

## **THE MESSENGER**

*St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church*

**September 2011 at St. Michael's**

**Sunday, September 4th  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

***Holy Eucharist***

**Sunday, September 11th  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

***Holy Eucharist***

**Sunday, September 18th  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

***Holy Eucharist***

**Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m.**     ***Opera in the Nave***

**Sunday, September 25th  
10:00 a.m. Combined service followed by potluck  
lunch in the Parish Hall**

***Holy Eucharist***

***Celebration of the Festival of St. Michael***

## **FROM THE RECTOR**

### **The Rev. Dr. Pamela Redding**

I start getting nostalgic every year toward the end of August as I see the first signs of Fall. Almost always it is one of those hot summer days that seems will never end, and then I drive by a tree with one branch of red leaves and I remember Fall is on its way. Fall reminds me of beginning programs and meeting new people and all the excitement of going to school and church. This cluster of good memories is probably why I keep going back to school and why I am excited to see this season begin for us at St. Michael & All Angels.

I am also excited about the Fall because we had such a successful summer. Revisioning at St. Michael's Preschool is well underway. Over the summer **Amy Calkins** moved into the position of Interim Director/Teacher, **Alicia Morrissey** returned as teacher, and we have so many new students starting that we are opening a new class. For the first time in a long time, we are close to having a waiting list for the Pre-K class. Amy and I are in constant communication as we experience something new - rapid growth and expansion and success.

You may have noticed we have a new green fence all around the back of our property thanks to the City of Concord. The Baldwin Park dog park will be finished later this month. I love coming to work and hearing happy children on one side of my office and happy people and dogs just outside. We are blessed to have to opportunity to share in this experience with the rest of our neighborhood. Along with the new fence, the city removed some of our trees in need of maintenance and our property looks better than ever. Planning for the grand opening and pet blessing is well underway.

The **Grant Street Players** production of Smokey Joe's Cafe was a huge success in every way. After much rehearsal and planning, they produced four high energy performances to a packed house. They were rewarded with 4 standing ovations and these performances were standing room only. St. Michael's is blessed to be the spiritual home of so many talented and lovely people. I love the time they spend gathering in the parish hall practicing and just being here at St. Michael's. The Youth Room was well used this summer and I hope will always be a place for our young adults to gather and be at home in the parish community.

## MORE FROM THE RECTOR

But now it is September and there is so much ahead of us. Sunday School will be starting, taught by **Peggy Wilson, Joan Wilson, Loana O'Connor** and **Geri Quilici**. Pumpkins, sunflowers and tomatoes are growing in the garden. Celebrating our patron saints, St. Michael and All Angels will take place September 25 with a combined service. That morning St. Julia's Guild will present new altar linens for blessing in memory of long time member, **Gerda Stevenson**. **Opera in the Nave** is September 24 at 7PM. I am looking forward to hearing all these talented singers and French-themed music. St. Michael's weekend will also mark the beginning of our annual stewardship program. **Erin Ramey** and the Stewardship Committee are working on a simplified program around the "Garden of Faith" concept. I know I am already thinking about what my pledge will be for next year and how I can contribute to the ministries of our parish. God is so good to us all.

September is going to be fun. I cannot wait to enjoy it together with you.

**Pam+**

# Opera in the



# Have

presents

## **ALL THINGS FRENCH:** *La Musique de France*

**SELECTIONS IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH FROM:**  
**OPERAS - DUETS AND SOLOS**  
**ART SONG**  
**MUSICAL THEATER**  
**POPULAR**

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2011, 7 P.M.**

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

[www.saintmichaelsconcord.org](http://www.saintmichaelsconcord.org)

TICKETS: \$10 FOR ADULTS, \$5. FOR STUDENTS OF ANY AGE

• *OPERA PERFORMANCE FORUM SINGERS* •

*Abraham Aviles-Scott • Helene Bolduc • Sarita Cannon • Ted Davidson*

*Ron Dritz • Jill Brehm Enders • Nanette Mc Guinness • Eliza O'Malley*

*• Joyce Pricco • Victoria Rapanan • Pauline Sullivan • and more*

*Accompanied by Chan Mei Wilson*

## **MUSIC CORNER by Joyce Pricco**

SEPTEMBER IS HERE!

