

THE MESSENGER

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

September 2010 at St. Michael's

Sunday, September 5 **Holy Eucharist**
10:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 12 **Holy Eucharist**
10:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 18 **OPERA IN THE NAVE**
7:00 p.m. **"A Celebration of Stephen Sondheim"**

Sunday, September 19 **Holy Eucharist**
10:00 a.m.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday **GODSPELL**
September 23, 24, 25, 26
7:00 p.m. all nights/Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
Presented by the Grant Street Players

Sunday, September 26 **Holy Eucharist**
10:00 a.m.

Celebrating the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels
Bishop Marc Andrus presiding

Final GODSPELL show follows at 1:00 p.m. Lunch is available for purchase prior to the performance.

Two service schedule resumes on Oct 3rd

FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Dr. Pamela Redding

It is no accident that the cover of the September Messenger is the calendar of parish activities for the month. We have so much going on! It seems one of the ways we account for the time in our lives is by looking at the layering of calendars for all the activities we enjoy. At St. Michael's alone, we live by a number of calendars. From the big picture perspective, the theological way of looking at time there are two ways of seeing time - *kairos* & *chronos*. *Kairos* is taking the long perspective of how our actions make up the big goal of being part of Christ's mission in unifying the world into a perfect place before the end of time, and *chronos* being the day to day actions of how we do that in chronological time. With our eye on the prize of *kairos*, it seems like *chronos* shows how busy we are.

Then because we are Episcopalians, we live by the liturgical calendar. In September we are in the home stretch of Pentecost - that great green season when we are out in the world growing our church and being active in spreading the Good News. I just look at the abundance of the community garden with its pumpkin vines growing across the sidewalk into the lawn as our example of God's goodness in giving us good things beyond our imagination. If you look closely at the Sunday Bible readings you will also note that they are pointing toward the end of a season, just like the garden itself is moving toward harvest. Pentecost will be over in a couple of months leading toward a time of reflection on the year past and the opportunity to do it all again starting in Advent.

And then there is the St. Michael's Calendar - the one on the front of the Messenger. September is always a big month for our parish because we celebrate what Episcopalians call our "patronal feast," the special day for celebrating the real St. Michael & All Angels. In ancient times churches might take the name of a saint who was actually buried at their church. But since no one can put an angel in the ground, I like to think we are most fortunate to celebrate actual living saints, eternally active in our world. This month St. Michael's will be alive with two full weeks of celebration through *Opera in the Nave* and *Godspell* along with many other fun events including a special visit from our bishop, +Marc Andrus, on September 26. I look forward to seeing you all month on Sunday mornings and taking part in the many planned celebrations. Working our way through all of our calendars, it is going to be fun!

Pam+

Stewardship Beyond Money

Before I got involved with stewardship ministry, I really only considered the treasure part of it. Wasn't stewardship just the commitment of so many dollars to the church each year at pledge time? I have since learned it is so much more. Just as Reverend Pam was preaching recently about the reading from Deuteronomy, we can choose to live or die spiritually according to the choices we make in how we live our lives.

The choices we make about how we live our lives obviously go beyond our financial choices. Lately, I have been very aware of *time choices*. Sometimes I feel like I'm facing time debt—too many little commitments (even small ones) leave me feeling strung out, like I'm always forgetting something. I am aware of the intent of advertising, which focuses on being able to "afford the payment," but only just recently am I becoming aware of the "time payments" I am committing to.

So I've started asking myself... Are the things I'm committing my time (and my family's time) to, the things God really wants for my life? Are my choices in line with my making the choice to live spiritually? Am I getting into time debt? When I put out the small amount of effort required to be a good steward of my time and talent as well as my treasure, I make the choice to live easily and well in accord with God's abundant intention for my life. When I don't, I feel the burden of being in debt in both time and treasure.

Erin Ramey

St. Michael's Preschool News

September 1st is the First Day of the new School Year

September 1st is also the kick off to our Fall Fundraiser "The Perfect Gift". Please See Ms. Pam for a Booklet or Gareth Ashley in Church. Fundraisers are due back September 28th

September 23rd School Pictures @8am. School Board members please stop by for a picture, so we can hang it up on our Staff photo

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. MICHAEL'S IN SEPTEMBER - A LOT!

