

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

Mailed December 3, 2009

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DEAR FAITHFUL PARISHIONERS,

Happy Advent! We have a lot to celebrate and, as with the season of Advent, we are being held in a place of great anticipation and expectation. I just returned from my first Oregon Diocesan Convention, where we elected the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Oregon – The Reverend Michael Joseph Hanley. While the feeling at the St. Michael’s table was a bit reserved since our very own and well-loved Britt Olson was also on the slate, the overall atmosphere was one of joy that this Diocese is moving forward.

I was struck at Convention by two things: that St. Michael’s is profoundly represented in the Diocese, and that St. Michael’s is one part of a greater whole. At first, it may seem like these two thoughts contrast one another, but in fact they go hand-in-hand. It began at our table – a table that was right in front, had a big number one in the middle of it, and that was able to expand from a table set for eight to a table that comfortably seated 11. There were representatives from St. Michael’s behind tables supporting peace and justice issues and outreach ministries. We also had a group in the gallery of our partners, alternates, and visitors, and there were others who were on the floor as tellers. St. Michael’s had a hand and a voice in every aspect of what happened throughout Convention, from Marie Bagwell and Arlene Ullman, whose dedicated work at the Diocese made this convention possible, to Bob Spiers, who worked through his days off to create bilingual service bulletins for the worship services. St. Michael’s had leaders behind every scene and on every front.

At the same time, when I looked behind us at the floor of the convention, there were hundreds of other people. These people represented churches large and small, urban and rural, thriving and struggling – all with a voice, all with an opinion equal to ours. And it occurred to me that it is too easy for us to forget that. We have so much going on at St. Michael’s that at times it can feel like we are our very own world. But as a church full of such tremendous leadership, we have to remain cognizant that we represent more than St. Michael’s, that we are part of a diocese and part of a Communion. As we enter this season of Advent, let us keep our brothers and sisters in Christ in our prayers as we wholly and joyfully welcome our new bishop.

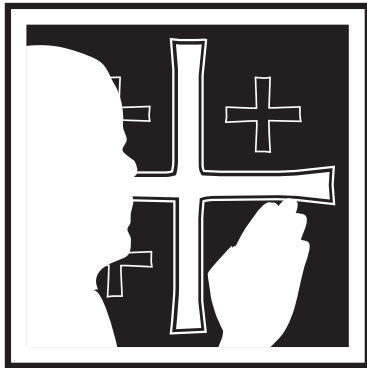
Faithfully,

The Rev’d Christopher Craun +

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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...

- + the repose of the soul of CHUCK HARRINGTON, who died on November 21 following a lengthy illness, and for his wife Gloria in her sorrow
- + the repose of the soul of TOMMY MCRAE who died on November 23, and for his daughter MARJORIE in her sorrow
- + God's healing for BENJAMIN KALLEN, LIN ROBERTSON, TEMPLE MARTIN, CHRIS FOSS, KENNETH MORRIS, former parishioner JAMIE VAN NOSTRAND, JOE SUNDSTROM, and DALE RUSHTON
- + GEORGIA BEARDSLEY and NEIL LEIBOWITZ, and DIANA CORTES RIVERA and CESAR CAMARENA RODRIGUEZ, who were married at St. Michael's on November 14
- + MICHAEL JOSEPH HANLEY, elected as the 10th Bishop of Oregon on November 20.



INFORME DE LA COMUNIDAD HISPANA

Many things are happening with our 1:00 congregation! You may have noticed the new image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the vestibule. This image, beloved by Mexicans and people throughout Central America, was donated by Orlando Guinto and his wife Margarita de los Santos. Orlando's sister purchased the image at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The image is a replica of the image found on the cloak of Juan Diego after Mary appeared to him on the hill of Tepayac near Mexico City in December 1531. We will have a special blessing of the image on December 13 when we celebrate the Feast of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

An exciting new development is the formation of an educational program for young people between the ages of eight and 12. We have long had an Escuela Dominical (Liturgy of the Word) for children between the ages of four and eight, and our Grupo Juvenil with David Berkson and Susie Silva-Strommer got under way last summer. Now, with teachers Edith Arriaga, Dora Montes, Tonantzin Cruz and Diana Garcia, we are able to offer the "tweens" a formation program on the second and fourth Sundays while their older siblings attend Youth Group.

