

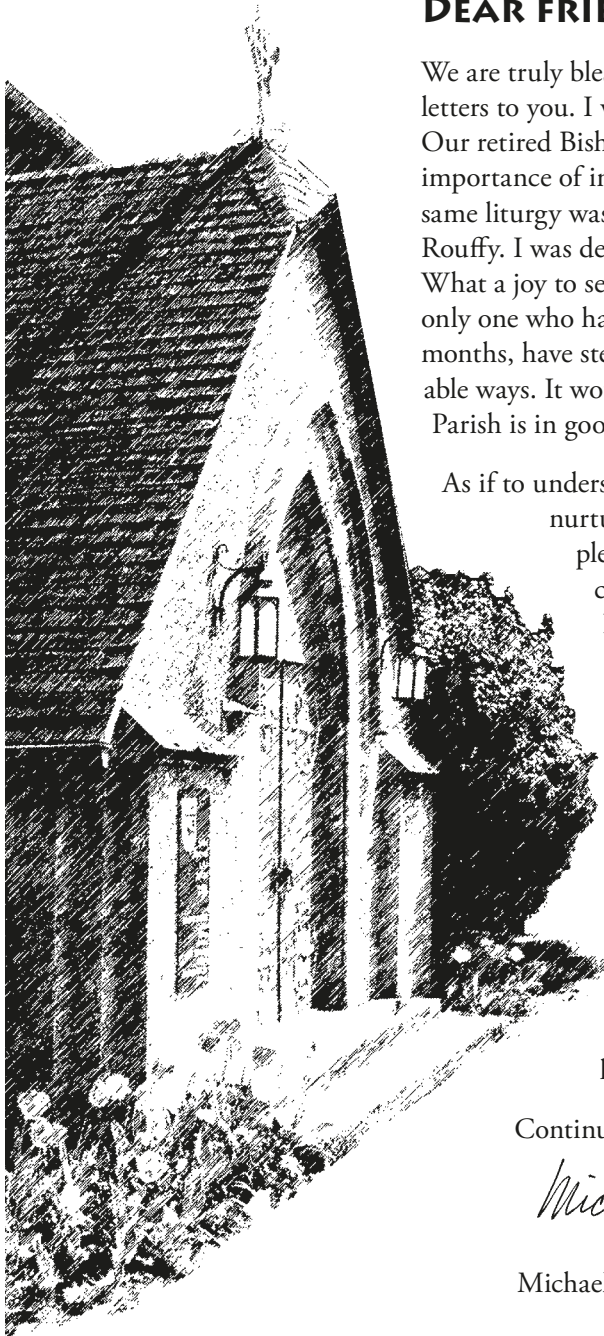
SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

Mailed August 9, 2007

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are truly blessed! I say this just in case you haven't caught an underlying theme of my previous letters to you. I was vividly reminded of this fact myself at a recent Sunday liturgy at St. Michael's. Our retired Bishop Robert Ladehoff preached and one aspect of his wonderful sermon cited the importance of infrastructure – a term which is much in the news these days. Presiding at that same liturgy was a member of St. Michael's extensive list of retired clergy, The Reverend Edward Rouffy. I was deeply touched by his presence at the altar and his gift of ministering to us as clergy. What a joy to see someone with whom I have worshiped in a new light. And he has not been the only one who has given such a gift to us. Yes, we are truly blessed by all those who, in the past months, have stepped forward to fill gaps and lighten loads in most enlightening and commendable ways. It would appear that at least the infrastructure of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Parish is in good shape.



As if to underscore this fact, there is something new at St. Michael's – one more supportive and nurturing ministry which will undoubtedly enhance our parish life. I am extremely pleased to be able to announce to you that the Rev. David Perry, one of our own cherished members, has agreed to accept the post of Associate for Transitional Pastoral and Administrative Care. This position was created to assist our staff as we await the calling of an Interim Priest and is a very much anticipated help to all who work for our parish and have been doing "extra duty" since Fr. John's departure.