HAPPY FALL!

Can you believe we are in September? The summer went quickly and we have many events happening at St. Michael's. Of course, I would like to write about three very important musical events.

OPERA IN THE NAVE

Our yearly event is upon us. On Saturday, Sept. 18th at 7 p.m. Opera in the Nave presents *A Celebration of Stephen Sondheim*. Please take a look at the posters around the church grounds and/or the flyer included in this Messenger. Because *Godspell* will run from Thursday, Sept. 23rd through Sunday, Sept. 26th, Opera in the Nave was moved to the Saturday before Festival Weekend. Tickets are \$10. and makes the ticket holder automatically eligible for a weekend trip raffle. Another raffle for a week long resort trip will take place that same evening and tickets will sell for \$1.00 each. More details are available elsewhere in the Messenger so please read about them.

We have a great show arranged for you--please invite your family and friends who enjoy musical theater and Stephen Sondheim's music!

GODSPELL IS ALMOST HERE!

St. Michael's has been a-buzz with rehearsals for the Grant St. Players and Mt. Diablo High School Drama Department's production of *Godspell* by Stephen Schwartz. The show's run is Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 23-25 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 26 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$10/adults and \$5/students. The production includes alumni and current students at Mt. Diablo High School and features parishioner **Keith Coppage** as director and musical director of the production.

The **Men's Group** will provide grilled hamburgers and hot dogs before the shows so if you don't get a chance to eat dinner, come by an hour early and eat before the show!

Raffles held at Opera in the Nave the week before will also happen during the run of *Godspell*. The raffle is for two (2) different weekend trips and another week long resort trip. The trips will be raffled on different evenings. Please refer to the information in this Messenger.

MORE THINGS MUSICAL

We are excited to have the groups back after a successful show last April of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Please invite all your family and friends who enjoy musical theater and Stephen Sondheim's music!

FESTIVAL SUNDAY

Many of you know that **Bishop Marc Andrus** will be presiding at our Festival Sunday Eucharist on Sunday, Sept. 26th at 10 a.m. The Bishop visits parishes in the Diocese throughout the year and we are fortunate to have him visit on our patron saint's weekend.

Invite your family and friends to come for the Festival Sunday service 10 a.m., have lunch sponsored by the Men's Group, and stay for the final show of *Godspell* at 1 p.m. It will be a memorable day!

Enjoy your last days of summer and see you at church!

God bless,
Joyce Pricco

ST. MICHAEL'S MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE

2925 Bonifacio Street, Concord, CA
Saturday, October 9 from 8AM - 2PM

Sell (and buy) items at our community parking lot sale! Vendors selling items receive two parking spaces for the suggested \$25 donation. This event is open to the public.

Park your car, open your truck and SELL!!!
Sellers provide their own set-up, tables, chairs, etc.

For more information and vendor applications, **PLEASE CONTACT Doris Watson at (925) 682-7195 / f2fmom@aol.com**

Opera in the



Have

presents

A CELEBRATION OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM

SELECTIONS FROM:

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM
A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC
ANYONE CAN WHISTLE
COMPANY
EVENING PRIMROSE
FOLLIES
INTO THE WOODS
MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG
SATURDAY NIGHT
SWEENEY TODD

SEPTEMBER 18, 2010, 7 P.M.

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2925 BONIFACIO STREET, CONCORD, CA 94519

www.saintmichaelsconcord.org

TICKETS: \$10 (INCLUDES RAFFLE PRIZE DRAWING); WIN A
WEEK RESORT TRIP-\$1.00 RAFFLE TICKETS AVAILABLE

• *OPERA PERFORMANCE FORUM SINGERS* •

Abraham Aviles-Scott • Sarita Cannon • Paolo Cubudio • Ted Davidson

Ron Dritz • Jonathan Francis • Cass Panuska • Joyce Pricco

Elenka Proulx • Victoria Rapanan • Bonnie Robertson

Accompanied by Chun Mei Wilson

St. Julia's Guild

On August 7th, a memorial service was held at St. Michael's for **Gerda Stevenson**, a long-time member of St. Michael's and St. Julia's Guild. Gerda served the church and St. Julia's in every capacity, beginning with our first Rector, Marshal Wickam. She helped out with the Summer Neighborhood program and went on to teach Sunday School for many years. Gerda joined the Episcopal Churchwomen (ECW), which later became St. Julia's and other guilds, and she provided the help and energy to keep St. Julia's going over the years. Gerda also saw the church through many adversities as well as some of her own. She was a dear friend to those of us who came to know and love her. She will be missed at St. Michael's and especially by St. Julia's Guild.

