

THE ARCHANGEL

Dear Friends,

December 2011

It is difficult for me to realize that this is the last *Archangel* column I will write. That thought prompted me to perform a quick calculation. I estimate that there have been approximately 115 such columns over the period of time I have served as your rector. I must admit that as I think about them, they are all rather blurry! I do know that they have covered the usual faire of topics most every rector writes about. I have endeavored to inform, motivate, inspire, encourage, prod, cajole, and otherwise keep us focused on our ministry together. As I reflect on these columns, they have focused on two main areas. The first area has been on St. Michael's as an institution and the many dimensions of our common life together. The second area has been less communal, insofar as I have tried to help us think about how the good news of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection relates to us as individual Christians. (This is primarily a preaching task, but can and should be a goal of other facets of parish ministry.) In my columns I have emphasized the first area much more than the second. I suppose that is inevitable, but in looking back, I think I should have done more of the second focus. However, in the end, I have written those words that I felt needed to be written at a particular period of time.

All of which brings me to this time --- a month or so before I will end my tenure as your rector. At a joint meeting of the Vestry and Ministry Team leaders several weeks ago, I mentioned that the last several months have seemed somewhat unreal for me, in that I have found myself in the process of disengaging. Those of you who know me and know how I have led St. Michael's Church, can only assume that disengaging has been a very strange experience for me.....and it has been! But, of course, it is a necessary and inevitable part of any leave-taking. However, I have tried to do whatever I can do to lay the groundwork for the coming period of transition. In this regard, I would like to share some things that are on my mind and heart.

I am very grateful to God that I am leaving a church that is very strong in so many ways. Sturdy is one adjective that comes to mind when I think about St. Michael's. Nevertheless, I ask that you do not take this for granted. By this I mean to say that St. Michael's Church cannot and does not run on its own. There is no energizer bunny roaming in our midst! It takes all of us ministering together to make it work. During these years that I have served as your rector I must tell you that I have been profoundly moved by the generosity that I have observed here at St. Michael's Church. Scores and scores of people unselfishly give and share their proverbial time, talent and treasure. This is what has kept this parish alive and growing. My prayer is that this spirit of parish generosity will continue during the coming interim time and beyond. Whether you are a very recent newcomer or have been a member of this parish for a long time, this is the time for all in the parish to find a place to serve in some way and not sit on the sidelines. Choose to be part of this mutual generosity. I believe such a choice will feed your spirit as well. As a part of this mutual generosity, I ask you to be regular in both your church attendance and your financial support.

2012 Every Member Canvass

We express our thanks to all who have pledged their financial support for 2012. At this point in time we have received 168 pledges for a total pledged amount of \$442,825. If you have not returned your pledge card, you are asked to do so now. With the coming time of transition, we will need a strong financial base of support. All members of St. Michael's are invited to be a part of this effort.

During the past 11 years I have been blessed to have dedicated, capable, conscientious lay leaders. I ask that you do everything you can to support them as they seek to lead St. Michael's during the interim period. I hope that prayer will be part of your support. Exercising leadership during an interim period poses its own unique challenges. So I ask you to pray for Rich Page, our Sr. Warden, and Dean Logemann, our Jr. Warden, George Greenway, our Treasurer, our Ministry Team leaders, and all our lay leaders. Over these years, I have also been served by talented, conscientious and capable members of the church staff. I rejoice that all of the present staff will continue to serve the parish in my absence. I ask that you support and pray for them as well during this unique time in the life of St. Michael's Church. We are blessed to have them.

In January you will have an interim rector. (Please see the next page for news from Rich Page on the selection of your new interim rector.) Interim rectors have what might be called a John the Baptist role, insofar as they are asked to prepare the way for a permanent rector. A task that belongs to the interim rector is one of helping a parish understand its identity and how it functions as a system. Parishes get into ruts, some of those are not always apparent to the leadership. I am sure that I have made some deep ruts and my guess is that not all of them have been good! I will not be surprised if the interim rector does not change some things. In this regard, I ask you to try to *go with the flow*, as they say. You may even wind up liking them and wondering why it didn't happen when I was your rector!

