

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

Mailed November 18, 2010

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DEAR FAITHFUL PARISHIONERS,

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, writes the author of the Letter to the Ephesians. Ditto! What a spectacular celebration of All Saints on Sunday, November 7. The sights, smells and sounds of the day created an impressive atmosphere of remembrance, joy and expectation. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to each and every person who helped bring that day to life and who came to reflect and celebrate all our saints — past, present and yet to come.

The Letter to the Ephesians continues, *I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.* Our celebration on All Saints was also our stewardship ingathering and an ideal time to look at our saints and at one another and contemplate the hope to which God has called us. Our stewardship ingathering brought in 129 pledges, including 29 new pledges. Seventeen of those new pledges came from our Misa congregation, the most we have ever received. There has been a very generous response to my appeal to increase our pledge income by 20%, but we are still only halfway to our goal. If this trend of exceptional generosity continues as we gather the rest of our pledges, our future's foundation will be firm.

My hopes for that foundation include creating opportunities for both inward and outward growth. I would like to see us accomplish the following in 2011:

- Maintain the assistant rector position as part of the fabric of who we are, and continue to restore and increase staff salaries
- Increase our outreach giving
- Tend to our building and facility needs
- Enhance our Christian education budget
- Restore our music budget

These are some of my dreams — shared by many of you — and I hope and believe they will bring us closer to that great and wonderful place to which God is calling us.

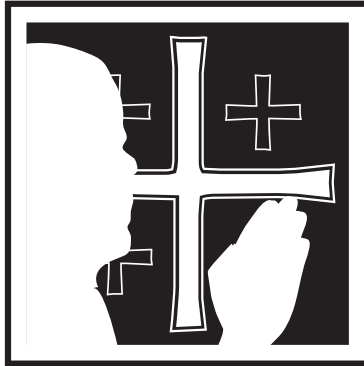
Faithfully,

The Reverend Christopher Craun, Rector

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Gloria Orellana, Associate for Administration	Ext. 317	David Berkson, Associate for Ministry with Youth	Ext. 319
Scott Tuomi, Music Director	Ext. 315		

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR...

- + healing for SARAH BRYANT, JUDY, JK, KAREN STAHR, JENNA KLUM, and JUNE GRAVENGAARD
- + thanksgiving for the birth of OLIVER JAMES ROSSI, son of MELISSA PARKHURST and DAVID ROSSI
- + the marriage of DAVID GALINDO CORTÉS and ESMERALDA CHELO CUEVAS, who were married at St. Michael's on October 30
- + the unemployed and underemployed
- + the ongoing grinding difficulty of life in Haiti, for the recovery after the earthquake and containment of the cholera epidemic that is spreading among the people there



JOIN US FOR EPISCOPAL PEACE FELLOWSHIP'S PEACE FLIX

On Friday, December 3, the final Peace Flix for the year will be presented in the Nativity Hall. The film this time around is *Joyeux Noël*, a Christmas story about a true incident that took place during World War I. Suitable for teens and adults, the film does contain images of war as well as the light of understanding. As is our tradition, a delicious potluck will begin at 6:30 pm. Please add this to the list of holiday events you don't want to miss.

— Lucretia Gardner

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

L'Arche Nehalem, a faith-based community in Portland, is pleased to announce its 21st Annual Benefit Christmas Tree Sale beginning Friday, November 26, and running daily through Sunday, Dec. 19. Locally grown and freshly cut noble and douglas fir trees will be sold in both the Hollywood and Montavilla neighborhoods at NE 44th and Hancock in the Grocery Outlet parking lot and at SE 82nd and Burnside in the Safeway lot. Santa will be visiting and spreading holiday cheer at both lots on Saturdays December 4 and 11 from 12:00-3:00 pm!.

ASSISTANT RECTOR'S CORNER

Don't look now: December is upon us! And with December comes the explosion of tinsel and carols and lights and gift-giving and expectations that characterize the season for most of us. Though I am grateful to still be deeply moved by the hopeful expectation of Advent and the simple joy of Christmas, I admit it can all seem like too much at times. That was especially true the year my brother Tony died.

