

RECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

On Saturday, June 9, at 9am, we will take the next step in our search as the Revd Bob Honeychurch will guide us through Parish History Day (lunch will be served) following the exercise.). Bob has been appointed by the Diocese of Los Angeles to help us develop our “Story,” a description of the parish that will help inform a potential new rector about the history and “personality” of St. Mikes.

The formal search for a new rector for our parish began on March 11 as the Revd Canon Joanna Sartorius, the transitions officer of the Diocese of Los Angeles, visited St. Mike’s to describe the search process to the congregation and she was very specific about the steps we need to follow. You can watch a video of her remarks here: <https://vimeo.com/259828880>. (Don’t have the Vimeo app? Get it from the App Store: http://bit.ly/vimeo_ios.)

As we go through the search process, we will publicize our progress and answer questions in a variety of communications including this column in For the Love of Mike, weekly notes in the St. Mike’s Messenger and a series of Sunday Forums with the interim rector. He will brief parishioners, answer their questions, and get their input.

OUR HISTORY WILL INFORM OUR FUTURE

To give us a historical head start on developing our story, we can review the text of our recently published parish history: “Saint Michael & All Angels Corona del Mar,” A Celebration of 50 Years” first made available in 2015. We will offer our decade history chapters in the upcoming issues of For the Love of Mike. (If you’d like to have a full color printed copy of this paperbound book with photographs and tables you can order it from Lulu Press using this link <http://bit.ly/parishhistory>. The cost is \$15.00, and three dollars of that goes to support the parish. Short excerpts of the history are on our website www.stmikescdm.org in the “Parish History” section.)

The introduction, timeline (recently updated to 2017) and the chapter on the eighties are in this installment.

Saint Michael & All Angels Corona del Mar

A Celebration of 50 Years

A Project of the Saint Michael & All Angels History Group

(Keith Nelson, editor, Norris Battin, Ruth Poole, Corinne Stover, and Louise Stover)

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Introduction

This small volume is an attempt on the part of five Saint Michael & All Angels parishioners to capture and describe some of the dedication, spirit and accomplishment that have built and sustained our church during the first 50 years of its existence. We have interviewed many people and surveyed many documents, but we make no claim to having explored every aspect of our subject matter. It is our primary intent to honor and appreciate all of those who participated—men and women, old and young,

clerical and lay, named and unnamed—in the worship, mission, study, administration, fellowship, sorrow, and joy of our congregation's life.

We have chosen to recount the story decade by decade since the 1960s, each period described by an individual and identifiable author, with added chapters on the role of music and art at Saint Michael & All Angels and our close connection with the Episcopal campus ministry at the neighboring University of California at Irvine. This means as you might expect that our chapters and discussions vary in style, expression, and content and even somewhat in length. On the other hand, to help to make our coverage as unified as possible, we begin with a timeline that identifies, over more than 50 years, the dates of significant parish changes and events. To help to make our coverage as thorough as possible, we end with a list by year of all the individuals who have held a Vestry position at Saint Michael & All Angels since its founding. We supplement our writing with an array of historical photographs that catch many of our fellow parishioners in notable church activities and happy moments.

It seems only proper that we choose to dedicate our volume to the vicar and two rectors who led us during these five challenging decades—to Ed Allen, John Davis, and Peter Haynes. It is also dedicated to the memory of the inspiring man we called our "parish historian," the late Samuel McCulloch. Sam, as a professor and former dean of humanities at UCI, wrote the history of the first 40 years of that campus. It is fitting that that book is matched with a comparable volume on the local Episcopal Church that he joined, supported and loved deeply.