With a rector living in the rectory, one of the long established ways of doing things here at St. Michael's has been that the rector usually serves as the building monitor, making sure that the lights, heating/cooling systems have been turned down, the building is secure etc. During the interim period, it is important that all groups assume responsibility for some of these tasks. Therefore, when your meeting is over, please make sure that the heat is turned down, all the lights are off...including the restroom lights. There have always been issues with the alarm system. The system is often turned on at the end of the work day, therefore, it is imperative that the leaders of groups using the building during evening meetings know the code and set the alarm. Please contact Esther for help with this and also how you gain access to the building if you do not have a swipe card. Speaking of meetings, now it is even more important that meetings get posted on the large office calendar. Again, the group leader is asked to either put the meeting on the calendar himself/herself, or call Esther. Although the office hours may change in the future, for the present, the office hours are 9:00am until 2:30pm. Generally, the office is closed on Friday. Please remember to call and transact business during these periods of time.

Now I need to share something else that is important for you to know. When my tenure as rector comes to an end, Nancy and I will not be involved in the life of St. Michael's Church. A new interim rector or permanent rector needs to have the freedom to lead the way he or she needs to lead and not under the watchful, perhaps critical eye of a predecessor. At the same time, no doubt it would be difficult for me to be a passive observer of an organization I have led for many years. As a part of all of this, it is incumbent upon me to tell you that I will not be able to officiate at liturgical services such as baptisms, marriages and funerals here at St. Michael's Church and maintain a pastoral relationship with you. These are very hard words for me to write because one of my greatest joys has been being your pastor and being with you during significant moments in your life. Leading and being a part of the St. Michael's community of faith has been an integral part of my identity. Quite frankly, I must tell you that regarding the latter, both Nancy and I leave with a void in our hearts. However, I trust that when you think this through, you will understand the inherent wisdom of it. (I should also tell you that this is the established Diocese of Colorado policy for rectors who retire.)

I would be remiss if I did not tell you how moved Nancy and I have been by the many expressions of love, the cards, notes and letters of support we have received. We are humbled by these, and feel so very blessed to have been part of the St. Michael's family.

I hope that you will be able to be present on December 4, as it will be my last Sunday as your rector. Only one service is scheduled at 9:30. Details about the morning may be found later in this newsletter. I hope that this will be a wonderful service of praise and thanksgiving to God for the life that we have shared together as rector and people. Bring your Kleenex!

Faithfully,

Paul

An Open Letter to Fr. Paul and Nancy

Dear Paul and Nancy,

The time has come to say goodbye. It's a hard thing to do for us, and for you. It is a time for sadness, because we will miss you. But it is much more a time for thanksgiving and celebration. We have been so blessed by your leadership, your love, and your friendship, and St. Michael's has grown in numbers and in spirit during your time of ministry to us. We are thankful for your spiritual guidance and thought-provoking sermons. We are thankful for your dedication to pastoral care – all your visits to homes and hospitals - wherever and whenever you were needed - and for your genuine interest in each of us. We are thankful for your efforts in building fellowship here and supporting outreach to our community. We are thankful for your prudent management of God's resources and the vision that has prepared us to move confidently into the future. We celebrate your servant ministry to us. We wish you Godspeed in all that you undertake in the future.

From the St. Michael's Family

Sunday, December 4th will be Fr. Paul's last service at St. Michael's as Rector. In recognition of this very special day in the life of our congregation, we will have one combined service that morning at 9:30am. This will allow our entire congregation to come together to bid Nancy and Paul farewell. Please plan to stay after the service for a reception in St. Mary's Hall held in their honor. I know that they will want a chance to greet everyone. I hope all of you will attend. Also, we are asking members of the congregation to bring various food items for the reception. Please sign up on the kiosk in the Gathering Area.

Rich Page

From the Senior Warden

Even as we say goodbye to our Rector of over 10 years, your Vestry has been working to find an interim priest who will serve our congregation as we undertake a search for a new Rector. I am happy to announce that Fr. Gary Parker, a retired Navy chaplain from New York, will serve as our interim rector during this transition period. Fr. Parker has most recently served successfully as interim priest in two parishes in Long Island, NY. Please find his brief biography following this article. If all goes well, Fr. Parker will be preaching here on January 8, 2012. We look forward to meeting him and taking the next steps in this journey.

