

THE MESSENGER

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

October 2010 at St. Michael's

Sunday, October 3 *Holy Eucharist*
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 10 *Holy Eucharist*
One service at 10:00 a.m.
8:30 Pancake Breakfast
11:30 Harvest Potluck Lunch

Sunday, October 17 *Holy Eucharist*
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Commissioning of Church School Teachers

Sunday, October 24 *Holy Eucharist*
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 31 *Holy Eucharist*
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
All Saints' Day

FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Dr. Pamela Redding

The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is "Make It Simple." When Diane Loehr brought this concept to our planning session, we knew immediately that simplicity was the perfect goal. I say it is a goal because, even though I hold simplicity as the way I want to live my spiritual life, it seems everything else about my life works against it actually happening. Simplicity and chaos form the polarities of everyday life.

I remember one of the laws of physics we learned in high school is that all things naturally tend toward *entropy*. Science was not my strong suit but every day I am reminded of the place of *entropy* in my life. Without constant attention things fall apart and become disorganized. Not that chaos is all bad. It has its place in the cycle of letting old things go and new ones emerge. The Bible tells us in the beginning God created the world from a place of chaos. God is strong enough to handle the generative power of chaos. But for the rest of us, giving way to total chaos is not usually the best way to live our lives. Simplicity works better.

For me the appeal of simplicity is the gift of space it creates in every part of my life. With space around time and relationships it is finally possible to cultivate an *attitude of gratitude* rather than being overwhelmed. An *attitude of gratitude* I discovered is the real key to being satisfied and happy. It is about having enough, really more than enough and knowing deeply that God is incredibly generous. Having less stuff makes it possible to breathe and handle a little chaos, enough to enjoy the creative new opportunities God is bringing together for the future.

This stewardship season I hope you will enjoy the simple messages Diane is sending your way. They can be used all through the year. We have so much to be thankful for here at St. Michael's and we have hope for an amazing future together.

Pam+

Taking Action with Stewardship

When I first started thinking and writing about stewardship, I was very focused on first creating a vision for what you wanted to create. Creating a vision is still critical to getting God's vision to show up here on Earth and in our lives. The vision doesn't materialize just by thinking about it. You have to get into action to let God's abundant hand get to work for you.

That very thing happened for me with the gardens between the Parish Hall and the Preschool. I knew I wanted to create a low maintenance, drought tolerant, and lovely space. I had some ideas, but I'm really not a gardener so I started looking for resources to make that happen. I was guided to a landscaper who drew an amazing plan and sold me a LOT of plants for a very reasonable price. Then a whole bunch of people came out to church and worked our rock hard soil into something workable for the plants. The space finished up with donations (expected and not) of more plants, bricks for the patio and mulch to protect the plants. None of the transformation would have happened without faith that it could be done on a very limited budget and the addition of many people's time, talent and treasure.

So now here we are at pledge time at St. Michael's and the focus is treasure. Before committing your pledge of treasure for the next year, take a moment to remember what your vision for St. Michael's is. What does St. Michael's mean to you? What would you like to see happen here at St. Michael's in the next year? What are you able to contribute to see those things happen? Your time and talent are critical to making these things come to be, but so is your treasure. God's abundance is around us all the time; let's show Him we have faith in that by pledging accordingly.

Erin Ramey

Gratitude Page

Opera in the Nave

Joyce Pricco—for her vision for the bringing this performance to St. Michael's, for organizing all aspects of the evening

Bonnie Robertson Cahill—for advertising the event

Diane Loehr—for designing and printing the program and tickets

Performance Forum Members—for bringing us the wonderful music of Stephen Sondheim

Ryan Nelson and Brandon Turner—for lighting

Raffles

Geri Quilici for organizing a set of successful raffles as part of Opera in the Nave and the *Godspell* performances.

Godspell

Grant Street Players— for bringing us four incredible performances of *Godspell* with talented performers, fabulous music and a powerful story **AND** for cleaning the church after the performance!