Summer has come and gone and here we are; back to school and fall activities. I hope you all had a wonderful summer and some time off to relax and enjoy. September brings St. Michael's back to our two service format of 9 a.m. Contemporary service and 11 a.m. Traditional Service. The only exception is the last Sunday of the month--this year September 25--reserved to celebrate our patron saint, St. Michael. Festival Sunday will be one service at 10 a.m. Please join us to celebrate.

### **OPERA IN THE NAVE**

This year the theme for annual fundraiser, Opera in the Nave, is "All Things French: La Musique de France." Our artists will perform a variety of music: French arias, art songs, musical theater, and pop in French and English. The date is Saturday, September 24 during Festival Weekend. Tell all your friends and bring them to this special musical evening! Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for students of any age.

### **THANKS TO THE SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE GANG!**

I would like to thank **Keith Coppage** and the **Grant Street Players** for putting on a fabulous show August 25-28 in the Parish Hall. Their long hours of rehearsal throughout the summer really paid off with a very entertaining, polished show. St. Michael's is always amazed at the energy and talent of these young adults and their gifts have brought to our surrounding community into the church. We so appreciate them and look forward to future shows.

### **JOIN THE CHOIRS**

All are welcome (as the song states) to join our choirs. If you find you have a yen to be part of a singing community, join us for rehearsals; every other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and 8:15 for the 9 a.m. service on Sundays with the Contemporary Choir, or Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and 10:15 for the 11 a.m. service on Sundays with the Traditional Choir. We need both females and males and would love to sing with you! Contact Diane Loehr at [diane.loehr@gmail.com](mailto:diane.loehr@gmail.com) for the Contemporary Choir or Joyce Pricco at [mandjpricco@earthlink.net](mailto:mandjpricco@earthlink.net) for the Traditional Choir. Hope to see you!

Have great days as we enter into fall!  
God bless all of you,

Joyce

## **Introducing our Garden of Faith Pledge Drive**

Stewardship is really a 24/7/365 type of thing. That means it is a presence in our daily lives each and every day. At church it is a backdrop to our worship, our ministries and our activities. Once a year we get to bring it to the forefront as our annual pledge drive. This year, our pledge drive will begin with our combined service during St. Michael's festival weekend.

As summer winds down and we begin to look forward to fall and holiday activities, harvest comes to mind. This is one reason we will be using a model of a Garden of Faith for our pledge drive this year. As we transition from the relaxed schedule of summer to the busier times to come, it is a wonderful time to consider what St. Michael's means to each of us individually and what we each mean to the community of St. Michael's.

The most beautiful gardens have many types of elements in them: different plants, water features, patios or benches. All of the elements are lovely as individuals, but when combined become so much more. That is how I see St. Michael's Garden of Faith. Each of us lovely as individuals, but combined as a community we are so, so much more.

I invite you to reflect upon what kind of element you are in the community of St. Michael's and what type of element St. Michael's is in your personal Garden of Faith. We can then combine all of our elements into a beautiful garden ready for God's tending and our growth.

As you clarify your role in St. Michael's garden and St. Michael's in yours, it will become more apparent how important your financial support is to maintaining a healthy garden. If your yard at home is anything like mine, you know it grows better when you put some money into it. Paying for a professional gardener to pull the weeds, buying new seeds and fertilizer or just paying the water bill to keep the garden growing makes a difference. Our garden here is no different.

## **More on the Pledge Drive**

We have reworked our proverbial garden to be “drought tolerant” and to “need less maintenance”, but it still needs support. When we put our faith in God to provide for our cheerful intentions for a financial pledge or full blown tithe, He comes through in ways we can’t imagine. If we have little faith and pledge in a like fashion, He doesn’t have much to work with. When we are scared because we can’t see how we can fulfill the pledge we want to make, but we choose to have faith that God can make awesome things happen, He often does. What kind of awesome creation do you want to be a part of here at St. Michael’s?

**Erin Ramey**

## **WELCOME TEAM—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Welcome Team needs additional members to join us in greeting church attendees at the 9:00 or 11:00 services and helping with ushering during a service. The team is a wonderful way to get to know more of your fellow worshipers and an important “face of St. Michael’s” to newcomers.

At each service two members of the team work together, so if you’re new to the task, you’ll have a helping partner to teach you.

Call **Raelene** at 676-8030.

