

## **THE MESSENGER**

*St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church*

### **June 2010 at St. Michael's**

**Sunday, June 6**

**9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, June 13**

**9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, June 20**

**9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Holy Eucharist

**Sunday, June 27**

**9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Holy Eucharist

## **FROM THE RECTOR**

### **The Rev. Dr. Pamela Redding**

At St. Michael's Episcopal Church we know we are called to be a sacred community. To some it may seem obvious, while to others quite controversial. In everyday life, whenever I tell people I go to St. Michael's they almost always respond with some variation on "How big is your church?" No matter how often I hear a request for some kind of numbers related response, my gut reaction is always something along the line of "Why would someone ask something so shallow when the reality of life at St. Michael's is so rich and wonderful, joyful and fun, meaningful and inspiring?" St. Michael's is a sacred community and I refuse to simply see its value reduced to a number for comparison, some kind of quantification with who-knows-what other institution.

Being a sacred community is a higher calling, after all. One of the big draws in belonging to St. Michael's is being part of something consistently meaningful and nurturing and larger than ourselves. Each time I drive up to the church my whole body feels happy knowing this is a place where I will feel at home and be able to worship the God I love while surrounded in relationship by people of every age who cannot wait to be part of the same life giving experience. I can go almost anywhere and use products or buy stuff where no doubt people are calculating profit/loss margins and planning for financial success. And, like no other time in history, certainly St. Michael's is also forced to really think about its financial situation and depends on continued commitment to financial giving and using money with intentional and careful stewardship. (Yes, please keep giving to St. Michael's!) But, this being said, our real reason for being at all is to be a sacred community. Our world really needs places that are holy and people who are committed to living holy lives. This is why St. Michael's is important.

Maybe for people who are numbers and quantitatively inclined there is a sense of achieving something and being done. As a priest and your rector, I believe we live in a totally different realm. Since St. Michael's is called to be a sacred community, the real focus is on three specific concepts – *being*, *sacred* and *community*. You have heard me talk a lot about Christian community but what is on my mind today is the very special way that St. Michael's cares about "being sacred," being dedicated to God. That is our core value and the center of what we do. What we do know about being

## **MORE FROM REV. PAM**

dedicated to God is that God is not something we can ever achieve. Sacred community is so much more, it can fill up your whole life and it will! We must always hold this vision before us as we move into the Church's great green season of Pentecost. I like that we are a sacred community.

**Pam+**

## **Inspired to Stewardship**

Stewardship, to me, is the intentional use of our time, talent and treasure toward a worthwhile aim or vision. I was inspired to be more involved with stewardship at St. Michael's when I recently heard someone at a seminar say "God gives us a vision one size larger than we are so that we can grow into it." Receiving that vision for us as individuals or us as a community is the beginning of stewardship. If we don't have a clear vision of what God wants us to achieve, it doesn't really matter what actions we take.

The vision that keeps coming into my mind for us at St. Michael's is a growing, thriving church full of abundance. That gives us direction for our actions. Then our actions allow us to grow into the community that will make that vision a reality. And that's the best part.

It always starts with an idea of what we, with God's guidance, want to create. Then we develop a plan of action while staying open to the opportunities God will send our way; because He will tinker with the "how-to". The effort to get things going may seem like a lot, but in a relatively short time we will step back and enjoy the fruits of our labor. We can embrace a joyful Sabbath and open ourselves to for the next vision to grow into.

I'll let you know the details as this story unfolds.....

**Erin Ramey**

## **A REPORT ON MUSICAL HAPPENINGS AT ST. MICHAEL'S**

### **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT**

Although, it has been over a month since this great musical was performed in our church, I did not get a chance to write about it until now. It was "amazing" to say the least. **Keith Coppage** and his able rhythm section played superbly and supported an energetic, enthusiastic cast for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. From the moment the 11 am service ended on April 25th, the church was buzzing with teenagers getting prepared for the show. There were also alumni and parents who helped with costumes, sound, and props, a community effort of Mt. Diablo High School's Drama Department.