I grew up with my mother and my brother and guardian, Tony, who was twelve years older than me. Tony took us in when my mother began suffering from heart problems after my parents' divorce. Day in and day out, they were my family. Tony had the soul of an interior designer and went all out for Christmas. He decorated the tree just so, made all our trimmings and decorations, and giddily filmed the opening of each gift. So, after Tony died of complications from AIDS in July 2001, my mother and I were still hip-deep in grief when December rolled around. It was hard to try to put on a brave face while the world seemed to crank into celebratory overdrive, even as we faced the unimaginable possibility of Christmas without him. In the end, we decided to spend a quiet Christmas completely out of context in a remote cabin on the Outer Banks of North Carolina, just Terry, our boxer Pippin, my mother and me. It took a herculean effort to carve out an open space for our bittersweet holiday, swimming against the tide. But we made paella, exchanged gifts, and comforted one another.

Our experience was not rare by any means. Every Christmas, there are many among us who suffer from depression, grief, and loss. There are those who have lost a loved one, those who've been the victims of violent crime, those who've suffered great changes and losses. And sometimes the string of Christmas festivities that might have delighted us at another time only feel like a long, brightly-lit, crowded hallway with no way out.

This December, even as we celebrate the season together with all the joyful solemnity it's due, we will also have a special prayer service on the longest night of the year. Following the example of other churches, our Longest Night service will be a safe place for all those who are sad at the holidays to bring their burdens and lay them down, or to just bear them for a while among friends as we seek the presence of the One who comes "with healing in his wings," even in our darkest night. The Longest Night service will take place Tuesday, December 21. Please save the date and look for more information in your bulletin or on our website.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF
ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FOR THE
NEXT MESSENGER IS DECEMBER 8.**

INFORME DE LA COMUNIDAD LATINA

The Misa community at St. Michael's continues to thrive! In late October, we celebrated the wedding of David Galindo Cortes (son of Efrain Solis and Eugenia Cortes) and Esmeralda Chelo Cuevas. The entire congregation joined us in the Altar de los Muertos, making a beautiful altar of remembrance for our saints and loved ones. On November 14 the Health Promoters from the Misa coordinated a visit from the Lions Mobile Health Unit.

December also promises to be a busy month. This year, we will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a special midnight liturgy on Saturday, December 11, to sing Las Mañanitas to the Mother of God, who appeared on the hill of Tepeyac outside Mexico City in the 16th century as a young indigenous woman speaking Nahuatl. On Friday, December 17, we will celebrate our yearly Posadas, in which the Joseph and Mary go from door to door looking for a place for Jesus to be born. When the last door opens for them, a party follows with music and piñatas! All are welcome to join us for these special festivities or at the 1:00 service every Sunday.

— The Rev. Gabriel Lamazares, Assistant Rector
503/284-7141 or gabel@stmaa.org

SAINTS TO REMEMBER HOLY WOMEN, HOLY MEN

NOVEMBER: ISAAC WATTS

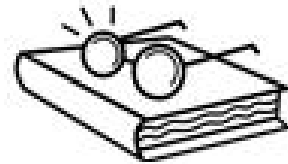
On November 26, we are asked to remember Isaac Watts, the great hymn writer of such gems of devotion as *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, *Joy to the World*, and *Jesus Shall Reign*. He was born in England in 1674, the eldest child of a Nonconformist family. He wrote more than 600 hymns, about a quarter of which remain in popular use. In addition to hymns, he was also a prolific writer towards the end of his life. He wrote on subjects as diverse as logic, works for children, and the English language. In his honor, perhaps we can all sing one of his hymns on that day and be grateful for his work and witness.

DECEMBER: LILLIAN TRASHER

On December 19, we are asked to remember Lillian Trasher, missionary in Egypt. Who was she? I'm glad you asked. (I didn't know, either!) Lillian was born in 1887 in Brunswick, Georgia where, at the age of 22, she broke off an engagement and heard God's call to serve as a missionary. She opened her Bible for guidance and read Acts 7:34: *And now come, I will send thee to Egypt*. She arrived in Alexandria in 1910 and began, one child at a time, an orphanage that eventually expanded to take in widows and the blind as well. At the time of her death in 1961, she was known as the *Mother of the Nile* and had cared for close to 25,000 Egyptian children. (Adapted from Holy Women, Holy Men)

DECEMBER BOOK GROUP READS A FAVORITE

The December Book Group will gather to discuss one of C.S. Lewis' most compelling works, a partial autobiography called *Surprised by Joy*. We will meet on December 16 at 7:30 pm in St. Michael's House. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Gallery between services. Hope you can make it!



GIFTS OF THE SEASON

Please join us on December 11 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm for a gift-wrapping session. We are wrapping little Christmas gifts for those in our parish who may be in need of some extra comfort this year. This year we are asking you for help with shopping prior to December 11, wrapping on December 11, or delivering following the wrap party. If you can do all three, that would be even better! This is a fun and rewarding activity which helps these parishioners to know that they are remembered by St. Michael's.

