on Team St. Michael's and raise money from your friends, relatives, and co-workers for this worthy cause.

For details, watch for the official brochure and announcements in the Sunday bulletin starting in September. Check it out on the web at SFVCropwalk@yahoo.com. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Woods at nancyjwoods@roadrunner.com, call 818.769.2820, or ask any member of the Outreach Committee.



New Comer/New Member Breakfast and Class

Saturday, September 13th

Are you new to St. Michael's and would like to learn more about the parish? Have you been attending and are now ready to become a member? You are invited to our New Comer/New Member Breakfast and Class. We will gather in the Ministry Center on Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 9:00 am.

The breakfast and class will provide the opportunity for us all to get to know each other better. Together we will learn a little about St. Michael and All Angels—the history of the church, what it means to be a member and how that happens, as well as exploring ways people can be involved in the many ministries of the church. We hope that this class will also be an opportunity to answer any questions you may have about the parish, the worship, the ministries, the Diocese of Los Angeles, or even about the Episcopal Church.

Please RSVP to Duane Steadman, our Parish Administrator at administrator@stmikessc.org if you are able to join us.

Ushers Needed

Are you looking for an easy way to serve? How about being an usher for the 10:30 am service one Sunday per month? Our team of ushers is currently recruiting new members. It is an easy, but important, job. The only qualification needed is a warm smile and a willingness to embody St. Michael's value of hospitality. If you are interested in learning more about volunteering as an usher, please see Bill Wright or the Rev. Dan Justin.

September Birthdays

Day Name

- 2 Jane Mason
- 3 Jack Sage
- 6 Margie Mullen
- 7 Adam Farley
- 7 Myla Russo
- 8 Amador Rondilla
- 11 Lucy Juzwiak-DeRose
- 13 Barbara Beckner
- 17 Adrienne Darrow
- 18 Gail Wright
- Lucy Schouweiler
- 19 Duane Steadman
- 20 Bradford Hebbe-Zubiate
- 22 Amy Friedman
- 24 Zofie Basta
- 25 David Connors
- 26 Julie Meine
- 29 Megan Loucas

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.*

Treasurer's Corner

July 2014—Revenue and Expense Summary

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 44,467	\$ 36,067	\$ 295,269	\$ 252,472
Total Expense	43,135	36,065	276,546	252,459
Net	\$ 1,332	\$ 2	\$ 18,723	\$ 13



It's that time of year when we (may or may not) notice that the oppressively hot days of summer begin to turn in to the oppressively hot days of autumn. As someone who grew up in a place where there were four distinct seasons, I still hold to the conviction that the only way you can tell the change of seasons in Southern California is to look at a calendar. I think the fact that we have a Parish Pool Party scheduled for Sunday, September 14th, pretty much supports that.

Regardless of the weather, September still signifies the beginning of many new things. It is the start of the school year. Many schools are already in session, and within a few days, all students will be back in school. September is also the time when St. Michael's many ministries resume. The choir will be back on Sunday, September 7th for the 10:30 am service. St. Michael's Mid-week resumes on Wednesday, September 10th. Sunday School, the Bell Choir, and many other ministries also begin again. (Although we think of September as starting a new season, Altar Guild, the

Outreach Committee, Pastoral Care, and other ministries are on-going and do not take a break in summer.)

Another important fall event is the feast of St. Michael and All Angels occurring on the last Sunday of September. As we approach this important feast day, we certainly have much to celebrate. One of our greatest reasons to celebrate is our very own Father Dan. September will be Father Dan's thirty-first month with us. He certainly has so many wonderful qualities—energy, enthusiasm, friendship, and his spiritual and intellectual breadth and depth—that have allowed St. Michael's to continue to grow as an incredible community of faith. We are so thankful that God has brought us together.

As we begin a new year and approach the feast of St. Michael and All Angels, we give thanks for the many blessings with which God has blessed our parish community. We look forward to the opportunities that this new year provides for us.

St. Michael's Mid-Week

Mid-Week returns this fall with three new classes. Mid-Week begins at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center with a family meal. There is a \$5 suggested donation per person (\$20 maximum per family). After we have enjoyed dinner, the class and discussion will begin. If you plan to attend Mid-Week please send an RSVP to Duane Steadman at administrator@stmikessc.org. In your e-mail please indicate which class or dates you plan to attend, how many will be attending, and if any attending are children. We will endeavor to end the evening by 8:30 pm. Please join us for a family meal and a great learning opportunity.

Wednesday, September 10th—Comprehending the Creeds

Each Sunday we recite the creed. Most Sundays we use the Nicene Creed. If there is a baptism we use the Apostle's Creed. In the Book of Common Prayer, the Episcopal Church states that these creeds are "The sufficient statements of our faith." (BCP, p. 877). But where did we get these creeds? Who wrote them? Why were they written? If we are going to say "We believe..." we should be sure that we comprehend. Join the Rev. Dan Justin as we explore and learn about the creeds of the church.