The details of this position will become evident as time progresses and I welcome any questions as do any of our Staff and Vestry members. Together, we greet our brother David with thanks as we have the many other sisters and brothers who have opened their hearts and shared many gifts in order to fill the needs of our worship community. Let us all remember that when we notice someone stepping out of their customary "role" to minister in whatever way that might be, to reach out a hand of support and words of thanks. Those hands and hearts joined together is exactly what keeps our infrastructure healthy, strong, and blessed and our bridge to the future safe and secure.

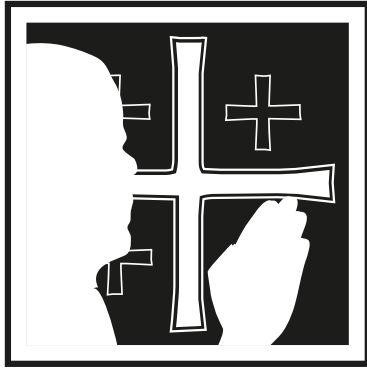
Continued blessings on you all,

Michael Sagun, Sr. Warden

Main Office	503/284-7141	David Perry, Interim Priest	Ext. 312
Office email	office@stmaa.org	Marla McGarry-Lawrence, Deacon	Ext. 314
Bob Spiers, Associate for Music & Liturgy	Ext. 311	Caroline Litzenberger, Ministry Development	Ext. 320
Marion Robbins, Associate for Administration	Ext. 310	Leslie Sackett, Associate for Children & Families	Ext. 318
Scott Tuomi, Music Director	Ext. 315	Youth Ministry Office	Ext. 319

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR...

- + thanksgiving on the birth of MARIAMNE STELLA PEARL UNGER, born July 1, 2007 to TODD and ARLA UNGER; and ALEXANDER PENG FEI SYMONDS, born July 9 to MARK SYMONDS and MARGARET WU.
- + CAROL LOE, in a life transition as her housing changes.
- + LISA KELLY, who died on July 13, and for her father MIKE LINDBERG and his family.
- + GLADYS STEWART, who died on July 20, and for her son MICHAEL HILLIARD and his family.
- + healing for IRMA GEDNEY and ARLYS FISCHER, who are recovering from surgery; and for recent hospital patients JOHN COLE, father of KEVIN COLE, and PHYLLIS QUANBECK, mother of J QUANBECK.
- + persons in MADHYA KERALA, our companion diocese in India, who are suffering the effects of severe flooding.



YOUTH NEWS:

FOR PEOPLE ENTERING 6TH THRU 12TH GRADES

Sept. 15 weekend – SAVE THE DATE!! for the Fall Retreat @ Camp Magruder and doing right by Mom Nature by joining the SOLV Beach Clean Up. More details to come but circle that weekend on your calendar now!

Sept. 23 will be the first meeting of 2 + 4 + 6. This Bible discussion group meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 4 -6 pm. And we don't just sit around and talk. We have lively, animated discussions and even act out versions of the stories or topics, plus games and snacks!

First Fridays will begin Oct. 5, too. That is a great time to bring friends for some fun. We eat together at St. Michael's House and then go do something fun in town.

Enjoy the rest of summer. See you in September.

This message brought to you by Youth Leaders: Sue Quanbeck, Marjorie McRae, Karen Ogelsby & Ron Geason.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory. The directory will help us to connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation. It has been four years since our last pictorial directory was published.

Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional photographer and meet with a portrait consultant at the church. For the next several weeks, we will be making appointments before and after services and meetings at the church. Please sign up in the Gallery as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and complimentary 8x10 Custom Natural Portrait.

- You will come to the church only once for photography and for portrait viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church.
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.

The scheduled dates for photography and portrait viewing are:

Wednesday, September 26 – 3:00pm to 9:00pm

Thursday, September 27 – 3:00pm to 9:00pm

Friday, September 28 – 3:00pm to 9:00pm

Saturday, September 29 – 10:00am to 5:00 pm

Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

PARISH QUIET DAY OF REFLECTION, MEDITATION

Saturday, August 18 – An all-parish quiet day of reflection and walking meditation, from 9am to 2pm in the Elk Rock Gardens of the Bishop's Close just north of Lake Oswego. There is no charge, but please plan on bringing a sack lunch and a snack to share. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gallery. Call or email Kerlin Richter if you have questions: 503/922-0916 or kerlinsmail@yahoo.com.

