

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

Mailed January 20, 2011

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Dear Faithful Parishioners,

The time will come when, with elation you will greet yourself arriving at your own door, in your own mirror, and each will smile at the other's welcome, and say, sit here. Eat. You will love again the stranger who was yourself. – Derek Walcott

Saturday, January 8th, was a remarkable day at St. Michael's. We as a community, together with our bishop, ordained Gabriel Lamazares to the sacred order of priests. There were many moments when I simply stood in awe of what was happening before my eyes. Our participation in most of those moments consisted of our presence and our prayers. However there was one moment when the congregation erupted in spontaneous joy with clapping, hollering and stomping. On one side of it was Gabe, greeting himself at his own door. On the other side was a community that burst through to greet him in return. Gabe and I are so blessed to be among such an incredibly loving parish. My heart overflows with appreciation for your support of the work going on here at St. Michael's. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.



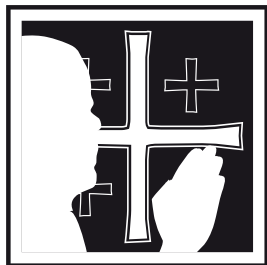
Faithfully,

The Reverend Christopher Craun, Rector

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Your Prayers Are Asked For...

- + Healing for Felicity Strommer, Lin Robertson, Jean Standifer, Sarah Rowley, Mick Seidl, and Lucretia Gardner
- + Richard and Emily Mae Oberdorfer, who were married on December 20
- + Lily Sinclair Albright and John Wesley Whiting, who were baptized on January 9
- + Lily Mei-Ann Symonds, who was born to Margaret Wu and Mark Symonds on January 11
- + Gabriel Lamazares, who was ordained to the priesthood on January 8
- + Haelynn Barron, Gillian Butler, Chandler Godin, Adrienne Godschalx, Nancy Hunt, Kelly Kieft, Craig Kolins, Katie Martel, Richard Oberdorfer, Charlene Sabin, Amy Swartz, Christopher Twombly, Sundance Wilson, and Kelly Zander, who were welcomed into the catechumenal process on January 9.



January Holy Women, Holy Men: Samuel Shoemaker

On January 31, we are asked to remember Samuel Shoemaker, an Episcopal priest who served as Rector of Calvary Church in New York City from 1925-1941. He brought to his work a passionate belief in the power of authentic testimony of the transforming power of Christ to change lives. During his tenure and with his spiritual guidance, a group of alcoholics began to meet at Calvary. This group would become the first Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship. Although Shoemaker did not create AA, he is widely recognized as a significant influence on the AA program and the spirituality of recovery.

Pledge Update

Thank you to all those who mailed, emailed or otherwise sent in their pledges for 2011. As of January 15, we have received 224 pledges. These pledges include 17 new pledges from our Misa congregation and 36 new pledges in all. The total dollar figure for pledges is \$485,006. The spirit of generosity is alive and well at St. Michael's!

— Gloria Orellana

Joyful News — February 2011

February 6: Souper Bowl of Caring: It's easy! It's fun! And it makes you feel good, like a warm bowl of soup on a cold winter day. Just place your donation – cash or checks – in the big soup pots held by the smiling children standing at the exits when you leave the worship service at 9:00 or 11:00. All money raised on *Souper Bowl Sunday* goes directly to the Northeast Emergency Food Program to help our hungry neighbors. Please make checks payable to St. Michael's with *Souper Bowl Sunday* in the memo line. We'll make sure it gets there!

Here are some quick facts about the NE Emergency Food Program from their website:

NE Emergency Food Program meets the urgent food needs of our north and northeast Portland neighbors while working to develop community solutions to secure access to adequate, affordable and healthy food. We ground our work in the belief that nutritious food is a basic human need and a building block for a healthy life of possibility.

NE Emergency Food Program is a vital part of the community ministry network of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Our food program is a community-based response to the unmet food needs of our neighbors. We primarily serve the following groups:

- Families with children; over 40% of our recipients are children
- The working poor
- People with special needs, including the sick and the elderly
- A high percentage of immigrants and refugees

February 19: Family Worship Service on Saturday at 5:00 pm in the Nativity Hall. Potluck "feast" to follow! This celebration of Holy Eucharist is designed to be accessible for families with young children. Please come and join this growing circle of friends who sing, pray, dance and give thanks for all the goodness of God's creation.

