

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

Mailed September 23, 2010

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DEAR FAITHFUL PARISHIONERS,

Picture this: Your rector is standing on a small wooden platform that is built into a tree a few stories up from the floor of the forest. The next move is for her to jump from this platform toward a trapeze bar that is floating a few yards away. While she is safely harnessed with a rope secured to her back, the other end of the rope is held by twelve teenage boys from St. Michael's church. It is their responsibility to make sure that their rector does not plummet to the ground when she takes the great leap of faith. The only problem, at this point in the story, is that the rector will not let go of the tree that she has wrapped her arms around for dear life.

This was the situation I was in on Saturday, September 18, at Camp Collins with the St. Michael's youth retreat. I have done ropes course challenges before – I have even done the leap of faith before. However, this was the first time that the facilitator of the course, the trained professional, was not holding onto the rope that would catch me when I jumped. He left that task to us. So, when I looked down from the top of that tree and saw our youth with my life in their hands, I will be honest, it gave me pause. There was something much more comfortable about holding onto the tree than stepping out onto the platform. But when I was able to look down and see their reassuring and supportive eyes looking up at me, encouraging me and enticing me to trust them, I let go - and I leaped.

It is one of the greatest feelings – exhilarating, invigorating, enlivening. To trust one another; to trust that each and every person has two hands on the rope, with the same intention and the same desire to support the same thing. This is how I want us to envision stewardship. I want us to understand that stewardship requires the participation and trust of the whole. While I knew looking down at those twelve teenage boys that there were varying degrees of strength, I knew that simply meant that some would be pulling more weight. It did not create a weak link, it created a strong hold. It is the same for us as we continue to navigate through difficult economic times. We all need to put two hands on the rope and trust that each person is going to do as much as they can to support the mission of St. Michael's church. I promise that it will be an experience of a lifetime.

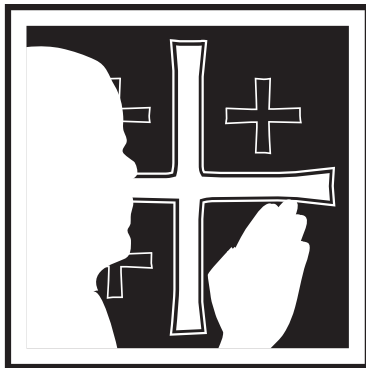
Faithfully,

The Reverend Chris Craun, Rector

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YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR...

- + Healing for JK, PAT KLUM, ED ROWE, JACK HASEN, LIN ROBERTSON, and SHERI MAHONEY
- + repose of the soul of ROBERTA LACROIX and comfort for her family, especially her son, PAUL, in his grief
- + the unemployed and underemployed
- + a lasting peace wherever there is conflict, especially in Israel/Palestine, Iraq, and Afghanistan
- + safety and swift reconstruction for those affected by hurricanes and typhoons this season
- + for all of us constrained by fear, that we may know the truth of God's love and care for us and step forth in courage to be God's hands and heart in the world



ALTAR DE LOS MUERTOS PLEASE SAVE YOUR MARIGOLDS!

St. Michael's will once again be celebrating All Saints (November 1) with our own unique Altar de los Muertos (Altar of the Dead) in the vestibule. El Día de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead) is a traditional Mexican holiday with roots in Aztec and ancient Christian traditions as a time when the dead join the living in a joyous feast of food and color. Altars are constructed in homes and churches on which ofrendas (offerings) of food and drink share space with photos of deceased loved ones, flowers, and candles. Cemeteries throughout Mexico come to life as tombs are cleaned and festively adorned with flowers, favorite foods, and picnicking families. The traditional flowers are marigolds known as zempoalxochitl ("twenty flowers" in the indigenous Nahuatl language), which are popularly known as "the flower of the dead." The marigolds' strong smell and the petals strewn in a path guide the spirits in their return visits.

If you have marigolds in your garden that are still in good condition, we would love to have them brought to the church on Wednesday, October 27, when we construct our Altar de los Muertos. Please also bring photos of deceased family members on Saturday or Sunday morning (October 30 or October 31) and place them on the Altar. Please put your name on the back of each photo and plan to leave them at the church until after the 1:00 liturgy. Contributions of other flowers, especially chrysanthemums, are welcome as well. Then please take some time to celebrate this tangible expression of our union through Christ as the Communion of Saints.