On December 12, we will celebrate the XV Años and First Communion of Joceline Aguila Ruiz. Joceline has been a member of St. Michael's for several years and serves as a Eucharistic Minister at the 1:00 service.

On Friday, December 18, at 7:00 pm, we will celebrate Las Posadas, a traditional re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging prior to the birth of Jesus. The word "posada" means "inn," and participants will be divided into two groups, one inside and one outside. The inside participants are the "innkeepers" who have no lodging available for the sojourners; the outside group travels with Joseph and Mary, knocking on the various church doors until they are finally recognized and welcomed at the red doors. Following prayers and songs in the church, we move upstairs to the Nativity hall for food and piñatas. While the service will be primarily in Spanish, everyone from the congregation is welcome to join us!

< Our Parish Health Promoter training, which began in September, continues most Saturday through the end of January. There are 31 participants representing six different parishes. We have eight participants from St. Michael's: Dora Montes, Lorenzo Luna, Tonantzin Cruz, Blanca Rodríguez, Orlando Guinto, Carmen Gutierrez, Antonio Rojas, and Edith Arriaga. One of the participants remarked recently, "I love this training so much I can hardly wait each week for Saturday to get here!"

Please join us for the misa any Sunday at 1:00!

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

When children are young, parents often wonder how to teach and demonstrate a Christian approach to Christmas. One way is through the Alternative Gift Catalog. The names of the family members and friends to be remembered through catalog gifts can be written on separate slips of paper together with the dollar amount to be spent on the gift for that person. Each family member can draw names until all are taken, then each can use the catalog to write on the slip of paper the gift they would choose to fit the recipient. The final steps are to fill out the order form and the gift card. The excitement a child will feel in choosing a meaningful gift that will help other children here or in a distant country will bring a glow to your Christmas.

If you did not receive a catalog, please come to the table in the Gallery to pick one up and to place your order. Orders will be taken every Sunday through December 20.

- The Outreach & Justice Ministries Council



HOLLYWOOD EAST COAT DRIVE – THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our winter coat drive for the residents of Hollywood East. To date, we have collected around 100 coats, plus a number of shirts and sweaters, two pairs of boots and an umbrella. Heather Weitman, Resident Services Coordinator, said that several of the residents remarked, “I’ve never had a coat this nice before!” Thank you again for your generosity, and thank you to those folks who have helped deliver the items to Hollywood East.

CHANGING WORSHIP – CHANGING PRAYER BOOKS:

SUNDAY FORUMS IN ADVENT

During the Season of Advent this year (beginning on Advent II, December 6), the Sunday FORUMS will offer a series on the ways Anglican worship has changed since the time of King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I - and where it might be headed - by exploring changes in the Book of Common Prayer. Topics will include:

Dec. 6: Medieval Worship to the 1st Prayer Book and Radical Protestantism

Dec. 13: Prayer Book Changes in England and the American Colonies through the time of the American Revolution

Dec. 20: Changes in Episcopal Prayer Books in the 19th and 20th Centuries – What might be Next?

This series will be presented by Caroline Litzenberger.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS THANK-YOUS

I was impressed yet again with the generous outpouring of hospitality from the community of St. Michael’s. On short notice, a large number of people generously brought breakfast pastries to share with their fellow congregants for the Feast of All Saints. Thank you to everyone who brought food, and special thanks to David Lentz who stepped in at the last minute to act as Supreme Coordinator of the event.

- Barb Miller

RECOVERY MINISTRY

Wow! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Recovery Ministry’s recently concluded book study. What a rewarding and enriching experience it was to discuss “*The Spirituality of Imperfection*” by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham.

UPDATE FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM

We have had a wonderful fall Stewardship season, getting to know each other better through the home storytelling gatherings, learning more about storytelling and community from John Kater, and building a stewardship pie together. We consider all of these activities to be reflections of the abundance of life at St. Michael & All Angels.

As of November 30, we have gathered 160 pledges for a total of \$360,370. This is a great step towards our eventual goal of 275-300 pledges. By the time you receive this Messenger, our hope is that we will all be participating and the goal will be nearly complete!

We see many parallels between what we learned at the storytelling gatherings about our community and each other and what we hope for in the future here at St. Michael's.

