

THE MESSENGER

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

February 2010 at St. Michael's

Sunday, February 7
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 14
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, February 17
10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday
Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 21
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday in Lent
Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 28
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent
Holy Eucharist

FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Dr. Pamela Redding

As I write this article we are preparing for our first Candlemas Service together. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm for this service. Of course Candlemas is an ancient Anglican tradition but new again at St. Michael's. Thank you **Peggy Wilson**, for bringing bee's wax and wicks to coffee hour so children of every age could make our own candles in anticipation! We are ready.

Is it wrong to look forward to Lent? I know Lent is a time of penitence and reflection, but I enjoy it - the reflection part at least. This year at St. Michael's we are planning three retreats, each one a little different. They are part of our Lenten spiritual practice, in addition to our Lenten Sunday services.

This year the Vestry will be going on retreat February 19-21. In an effort to save expenses we will not be visiting a retreat center. Instead, we will have a nice dinner together at a local restaurant, then trade spaces with the St. Luke's Episcopal congregation in Rossmoor. I am looking forward to having their rector, **the Rev. Anne Cox Bailey** and the St. Luke's vestry at St. Michael's while we meet in their space. Then Sunday morning we will switch pulpits and worship at each other's services. I think it will be fun to meet and get to know more great Episcopalians this way.

On March 6, St. Michael's will have a children's retreat, planned by our teens, with music by the Contemporary musicians and followed by childlike monastic food like simple sandwiches. Later in the month, on March 20, the grownups will meet for a stewardship theology theme retreat followed by **Diane Loehr's** glorious potato soup. Both retreats will feed our souls as well as our hungry spirits in preparation to walk with Christ toward death and resurrection on Easter Morning.

But that is a ways away. I hope you will make time in your schedules to take part in the Lenten retreats and to take special care of your precious souls. God bless you.

Pam+

ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL MEETING

St. Michael & All Angels held its Annual Meeting on January 24, 2009. Once a year members from every area of our life as a congregation come together to worship and have communion, then eat a great potluck lunch and talk about our work in ministry for the last year. Thank you to everyone who wrote reports summarizing the activities of the many groups in our parish. Thank you to **Merrie Jo Campbell** for presenting the financial information from 2009 and giving us a clear understanding of our financial standing.

Another important part of the Annual Meeting is election of Vestry leadership and delegates to Diocesan Convention. For 2010, the following persons were elected.

VESTRY (9 members)

Gordon Wells - Senior Warden
Tom Sjevda - Junior Warden
Doris Watson
Lawrence Morgan-Kihs
Geri Quilici
Julia White

NEW:

Ramon De La Cruz
Charles Mayer
Sue Brown

LEAVING

Rose Condit
Bill Svoboda
Lance Smith

DELEGATES TO DEANERY & DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Verena Won
Lonnie Plain
Diane Loehr

ALTERNATES

Gregg Cannella
Ann Swift
Dave Quilici

Music Notes from Joyce Pricco

LENTEN SEASON

We are in February already and Ash Wednesday/Lent season is here in two weeks. The season of Lent is different every year for me. Some new revelation, a different point of view in approaching what I will accomplish (rather than "give up") brings to mind my commitment to God and the St. Michael's community.

Be part of the music at St. Michael's either by joining the Contemporary Choir at the 9 a.m. service or the Traditional Choir at the 11 a.m. service on Sundays. Check out our new website www.saintmichaelsconcord.org for up to date events and choir rehearsal schedules. If you can join for only a short time, we welcome your participation for any length of time. Of course, we would love to have your participation through Easter!

Contact me at 925/ 676-8203 or mandjpricco@earthlink.net for the Traditional Choir, or Diane Loehr at 650/678-9683 or dianeloehr@yahoo.com for the Contemporary Choir. Come be a part of the Music Ministry at St. Michael's!

