

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

Mailed May 1, 2008

DEAR FRIENDS,

The dramatic events of Pentecost can be compared to the growth and excitement that is present in the community of San Miguel y Todos Los Angeles, the Spanish language service at St. Michael's. Each Sunday afternoon at 1:00 PM, over 80 people gather to worship in an informal and lively Spanish service, followed by "convivio" - a community building meal provided by members of the parish. Our common life reveals the Pentecost message that God's Spirit is the source of all life: "When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground" (Psalm 104:30).

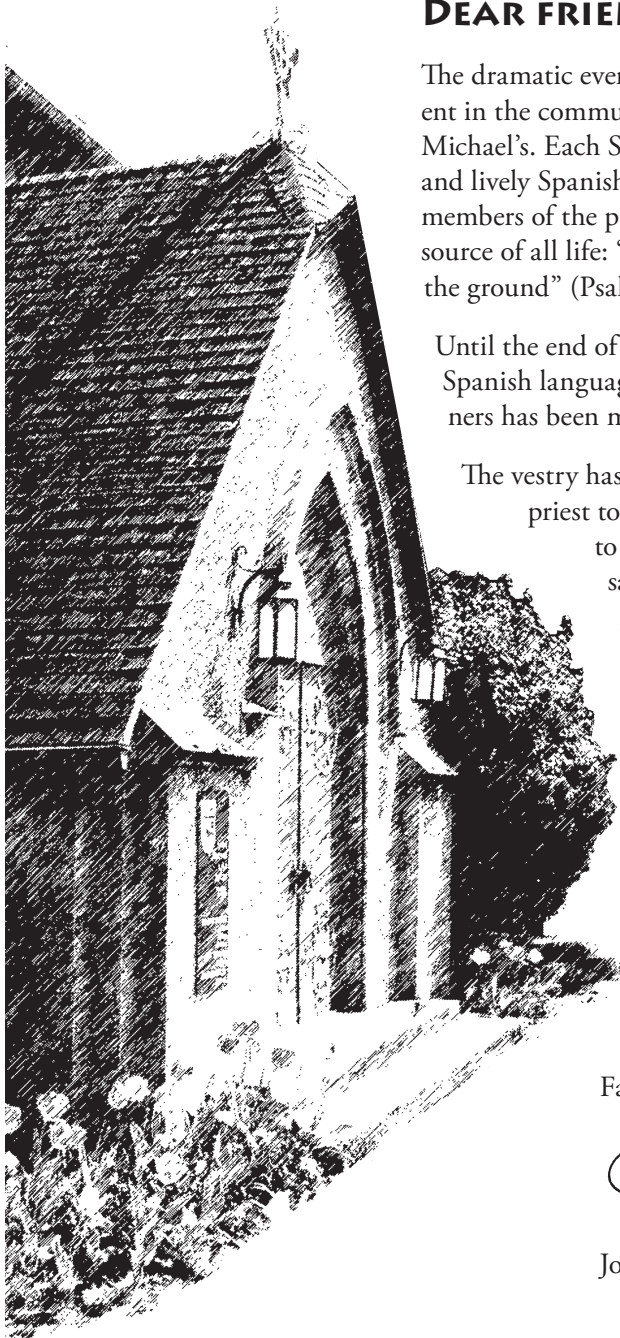
Until the end of January, our dear friend, The Rev. Carlos Núñez, faithfully presided at the Spanish language service. Since long before Carlos' retirement a committed group of parishioners has been meeting to discern how to move forward with clergy coverage.

The vestry has developed an ambitious proposal to hire a half-time bi-lingual, bi-cultural priest to serve the entire community. It is the vestry's vision that the position will grow to full-time within five years and will focus on Christian formation, pastoral care, sacramental responsibilities, along with facilitating further interaction between Anglo and Hispanic members of the congregation. Thanks to the efforts of many, a delightful and informative DVD was produced for the annual meeting that portrays the vibrant ministry of San Miguel y Todos Los Angeles. The DVD has been successfully used in raising funds from churches and individuals for the expansion of the existing ministry. To date we have received \$12,000, and expect to raise at least another \$5,000.

At the last meeting, Diocesan Council designated the 2008 Pentecost Offering for support of Hispanic Ministry at St. Michael's. The Diocesan-wide offering will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$7,500 by the Council. We are both thrilled and humbled by this news. So, I invite your generosity to the Pentecost Offering and your prayers for the ongoing vitality of the community.

