

THE MESSENGER

Mailed February 26, 2009

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**DEAR FRIENDS,**

The year I burned the previous year's palms to use for Ash Wednesday services is a memory I will carry for a long time. Palms don't burn easily, I discovered, hunched shivering over a wok in the backyard on a cold February night; and when they do burn, they give off a pungent odor, an odor that is strong and lingering. And I discovered that they just don't magically become the smooth ash that I envisioned rubbing methodically on foreheads the next day. Even now on Ash Wednesday, when I administer the black, sooty ashes that are a mark of our mortal nature along with the familiar words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," I recall the sharp wind of that February night and smell the distinctive aroma of burning palms.

Ash Wednesday is the gateway to Lent. The thumbprints of ashes traced on our foreheads will fade; but as the season of Lent begins, remembering that we are dust is important to cultivating our relationship with God through the disciplines of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. All that flourishes in life turns to ash, a handful of dry dust which is carelessly scattered by the wind like the wind that whipped against my legs when I was burning the palms – everything, without exception, will fall back to dust. The gift of Lent is 40 precious days to open ourselves up most particularly to God, and to examine ourselves in the presence of the God who created us, knows us, and loves us. We are given 40 days to be reconciled to God and to one another through a true conversion of heart.

Lent is a time to let the power of our faith story take hold for us, a time to let the events get up and walk around in us, a time to intensify how we discover the living Christ, a time to place our feet in the footprints of Jesus in Jerusalem, a time to ponder and wonder ... Lent is a time to allow a fresh new experience of God.

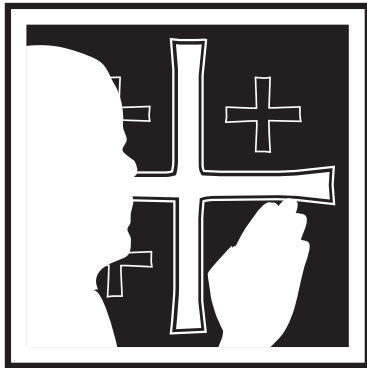
Blessed Lent,

Joan Yetter, Interim Rector

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

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR...

- + those recovering from surgery: DONNA DEAN, RAY BAKER, and JONICA TABLER
- + those facing surgery: BOB ULLMAN, on March 2
- + those who are healing: ANNETTE ALEXANDER, MARCILE WALLACE, CINDY LAWRENCE, DEACON JEAN MCAFEE, JOHN MCGILL, GARRY NEIL, BOB SCHNEIDER, ALICE SCANNELL, LIN ROBERTSON, and PAT WILSON
- + the ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY during this time of transition
- + thanksgiving for the tireless efforts of the PROFILE COMMITTEE whose work has resulted in an incredible expression of life and ministry at St. Michael's
- + that the deliberations of the DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE, whose work it is to choose a rector for this parish, will be guided by God's gracious Spirit



## EXPLORING A CALL

Long-time St. Michael's parishioner Penelope Lichatowich has recently taken the first step in the process of exploring a call to ordination as priest in the Episcopal Church. Penelope was named a Postulant at the recent Vocations Conference at which persons discerning a call to ordination gather with The Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of Oregon and the Bishop to interview and further discern their call to ordained ministry.

Beginning March 1, Penelope has been assigned to the parish of St. John the Baptist in Portland to continue her personal and spiritual development in the discernment process. She will be working at St. John the Baptist on Sundays and Wednesdays for approximately one year. While we will not regularly see Penelope on Sundays, she will continue to meet regularly with a support group at St. Michael's consisting of Pat McGaffigan, Thea Sanchez, Georgia Beardsley, Jim Robbins, Gerry Wilson, and Gary Davis.

## OUTREACH & JUSTICE MINISTRIES COUNCIL

The Outreach & Justice Ministries Council welcomes Sue Donora as its new chair! Sue has been a member of the council since 2007 and has been instrumental in the development of our Alternative Gift Catalog. Many thanks to our retiring chair Bev Hoeffler for her bold and creative leadership of the Outreach & Justice Ministries Council during these past two years. Bev was elected to the vestry in January but will continue serving on the Outreach & Justice Ministries Council. The Outreach & Justice Ministries Council meets quarterly to provide oversight to the parish's outreach ministries and to support the parish in its advocacy for justice, compassion, and peace. During 2008, the Council sponsored the Millennium Development Goals bulletin-board displays and FORUMS; the Bread for the World letter-writing campaign (with the Youth Group); the presentation of the film "For the Bible Tells Me So;" the Anti-Torture Campaign; participation in the 2008 Gay Pride Parade and Cascades AIDS Project Walk, the six-week Sabbath Economics class; and the Alternative Gift Catalog. The Council also sponsored a reception for Sister Simone Campbell during her visit and supported the development of the new "2nd Saturday Lunch" ministry.