Timeline

Timeline of Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Parish Church, Corona del Mar, CA

1960 The Rev'd Edward Powell Allen appointed vicar; first worship service held at Community Congregational Church in Corona del Mar; Mission Council organized

1961 Services moved to the chapel of St. James' Parish Day School at fifth and Marguerite, Corona del Mar; Sunday school held in their classrooms

1964 Women's group organizes for worship, mission, fellowship and Christian education studies; St. James Parish Day School becomes non-denominational Harbor Day School; first parish newsletter Judgment Day published

1966 Fr. Allen leaves to begin chaplaincy at new University of California, Irvine; The Rev'd Canon Douglas Stuart becomes locum tenens

1967 Construction of the sanctuary begins at Pacific View Drive and Marguerite; The Rev'd John Rogers Davis called as vicar; first For the Love of Mike newsletter published

1968 New sanctuary completed; Saint Michael & All Angels incorporated as a parish; Fr. Davis elected rector; Parish Vestry functions under by-laws with the rector, wardens, clerk, commission chairs

1972 Parish dedicated by the Rt. Rev'd Robert Rusack, suffragan bishop of Los Angeles.

1974 Abbot and Sieker pipe organ installed

1975 Deanery Ten's refugee relocation program begins; Saint Michael & All Angels sponsors Vietnamese families

1976 New parish center constructed with meeting and classroom space; Deanery Ten churches form Episcopal Service Alliance in Orange County; General Convention of The Episcopal Church approves the ordination of women and the new Book of Common Prayer.

1979 New version of the Book of Common Prayer formally adopted; Friends of Music organized at Saint Michael & All Angels

1980 Ordination of women priests approved by diocesan convention

1982 Rose garden planted in front of the church; new hymnal adopted

1985 Good Shepherd memorial garden completed; parishioners volunteer at the 68th triennial convention in Anaheim

1986 Fr. Davis retires and moves to Santa Fe, New Mexico; the Rev'd Gene Lindusky becomes locum tenens

1987 Vestry calls the Rev'd Peter Haynes as rector from his campus ministry at UC Berkeley; he arrives on the first Sunday of Advent

1988 At rector's urging, Vestry commits to a goal of becoming a "60/40 church" with mission spending greater than operating expenses

1990 Parish review committee analyzes parish's strengths and weaknesses

1993 Parish Emergency Fund established

1995 Parish initiates annual Metric Ton of Food for Children of the Americas

1997 Vestry creates an endowment with a major gift from a parishioner

1999 First parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land; Building Our Faith capital campaign launched

2000-2001 Parish center remodeled and enlarged

2001 Praying Our Goodbyes service for those experiencing loss inaugurated; Bishop Fred Borsch appoints Peter Haynes Honorary Canon of the cathedral center

2002 Jon Bruno elected bishop of Los Angeles

2006 Katharine Jefferts Schori elected presiding bishop

2007 Parish joins Anglican Communion Compass Rose Society

2009 Parishioners join volunteers at the 76th triennial convention in Anaheim; Diane Jardine Bruce and Mary Douglas Glasspool elected bishops suffragan of Los Angeles

2011 Second parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land

2012 Parish labyrinth dedicated

2013 Sanctuary of the church substantially refurbished with new floor tile and rugs

2014 Drought-tolerant and native friendly landscaping installed. Includes an orchard/edible garden

2106 Stations of the cross plaques from Jerusalem installed in the sanctuary

2017 Fr. Haynes retires; the Revd Michael Seiler named interim rector

[Read the chapters on the Sixties and Seventies in the in the April and May issues of For the Love of Mike]

The Eighties

The 1980s are inescapably identified with the presidency of Ronald Reagan, veteran movie actor and two-time governor of California. Pledging a new conservatism at his inauguration in 1981, Reagan launched an explicit effort to reduce the size of government while at the same time demanding and obtaining a substantial increase in the military budget. The role of women in government grew visibly. One milestone was Reagan's appointment in 1981 of Sandra Day O'Connor as the first woman justice on the United States Supreme Court; another was the nomination by the Democratic Party of Geraldine Ferraro as the 1984 vice presidential candidate.

That same year, Los Angeles hosted the summer Olympic Games, the first largely financed with private capital. In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union, committed to reforms in both domestic and foreign policy. A fitting climax to the changes he introduced came with the destruction of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 and the surprising end of the Cold War.

