



The Mike

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

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Planning to Give: Thoughts on Stewardship

By the Reverend Dan Justin

Every year members of the church are asked to prayerfully consider making a pledge (an estimate of giving for the coming year). As Christians, we offer ourselves to God as living sacrifices. We offer our time, talent, and treasure in gratitude to God. It is a way of acknowledging that all we have is a gift from God. It is also a way to express our trust in God. Giving is an act of worship. There is also a practical side of stewardship. The parish operates based on donations of money. Your pledge supports all the ministries of the parish and helps make the daily operation of the parish possible.

How much should you give? This is an important question that only you can answer. Most importantly, your answer should not be motivated by feelings of guilt, nor a sense of duty. It should be based on good theology. Perhaps it would be helpful to explore a few potential answers to this question:

How much should I give?

Tithing is the biblical standard for stewardship. This means giving 10% of your income to God. When Jacob encountered God and saw the vision of the ladder, received the promise that God would be with him, keep him, and bring him home, he made some promises back to God (Genesis 28). One of those promises was to give 10% of his income back to God in thanksgiving. The Old Testament is filled with examples of people committing to give 10%. It is also what God asks of people. The Episcopal Church hopes all its members will tithe. Many people in our parish tithe. Perhaps you would like to join us this year. By the way, there are many opinions on whether you tithe on your net or gross income. That can be up to you if you choose to tithe.

The Modern Tithe is a more recent idea that acknowledges the great joy of giving 10% while also recognizing that many people want to give to more than one place. Perhaps you want to practice the tithe but have other favorite charities you want to support. The Modern Tithe still dedicates 10% of your income

to be given back to God. 5% is given to the church, the other 5% is given to charities and/or organizations of your choice and which are important to you. You are still giving to God and practicing generosity, giving both to the church and to other places.



First Fruits Giving could be an option for those who are unsure what their annual income will be. Committing to First Fruits Giving simply means that when a paycheck or money is received, the very first thing you do is give a portion of it back

to God. You can decide on what that portion will be based on your own budget and needs. Perhaps it is a dollar amount. Alternatively, you could select a percentage. But before any other bills are paid, you give to God. These are your first fruits. Selecting an amount to write on your pledge card could be based on the previous year's total income. Remember, pledge cards are estimates of giving.

Proportional Giving recognizes that not everyone can give the same amount. For some people giving a small amount is a huge sacrifice. Who can forget the story of the widow in the temple who gave two pennies? Jesus tells his disciples that she had given far more than anyone else that day. Those who were wealthy gave in ways that made no real impact on their lives. Proportional giving understands that it is about equal sacrifice, not equal gifts.

Growing in Giving should be a goal we all have. Jesus teaches us to be generous people who share what we have. Stewardship is the ideal spiritual discipline. Stewardship is the tool by which God teaches us to be like Jesus, who gave everything because of his love. When I began giving to the church I was only able to afford to give a small amount. I practiced proportional giving. What I gave seemed like a big sacrifice to me. Each year I tried to increase what I was

giving. Today I am happy to say that I tithe to the church. I give 10% of my income back to St. Michaels as an act of worship and gratitude to God. Honestly, it took a long time to get to the point where I was able to tithe. But each year I was committed to growing in giving. Make a plan and commitment to grow in giving. I am certain you will be glad you did.

How we give could be more important than how much we give!

Giving to the church is indeed an act of worship. Stewardship is synonymous with discipleship. Our attitude toward giving is important.

We should always give **gratefully**. First and foremost, giving is an opportunity to express our gratitude and worship to God. We recognize that all we have comes from God. Giving is a way of saying thank you.

We give **freely**. As I mentioned above, we should not give out of a sense of duty and we certainly should never give out of a sense of guilt. We should not give because we would be embarrassed if our name was not listed in the bulletin. We give freely because we love God and we are offering thanks and praise to God. We give freely because we believe in the mission and ministry of the Church.

We give **cheerfully**. There is joy in giving and being generous. I can think of no one who came to the end of their life and regretted being generous. It is the other way around. People usually wish they had given more. Giving to God and helping others, supporting the life and ministry of the parish, is a great joy. We give to God cheerfully, not grumbling.

We give **obediently**. God commands us to give. We need to be givers more than God needs what we give. We learn to be followers of Jesus through giving. Jesus teaches that it is through giving we learn to seek first the kingdom of heaven. We learn that security does not come

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through material things but rather from God who provides for all our needs.

Finally, we give **intentionally**. Giving should never be an afterthought. That is why we ask people to prayerfully consider their annual pledge. Understand why you are giving what you plan to give. Be intentional. Perhaps you want to be intentional about growing in giving. Perhaps you want to be intentional about being more cheerful in giving. Think about these things; take time with your pledge card. Discuss it with your family and friends. Ask God to lead and guide you. This is what is meant by intentional giving.

