

the messenger

A PERIODICAL PUBLICATION OF THE CAMPUS MINISTRY AT ST. MICHAEL'S UNIVERSITY CHURCH SUMMER 2011



CHAPLAIN'S REFLECTION

The past year at the Episcopal Campus Ministry has been a rich and meaningful one. Through spiritually holistic programming and intimate gatherings, St. Michael's University Church continues its legacy of touching and transforming lives in the Isla Vista and surrounding community.

Whether connecting with GLBTQ students at our weekly on-campus Queer Bible Study, supporting UCSB workers in their labor struggles, welcoming students to practice yoga in our chapel, providing a space for people in Isla Vista to grow their own food, participating in a dialog with the Muslim Student Association, completing a Safe Zone GLBTQ ally training as a congregation or breaking bread in community every Sunday morning, St. Michael's provides a safe space for people of all walks of life and backgrounds to grow together and experience God.

We hope that this edition of *The Messenger* gives a taste of the beautiful moments we've celebrated together this year as a campus ministry. Thanks to the on-going support we receive from people like YOU, the light of love continues to shine brightly in Isla Vista!

Summer blessings,
Nicole Janelle+, Episcopal Chaplain at UCSB

At right: Liz Powers turns in her voting sheet at Convention • Delegate and UCSB computer science student Hannah Anderson at the Diocesan Convention in Riverside.



REFLECTIONS ON DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Intinction

This was my first Diocesan Convention, and I came away with the realization of how little I know about the cogs and gears of the Episcopal Church. There was talk of clergy compensation, and voting that I didn't catch onto until the second round. We went out for Mexican food with a bunch of relatively radical attendees, and I learned about church politics, a subject I have never thought to explore before now. When we came back to the Convention on Saturday for the worship service, and even in this ceremony I had been attending since before I could speak there was something for me to learn. After proceeding to one of the fourteen communion stations around the hall, I took my tiny wafer and stood before the chalice bearer, uncertain how to proceed. I had not been feeling one hundred percent, what with finals bearing down on me, and I didn't want whatever I had contracted in the petri dish of UCSB to travel around this vast community of Episcopalians. Some gift that would be. So there I was, still gripping my wafer, and before I had a chance to dip it in the chalice, the woman asked me, "Did you want to do it by intinction?"

community of Episcopalians. Some gift that would be. So there I was, still gripping my wafer, and before I had a chance to dip it in the chalice, the woman asked me, "Did you want to do it by intinction?"

"Er, yes," I stammered, not one hundred percent sure what that meant, but fairly certain. Luckily, I kept my mouth open. She plucked the wafer from my fingers and dipped it in the wine, then placed it in my mouth. I chewed and swallowed obediently, not even managing to squeeze in an "Amen" before I stumbled back to my seat at table 88. I sat down, still rather shaken at having my free will plucked so fluidly from me. That was rather how I felt most of the weekend, to be honest; like nothing I was doing was entirely my choice, in part because I had next to no idea what I was doing and was counting on others to lead the way. Maybe that's where God comes in, guiding my steps in the moments when I can't find the path myself.

Liz Powers is a sophomore in the College of Creative Studies studying literature.



HIGHLIGHTS

September || Students, faculty & staff gather for our Welcome BBQ during new student week.

October || The Campus Ministry welcomes Bishop Mary Glasspool to Isla Vista. Bishop Glasspool lectures on campus in three different classrooms and concludes her day with an evening forum and community dinner at St. Michael's.

November || Progressive Christians at UCSB sponsors a three-part dinner and conversation series on body and prayer, exploring the role of massage and healing touch in a life of prayer.

December || Our annual service of Advent Lessons & Carols draws parishioners from churches in the northern part of Deanery. Temmo Korisheli, UCSB staff member, once St. Michael-ite and now associate music director at All Saints' in Montecito, directs the joint-church choir.

January || The campus ministry adds a second weekly community yoga class. The class is taught by local Unitarian minister and certified yoga instructor Erika Hewitt. Students now practice yoga in our chapel on Monday and Thursday evenings.

February || The campus ministry participates in an Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service on campus along with Catholic, Presbyterian and Lutheran groups.

March || The campus ministry co-sponsors a Young Adult Pilgrimage on "Food, Faith and Farming: Crossing Invisible Borders in our Communities" in collaboration with the Abundant Table Farm Project in Oxnard and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

April || Sunday morning parishioners stay after service to participate in a Safe Zone Ally Training sponsored by the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity. The training is a part of St. Mike's commitment to be an "open and affirming" congregation in Isla Vista. This summer we plan to plant several rainbow flags around the campus ministry property as a gesture of welcome and solidarity.