THE ASSISTANT RECTOR'S CORNER

One of the blessings of my work these days is being the point person for the Prayer Chain and the Prayers of the People. One Sunday, as I was looking at my scribbled list of prayers, one of those historical details from some class in seminary swam up to the surface of my consciousness: the diptychs. In early Christian writings, several of the writers mention the deacon's charge over the pair of wax tablets joined by hinges, upon which the names of the living and the dead for whom we pray are inscribed. At the Eucharist, during the Prayers of the People, the deacon would traditionally "read the diptychs," so the community can "continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

And there are so many that need our prayers in this world teeming with joys and sorrows. I receive requests for prayer every week: some by e-mail, some by phone, some in person. Most often, they are, in essence, some variety of a few one-word cries. Help! Remember! Thanks! I gather those names and stories and bring them to my own daily prayer and Chris's, send them to the men and women on our Prayer Chain, and bid your prayers for many of them on Sunday during the Eucharist. We pray in meetings, at St. Brigid's Guild, during healing prayer, and in other gatherings. St. Michael's is a rich and vital school for prayer.

As a result, I find that my senses are heightened. By turning my ear and heart to your prayers, I find that there are prayers scattered everywhere as I walk around in the world. Prayers for the harried mother with a baby on her hip hollering into a cell phone, prayers for the man talking to himself on the street, prayers for the people who stay out of sight in kitchens and closets, cooking and cleaning out of the light of day. Prayers for the dead buried in our national history, in our personal histories, under our feet. Prayers for those who are awake in the middle of the night and for those who are asleep in the middle of the day.

God loves and changes the world in part by tugging at our hearts and moving us to cry out with the voice of the Holy Spirit in "sighs too deep for words." (Romans 8:26) I am humbled and grateful to serve among you by maintaining and reading "the diptychs," uniting us in common supplication for this world that God loves so much.

Gabriel Lamazares, Assistant Rector

DO YOU KNOW?

How much does the music cost for one new song for the choir?

How much is the annual utilities budget for the church?

How do we pay for everything that happens at St. Michael's?

See p. 4 for answers

OCTOBER BOOK GROUP TO FOCUS ON EVOLUTION AND THEOLOGY

In keeping with the theme of ecological awareness and the wonder of creation of our Christian Formation offerings this fall, the October Book Group will gather to discuss Joan Roughgarden's "Evolution and Christian Faith." Dr. Roughgarden is a member of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco and a renowned evolutionary biologist. The book is a brief and fascinating examination of how evolutionary biology can inform our faith, including a thoughtful response to Intelligent Design. We will meet on October 14 at 7:30 pm in St. Michael's House, and Gabe Lamazares will facilitate our conversation. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Gallery between services. Please join us!

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT MESSENGER IS OCTOBER 15. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

JOIN OUR 2010 DRAGONSLAYERS

The Dragonslayers are back! Join the St. Michael's team on October 3 for a 5K walk with other Cascade AIDS teams to raise money to fight AIDS. The route is relatively flat and begins at Pioneer Courthouse Square. Festivities start at 9:00 am and step-off is at 11:00 am

Sign up on our website to walk. Visit www.cascadeaids.org and click on AIDS Walk Portland, then find team info to join our Dragonslayers!

Can't walk with us? Become a sleepwalker! Use the website to sponsor one of our walkers, or contact a walker to donate. For questions call Lynn Baker, 503-284-1011, or e-mail to lm.rl.baker@att.net.

ST. LUKE'S DAY HEALING SERVICE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

St. Luke the Evangelist was a physician who accompanied St. Paul in his missionary efforts throughout the Roman world. Because of his medical training, St. Luke is often associated with the church's healing ministry. We will be honoring St. Luke on Friday, October 17, with a Public Service of Healing and Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm. Please come for healing prayers for yourself or on behalf of someone you love.



EVENSONG OCTOBER 17

Join St. Michael's Singers for Evensong, a beautiful choral service of evening worship, on Sunday, October 17, at 5:00 pm. Evensong combines the monastic services of vespers and compline and features choral settings of the canticles Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, as well as other anthems and hymns. This month's service will feature both the full choir and a smaller chamber choir in music composed by Gibbons, Byrd, Parry, Wesley, Stanford, and Rutter. A reception follows.