Laurel Gude— the "Mom" of the Grant Street Players, who gives rides, provides props, food and other necessities

Jackie Iler— who brought the costumes for the show and brought food for the players

Ryan Nelson—who made the posters and ran the show lighting

Chris Carrasco—hooked up lighting and sound equipment, hired the band and worked all rehearsals

Men's Group for warm hospitality as they fed the crowd for four days

Keith Coppage—for his vision in nurturing the music and drama gifts of his students, for his faithful support of them in myriad ways, for his generosity in sharing them with St. Michael's.

Pancakes

Men's Group—for another delicious breakfast before church!

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STARTING!

Sunday School will follow the 9:00 a.m. service, beginning on October 17th.

There will be a class for young children and one for middle school/high school (the "tweens"). Our teachers are **Joan and Peggy Wilson and Loana O'Connor.**

During the same time period, the new **adult small group** discussion will continue in the Youth Room, led by **Marianne Callahan.**

Nursery for infants/toddlers will continue under the capable direction of **Geri Quilici.**

On Sunday, October 17th, during the 9:00 a.m. service, we will recognize the teachers and ask God's blessing on their ministry.

Pam+

MUSIC CORNER by Joyce Pricco

THE STECK PIANO AT ST. MICHAEL'S

We have enjoyed the use of Father Mac Stanley's baby grand piano now for four full years. It was "christened" during our 2006 Festival Weekend activities when William and Dee Gorton along with members of his choir joined us for the 50th anniversary of the church building.

Since then the piano has been used in all ways musical; for all services and rehearsals, for Opera Performance Forum once a month, and for numerous ecumenical and private events.

When Ron Russell of Ron's Tunes Piano Service tuned the piano before Opera in the Nave this year, he reported the piano is slowly deteriorating due to its age and the extremes of temperature in the church. Repair for strings and tuning pins is exorbitant, but one way we can stall its demise is to install a special piano humidifier made by the Damp Company. It will cost around \$400.00. Of course, the music program will have to fundraise for the humidifier and I am confident we can raise the money to purchase the system. If you would like to contribute money towards the purchase of the humidifier, please contact me at 925/676-8203 or email me at mandjpricco@earthlink.net.

OPERA IN THE NAVE

This year's event *A Celebration of Stephen Sondheim* was a hit! Thanks to all who participated and helped out with the production. I am blessed to have colleagues and friends who are willing to lend a hand for this yearly fundraiser. I am especially grateful to **Keith Coppage** and the **Grant St. Players** who allowed us to use their stage lights that evening from their production of *Godspell*.

GODSPELL WAS HERE!

What can I say? *Godspell* was a great musical to present at St. Michael's and based on the attendance and activity was a complete success! This is the second time **Grant St. Players** and **Mt. Diablo High School's Drama Department** under the direction of **Keith Coppage** performed at St. Michael's. We so enjoyed their presence and energy and hope there will be more to come!

HAPPY FALL TO EVERYONE!

Blessings,
Joyce

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**

HOW WE CONNECT ELECTRONICALLY

Facebook:

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

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Website:

www.saintmichaelsconcord.org

**Help us save trees and postage dollars: If you would like to receive *The Messenger* by email (as a pdf file), please send your email address to:
cddemler@yahoo.com**

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP CORNER

We kicked off our annual pledge drive in fine fashion on Sunday October 3rd. We were blessed by the testimony of **Loana O'Connor** at the 9:00 service and **Geri Quilici's** sharing at the 11:00 service. Stewardship materials are available in the envelopes at the back of the church. Please take the one with your name on it. If for some reason we don't have your name and address on file, please feel free to take one of the unmarked envelopes and write down your contact info so we have it for the future.