May || Welcome to the neighborhood: St. Michael's celebrates the sale of the University Religious Center to the Santa Barbara House Co-op. SBHC will develop the property into an interfaith themed co-op residence for students. The students selected to live in the old URC building have elected to name their new home Thomas Merton House. Proceeds from the URC sale have been distributed among URC member religious groups and other nonprofits in Isla Vista. In addition, the URC sale funds will endow scholarships for UCSB students studying religion. We look forward to welcoming and working with members of Merton House this fall!

June || BFOM (aka Brothers From Otha Mothas), UCSB's intercultural male cappella group, debuts at *openMikes*.

UCSB's newest labyrinth on the campus bluffs. Aerial kite photo taken by St. Mike's graduate student in geography Kitty Currier and her colleague.



openMikes performer Unwoman – Erika Mulkey, aka Unwoman, is the San Francisco cellist-singer-composer-producer and the cousin of campus ministry student Liz Powers. Unwoman headlined *openMikes* this winter.

openMIKE'S

Since April of 2010, St. Michael's University Church has hosted an open mic series on the first Friday of every month. Styled much like the coffeehouse open mics throughout New York and New England, performing artists from a variety of media sign up to perform their craft, be it songwriting or musicianship, poetry or spoken word, drama or dance. Each act has about five minutes on stage, with an appreciative audience and a professional sound system, to try their hand at what it is they do. After approximately one hour of open mic, followed by a short intermission – with refreshments – we bring out a featured performer, who plays a 30-minute set to end the evening.

Kate Wallace and I founded and continue to run the Trinity Backstage Concert Series at Santa Barbara's Trinity Episcopal Church,

now in its eighth season. We have striven to fill the need to bring together audiences and touring songwriters in this town, and both artists and concertgoers find themselves enriched greatly by the opportunity to come together at Backstage. And in a very good way, the church is a wonderful place for such a happening, as people from all walks of life are in attendance and enjoy the hospitality of a place they might not otherwise have ventured.

While this is true of Saint Mike's as well, *openMike's* further fits with the mission of reaching out to the students of UCSB: inviting them into a haven within which they can mingle with friends, perform if they wish, or just escape the Isla Vista scene for a while. It provides a venue to try something new or test one's wings in a safe place, surrounded by other artists and listeners, all with something to give and something to take away at the end of the night.

openMike's happens the first Friday of each month (fall-spring), with a five-dollar admission for non-students. Show time is 8:00, and performers should sign up between seven and eight o'clock on the evening of the show. Check the St. Mike's website for each month's featured performer. Please contact Rev. Nicole Janelle if you have any questions or would like to volunteer. And dust off that guitar, tune it up, and start playing again!

Douglas Clegg is a member of the Standing Committee on Campus Ministry and attends Trinity Episcopal Church.

Good Friday

Were you there on our day of defiance?
Did you shout mocking words as the temple crumbled?
Stones may have broken St. Stephen's bones
But our words shall never harm the soul of
The one who has cracked open the darkness
So that we may feel strike our bloody hands.
Death passes not over God's first born.
Here, take your neighbor's hand
And ask them where they are now.

Who I am, right here and now
Is a believer
In circles
In broken barriers and overridden laws
Leaky faucets and the weapons cast aside.
Heartbroken, God puts our prayers on hold
For tonight,
But there is strength yet for me to believe
In a wretch like me.

Are you here to hear our voices gel
On this slowly (now too swiftly) turning globe?
Keep watch as we wait for
Feathers to sweep the dust aside
As light from the dust returns.

Poetry written and performed during openMike's by College of Creative Studies and campus ministry student Liz Powers. Liz hails from the Diocese of California. She currently serves on St. Mike's Bishop's Committee and will be studying in Chile this summer and fall.



In September, UCSB grad student and Bishop's Warden Julia Galstad and St. Mike's parishioner Lacey Huebel tied the knot in a beautiful outdoor wedding officiated by Nicole followed by Texas BBQ in Austin.



Nicole+ blesses faculty members Tim Cooley and Ruth Hellier-Tinoco's new home in Goleta this winter. She is assisted here by UCSB staff member Temmo Korisheli.



RECENT ST. MIKE'S ALUMNA JOINS EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVICE CORPS

On Life in the New York Intern Program

Upon graduating from college, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. My campus minister, Nicole, recommended I check out the Episcopal Service Corps - a young adult service program across the United States. This seemed like a great fit with my service-oriented values, passion for travel, desire to deepen my faith, and need for personal reflection time. Of the many possible ESC programs, I felt drawn to the New York Intern Program (NYIP). Fortunately, I was accepted into the NYIP program and given the opportunity to do just that.

