

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

Mailed October 21, 2010

CONTENTS

YOUR PRAYERS.....	2
MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND	2
SAFETY NOTE.....	2
GOT SAUCE?.....	2
NOVEMBER 7: 'A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES' ...	3
JOIN US FOR BUNKO! ...	3
VESTRY REFLECTIONS.....	3
THE JOYFUL NEWS.....	4
YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS.....	4
THANK YOU TO OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS	5
SAYING YES TO THE SPIRIT	5
COAT COLLECTION CONTINUES	5
WE ARE A CATECHUMENAL PARISH.....	5
INQUIRERS' CLASS	5
INTRODUCING KRISTEN SEIFERT	6
OUTREACH & JUSTICE COUNCIL NEWS	6
SUNDAY LUNCH.....	6
WHAT A DAY!	6
STORY CORPS	7
10-10-10 STYROFOAM COLLECTION.....	7
ADVENT NOONTIME CONCERTS	8

DEAR FAITHFUL PARISHIONERS,

By the time you receive this edition of the Messenger, you will have or soon will receive, information regarding stewardship for 2011. I presented an idea to the gathering at the FORUM in early October – the idea of taking a great LEAP of faith. I would like to flesh out that idea in this month's letter.

This incredible year-long Centennial Celebration gives us a remarkable opportunity to think about the next 100 years of our life together at St. Michael & All Angels. However, with such a breadth of history, worship, outreach, and formation over the past 100 years, our next step cannot be just a step; it must be a LEAP. Our next 100 years needs to be built on the four principles of Leadership, Empowerment, Action, and Planning.

We have incredible leadership throughout this parish, but part of my hope is that we see more initiative, more courage, and more diversity in our leadership. There are gifts and ideas within each of us, and that's why our next building block is empowerment. Leadership comes from the belief that one is empowered. While my hope is that Gabe and I will be able to help you discern your gifts and talents, it is not just the role of your clergy. This is a community that knows one another well, and you are capable of supporting and encouraging each other to do great things. The pastoral leadership of this congregation will continue to do its best to preach the Good News in fresh and challenging ways; but part of being empowered is discovering the power of the Good News within each of us.

Action is the next aspect of taking a LEAP. While this parish is not short on action, there are important ways in which our action needs to be shaped more by our leadership and empowerment. Incorporating newcomers into action is one way in which our parish can be strengthened by this principle.

Finally, we need a plan. The search process for a new rector was shaped, in part, by the hard work of putting together a Parish Profile which laid out what this parish was looking for in a new rector. It is time now to transform that profile into a living and breathing long-range plan. We are all here now. Together, let's take the next leap!

Faithfully,

The Reverent Chris Craun, Rector

Main Office	503/284-7141	Chris B Craun, Rector	Ext. 312
Office email	office@stmaa.org	Gabriel Lamazares, Assistant Rector	Ext. 316
Bob Spiers, Associate for Music & Liturgy	Ext. 311	Leslie Sackett, Associate for Children & Families	Ext. 318
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 VERONICA RINARD, LIN ROBERTSON, JEAN GOSLAIN, ANNETTE ANDERSON, SARAH BRYANT, and KEVIN MURPHY
- + Repose of the soul of CAROLYN BROOKINS IVERSON, beloved cousin of CATHY SEARLS, and for peace and comfort for her family
- + Thanksgiving for the recovery of sight of JACK HASEN after his corneal transplant
- + the unemployed and underemployed
- + wisdom and discernment in our electorate as we vote in November, that our bitter political enmities may be laid aside for the sake of peace and justice for all



MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Our Mission Endowment Fund supports outreach and training for outreach work. It was created in 1992 and has enabled us to fund many important needs.

In this our centennial year, we are offering a special opportunity to build our legacy for outreach at St. Michael's. Our new Centennial Society will recognize contributors who make a significant commitment to the fund. Everyone is welcome to join; we don't want anyone to miss out! Details will be announced soon.

— John Pedisich

SAFETY NOTES FOR ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Please help us keep your young children safe while at St. Michael's by accompanying them to and from classrooms, the nursery and the bathroom on Sunday mornings. The building is open to the public all day on Sunday, and we want to keep everyone as safe as possible.

We also ask that children and youth not climb the trees in the church courtyard. We appreciate your support around the issue of tree-climbing. Even though it is hard to tell a young person to come down out of a tree, we ask all adults to work together to help support this safety policy.

ASSISTANT RECTOR'S CORNER

As we watch the leaves fall and accumulate in our backyards and the days get shorter in the Northern Hemisphere, this season of the liturgical year invites us to look towards our common future, remember our end (in both senses of the word), and dream of the throngs of saints, famous and nameless, who surround us on every side.