For more information, please call Peggy Hartman at 520/252-8490, or send an e-mail to mhartman1943@hotmail.com. We really need you!

ESL NEWS

On Tuesday, December 7, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, we are privileged to have a representative of the Multnomah County Library with us. Melissa Madenski, Adult Literacy Coordinator, will host a presentation on the many resources available to us from the public library. Please RSVP to me by Tuesday, November 30, if you are planning to attend.

We will also be celebrating the end of the fall 2010 term with coffee and desserts. This social time will give us a chance to talk about our experiences this term and share ideas for the future. I hope all of you can attend, including those folks not able to tutor this term.

— Cathy Searls, ESL Coordinator
503/884-0067, SearlsC@comcast.net

FOSTER CARE CHILDREN CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT ST. MICHAEL'S

St. Michael's is thrilled to be partnering for a second year with the Midtown Child Welfare Office to provide a welcoming space for their annual Holiday Party for children and families in the foster-care system. The party, which will be held at St. Michael's on Wednesday, December 22, is designed to give children and their biological families a chance to be together to enjoy each other's company and share in some of the fun family traditions of the season. The party will include cookie-decorating, holiday crafts, pictures taken with Santa, gifts for the children and lots of Christmas music, good food and good cheer!

One important component of the party is the opportunity for parents not currently living with their children to give their child a toy – something they may not be able to afford on their own. At the Holiday Party, there will be a "Toy Closet" stocked with donated toys so that parents can "shop" for an age-appropriate toy for their child, have the toy gift-wrapped, and then give it to their child.

Teddy Bears are especially welcome gifts for children of all ages. During the month of December, St. Michael's will collect Teddy Bears to be given to the children attending the Holiday Party when they visit Santa in the Parish Hall. Any extra bears will go back to the Midtown branch of DHS, where they'll be used throughout the year to help children transition when they must leave their home or familiar surroundings. Please bring a new teddy bear to church in December and help us build a mountain of bear hugs for foster-care children in our community.

While shopping for the perfect, cuddly Teddy Bear, please consider purchasing a toy for a young child to help stock the Toy Closet at the Holiday Party. Toys don't have to be big, fancy or electronic to be "just what they've always wanted!" Here are a few suggestions that never fail to delight: a baby doll, toy cars or trucks, a bag of building blocks, balls of all sizes, board games, puzzles, a classic children's book or sturdy board book for toddlers.

I rejoice that St. Michael's is a place of overflowing hospitality and that we are able to provide a safe, loving place for families to celebrate and connect during this special Holiday Party. St. Michael's partnership with the Department of Human Services Midtown Office is just one example of the way our community, through the stewardship of God's gifts to us, can share the good news of God's abundant love with our friends and neighbors.

Volunteers from the St. Michael's community can help make the Holiday Party run smoothly, and there are many different ways to lend a helping hand. The December 5 FORUM at

10: 10 am will focus on the St. Michael's/DHS partnership, which has provided a home for the Holiday Party and most recently collected nearly 100 backpacks filled with school supplies for children in foster care. Come to the FORUM on December 5 and learn more about the upcoming Holiday Party, our growing partnership with the Midtown Child Welfare office and how each of us can participate in supporting the children in our community.

Please bring Teddy Bears and new, unwrapped toys to the church by Sunday, December 19. Your generosity will make a difference in the life of a child whose family is in crisis and who, this holiday season, is in need of our love, support and encouragement. Thank you!

— Leslie Sackett
Associate for Ministry with Children & Families

FAMILY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28 Advent Fair 10:00 am
Nativity Hall: Create your own
Advent Wreath!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 Godly Play and Sunday
School classes at 10:10 am

First Pizza Club meeting with
The Rev. Chris Craun at 5:00 pm
(grades 3, 4 and 5)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 Godly Play and Sunday
School classes at 10:10 am

Costume fittings for Nativity Play

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 Nativity Play rehearsal
in church (all ages) at 10:10 am

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23 Nativity Play dress
rehearsal 9:30 am -12:30 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve
Family Service 4:00 pm/Reception in
Parish Hall

Baby Jesus Reunion photo taken
after the Family Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 St. Michael & All
Angels 100th Birthday!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 Historical Liturgy
Celebrating St. Michael's
Centennial

JOYFUL NEWS

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL: THE BABY JESUS REUNION

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

One of our most beloved traditions at St. Michael's is the Christmas Eve Family Service at 4:00 pm, when the children of the parish present a Nativity Play recounting the birth and adoration of Jesus. Year after year, the story is told with the children in costume as shepherds, angels, kings and inn-keepers. And year after year, the children touch our hearts and minds and fill us with the love of God through their earnest and joyful presentation of the story of Joseph and Mary and their newborn babe.

