

## **THE MESSENGER**

*St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church*

### *July and August 2011*

<b>Sunday, July 3rd*</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Holy Eucharist</i></b>
<b>Sunday, July 10th</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Holy Eucharist</i></b>
<b>Sunday, July 17th</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Holy Eucharist</i></b>
<b>Sunday, July 24th</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Holy Eucharist</i></b>
<b>Sunday, July 31st</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Holy Eucharist</i></b>
<b>Sunday, August 7th</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Morning Prayer</i></b>
<b>Sunday, August 14th</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Holy Eucharist</i></b>
<b>Sunday, August 21st</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Holy Eucharist</i></b>
<b>Sunday, August 28th</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Holy Eucharist</i></b>

**\*Nursery care will NOT be available for this service.**

**Two service schedule resumes on Sunday, September 4th**

**FROM THE RECTOR**  
**The Rev. Dr. Pamela Redding**

**Visioning, Renewal and Being Good Stewards**

“All learning begins when our comfortable ideas turn out to be inadequate.”

John Dewey

As you may have noticed, this year we have decided to let the ground that feeds our community garden have some time to rest. Over the years this area between the sanctuary and the parish hall has served us as a beautiful lawn. In the last two years we have enjoyed an abundance of vegetables and herbs from this garden as well as watermelons and flowers. Last year we had tomatoes and basil, corn and 29 pumpkins.

But all along, we knew from the original soil sample we had tested that the soil in our garden was “tired.” Over the years the nutrients in the ground had been depleted and little of any were being returned for future growth. So this year it was decided to spend the summer and all year letting the ground renew itself with the help of rest and the compost that we are gathering and letting nature prepare for us. Like me you will want to do your part. And I encourage you, like me, to bring any “green” waste from the kitchen or leaves to put in the white compost container **Tom Svejda** has created for this purpose. It will require patience and time, but we know our next garden will have to potential to be much healthier and abundant. It will be worth the wait.

In a similar way, this summer the Vestry and Preschool Board has begun a visioning process for the renewal of St. Michael’s Episcopal Day Preschool School. Our children have received excellent care over the last 30+ years but the times have changed. Now we know that for 21<sup>st</sup> Century children the preschool years are incredibly important for the development of personality and academic capacity. We are

## **MORE FROM THE RECTOR**

blessed to have the school as a place where families can learn about the love of God and the beauty of creation within Christian community. As the stewards of the preschool and the children and families of Concord we need to completely rethink what we are doing and prayerfully discern our call to serve children and families who come to us.

This work began in June and will continue until we believe we have renewed St. Michael's Preschool and recreated the foundational elements that will enable it to grow and be healthy as an institution of the future. Our children deserve the very best. Visioning will require lots of energy and you can look forward to participating in discussions and thinking through lots of possibilities before decisions are final. Just in the conversations to this point I can already see energy and enthusiasm building in imagining the work of the Holy Spirit in this process. I hope you will feel free to send your ideas to me over the summer. I love the fact that we learning so much and our work is never finished.

Pam+

**Watch for news of a  
Summer Surprise from the Grant Street Players**

**Friday, Saturday and Sunday,  
August 19, 20 and 21**

**St. Julia's Guild**

St. Julia's Guild will not meet during the summer months of July and August. We will resume our meetings in September.

## Music Notes from Joyce Pricco

### SUMMER FINALLY?

Thank you all for your well wishes on my trip to Paris with my family and two of Mia's friends. It was surreal in many ways--very fast paced and full of all that Paris and the surrounding areas have to offer.

One of the highlights (amongst many) of the trip was an annual musical event held each summer solstice called *Fête de la Musique* where many musicians converge at different public places to play different styles of music. In our area one could find a brass band in one café, a cover band in another café, a Latin band in the park, a multimedia piano duo on one street, a techno musician on another street, and folk music at the café across the street from our hotel--all within walking distance. It was great to see musicians traveling through the Metro and train stations with their instruments and hearing music by groups of musicians in those stations.

Other musical highlights were a community orchestra's concert around the corner from our hotel and a college choir singing in Notre Dame at the time of our visit. What struck me was that all this music was free, all one had to do is go to the location and experience music by live musicians. Music, as a form of communication, is universal.