Once Fr. Parker is here, together we will begin the process of identifying and calling a new Rector for

St. Michael's. That process has two parts: the Parish Profile and the Search itself. The Vestry plans to call on members of St. Michael's to assist in both efforts.

The profile will involve a parish survey and development of a description of who we are as a community in Colorado Springs today. We need it to be both accurate and aspirational - describing not only who we are today, but also who and what we aspire to become. This profile will be used by the search committee and shared with interested candidates.

The search will involve working with the Vestry and Diocesan resources to review and assess candidates for this central role in our parish. For some it may involve travel and many hours of effort to talk with and confer over the various candidates who wish to be considered as our future Rector. In forming the search committee the Vestry will take into account the congregation's varied populations and interests in the belief that a representative group will help us find the best candidate for St. Michael's.

Thanks to those who have volunteered to help in this effort already. If you have any interest in working in one or the other of these processes, please contact me or our Junior Warden, Dean Logemann.

Rich Page

The Reverend Gary Parker

Fr. Parker was born in Potsdam, NY, going to school through college at the State University of New York at Potsdam. In his junior year abroad he attended Schiller College, Heidelberg, Germany in 1969-70. After graduation he went to General Theological Seminary, New York City for his Master of Divinity degree. He was ordained a deacon in June 1974, and priest, December 1974. He served as curate in South Orange, NJ, then as rector in Ticonderoga, NY. In 1983, he began his 22-year Navy chaplain career serving on ships, in Marine Corps units, hospitals, overseas in Italy and at the Marine Corps University. After his military retirement Fr. Parker became the Director of Veteran Affairs, Healthcare, Prisons, Maritime and First Responders chaplaincies for the Episcopal Church until April, 2006. In the Diocese of Long Island he has been the interim priest at St. Paul's Church, Glen Cove, NY, and St. Ann's Church, Sayville, NY. His passion is in adult spiritual formation with further study at the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Fr. Parker has a grown son, Bill, and three grown grandchildren. He likes the Adirondacks, running, reading, and meeting people.

Rich Page

Christmas Service Schedule

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00pm Christmas Pageant, Eucharist, No Sermon, Carols, Nursery Care

(The 4:00pm service is especially planned with children in mind.)

8:00pm Festive Choral Christmas Eucharist, Sermon, Choir, Carols

(Please note: carols and choir anthems will begin this service at approximately 7:30pm)

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

9:30am Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols

Sunday, January 1 The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus

9:30am (One service only)

Christmas Flower Memorials

Enclosed in this issue of the *Archangel* you will find an envelope for Christmas Flower Memorials and Thanksgivings. Those who wish to give flowers should return the envelope no later than Sunday, December 11. Meeting this deadline ensures that all names will appear in the Christmas bulletin. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plates or sent to the church office.

2012 Offering Envelopes

Envelopes for 2012 will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 4, in the Gathering Area. If you do not find your set, please contact the office. **Please do not use 2011 envelopes in 2012!**

Christmas Service Participants

Please sign-up to participate in our Christmas services. We will need ushers, greeters, readers, chalice bearers, intercessors and acolytes. Look for the kiosk sign-up sheets on Sunday, December 4.

Name Tags

Please remember to use your name tags on Sunday morning. This will be especially important when our interim rector arrives. Name tag order forms are located on the Newcomer's Table in the Gathering Area. After completing the form you may leave it on the table or put it on the secretary's desk in the church office.

Coming Special Music Events

On December 4, 2011, the choirs of St. Michael will combine at the 9:30am service for a special music presentation. This includes the 10:30 Adult Choir, the Sunrise Singers, and the Youth Choir. Instrumental

music will be provided by Regina Winters, flute and Carrie Petersen, psaltery.

The Adult Choir is busy preparing for the Christmas Season and will sing a carol service on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm preceding the 8:00pm service. The service will be accompanied by flute, organ, keyboard, and strings. The 4:00pm service will include the pageant involving the Sunday School children.