Part of the magic of this play comes from the long-awaited appearance of Baby Jesus, who makes his (or her) entrance near the end of the play, held tenderly in Mary's arms. At St. Michael's, we are blessed to have had a "real" Baby Jesus in each Nativity Play for the nearly 20 years since this particular Nativity Play was first conceived and produced. Awake or asleep, cooing or crying, each Baby Jesus has been a poignant and beautiful reminder of the miracle and blessing of God's love among us.

As part of our Centennial Celebration, we are hosting a Baby Jesus Reunion on December 24! To anyone who has ever been Baby Jesus in the Nativity Play, we invite you and your family to come to St. Michael's this Christmas Eve for a very special reunion. Directly following the 4:00 Family Service, we will take a group photo of all the children and youth who have portrayed Baby Jesus in the Nativity Play. For those who have moved from Portland, we'd love to hear from you and invite you to send us a current picture of your "Baby Jesus." A festive reception follows the service in the Parish Hall.

It is with deep gratitude that we recognize and give thanks for all the children and families who have helped make St. Michael's a vibrant and dynamic parish for the past 100 years! Please share your gifts, your passions, your time and your talent, and help write the next chapter of St. Michael's history. The best is yet to come!

— Leslie Sackett,
Associate for Ministry with Children & Families

NEW PIZZA CLUB!



All 3rd- to 5th-graders are invited to join Rector Chris Craun and David Berkson for a night of games and pizza. Meet us at St. Michael's House at 5:00 pm on Sunday, December 5!



YOUTH UPDATE

It's been a busy year and hard to believe that we're already at December. Here's a look back at the past three months:

Almost 30 youth attended our Annual Retreat in September!

The St. Michael's Peace Core helped the Environmental Stewardship Commission collect over **100 carloads of Styrofoam to recycle!**

We netted over \$760 at our Annual Pumpkin Sale and Fundraiser!

Twenty-four youth attended our Lasertag First Friday Event in November!

Additionally, at the mission trip, retreats and Friday outings, **youth from the Misa comprise anywhere from one third to one half of the attendees!**

Save The Date for our Advent Brunch, Sunday, December 19, from 10:00-11:00 am at St. Michael's House.

Thanks to all of you for making this such a blessed and wonderful year.

— David Berkson,



ALL SAINTS CENTENNIAL PHOTO PROJECT

Many, many thanks to all the people who helped to surround us with our 'great cloud of witnesses' on All Saints Sunday. Chad Southwell was instrumental in engineering the structures, and the inimitable Lynda Garner provided the organza and ribbons along with her keen artistic eye. George Smith formatted the scanned photos that were printed out by Bob Spiers. Lynda Garner, Amy Valentine, Sheri O'Brien, Barb Miller, Caroline Litzenberger, Susie Silva-Strommer, Mitch and Karen Oglesby, Stephanie English and Jennie Street hung the banners, ribbons and photos. Leslie Sackett, Shawna Gandy and Sandi Lien joined us on Saturday to hang the remaining photos.

It was amazing to see the Nave transformed in this special way, and it was very moving to worship surrounded by our saints. This was an All Saints' for the history books!

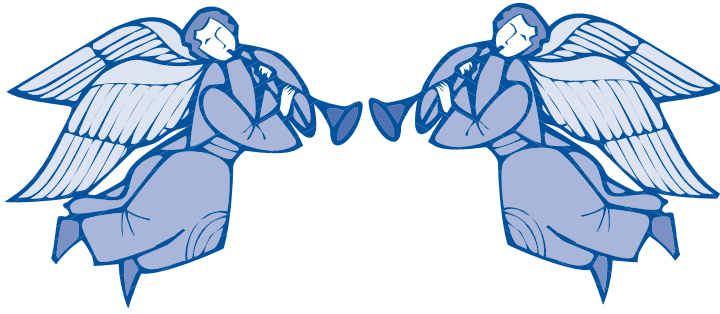
— Ann Wetherell, Centennial Celebration Committee Chair



