

# THE MESSENGER

Mailed December 14, 2006

## DEAR FRIENDS,

The days are getting shorter, but only for a little longer, and then the light begins to grow again. What we experience in the natural order we also experience in our spiritual lives. The growing darkness gives us a deep longing for the light.

We speak of the One who comes as The Light of the World. St. John writes that the light came into the darkness, and "the darkness comprehended it not." That is to say, the darkness did not overwhelm the light, did not get its hands around the light to extinguish the light.

Our invitation is to walk in the light and to receive the promises of the God of love. For love came down at Christmas time and marched right into the midst of our lives. God has done God's own loving thing. Love is made manifest in the innocence and vulnerability of the little child.

God risks our seeking and recognizing God's own purpose and embracing the Word made flesh who came to dwell among us. May we receive him, and all that he means for our lives and for the life of the world.

Warmest regards,

John S Scannell

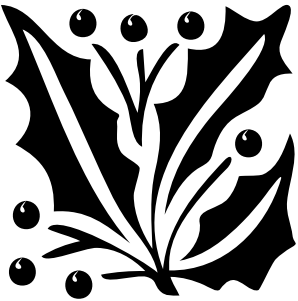
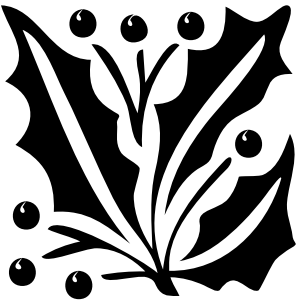
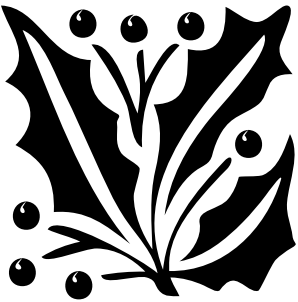
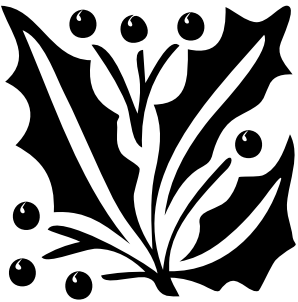
## WORSHIP IN THE STYLE OF TAIZÉ WORSHIP CONTINUES FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

The revival of our Taizé services in November was very positively received so we will be continuing them on the 3rd Friday of every other month. A prayer service of meditation, reflection, silence, readings and music in the style of the ecumenical French monastic community called Taizé will be held in a church filled with candlelight on Friday, January 19 at 7:30 pm. The simple, chant-like music style creates an atmosphere of peace and calm that is meant to quiet the soul. Come and be renewed at the end of the work week.

A number of people assisted with the November service which helped make it a wonderful experience. Additional singers and instrumentalists interested in providing musical support and those willing to help with setup before and after should contact Bob Spiers in the parish office at 503/284-7141 or bobs@stmaa.org.

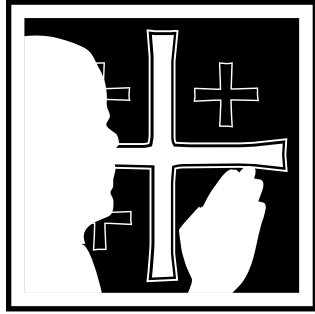
*"Prayer is a serene force at work within human beings, stirring them up, transforming them, never allowing them to close their eyes in the face of evil, or wars, of all that threatens the weak of this world. From it we draw energy to wage other struggles – to enable our loved ones to survive, to transform the human condition, to make the earth a place fit to live in."*

Brother Roger of Taizé



## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR...

- + those who have been ill and in the hospital:  
JUNE GRAVENGAARD, DONNA DEAN,  
DOROTHY BERKSON, LIN ROBERTSON, PHYLIS  
MYLES, PAM SHIELDS, SUZIE CARPENTER AND  
STANLEY SACKETT (Tim Sackett's dad).
- + those baptized on November 19th:  
SOFIA ANNE GONZALEZ, NATALIA MARTHA  
GONZALEZ and ARI RAIDEN GRACE.



## FIRST COMING

God did not wait till the world was ready,  
till...nations were at peace.

God came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.  
God came when the need was deep and great.  
God dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine, God did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy God came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
God came, and God's Light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Madeleine L'Engle

## PSALM COURSE AND CALLIGRAPHY

In November Pete Schmidt offered a stimulating course on The Psalms, accompanied by his own magnificent calligraphy of many texts. Pete plans to make prints of some of the pieces, and may make prints and some originals available for sale next Spring, to benefit Episcopal Relief and Development. Contact Pete at <peterschmidtus@yahoo.com >for more information.