We learned that we value joyousness and generosity. We hope for everyone to experience joyous generosity, and we hope for year-round stewardship awareness in our community.

We learned that we value worship, liturgy, music and preaching. We hope for more clergy, more often, in more places; and we hope to expand and nurture the lay leadership in worship, increasing our community involvement.

We learned that we value our outreach ministries greatly, and we hope for more opportunities for outreach and more ways to work with our children and youth to increase their understanding of ministry in the world. We also hope to support the use of the church building as an outreach tool by having enough funds to maintain the building adequately.

We learned that we value our capacity to journey together, including sharing disagreements, sorrows, questions and fears. We hope to continue this journey together by creating more small-group experiences and supporting everyone, including newcomers, in our open and welcoming community.

We learned that we agree with John Kater when he says, "Church is where we find out what we're for, living as people empowered to serve the reign of God, its peace, its plenty, its justice, its compassion, its shalom." We hope to support and guide this church into the next century, providing for future members as we have been provided for ourselves. We trust that we can do this for each other.

- Your Stewardship Team: Charlene Sabin, Michael Sagun, Jonna Alexander, & Lynda Moses

BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE AND SUPPORT L'ARCHE NEHALEM

L'Arche Nehalem, a faith-based community, is proud to announce its 20th Annual Christmas Tree Benefit Sale. The trees are locally grown and freshly cut, and you can find noble and douglas fir trees with sizes to fit every home.

The L'Arche lots open the day after Thanksgiving and run through December 20. The lots are located in Hollywood at NE 44th and Hancock in the Grocery Outlet parking lot, and in Montavilla at SE 82nd and Burnside in the Safeway parking lot. Santa will be visiting both lots from noon-3:00 pm Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 12-13.

All proceeds from the purchase of your holiday tree go directly to support life in L'Arche homes. L'Arche Nehalem is a non-profit, faith-based organization that provides lifelong family homes for people with developmental disabilities. Caregivers live in community and share life with those with disabilities, creating nurturing, rich and meaningful lives for all.

For more details and hours of the tree sale, or to find out how you can volunteer at one of the tree lots, please visit the website at:<http://www.larche-portland.org/tree-sale.htm> or call Tamara at 503/875-8784.

PUMPKIN MANIA

St. Michael's Youth Group pumpkin sales grossed over \$686! Thanks to you, we sold every single pumpkin picked. Thank you for your continued support of youth ministries.

Top Photo: Pumpkin Pickers

Bottom Photo: Pumpkin Carvers



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

With my bookkeeper's hat on, I'd like to make St Michael's parishioners aware of a few items:

- Your last contribution of the year must be in physically in the church or postmarked by December 31 for it to be included on your 2009 giving statement.
- While many of you like to use giving envelopes for your contributions, others would rather not receive them because they use some form of bill pay or ACH, or (like me) they have a tendency to misplace their envelopes. If I didn't hear by the end of October that you wanted to opt out of using envelopes, they will be sent directly to your address from our envelope company. Feel free to recycle whatever envelopes you won't need.
- We will provide a number of number-free envelope booklets containing just the "specials" for 2010. You'll be able to find those sometime soon in the Gallery. We will also be providing pew envelopes in the near future which can be used by visitors and parishioners alike for privacy and/or to indicate a name, pledge number or special intention for your contribution.
- Your envelope number will be the same as this year's if it is 499 or below. For new folks, your pledge acknowledgement will contain your giving number. And nothing would make our dedicated volunteer counters happier than if you would write that number on your check!

As always, you can reach me with questions or concerns at 503/284-7141 or glorio@stmaa.org. Thank you for being part of this very generous community!

- Gloria Orellana

WEDNESDAY BROWN BAG-HEBREW SCRIPTURE STUDY RESUMES JANUARY 6

Join Deacon Marla McGarry-Lawrence for a lunch hour "brown-bag" study of the Hebrew Scriptures on Wednesdays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm beginning January 6. We are using a video series taught by Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Each Wednesday will include a 30-minute lecture by Professor Levine followed by a lively discussion within the group. During this 8-week session, we will be covering the books of Exodus through First Kings. Please join us! A sign-up sheet will be available in the Gallery.

