



The Mike

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

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 3 • May 2015

Making the Word Flesh

By the Reverend Dan Justin

Wendell Berry's novel, *A Place on Earth*, tells the story of Port Williams, Kentucky, and the people who live there. It is a slow moving yet lovely story about a fictional community. While the main character of the book is the town itself and all who live there, Berry focuses much of his story on the Feltners. Mat Feltner and his wife have a grown son named Virgil who is away fighting in World War II. Early in the book news arrives that their son Virgil is missing in action.

At one point in the story, the local preacher—a man named Brother Preston—makes a pastoral visit to the Feltners in an attempt to offer comfort in the face of their anxiety and likely loss. The visit does not go well. The conversation he hoped to have turned into a sermon, an unhelpful one at that. Brother Preston returns to his church and sits in the silence of that place. He feels safe there. Within the walls of the sanctuary he is not confronted with the pain of the real world. He does lament though. He laments that, "The Word, in his speaking it, fails to be made flesh."

This part of the book resonated with me. I have been exactly where Brother Preston finds himself. What can you say in the face of pain, grief, and senseless suffering? In those moments I have attempted to recount the hope of the resurrection, stories of hope of God's care for us, and any number of other things that I think I should say. But like Brother Preston, sometimes the Word refuses to become flesh. They are just words. Empty words. They mean something to me but all too often fail to comfort one in need. I can relate the desire to retreat back to the safety of the church. In the church I can stand behind a pulpit and offer sermons that are humorous and hopefully helpful. But sermons don't require that I stand face to face, one on one, with real pain.

And yet, standing face to face with people in pain is exactly what Jesus invites the church to do. It is exactly what Jesus did. Jesus is the only one who is truly the Word made flesh.

His life reveals that he is always willing to be with people in need. He never turned anyone away. He touched even those who were considered untouchable. And that is how we are to live our lives as well. We are to make



the Word become flesh. That may sound challenging, but it is actually easier done than said. Normally we say, "Easier said than done." But in this instance I really mean easier done than said. And that is because all that is required is that we show up.

When I was getting started in ministry one of my mentors taught me, "In the midst of crisis no one will remember what you say. They will only remember that you were there." I think that is where Brother Preston was wrong: his speech was never going to be what made the Word flesh. His presence did that. Andrew Root, a scholar whose books I love, teaches that the "Concrete presence of the risen Christ is found in the space between me and you." What he means is that our relationships are the most important thing. We meet God when we meet one another. And more importantly, we make the Word flesh, when we stand with another. It does not matter what we say. It matters that we are there.

This is a parish full of people who know how to make the Word flesh. I think of all the wonderful people who bring communion to those who are unable to be in church with us. I think of those who prepare meals for someone coming home from the hospital. I think of people who are willing to give others rides to and from the doctor's office. I think of those who visit prisoners at Twin Towers Correctional Facility through the ministry of Prism. Doing those kinds of things are what makes the Word become flesh here at St. Michael and All Angels.

I am reminded of the Gospel lesson for the

Sunday following Easter. It is always the story featuring Thomas and his refusal to believe. More often than not we focus on Thomas and his doubt. But there is something else that happens in that story. Jesus, when he appears to his disciples with the greeting of peace, breathes on them, giving them the Holy Spirit. This is the Gospel of John's version of Pentecost. Jesus gives them the Holy Spirit and the Church is born. Empowered by the Spirit of the risen Christ these disciples, now called apostles, are sent out into the world to continue Christ's mission. And we continue that mission today. It is the same mission. We are to make the Word flesh by loving and caring for all we meet. It is hard work, but it is also joyful work. More importantly, it is Spirit-empowered and Spirit-led work. We don't know what to say. All we can do is show up. Our presence and God's Holy Spirit make the Word flesh so those to whom we go will know of God's love for them.

Thank you for all the work you do in this parish as we seek to join the risen Christ in his mission to the world.