WE ARE ONE BODY

Many of us can't remember our first days at St. Michael's. It's become home to us. We each know and trust a group of people here and have become comfortable - hence the challenge.

There are many new faces at St. Michael's these days. Please take the opportunity on Sunday mornings to greet someone new to you and welcome the newcomers in our midst. Wearing your nametag to service can help to make you known more easily. Invite someone unfamiliar to join you in the Parish Hall for Sunday lunch - an easy way to become acquainted over a good St. Michael's meal.

It sounds simple. I know. Most of us think we aren't that person.....the outgoing one, the easy greeter. I, myself, have spent much of my life reclusive. I will probably always be naturally shy and introverted. It is scary to step out of my comfort zone.

However, last fall I chose to try an experiment. I have chosen to smile warmly (at least that's what I've hoped I was doing); to shake hands; to make eye contact; to act as if I and the person to whom I am introducing myself could become friends. I have made this an occasion of joy by stepping out of myself as though that as-yet unknown person were Jesus, cleverly disguised, and I can't wait to make the discovery.

Knowing that I am terrible at remembering names (what use has a recluse for names?), I decided to introduce myself to people whose names I did not know, explaining that this was (I hoped) the first of many happy meetings we would share because I am criminally bad at remembering names.

I am happy to report that, although each one has been surprised by this greeting, no one has yet run away or shown in any other way that they were terribly put off by my incompetence. In fact, most so introduced have been glad to share a first meeting and have happily agreed that we will reintroduce ourselves as often as necessary.

I have met, re-met, and can now comfortably greet by name several people with whom I have grown a bond of humor and a willingness to join hands in the shared endeavor of being one body.

-Letty Phillips

WHAT IS VESTRY?

At St. Michael & All Angels Church, the ministry of the Vestry is defined as the governing body that provides leadership for the parish in many ways. We plan, set goals and policies, serve as role models, and offer opportunities for ministry. We also act as stewards of the parish resources by approving an annual budget, managing parish funds and property, and caring for the Rector and staff. We strive to serve the community by gathering and sharing information, serving as liaisons to an assigned ministry area, and extending hospitality to visitors, friends, and fellow members of the Parish. We accomplish much of our work in our monthly or bi-monthly meetings as well as retreats.

This is an amazing year for the Vestry of 2010! As we celebrate the first anniversary of the arrival of our Rector Chris Craun, we give thanks for her leadership and the many gifts she brings to our community. We are in the midst of a fabulous year-long celebration of our Centennial, thanks to the hard work and dedication of many parishioners. We have an Assistant Rector, Gabriel Lamazares, who not only serves the needs of our Misa congregation but also the congregation at large. We are working with parishioners who are being called to priesthood. We have approved Endowment funds for relief work in Haiti, Nets-for-Life, and Latino youth camp scholarships. We are staying on track with a solid operational budget. Our Stewardship Committee is on fire. We are seeing many new faces and families in our congregation.

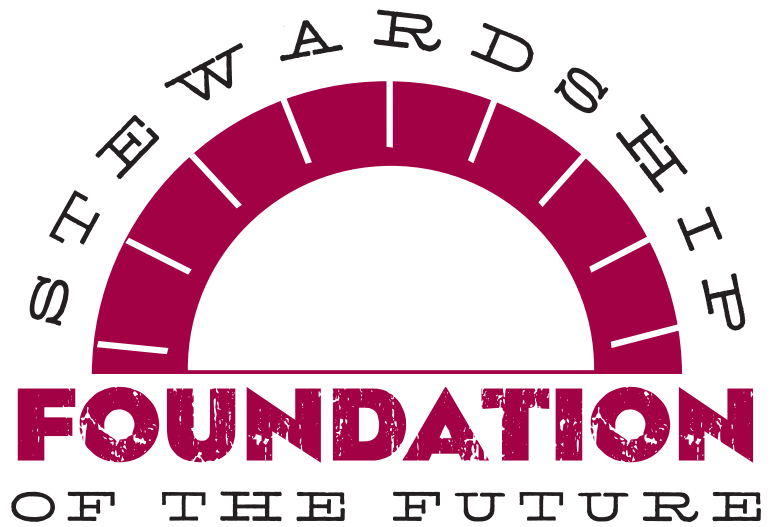
Vestry members continue to work toward goals set forth at the beginning of the year specific to their ministry liaison area, reporting back to the Vestry throughout the year. We now have a Junior Warden specifically assigned to facilities. This year it is Kevin Warren. On his watch, we have remodeled office space, are converting our boiler from oil to natural gas, and are looking to move forward with other building improvements.