## PRESIDING BISHOP JEFFERTS SCHORI, ON THE MISSION OF JUSTICE

In her first sermon as Presiding Bishop, Katherine Jefferts Schori spoke about the Millennium Development Goals and the importance of public policy advocacy in the church's mission of justice:

"This church has said that our larger vision will be framed and shaped in the coming years by the vision of shalom embedded in the Millennium Development Goals – a world where the hungry are fed, the ill are healed, the young educated, women and men treated equally, and where all have access to clean water and adequate sanitation, basic health care, and the promise of development that does not endanger the rest of creation. That vision of abundant life is achievable in our own day, but only with the passionate commitment of each and every one of us. It is God's vision of homecoming for all humanity.

Augustine said that as Christians, we are prisoners of hope – a ridiculously assertive hope, a hope that unflinchingly assails the doors of heaven, a hope that will not cease until that dream of God has swallowed up death forever, a hope that has the audacity to join Jesus in saying, 'today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

And how shall that scripture be fulfilled in our hearing? In the will to make peace with one who disdains our theological position – for his has merit, too, as the fruit of faithfulness. In the courage to challenge our legislators to make poverty history, to fund AIDS work in Africa, and the distribution of anti-malarial mosquito nets, and primary schools where all children are welcomed. In the will to look within our own hearts and confront the shadows that darken the dream that God has planted there."

*The text of this entire sermon is available on the website of the Episcopal News Service at: [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577\\_79214\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_79214_ENG_HTM.htm). This article appeared in "Reflections of the Spirit," November 2006 issue, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Portland OR.*

## FORMING LENTEN COVENANT GROUPS!

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 21st, not so far away. At St. Michael we encourage people to form a Lenten Covenant – to create a group of one, or several more people "to covenant" to meet weekly for six weeks for reflection on the scripture of the week, connecting with the promises of baptism, and praying for the world, the group, and all special needs. St. Michael's will provide the support materials. A second choice this year will be to use materials from EMO on the theme of world poverty.

Now is a good time to begin to think about your group. This is a great way for each of us to take specific responsibility for our own spiritual growth and development, and perhaps to make a new friend in the process.

St. Michael & All Angels Church presents



# amahl

and the  
night visitors

Friday, January 5, 7:30pm • Saturday, January 6, 7:30pm  
Sunday, January 7, 4:00pm

Tickets: \$10 general; \$8 students

# Amahl and the Night Visitors come to St. Michael's

Giancarlo Menotti's classic Epiphany story of the three kings who visit the home of a poor widow and her crippled son, and the miracle that affects them all. This 45-minute opera will feature members of St. Michael's talented community; proceeds will benefit St. Michael's music program. Each performance will be followed by a cookie reception.

Directed by Michael Berkson

Accompanied by Janet Coleman

Cast:

Amahl: Duncan Tuomi

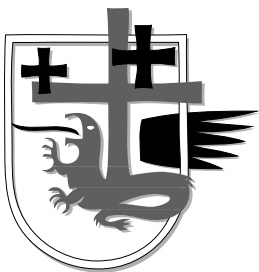
Mother: Christine Meadows

King Kaspar: Scott Tuomi

King Balthazar: Konstantin Kvach

Page: Clayton Stave

Shepherds Chorus: Members of St. Michael's Singers



SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1704 NE 43RD AVENUE ❖ PORTLAND, OR 97213-1402

# ST. MICHAEL'S CALENDAR

## SPECIAL COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, Dec. 24**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**7:30 & 9:00 am**

Eucharist

**11:00 am**

Spanish language liturgy (No 1:00 service today.)

**Sunday, Dec. 24**

### **Christmas Eve**

**4:00 pm**

Children's Service with Christmas Story and Eucharist

**6:00 pm**

Candlelight Eucharist with choir

**10:30 pm**

Special Christmas music for choir and congregation

**11:00 pm**

Christmas Candlelight Eucharist and reception

**Monday, Dec. 25**

### **Christmas Day**

**11:00 am**

Christmas Day Eucharist with carols

**Sunday, Dec. 31**

### **First Sunday after Christmas**

**7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am**

Christmas Readings and Carols

**10:15 am**

Mid-Morning Open House to celebrate our renewed facilities

**Sunday, Dec. 31**

### **New Year's Eve**

**6:00 pm**

A vigil of prayer for peace (a half-hour service for all ages)

**Monday, Jan. 1**

### **New Year's Day**

**Noon**

Informal Eucharist

**January 5, 6, 7**

### **Amahl and the Night Visitors**

Performances of Gian Carlo Menotti's opera

**Sunday, Jan. 7**

### **Baptism of our Lord**

**7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am**

Regular schedule. Baptisms at 9:00

Our Celtic Labyrinth will be set out for prayer and reflection

Mid-morning decoration of star-shaped cookies and Epiphany treats

**Sunday, Jan. 14**

### **FORUM**

The impact of a new Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

**Sunday, Jan. 21**

### **FORUM**

Meet with the nominees for the Vestry (our parish leadership team)

**Sunday, Jan. 28**

### **The Annual Parish Meeting**

10:00 am

## DECEMBER EARTH CARE TIPS

During a time when our secular holiday culture asks us to engage in over-consumption, consider the radically simple choice to...