Giving makes you a member!

The Episcopal Church defines membership in three ways: regular attendance in worship on Sunday morning, receiving communion at least three times a year, and making a financial contribution (a pledge) to support the ministries of the parish. These three things also make you a "qualified elector." That is just a fancy way of saying that you can vote to elect members of the vestry at the annual meeting. The Diocese of Los Angeles requires that each parish publish a list of qualified electors prior to the annual meeting.

In conclusion, I hope these thoughts on giving assist you as you consider your 2018 pledge. Please remember, we complete new pledge cards each and every year. Also remember, these are nothing more than estimates of giving. The church is not going to send you a bill. If things change over the course of the year, you can easily notify the parish office of a change in your pledge amount.

The goal of the vestry and our stewardship committee is always 100% participation. It is our hope that each and every family or individual who attends St. Michaels will complete a pledge. We could achieve so much if all participated.

Please complete and return your pledge cards by November 26, 2017. You may either mail them to the church office or place them in the offering on a Sunday. On November 26th we will have the ingathering of pledges service bringing the formal stewardship campaign to a close.

If you have questions about stewardship please feel free to contact me at any time.

Blessings,

Dan+

Middlers (6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Youth) to Utilize "FaithLens" in Meetings

I am excited to continue the Middler group Sunday School program. Our next meeting will be on October 1st, at 10:30am. We gather in the Blue Room. We will continue to meet every first and third Sunday morning each month. We will be using FaithLens, a series produced by the ELCA (Lutheran) for teens. This resource connects the scriptures to current events of the day. I believe our discussions will help strengthen faith as we consider what is happening in our daily lives at home, school, our communities, and in our larger nation and world.

It is my hope that the Middlers and I will grow together in our faith and worship as a community, all the while translating it into our daily faith walk as members of the Christian community and as followers of Christ. Please encourage your 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to join us every first and third Sunday morning in the Blue Room.

If you have any questions about FaithLens or the Middler class, feel free to find me at Coffee Hour. I am happy to have a conversation.

In Christ,

Brian

October Birthdays

Day	Name
3	Caitlyn Fields
4	Diane Collins
5	Bruce Rankin
8	Matthew Roberts
9	Justin Adams
15	Marjie Hathaway Mark Gaddis
20	Hadley Brown
26	Ging Molera
28	Victor Ramirez

October Anniversaries

Day	Name
2	Paul & Meredith Reese
3	Ging Molera & Amador Rondilla
10	David & Melissa Basta
18	Jaycen & Joyce Armstrong
24	André & Louisa Herrmann
27	John Schouweiler & Ann Hamilton

November Birthdays

Day	Name
4	Julian Pimentel
6	Olivia Monge
7	Ana Lefler
8	Charlie Kammer
9	Linnaea Sage
11	Andreas Barberia
12	Sharon Renton
14	Eliza Dilberti
20	Stephen Billington Andrea Fuller
23	Nikolay Best
28	Nancy Woods
29	Pablo Mooradian
30	Jackie Eckberg

November Anniversaries

Day	Name
8	DJ & Andrea Fuller
12	Susan Guire & Cece Tsou John & Laurie Vincent
13	Brooks & Kathleen Taylor
24	William Hendley & Jon Albert
28	Polly Davis & Peter Epstein

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. Birthdays and Anniversaries will be celebrated on the last Sunday of each month.

Treasurer's Corner

August 2017—Revenue and Expense Summary

	August Actual	August Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Revenue	\$ 36,878	\$ 33,293	\$270,068	\$266,347
Total Expense	40,366	39,379	314,137	315,029
Net	(\$ 3,488)	(\$ 6,086)	(\$ 44,068)	(\$ 48,682)



Greetings and Happy Autumn!

One of the things of which I'm most proud of our parish is our pioneer spirit:

pioneer (noun)

1. a person who is among those who first enter or settle a region, thus opening it for occupation and development by others.
2. one who is first or among the earliest in any field of inquiry, enterprise, or progress
3. one of a group of foot soldiers detailed to make roads, dig entrenchments, etc., in advance of the main body.



Our parish exists due to a group of pioneers, who approached the Diocese to start a new congregation. They worshipped in the horse stable that existed on this site until they were able to build what is now the beautiful and iconic mid-century edifice we call our spiritual home.

We were one of the founding congregations of the Interfaith Food Pantry. We have created Outreach programs from which numerous people have benefitted. We volunteer countless hours at the church as ushers, choristers, acolytes, LEMs, lectors, Altar Guild members, Sunday School teachers. While we spent five years without a permanent rector, we not only kept the ship afloat but we maintained our commitments to

our community. We are a self-sufficient people - leaders and pioneers - who serve and go forth to do God's work for the betterment of our community and ourselves.