It was apparent that Keith's guidance and hard work inspired the talented cast. Many of the lead roles were great singers and the acting was also finely crafted with hilarious moments and incredible bursts of energy throughout. In all accounts I would say that the endeavor to bring Mt. Diablo's Drama Department to St. Michael's was a huge success, not only for the department and St. Michael's, but for the community at large. We look forward to the future!

### **INTERFAITH COUNCIL CONCERT**

On Sunday, May 16th at 3 pm St. Michael's hosted the annual Interfaith Council Concert. Rev. Brian Stein-Webber who has led these events for the past ten years brought an array of different musical groups for a well-rounded representation of our religious community. The following groups participated:

- MA Center devotional music - two chants
- Baha'i Women's Quintet - several selections
- Sufism Reoriented Choir - 70 voice choir sang four selections
- Rev. Sandra Dager - opera singer sang three selections
- Dances of Universal Peace— two American Indian dances and chants
- Kirtan group from Dhyanyoga Center - two chants with movement
- Temple Hill Choir - Oakland LDS 25 voice choir with orchestra

It was a truly ecumenical event that packed the church. Rev. Stein-Webber commented that the experience at St. Michael's was a notch up from previous concerts and several of the participants expressed their gratitude for our hosting the event. It was a wonderful experience to be with other members of the religious community in the Bay Area.

## **MORE THINGS MUSICAL**

### **NEWS ABOUT FORMER MUSIC DIRECTOR, WILLIAM GORTON**

For those of you who knew William Gorton, our previous Music Director before I took over the post almost five years ago, I have exciting news! As you know, William and Dee moved to Central Virginia where he became the Director of Music at Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church in Ashland, Virginia. He also started the Central Virginia Masterworks Chorale which is in its fourth year and very successful.

In the meantime, Will had plans to go back to school to pursue a doctorate in conducting. He applied to six different schools. Three of them did not accept his applications, but three invited him to visit and out of them he was accepted to the doctoral program at Arizona State University in conducting. Many of these positions are hard to come by and it turns out this particular program is the one he wanted, so God answered his prayers. In addition, they already have a job set up for him during the first year. He will be the conductor of the new music ensemble, double answer to prayer. Dee will continue to go back to Virginia and teach her wonderful students once a month while pursuing church work in Arizona.

You guessed it, they are selling their beautiful home in Montpelier, VA and moving to Arizona by August. Cameron (Dee's daughter), is graduating from high school this year and has been awarded a scholarship to Tulane University in New Orleans. She will enter the architecture program and is very excited about it. So you see, God's plan is the best and as it turns out the Gorton's are falling nicely into His plan.

We give them our best wishes, love, and prayers during this exciting time!

### **SUMMER IS HERE**

As in the past two years, we will be reducing down to one service in the months of July and August at 10 am. Attendance is usually low during the summer and this gives everyone an opportunity to relax and go on vacation. The Traditional and Contemporary Choirs will combine and continue to support the 10 am service. If you are interested in joining us, please contact either myself at 925/ 676-8203 or at [mandjpricco@earthlink.net](mailto:mandjpricco@earthlink.net), or Diane Loehr at 925/ 825-5811 or at [dianeloehr@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeloehr@yahoo.com). We welcome you!

Enjoy your last days of spring!

**God's blessing, Joyce**

Date: June 20, 2010

Time: Drawing Between Services

Spend the day at **AT&T Park** in San Francisco with your family or friends. St. Michaels is raffling off **4 Lower Box** seats typically 4-6 rows back from the Giants bullpen at field level. You Pick The Team\*, day or night game. So come one, come all and 'Take Me Out To The Ballgame'

**Take Me Out To  
The  
Ballgame...**

**\* \$5 \***

**A Raffle Ticket**

**Seats are a \$260 value**

Contact person: Geri Quilici

Phone: 925-798-5240

Email: [dquilici@att.net](mailto:dquilici@att.net)

\* Unfortunately the Dodger/Red Sox games not available for this.