Special Advent music will be selected for the season of Advent as we prepare for the coming Christmas Season beginning on the 24th of December.

Trent Ellis

Adult Forum in December

Because of the Holidays and scheduling changes warranted by Fr. Paul's retirement, we will be having a rather sparse Adult Forum schedule in December! There will be no Adult Forum on December 4, because we will all be attending the retirement festivities honoring Fr. Paul.

On December 11 and 18, the Adult Forum will feature a two part course about Advent and Christmas hymns entitled "Rejoice! Reflections on Seasonal Hymns." Our teacher will be one of our most gifted and enthusiastic church musicians, Linda Page. Please join us for the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of some of our most beloved music of this season.

There will be no Adult Forum on December 25 or January 1.

The Rev. Sally Hubbell

"Dad's Gone – We've Got the House!"

On Saturday, December 10, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm, in St. Mary's Hall, we're having a party! While we are all sad about Paul and Nancy's departure, we also wish them great happiness in their next adventure. And we wish the same for us as a parish. Thus, we are having a party!!!! What better way to celebrate our parish and have a lot of laughter than a White Elephant Exchange? Find the funniest, craziest, most outlandish gift you can. Bring it carefully wrapped to protect its identity.

This party will be bittersweet, but it will help us as a parish move forward. We'll celebrate what we have had with Paul's guidance and what we can have in the future for St. Michael's.

Plan now to be part of this St. Michael's celebration. Bring a wrapped gift to exchange and a dessert to share. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Gathering Area.

Linda Kean, Co-leader, Connecting Ministry Team

1st Sunday Mission Box Collection

TLC (The Lord Cares) Pharmacy will be the recipient of our 1st Sunday Collection for December. TLC Pharmacy, serving El Paso and Teller Counties, is a non-profit operated by a dedicated team of volunteers who are dispensing help and hope to low-income, uninsured and under-insured patients by providing free access to medication and education. The pharmacy is a ministry of local evangelical Christians acting as the hands and feet of Christ and serving over a thousand poor people with free medicine. TLC has only one paid staff member, the administrator, plus over 55 volunteers from several different segments of the community, including twelve pharmacists who donate their time. For those of us familiar with Marcella Ruch, this is one of her projects in addition to others in which she has played a key role in providing free medical services in our community, e.g., The Mission Medical Clinic and The Surgery Project.

More information on TLC and how you can become a volunteer: <http://www.tlcpharmacy.org/> Also check out this *Gazette* story:

<http://www.gazette.com/articles/prescriptions-59681-free-poor.html>

Bill Oliver, Outreach Committee Chair

Habitat for Humanity

Our Apostles Build House is very near completion, and the House Blessing is scheduled for 2pm on Sunday afternoon, December 18th, at Woodmen Estates northeast of Powers and Woodmen Road. Volunteers from all of the Apostles Build churches will be on hand to pray with the owner family and wish them well. Please plan to attend this short ceremony. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Chuck Noll and Rich Page

Collecting Christmas Cards

We are collecting either new or gently used Christmas cards for The Lord's Dinner Christmas Give-Away on December 11. We will use just one side of the card and will write our own message, so that we can save money for our other gifts for our guests. Just put the cards in The Lord's Dinner tub in the hallway near the mailboxes and thank you so much!

Marianne Jenkins and Diane Verlinde

Looking for Guys Who Can Saw

We are planning to bring crosses and grave markers up to the Pine Ridge Reservation this summer. We have a budget for this project and need people who are able to cut 2x6s. Nothing too advanced and either a skill saw or table saw will do. This is a project that can be accomplished during the winter or spring. We

plan to take up the pieces and assemble them on the reservation next summer. If you are interested, please contact Marianne Jenkins at 661-2953.

Christmas Cookies

Please consider a personal gift of homemade Christmas cookies for the Lord's Dinner on December 11. Sixty dozen cookies are requested to be delivered to the church kitchen by Friday, December 9, at 9:00am. The sign up list is on the kiosk. Thank you so very much for your edible gifts of love for the guests at the Lord's Dinner! Any questions, please call Nancy Oswell at 590-7730.

