

THE MESSENGER

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

April 2011 at St. Michael's

Sunday, April 3rd ***Fourth Sunday in Lent***
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 10th ***Fifth Sunday in Lent***
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Pancake breakfast in Parish Hall from 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, April 17th ***Palm Sunday***
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Passion Play
Service begins with Liturgy of the Palms in Parish Hall and
procession to Church (one service only)

Sunday, April 24th ***Easter Sunday***
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Rite of Baptism
One service only, followed by Easter egg hunt for children and St.
Julia's Bake Sale in Parish Hall.

Saturday, April 30th ***Grace Cathedral***
11:00 a.m. Confirmation of St. Michael's candidates

[see inside for Holy Week Schedule]

FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Dr. Pamela Redding

I find myself in an awkward position - not surprising for those of you who have come to know me so well. Carolyn, our Messenger editor tells me it is time to write my article for the "Easter Edition" yet I find myself smack in the middle of Lent. It is awkward because I am in a carefully cultivated Lenten Mood. It wasn't that hard with weeks of darkness and rain. But now the sun is out and Lent will not last much longer. In only a few days we will have moved spiritually through salvation history. We will walk with Jesus in the last days of his life, his challenges, his suffering with those he loves and then alone. And then we will experience the incredible joy of a second chance in celebrating Jesus' return to us in life on Easter morning. We will be yelling out those words of praise we have been trying not to say. We will be ready to let go.

So today I find myself in the place our Lenten reading from Ezekiel paints for us the week before Holy Week begins. Ezekiel is transported out of his everyday life to a separate place where he does not know what will happen. He is surrounded by quiet and emptiness and dry bones - a starting place where others might see finality. What Ezekiel will discover is that for God, the valley and the bones are filled with potential. The Breath of Life comes unexpectedly and before you know it God has recreated a whole living community right before his eyes. God shows once again we are surrounded with possibilities and that we are meant for life and community and more good things than we can ever imagine for ourselves.

In March our vestry met for a weekend of time together to celebrate the successes of 2010 and to plan for 2011. Of course the vestry always plans for a successful year, but what we realized in our reflection was that the greatest successes of the year were actually things we could have never imagined possible a year ago. God's imagination was even greater than our own. Like Ezekiel, we found ourselves in a valley filled with potential that some might have questioned. But because our hearts and our spirits were flexible, and each person worked hard and was generous with time and talent, we were able to adjust to the opportunities that came our way and make the most of them. This year the vestry made plans again but we cannot help but wonder what great things the Holy Spirit is leading us into that we can hardly imagine for ourselves. I think this is just a hint of what it means to be truly in awe of the power of God.

MORE FROM THE RECTOR

As we move toward Holy Week and Easter I know you will want to be part of the services at St. Michael's and our spiritual experience as a community. This year we have made an effort to simplify the services so that people with busy schedules can take part as much as you like while experiencing the richness of the liturgy balanced with clarity of message. We are blessed that Easter Sunday will also be a day we celebrate several baptisms. And yes, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt following the service. As a result of our Lenten series we will travel together to Grace Cathedral on Saturday, April 30th, to present several of our members for confirmation at 11:00 a.m. It is shaping up to be a perfect Easter Season.

I know, like me, you will want to continue to hold those who are preparing to be baptized and confirmed in your heart as you pray. We have so much to be thankful for and yet so much ahead.

+Pam

The St. Michael's Men's Group

The next meeting of the Men's Group is **Wednesday evening, April 13th 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

HAPPY SPRING!

I hope all of you are enjoying our drier weather. Most importantly, we are in the middle of Lent and getting close to Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. In the midst of new flowers and greenery that arrive with spring, I hope you have had time to reflect and understand this important time during the church year. Understanding and participating in the Lenten season helps us move towards new life in the coming church year. I encourage you to follow Jesus' journey through Holy Week, a most somber time, but triumphant on Easter Sunday.

FATHER MAC'S PIANO FUND

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Piano Fund. As you may have heard, Wanda Stanley, Father Mac's wife passed away recently. In lieu of flowers, the family asked for donations to the piano fund as a memorial. This ensures that the piano will be cared for in the future at St. Michael's. Your generosity in keeping the piano in good shape is greatly appreciated.