Orange County's population reached 2 million in 1980 as the area became less dependent on Los Angeles and increasingly a player in the international economy. Twenty-five percent of the region's firms engaged in overseas commerce and, in part because of this, the county became more socially diverse and cosmopolitan. Though clustered in certain areas, Asian American and Mexican American populations grew rapidly. In 1986, the privately financed Orange County Performing Arts Center opened. In 1990, the publicly supported Irvine Barclay Theater opened at UCI.

The 1980s brought significant changes in the leadership of our parish. The beginning of the decade saw women appointed as senior wardens of the Vestry, first Gwen Felton, then Nancy Sattler. In 1985, the Rev'd John Davis, who had served Saint Michael & All Angels as rector for nearly 18 years, informed the Vestry that he would be retiring and leaving the area as of July 31, 1986. The Rev'd Gene Lindusky was our interim priest from then until the fall of 1987, when, after a lengthy search by a committee headed by Corinne Stover and Myrna Ireland (other members included Bob Cole, Bob Wolfe, Harry Selling, Laurie Pemberton and Elizabeth Tierney), the Vestry called the Rev'd Peter Haynes, Episcopal campus minister at UC Berkeley, to succeed Davis.

Fr. Davis offered a proud but mixed valedictory in the parish's 1985 annual report: "In a community which offers an abundance, Saint Michael & All Angels has come to stand for solid

Anglican values: beauty and order in liturgy, a spirit of inquiry and openness to the understanding of truth and the implications of Christian belief, the development of domestic and personal spirituality, and dedication to service in the local community and the world. Our only failure, it seems to me, lies in our indifference to letting other people know our way of becoming and going about being Christians. We have much to offer and share [but] we somehow don't."

In any case, Saint Michael & All Angels achievements during these years should not be minimized. During the last years of Davis' tenure, the parish was fortunate to be served by several talented and dedicated clerical assistants to the rector: the Rev'd Philip Rountree (1979--1983), and the Rev'd Gene Wallace (1984--1986). In 1982 Burton Karson was hired as organist-choirmaster and initiated exciting changes in our music. In 1983, the Vestry Handbook was expanded and updated for the first time since 1969. (It would be improved in succeeding years.) Shortly thereafter a grove of oak trees was planted in honor of Gladys Whitman. A chapter of Daughters of the King was organized with Lynne Moody as president. A library committee was formed with Blanche Bonnell as the librarian. In 1984, the Friends of Music raised funds to upgrade the parish's pipe organ.

Special activities and festive occasions were plentiful. In the early eighties, an Education for Ministry (EFM) course, a four-year program, was organized by Fr. Davis and parishioner Carolyn Prough in collaboration with UCI chaplain the Rev'd Larry Rouillard. In 1984, Canon Bryan Green of England spent five days at Saint Michael & All Angels leading a workshop titled How to Share Your Faith with Others. Two years later he returned to give a series of illustrated lectures on Chartres Cathedral. In 1985, a workshop was offered by biblical scholar Alma Wiseman, from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, on a Dialogue with the Bible.

Our new rector, the Rev'd Peter Haynes, arrived at Saint Michael & All Angels in time for Christmas celebrations in 1987, and, ably assisted by senior wardens Victor Rumbellow (in 1988) and Fred Linton (in 1989), quickly infused a high degree of energy and direction in the parish.

Within months, the rector spoke openly of wanting a "60/40 balance" in the parish expenditures' budget—targeting 60 percent to support mission activities outside Saint Michael & All Angels— and he found himself "overjoyed" when this goal was adopted by the Vestry in 1988 and then by the annual meeting. The mission effort expanded on several fronts. We held highly successful Angels Faires in 1988 and 1989 to help fund the Episcopal Service Alliance in Santa Ana. The Vestry voted to send substantial assistance to the Interfaith Shelter in Laguna Beach, providing aid to the homeless. We raised more than \$2 thousand for earthquake relief in Armenia.

Meanwhile, at the end of 1988 a planning committee headed by Norm Ewers began to examine the need for physical improvements and expansion of parish facilities. The Vestry also ordered an intensive study of Saint Michael & All Angels strengths and weaknesses by a parish review committee headed by Fred Linton. It did not wait, however, to fund an assistant to the rector.