Faithfully,

Joan



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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)

MAY IS MINISTRY MONTH!

As we enter the month of May, we are still in the Easter Season and Pentecost Sunday is drawing close. At the Great Vigil of Easter and on Easter Day we reaffirmed our Baptismal Covenant: our commitment to carry on Christ's ministry in this time and in this place. On Pentecost we will experience anew the coming of the Holy Spirit to dwell within and among us: our companion on the way as we go forth to do the work we have been called to do, both within this parish community and "beyond the red doors."

The quote from Paul's Letter to the Church in Corinth that appears at the top of this column reminds us that God has given each of us a rich array of gifts. As we move into this "Ministry Month," I would urge each of us to consider our many gifts. Which are we currently using in our various ministries? Are we still filled with joy when we engage these gifts? Or is it time to return once again to contemplating our many gifts and perhaps choose to develop and employ some that have been lying fallow for a while: to turn from one ministry to another – to something new, something that will bring us renewed joy.

In the weeks ahead there will be opportunities to turn prayerful consideration of gifts and ministries into new commitments for the year ahead:

- **The May Ministries Fair** (after the 9:00 service on May 4) will provide an opportunity to peruse displays depicting many of the ministries sponsored by St. Michael's and to ask questions of representatives of these ministries and perhaps sign up to get involved.
- **An Offering of Time and Talent** – a ministry pledge form – will be mailed to our homes shortly after the May Ministries Fair. This form gives us a very focused way to commit to using our particular gifts in some way within the parish community, but also to commit to some particular ministry (or ministries) in daily life.

In either case, though, I urge us all to begin with our gifts. Ask what activities truly give joy and reflect on the gifts connected with those activities. Prayerfully consider how to use these specific gifts to do ministry. Then commit to the ministry or ministries that will be the best fit with these gifts.

If you would like to explore in person how best to use your gifts in ministry, or perhaps which gifts or which ministry to choose at this particular time, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me: Caroline Litzenberger (503/284-7141, ext. 320; carolinel@stmaa.org.)

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR...

- + CAROLINE & DAVE BLECKMANN, in thanksgiving for the birth of their daughter ANNEKE on March 7.
- + LANI JO LEIGH and ANN McLARAN, as they prepare for surgery.
- + MERRY KENNEDY, recovering from surgery.
- + STEVE LEWIS, LORRAINE TOPPING, GLORIA FITZPATRICK, for healing.
- + BISHOP SANDY HAMPTON as he begins his ministry in the Diocese of Oregon and for God's blessing to continue to be upon the STANDING COMMITTEE of the Diocese.
- + a bilingual, bicultural priest to be found soon to serve the Hispanic community at St. Michael's

RECOVERY MINISTRY

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS RECOVERY MINISTRY

...exists to support those who desire a renewal of faith and life through recovery and understanding of drug, alcohol, and other addictions. Through education and trust building, we work to develop an environment where support, hope, and understanding are available to all.

We invite everyone who is interested to attend our next meeting, Saturday, May 10, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as we plan for an exciting Spring, offering workshops and activities for all those who wish to participate.

MAY 18TH
COMING TO A CHURCH NEAR YOU!

A CELEBRATION
at 11 o'clock

celebrate:

WITH EACH OF THE PEOPLE THAT WILL
HAVE GONE BEFORE THE BISHOP
FOR AFFIRMATION, CONFIRMATION,
REAFFIRMATION, OR RECEPTION

celebrate:

SAY THANK YOU AND ADIOS TO SHERMAN
HESSELGRAVE AS HE LEAVES US TO BEGIN HIS
NEW MINISTRY IN TORONTO

celebrate:

GREET AND WELCOME BISHOP LADEHOFF

A FESTIVE RECEPTION FOLLOWS THE SERVICE.
PLEASE CONTACT BARB MILLER 503/288-0589
(BMILLER@ESD.112.WEDNET.EDU) OR THE CHURCH
OFFICE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH
THIS EVENT

THANKS FOR THE TEA!