### Reduce Consumption

- Reducing consumption is the basic preventive measure for waste and pollution. Reducing material consumption reduces the need for recycling and disposal. As a community of faith it is our responsibility to model values of environmental and community stewardship over the cultural drive of material acquisition.
- Be mindful of the amount of energy you use. Unplug appliances with digital readouts when not in use.
- Think before you buy – Ask: “Do I/she/he/we really need this?”
- Make your own gifts. Host a gift-making or craft evening for family and friends.
- Hold a neighborhood “swap party.” Exchanging rather than buying is less cost and more fun!
- Share equipment with neighbors (e.g., garden tools).
- Avoid disposables – use cloth shopping bags, reusable lunch bags, cloth napkins, and cloth handkerchiefs; carry your coffee mug.
- When you do buy products, buy quality durable goods that will last.

## MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND GRANTS

The following Mission Endowment Committee’s grant recommendations were adopted by the Vestry:

- \$1,600 for participants in the January Mission Trip with El Porvenir in Nicaragua
- \$1,200 for a laptop computer for Christian Education ministry
- \$3,200 for improvements in electronics and communications
- \$1,000 to the Metro East School for Ministry at the Columba Center

The committee also reported that the \$5,000 grant in Year 2005 for relief from Hurricane Katrina has been shared with two Mississippi parishes whose facilities were destroyed. See the display at church which shows the devastation as well as the hope for renewal in which we now participate.

## OFFERINGS IN YEAR 2007

Offering envelopes for the new year will be sent before year end. Please use your envelopes, or envelope/giving number assigned for Year 2007. The numbers change every year.

An increasing number of people are arranging for E-Pledge, that is, arranging with their bank for a check to be sent on a regular basis to St. Michael’s.

We invite you to consider E-Pledge as a steady way to make the gifts you desire. If you need your 2007 pledge envelope/giving number for your bank, please contact our bookkeeper, Gloria Orellana, at 503/284-7141, Ext. 317, or e-mail at <GloriaO@stmaa.org>. Thank you!

## END OF YEAR GIVING

In order for your Year 2006 gifts to be recorded and credited for 2006 and appear on your Year-End Statement the gift must be here at St. Michael’s by December 31st or postmarked by December 31st. If you have any question please contact Gloria Orellana, our bookkeeper at 503/284-7141, Ext. 317, or via e-mail at glorio@stmaa.org. Thank you.

## LIBROS PARA NIÑOS - BOOKS FOR CHILDREN, IN SPANISH

Austin Moholt-Siebert is collecting books, and funds to purchase books, for elementary-age children in Nicaragua. He is part of the St. Michael’s Team on a two-week work project with El Porvenir. In this labor-intensive ministry — clean water and sanitation projects — our team works with the people who, through El Porvenir, desire to improve their community life. Please bring the books, or gifts for books, to St. Michael’s by Sunday, Dec. 31st. Thank you!

## NICARAGUA MISSION: JANUARY 6-20

Remember in your prayers those participating in the next El Porvenir mission to Nicaragua: Austin Moholt-Siebert, Melissa Moholt-Siebert, Colin Lentz, Alison Lentz, Ron Geason, Charlene Sabin, Paul Buescher, Pat Buescher, Joy Young.

## NEW MEMBER WELCOMING ON JANUARY 21ST

We like to recognize and name those who are finding a place and ministry at St. Michael’s. The next welcoming time will be at worship on January 21st. Those who desire to be welcomed should attend the two orientation sessions on Wednesday, January 17th, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, and on Saturday, January 20th, from 9:30 to 11:00 am.

For more information, please contact John Scannell, Rector, at 503/284-7141 or <JohnS@stmaa.org>.

## **ARISE, SHINE, FOR YOUR LIGHT HAS COME! - EPIPHANY, 2007**

Instead of our usual Feast of Lights liturgies, the Epiphany story of the Kings (the Magi), we are hosting three performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, described in a flyer in this issue. Bring a friend, invite your neighbors to join you for the unique opportunity at St. Michael's on January 5th, 6th or 7th.

On Sunday morning, the 7th, we will celebrate Jesus' baptism day, and also remember the light of Christ by decorating star-shaped cookies (eating and sharing them, too!).

Our Celtic labyrinth will be available (in the Nativity Hall) for prayer and reflection.