Education for Ministry (EFM)

Enrollment Underway

Many members of our congregation are graduates of EFM, and you can be too! This is an amazing four-year program directed at educating the laity. The first year of this national program focuses on the Old Testament; the 2nd on the New Testament; the 3rd on church history; and the 4th on theological choices. Once a week for three hours we all meet together and discuss each year's chapter, and have time for theological reflection. Parishioners from several Colorado Springs' Episcopal churches currently meet at Grace & St. Stephen's on Sundays, 1:30 to 4:30pm. Our new year begins on Jan 8th and runs through mid-Nov, with a two-month summer recess. We also have one Sunday a month off that we select. Right, you don't have to commit to four years in a row; some people may have started EFM in the past and can pick up where they left off. The cost is \$350/year, which includes all reading materials and the support of our mentor. There are weekly readings, but no written homework or tests or grades. EFM is a wonderful investment in your personal growth and in your life in the church. More detailed program info here: <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm>

Enrollment is now underway through December 1st. *However, it's OK to be a little late.* For more info please contact me or any recent grad: Lee Rasi, Carolyn Moulton and Kathleen Foster.

Bill Oliver, gnarlybill@hotmail.com

Young Families

First of all, Many Thanks are in order!!! Thanks to all of you for your service in helping cut greenery for our parish-wide Advent Wreath Making on November 20! We had a great time at Mary and Joe Hattick's, and a hearty thanks to *them* for hosting us! We had lots of lovely greenery for our wreaths, which our whole parish will be able to enjoy throughout this holiday season. Last but not least, thanks to Kristi Callihan, Lavina Weiss and Crista DeJoia for leading us in the wreath making activity!

Our next activity will be hosting the Lord's Dinner on January 8. Do I smell BBQ? A sign up sheet will be put up on the kiosk later in the month for cooking and serving.

One last word: as 2011 comes to a close, I want to tell you how much I have enjoyed getting to know you over this past year, and what a joy your fellowship has been to me and my family. Our time together is usually centered around having fun and enjoying one another's company, but I believe we have also been learning more about what it means to be disciples of Christ through our deepening friendships with each other and our relationship to our greater Church family through things like BBQ and Advent wreath making. Please feel free to talk to me any time about ideas for activities you think would be good for the Young Families group, or if you would simply like to talk. In the mean time, I wish you all a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Sally

Calling all Artisans, Crafters, and Small Business Owners!

Saturday, December 10, (10 to 4) and Sunday, December 11 (between & after services) will bring the Christmas Cookies & Crafts event...rent a table on Saturday for just \$50, with the option to have your table on Sunday as well. **Early Bird special for vendors -- Save \$20, reserve your space by December 2, for just \$30!**

This event has 3 parts:

- 1 - Homemade cookies for sale by the youth
- 2 - Crafts & Gifts for sale (Duplicate offerings will be resolved by first reservation, so reserve your table soon!)
- 3 - Santa Shoppe so children can find inexpensive small gifts for family members while parents browse the cookies & crafts. The youth "elves" will help with wrapping (we'd love donations of inexpensive gifts, which can be used but "like new", if you're so inclined).

Proceeds benefit the Youth Pilgrimage event. If you'd like to reserve a table, or for more information, please contact Peggy Toldy at toldyme@aol.com.

The Daughters of the King

(DOK) is a religious order in the Episcopal Church. We follow a Rule of Life: The Rule of Service (see October's *Archangel*) and the Rule of Prayer. "In the Christian life nothing can be substituted for prayer. It is a Daughter's daily recourse of the source of life and strength. Each member must have a rule of daily prayer. . . Each Daughter's Rule of Prayer should be carefully considered and guarded." (The National Handbook and Bylaws of The Order of The Daughters of The King, 2005 Edition, page 3.) St. Michael's St. Catherine of Sienna Chapter of DOK meets monthly on the third Saturday at 9:00 a.m. If you are curious about our ministry, have any questions, or just want to enjoy a time of friendship and fellowship, please join us in St. Francis Chapel on November 19. Your presence will be graciously welcomed.