I had always been interested in New York, especially from the many visits I made out there for family. However, this year

would be an entirely different experience of New York. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, the home site of the interns, is located in West Harlem. About forty percent of the parishioners are either homeless or living in government-funded housing. The congregation is lively, radical, diverse, and passionate about social justice - something I had very little exposure to, having grown up in the suburbs of San Francisco. I was looking forward to an exciting year of increased awareness about social justice issues, active participation being immersed in such a community, and the exploration of a ministry that really gave my life meaning.

In late August, the five of us chosen interns gathered together and got to know one another during the course of a welcome retreat. I was surprised at how diverse the group was. Our individual religions, states of origin, ethnicities, family backgrounds, political beliefs, and sexual orientations varied widely. I couldn't help but be grateful for the opportunity I had to get to know these amazing, ambitious individuals I would have never met otherwise.

We are all working at different social service agencies. Coming home to hear about each other's daily highs and lows of work

life is one of the most rewarding parts of living in community. We have become so comfortable and open with one another; I can foresee these friendships lasting a lifetime. Of course, living in such close quarters sometimes poses difficulty, but we've worked hard as a community to make intentional living meet all of our needs. And in working through our struggles, we've become closer in many ways.

This year has already taught me a lot about myself, and given me a new perspective on living. I can survive on a modest budget, assimilate in a new culture, open my eyes to social issues in our midst, and most importantly make a difference about it. This year has encouraged me to continue with the service work, perhaps take on another year of something similar. Though I still don't know what exactly I want to do with my life, the Episcopal Service Corps has been a major step in leading me down a meaningful path.

Dawn Bailey finishes her stint with NYIP in August. This fall, she will return to her home diocese to participate in another ESC one-year program, working as a campus minister with students at the UC-Berkeley Episcopal Campus Ministry.

SOUL IMPROVEMENT

For a couple of years now, my preferred television addiction has been the watching of any number of the HGTV channel's home renovation shows. What excites me most are the rehab shows. A typical scenario for this type of show involves a home that is stripped to its structural bones, then redesigned to suit the needs of the filmed moment—the presence of a new family, a desire to be more eco-conscious. Sometimes the property owner simply desires a stylistic refreshing. Carpets are torn out, old appliances and counter tops are swapped for new ones, and you can almost date the episodes by the use of whatever trendy vocabulary terms are being circulated by the people on these shows: “bamboo flooring,” “crown molding,” the ever-popular “granite countertops.” I like the wide range of approaches these shows take. Not all rehab projects are about replacing what was original and no longer useful. Not every show is about ripping out rotting floorboards and rebuilding support walls; often the shows feature a house whose original beauty has been obscured through neglect or through distracting choices, like bad wallpaper, accumulating over the years, obscuring the natural beauty of a room.

I think I find the shows appealing because they show the possibility of improvement, and I've been involved in my own version of home renovation—a soul rehabbing—since around the same time I became infatuated with these shows. Rehabbing—despite the desire of TV producers to create a “reveal” by the end of the allotted half hour—takes time, effort, and optimism. The desire to produce results is always grounded in the fact that we are made aware that a degree of hard work is involved in the change produced. We might not see every step of the process, but these shows allow us to peek at the process and to get a sense of the changes that the reveal promises to display for us. I feel that I'm constantly in process myself, in my soul rehab project. Showing up to church on Sunday is, in a way, giving others a peek at my process. But it's also a way to give myself a peek, too—to check in with my inner home-owner and his on-going conversations with Jesus—the World's Greatest Contractor. Jesus is always willing to come to work with you on your house, and always has surprising suggestions of his own about what changes you should make, and never charges you more than you can pay, asking only that you show up, bright and early, ready to work on your living situation. He patches you up when you hammer your finger by accident, and isn't even cross with you on the days you decide to sleep in and ignore the clean-up work that is calling for your attention.

Brian is a doctoral candidate in the Theater Department.

ST. MIKE'S OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE HOMELESS

St. Michael's University Church was one of a handful of churches (including Trinity Episcopal) on call one week per month December through March to serve as a Freedom Warming Center, a temporary cold weather refuge for the homeless. When bad weather triggers are present, Lynne Jahnke, MD, the coordinator in South Santa Barbara County, decides whether or not to mobilize her staff.