As Anglicans, we have not always been friendly to the idea of saints as intercessors and role models. While the passions of the Reformation still burned hot, our evangelical wing was clear that the idea of "saints" in the New Testament referred to all true followers of Christ in word and deed, sanctified by his redeeming grace, not just those designated by a church authority for special veneration. While we would continue to remember those saints the Church in England had recognized, there would be no prayers addressed to them because worship is reserved for God alone.

However, as those passions cooled and relative peace came to rule in our broad tent, many Anglicans continued to remember the saints, carefully defining their role as intercessors and models of virtue. If we affirm each Sunday that we believe in the "communion of saints," doesn't that mean the living *and* the dead in Christ? And if we can ask one of our living brothers and sisters to pray for us, might we not ask those who behold with their own eyes the Beatific Vision after death to do so as well? Moreover, we began to realize that there are people of exemplary virtue in many corners of the Christian fold and that it is salutary for us to remember and be formed by our memory of them.

With these considerations in mind, General Convention in 2006 requested a revision of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, our calendar of saints with proper prayers and readings to include a broader variety of people of exemplary faith, hope, and love. That revision, titled *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints*, has been approved for trial use and published. In the new calendar, we find not just familiar saints like Matthew, Michael, Luke, and Mary Magdalene, but also Nicholas Copernicus (Astronomer), W.E.B. DuBois (Sociologist), and Thomas Merton (Contemplative and Writer). There are also some folks I have never heard of: Prudence Crandall (Teacher) and Albert John Luthuli (Prophetic Witness in South Africa). To help us get to know some of these ancestors in faith, starting in November look for a box in each Messenger introducing us to one of the new saints we're asked to remember each month.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

— Gabe Lamazares, Assistant Rector

FOR THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS ON NOVEMBER 7: 'A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES'

“For in the multitude of your saints you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses, that we might rejoice in their fellowship, and run with endurance the race that is set before us; and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that never fades away.” Book of Common Prayer, preface for All Saints.

Who are the saints of St. Michael’s – for us as individuals, and for us as a worshipping community? Who runs this race with us and cheers us on?

This centennial year, we will decorate the sanctuary with photos of our saints – departed loved ones and members of St. Michael’s who have passed away, as well as images of the saints of our tradition – to create a ‘great cloud of witnesses.’ Please bring photos of people that you will remember in name and prayer that day. We will suspend them from ribbons on the walls of the sanctuary that are decked out with the colorful organza panels from the Centennial Gala dinner. Your photos can be any size; please label them with your name so we can return them to you. Please deliver them to the church office by Friday, November 5; or come to the church on Saturday, November 6, to hang them yourself. More information will follow regarding the time for decorating the church.

For more information, please call Ann Wetherell at 503/249-1104 or email annwetherell@mac.com



CALLING ALL ADULTS – JOIN US FOR BUNKO!

Do you enjoy rolling dice? Laughing with a great group of friends? Getting caught up in the excitement of fast play? If you answer yes to any of these questions, then Bunko is for you! Come to St. Michael’s on Saturday, November 13, and enjoy some fast-rolling, laughter, and excitement.

There is a \$20 suggested donation to attend the event. There will be snacks, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and a keg generously donated by Bridgeport.

So hold the evening of November 13 on your calendar. This is guaranteed to be a great event! More information will follow, and tickets will go on sale soon. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Miller at bjmiller55@aol.com, Kathleen Rose at krrose@lhs.org, or Wendi Schaener, wschaener@gmail.com.

REFLECTIONS FROM MY FIRST YEAR ON VESTRY

It’s hard to believe that it’s been almost a year since I was elected to the Vestry. This time last year I didn’t have a clue what being a member of the Vestry would really be like. I can say without hesitation, it has been a terrific experience.

The responsibility of the Vestry is to provide leadership and direction in the spiritual life of our parish, as well as helping manage the business operations of our church, including its programs and facilities. So, what has this meant in real life? For someone like me, who has stuck pretty close to the 1:00 pm service and community – including helping with the Grupo Juvenil youth group and cooking for convivio – it meant I learned how vibrant and diverse our church really is. I’ve learned about the over 75 activities that are undertaken at any given time by the six “formal” ministry areas here at St. Michael’s. I’ve learned about the fiscal realities of running a church as large and active as ours. I’ve learned of the vision and the dreams that Chris+ and so many others have for our church’s future.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE VESTRY?