Blessings,
Dan+

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Christopher Montella Completes Master of Divinity Degree

By the Reverend Dan Justin

On Saturday, May 9, 2015, Christopher Montella, our former seminarian, will graduate with his Master of Divinity degree. The graduation ceremony will take place in the Kresge Chapel at the Claremont School of Theology. Christopher attended Bloy House, the Episcopal seminary operated by the Diocese of Los Angeles. His degree was completed through the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



So what's next for Christopher? All candidates for ordination must complete one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Serving as a chaplain in a hospital most often completes this requirement. Christopher will begin his CPE program this fall at the Good Samaritan Hospital where the Rev. Dr. Ronald David provides stellar training. As he did throughout seminary, Christopher will continue to work full-time at Nike while completing CPE. It is not an easy road to be a full-time student and a full-time employee. It is a testimony to Christopher's skill that he has successfully navigated this road so far.

The Lord willing and the people consenting, Christopher will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons in June of 2016. Six months later, in January of 2017, he should be ordained priest.

St. Michael's was incredibly blessed to have Christopher with us for his field education year. We rejoice with him as he completes his formal seminary education. We will continue to pray for him as he walks the last leg of his journey towards ordination.

I am sure you join with me in offering Christopher heartfelt congratulations on his achievement.

Annie Juzwiak DeRose, Graduating Senior

By Peter Juzwiak

In June this year, Annie Juzwiak DeRose will be graduating from high school at Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies, where she has been a student since 6th Grade. She has had a great time in high school, playing trumpet in the band, joining the Speech and Debate Club, contributing her artwork to the school's art shows, making good friends and learning from wonderful teachers. She got her start at Carpenter Avenue Elementary School here in Studio City, where she went K-5 and for which she also holds many happy memories.



Annie began attending St. Michael's with her parents, Peter Juzwiak and Don DeRose, when she was four years old. She attended Sunday School, participated in Youth Group, joined in numerous Pancake Suppers, Agape Suppers and picnics, played angels and shepherds in the Christmas pageant and made a host of friends at our church. These days she is well known by lots of St. Michael's parents (and their little ones), as one of her joys in life is taking care of infants and toddlers, and you'll find her doing that in our parish nursery just about every Sunday morning. St. Michael's has been an important and transformative part of her life, a real touchstone for which she is truly grateful.

After graduating in June, Annie will join her dads and little sister Lucy on a trip to Washington, DC, to visit the sites of our capital city and friends in nearby Virginia. For the future, she has decided to pursue a career in nursing, possibly with an emphasis on neonatal care or pediatrics (a perfect fit for the "baby whisperer"). She will start down that path in September when she begins classes at Los Angeles Valley College. She is very excited about her future, and her entire family is very proud of her accomplishments and eager to support her in this next chapter of her life. They would like to thank everyone at St. Michael's for their love and support of Annie and her whole family over these many years—it's been a great blessing!

May Birthdays

Day	Name
3	Lise Friedman
7	Bodhi Dominguez-Reis
11	Tom Hoffman
18	Maddie Charlton
13	Henry Venable
15	Amanda Schwartz
18	Lois Vaughan
19	Hailey Rafter Brooks Taylor
21	Ted Eckberg
23	Anna Wilson
28	Barbara King
30	Aiden Fields
31	Bonnie Winings

May Anniversaries

Day	Name
7	Mark Shier & Duane Steadman
20	Jenni & Nick Hernandez
26	Norma & 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 2015—Revenue and Expense Summary

	March Actual	March Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 37,831	\$ 37,592	\$ 133,825	\$ 112,776
Total Expense	38,262	37,589	109,020	112,767
Net	\$ (431)	\$ 3	\$ 24,805	\$ 9



Can you sense it, the joyous celebration of the Easter season? You could see it at the beginning with the first Alleluia of the Great Easter Vigil, through the festive Eucharist of the day of resurrection and now in the anticipation of Pentecost.

On April 19th, the current Vestry and past Wardens met with Right Reverend Bishop Bruce as part of the annual diocesan visit. The visit was an opportunity to share what we at St Michael's have done and ask any questions concerning the diocese as a whole. It was so rewarding to share the strengths of our community, our 2015 goals including the search for a new Children's Pastor, strengthening participation in our church ministries, parish life, increasing stewardship and our commitment to each other as a faith community. We celebrated the spiritual leadership of Reverend Dan and



the addition of Reverend Stephanie's ministry. Bishop Bruce shared her observations and the sense of a joy and renewed spiritual growth and energy that was abound as she walked around our parish campus.