## **St. Julia's Guild**

St. Julia's Guild is looking forward to helping our dear friend **Goldie Nellis** celebrate her 100th birthday on June 13th after the 11:00 a.m. church service. We hope those of you who are available will come join us in wishing Goldie a "Happy Birthday". For many years, Goldie has been a member of St. Michael's and an important member of St. Julia's Guild, rarely missing church or one of our Guild meetings. After a fall in her home a few months back, Goldie spent some time in the hospital then more time in a nursing home but it didn't take long before she was once again back in church and attending Guild meetings! To my knowledge there has never been anyone at St. Michael's church who could equal Goldie's record! St. Julia's Guild and St. Michael's Church is truly blessed to have Goldie among us today! If you cannot attend her party I am sure she would welcome birthday cards which you could give to any member of St. Julia's Guild.

St. Julia's Guild will not be meeting in June; as is our custom we will be going out to lunch. We have reservations at Marie Callanders for June 9th at noon, anyone wishing to join us, please advise either Verena Won, Lonnie Plain or me, Alice McMillan. Space is limited.

St. Julia's will take a brief hiatus in July and August, resuming our monthly meetings again in September the second Wed. of the month. Anyone wishing to become a part of St. Julia's Guild would be warmly welcomed; we are very much in need of new members if St. Julia's Guild is to continue.

**Alice McMillan**, St. Julia's President

### **A BIG THANKS**

I want to thank all the people that contributed to the Mother's Day Cake Walk. I don't want to list all the names because I just know that I might leave someone out and I would feel terrible! It was a first time event and so many people contributed and wanted to participate!!!

We made \$175.00 (for the general fund) in a half hour slot. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and that was the first reason I decided to this. Randy Campbell was so happy to be the first winner and won the flower cake (it actually looked like one large flower).

It was funny when the Lemon Meringue Pie was wanted by four (4) people and the person who donated it also won it (Sandy Svoboda) donated it. It was a lot of fun. Thank you again.

**Geri Quilici**

## Vestry News

Attention St. Michaels Members:

When I think of Stewardship, I constantly remind myself as Senior Warden that is not always about minding the dollars and cents that we receive to pay the bills around here. To be sure, this is critical – now more than ever. However, I think about the time and talent of it too.

In last month's *Messenger*, I mentioned that we need someone, willing to come forward, who might have skills in helping us to advertise and rent out our Parish Hall. Currently, Reverend Pam is managing this function. And while she has done an outstanding job of taking this on including reviewing and adjusting key components of our rental policy, it is time for hopefully someone or a team of two, to possibly step forward to help us out by managing this. So please, think and pray about whether this might be something you'd consider doing. Please contact Reverend Pam or myself if you called to do this.

**Gordon**

### **Vestry Meeting Highlights: 5/19/2010**

The Parking Lot sale on 5/15 netted St. Michaels \$447. The Men's group brought in \$450 for both the Parking Lot Sale and Interfaith Council choir concert the next day.

**Reverend Pam** has firmed up and strengthened our Parish Hall rental policy this last month, to protect both the renter's and St. Michael's liability. Pam has rented the hall for this coming Saturday 5/22.

**Alice MacMillan, Verena Wong and Lonnie Plain** from St. Julia's Guild visited the meeting to get an update about our efforts to get a new sign for the front of the church. Tom Svedja will organize a field trip for several of us, to look at signs locally and in person and compare them to what he has already shared on paper.

**Merrie Jo** provided a read-out of our finances and bills. We still have 4 bills to pay this month. *Senior Warden Note:* Please stay up on your Pledges if you have not already done so. The next two Sundays are important in regard to our staying caught up on our bill paying.