## **A VIEW FROM THE PEW**

For some time now I have wanted to express my gratitude for the presence of our votive candles.

When we pray from our hearts, particularly for those we love, it is often hard to trust that God has heard our request. Instead, anxious people that we are, we repeat our petitions over and over and carry them around as a burden, believing that our worry will somehow help God take care of those we pray for. Again and again on my spiritual journey, I have been reminded to surrender cares into God's hands, to put all things into His light and let Him be God. Yet still I am tempted to ask and then doubt.

Lighting candles has not been a spiritual practice in most places where I have worshipped. I have been envious of those who had this resource, even though I understood it little. When the opportunity came to us at St. Michael's, I eagerly embraced it. What I discovered is a new and concrete way to pray—and then let God do His work. Lighting a candle has become a way for me to offer my prayer and then leave the matter with God. I promise not to take it back into my own hands and feel comfort in knowing the candle burns and God is working, even as I walk away.

**Carolyn Demler**

**The Messenger** welcomes thoughts and reflections from readers on the Christian life and spiritual journey. If you feel moved to write, send your article to [cdemler@yahoo.com](mailto:cdemler@yahoo.com) and we will include it as space permits.

## St. Michael's Preschool News

We would like to take this time to THANK some very special people!  
**Kelly Moore Paints** for donating the paint to paint the hallway, classrooms, cubbies and our new preschool sign.

**Amanda Bolter**, Braden's mommy, for being our contact and helping this project succeed.

**Danielle Kent**, Gabbi's mommy, for helping us paint the hallway.

**Tom Svedja and the Parish Vestry**, for helping us paint and for the donation of school supplies.

**Geri Quilici and Julia White** for cooking and cleaning the past several weeks!

We would also like to thank **Tom Svedja, Charles Mayer, Diane Loehr, Rev. Pam, Toby Halverson, and Gareth Ashley** for coming out and helping us with the Family Fest. We could not have done this without the support from all of you.... THANK YOU!!!

On **Thursday, September 15, 2011** we will have our first **Grandparents Breakfast** to celebrate the wonderful grandparents we have here at St. Michaels. The cost will be \$5.00 per adult and children are free. Please come join us for breakfast.

**September 18<sup>th</sup> Coffee Hour after each church service will be held at the Preschool.** We look forward to meeting you and showing you around the preschool! Please stop by and say hello!

**Don't Miss the Pancake Breakfast!**  
**SUNDAY September 11th**

**The Men's Group will be hosting the 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.**

**St. Julia's Guild**

Mark your calendar: on Sunday September 25, St. Michael's Day, during the ten o'clock service, altar linens and an advent wreath for the nursery called "children around the world", will be dedicated to the memory of **Gerda Stevenson** a long time member of St. Michael's Church and a long time member of St. Julia's Guild. Please come as we honor this devoted and dear lady. Gerda is gone from our midst but she remains in the hearts of those who knew her.

**Alice McMillan**

President, St. Julia's Guild

## COFFEE HOUR—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The fall coffee hour schedule is printed below. We need volunteers for the Sundays marked "OPEN". Please contact **Rose Condit** (676-1692) if you can help, even one time. This is an important ministry to welcome newcomers and extend our hospitality to everyone following each service.

### St. Michael's Coffee Hour Schedule

September - 2011

Date/Service	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
9:00	Eva/Frannie	Pancake Breakfast	Rose Condit	Single Service 10AM Peggy/Joan
11:00	Anne Swift	<b>OPEN</b>	Verena/Paulette	

October - 2011

Date/Service	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
9:00	Eva/Frannie	Pancake Breakfast	Peggy/Joan	Rose Condit	<b>OPEN</b>
11:00	Anne Swift	<b>OPEN</b>	Verena/Paulette	Julia	<b>OPEN</b>

November - 2011

Date/Service	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
9:00	Eva/Frannie	Pancake Breakfast	Peggy/Joan	Rose Condit
11:00	Anne Swift	<b>OPEN</b>	Verena/Paulette	Julia

December - 2011

Date/Service	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
9:00	Eva/Frannie	Pancake Breakfast	Peggy/Joan	Eva
11:00	Anne Swift	<b>OPEN</b>	Verena/Paulette	(any other volunteers?)



**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**

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

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**TO:**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

PLACE LABEL HERE