As we continue to celebrate the remaining days of this joyous Easter season and in anticipation of Pentecost, we encourage you to take time to reflect, connect with one another on both a personal level and through our many ministries and continue the renewal and joy of this season.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual St. Michael's picnic on May 17th.

Can you sense it?

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 California Men's Colony (CMC) in San Luis Obispo on Saturday, May 30th. Children with a parent or chaperone climb on the bus very early in the morning 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, May 3rd:

- 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.
- Items for the moms/aunts/chaperones like magazines, hand lotion etc.
- The 99¢ and The Dollar Stores and the like are great places to shop. No glue, stickers or glitter as they are not allowed in the prison!



- Help assemble activity and stay connected bags at the parish picnic on Sunday, May 17th after the 10:30am service.
- 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.

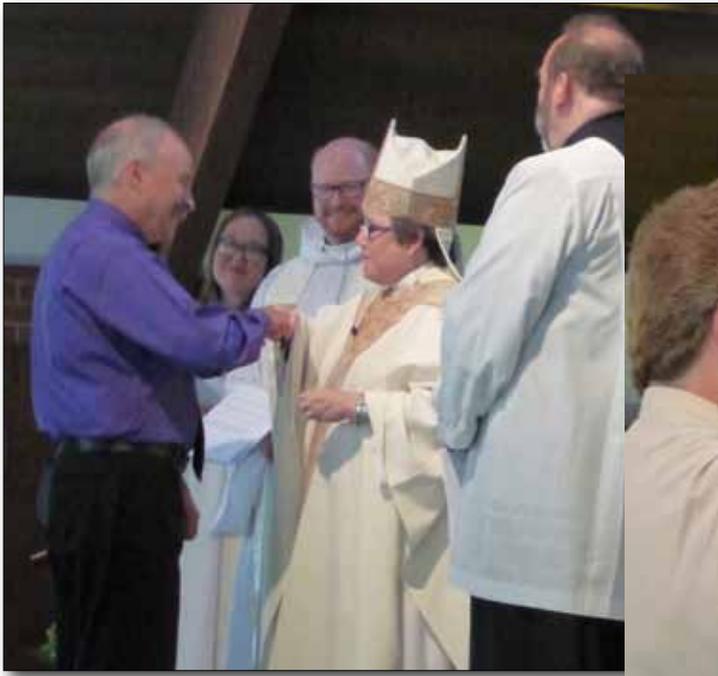
Most of the boys and girls have not seen their dad for years. Let's make this a wonderful day of reuniting families and strengthening the bond that will hold them close until they are back together again.

If you have any questions, call Nancy Woods at 818.769.2820 or email at nancyjwoods@roadrunner.com.

Bishop Bruce at St. Michael's

The Right Reverend Diane Bruce, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Los Angeles, was at St. Michael's on Sunday, April 19. Two were baptized, seven confirmed, three received into the Episcopal Church, and the altar in the meditation garden was consecrated. Here are photos of the day.





ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, May 17, 2015

12:00pm - 3:00pm

(*Sunday School in the Park starts @ 10:00am)

Beeman Park, Studio City, 91604

Delicious Lunch Courtesy of St. Michael's & Provided by Lupe's Taco Cart

*Chicken, Pork, and Steak Tacos; Quesadillas; Rice & Beans; Chips, Salsa, & Guacamole
Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, and Water*

You are invited to bring a salad (green, potato, or coleslaw), side dish, or dessert to share