Many thanks to Peggy Hartman and the "Friends of St. Michael's" for a memorable "First Annual" St. Michael's Women's Tea. Their vision and generosity created a space and an experience that will long be remembered by the 90-plus women who partook of tea, sandwiches and sweets, and listened to the glorious music of the women's vocal ensemble, Vivocé. In the words of parishioner, Jerry Vannice, "To the ladies who hosted the tea ...thank you. It was a big success! The decorations, flowers, tables, food and music were perfect! It was a wonderful day. Thank you."

THANKS FOR ALL THE UNDIES

Rahab's Sisters would like to thank all of St. Michael's for their generosity and kindness in response to Undie Sunday on Feb. 24th. The gifts will be deeply appreciated by the women we serve.

SHERMAN HESSELGRAVE DESCRIBES HIS UPCOMING MOVE:

I have been called to be the "Incumbent" (i.e., Rector) of Holy Trinity Parish in downtown Toronto. It is a place with a long record of social justice ministry and a passion for music. Since I will be starting June 1st, my last Sunday here will be Trinity Sunday, May 18th, when Bishop Ladehoff will be with us for confirmation, reaffirmation, and reception.

This means I will become a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada, the Episcopal Church's sister to the North. Believe it or not, Toronto is about the same latitude as Roseburg, Oregon, so I will actually be moving SOUTH a wee bit, but a couple thousand miles east.

There is a curious coincidence in this story. Holy Trinity's first priest was Henry Scadding, and the Bishop of Oregon at the time St. Michael & All Angels was formed was Charles Scadding, who was born in Toronto, but served in New York City before being called to Oregon. I'm sure they were related, but I haven't completed the genealogical trace.

When I came to St Michael & All Angels as a transitional deacon in the summer of 1985, who could have known where we would all be twenty-plus years later, and the various places our lives have intersected in such grace-filled ways. St Michael's has really been a church family for me my entire ordained life, and for that I am deeply grateful.

COME SEE "FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO"

FRIDAY, JUNE 20 • 6:45 PM
ST. MICHAEL'S NATIVITY HALL

You may recognize this refrain from a childhood Sunday school song. But it is also the title of an informative and inspiring documentary on Christianity and homosexuality. The film explores the experience of five Christian families who learn that they have a gay or lesbian child or family member, including how they reconcile this knowledge with their beliefs. The stories of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson's families are among those that make this film so powerful. Several prominent theologians offer their insights into Old and New Testament scripture often misinterpreted and used to stir up anti-gay/lesbian sentiment and discrimination.

If you haven't seen this film, don't miss this opportunity! If you have seen it, come join in the discussion! Popcorn will be served at 6:45. The film starts promptly at 7:00 in the Nativity Hall, followed by a discussion from 8:40-9:00 led by the Rev. Caroline Litzenberger. The film is appropriate for high school youth and adults. If you have any questions, contact Bev Hoeffler at 503 238 0534 or hoefferb@msn.com.

– Sponsored by the Outreach & Justice Ministries Council

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9am to 5pm



ST. MICHAEL'S CALENDAR

- | | |
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| May 10 | Hazardous Waste Pickup – Saturday 9 am - 12 noon
St. Michael's House parking lot |
| May 11 | The Day of Pentecost – Regular schedule
Reel Theology End-of-year Celebration.
Special time - 5:00 pm |
| May 18 | Trinity Sunday – Confirmations at 11:00
Bishop Ladehoff presides |

THE DAY OF PENTECOST, SUNDAY MAY 11

The Feast of Pentecost marks the end of the Great 50 Days of Easter and the beginning of the rest of the story of lives empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

BAKE A CAKE, square or rectangular, any flavor, unfrosted. Bring it to church Saturday or Sunday morning. We'll build a large cake – the Body of Christ – “mortared” with whipped cream, and topped with strawberries to represent the Fire of the Holy Spirit.

SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE. During the reading of the Pentecost story from the Acts of the Apostles, we will have speak-

ers of other languages say “Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you!” All languages and dialects are welcome – the more the merrier!

PUT UP PENTECOST BALLOONS. We'll decorate the church with red, orange and yellow balloons. We start at 8:15 a.m. and we'll need lots of hands to get all the balloons in place before the 9:00 liturgy begins. This is a great opportunity for families!

And remember, on the Day of Pentecost, to wear **RED, ORANGE, AND YELLOW** – the colors of the Fire of the Holy Spirit.