The Warming Center effort is an exciting community-wide and interfaith endeavor. Several faith communities opened their doors this year, with the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara providing the fiscal and leadership role. Santa Barbara County contributed funding for staff and supplies for 27 of the predicted 51 open days, with private donations covering some of the remaining costs. The American Red Cross is provided blankets and cots. St. Michael's provided hot meals to our friends without homes. Even at St. Mike's, hospitality is a community effort, with teams of cooks comprised of a mix of parishioners and their fellow students and coworkers.

To read more about the Freedom Warming Centers, go to <http://www.homelessinsb.org/articles.cfm?id=106>.

Julia Galstad, coordinator at St. Mike's for the warming center effort, is a graduate student in mathematics and this year's Bishop's Warden.



The campus ministry's new bilingual community garden sign! The gardening community at St. Mike's faithfully tends 16 raised beds on the church property, growing food for themselves and their community.



BISHOP MARY GLASSPOOL VISITS UCSB

In October Bishop Mary Glasspool, our area bishop, lectured in two courses at UCSB and gave an evening talk to students, professors and community members at St. Mike's following a soup supper at the campus ministry.

This fall our newly consecrated Suffragan Bishop Mary Glasspool, visited St Michael's for a soup supper and afterward gave a talk in the church. Bishop Mary circulated easily and skillfully at the supper in the Little House which was packed to the doors on a rainy night. We moved to the candlelit chapel which was nearly full.

Mary immediately established a sense of warmth and solidarity with the congregation.

She spoke in front of the altar, passionately, articulately, sometimes jumping off the floor to emphasize a point. She easily conveyed her kindness, scholarship and her delight in becoming a Diocesan Bishop.

She spoke briefly of her journey to consecration and then of the importance of the role of women in the world because of their strong, nurturing, global spirit.

Nearly an hour was devoted to questions and answers about the classes at UCSB that the Bishop had visited during the day. Several professors were present and many students.

Mary Glasspool left a great impression on me. She is readily accessible, fresh in approach, all embracing and steadily devoted to the work of God in the world.

Sally Hall is a member of the Bishop's Advisory Committee.



MEET THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Julia Galstad (Bishop's Warden) - I'm excited to serve for the first time as a member of the BAC. Here's a brief list of what I love about St. Michael's University Church. I love:

1. the uniqueness of St. Mike's as a campus ministry and a church,
2. our location in the middle of the excitement and life that is Isla Vista,
3. how we are an inclusive community and believe in the equality of all people,
4. that people can participate in community life in a variety of ways, blurring the line of membership.

I serve on the BAC because the idea of serving as a community is more powerful and sustainable than serving as individuals. Together, we can share our visions and support one another.



Norm Nelson (People's Warden) - I am new to the Bishop's Committee, but am not new to St. Michael's. I first joined the community as a UCSB student in the late Eighties. It's been a delight to be part of St. Michael's again and I'm eager to be of service to the community that has meant so much to me over the years. It's a great feeling to get to work with such wonderful people of all ages

and backgrounds. I'm an oceanographer and I work in the Earth Research Institute at UCSB. I live in Goleta with my wife Linda and my high-school age son Lennie: our older children Julian and Anna (both St. Mike's alumni as well, they were baptized here!) are away in college but come to visit regularly.



Sally Hall - After 35 years of active parish life at All Saints (minus 5 years out for college) I have been very content to be a quiet member of the congregation at St. Michael's, always a struggling but innovative community. My new responsibility as a member of the BAC has stirred the old juices! I rejoice in the humor, wisdom and fellowship of the BAC members and admire their scope, grasp and example as spiritual leaders.

Winnie Cai - I have been on the BAC for two years. I joined after having attended St. Michael's for only two years, which felt like a natural succession from my other post as an altar guild member. Being on the BAC means a lot to me. Having a part in the governing body of the church means I get to partake in the continuation and creation of the programs St. Michael's has to offer. For example, in one fall BAC meeting, we envisioned a community garden; by the following spring, I was tilling soil and making gardening boxes. What I like about St. Michael's is that we talk about ideas, and we actually take the necessary steps to make them a reality.