**Reverend Pam provided a Preschool Update** – a) The state audited the preschool grounds and facilities and required us to fix the play-yard fence. The fence was fixed and required \$400-500 of materials and labor.

**Gordon Wells, Senior Warden**

## St. Martha's Guild

Mark your calendars for what could be a once in a lifetime event- a 100th year birthday celebration! **On Sunday, June 13th after the 11 am service, Goldie Nellis will celebrate her 100th birthday with a reception in the parish hall.**

Our summer schedule of single services will not have begun yet, but I think many of you who ordinarily attend the 9 am service may really want to be part of this celebration. It is not often our children have the chance to know a centenarian, and Goldie is a fine example. She has been a member of St. Michael's since 1994, when she moved out here from Florida to live with her daughter Lorena. Come share stories about and with Goldie and please plan to attend the reception on June 13th.

**Judy Wilson**

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral  
San Jose, California  
presents  
"An Early Evening of Music Delights!"  
starring  
Aurora Bardes  
Marcelle Dronkers  
Joyce Pricco  
and  
Chun-Mei Wilson, pianist  
Michael Burroughs, organist  
Sunday, June 6, 2010  
4:30 p.m.

Donations will contribute to Trinity Cathedral's Music Program.

Our sincere thanks for your generosity and appreciation.

## **St. Michael's Preschool News**

Congratulations to the 2010  
Pre-K Graduating Class!

**Ethan Barrows  
Robert Bernard  
Lillianna Bolter  
Orlando Colvin  
Emanuel Dominici  
Alonzo Guanzon  
Dale Jr. Hanley**

**Sydney Holmes  
Aryanna Iniguez  
Francisco Partida  
Dominic Quinones  
Deangelo Santoyo  
Zachary Templeman  
Samuel Tobar**

Our summer program starts June 21<sup>st</sup>. This year we will hold a Pre-K summer camp starting June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have fun field trips and activities planned for our Pre-K and older children coming back for the summer.

We are now accepting children from 2 years of age to entrance into 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Do you need childcare for the summer? Please call Ms. Pam @ 685-8826 for more information and details about our Summer Program and Summer Camp.

### **The St. Michael's Men's Group**

The next meeting of the Men's Group is **Wednesday evening, June 9th 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

## **Food Bank**

What a blessing! The Men's Group from St. Michaels donated \$280 to the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano Counties. Adding in the food donations of 70 pounds, **our total donations for April were 910 pounds.** This brings our total this year to 1,804 pounds. Our goal is 2500 pounds. Great Work! Let's keep giving food & donations. Thank You!

**Sue Brown**  
925.934.0245

## **Loaves & Fishes**

Thank you to volunteer helpers of Loaves and Fishes. We had 8 strong working volunteers on May 17<sup>th</sup> in Martinez: **Alice McMillan, Verena Won, Carol Brown, Keith Cambria, Nancy Reimer, Lonnie Plain & her friend, Lydia and myself.** We prepared, served and cleaned up over 206 plates for people in need of a hot meal.

**Come and join us on the 3rd Monday of the month, June 21, 2010 between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** During the months of July & August, we will not be helping, due to an over abundance of school volunteers. We'll start back in September. Received a call from June and Lowell Tennyson, they are still traveling in their motor home. They hope to help with Loaves & Fishes when they get back. They say "hi" and miss everyone.

Loaves & Fishes is located at the First Baptist Church, 1802 Alhambra Ave, Martinez, (cross street & entrance on Robinson St.)

**Sue Brown**  
925.934.0245

**The Men's Group will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall before Sunday church on July 11. Come between 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM for food and fellowship and skip cooking at home for only \$3.00/person.**



**St. Michael and All Angels  
Episcopal Church**  
2925 Bonifacio Street  
Concord, CA 94519  
(925) 685-8859

On the web:  
***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**

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**

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**TO:**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

PLACE LABEL HERE