When Fr. Dan came to us almost six years ago, it was our pioneer spirit, our willingness to be servant leaders, that made him know that he had found a parish home. Under his vision and our leadership, we have developed our campus and have grown our staff: we created a Ministry Center, have a Priest Associate, a Children's Pastor, and a Deacon, and most recently, started a Middler Sunday School class. We have maintained an excellent choral program, with a top-rate Choir Director and Organist. Fr. Dan's vision coupled with our willingness to lead has brought us to the amazing place in which we are today. We are blessed to have Fr. Dan, and he is blessed to have us.

Being a leader or pioneer also comes with its challenges. As a congregation, we have faced and overcome them before, and I have faith that we will again. Our biggest challenge for the upcoming year is in finding the means to continue the work we are called to do, to remain steadfast as leaders and pioneers. Therefore, as we enter into Stewardship season, I call upon your pioneer spirit to maintain and increase your support of Fr. Dan's vision which allows us to be a beacon of light and hope for the community and ourselves.

Alex Morales

Upcoming Mid-Week Classes

St. Michael's Mid-Week continues with two exciting and hopefully interesting classes. We will gather in the Ministry Center at 6:30pm. A simple dinner will be provided (suggested donation—\$5 per person; \$20 maximum per family). Class will begin at 7:00pm and will be followed by discussion time. Mid-Week will end by 8:30pm. Please RSVP for any Mid-Week you plan to attend so we can be certain to have enough food. RSVP by e-mailing Mark Gaddis at administrator@stmikessc.org. Please be sure to let Mark know how many people plan to attend with you. Here is our Fall 2017 line-up:

Luther and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Wednesday, October 11, 2017

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church unofficially launching what came to be known as the Protestant Reformation. This October 31st therefore marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Who was Martin Luther? What was he so upset about? What happened in the years following his famous actions? And, how did this Reformation spread across the European Continent? Join Fr. Dan as this class explores the who, what, why, and how of the Protestant Reformation.

I Gave Up When I Got to Numbers Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Have you ever decided you were going to finally read the Bible from cover to cover? Many people set out to accomplish this admirable and beneficial task. However, by the time they get to the third book of the Bible, the towel has been thrown in. Join Fr. Dan to explore strategies and approaches to reading the Bible for your own personal and spiritual benefit.

New Comer/ New Member Breakfast

Are you new to St. Michael and All Angels? Have you recently begun exploring the parish? Would you like to learn more about our history, how to be involved, and what it means to be a member? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are invited to join Fr. Dan Justin, Tina Wilson, and Alex Morales on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at 9:00am for our New Comer/New Member Breakfast. This event is an informal and casual opportunity to have questions answered and meet other new members of the parish. A light, continental breakfast will be served. We will gather in the Fireside Room, located on the north end of the Ministry Center. If you plan to attend the breakfast, please e-mail Mark Gaddis, our Parish Administrator, at administrator@stmikessc.org to RSVP.

A Legacy Gift

On Saturday, September 9, 2017 the parish family, friends, and family gathered to entrust our beloved sister in Christ, Anna Wilson, back to God. We listened to stories about her amazing life. We remembered the many happy times we had with Anna. Most importantly, we proclaimed our hope in the face of death found in the resurrection of Jesus and the eternal life he promises.

Anna was a faithful attender of our 8:00am



service. She grew up attending the Church of England and began attending the Episcopal Church after immigrating to the United States. She primarily attended St. Michael and All Angels. However, she also frequently attended

St. Andrew and St. Charles in Granada Hills with her sister, who preceded her in death. Both parishes had a special place in Anna's heart.

Two days after her funeral, Anna's nephew (her last living relative) came to the church office. He was there to share with us Anna's final expression of her faith. She had remembered the two parishes she attended, both St. Michael and All Angels and St. Andrew and St. Charles, in her will. It is with permission from her family that I am able to share this news with you. Anna left both parishes an unrestricted bequest of \$10,000 each.

The Book of Common Prayer states, "The minister of the congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses." (BCP, pg. 445)

Anna took this duty seriously. She made the necessary provisions. She remembered the church and the work of mission and ministry in her will. We would so much rather have Anna with us. However, her final expression of faith comes at a timely moment. The Vestry has received this gift with tremendous gratitude. It will be used to carry on the work God has invited us to do here at St. Michael and All Angels.

I share the news of this legacy gift with you so we can all be grateful. I also share it with

you in hopes that we can all follow Anna's example. Have you remembered St. Michael and All Angels, along with other charitable organizations, in your will? Have you completed a will? I hope you will choose to join Anna Wilson, and others, in leaving a legacy that will continue Christ's work in the world. Let us form a "Legacy Society" of those who have prepared a way to leave a legacy beyond ourselves, doing our small part in helping St. Michael and All Angels continue long into the future.