THE JOYFUL NEWS DECEMBER 2009

"Fear not: for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Near the end of the Charlie Brown Christmas Special, we watch an exhausted, frustrated and depressed Charlie Brown exclaim, "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Linus replies, "Sure, Charlie Brown. I can tell you what Christmas is all about." Linus then walks center stage and calls out "Lights, please." There in the darkened theatre, under a single spotlight, he recites the simple, beautiful narrative of Christ's birth.

On Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm, the children of St. Michael's will once again share the story of Jesus' birth in a Nativity Play. Along with Mary and Joseph, the kings and innkeepers, and the sheep and the shepherds, we will hear the angels proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!"

And speaking of angels.... The Joyful Noise Children's Choir will be singing lots of Advent and Christmas music during the month of December. We hope that all grade-school-age children who love to sing will join the fun with the Joyful Noise Choir and our guest Choir Director, Nathan LeRud, as we celebrate the season of Advent and prepare for the glorious season of Christmas. The Joyful Noise Choir rehearses from 4:30 – 5:15 pm on Wednesday afternoons on December 2, 9, and 16. Children are welcome to join anytime!

December 6 Sign up today during Sunday School (10:10 am) for a part in the Christmas Eve Nativity Play! All children in the parish are invited to participate. The Godly Play class hears the Advent stories of The Prophets and The Holy Family.

December 13 Nativity Play rehearsal and costume fitting for children with speaking parts. The Godly Play class hears the Advent stories of The Shepherds, The Wise Men and Christmas.

December 20 Nativity Play rehearsal in church at 10:10 am for all children pre-K and up.

December 23 Dress rehearsal for Christmas Eve Nativity Play in the church from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

December 24 Nativity Players arrive at 3:15 pm; Christmas Eve Service with Holy Eucharist begins at 4:00 pm.

December 27 Special Christmas readings and music at both the 9:00 and 11:00 am liturgies. No Godly Play or Sunday School classes today.

Sunday School and Godly Play classes resume on Sunday, January 3, 2010!

Ideas, questions or concerns? Please contact Leslie Sackett, Associate for Ministry with Children and Families at leslies@stmaa.org or 503/284-7141 X318.

TEDDY BEARS, TOYS AND A PLACE TO CELEBRATE

Christmas is coming, and one sure sign of Christ's love drawing near is the ever-growing collection of Teddy bears on the steps of the chancel as parishioners add new, lovable bears that will be given to young children in the foster care system. Thank you, St. Michael's, for your thoughtful and generous response to children who need our love, support and encouragement.

We, the members of St. Michael's, now have an even greater opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and families in our community, and I'm so excited to share the good news with you!

Every year, the Midtown Child Welfare Office employees host a holiday party for the children and families they currently serve in the foster care system. The holiday party is an opportunity for children in foster care to experience the joy of the holiday season with their parents, siblings or other family members who are not able to be with them on a daily basis. Traditionally, this party has been held at the same office where children and families meet for supervised visitations. The Midtown Child Welfare employees do their best to provide a wonderful holiday party for the children, but they are often doing this on a shoestring budget, in an office environment, and - if truth be told - usually subsidizing the party out of their own pockets.

This year, St. Michael's is thrilled to be partnering with the Midtown Child Welfare Office to provide the space for their holiday party on Tuesday, December 22. The party will include games, crafts, cookie-decorating, photos with Santa, gifts for the children, and even a live band playing Christmas music!

One very important component of this party is the opportunity for parents not currently living with their children to give their

child a toy - something they may not be able to afford on their own. At the holiday party, there will be a "Toy Closet" with toys and bears where parents can "shop" for an age-appropriate toy for their child. These presents are given at the party and are sure to make each child feel the love and joy we hope all children can experience during the holidays.

I invite you to expand your Christmas wish list to include the children in foster care who will attend the holiday party at St. Michael's on December 22, 2009. While shopping for the perfect, cuddly Teddy bear, please consider purchasing a toy for a young child to help stock the "Toy Closet" at the holiday party. Toys don't have to be big, fancy or electronic to be "just what they've always wanted!" Here are a few suggestions: a baby doll, toy cars or trucks, a bag of building blocks, balls of all sizes, board games, a classic children's book, or sturdy board books for toddlers.

I rejoice that St. Michael's is a place of overflowing hospitality and that we are able to provide a welcoming place for this special Holiday Party! This is just one example of the many ways our community, through stewardship of God's gifts to us, can share the good news of God's abundant love with our neighbors.

