

THE MESSENGER

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

February 2011 at St. Michael's

Sunday, February 6
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 13
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Eucharist
Pancake breakfast in Parish Hall from 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, February 20
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Eucharist

Sunday, February 27
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Eighth Sunday after Epiphany
Morning Prayer

FROM THE RECTOR
The Rev. Dr. Pamela Redding

“Do you guys always party like this?” It was a reasonable question from a visitor to our Annual Parish Meeting after church on January 23 because it was quite a celebration! Imagine the joyful confusion on his face when I responded. “Actually, this is our annual business meeting, and yes, we do have a great time together and this is a great party!” We celebrated an incredible year for the whole parish. It was an extra special time for me personally to celebrate my ordination to the priesthood and my birthday as well. Thank you everyone for your love, your prayers and musical gifts and wonderful food. It was a happy day!

What made our Annual Parish Meeting so spectacular was to see how very far we have come in the last three years. We have built amazing relationships and our focus as a community of faith is increasingly refined. Last year your vestry worked together to create strategies to communicate in more ways, to grow spiritually, and to increase our efforts in bringing more funds to our treasury. We became more active members of the neighborhood and city where our church is located. We were ambitious and tried new things and a whole new world of experience and opportunity for ministry has opened for us.

While I believe we have been faithful and prayerful, what we could not have imagined was just how willing the Holy Spirit would be to honor our intentions. We were blessed with surprise gifts of joy and playfulness, new relationships with people who bring all kinds of gifts and talents and even financial gifts we could never have anticipated. Looking back to this time last year, I am mostly overwhelmed by the difference between what my hopes and dreams for the parish were and the possibility and reality that our God has for us. Our generous and loving God is anticipating what we really need to live in wholeness and is giving us the means to do it. We are people of faith but our capacity for Spirit-led ministry is growing day by day. This is an exciting time for St. Michael's.

More from Rev. Pam

In the midst of our party atmosphere and celebration of our many and diverse ministries, the Annual Parish Meeting did have some business structure. We celebrated the faithful leadership of graduating Vestry members, **Lawrence Morgan-Kihs** and **Gordon Wells**. Both were brave enough three years ago, to volunteer to work with the new rector as leaders and ventured into the unknown future of our parish along with me. We have come this far through their wisdom and generosity of time and talent. **Gordon served as Senior Warden** for two years and he deserves a medal for all he has accomplished in supporting me and in leading our parish. Continuing to serve on vestry are **Class of 2012: Doris Watson, Julia White, Geri Quilici** and **Tom Svejda** and **Class of 2013: Ramon De La Cruz and Charles Mayer**. At this year's Annual Meeting we elected the **Class of 2014: Diane Loehr, Charles Nettles** and **Tobias Halvarson**. **Tom Svejda** has agreed to serve as **Senior Warden**.

Springing from enthusiastic hearts and no lack of leadership talent, we also elected parish Diocesan Convention delegates **Ann Swift, Marie McNerney** and **Erin Ramey**, with **Tom Svejda** and **Forrest Billings** serving as alternates. I am honored to be surrounded by such talent in 2011. Facing our challenges with clear eyes and living as faithful and hopeful people, I believe St. Michael's is moving into the future God is creating for us feeling spiritually strong.

Pam+

The St. Michael's Men's Group

The next meeting of the Men's Group is **Wednesday evening, February 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.

Music Notes from Joyce Pricco

As we enter into 2011, let us be grateful for another year of possibilities in our lives and in the community of St. Michael's. I was encouraged and surprised to read about all our activities, events, and accomplishments during 2010 in the Annual Meeting Report. We have challenges, no doubt, but we do have the Holy Spirit to guide us and we have each other.

CHANGE IN TRADITIONAL CHOIR REHEARSAL DAY

An unexpected opportunity to teach on Thursday night at DVC was offered to me and I accepted the post. Because of this, I asked the choir if they could switch the day of choir rehearsal. It was decided Tuesday evening was best for most concerned. So, if you had plans to join the choir (yes?), please make sure you come to rehearsals on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. instead of Thursday.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 925/ 676-8203 or email me at [**mandjpricco@earthlink.net**](mailto:mandjpricco@earthlink.net).

HAVE YOU NOTICED?

We have quite the men's section in the traditional choir these days. This is due to four gentlemen joining from **Keith Coppage's** Grant St. Players--**Brandon, Brent, Clancy, and Terrence**, a student from DVC --**Eddie**, and **Brad Larson** volunteering to help when he can. We also have a new soprano from Keith's group, **Jinna**, who joined the women's section. This is truly an answer to prayer and I thank God for His wonderful answer!

God bless you all,
Joyce

Positive Perception and Stewardship

Recently I was inspired by a book titled "Beyond Illusions – The Magic of Positive Perception". The basic idea of the book is that no situation is inherently good or bad, rather our perception of the situation makes it one or the other. The author also suggests that when things seem especially grim or overwhelming that is the time when greatness is unveiled. When things are rolling easily, it is easy to be complacent and let good enough be good enough. When things get difficult we can either roll over and let circumstances overpower us or get busy creating new ways to deal with the circumstances.

I appreciate the power this concept gives me. It allows me to have some say in my life regardless of the "stuff" that happens. As an example, when I got sick a couple of years ago and didn't get to eat anything for two weeks in the hospital, I decided that the 15 pounds of weight loss was a silver lining to the situation. I wouldn't recommend that as the ideal way to start a weight loss program, but since that's where I was, I took advantage of the kick start. Ken and I lost 100 pounds together that year. Not a bad overall result.

With things being pretty grim in some areas of our personal lives, the world as a whole and our church, I need to be reminded of the power of positive perception pretty frequently. Being reminded of God's love and abundance on a regular basis also helps. I think being focused on the positive allows each of us to be open to the Holy Spirit and find new solutions where there were none before. Isn't that the beginning of good stewardship?

Erin Ramey

St. Julia's Guild

St. Julia's will not be meeting in February. We look forward to the March meeting when we will be discussing our yearly bake sale. St. Julia's bake sale is an important event for the year when we raise the necessary funds to help the church and to provide for St. Julia's needs. If anyone would care to help us out and bake a batch of cookies or a cake we would appreciate your help! Give me a call if you are interested. (925-685-6367)

Alice McMillan, President

St. Michael's Preschool News

February Events

Pre-K Preschool will have their Valentine's Day Party on **Friday, February 11th @ 10am**

Preschool will be closed Monday, February 14, 2011 for a Teacher-Staff in Service Day and Monday, February 21st for Presidents Day.

Prevent Blindness Screen will be held Thursday, February 24th @ 9:30am. Any child three years and up will have their vision tested.

Upcoming Events in March

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, March 3rd, Chevy's Fundraiser Dinner** is BACK. Come have dinner with family and friends and support our preschool. Chevy's will donate 25% of the proceeds earned that evening. Chevy's Restaurant: 650 Ellinwood Way Pleasant Hill, CA.

HOW WE CONNECT ELECTRONICALLY

The email addresses for the church office and for Rev. Pam have changed:

Rev. Pam Redding: stmaa-rector@sbcglobal.net

Church Office: stmaa-office@sbcglobal.net

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

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

Don't Miss the Pancake Breakfast! SUNDAY February 13th

The Men's Group will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Come between services for food and fellowship and skip cooking at home for only \$6.00/adult, \$3.00/child.



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

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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

Tuesday

7:30 p.m. **Traditional Choir Rehearsal**

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. **Eucharist** (in Chapel)

6:30 p.m. **Contemporary Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday

12:00 noon **Al-Anon**

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

PLACE LABEL HERE