OH, LORD, WHAT A MORNING... ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 2010

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day: the saints triumphant rise in bright array... The saints definitely rose around us in a cloud of glory on our celebration of All Saints Day. After we worshiped, surrounded by our beloved departed, we were graced with a stewardship brunch in the Parish Hall. Leading the crews who made that part of the celebration successful were Terrie Ingram, Thea Sanchez, and Amy Valentine. Awesome assistance come from Peggy Hartman, Kathleen Rose, Amy Swartz, Holly and Steve Denniston, Robert and Christine Weber-Kearney, Cash Henry, Sundance Wilson, Kevin Cole, Karen Fong, Aldo Luna Montes, as well as Mitch Oglesby, who graciously made the morning coffee. Many thanks to those wonderful people, as well as all of the grand cooks who shared their bounty with us. These parishioners are among those exemplifying the spirit of stewardship in time, talents, and goods.

— Barb Miller



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- NOVEMBER 21 **10:10 am FORUM: The Catechumenate**
- 3:00 pm Portland Vocal Consort concert**
- NOVEMBER 24 **7:30 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service at Rose City Park United Methodist Church**
- NOVEMBER 25 **10:00 am Thanksgiving Day service at St. Matthew's Episcopal in Parkrose**
- NOVEMBER 28 **10:10 am Advent Fair (no FORUM)**
- DECEMBER 3 **6:30 pm Episcopal Peace Fellowship's potluck and Peace Flix: Joyeux Noël**
- DECEMBER 5 **10:10 am FORUM: Department of Human Services (DHS)**
- DECEMBER 11 **9:00 pm Service and celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- DECEMBER 12 **10:10 am FORUM: Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- DECEMBER 17 **7:00 pm Las Posadas**
- DECEMBER 18 **5:00 pm Family Eucharist and potluck**
- 7:00 pm Lessons & Carols**

CHECK THE CALENDAR AT WWW.STMAA.ORG FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF EVENTS AND CLASSES.

advent noontime concerts

Our Advent Noontime Concerts are nearly here. On the four Tuesdays of the Advent season, we will present a half-hour concert at 12:10 pm in the church followed by a simple soup and sandwich lunch in the Parish Hall. These concerts will feature some of the many gifted musicians at St. Michael's.

As well as a joy to us, this is a great way to reach out to those who are only here in the area on weekdays. To ensure our success, we'd like a team to plan and prepare the lunches, and a second team to work on publicity. If you can help or have any questions or ideas, please contact Bob Spiers in the parish office at 503/284-7141 or at bobs@stmaa.org.

Please join us for any or all of the following concerts:

- NOVEMBER 30 **Bob Spiers, organ**
- DECEMBER 7 **Melissa Parkhurst, piano**
- DECEMBER 14 **Patti Evans, flute; Roberta Bond, harp and organ**
- DECEMBER 21 **Audrey Sackett, soprano**

YOU ARE INVITED TO

CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL LESSONS AND CAROLS

Saturday, December 18, 2010, at 7:00 pm

St. Michael & All Angels Church
1704 Northeast 43rd Avenue

A festive reception will follow.

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1704 NE 43rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97213-1402

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THANKSGIVING HAPPENINGS

Please join with our neighboring churches in attending an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service on November 23 at 7:30 pm. The service will be held at Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 NE Alameda.

On November 24, plan to join St. Matthew's parishioners in a Thanksgiving Day service at 10:00 am. St. Matthew's is located at 11229 NE Prescott St. in the Parkrose neighborhood.

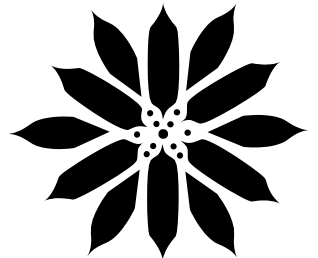
St. Michael's office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 25-26. We'll see you at the Advent Fair on November 28!

LET US KNOW...

... if you have noticed something at St. Michael's in need of repair. Have you observed a light out, a tripping hazard, a broken latch or handle? Have you, perhaps, fallen victim to a "pinching pew"? Please let the office know if something's not working properly. We'll pass that information on to the MOWs and WOWs. You can reach us at office@stmaa.org or 503/284-7141.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Contributions for flowers in the church at Christmas are welcome. Return this form with your gift by Monday, December 20. Call the parish office at 503/284-7141 for more information.



In memory of:

In thanksgiving for:

Donated by _____

Please make checks payable to
St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church
with "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line