What does summer music hold for St. Michael's? Generally speaking, things slow down during the summer, but with the slow down comes preparation for musical events in the Fall. We anticipate St. Michael's weekend will have a number of musical events and this year is no exception. Plans are underway for the theme of Opera in the Nave and I understand we will have another offering of great music from the Grant Street Players. In addition is the celebration of the dog park adjacent to St. Michael's. These events will be great ways to connect with our neighbors and community.

## **More from Joyce**

As has been our tradition for the past couple of years, we will have joint services during the months of July and August. It is a great time to see all our parishioners from 9 and 11 a.m. and also gives the ministries of the church a chance to relax over the summer. July 3 is our first joint service at 10 a.m., we hope you will join us.

All are welcome (as the song states) to join the combined choir this summer. If you find you have a yen to be part of a singing community this summer, join us for rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9 a.m. for the 10 a.m. service. We would love to sing with you!

God bless you,

**Joyce**

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

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

### **Don't Miss the Pancake Breakfasts!**

**SUNDAY July 10th  
And  
SUNDAY, August 14th**

**The Men's Group will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

**Come for food and fellowship and skip cooking at home.**

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

### **Volunteers NEEDED**

We need a few volunteers to help us around the preschool.  
We need help preparing lunch and cleaning up lunch M-F from 11-1pm  
We also need a Volunteer/s to clean the yard and cut the grass in our play yard each month. Times are flexible.

### **Sweet Tomatoes Fundraiser**

Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>

Sweet Tomatoes in Pleasant Hill between 5-8pm

Thank you for the support at our last few restaurant fundraisers. Sweet Tomatoes is a perfect place to enjoy a nice cool meal in this summer heat. Please tell your co-workers, friends and family to help support the Preschool by having dinner at Sweet Tomatoes in Pleasant Hill. You will need to present a flyer with your order. Flyers will be handed by a member of the church on Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>. Come enjoy a meal and fellowship.

## **Welcome Team**

Have you noticed our new Welcome Team at work on Sunday morning? Members of this important new ministry team: **Geri Quilici, Joe Bremhorst, Keith Cambra, Raelene Svejda, Charles Nettles, Diana DelaCruz, Forrest Billings.**

The team will be meeting again on Saturday, July 23rd at 10am in the Library AND on Thursday, August 18th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. We are having a Welcome Team Bootcamp for others that want to join us for the Fall. It will be a 2 hour meeting (at the most) and we will role play and bring others on board that haven't been able to meet with us over the summer.

If anyone is interested in assisting us with Greeting and Ushering please see anyone on the list above - Don't Be Shy.

## **From the Stewardship Corner**

Good stewardship makes the world a better place. When we are mindful about how we use our time, talent and treasure we make positive impacts around us in big and small ways. Winning the lottery and making a large monetary donation to your church would be a really big wonderful way of demonstrating good stewardship. But as in so many other areas of our lives, it is the little things that make the biggest difference.

Taking the time to mentor someone in your area of expertise is good stewardship. Responding to those around you in a patient and loving way, even when you are tired and irritated, is good stewardship. When you take a moment to pick up a random piece of trash, you are demonstrating good stewardship. Volunteering to help an organization that someone you care about is interested in (whether you are or not) is good stewardship.

Giving the last bit of cash in your wallet to a worthy organization is good stewardship. Being responsible with your finances is a form of good stewardship. Being willing to try the generic brand or make your coffee at home is good stewardship. Finding ways to be consistent with your pledging is good stewardship.

Trying new things and discovering new talents is good stewardship. Putting your known talents to new uses is good stewardship. Acknowledging that you have talents is good stewardship. Being coachable and letting others help you become the most you can be is good stewardship.

It is so easy to think that stewardship is a once a year pledge of time, talent and treasure. It is so much more though. Stewardship really shows up in our everyday actions and choices. As I read in a book recently, "It's easy to do AND easy not to do." Let good stewardship show up in your small everyday choices and you may be amazed at what God helps you create in your life.

**Erin Ramey**



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***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**

### **SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICE (July and August only)**

**10:00 a.m. Combined Service**

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**TO:**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

PLACE LABEL HERE