LENTEN MINISTRY

There is a wonderful service planned for Palm Sunday with the help of the children. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Loana O'Conner at MNL101296@att.net for more information.

And there is still time for you to join either the Contemporary Choir or the Traditional Choir for the rest of Lent. Please feel free to contact Diane Loehr at dianeloehr@yahoo.com, or myself at mandjpricco@earthlink.net if you are interested in helping with music for Lent or beyond.

God's blessing to you all,

Joyce

Easter Egg donations now being accepted!



Please bring filled plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt after the Easter Sunday service. There will be a basket by the front door where you can leave your donations.

FROM THE VESTRY

The Vestry spent a full day in retreat in March, reflecting on the successes of the past year, envisioning and preparing a calendar for the next.

Highlights of our reflection, learning and planning process:

We learned some new ways to respond to generational trends in the church that are helpful for all age groups.

We focused on our community needs and how we can stay connected to individuals and families in our parish. We recognized that we all have times in our lives when we need support and help, regardless of our age or time in life. We sought to understand what we can do to assist each other when the need arises.

We planned events and prepared a calendar (with new ideas and looking realistically at what is doable).

And a good time was had by all.....

St. Patrick's Day Dinner 2011 was a huge success – tables full, delightful music from **Jason & the Rovers**, delicious food consumed, great raffle prizes won – we could go on and on. SO many contributed to make this annual celebration fun and it's time to say thank you.

Local businesses which contributed gifts and/or certificates: **Mimi's Restaurant, Sugar Plum Coffee Shop, Min's Kitchen, Parma Deli, Hickory Pit, Rocco's, California Auto Stores, Kathy Stephenson (Realtor), The Old Spaghetti Factory, Trader Joe's, Skipolini's Pizza.** All have received letters from Rev. Pam.

Parish members and friends who gave donations and huge amounts of time (!): **Randy & Merrie Jo Campbell, Carl Curran** (friend), **Denny Foley, Paulette Hon, Charles & Neola Mayer, Alice McMillan, Lonnie Plain, Geri Quilici, Tom & Raelene Svejda, Lorena Tasin, Doris Watson, Gordon & Dorothy Wells, Julia White, Verena Won** – if your name is missing, please accept our thanks.

Holy Week Schedule for 2011

Sunday, April 17th

10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday

Holy Eucharist with Passion Play

Service begins with Liturgy of the Palms in Parish Hall and procession to Church (one service only).

Wednesday, April 20th

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist (in chapel)

Thursday, April 21st

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist in Church

This will be an instructed Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

[There will be no overnight Vigil this year. The Chapel will be open on Good Friday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon. You are invited to come to meditate and pray during the morning.]

Friday, April 22nd

12:00 noon Stations of the Cross (no Eucharist)

Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service (no Eucharist)

Sunday, April 24th

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (one service only) followed by

Easter egg hunt for children and St. Julia's Bake Sale in Parish Hall

Easter Sunday

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Commemorative flowers are a wonderful way of celebrating special events or remember our loved ones and making the church beautiful for Easter. If you want to make a donation for Easter Sunday, please make your check payable to St. Michael's, noting ***Easter Flower donation***. Place the donation, along with this form in an envelope in the offering plate by Sunday, April 17th.

Given by (your name):

In memory of:

In celebration of:

In honor of:

In Thanksgiving for:

Other:

Your gift will be acknowledged in a special bulletin insert on Easter Sunday. Thank you!



News from St. Michael's Preschool

Plastic Easter Eggs

We are in need of plastic Easter eggs and goodies to go inside them for our Easter Egg hunt on **Thursday, April 21st** If you can donate either item please let a staff member know. We also need volunteers to help hide the Easter Eggs between 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. that morning.

Thanks to all the preschool families and Church members that supported our restaurant fundraiser this year. It was great seeing all of you there.