MINISTRY AREA OF THE MONTH: OUTREACH AND JUSTICE

At St. Michael's we believe that worship and action go hand-in-hand – two sides of the same coin. In Holy Baptism we make solemn vows to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves” and to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” We take these vows seriously.

In 1997 the Episcopal Church named St. Michael's as a Jubilee Center, in recognition of the work we do in empowering parishioners to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.” (Micah 6:8) In addition, St. Michael's joins the national Episcopal Church in striving toward the Millennium Development Goals, committing time and resources to eliminate extreme poverty in our world. The Outreach & Justice Ministries Council coordinates these ministries in service to God's people, both close at home and farther abroad.

In the month of August we can learn more about these ministries by checking out the bulletin board in the Parish Hall and talking with representatives from some of these ministries during the Coffee Hour between the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services.

If you want to learn more about Outreach and Justice Ministries, please contact Bev Hoeffler, Chair, St. Michael's Outreach & Justice Council – 503/238-0534 (hoefferb@msn.com), or Diane Kimmel, Vestry Liaison – 360/576-5078.

The following list is specific outreach ministries. More information about these ministries can be found in the Outreach & Justice brochure found on the ministries table in the Gallery.

Community Meal

Georgia Beardsley – 503/228-0078 (glbeardsley@msn.com)

Daybreak Shelter

Charlene Sabin – 503/225-1231 (sabin@hevanet.com)

El Porvenir

Bob Tongue – 503/239-7041 (rgtongue@msn.com)

English as a Second Language

Marla McGarry-Lawrence – 503/284-7141 (MarlaML@stmaa.org)

Environmental Stewardship

Jane Peters – 503/287-5579 (JaneP@researchintoaction.com)

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

Marla McGarry-Lawrence, 503/284-7141 (MarlaML@stmaa.org)

Fair Trade Coffee

Gary Lawrence - 503/287-9585 (garylawrce@aol.com)

Greenhouse Ministry

Joy Young – 503/281-4125 (youngfam@spiritone.com)

Hollywood East

Ron Geason – 503/281-6164 (rwgeason@comcast.net)

Loaves & Fishes

Beverly Vinton – 503/287-7888

Rahab's Sisters

Laurel Hart – 503/313-7729 (redhart@comcast.net)

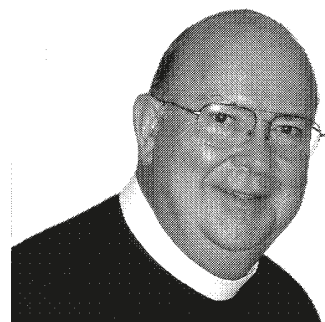
Trader Joe's Food Transfer

Pete Miller – 503/288-0589 (petem574@aol.com)

DEAR FRIENDS,

The next chapters of our lives are unfolding – as I head into retirement, and St. Michael's takes the next steps in ministry and in the search for a rector.

I am beginning to adjust to being absent for a while from the community. I am quite happy when I encounter people at Trader Joe's new location on NE Halsey, and elsewhere in the neighborhood and city. I appreciate the continued conversations with our Transition Committee. In some ways, though, I feel like “a man without a country.” I think this sense of separation is a part of what transitions are like.



The Scannell's do have some future plans. Alice and I are making an extended trip this fall that includes France and England (Canterbury), a visit with her brother and family in Stuttgart, Germany, and then a pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece. For the long range, we plan to maintain our home and

life in Portland. Alice looks forward to continuing during these next years as Vicar of St. Anne's Church, Washougal WA. Our two sons, Stephen and Andrew and their families live nearby – in Gresham and Damascus. Here is where our life is.

I do not think I will be doing any work as an ordained person for a while. That's OK. A long time ago, on my first sabbatical in 1989, I came to see that my identity as a person did not depend on my being a priest, and that I could be “a real person” without that role. I think this realization of our “giftedness” - beyond the role through which our gifts are currently being expressed - is what the dignity of our humanity, revealed in our baptism, is all about. You and I spend a lifetime sorting out the pieces. Thank God for the people and communities who help us to discover the depth of our identity – through love, and through “tough love”, the vicissitudes and graces of the journey. God is with us, and God is “for us.”