Wednesday, October 8th—History Lessons

The story of the Christian faith is fascinating. But most people don't really know that story. We have the book of Acts that provides a picture of how the church began...but what happened after all that? How did the church grow and change? Where did it go? How did it mess up and how did it try to put itself back on the right track? Join the Rev. Dan Justin as we take a look at the highlights of church history.

Wednesday, November 12th—Descriptive Lenses

Many people are left scratching their heads when they try to read the Old Testament. It does not always make sense to us today. We are more likely to prefer the New Testament. And yet, the Old Testament is just as much a part of our faith as the New. So how can we learn to read the Old Testament in a way that begins to make sense to us? The answer may be learning to look at it through a new lens. Join the Rev. Dan Justin as we learn to read and understand the Old Testament through the lens of the New Testament.

End of Summer Pool Party and Potluck Sunday, September 14th

All are invited to join us for our end of the summer pool party and potluck. We will gather at the home of Betsy Hailey on Sunday, September 14th from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share. Please contact the church office for address and directions to the event.

Want to Sing in the Choir?

Singing brings great joy, no matter your expertise. The St. Michael's Choir is a mixed-level choir and all are welcome. We begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 4th, and, with few exceptions, rehearse every Thursday from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Section leaders help with the learning of individual parts and we have a good time, even while challenging ourselves to learn new music. Some members attend rehearsals and join in Sunday services when ready. Others join for a season at a time. Would you like to join the choir? Please contact Kristen Toedtman to discuss: 323.496.1502; kristentoedtman@gmail.com.

St. Michael's Member Spotlight



David Connors will be singing with Center Stage Opera in their upcoming production of *La Traviata* by Verdi. He will be singing the role of Giuseppe (Joseph) as well as singing in the chorus. Performances are: Sunday, September 21st at 3:00 pm, Saturday, September 27th, at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, September 28th, at 3:00 pm. Performances are at the Madrid Theatre, 21622 Sherman Way, in Canoga Park.

Alex Morales will be singing at the Hollywood Bowl with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles in *The Simpsons Take the Bowl*. GMCLA joins the LA Philharmonic and an all-star cast for the Fireworks Finale weekend. Performances are Friday, September 12th, and Saturday, September 13th, at 8:00 pm, and Sunday, September 14th, at 7:30pm.

Holland Noël White will be performing the role of Charlie Brown in a production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." Performances will be September 26th–November 2nd (Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm) at the Chromolume Theatre, 5429 West Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles.



Let Us Sing: Alleluia!

By Kristen Toedtman

As the summer comes to an end, we prepare for our musical worship in the fall at St. Michael's. The first thing you'll notice is that those voices which surrounded you in the pews all summer will again gather in the front of the sanctuary to elevate our song to God. On Sunday, September 7th, the choir is back!

Perhaps you've already noticed that we change the Gloria, Sanctus and Fraction Anthem every season, as we will on that same day. Father Dan and I agree that it is a beautiful way to mark the changing of the seasons. For Advent and Lent, for example, the music is more austere as we prepare for the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, respectively. We mark the beginning of each month (except during Lent) with the Repeating Alleluia, which we also sing on special occasions.

And speaking of special occasions, we have been witness to the birth and growth of our very own Bell Choir at St. Michael's and I am thrilled to know that with the leadership of

Polly Davis and Chris Flick, they will continue to join us in worship, particularly on special services. First up is our Sunday Eucharist for the Feast of St. Michael on September 28th. If you would like to join the Bell Choir, please contact me, Polly, Chris, or Peter Juzwiak. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

To further celebrate our feast day, the choir will again present a St. Michael Evensong on Friday, September 26th, followed by a feast, indeed. If you missed this wonderful occasion last year, mark your calendars now! It is truly a wonderful night of fellowship and music. And food!

Lastly, I'd like to leave you with the words from the opening hymn on September 7th. Duane Steadman so thoughtfully suggested this hymn to announce the return of the choir that day. If you're like me, it sometimes takes reading the text separately from singing to truly meditate on the meaning.

When in our music God is glorified,
and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried
Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found
a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
in faith and love, through centuries
of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue,
Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night
when utmost evil strove against the Light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight,
Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always
Alleluia!

Novitiate: Basic Training for New Christians

Thursdays—October 2nd to November 20th

Everyone has to start somewhere. This is true of so many things in life. But it is particularly true for those who are just starting in the life of faith. Are you new to the church and to the Christian faith? Services on Sunday can be fairly impenetrable for those who are still wrestling with the basics of the faith. If this describes you, we invite you to join a new class—Novitiate: Basic Training for New Christians. In the history of the church, novitiate is the word used to describe someone who was just beginning on the journey of faith.