The Rose Garden

In the early 1980s Myrna Ireland, as building and grounds commissioner, proposed replacing the junipers at the entrance to the church with roses, and with the Vestry's approval, she invited parishioners to donate bushes. Herb Hoffman remembers that he stood up in church one Sunday soliciting money for the roses. He even recalls the rose that he and his wife Rita contributed—a German hybrid called "Fragrant Cloud" (in German, "Duftwolke"). also remember the miserable adobe soil," Herb says. "I did not think anything would grow unless we provided ... drainage. I thought there would be better soil below the layers of clay and stinky oil shale and started digging, with a shovel until the hole was so big that I could stand in it. At that point, I hit gravel. I remember my triumph. I poured a bucket of water in and, schlupp, it went down. With the help of Al Stover, as I recall, we filled the hole and three others like it, two on each side, with gravel and topped everything with mulch."

In succeeding decades, parishioners have stepped forward to renew and replenish this beautiful parish landmark. In 1995, Mary and Ann Logie removed most of the original bushes, replanting and supplementing the garden extensively with assistance from more than 30 donors. Twenty- one floribunda roses were cultivated on the right side as you enter the church and 32 hybrid tea roses on the left. Ten years later Don Nelson became the garden's champion, investing countless hours in maintenance and restoration. With advice from Rogers Gardens, he established a continuing regime of pruning, feeding and spraying. Michael Strong continues this work today.

The Garden of the Good Shepherd

Fr. Davis first used the space where the memorial garden is now located as a hobby garden. He started a memorial garden fund on January 31, 1982 with a gift of \$793 from the estate of his mother, Elizabeth Jackson Davis. Other donations were received in 1983, 1984 and 1985, bringing the total at the time to \$7,308.

The Vestry minutes of April 8, 1985, report that approximately \$30 thousand in uncommitted funds (actually \$25, 641) was received from the estate of Ruth Pattison, a former parish secretary. Fr. Davis received approval to construct a memorial garden using this money, and the funds set aside earlier for the project.

The Garden of the Good Shepherd was dedicated on Saint Michael's Day, October 6, 1985 to Ruth Lyon Pattison, Elizabeth Jackson Davis and Jane Christian Allan. (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allan Jr. had donated \$5000 for landscaping for the original church building in 1969, and Fr. Davis felt that this had not been properly recognized at the time.)

The service leaflet from recent Praying Our Goodbyes programs describes the garden:

"It is intended as a restful and visually beautiful place for the interment of ashes and for prayer and meditation. It is open always to members of the parish, their relatives and friends. Interment in church grounds is a venerable Anglican tradition. Because of legal restrictions, only cremations can be accepted.

"Ashes interred in the Garden of the Good Shepherd can return to the elements. Each interment is memorialized by a 6"x 6" individually designed, glazed terra cotta plaque. These plaques are, for aesthetic reasons, grouped together and do not serve as location markers.

(Hugh Gourdin managed the creation and installation of plaques with grace and sensitivity for several years, and Jim Dunlap does so now.)

"The present donation for interment, plaque and garden maintenance is \$500. [It was \$350 in 1986.] Additional contributions to endow continuing care are also gratefully accepted and can be given as memorials."

Gerry and Don Miller donated the Good Shepherd plaque. The fountain was the gift of the Perkins family in honor of Philip Alexander Perkins.

A bench was given in 1986 in honor of Norma Hultgren; Kay and Bob Segal gave a second bench for Eugene Phillips; Ken Ezell gave a third bench in honor of his mother Audrey Ezell. The garden was refurbished in 2005 with contributions from Myrna and John Ireland, Verda and Dick Schroeder and others.

There have been 74 interments of ashes (with wall memorials) in the garden between 1986 and May 2014. Twenty-three additional memorials commemorate those whose remains are elsewhere.

Ruth Poole

The fourth installment of the SMAA history will appear in the Summer 2018 issue of For the Love of Mike