Chip Badley (outgoing) - As an undergraduate at UC Santa Barbara, serving on the BAC at St. Michael's has helped me further my relationship both to the church and to the community of Isla Vista. The BAC oversees much of what goes on at the church, and having input from both students and other community members really helps to diversify both the goals and the culture

of St. Michael's. While our church is dedicated to serving the needs of the students, it has recently become heavily involved in "extracurricular" activities such as La Escuelita,

Guitar Works, and the community garden projects. For me, serving on the BAC is a great way to represent other students who yearn to become involved with church in an oftentimes nontraditional way, such as meeting with the Progressive Christian Students group or attending the Queer Bible Study sessions on campus. A church unique in terms of location, congregation, and resources, St. Michael's is a vibrant and innovative approach to God that incorporates the needs of students with the benefits of a close community, spiritual or otherwise.



Liz Powers is a rising third-year undergraduate studying literature and Spanish at UCSB. She has been taking advantage of the plethora of spiritually healing practices St. Michael's has to offer, from weekly bilingual yoga classes to dinners with the Progressive Christian Students @ UCSB. Furthermore, as an aspiring poet, Liz has found the new openMike's series to be an ideal venue for her to try out her work on an attentive, caring audience. As the youngest member of the BAC, she feels she has much to learn, but is excited by the prospect of bringing her experiences at St. Michael's to the larger community, as well as continuing to foster and support all the aspects of the church that brought her there in the first place.



Christy Thies (incoming) – Cristy is a rising junior majoring in religion and psychology. Cristy regularly attends Progressive Christians, openMike's and singing in the Sunday morning choir. Last year, she participated in an Urban Pilgrimage to NYC focusing on homelessness co-led by Nicole and sponsored by the campus ministry. She hails from Bakersfield where she and her family attend a Lutheran church.

Will Dewey (incoming) – Will is a graduate student in religion, focusing on Buddhism. He comes to UCSB from Emory University in Atlanta. He is a regular in the Sunday morning choir, member of Progressive Christians and loves to use St. Mike's Little House as a study space. Raised a cradle Episcopalian, Will hails from Tennessee and Pennsylvania.



Brian Granger - I began my soul rehab a few years ago, when I was living in Nashville. I had spent the previous six years not attending church. Gospel music radio shows were the extent of my Sunday worship. While I had not lost my faith in general, I had all but lost faith in the idea of finding a church community that wasn't also homophobic and hypocritical. But when I moved to Nashville I felt moved to investigate some churches, in the hopes that this time, things might be different. I wasn't sure where to begin my search, but I had noticed an Episcopal church in my neighborhood of East Nashville, and so one Sunday I decided to make St. Ann's Episcopal the first stop in my prodigal search for a church home. An older woman immediately greeted me and asked me if I was from the area. I told her I had just moved to town and was looking at Episcopal churches, and she patted my arm and said, "You've come to the right one." As the rest of the congregation filtered in, it seemed that a large portion of the people were noticeably "alternative" in dress and orientation, and this suspicion was confirmed through all my subsequent conversations. But the church wasn't just a political safe house. It was actively involved in difficult social change programs. It was, in short, a living spiritual community, and its welcome of me without judgment unlocked a series of spiritual "home improvements" that took me by surprise. I began to pay tithes. I joined the rigorous church choir (two rehearsals a week, alongside professional Nashville musicians!). Perhaps most miraculously, I began to talk about

my church to other people, to recommend it as a place my friends should come visit. My soul rehab had begun. But then I applied and was accepted to UCSB, and literally, the day after St. Ann's Easter service, I jumped into my loaded car and drove cross-country to Santa Barbara, to find housing before the summer began and to start a new life as a graduate student.

For a half year I mourned the loss of what I had found in Nashville. Certainly my soul rehabbing would continue, but at what pace? Without the support and the outlets I had found for myself, I worried about how my move would affect my progress. And then I discovered St. Michael's, and the continuation of my soul rehabbing. It began with frequent attendance, then with efforts to bring along my rebellious, teenaged godson, then with my joining the choir and a more steady attendance. I want to mention attendance because it is one area I have historically not been too willing to interrogate. Most recently my self-work at St. Mike's has involved joining the BAC. So, it's hard to describe exactly what St. Mike's means to me without explaining what my spiritual journey has meant to me. Simply put: St. Mike's is helping to sustain my spiritual progress, and helping me finish some soul renovations I had left Nashville unfinished. And I will be the first to admit that I'm not a "finished" work. But what St. Mike's helps me reveal to the world is that I am well into my process, and that through this church community I'm making a spiritual life—perhaps one that was too long neglected or papered over in distractions—beautiful again.



Gary Marter, long time community member and graduate student in Material Science **Dan Lowrey** (outgoing member) round out the Bishop's Advisory Committee!



PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANS AT UCSB RECEIVES ALLY AWARD

The Progressive Christian Student Group and the Rev. Nicole Janelle were both presented awards at the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity's 1st Annual Ally Appreciation Award Ceremony and dinner held at the Multicultural Center on campus. The awards are given in recognition of the "positive contribution to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer community." The Progressive Christian student group, along with Nicole, Karen Steward (campus minister for the United Church of Christ) and Suzanne Malloy (campus minister for the Presbyterian Church) support a weekly Queer Bible Student at the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity for students, faculty and staff interested in reading the Bible and Christian tradition through a "queer friendly" lens.



The Episcopal Campus Ministry participates in an Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service on campus.



From top: Progressive Christians' gathering in the Little House • The Progressive Christians student group was among those honored by the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity's annual awards night • Nicole and UCC lay minister Karen Steward receive an ally award on behalf of the Progressive Christians group.

AN EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: There is nothing but God (*Sufi*)

Congregation: All is in God, Blessings and Praise (*Panentheism*)

P: Elevate your Selves (*Esoteric*)

C: We elevate them to the Godhead, Blessings and Praise

P: It is with this act that the Mysteries of the Golgotha are remembered; and its principle actor who is Jesus, the Christ, the Redeemer, and the Son of God points us to the path of our salvation and enlightenment. (*Anthropology*)

C: We remember His teachings which heal us, Blessings and Praise. (*Cabala Zen*)

P: We are already within the Kingdom of God. (*Gospel of Thomas*)

C: We have yet to realize this.

P: Drink from the Chalice, for it carries the healing waters of Christ's blood. (*Grail Mysteries*)

C: Eat of the Bread, for it is earth that the Christ inhabits. (*Anthroposophy*)

P: We have a cross to bear, the Redeemer shows us how to relieve that burden.

C: We remember the thanksgiving of God's salvation to All, Blessings and Praise.

Cody Beckley is a senior studying history who hails from Port Huemene, CA. Following an instructed Eucharist at the Progressive Christians group, Cody wrote this Eucharistic Prayer that draws beautifully from a variety of religious traditions.

AMENITIES AND LIFE IN QUITO, ECUADOR

Jonathan Pregill currently serves as an Episcopal Church Young Adult Service Corps member in the Diocese of Ecuador where he teaches English as a Second Language classes at the Episcopal Cathedral elementary school in Quito. He graduated from UCSB with a degree in classics last year and hails from the Diocese of Northern California. Here are some of his reflections on missionary life in Ecuador from his blog.

It has come to my attention that I haven't really discussed what it's like living here in Ecuador and what I have available to me in terms of living conditions. Currently I live with an Ecuadorian family in Northern Quito that is only three blocks from work. The house is really tiny and I share a room with my two host brothers. The room we are in is pretty tiny as well, perhaps the smallest in the entire house. If I were to put my hands outstretched over my head, my feet and my hands will touch the walls on opposite sides of each other in both directions of the room. Ecuadorian people are a shorter people by average and so roofs and doorways are smaller. I've hit my head numerous times on doorways in houses because they are made smaller, at least the houses I've been to, and so I have learned to instinctively duck at doorways. At public buildings, this isn't a problem. I'm not tall by any means or by definition in the United States, just shy of six feet, but in some doorways in Ecuador, they are a bit small for me.

I will not lie and say that I expected such modern amenities when I signed up for missionary life. When mission work came to mind before I left, the typical stereotype came to mind. Living in terrible conditions, without the possibility of bathing often or having running water from a tap in the house. I have learned not to think so stereotypically since my arrival and have learned much about the modern city (by standards of developing world countries) of Quito and Ecuador. Don't get me wrong

however; there have been places I have visited in Ecuador where the people live in grass huts and do not have the modern amenities that exist in the city.

When I wake in the morning, I have the ability to shower with hot water before work as I enjoy for I like starting the day with a shower. It helps me to wake and start the day. I don't have to go and draw water from a well and heat it to take a bath haha. You do have to switch a plug to turn on the hot water so as not to waste the electricity. This is something we could learn to do in the states I think.

Kitchens are equipped with stoves and ovens and are run on gas not electric. However, gas is not piped to houses directly. Instead, families buy their propane gas in tanks like we have for our BBQs in the states. Several trucks drive around the city honking their horns selling the propane gas tanks for the stoves. You give the empty tank to them upon the exchange and purchase. This is typical vending in Ecuador and is often how you do business. Many people don't have cars and can't just run to the market in their own vehicle but rely on public transportation and the traveling vendors. The vendors start the day very early and often times you will wake up to the screeching howl of a vendor selling their wares or the honking of the propane truck or even taxis and buses waiting outside to pick up their passengers. The concept of ringing a doorbell is foreign to Ecuadorians and so taxis and buses honk their horns to alert their passengers of their arrival. The horn is also greatly overused in driving in Quito and all of Ecuador for that matter.