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT COMING TO ST. MICHAEL'S

One of our parishioners and choir members, **Keith Coppage**, is the Drama Teacher and Choir Director at Mt. Diablo High School here in Concord. Keith asked if we would be interested in having his Drama group come and perform the musical they are working on which is *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. As many of you know, we had the children sing the Finale from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* during our 2009 Festival weekend. Of course we were very excited to hear about his offer and immediately agreed to have them perform the musical here at St. Michael's.

Keith tells me the event is tentatively scheduled for March. I will keep you posted as to the specific date and time of the show. We are looking forward to having Keith's drama group bring their rendition of the show and hope this will bring our community out to enjoy this great musical by Andrew Lloyd Weber.

Enjoy your days in February!

Joyce

The St. Michael's Men's Group

The next meeting of the Men's Group is **Wednesday evening, February 10th in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m.** Bring some food to share and join us for a time of fellowship and service.

For more information, call **Rob Zazueta** at 925-246-5449

CORNED BEEF SUPPER ON MARCH 13TH

On Saturday, March 13th, the Men's Group invites you to join them in a fund raising Corned Beef Supper.

The doors will open at 5:00 p.m., there will be a raffle and nibbles, followed by dinner at about 7:00 p.m.

\$12/adult and \$6/child. Full tables are available. Tickets will be on sale soon at coffee hour after each service.

Contact **Tom Svejda** for details—925.676.8030.

St. Martha's Guild

St. Martha's is hosting a **Shrove Tuesday dinner on Tuesday, February 16th**. We will begin at 6:30 and feature lasagne, salad, dessert, beverages, etc. The cost is \$2.00 and we would really appreciate sign ups. This way we can plan our food purchasing, and not waste anything.

Shrove Tuesday, just before the start of the Lenten season leading to Easter, is full of history and fun. Of course, the most famous Shrove Tuesday celebration is Mardi Gras. St. Michael's will not try to duplicate floats and, well, other aspects of New Orleans' Mardi Gras. However, you won't want to miss the opportunity to flip pancakes, part of an old English tradition you will hear about.

I also think Shrove Tuesday is a very meaningful time to introduce potential members to the people and beliefs of St. Michael's. Many people take on something for Lent. **Will you consider "taking on" evangelizing to just one person who may be searching for the perfect church?** Sign up sheets will be available at coffee hours, and even if you didn't sign up, please join us for Shrove Tuesday dinner.

Speaking of coffee hour, we still do not have anyone to sponsor the 11 am coffee hour for the second Sunday of the month. The next one coming up is February 14th. Would anyone will interested in serving that Sunday - store bought Valentine cookies would be fabulous. Please let me know if you can help us.

Judy Wilson

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

"Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

"Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you, Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD."

"Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Excerpts from Rev. Pam's sermon on Sunday, January 31, 2010:

"Having a calling is a good thing. Our calling by God is what gives our lives meaning and has a lot to do with who we know ourselves to be. Calling gives us our identity and give our lives meaning. Every Christian has at least one calling. Like the endowment of spiritual gifts we talked about a few Sundays back, we are also wealthy because we are spiritually endowed with our calling by God. "

"And there is even more! For Jeremiah, God touched his mouth and put in him all the words he might need for the work ahead. We need the right words, and most of all we need to know we can tap into the source of creation to create the new world God is making through us. God is very practical and resourceful. God wants us to succeed and God will give us the tools to be successful. "

"God calls us as individuals and as a community because God is the keeper of the big picture, the plan for the salvation of the world. We know Jesus came to live among us and Jesus invites us to follow him in that work. Sometimes it is hard to imagine what our little part has to do with God's big plan for all time. But as the scripture says in I Corinthians, "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part, then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

Someday it is going to all make sense."