The Vestry is led by the Rector and supported by the Treasurer and Parish Clerk. There are 12 members of the Vestry who serve as voting members from the Parish. The requirements for being elected to Vestry include a strong personal commitment to Jesus Christ and to a life of prayer and worship; being involved in Christ's ministry in our community and the world; being a pledging member of the parish; and being a confirmed communicant in good standing in the Episcopal Church. Each year four members are elected at the annual meeting in January to serve a three year term.

In the month of October, we will be seeking candidates for the four slots opening up for 2011. Now is the time! Be a leader! Follow the Spirit! Put yourself forth as a candidate for Vestry. You will not regret it.

ANSWERS TO "DO YOU KNOW?"

Your pledges pay for everything that happens at St. Michael's. It cost \$22,900 for the annual utilities budget for the church. It costs \$180 to purchase music for one new song for the choir.

The logo features a semi-circular arch with the word "STEWARDSHIP" written in a stylized, spaced-out font along its top edge. Below the arch, the word "FOUNDATION" is written in a large, bold, distressed font. Underneath "FOUNDATION", the words "OF THE FUTURE" are written in a smaller, spaced-out font.

STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION OF THE FUTURE

From one perspective, our church building is the outward example of 100 years of the generosity of our congregation as well as 100 years of dedication to the outside world. From another perspective, our building represents 100 years of service to our spiritual and physical needs. Here the hungry are fed; those recovering from the demons of addiction find support and solace; we teach English; we knit to comfort those in need and we build a community that lives the challenges of a Christian life by being God's people in the world.

This year our stewardship theme is "Stewardship is the Foundation of the Future." Just as our building and all it represents sits on a solid foundation, so does the life of our community require a solid foundation of generosity to ensure the ongoing health of our various ministries. Music, youth, children's programs, access to the building and other outreach missions are all dependent on our continuing support.

So, in these difficult times, the challenge to us all is to examine how we want to participate in the financial life of our community. We are moving in new and exciting directions which build on our traditions of service. Let us courageously look at how we can individually support our traditions and our future.

- Stewardship Committee

OCTOBER 10 FORUM: WORKSHOP LED BY FINANCIAL ADVISOR KIM ROSENBERG

Learn how to create a sustainable budget for your family. Explore how you can incorporate your stewardship goals into your vision. Join us for the FORUM at 10:10 am on October 10 in the Nativity Hall.

THE JOYFUL NEWS

FRIENDS AND FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN GATHER ROUND!

Our newest offering for families with young children (and anyone else who would like to join in) is being held the third Saturday of the month at 5:00 pm. A service designed with the young and young at heart in mind is held in the Nativity Hall, followed by a hearty potluck dinner in the Parish Hall. Children and adults are invited to come close to the liturgical action as we hear sacred stories and gather round the table to celebrate Holy Eucharist in this informal, intentional gathering of the generations. The next Family Worship Service is Saturday, October 16 at 5:00 pm. Hope to see you there.

MORE GREAT STUFF TO CHECK OUT...

JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR rehearsals are held Sunday afternoons from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. All children in grades one through five who love to sing are encouraged to “Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!” New choir director, Kristen Seifert, is a graduate of Pacific University with a degree in Music Education. She is currently pursuing her Master’s degree in teaching. Welcome Kristen.

JOYFUL NOISE ART CLASSES are held Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Tuition is \$50 per ten-week term. Art teacher and parishioner Julie Jetton welcomes all St. Michael’s children in grades 1 – 5 (and their friends from school) to join her in an exploration of creativity using an array of media and inspiration from the Masters.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING, “Safeguarding God’s Children” is offered for all those who work with children and youth. Has it been more than ten years since you’ve attended a SAFE Church training? Please plan to attend one of the following workshops this month. Thank you.