Fun Activities for the Kids

Giant Moon Bounce w/Slide, Face Painting, Balloon Animals, and Games

Live Music provided by King Baby

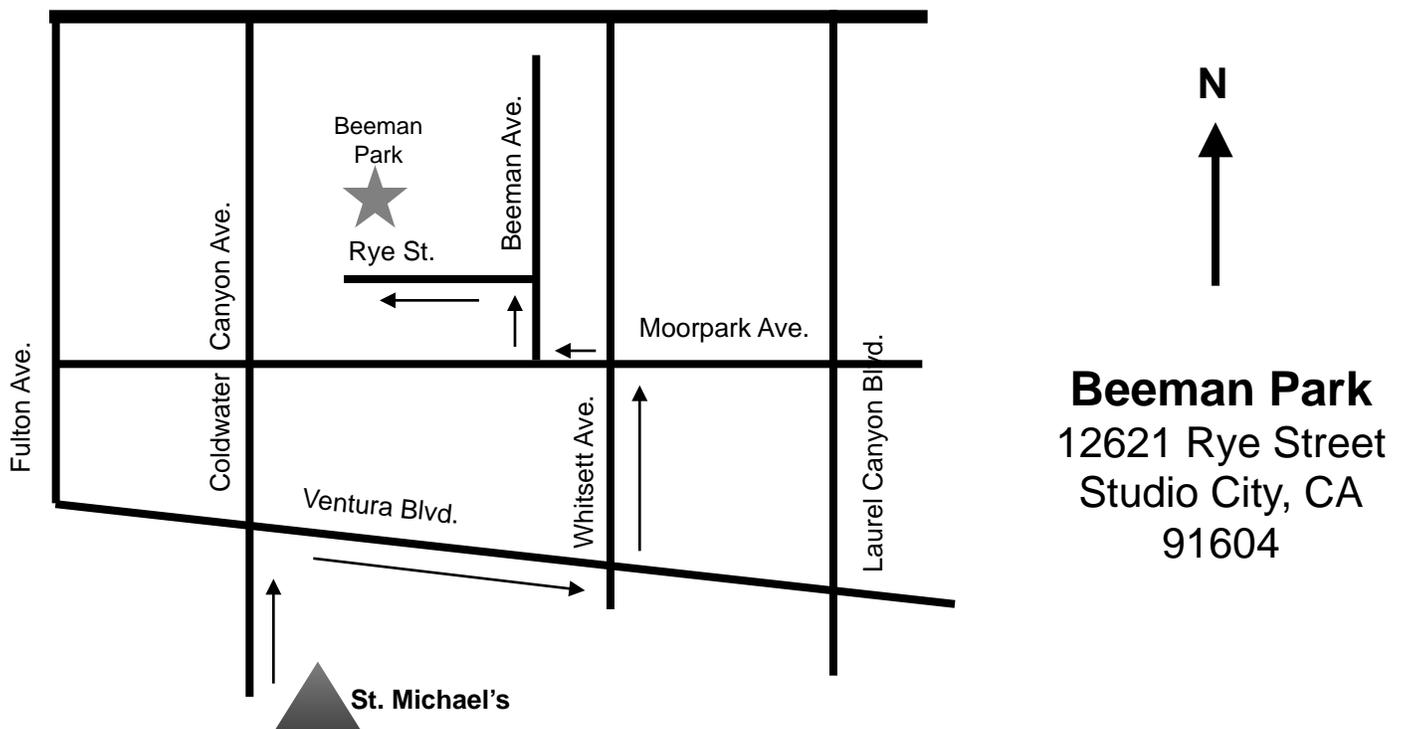
American folk music band, featuring our own Chris Flick on washtub bass

*Sunday School in the Park

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

Invite your Friends & Family

*It's a great chance to introduce your friends & family
to the St. Michael's Community, especially those with kids*





The Calendar

May 2015

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 St. Philip &
 St. James

2

3 Easter 5

8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
 12:00 noon St. Michael's Outreach
 (CO)
 12:00 noon Youth Group (L)

4

6:15 pm Book Discussion
 Group (Jacobson Home)

5

6

7

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
 (MR)

8

9

1:00 pm Concerned United
 Birthparents (FR)

10 Easter 6
 Mothers' Day

8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist

11

12

13

14 Ascension Day

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
 (MR)

15

16

17 Easter 7

8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
 10:00 am Sunday School in the
 Park (Beeman Park)
 12:00 noon Parish Picnic
 (Beeman Park)

18

19

7:00 pm Vestry (L)

20

21

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
 (MR)

22

23

24 Pentecost

8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

25 Memorial Day

26

27

28

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
 (MR)

29

30

31 Trinity Sunday

8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
 12:00 noon Pastoral Care
 Committee (FR)

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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.