Our **Spring SEE's candy and Telefunds Planting for Spring** fundraisers kicked off on March 30th. Do you need Easter Candy? SEE's Candies offers a variety of yummy chocolate at good prices. Please support the preschool and purchase SEE's candy. Candy orders will be delivered before Easter.

Do you like to garden? Telefunds is offering a variety of flowers and plants for sale at a great price. Brighten up your garden and support our Preschool at the same time.

Orders from church members are due by Sunday, April 10th.

9am Nursery News

It's time for some *Spring Cleaning*. During the week of April 25-29th we will be doing some deep cleaning of the Nursery. For example, cleaning rugs, extra sanitization... If you would like to assist please contact me.

St. Julia's is donating a special wreath for our altar in honor of Gerda Stevenson. As I spoke to some of the Nursery Volunteers and others in the church, the idea of creating a short wish list came up in the discussion. There are items that we could use for the Nursery such as: some other sturdy child sized chairs, filler for our bean bags (sold at K-Mart), and someone interested in sealing some cracks (from land settling) in the two of the wall corners. Well, that's it for now.

This month we are concentrating on Jesus, our friend.

Geri Quilici

St. Julia's Guild

St. Julia's will hold their annual Easter bake sale after the ten o'clock service on April 24th. This is the one big fund raising event of the year for St. Julia's. Please come and support us! Our past fund raisings have helped St. Julia's contribute to many of the church's needs. This year is no exception. Because the church is still in need we have decided to do our best by going ahead with the sale. If you feel you can contribute by baking something or purchasing, either way your participation will be welcomed!

In addition to the baked goods we will have raffle prizes where, if you are so inclined, you can try your luck on taking one of them home with you.

Alice's phone # (925) 685-6367 Email address casamcmillan@aol.com

Thank you and God's peace,
Alice McMillan, St. Julia's President

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**

CONFIRMATION CLASS DURING LENT

During this season of Lent, our evening Confirmation classes will provide opportunities for newcomers and regulars alike to explore the richness of our Anglican tradition. After the completion of this class, you will be invited to take part in the rite of Confirmation at Grace Cathedral later this year, and become a full member of the Episcopal Church.

March 17th	Introduction: Church Year, Colors, and Vestments
March 24th	Church Roles, Structure, and Governance
March 31st	“Things” in Church
April 7th	Episcopal History and Theology
April 14th	The Book of Common Prayer
April 21st	Instructed Eucharist at Maundy Thursday evening service

Where	Parish Hall St. Michael’s
When	Thursday evening, 6:30—8:00
What	Potluck supper followed by one hour class

Who can come? Anyone who is interested, but especially those who might want to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church.

Who to contact: **Rev. Dr. Pam Redding**
Email: stmaa-rector@sbcglobal.net
Telephone: (925) 408-4082

or

Toby Halvarson
E-Mail: tobias.halvarson@gmail.com
Telephone: (703) 629-8368

Joyful Stewardship

Spring seems to finally have sprung and there are so many projects that need attending to. Items on the list that just couldn't be done with all the rain we have had this year. So I, like many of you, am reviewing the list of things to attend to and planning how to get it all done. I find myself in a bit of a dilemma however. There are *sooooo* many things on the list that if I really try to get them all done, I will exhaust myself.

When I get exhausted trying to do too many projects at once, I get crabby and ineffective. None of the projects come together as well as they could and what once was fun and exciting becomes a frustrating obligation. I find myself falling into this trap in many areas of my life. The advent of spring and all the new opportunities have brought the situation to light. What I realized when the light shined on this for me was..... Just because I can, doesn't mean I should.

This realization got me to thinking about stewardship in a new way. Just because I have some time, talent or treasure that could be used in an area, doesn't mean I should every time. Sabbath and rest are also a part of being a good steward. If I spread my time, talent and treasure too thinly, what was once joyful becomes tedious obligation. God loves us and wants us to be joyful. Don't be stingy with your time, talent and treasure, but be thoughtful about where to commit it and remain joyful!

Erin Ramey

Don't Miss the Pancake Breakfast! SUNDAY April 10th

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 \$5.00/adult, \$3.00/child.



**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

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