Heaters within houses are non-existent. This is because of the weather here. At ten thousand feet elevation, even the coldest days and nights will only see a low temperature around the low 50's. This really isn't all that bad. At night you just throw on a sweatshirt with your pajamas and call it good with the four or five blankets on your bed. Seven in my case with my weak Hawai'ian blood.

I am also able to keep in contact with family and friends through a wireless internet connection within my house. Without this, I think I would go nuts. Staying in contact with family and friends is what helps keep me sane. It is also what allows me to keep this blog updated.

Through all this, I have learned to not be so stereotypical in thoughts, but have also realized that I have spent time with people here in Ecuador who live how I imagined mission life to be like. While visiting parishes throughout Ecuador, I have lived in grass huts for a weekend and other similar style housing without any regard as to how fortunate some people in Ecuador are over others. It also really made me thankful for what I have as well. But to some, this is a way of life and don't know any other. I spent time among an indigenous tribe in the Amazons who do not know electricity and hunt with bows and spears. The diversity of living in Ecuador is extensive and the culture and the amenities change between the cities, the countryside, and the rainforests. It is truly a unique experience living among the several different cultures and lifestyles of Ecuador.

That wraps up this blog. Until next time, as always, may the blessing of God be always with you.



Jonathan plans to continue his work in Ecuador for an additional year. You can read more about Jonathan's mission experience in Ecuador on his blog - <http://www.mission-ecuador.blogspot.com/>

CHAPLAIN CO-LEADS SPRING BREAK EPISCOPAL PEACE FELLOWSHIP YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE ON “FOOD, FAITH AND FARMING”

Over spring break, Nicole+ co-lead along with CSUCI chaplain Sarah Nolan, a pilgrimage and retreat on “Food, Faith & Farming: Crossing Invisible Borders in our Community.” This young adult pilgrimage experience, based in Oxnard, exposed participants to the issues migrant farm workers and their families face as well as the issues we as a country face regarding food sustainability. During the pilgrimage, participants reflected on the work conditions in the field and challenges around housing, parenting and health care for the workers. They also explored the ins and outs of food sustainability issues and were introduced to successful community

garden and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) models being used to connect communities to locally grown produce. The pilgrimage “home base” was the Abundant Table Farm Project, a young adult intern program of the Episcopal Service Corps, Episcopal campus ministry center for Cal State University Channel Islands and home of “Join the Farm,” a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program in Oxnard.

Read more about the pilgrims’ experience on their blog, <http://2011.urbanpilgrimage.org/>

REFLECTION FROM A PILGRIM ON FOOD, FAITH & FARMING

What can I say to sum up my experience in Oxnard? As I prepare to head home, I’m recalling the theme, or driving question, of a conversation I had with a fellow pilgrim last night, and which I think we all have been having in one way or another over the last day or two. That question is this: how can I take my experience here and apply it to my “real life” back home?

One thing I plan to do is to take advantage of the fresh, local food at my local farmers market. This is something that I have supported for a long time in theory but haven’t really put into practice in a way that makes a difference. I also want to continue and expand my personal gardening efforts (beets, anyone?) Harvesting veggies with the group yesterday morning was so much fun, and reminded me of that feeling of excitement that I have felt before when harvesting veggies from the garden. This was just in the ground, and will soon be in my (or someone else’s) belly. That is a really cool reality to participate in. There is something cleansing and even spiritual in washing off the dirt and seeing for yourself, in real-time, the transformation of a plant into the thing you identify as “food.”

I will also really miss the small community of pilgrims (and farm folks) that has sprung up so quickly at the farm house on

Hueneme Rd. (for those who haven’t been there, it’s actually pronounced “Why-knee-me.”) One thing that has continued to impress me about this trip is the focus on people that has continued to surprise me. When I first heard the topic “food, faith, & farming,” my natural train of thought took me to a place where the ecological considerations of this intersection took precedence. How is the environment affected by factory farming? How does small-scale local farming play into the idea of good stewardship of God’s creation? etc. These questions are vital, but they lack that essential human component. During this trip I have been transformatively reminded of the human cost of industrialization, the human toll of such an unjust, unhealthy system. What is the average living situation of a typical Ventura County farm worker? For that matter, what is the situation of farm workers in other places around this country? Who else are we isolated from when our only connection to the food we eat is made in the aisles of a grocery store? Does knowing someone’s immigration status change my gratitude for the food which came to me through their hard work? What personal stories have I not heard? Whose lives are negatively affected by the convenience of our food industry? Within our pilgrimage community, too, I have seen that “food, faith & farming” is as much about the actual community—the personal relationships formed in the fields, the emotions of friends and neighbors as they relate their “food stories,” the ways we

connect to one another in the kitchen and at the dinner table—as much as it is about addressing these issues on academic and policy levels. Thinking about the experiences of harvesting food yesterday, then preparing and cooking some of that food last night, then eating together with the other pilgrims, interns and farm workers, I know this.