Trinity Cathedral Saturday, October 16, 2010
8:30 am to 12:30 pm

St. Andrew’s Portland Sunday, October 17, 2010
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

St. Bartholomew’s Beaverton Saturday, November 6, 2010
8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Questions? Please contact Leslie Sackett, Associate for Ministry with Children and Families.

POTLUCK DINNER OCTOBER 4

If you’ve ever considered volunteering at 2nd Saturday Lunch, please join us for a potluck dinner at 6:30 pm on Monday, October 4, in the Parish Hall. This will give us all an opportunity to enjoy each other’s company with no particular work to do and talk about what we’ve learned as we explore ideas for the future of this ministry.

HOLLYWOOD EAST WINTER CLOTHING

There’s a big box in the Gallery, next to the piano, that stands ready for your deposits. Your donation of clean winter coats, hats, scarves and/or gloves will be so much appreciated by our neighbors living at Hollywood East. For more information contact Hjalmer Lofstrom at hlofstrom@aol.com or 503/407-3715. Thank you for your generosity as we prepare for colder weather.

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

FIRST FRIDAY: SAUVIE’S ISLAND CORN MAIZE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 6:30-10:00 PM

All youth are welcome to this uniquely awesome event. Come with us and get lost in the MAIZE! Cost is \$7 for this first of our monthly First Friday outings!

CONFIRM NOT CONFORM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 & 17 12:30-2:00 PM

Slots are still open for 8th-12th graders. Get ready to dive deep into life’s big questions in this nationally recognized spiritual formation program for youth. Need to register with the youth office to participate.

PEACE CORE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 & 24 12:30-2:00 PM

Every week we’ll have a service project or a guest speaker. Join us on October 10 for a massive Styrofoam Recycling Drive as part of the 350.org 10/10/10 climate change work party! Help feed our neighbors on October 24 for the Last Saturday Lunch spaghetti sauce drive. Do your part to bring our community together!

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL MONDAY, OCTOBER 11 6:00-9:00 PM

This month: Minority Report. What does that have to do with your spiritual formation? You’ll just have to come and find out for yourself, now, won’t you? Open to 9th -12th - graders.

GRUPO JUVENIL SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 & 24 2:15-3:30 PM

All youth who attend the 1:00 pm service are free to leave after communion to come over to St. Michael’s House to talk about the Bible, God and Life. Like most youth events, this one’s open to everyone!

GOT QUESTIONS? SO DO WE.

Contact David Berkson at stmaayouth@stmaa.org, or 503/708-9031.

All events and programs are open to youth between 6-12 grade, and start at St. Michael’s House unless otherwise noted.

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- OCTOBER 3** Cascade AIDS Walk
FORUM 10:10 am Reflections on the past year and a vision for the future
- OCTOBER 4** 6:30 pm 2nd Saturday Lunch
Potluck Dinner
- OCTOBER 10** FORUM 10:10 am Financial Advisor
Kim Rosenberg
- OCTOBER 11** 7:00 pm Taizé Service
- OCTOBER 15** 7:00 pm Public Service of Healing
- OCTOBER 16** 5:00 pm Family Eucharist and Potluck Dinner
- OCTOBER 17** Choral Evensong
- OCTOBER 24, 31** FORUM 10:10 am Talking with the Bible with Don Morgan
- NOVEMBER 7** All Saints' Sunday



WHAT A PICNIC!

Over 30 people from the Portland area gathered for good food and conversation at the Integrity Family Picnic on July 31 in Laurelhurst Park. At least six parishes were represented, including St. David of Wales, St. John the Baptist, St. Michael & All Angels, Saints Peter and Paul, St. Stephen's and Trinity Cathedral. The first time event was co-hosted by St. Michael & All Angels and the Portland Chapter of Integrity. Even the lack of sunshine couldn't dampen our spirits as we made new acquaintances and visited with old friends. Several attendees said they would like us to make this a yearly event, so do come join us in 2011 on the last Saturday of July for our second annual picnic! To learn more about Integrity, see www.integrityusa.org.

Outreach & Justice Ministries Council