In the packets you will find some thoughts and reflections on Stewardship, information about giving to St. Michael's over the last three years, and a worksheet that will allow you to determine what your percentage of giving has been and what it would take to raise that percentage by 1, 2, 3 or 4 percent for this year. I want to encourage everyone to take the time to do this exercise. The challenge of the biblical tithe of 10% is before us. It seems daunting when you are first starting out, but I can tell you from personal experience that it is possible to keep moving toward that goal. I have personally increased my pledge to 5% of my salary. It's taken me a few years to get there, but I can testify to the fact that when I get behind in my annual pledge, I know that my financial and spiritual priorities are out of order and it's time to bring them back in line with my commitments. It's a wonderful feeling to know that I've gotten this far and to know that it is my goal to reach the biblical tithe.

Our pledge drive will continue next week when we join again for a single service at 10 am followed by our "new" tradition of The Harvest Potluck Brunch (lunch). As we have in past years we will ask that people from the congregation share their faith stories, talk about how they came to attend church at St. Michael's and why they stay and join in celebrating with us each week.

The final Sunday of the pledge drive will be October 17th. We will have our pledge ingathering at two services, 9 and 11. We will carry our pledges to the altar, where they will be blessed and offered to God in gratitude for all that we have been given.

Thank you for your prayers, and your thoughtful response.

Peace,

Diane Loehr

September 2010 Vestry Meeting Highlights

- Discussed the Bishop's visit on 9/26 and the meeting after 10am service.
- Rev. Pam attending Clergy Conference 9/28-9/30
- Discussed vestry vacancy
- Discussed vestry support of the *Godspell* play and performers Officially, the vestry voted their support so the players would be covered by our insurance
- New church sign now up and additional hanging sign has been ordered; to be used to announce upcoming events.
- Still investigating the possibility of placing a cell tower on our premises
- Voted to move the remaining \$2000 from the Cornerstone Fund to operating budget.
- Vestry reminded that the Pancake Breakfasts are not just about a meal; this is a ministry, an attempt to draw new parishioners.
- Fall Parking Lot Sale Oct. 9th, 8am to 2pm
- Our cottage tenants notified us of their departure by 11/1

Vestry Visit With Bishop Andrus – Sept. 26, 2010

The Bishop was happy to meet with us and seemed pleased with our grounds, service, attendance and the Spirit that resides here

He asked what our focus was. Gordon provided an overall status of our parish and the general focus of continued growth. He also provided our financial status – operating budget/building note due in 30 months/parking lot debt. The Bishop was aware of our general status.

Several members spoke very pointedly about our need for assistance from the diocese:

- need for youth ministry
- need for support about how to solve our financial situation; expansion
- talked about our visit with diocesan officials in Jan. 2010 when we sought financial advice then.

The Bishop told us we should approach the solutions through his diocesan "Area Ministry" process:

- band with other parishes in Central Contra Costa County; meet and formulate ideas for solutions to mutual issues. See the following link for more info about this process:

http://www.diocal.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=200&Itemid=192

Gordon Wells, Senior Warden

Don't Miss the Pancake Breakfast!

THIS SUNDAY BEFORE CHURCH

The Men's Group will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall before Sunday church on October 10th.

Come between 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM for food and fellowship and skip cooking at home for only \$6.00/adult, \$3.00/child.



St. Julia's Guild

St. Julia's Guild meets on the second Wednesday of each month. We welcome new members—bring a sandwich and join us at noon on Wednesday, October 13th in the Parish Hall. Our speaker will be Susannah Myers from the Contra Costa County Friendly Visitor Program

St. Michael's Preschool News

Smith Family Pumpkin Farm Field Trip

Thursday, October 21st from 8:30am-1pm
School will closed after the field trip.



Upcoming Events

School CLOSED Thursday, November 11th for Veteran's Day

November 19th Thanksgiving Luncheon. 12-1 (School will closed after luncheon.

School will be closed November 25th and 26th for the Thanksgiving Holiday

The Preschool welcomes members of St. Michael's to all events. Also we can always use donations of cups, napkins, paper plates, plastic spoons and forks



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

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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