Please bring Teddy Bears and new, unwrapped toys to the church by December 13th and add your gift to this joyful, visible example of God's love in the world. Your generosity will make a difference in the life of a child whose family is in crisis and who, during this holiday season, is in need of our love, support and encouragement. Thank you!

Leslie Sackett
Associate for Ministry with Children and Families

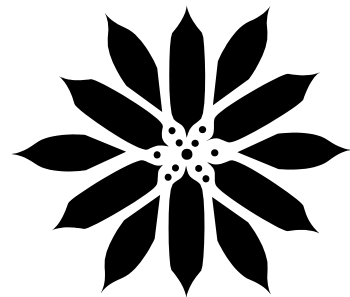
CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Contributions for flowers in the church at Christmas are welcome. Return this form with your gift by Sunday, Dec. 13. Call the parish office at 503/284-7141 for more information.

In memory of:

In thanksgiving for:

Donated by _____



Please make checks payable to
"St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church"

YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO YAKAMA INDIAN RESERVATION

JUNE 19 – 26, 2010

This summer, be a part of the first St. Michael's Youth Group mission trip in years. Join our new rector, The Rev. Christopher Craun, and Youth Minister David Berkson in this new and exciting chapter of St. Michael's outreach ministries. We'll go to the Yakama Indian Reservation, surrounded by the natural beauty of south-central Washington. Like on many Indian reservations across the U.S., the people of the Yakama Nation live in a degree of poverty that calls for the care and action of many, including you. Join us as we serve the Yakama people through a wide variety of work projects, including religious instruction to younger children through games and arts and crafts. Other work projects may include painting houses, performing home repairs, cleaning up debris, or volunteering in community gardens.

WHO CAN GO?

This mission trip is open to anybody going into grades 7-12 next year. (That means, if you're currently in 6th grade, you can sign up. Current high school seniors are not eligible.)

There are limited slots, and they are prioritized in the following order:

- Incoming seniors and juniors
- Incoming sophomores and freshmen
- Middle school students

Our goal is to have all interested and available students participate.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Every participant is required to make a \$60 deposit to reserve his or her space. St. Michael's asks that each family cover that cost. The remaining costs will be paid through Youth Group fundraisers. All participants will be asked and expected to participate in fundraising events. The total cost of the trip is \$248 per person + transportation expenses.

Scholarships are available for youth whose families cannot pay all or part of the \$60 deposit. Please contact the Youth Ministry office directly if you are interested or have questions.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Please fill out the application below and turn it in to the office at St. Michael's before December 31, 2009.

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

Name _____
Grade (as of September 2010) _____
Home Phone _____ Cell phone _____
E-mail address _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Parent or Guardian's Name _____
Parent work phone _____ Parent cell phone _____
Parent email address _____

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Portland, OR 97213-1402

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9am to 5pm



ST. MICHAEL'S CALENDAR

- DEC. 6 **FORUM - 10:10 am**
From Medieval Worship to the 1st
Prayer Book and Radical Protestantism
- DEC. 13 **FORUM - 10:10 am**
Prayer Book Changes through the time
of the American Revolution
- DEC. 19 **Lessons & Carols**
Saturday at 7:00 pm
- DEC. 20 **FORUM - 10:10 am**
Changes in Episcopal Prayer Books in
the 19th and 20th Centuries
- DEC. 24 **Christmas Eve**
4:00 PM: Children's Service with
Nativity Play and Eucharist
6:00 PM: Eucharist with Carols
8:00 PM: Eucaristía en Español
10:30 PM: Carols with choir and
congregation
11:00 PM: Christmas Candlelight
Festival Eucharist and reception.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL
LESSONS AND CAROLS

Saturday, December 19, 2008 at 7:00 pm
St. Michael & All Angels Church
1704 Northeast 43rd Avenue

A festive reception follows the service.

ANNUAL REPORT ARTICLES

The deadline to receive articles for the Annual Report is Jan. 11, 2010. We need to have your article in hand, or at least have communicated with you about it, by that date in order for it to be included in the Annual Report.

Last year's Annual Report is on the website at www.stmaa.org under "Our Parish," if you want to refresh your memory about the ministry articles. Please help the staff by getting your's in as early as possible.