Blessings,

Dan+

Children's Ministry

Blessing of the Costumes

By Amber Russo

BOO!! It's that time of year again! Halloween is fast approaching and so is the Blessing of the Costumes. All children of the parish are invited to wear their SPOOKTACULAR costumes on October 29th.. They will be invited to come forward during the announcements. They will show off their costumes and receive a special blessing.



Wishing you a safe and Happy Halloween!

Upcoming events:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| October 29th | Costume Blessings |
| November 5th | All Saints Day - Children sing in church. |



Crop Hunger Walk

(5k and Tot Walk)

Sunday, November 5th

It's time to register for the Crop Hunger Walk on Sunday, November 5, 2017. You can either do it any Sunday at church or on the day of the walk at 12:30pm at Northridge United Methodist Church, 9650 Reseda Blvd., Northridge CA 91234. The walk begins at 1:30pm. This fun event is for the whole family. You can walk the walk, volunteer that day and cheer on Team St. Michaels. Don't forget to wear your purple St. Michaels Crop Walk T-shirt.

Our local Crop Hunger Walk is a community fundraising event sponsored by faith communities in the San Fernando Valley. 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. St. Michaels makes a donation to Crop Walk from the Outreach budget funded through our pledges; moreover, you can also make an individual donation and raise money from your friends, relatives, and co-workers toward this worthy cause.

If you have any questions, contact Nancy Woods at nancyjwoods@roadrunner.com, call 818-769-2820 or ask any member of the Outreach Committee.



A Note of Thanks from Duane Steadman

Dear Friends,

What a day! Sunday, September 17, was simply overwhelming. I am so grateful to all of you for your love, your kindness, and your generosity. In particular, I can't begin to tell you how honored I am by



your commissioning of St. Michael's Mass. I'm thrilled with the music and I hope you are as well.

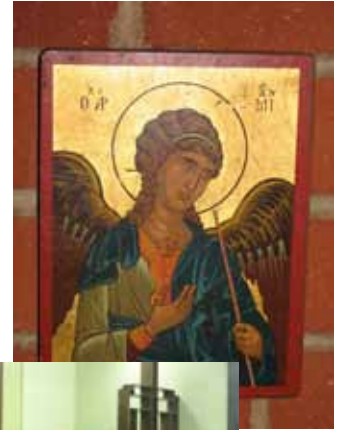
Special thanks must go to Fr. Dan Justin. He is a priest, pastor, and teacher who takes his calling very seriously. We are very fortunate to have him as our rector. Working with him has been and continues to be a great joy and I treasure his friendship.

It has been a privilege to serve as your parish administrator for the past 12 years. I look forward to many more years of worshipping with you as your organist.

Duane Steadman Retirement



Ian Markham Event and Feast Day



The Bishop's Visit and Confirmations





The Calendar

October 2017

Sunday Schedule • *Sunday Services are 8:00 am (no choir) and 10:30 am (with choir) in the Sanctuary.*
 • *Rector's Bible Study begins at 9:15 in the Ministry Center*
 • *Sunday School begins at 10:30 am.*
 • *Coffee Hour immediately follows the 10:30 am service.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Pentecost 17 (Proper 21 A) 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:15 am Rector's Bible Study (MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC) 12:00 pm Youth Group (L)	2	3	4	5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	6	7 1
8 Pentecost 18 (Proper 22 A) 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:15 am Rector's Bible Study (MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Baptism (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC) 11:30 am Sunday Sack Lunches (MC)	9 6:30 pm Book Discussion Group	10	11 6:30 pm Mid-Week (MC)	12 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	13	14 9:00 am Newcomer Breakfast (FR) 1:00 pm Concerned United Birthparents (FR)
15 Pentecost 19 (Proper 23 A) 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:15 am Rector's Bible Study (MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)	16	17 7:00 pm Vestry (L)	18 St. Luke the Evangelist	19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	20	21
22 Pentecost 20 (Proper 24 A) 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:15 am Rector's Bible Study (MC) 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC) 11:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (MC)	23 St. James of Jerusalem	24	25	26 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (MR)	27	28 SS. Simon and Jude
29 Pentecost 21 (Proper 25 A) 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (S) 9:15 am Rector's Bible Study (MC) 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (S) 11:30 am Coffee Hour (MC)	30	31 Halloween				

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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THE MIKE STAFF

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Vision Statement

To be a welcoming, inclusive Christian community growing in faith through worship, prayer, study, and social action.

Our Mission Priority

Our mission priority is to focus on the United Nations' First Millennium Goal: To eradicate extreme hunger and poverty.