St. Julia's Guild

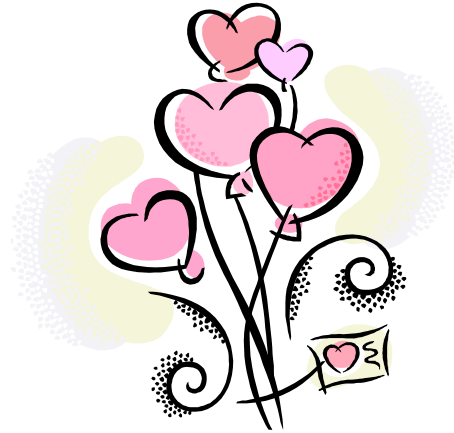
Saint Julia's held their annual Christmas pot luck in December with most of our members present. We had a wonderful and delightful surprise to see our dear friend **Gerda Stevenson** join us with her caregiver. **Gerda** is a long time member of St. Michael's and a long time member of St. Julia's Guild, due to illness she has not been able to attend any of our meetings or church but nevertheless, she remains in our hearts! The pre-school children also came to entertain us, bringing their little handmade Christmas ornaments for each St. Julia's member. St. Julia's in turn gave each of the children books as their present. A photograph of this happy gathering can be seen on the parish hall bulletin board.

In January we held our regular monthly meeting discussing many projects we hope to achieve in the coming months - most important will be St. Julia's annual bake sale. The money we raise always goes to our charity outreach program, this year the members voted that our outreach this year will benefit St. Michael's Church. Our bake sale is always a sell out, so please come support St. Julia's efforts to help the church. If anyone has a desire for a particular baked item, let one of the St. Julia's ladies know and we will attempt to fill your request. In addition to the bake sale, we will also hold a raffle for Shirley Kimsey's wonderful wine cake and an Easter basket. Tickets will go on sale in March.

St. Julia's February speaker will be Marilu Bouchet who is the Food Bank Development Director. If you have an interest in learning how the food we collect at Saint Michael's is used and distributed to the needy, come join us. Our February meeting will be on February 10th at noon. Bring a sandwich and join us. This invitation is extended to both men and women of the parish.

Alice McMillan
St. Julia's President

St. Michael's Preschool News



Valentines Day Party on February 12th at 10 a.m.

*[See's Valentine candy will be available for purchase.
Ask Ms. Pam for details.]*

SCHOOL IS CLOSED

Monday, February 8th (Staff In-Service)

Monday, February 16th (President's Day)

Our SEE's Candy Fundraiser starts on February 25th. Candy will be available for pick-up before Easter.

Food Bank

A big thank you for everyone at St. Michael's and all friends, relatives, students and all people who helped us raise 3301 pounds of food for our 2009 Food Bank Drive. Our December donation was 132 pounds, which brought our total for the year to 3301 pounds, which is 1301 pounds over our goal of two tons (2000 pounds).

Because of generous people of our church and community, the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano counties has been able to help feed for 108,000 people each month.

Our new goal for 2010 is 2500 pounds. Help us feed the people in need with your food or cash donations. We thank God for all of our blessings.

Sue Brown
925.934.0245

Loaves & Fishes

Thank you to all the great volunteers who helped feed people in need at Loaves & Fishes on Monday, January 18th. We appreciate **Lonnie Plain** and her friend, **Lydra Good, Judy Wilson, Verena Won,** and **from the Hawaiian Club, Lois Kaya** and her granddaughter, **Meghan Hashimoto, Keith Cambra** and his cousin and friend, **Tristen** and **Barron**.

Come and join us on our next Monday—February 15th, 2010, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 1802 Alhambra Avenue, Martinez (cross street and entrance on Robinson Street).

Sue Brown
925.934.0245



**St. Michael and All Angels
Episcopal Church**

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On the web:

STMICHAELS-CONCORD.ORG
SAINTMICHAELSCONCORD.ORG

Rector:

The Rev. Dr. Pamela Redding

Cell: 925-408-4082

Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 9am—1 pm
(closed Fridays)

THE MESSENGER

WEEKLY AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Mondays—Fridays, 6:15 am—6:00 pm
St. Michael's Preschool

Tuesday 7:00—8:30 p.m.
Bible Study & Healing Service (Chapel)

Wednesday
10:30 a.m. **Eucharist** (in Chapel)
6:30 p.m. **Contemporary Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday
12:00 noon **Al-Anon**
7:30 p.m. **Traditional Choir Rehearsal**

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

PLACE LABEL HERE