In addition to Sue Donora and Bev Hoeffler, members of the Outreach & Justice Ministries Council include Jim Anderson, Lynn Baker, Mickey Harnage, Jean Morrison, Kerlin and Jordan Richter, Janet Robinson, Steve Walton, Jane Peters, and Deacon Marla McGarry-Lawrence. If you are interested in serving on the Outreach & Justice Ministries Council, please contact Deacon Marla McGarry-Lawrence at 503/284-7141 ext. 314 or [MarlaML@stmaa.org](mailto:MarlaML@stmaa.org), or Sue Donora at 971/645-1907 or [sdonora@yahoo.com](mailto:sdonora@yahoo.com).

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## REPORTERS WANTED

Roving reporters needed! St. Michael's is a very busy place, with all kinds of meetings and events taking place inside and outside the church. If you participate in a particular lesser-known event or ministry, won't you help us to inform the parish about it? If you haven't seen an article about it in The Messenger, then it's time you did! Just a few words describing the event with a little of its history, if you know it, would be terrific. We'd love to hear from you about your life as St. Michael's.

Please be sure to send your articles for the next issue of The Messenger to [gorellana@stmaa.org](mailto:gorellana@stmaa.org) by March 16, 2009.



# INVOLVE YOURSELF IN MINISTRY

## CAROLINE'S CORNER: DISCOVERING OUR MINISTRIES

THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF GIFTS, BUT THE SAME SPIRIT. THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF SERVICE, BUT THE SAME GOD.  
(1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-5)

Yes, indeed! "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same God," as the header for this column proclaims. Here at St. Michael's the rich variety of gifts has combined with amazing generosity of spirit to create a community comprised of people who are constantly exploring and living into their particular calls to baptismal ministry. This community is also a place that continues to experience the powerful presence, comfort and encouragement of the Holy Spirit. One of my responsibilities in my position here has been to document the ministries of this community, and most of these ministry descriptions are available through the parish website (<http://www.stmaa.org>). Just select "Our Ministries" in the side-column on the homepage and then choose from the various ministry areas listed at the top of the page that will appear. Each of these ministry areas is coordinated by a Vestry Ministry Team. This year's coordinators will be assigned after the Vestry retreat in March 14 and will be found listed on the back of the Sunday bulletin.

This combination of gifts and generosity inspired by the Holy Spirit, so palpably present within this worshipping community, has sustained me throughout my nearly forty-year association with this place, even during the decade when I was living in England and then in Pittsburgh. I know it will continue to sustain me, no matter how or where God calls me in the future. As I live into the new reality created by the elimination of my position as Associate Priest for Ministry Development, I thank you for your prayers and support, both during my time in this role and since the announcement of this change. While I pray that I may always be open to the work of the Holy Spirit and God's call, my intention is to remain a member of this community. The parish leadership has asked that I absent myself from St. Michael's for a few weeks so that we can all get used to the fact that I am no longer a staff member. However, once that time has passed, I intend to return here to worship, sing in the choir, and perhaps occasionally preside or preach. St. Michael's is my parish home.

Caroline Litzenberger

## ALTERNATIVE GIVING FOR 2008

In spite of the economic downturn and snowstorms on sale days, 25 parishioners chose alternative gifts for their family members and friends from the St. Michael's 2008 Alternative Gift Catalog during the Advent season. Their generosity raised \$3,862 for ten organizations that each support one or more of the Millennium Development Goals through their mission and work. A letter from St. Michael's was sent to the participating organizations with a check for the following amounts, respectively:

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| • Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon HIV Day Center | \$245  |
| • El Porvenir                                    | \$495  |
| • Episcopal Relief and Development               | \$1090 |
| • Good Samaritan Ministries Zambian Clinic       | \$370  |
| • Hollywood Loaves and Fishes                    | \$383  |
| • Maria Luisa Ortiz Cooperative Women's Clinic   | \$360  |
| • Medical Teams International                    | \$325  |
| • Mercy Corps                                    | \$274  |
| • Portland Animal Welfare Team                   | \$100  |
| • Portland Habitat for Humanity, Women Build     | \$220  |

If you have any comments or suggestions for improving the catalog or process for next year, or if you would like to be involved in developing the new catalog, please contact the co-chairs for next year's catalog. They are Mickey Harnage, [jmharnage@yahoo.com](mailto:jmharnage@yahoo.com), and Sue Donora, [sdonora@yahoo.com](mailto:sdonora@yahoo.com). They would love to hear from you!

Bev Hoeffler, Outreach and Justice Ministries Council

## VESTRY SEEKS DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION

This year is full of promise and possibility in the Diocese of Oregon. The 121st Convention of the Diocese will meet in Eugene on November 19-21 to elect the 10th bishop and to conduct business related to living into the mission of the church in the world. Each congregation sends delegates to convention as determined by the number of pledging units in the parish.

Each year, the Vestry of St. Michael's elects five people to serve as convention delegates. To be considered for election as a delegate you must be a communicant who has worshiped at St. Michael's for more than six months and be at least 16 years of age.