Christine Mattox

Ultreya

Ultreya gathering December 18. If you have gone to an extensive spiritual retreat like "Cursillio," "Walk To Emmaus," "Tres Dias," "Via de Christo," "Epiphany," and "KAIROS" and would like to continue your journey with others with similar experiences, please join us for our monthly reunion meeting after the 10:30am service. We will have pot-luck brunch, prayer, and fellowship. See you in St. Mary's Hall.

Regina Winters

BBQ Ministry

Many thanks to our talented and dedicated BBQ Ministry Team for two exquisite batches of smoked beef brisket! Our next date for firing up the smoker will be over the weekend of December 10-11. We will be selling BBQ sandwiches at the Church Craft Fair on Saturday the 10th, and also redeeming BBQ Bucks on the 11th. If there is meat left over, we will be selling that by the pound on the 11th.

There were two winners of the St. Mike's BBQ Sauce recipe contest: Susan Maltby and Bob Wettemann. Their recipes are below! We are currently looking for a commercial kitchen so that we can make them for sale in the near future (if you know of one that we may be able to use, please contact me). We are also working on having BBQ Ministry tee-shirts available for sale in time for Christmas.

Although at first glance a church BBQ Ministry may seem a little cheeky, it's important to point out that there are serious goals for Christian ministry behind it. For starters, once we get more established, we plan to participate in wider community events and gain a higher profile for St. Michael's Church, while also showing our Colorado Springs neighbors what an interesting and diverse church community we are. Secondly, when we begin to turn a profit through the sale of smoked meat, our intention is to start a scholarship fund for youth who cannot afford to attend Cathedral Ridge, the Episcopal Camp and Conference Center for our diocese. Lastly, this ministry is an opportunity for fellowship within our parish family, both for the BBQ Ministry Team (which has already had a good time learning to use the smoker) and for the whole church when we enjoy this great smoked meat together!

In the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (43:19) I believe this is one area in which the Holy Spirit is calling *us* to something new! Remember, *We're Smokin' for Jesus!*

Susan Maltby's Recipe

(she calls it "Landon's BBQ Sauce")

1T vegetable oil
2 bunches green onion, chopped
2 C white onions, chopped
8 large garlic cloves, chopped
2 ¼ C brown sugar, packed
1 C tomato sauce
1 C tomato paste
1 C whole grain Dijon mustard
1 C water

½ C Worcestershire sauce
½ C apple cider vinegar
½ C apple cider
1 large dried ancho chili, stemmed seeded, & chopped
1 ½ C Jack Daniels
1 pinch salt
1 pinch ground pepper

Directions: Heat oil in a large heavy pan over med-low heat. Add onions, sauté 5 minutes then add garlic and sauté 10 minutes more. Add all remaining ingredients, adding Jack Daniels last. Simmer sauce until thick and reduced to 7 cups, stirring occasionally, about 1 hour. Salt & pepper to taste. (Can be prepared up to two weeks in advance). Cover and refrigerate. Good slathered on pork ribs during their last 10 minutes of grilling. Good also as dipping sauce. Works well with a spicy rub.

Bob Wetteman's "St. Mike's Warrior's Sauce"

24 oz. tomato paste
24 oz. apple cider vinegar
1 cup brown cane sugar
12 oz. worcestershire sauce
12 oz. soy sauce
6 oz. Old Crow Bourbon
1 Tbsp. Shultze's Hot Sauce
1 Tbsp. garlic salt
1 Tbsp. course ground black pepper
1 Tbsp. kosher salt
1 Tbsp. ground cumin
1 Tbsp. paprika
2 tsp. red pepper flakes

Blend over low heat. Simmer for 10-15 minutes, stirring to ensure even heating.

The Rev. Sally Hubbell

Thank you Carl!

Since 1979 Carl Gould has been an active member of St Michael's, having served on the Vestry as well as serving ten years as our Junior Warden. For the past several years Carl has been responsible for the lawn care in front of the church, purchasing the janitorial supplies, tending to the flags, and other tasks he has performed behind the scenes. Carl is "retiring" this year from negotiating the creek side terrain and mowing the front area, and the many other duties he does so well. Thank you Carl, for your diligent service and generous contribution of your time and talents supporting the upkeep and appearance of St. Michael's over all these years.