February 26: Saints Alive! Children's Day at the Cathedral on Saturday, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Join Bishop Michael Hanley and lots of friends from around the diocese as we gather to celebrate the incredible lives of holy women and holy men throughout our church history. Music, art, story and games make this a day children in kindergarten through fifth grade won't want to miss! Parents, grandparents, Sunday School teachers and clergy are strongly urged to take part in this wonderful Christian Formation event. Registration is \$5 per student, and lunch is included. For more information about registration, please contact Leslie Sackett at leslies@stmaa.org.

— Leslie Sackett, Associate for Children & Family Ministries

Change of Dates for Upcoming El Porvenir Events

The El Porvenir Rice and Beans friend-raiser and fundraiser dinner and auction, hosted by your St. Michael's EP ministry team and Portland Friends of El Porvenir, will be held on Saturday night, May 21, 2011, at St. Michael's. We hope to have several surprise guests to pique your interest. If you have been to Nicaragua on a work brigade, come and share memories of your experiences. If you haven't been yet, come and learn about El Porvenir, what the organization has accomplished and how you can get involved. And of course there will be delicious food, Nicaraguan items and crafts for purchase, music and lots of fun and laughter. So mark your calendars for this event. You won't want to miss it!

Have you been waiting for a chance to go to Nicaragua with a work group from St. Michael's? Good news! The 2011 summer (July 9-18) trip will provide an opportunity for youth and young adults and their parents to build lavaderos and baños with villagers in a rural area. And more good news! Hoping to get away from Portland in the winter? Be among the first to sign up for the work group that will go to Nicaragua on January 7-21, 2012. Sign-up sheets for both trips are in the Gallery.

If you are interested in or have questions about the 2011 or 2012 work brigades, please contact Bev Hoeffler (hoefflerb@msn.com). If you would like to help with the Rice and Beans dinner or want more information about it, please contact Ron Geason at rwgeason@comcast.net or Joy Young at grin4joy@yahoo.com.

Hollywood East Update and New Ingathering

Thanks to your generous donations of coats, sweaters, hats, and gloves, over 70 of our Hollywood East neighbors have a better chance of staying warm this winter. We will need a bigger box for our next ingathering! If at any time you find yourself looking for a home for unneeded outerwear, please contact Hjalmer Lofstrom to set up a time for pickup or drop-off.

Another "generous impulse" request to us from Hollywood East is for kitchen items a person or family would need to get settled in an apartment. These items might include dishes, pots and pans, and flatware. The date for this ingathering will be Sunday, February 27. Please hold onto your items until that date. For more information, contact Hjalmer at hlofstrom@aol.com.

Outreach & Justice Ministries Council

Tool Time: Did Santa replace some of your tools this Christmas? Is your basement full of sad, dusty tools that you're no longer using? VOZ and The Oregon New Sanctuary Movement have a plan for those extra items cluttering up your house. They are creating a tool library for use by laborers at the MLK Worker Center. Many more folks could find work if they owned or could borrow tools that they could take to a worksite. Most wanted tools include:

- Hammers, screwdrivers
- Circular and jigsaws, hand saws
- Drills and sanders
- Compressors
- Blowers
- Tool belts, boxes, and bags
- Tape measures
- Lawn mowers, trimmers, and clippers

They also need to get organized! Suggested donations include hanging files, file boxes, shelving for books and binders, wall-mounting first-aid kit, Velcro cord wraps, small plastic bins, and recycling bins.

In January, we can be a collection point for all of these items. Bring your donations to the Annual Meeting on January 30. If you need a pickup, please call Lynn at 503/284-1011.