The convention begins on Thursday evening, November 19, and ends on Saturday morning, November 21. It is an incredible time of gathering the larger diocesan family together in prayer and fellowship, and this year will be especially significant due to the election of a new bishop. If you would like to find out more about this ministry or would like to be considered to serve as convention delegate, please contact Jennie Street at 503/282-8159, Karen Oglesby at 503/284-9470, or Joan Yetter at 503/284-7141. The vestry will elect delegates at its retreat on March 14.

# UPDATE FROM THE DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

The Search/Discernment Committee has begun responding to inquiries about our rector position and will begin reviewing initial applications within the next two weeks.

After minor revisions, the Vestry has given final approval to the Parish Profile, and it is now on the St. Michael's website. Within the Profile, the key document for the Discernment Committee is the rector's position description. The description is the end result of discussions and interviews conducted in the community's effort to describe the "ideal" rector. The position description will guide our search; it will be the standard against which we evaluate candidates and from which we will develop candidate interview questions. For those who would like to review the position description as well as the complete application packet, copies will be available on the Information Table in the Gallery or on our website: [www.stmaa.org](http://www.stmaa.org).

A summary of items outlined in the full position description is as follows:

The Rector assumes the central role of supervising, directing and administering the overall ministry to 750 members; supervises two clergy and six lay persons; and oversees a budget of approximately \$460,000. In conjunction with the Vestry, the Rector sets the tone and direction for worship, provides regular preaching and pastoral care, is the "face" of the congregation to the outside community, directs and supports outreach in social justice issues, is the steward and administrator of the physical property, and provides an example of integrity and Christian discipleship. The Rector also

works with and provides oversight for the Spanish congregation, and assists in securing essential resources to maintain the viability of that community. The entire ministry is carried out in accordance with the constitution of the parish and the Diocese, and with the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

The Discernment Committee has begun receiving names of candidates whose profiles match our requirements. These profiles are generated by our national office from a computer database of all Episcopal clergy. Once we receive the name, we inquire of the candidate if they are interested in our position. If interested, we send the candidate an application packet. The packet asks candidates to provide, among other items, written responses to two essay questions, a sermon sample, and names of references.

The Discernment Committee continues to seek your thoughts and prayers. Sunday FORUMS to update the community are scheduled for March 15 and May 3. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either Pete Schmidt or Ann Hargraves, co-chairs of the Discernment Committee.

## PRAYER FOR TRANSITION

Jesus Christ, with you we walk the way of love.  
Be with us as we journey to a new place,  
that we may delight in one another on this voyage of discovery;  
that we may have the courage to dream;  
that we may have the desire to listen to the truth in one another  
and the patience to wait on your voice;  
and that we may call to St. Michael & All Angels  
that person who will guide us  
with love into your future of freedom, justice, and peace. Amen.

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**GIFTS ARE WELCOME FOR EASTER FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH.**

Please make checks out to St. Michael & All Angels

Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (circle one)

in honor of / in memory of / in thanksgiving for

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Your name and telephone number:

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Altar flower donations are welcome at any time of the year. During the season of Lent altar flowers are replaced by greens. Please contact the Parish Office, 503/284-7141, or <[office@stmaa.org](mailto:office@stmaa.org)> with any questions or requests.

**ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1704 NE 43rd Avenue  
Portland, OR 97213-1402

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9am to 5pm



**ST. MICHAEL'S CALENDAR**

- MARCH 22**      **Evensong & Concert 5:00 pm**  
Fauré Requiem
- APRIL 5**        **Palm Sunday/Sunday of the**  
**Passion**  
Regular schedule of 7:30, 9:00, 11:00  
and 1:00 (in Spanish)
- APRIL 9**        **Maundy Thursday**  
Agapé Meal begins at 5:45 pm and the  
Liturgy at 7:00
- APRIL 10**      **Good Friday**  
Church opens at 6:00 am, services at  
Noon and 7:00 pm
- APRIL 11**      **The Great Vigil of Easter**  
Service begins at 8:00 pm
- APRIL 12**      **Easter Sunday**  
Regular schedule of 7:30, 9:00, 11:00  
and 1:00 (in Spanish)
- APRIL 17**      **Easter Readings and Song**

**THE HALF-FULL GLASS**

We have been blessed with 234 total pledges for this year, up from 231 in 2008. This includes over 25 pledges received from folks who didn't pledge last year or who have never pledged at St. Michael's. A number of parishioners have increased their pledges for 2009, bringing our new total to \$466,911.

Thank you to all who believe that the vision of St. Michael's is worth their time and treasure!

- Gloria Orellana

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**THE JOYFUL NEWS**

Spring term for the Joyful Noise Arts Center begins Wednesday, April 1st – no kidding!

Check out all the latest information for Children and Family Ministries on our website, [www.stmaa.org](http://www.stmaa.org). Questions? Please call Leslie Sackett, 503/284-7141 X318.