Thanks to the assistance of the **Vestry and Tom Svejda**, the new sign for the church is in place and nearing completion. St. Julia's wishes to thank the members whose contributions helped defray the cost of the sign.

After a summer hiatus, St. Julia's Guild resumed its monthly meetings on Wednesday, September 8th. If you missed this meeting, bring a sandwich and join us on Wednesday, October 13th at noon.

Alice McMillan, St. Julia's President

The St. Michael's Men's Group

St. Michael's Men's Group resumed its meetings on Wednesday evening, September 8th, planning for the busy month ahead.

The group will sell hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks before all performances of **GODSPELL** and dessert during the intermissions with the help of St. Julia's and St. Martha's. (See page 1 of The Messenger for dates and times).

Once again on Saturday, October 9th, the Men's Group will provide food and drink during the **Multi-Family Yard Sale** (8 a.m.—2 p.m.).

We need volunteers to help with all these events. Anyone interested can contact **Tom Svejda** (676-8030) or **Charles Mayer** (682-6525).

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER

We have talked throughout the year about our Stewardship of Time, Treasure and Talent. It is my hope that there have been "ah-ha" moments as we celebrated our giving and that you have learned something about the importance of giving back to God from all the goodness He has given you.

In October we will again celebrate in particular the Stewardship of Treasure as we go about our Annual Pledge period. I encourage you to read through the brochure that will be sent out the week of September 19th. Take the time to pray and discuss in your family what you feel God is calling you to give. Then take the important step of actually writing down what your income is, what your giving was this year and what percentage that is, and then finally what your giving will be for the coming year and what that percentage is. This year, step out in faith and increase your percentage of giving as you work toward the biblical tithe of 10%.

Please save the date for October 10th when we will again have our Harvest Potluck Brunch after the 10:00 service. Bring a dish to share, along with your stories of faith and stories of the gifts you have received in your life in the community of St Michael's.

Our pledge in-gathering will be at the service on October 17th. We will once again join together in walking to the altar to bring our offering to the altar.

Blessings,
Diane Loehr

HOW WE CONNECT ELECTRONICALLY

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Concord-CA/St-Michael-and-All-Angels-Concord-CA/142351619139748?ref=ts>

Follow us on Twitter

<http://twitter.com/Stmichaelconcor>

Website:

www.saintmichaelsconcord.org

Senior Warden Vestry Report

August Meeting Highlights

Parish Hall Acoustic Project – **Ken and Erin Ramey** donating labor and know-how to strategically place soundboard material on ceiling for better acoustic response in our parish hall - project to begin soon.

The new church sign is installed as ordered; a huge 'Thanks' to **St. Julia's** for the donation to make the sign a reality. A big 'Thank you' also goes to **Tom Svedja** for performing all the legwork and time he spent contacting the companies and preparing samples for the vestry and St. Julia's to review.

The vestry is looking at the possibility of posting a cell phone antenna on our property as another means raising funds. Thanks to **Alice McMillan** for contacting her son, Dave, who offered his experience and expertise about issues/pitfalls and what it takes to generally navigate such an undertaking

Big church grounds cleanup on Saturday 9/11 at 9am. Please come out and lend a hand. This is our fall cleanup and is also in preparation for Opera In the Nave on 9/18, the guests who'll attend the *Godspell* performances 9/23-9/26, and most importantly for the Bishop's visit also on 9/26.

Bishop Marc Andrus will be visiting us on Sunday, 9/26 at the 10am service – the last single service of the summer. We only get to see the bishop once every couple of years. Please mark your calendars for this special visit.