Single-Payer Health Care: If you would like to know more, a state-wide conference is being held at the Unitarian Church downtown on January 29 at 9:00 am. Jobs With Justice and Physicians for a National Health Program are sponsoring the event. Among the speakers will be John Conyers (D-MI), author of HR 676, the National Single Payer Bill. In February, a bill supporting single-payer health care in Oregon will be presented to the legislature by Portland Congressman Michael Dembrow. Watch for more information later, or call David Young, parishioner and Jobs With Justice member, at 503/227-7075. He'd like our support for both these events.

— Lynn Baker, Outreach & Justice Ministries Council

SAFE Church Training Opportunity

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is hosting the SAFE Church Training *Safeguarding God's Children* on Jan. 29 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please check the Diocese of Oregon website for more information and to register.





New Testament Brown-Bag Study Has Resumed

The Wednesday lunch and discussion group resumed on January 5 and will run through March 2. We meet from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm in the Parish Hall. We are covering the remaining eight lessons of the lecture series taught by Professor Bart D. Ehrman, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Each video lasts 30 minutes and is followed by 30 minutes of discussion. Topics include Paul's Letter to the Romans; Paul, Jesus & James; The Deutero-Pauline Epistles; The Pastoral Epistles; The Book of Hebrew and the Rise of Christian Anti-Semitism; First Peter and the Persecution of the Early Christians; The Book of Revelations; and Do We Have the Original New Testament? An extra session — exact date still to be determined — has been scheduled for a potluck lunch for fellowship and to discuss where we want to go from here. Please join us! It is not necessary to have attended previous sessions to participate.

— Anna Zeigler

Upcoming Earth Care Summit

EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns invites all congregations throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington interested in caring for creation to a celebration and gathering of congregations going green. The summit will be held from 6:00 to 8:45 pm on January 31 (display tables and optional tour at 5:15 pm) at Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane in Portland. This year's theme is *Food and Faith* and the ways that we can honor the abundance of earth's bounty and those who bring food to our tables in all facets of congregational life. The event will include a locally grown dinner, inspirational speakers, and a presentation from Neveh Shalom about their greening efforts. Resource people will be on hand to discuss a variety of greening topics including congregational food projects, faith and food, wellness and environmental health, energy efficiency, energizing your congregation, worship and creation, Cool Congregations lifestyle-change campaigns, and more. Come network with others and be inspired! There will also be an interfaith environmental advocacy training from 2:30-5 pm. Learn about key environmental priorities for the faith community in the 2011 legislature and how to be an effective faith-based advocate.

Pre-registration is required for both events. The cost for the Earth Care Summit is \$40 regular, \$20 students; advocacy training is \$15 regular and \$10 students. Registration forms can be found at http://www.emoregon.org/emo_events.php, or you may call Alison at 503/221-1054, ext. 210. Scholarships are available.

Lost & Found Update

Following a busy fall and Christmas season, we've found that our lost-and-found collection has grown considerably. In the kitchen, there are numerous pots, pans, platters, and other dishes that don't belong to the church. They can be found to the left of the sink on the countertop and inside the lower cupboard in the same area.

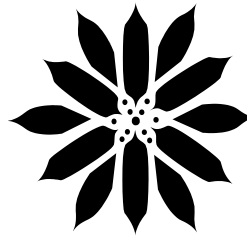
There are a number of jackets and coats hanging in the Nativity Hall. Inside the cupboard in the Gallery, to the right as you face the Parish Hall, are many books — mostly children's — and several umbrellas. On the counter in the same spot are a couple of pairs of reading glasses. We still have a green camp-type folding chair from the Parish Picnic, an earring from the Gala Dinner (three-part, with metallic colors), and many copies of photos from All Saints Day. These last items can be found in Parish Office.

Please check these spots if you're missing something. We will be sending unclaimed items to charity in the next month or two.