In the future, when I hear Jesus’ parables which relate the Kingdom of God using agricultural metaphors, I will never again be able NOT to think of Christ in each strawberry picker, celery cutter, or potato who works all day but doesn’t earn enough to live comfortably; never again will I NOT be able to think of every food packaging worker, delivery driver, and shelf-stocker who makes that food so easily available for me, but never really gets so much as a “thank you.” Never again will be able to so thoughtlessly shovel snack foods into my mouth when I don’t have time to cook an honest meal; never again will I hear the phrase “table fellowship” in quite the same way.

For all these things I’ve experienced over these past few days, and for all that God has only begun to work within me, thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Mitch Roper is an Episcopalian, young adult & recently concluded work as a peer campus minister for Presbyterian Campus Ministry, Inc. in Athens, Georgia. This fall, Mitch will live and work in a Christian commune.



ST. MIKE'S: THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A YOUTH GROUP RETREAT

This winter, high school youth from Trinity/Trinidad Episcopal Church in Los Angeles spent a weekend at St. Mike's in retreat with their priest Liz Muñoz and her husband Ray Pickett, a professor of New Testament. Much of their retreat took place in the chapel, where they reflected on Lenten themes and slept. The youth also took advantage of the campus scene and walked the new beachside labyrinth at UCSB. As one retreatant shared about her retreat at St. Mike's:

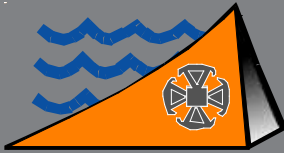
"This retreat made me feel at peace with myself because of all the serenity around the whole area. I leave with a fresh mind, something new – enlightenment! I can honestly say that walking the labyrinth was a new experience that I really enjoyed. It was like walking the path of life. It was literally explaining to me the ways of my life and my journey! This trip was great for me – it opened many doors. I actually know somewhat what I want to get out of life. The conversations we had were extraordinary. I got to know my friends better. And on top of that I know I discovered myself a little more the way that I've always wanted to view myself. I learned that I can trust people with certain things. I want to conclude by thanking [my priest] Mother Liz Muñoz and especially St. Mike's in Isla Vista for this retreat!"



This summer St. Mike's will host a group of youth on pilgrimage from the East Coast. Our space is well suited for small group retreats. We have beautiful grounds, ample parking, an outdoor labyrinth, flexible chapel space, a lounge with Wifi perfect for a small group, a kitchen, a handicapped accessible bathroom and we're a 10 minute walk from the beach. If your youth group, vestry or other small group in your church is looking for a day or overnight retreat space, consider gathering at St. Michael's!

Clockwise from top: Members of Trinity/Trinidad Church's youth group in Los Angeles spend a weekend in retreat at St. Michael's with their rector the Rev. Liz Munoz. They are pictured here walking the labyrinth on the campus bluffs. St. Michael's invites youth groups from around the diocese to consider a retreat in Isla Vista • Trinity youth in the

chapel • Pilgrimage participant Danielle Decea from Epiphany, Augora Hills in Deanery 1 sketches during reflection time • All Saints' young adult pilgrimage participant and new Standing Committee on Campus Ministry member Maggie Iba in the fields • Pilgrims with the Rev. Margaret Sawyer, executive director of the Oxnard-based Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project, learning about the challenges Mixtec migrant farmers face • Pilgrims following a lecture with UCSB Chicano Studies professor and Trinity member Ralph Armbruster-Sandoval at Community Roots, a community garden tended by Mixtec (Indigenous Mexican) residents based at a Methodist Church in Oxnard.



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Thank you to Leslie Lewis Sigler for designing this edition of The Messenger. Leslie is a parishioner at All Saints' Montecito. www.leslie-lewis.com

Below: Campus Connection students from diocesan urban, first generation congregations gathered at St. Mike's this winter for a weekend immersion experience in university life.



the messenger

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