Warmest regards,

John S Scannell

CUSTOMER CARE

By Tom Ehrich

I suggest that churches declare August “Customer Service Month.”

This is the time to train the many people who carry out the critical customer-care functions that will have more to do with congregational success than excellence in the pulpit or grandeur of structure.

Like it or not, modern churches are like banks and hardware stores. Their “products,” if you will, are commodities: widely available, similar from one vendor to the next, set apart by the quality of customer care.

For many years, churches have tried to escape competition by claiming to be the only true expression of God’s truth and desire. That works for some – who wouldn’t want to think oneself superior? – but increasingly, churchgoers are behaving like shoppers who have choices and float freely from brand to brand.

Church leaders can bemoan such fickleness and intensify their claims of supremacy. But if they want to have a future as Christian communities, churches need to learn from reality, not denounce it as beneath them.

Take, for example, Chase Bank, our new banking home. Like any modern enterprise, Chase has an excellent web site and up-to-date services. But what sets Chase apart in my view as a customer are the highly trained customer service agents posted just inside the front door of every branch.

They do more than say, “Take a seat over there.” They are trained to engage the customer, answer questions, resolve issues, handle certain transactions, and find the right person for further assistance.

Imagine a similar cadre of customer service reps positioned inside the church door. Imagine them trained to do more than hand out a bulletin or point toward a coffee urn. Instead, they would

engage both visitor and member and respond appropriately to their different needs.

Imagine another cadre trained to respond to people after worship. Instead of a long line hoping for ten seconds of the pastor’s time, imagine people trained in the delicate craft of identifying need, helping people talk to each other, and gathering information for pastoral follow-up.

The wise enterprise learns that technology does some things well, but not all things. For example, I can transfer funds and pay bills in a few mouse clicks. But when it comes to personal questions, I want a live person, not a lazy “Frequently Asked Questions” web page.

Imagine, then, a church telephone that is answered by a person, not a machine, and a web site that facilitates certain transactions like paying pledges and posting schedules, but invites personal e-mail inquiries for other needs.

Imagine church procedures that respond to visitors immediately, not after someone happens to recognize them several weeks later, and that provide reliable attention to pastoral cues, rather than depending on the pastor’s memory and networking.

These are trainable skills. Sunday greeters, for example, can be more than nice people wearing “Greeter” badges. They can be trained in the psychodynamics of being a church visitor and of coming to church mid- or post-crisis. They can prepare for questions and unusual circumstances.

A commitment to training should flow throughout the enterprise. Not only will the trained Sunday School teacher do a better job of teaching than will the hapless soul who couldn’t say No, for example, but trained teachers will feel better about their ministry and want to keep doing it.

What I’m saying, I suppose, is that we ought to take church work as seriously as we take banking. We ought to think through our systems, especially for customer care, and train people to do it right.

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POSITION AVAILABLE AT ST. MICHAEL’S

Title: Associate for Ministry with Youth

Location: Portland, Oregon

Contact: St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

Phone: 503-284-7141 Email: office@stmaa.org

Salary: Half-time salary, depending on qualifications; benefits available.

Deadline: Applications must be received by August 31, 2007

Description: St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, a growing urban parish, is seeking an Associate for Ministry with Youth. The position is responsible for honoring, engaging and supporting young people (grades 6-12) in spiritual development; fostering youth leadership among senior youth and lay adults; and fostering support, acknowledgement and participation of the youth by the community. Participation in parish life and Sunday morning worship is preferred. Time requirements will vary but should be approximately 20 hours/week. The successful candidate will be open to a progressive, affirming church and knowledgeable and/or trained in Christian formation for baptismal ministry.

DO THE WORDS "STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE" MAKE YOU CRINGE?

... Then you are not alone. About 40 parishioners participated in focus groups held in May on the topic of stewardship at St. Michael's. Many of the FORUMS in October will relate to stewardship, including environmental stewardship, understanding the church budget, and the results of the focus groups. Stay tuned for the dates and come and learn what your fellow parishioners are saying about stewardship.