— Gloria Orellana

Thank you to Christmas Reception Helpers

Many thanks to the people who helped put on the plethora of receptions during the holiday season. Becky Tooley and



Rosemary McGrath had able assistance from Lynn Montgomery, Lynn Baker, and Cheryl Howard for the Lessons & Carols reception. Lynda Garner and Amy Valentine bought and set up the Christmas tree, and Virginia Rouffy hung the tree with lovely gold ornaments and white lights. Amy and Lynda also decorated

the bulletin board in the Parish Hall and shared their design expertise in setting up for a full evening of receptions. Gloria Orellana and Ellen Bergstone and their families set up for the reception after the 4:00 service and cleaned up afterwards with the help of the Kallen family. Kathleen Rose and Barb Miller had the help of Noel and Melissa Miller, Diana Wolford, Arlene Ullman, Sheri O'Brien, and Ann Wetherell after the 11:00 service. Thank you, also, to all of you who brought the myriad Christmas treats for us all to enjoy, and to those who delivered poinsettias to homebound parishioners.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to the MOWs and WOWs who cleaned up all the greens and flowers and put away all the Christmas decorations in the week following Epiphany.

— Barb Miller

Prayer Shawl Ministry Marks Three Years of Ministry: Come Celebrate with us!

Who: Everyone interested in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, including the following:

- Current members of the group, come and find community with your fellow knitters, crocheters, and — now — quilters.
- Not a member, but you're curious, come check us out! If your skills are limited (or you want to learn the basics), bring some yarn and needles or a crochet hook, and members will be happy to share their knowledge.
- If you have given or received a Prayer Shawl over the years, we would especially love to have you come!

What: Potluck lunch and stitching — because that's what we do best!

When: Saturday, February 19, at 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

For more details, or to let us know that you are coming, contact Sue Harper at 503/287-9758

If you have unused yarn waiting for a project, we will happily give it new life in a shawl or blanket. Donations are gratefully accepted at any time.

Christmas Gift Wrap-up

Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas gift-wrap event in December. I am sure that all who delivered these gifts had the wonderful experience of bringing a little cheer and support to someone at Christmas, and their efforts were greatly appreciated by the recipients. Those who helped out with this ministry included Diane Walker, Ricki Perry, Sigrid Huston, Sue Harper, Anne North, Kate Skelton and Mickey Harnage. Special thanks go to Jonelle Phelps, who assisted me and who brought her mother and daughter to help with this project. Jonelle will take on this ministry next year.

— Peggy Hartman

Messenger Deadline

Messenger articles are due by February 14. Please send them to me at glorio@stmaa.org as an attachment or in the body of the email. If you don't have access to email, you may drop them by the office or mail them.

— Gloria Orellana

Advent Concerts a Huge Success!

advent noontime concerts



We tried something new this Advent – Advent Noontime Concerts – and they exceeded our expectations in so many ways. On the four Tuesdays of Advent, we presented some of St. Michael's many talented musicians in a half-hour concert followed by a simple lunch. Thank you to our musicians for their beautiful, skilled, interesting, and diverse performances: November 30, Bob Spiers, organ; December 7, Melissa Parkhurst, piano; December 14, Patti Evans, flute, and Roberta Bond, harp; and December 21, Audrey Sackett, soprano, assisted by Doug Schneider on the piano. Our attendance grew over the course of the series, from about 40 folks the first week to over 80 by the final week.

Following the concerts, folks enjoyed a simple soup and sandwich lunch and the opportunity to catch up with each other in the Parish Hall. This was made possible by the wonderful donations of soup, veggie platters, and desserts from Patti Evans, Rosemary McGrath, Chris Pieratti, Barbara Porterfield, Meg Ruby, Virginia and Ed Rouffy, Leslie Sackett, Michael Sagun, George Smith, Larry Street, Diane Walker, and Carol Ward. The kitchen crew did a magnificent job of preparing the food and setting up the space through the final clean-up. Thank you to Amparo Abila, Josh English, Lynda Gardner, Anne North, Barbara Porterfield, Michael Sagun, Ann and George Ivan Smith, Amy Valentine, Kevin Warren, Gloria Orellana, and Leslie Sackett. Thank you, also, to all who attended and made donations to cover the costs of the concerts and the food that we purchased.

There is talk of making this a "first annual," or perhaps doing something similar during Lent. We had hoped to reach out to the many folks who work in the neighborhood but lacked the time to fully explore all of those possibilities. If you would be interested in talking about what future Noontime Concerts might involve, please contact me in the parish office at bobs@stmaa.org or 503/284-7141.

—Bob Spiers