Financial Summary

As of 9/8/2010, managing our income over expenses remains a difficult task. Paying our operating expenses within a given month remains hard to accomplish. Expenses have risen only slightly, and many pledging and non-pledging members have accelerated their giving ahead of schedule. We remain solely dependent on our pledge base, non-pledging givers, cottage rental receipts, account interest, and extra fund-raising efforts to pay our bills. We are not taking in enough income within a given month to pay our monthly obligations and currently must determine on a week-to-week basis what to pay and what must remain unpaid. On Sunday, September 12th, additional financial details will be provided after the 10:00 a.m. service. Please read them carefully and prayerfully.

Gordon Wells, Senior Warden

RAFFLES - RAFFLES – RAFFLES (during our September events)

Several donations from Grand Incentives have been given to St. Michaels for Resort stays. Please see below** for details (terms and conditions).

Raffles to be held during the **Opera in the Nave**: One weekend trip (3 days and 2 nights) will *be included in your ticket price for Opera in the Nave*. A separate, one week trip will be raffled off using a *special ticket* which you may purchase for \$1.00 per ticket OR 6 tickets for \$5.00 OR 12 tickets for \$10.00.

Raffles will also be held at the weekend **Godspell** productions. **Friday night's** raffle will be for a weekend stay (three days and two nights), **Saturday night's** raffle will be for a weekend stay and **Sunday's** raffle will be for a week long (7 nights) stay. All raffle ticket prices will be \$1.00 per ticket OR 6 tickets for \$5.00 OR 12 tickets for \$10.00.

Tickets will be sold after the 10am services in the Parish Hall during September and at the door on the day of the **Opera in the Nave** and/or **Godspell** performances. See Geri Quilici during coffee hour for any questions. Resort locations will be posted by the ticket sales.

****Terms and Conditions:** These resorts are time share resorts but NO PRESENTATION attendance will be required. The stays are at select national resorts and winners must pay for their own travel expenses.

Weekend stays have a \$50.00 refundable room deposit and the deposit must be received a minimum of 45 days prior to your requested arrival date (US funds only).

Week long stays require a 60 day advance notice when making reservations and a booking fee of \$125.00 per person (double occupancy required) and taxes. The week long stay is for Studio accommodations, but can be upgraded if desired with an upgrade surcharge.

A quote from a past winner (member of St. Michael's church), "We went to a resort in Colorado during the resort's off season, there was no requirement of attendance at their time share presentation, and, yes, we did have a booking fee but every resort that you go to usually has a deposit or booking fee. The Resort was beautiful!"

The Men's Group will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall before Sunday church on Sept 12. Come between 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM for food and fellowship and skip cooking at home for only \$3.00/person.



"Godspell," which plays St. Michael's this September 23-26, has been playing somewhere in the world every night for nearly 40 years in theaters, schools, houses of worship and more, one of the most often-produced musicals in history. The reasons for its success are obvious--the story can't be beat (it's pretty much based on Matthew's gospel) and the music (written by Stephen Schwartz, who also wrote *Pippin* and the current sensation *Wicked*).

Most people don't know that *Godspell* has strong roots within and around the Episcopal Church. [John-Michael Tebelak](#), the show's writer, was an Episcopal student working on his Master's thesis at Carnegie Mellon University in 1970 and was even considering the priesthood, when an experience at St. Paul's Cathedral in Pittsburgh inspired him to piece the show together. About half the songs are from Episcopal Hymnals (and in fact three of the songs from the show remain in the 1982 version we use every week), with new music by Stephen Schwartz. Lifelong Episcopalians sometimes crack a surprised smile during they show when they hear old favorite hymns in "rock" settings.

Our production is performed by students and very recent alumni of Mount Diablo High, many of whom are anxious to return here after the warm reception received by *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* last spring. This is the fourth time I personally have directed a production and each time I find new things to love about it. The reaction I hear most often is, "This is how the Christian life *should* be lived out!" That's a tall order, but I'm pretty sure everyone will have a great time. The cast has been laboring through 90+ degree rehearsals in the Sanctuary for weeks and the walls have been shaking in preparation for you to see a wonderful show, and I don't think you'll be disappointed!

Performances are Thursday through Saturday, the 23rd through the 25th, at 7:30 and a 1:00 matinee on Festival Sunday, the 26th. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students of any school. See you there!

--Keith Coppage



**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

For July and August and September

10:00 a.m. Combined Services

For the rest of the year:

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

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

PLACE LABEL HERE