Unlike what some might believe, being a member of the Vestry is not an all-consuming commitment! The biggest commitment is to our monthly meetings, when we enjoy a wonderful dinner together and discuss the issues that are most pressing at that time. These issues range from how to best support the various ministry areas to converting our heat from oil to natural gas.

Every January, four new Vestry members are elected for a three-year term. Now is the time to express your interest and “get the ball rolling.” If you have a strong personal commitment to Jesus Christ, are active in the life of our parish, are a confirmed communicant in good standing in the Episcopal Church, are a pledging member of the parish and are regular in worship and prayer, then you, too, can be a member of this most important ministry.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk to any of the members of the nominating committee: Kevin Warren, Josh English, Wendy Schaener, Karen Oglesby, Jonna Alexander or me.

You will need to complete and submit a statement of interest (available on the information table in the Gallery) no later than November 30. Make this the year you get involved!

— Susie Silva-Strommer

DUE TO THANKSGIVING, THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FOR THE NEXT MESSENGER IS NOVEMBER 10. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

THE JOYFUL NEWS NOVEMBER 2010

In the Godly Play story of Creation, “On the seventh day, God rested and gave us the gift of a day to rest and to remember the great gifts of all the other days.”

For many of us, the notion of stopping to rest or even slowing down long enough to catch our breath is completely foreign to the fast-paced schedules we keep. We are bombarded by instant messaging, emails and cell-phone calls that clamor for our immediate attention. At work our in-boxes stay full to the brim with projects that need to be completed, and at home the household chores and laundry pile are always present – not to mention homework, carpools and soccer practice.

It is in this reality that God invites us to live and move to a sacred rhythm of life that routinely stops to rest, to remember and to recognize the sacred within our midst. Sound crazy? Sound impossible? Our sacred stories tell us that each day of creation is a gift from God, each revelation of God a unique and holy expression of the one who breathed life into every living thing. How might a routine of holy rest and re-creation bring us closer to God and closer to being a reflection of the dream God has for each one of us?

How do we measure our days? What do we teach our children by the way we live, the choices we make, the promises we keep? What are the sacred traditions being passed down to the next generation? What is being lost, what is being found and what is worth saving?

At St. Michael’s, we give thanks for all the gifts of creation, we remind one another of our call to be God’s people in the world, and we celebrate the transforming power of love throughout history and in our lives today. Together in Christian community, we learn, we celebrate, we mourn, we forgive, we heal, we inspire, we fall down, we get up and we live and grow in the light and love of God who created and measures all our days.

SPECIAL DAYS IN CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES TO MARK ON THE CALENDAR:

Sunday, November 7	Celebration of All Saints’ Day (Baptisms)
Sunday, November 14	Joyful Noise Choir sings at 11:00 am liturgy
Saturday, November 20	Family Worship Service & Potluck 5:00 pm,
Sunday, November 28	Advent Fair 10:00 am in the Nativity Hall
Sunday, December 19	Nativity Play Rehearsal 10:00 to 10:50 am
Thursday, December 23	Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal 10:00 am
Friday, December 24	Family Service 4:00 pm

— Leslie Sackett
Associate for Ministry with Children and Families

UPCOMING YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

LASER TAG!

Friday, November 5, 6:00-10:00 pm

Join us at UltraZone for wicked good fun! Dinner at St. Michael’s House at 6:00, leave promptly at 6:30. You must RSVP if you want to play Laser Tag with us. Special discount for St. Michael’s Youth: \$15 per person. Please let us know if that’s too much; financial help is available.

MINORITY REPORT AT HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Monday, November 8, 6:00-9:00 pm

Bad news: we had to reschedule our October showing. Good news: you still have a chance to see this action-packed classic. This one’s for high school students only. Bring a friend, have some popcorn, and cruise into the paranoid universe of *Minority Report*.

PEACE CORE/GRUPO JUVENIL

Sundays, November 14 & 28

12:30-2:00 pm Peace Core

2:15-3:30 pm Grupo

Great start in October, everyone! Just a reminder: Peace Core is our service program, and Grupo is our Bible Study. Like all of our programs, Peace Core and Grupo are open to youth from the morning and afternoon services. Contact the Youth Ministries office for the specifics of our November programming.