Novitiate will be an eight-week course covering a variety of foundational topics. No question is too basic. No topic is untouchable. The class will gather on Thursday evenings in the Ministry Center. We will begin at 7:30 pm. The evening will begin with a talk by Fr. Dan. There will be group discussion time. Things will wrap up with Q&A and a time for comments from the group. The schedule of topics is as follows:

October 2	Who is Jesus?
October 9	Do I need a savior?
October 16	No class
October 23	How and why to pray?
October 30	Do I want to be a disciple?
November 6	Defining Church
November 13	The mystery of the Trinity
November 20	Episco-what? Understanding the Episcopal Church

Participants in Novitiate: Basic Training for New Christians will be asked to make a commitment to attend all seven sessions of the class. If you would like to sign up please RSVP at administrator@stmikessc.org. All are welcome—feel free to attend with friends even if they do not regularly attend St. Michael's. Decaf coffee and light refreshments will be available at each meeting. Please contact the Rev. Dan Justin for more information. Please note—there is a minimum number of people required to sign up in order for this class to run.

Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

It is our biggest party of the year and all are invited! Join us for the celebration of our patronal feast—The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. Our celebration will begin on Friday, September 26th at 7:00 pm with a Choral Evensong in the church. After the service we head to the Ministry Center for our first-rate feast, complete with live music and dancing. Our menu will once again feature traditional Feast of St. Michael fare prepared by the crew at One Great Chef. Suggested donation for dinner is \$10 per person (\$40 maximum per family). Reservations are required for dinner as space in the Ministry Center is limited. Please e-mail Duane Steadman at administrator@stmikessc.org or to RSVP. And please be sure to RSVP early!

The celebration will continue on Sunday, September 28th at both morning services. We are thrilled to welcome The Rev. Paul Johnsen, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Hartford, Wisconsin as our guest preacher. Pastor Johnsen's unique style, wit, and spiritual depth will be an inspiration for all. Our 10:30 am service will take the form of a Festival Choral Eucharist. It will feature our stellar parish choir, children's choir, and the St. Michael's bell choir. The morning will conclude with a celebratory coffee hour.

This is an event you will not want to miss. Together we will celebrate all that God is doing in and through St. Michael and All Angels!



Something New This Fall: What I did NOT Preach On

By the Reverend Dan Justin

Preaching is my favorite task. It is not always an easy task but, it is always one that I love. The biggest bummer of writing the weekly sermon is that I have to choose just one text. The lectionary provides four scripture lessons for each Sunday of the year. These include an Old Testament lesson, a Psalm, a New Testament lesson, and a reading from one of the Gospels. If I preach on the Old Testament I don't get to preach on the Gospel. If I preach on the Gospel I ignore the Psalm. And the worst part is—skipped texts don't come around again for another three years.

It's almost always a mistake to try to address all four readings in one sermon. Those attempts end up skimming over the surface of each text. We never have the chance to delve deeply into any of them. At most, preachers can touch on two of the readings—but even that is best done when one reading serves as an illustration for the primary text of the sermon.

I don't mean to complain and I am not trying to bore you with the details of homiletics (that's a fancy word for preaching—it makes me feel good to use it). I am writing to lament being forced to leave three wonderful biblical passages unaddressed each week. So I am planning on writing a weekly letter to the parish called *What I Did Not Preach On*. This letter will explore at least one text or theme that was not touched by the sermon. This way we get the opportunity to reflect on more of the passages read in church. My hope is that these reflections will serve as a devotional of sorts. You will be able to read the text and my reflections on it. The current plan is to print a copy of the letter in the weekly Sunday bulletin. It will also be sent to the parish via e-mail each Monday. That way if you missed church on Sunday you will get the chance to see what you did *not* miss. Of course if you want to *hear* what you *did* miss, recordings of the sermons are available at www.stmikessc.org. They get posted on Tuesday afternoons.

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

Tent Meeting

On Tuesday, August 19th, the church was covered in bright orange and blue for termite fumigation. Here are some photos of the process and the final result. By Thursday, August 21st, everything was back to normal.





The Calendar

September 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 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	2	3 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:30 pm Young Adults Group (L)	4 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	5	6
7 Pentecost 13 12:00 noon Youth Group (L) 12:00 noon St. Michael's Outreach (CO)	8 6:15 pm Book Discussion Group (Jacobson Home)	9	10 6:30 pm Mid-Week (MC) 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)	11 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	12	13 9:00 am Newcomer Breakfast & Class (MC)
14 Pentecost 14 2:00 pm Parish Pool Party (Hailey Home)	15 Holy Cross Day	16 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	17 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S) 7:00 pm Men's Group	18 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	19	20 9:00 am Women's Group (FR)
21 Pentecost 15	22 St. Matthew	23	24 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal (S)	25 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	26 7:00 pm Evensong (S) 8:00 pm Feast of St. Michael (MC)	27
28 St. Michael & All Angels 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)	29	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.