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## **OPEN HOUSE ON DEC. 31ST**

St. Michael's facilities have experienced some significant upgrading. Several achievable projects identified by our Centennial Building Committee were adopted by the Vestry and funded through undesignated reserve funds, including: the narthex (church entrance), parish offices, the Nativity Hall and St. Michael's House (main floor). Mary Tongue was the lead person on this work that also included volunteers who shared generously of their gifts.

On Dec. 31st — mid-morning at 10:10 — we will have some building tours to show off these improvements and to say "thank you" for all that has been accomplished.

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## **MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE IN THE NEW YEAR!**

The Joyful Noise Choir resumes rehearsals on Sunday, January 7th from 1 – 2 p.m. Children in grades one through five are welcome to join the Joyful Noise Choir which rehearses weekly and sings in church once a month at the 11 o'clock liturgy under the direction of Audrey Sackett.

The Joyful Noise Arts Center's Winter Term begins on Tuesday, January 9th (3:30 – 5 p.m.) and continues through Tuesday, March 20, 2007. Julie Jetton teaches art classes open to students in the first through fifth grade. Children share a hearty after school snack before class begins. Tuition for art class is \$30.00 per student, with a discount for families with more than one student.

Questions? Please call Leslie Sackett, 503/284-7141 ext 318.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **THANK YOU #1**

We wish to thank in a BIG way the community of St. Michael's for making it possible to acquire a computer and camera. Look for Youth Ministry productions occasionally at Sunday coffee hour.

### **NEXT BIG THING:**

The Youth Ministry is hosting a Film Festival of Spiritual Shorts Feb 18. Please mark your calendars and join us for a fun time!

### **THANK YOU #2**

Thank you for a successful Christmas Tree Sale! We had a nice crop of fresh Silverton OR Noble Firs from Hupp Tree Farm. Special thanks to Sue Quanbeck for coordinating the sale and Sheri O'Brien for her vision of a decorated tree in the Parish Hall a reality for the whole community to enjoy.

### **CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY**

Youth Ministry Outreach led us across the street to share donuts and hot cider with our neighbors and friends at Hollywood East the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Everyone had a great time and we were invited to come back!

At the end of this month, YMO will be assisting with the Community Meal.

### **IN JANUARY**

All 6th -12th graders are invited to join us for:

First Friday in January. It's LazerTag time! Be at the St. Michael's House at 6:30 pm.

2 + 4 + 6 will resume in January (the 2nd & 4th Sunday, 4-6 pm).

Ann Hargraves  
Associate for Ministry with Youth

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## **THE OLD TESTAMENT A SURVEY OF THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES WINTER 2007**

### **Part II: From the Promised Land to Babylon and Back**

Twelve Monday nights, 7:00 – 8:30 pm (January 8 – March 26)  
(Part I not prerequisite)

Based on a series of video lectures by

**Professor Amy-Jill Levine**

Vanderbilt University Divinity School

**Sherman Hesselgrave** will facilitate the sessions.

The only textbook you will need is a good study Bible (i.e., an edition with annotations, like *The HarperCollins Study Bible* or *The Oxford Annotated Bible*.)

To register, or for more information, contact:

Sherman Hesselgrave, 503/697-3586, or <Sherman@SpiritOne.com>.

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Office Hours  
 Monday-Friday  
 9am to 5pm



## NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM

St. Michael's has a new and much improved telephone system. We wish to thank a generous donor who has made this new system possible. During office hours you will normally reach a member of our office staff or an office volunteer (usually Marion, Bob or Pat) as in the past. After office hours or when no one is available in the front office you can now reach or leave a message for staff members by using their extension numbers shown below. You can also access various information boxes from the new system, including a directory of extension numbers and information in Spanish. You may wish to cut out the box below and insert it into your parish directory.

Main Number: 503/284-7141 • Fax: 503/281-0115	
	Ext. #
John S. Scannell, Rector . . . . .	312
Marla McGarry-Lawrence, Deacon. . . . .	314
Caroline Litzenberger, Associate for Ministry Development . . . . .	320
Marion Robbins, Associate for Administration . . . . .	310
Scott Tuomi, Music Director . . . . .	315
Bob Spiers, Associate for Music & Liturgy . . . . .	311
Leslie Sackett, Associate for Children and Families. . . . .	318
Ann Hargraves, Associate for Ministry with Youth . . . . .	319
Gloria Orellana, Assistant for Finance and Stewardship . . . . .	317
Gary Lawrence (Receipts Desk) . . . . .	316
J T Quanbeck, Assistant for Communication (Print Workroom) . . . . .	313
Kitchen (Hallway by back door) . . . . .	330
Music Rehearsal Room . . . . .	333
Nursery . . . . .	332
Sacristy . . . . .	331
St. Michael's House Kitchen . . . . .	334