ROMEO AND JULIET

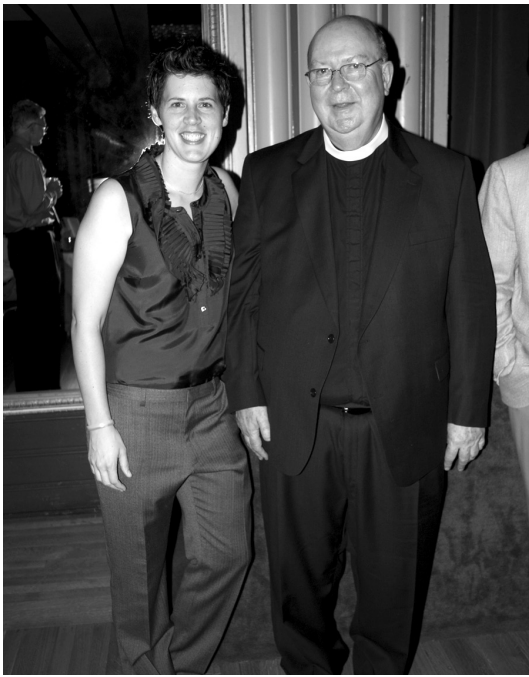
Friday, December 3, 6:30-10:00 pm

Kenneth (remember when we used to call him KC?) Sergienko stars as Romeo in this timeless classic of teenagers making really, really, really bad choices. Tickets for students are only \$5. RSVP if you want to go!

— David Berkson
Associate for Ministries with Youth
503/708-9031 or stmaayouth@stmaa.org

P.S. Almost 30 youth went to our Camp Collins Retreat! Check out the retreat photos on the church website photo gallery at stmaa.org. (Thank you to Meg Ruby for taking them.)





Rector Chris Craun and former Rector John Scannell enjoying the Centennial Gala Dinner on September 25, 2010.

THANK YOU TO OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Our website photo gallery has grown recently thanks to the efforts of the many talented photographers in our midst. Jonathan Schell and Brooks Schaener are my usual go-to guys, and many others have contributed their time and skills to help document our life here at St. Michael's. Those folks include Day Tooley – whose fabulous slideshows we've enjoyed recently – George Smith, Mitch and Karen Oglesby, Sam Kowash, Meg Ruby, Chris Craun with her trusty iPhone, and others. If you find yourself with photographs of a St. Michael's event, please send some our way as an attachment to an email or on a CD.

— Gloria Orellana, glorio@stmaa.org

SAYING YES TO THE SPIRIT

Are you a single adult interested in meeting others for fellowship and social activities? Not quite a Young Adult any longer – except in heart and spirit – but still seeking your place in the world? Perhaps you'd like to join a group of wayfarers for community and fun activities.

Email Celia Carlson at cc@hevanet.com or phone 503/667-9295 if you are interested.

GOT SAUCE?

Spaghetti sauce, that is. October is our month to ingather spaghetti sauce for the Community Meal. Please bring your jars or cans of spaghetti sauce on Sunday to put on the chancel steps; or you can bring them by the parish office anytime.

COAT COLLECTION CONTINUES

We will continue the ingathering of winter wear for our Hollywood East neighbors through the end of November. The folks who live here include senior and/or low-income citizens and many who are physically and mentally challenged. Last year, our donations were gratefully received by those living in the building.

In addition to coats and jackets, we are collecting sweaters, scarves, hats, and gloves. Look for the brightly colored collection box in the Gallery near the piano. Items will be delivered weekly to Hollywood East. Thank you for your generosity!

— Hjalmer Lofstrom

ST. MICHAEL'S IS A CATECHUMENAL PARISH...

IS THIS THE YEAR THE SPIRIT MOVES YOU?

A process of faith formation with roots in the early church, the Catechumenate is a dynamic journey of spiritual inquiry and growth. In weekly gatherings on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:15 pm, Advent through Pentecost (December through May), the catechumenal process is an invitation to faithful discipleship.

We welcome everyone, wherever you are in your spiritual journey, to this experience of deep community. Adults preparing for baptism, newcomers to St. Michael's, and baptized persons seeking to deepen their faith and commitment come together in a lay-led, Gospel-centered process of reflection, learning and formation.

Over the years, many parishioners of St. Michael's have experienced the Catechumenate journey. Is this the year for you?

Questions? For more information, contact one of the formation team:

Jonna Alexander 503/256-0931

Georgia Beardsley 503/228-0078

Kathy Buhl 503/293-9139

Jane Larson 503/253-4422

Michael Sagun 503/226-1160

Rector Chris Craun 503/284-7141

INQUIRERS' CLASS WITH THE RECTOR

If you are new to the Episcopal Church or to St. Michael & All Angels, or if you just have some questions about why we do what we do, please join Chris Craun on Tuesday nights in November. This is a great lead-in or follow-up to the Catechumenate. It is also a chance to brush up on your Episcopal Church 101 facts. Please email Chris at chrisc@stmaa.org if you are interested in attending. Class dates are November 2, 9, and 16 at 7:00 pm.