Dean Logemann

Ladies! You're Invited!

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) invite all of the ladies at St. Michael's to the 5th Annual Potluck Luncheon and meeting. We will meet at noon on Monday, December 12, in St. Mary's Hall. If you wish, a gift of pajamas and/or a book (unwrapped) for children (birth to 18 years) would be gratefully received for **Sweet Dreams Colorado**, a 501c3 non-profit, for youth in foster care and group homes. Please call Nancy Oswell, 590-7730, with items for the agenda. Hope to see you there!

Outreach Committee Meeting

The next and final Outreach Committee meeting of the year will be Monday, December 5, 6:00pm. We will be considering the distribution of any funds that might be available at the end of the year.

Outreach Chair, Bill Oliver

The Lord's Dinner

Although we will prepare a generous gift bag for each of the guests at The Lord's Dinner on December 11, funded by the Outreach Committee allocation and other donations, we do need help from our parish at this time every year. We need fleece blankets of 50x70 or larger for each of our guests. The simple offer of warmth never ceases to touch the hearts of the fragile and "on the fringe" people of our community. We also need children's gifts. We have no idea of the age or sex of the young ones who will attend that night, but all leftover gifts will be passed on to Northern Churches Care. This can be a family project, of saving and deciding on the perfect toy or blanket and in so doing, reach beyond the walls of our church and homes to share the love of Christ and spread His light in the world.

Marianne Jenkins and Diane Verlinde

Need Decorating Volunteers

Altar Guild will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas on Sunday, December 18, after the 10.30 am service. A light lunch will be provided for workers. If you are interested, please call Aprel Mitchell at 260-0753 or you could simply stay or return to help.

Aprel Mitchell

High School Students meet at the Well

Youth group is having an excellent year! We have a big thriving group that gathers every Sunday from 9:15-10:15am. On the list for December we have a Christmas cookie and craft sale, a Christmas party, and on Jan 2nd a ski trip to Copper Mountain. For every youth activity, you can always find details at: <http://www.stmikeschurch.com/ministry/nurturing/youth>, or call Joe at 201-4351

Middle School Students

This December we will have a great Christmas Party, a chance to help with the Lord's dinner and signups for the Ski Trip to Copper Mountain on Jan 2nd. We have a huge group of wonderful middle schoolers who meet every Sunday from 9:15-10:15am for fun, fellowship, friends, and food. You can see upcoming events and content for group meetings at: <http://www.stmikeschurch.com/ministry/nurturing/youth>, or call Joe at 201-4351 for details.

Ski Trip to Copper Mountain

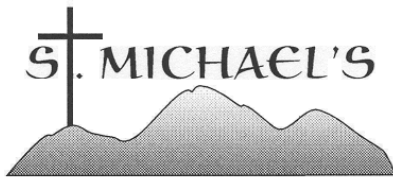
On Monday, January 2nd, we will have a great all day ski trip to Copper Mountain. We will be meeting another youth group for the trip, and thus get the best discounts available. Expect excellent conditions, maximum time on skis and great fun. Sign up sheets are in the gathering area or can be downloaded from the website at:

<http://www.stmikeschurch.com/ministry/nurturing/youth>

Sunday School – teaching about God

Sunday School for December will focus on preparing for the Christmas Pageant. This year Diné Wiedey will lead the children's performance on Christmas Eve. It will be a beautiful and moving service. Please bring your children every possible Sunday during advent, 9:15-10:15am.

Joe Hattick



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Church of St. Michael the Archangel

Staff:

The Reverend Paul Lautenschlager, Rector
Trent Ellis, Choir Director and Organist
Joe Hattick, Children, Youth and Family Minister

The Rev. Sally Hubbell, Associate Priest
Evan Becker, Bookkeeper
Esther Myers, Secretary

Officers of the Parish:

Rich Page, Senior Warden
Dean Logemann, Junior Warden

George Greenway, Treasurer
Diane Dennison, Clerk of the Vestry

Members of the Vestry:

Linda Council
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