CALLING ALL STUDENTS AT OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY!

Canterbury Club at Oregon State University wants to extend a warm welcome to all Episcopal students who will be attending OSU this fall. Canterbury Club is a student-led group that supports the spiritual and intellectual life of students – through fellowship, worship, service, and, of course, FUN! We would love to have many Episcopal students join us this fall to get the year off to a great start. A special open house will be held at Canterbury House (on the north edge of the OSU campus) on Sunday, September 30th. Please consider joining us – and bringing a friend! To get your name on the Canterbury Club contact list, please contact Mary Arnold, faculty advisor at mary.arnold@oregon-state.edu or phone 541/737-1315. For more information about Canterbury Club, please contact OSU student Brian Moore at moorbria@onid.orst.edu

PART TIME CHAPLAIN ASSISTANT OPPORTUNITY AT PORTLAND STATE

The Interim Episcopal Ministry at Portland State University is seeking two Episcopal PSU students to work as Chaplain Assistants for the 2007 Fall Quarter. Chaplain Assistants will work with the Ecumenical Chaplain helping organize and co-facilitate chaplaincy activities. The positions will require four hours a week during the Fall Quarter at a stipend of \$10 per hour. Applicants may be PSU graduate or undergraduate students. For more information, contact Carol Joy Brendlinger at caroljoy@pdx.edu, 503-348-2182 or Father Joe Dubay at dubay@teleport.com.

THE RECOVERY MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS...

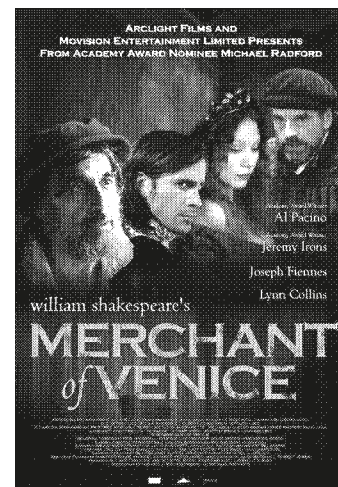
On Sunday, July 15th, members of the newly formed Recovery Ministry team at St. Michael's were the presenters of the adult education FORUM time. After hearing why the group was formed and what we hoped to accomplish by joining together, three members of the team shared their stories. Two spoke of how their own lives were affected by addiction, and how they came into recovery. Another shared her story as an affected family member of an alcoholic. In addition to the FORUM that morning, Larry Street was the guest preacher and shared his story of his addiction and how the love and support of the community of St. Michael's were crucial to his recovery journey.

We appreciate all who attended the FORUM that morning and offered feedback by way of the survey that was distributed. Over 70 parishioners responded, and it is these responses that will help guide our next steps. It is clear that St. Michael's is a community that wants to offer love and support to all who are affected in any way by addiction. Watch *The Messenger* for future presentations by this team.

REEL THEOLOGY IN SEPTEMBER

Our film for September is *The Merchant of Venice* (2004), an adaptation of Shakespeare's play by writer-director Michael Radford. Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons, Joseph Fiennes, and Lynn Collins star in the familiar story of sin and grace we all had to read in high school. Take another look with the wisdom and perspective the intervening years have added.

Because of Labor Day weekend we will meet on the 9th of September at 7:00 pm.



ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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ST. MICHAEL'S CALENDAR

Aug. 12, 19 & 26

Pilgrimage FORUMS - 10:10 am

Parishioners will share stories of their pilgrimages to Spain, Ireland and Mexico

Aug. 18

Parish Quiet Day at the Bishop's Close, 9am to 2pm

Sept. 2

Sunday Ice Cream Social for Labor Day weekend.

Sept. 9

Get on Board Sunday

Fall programs resume – Ministry Fair

Sept. 30

St. Michael's Day Celebration

Oct. 7

Celebration of St. Francis Day

Oct. 21

Instructed Eucharist at 9 & 11 o'clock liturgies

Nov 4

All Saints' Sunday

Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Day Service 10 a.m.