

THE ARCHANGEL

Dear Friends,

November 2011

On St. Michael's Day I preached a sermon that dealt with what I believe has been the "rudder" or the "spine" of St. Michael's Church during the almost 11 years I have served as your rector. I decided to share that sermon in this column, hoping that some of what I said on that occasion might encourage additional parish reflection as we move into the coming transitional period.

This year's celebration of St. Michael will have a different feel for me, as it will be the last of the eleven that I have celebrated with you as your rector. I must confess to you that over these years I have shared everything I know about St. Michael or have ever read about St. Michael. Furthermore, during the course of such sermonizing, there is no doubt in my mind that I have moved from the factual category to information about St. Michael that might be considered, apocryphal, doubtful, and just made up! So, you will be glad to know that this morning, I shall not embarrass myself further when it comes to the exposition of dubious and fanciful qualities concerning our patron saint --- except, of course, to share this little story about St. Michael.

A teacher, car salesman, and a lawyer wound up together at the proverbial Pearly Gates. It happened to be St. Michael's turn to man the entrance to heaven. It will not surprise you when I tell you that each had to answer one question to get in. St. Michael addressed the teacher first and asked, 'What was the name of the ship that crashed into the iceberg? They made a movie out of it.' (With this easy question, you can see right away that Michael has a soft spot in his heart for teachers.) The teacher quickly answered, 'That would be the Titanic.' St. Michael led him through the gate. St. Michael then turned to the car salesman and decided to make the question a little harder, 'How many people died on the ship?' Fortunately for him, the salesman had just seen the movie. '1,228' he answered. 'That's right,' said St. Michael, 'you can enter.' St. Michael then turned to the lawyer and said, 'Now it's your turn. Name them.'

This occasion does, however, provide me with an opportunity to share some thoughts with you, not about St. Michael, but about us, St. Michael's Church, the saints of God gathered together in this part of Colorado Springs, under the banner of this mighty archangel and warrior. The first point that I want to make is this: it is an inevitable fact that churches, institutions, and individuals change and evolve through the years. We can fight that notion or we can, with considerable thought and prayer, seek to chart some way forward through the changing waters, rather than allow ourselves to be at the mercy of changing waves that sometimes frighten us half to death. In several months, St. Michael's Church will undergo change. It will evolve, just as this church has evolved during the 54 years of its existence. Suffice it to say that St. Michael's has been a very special blessing for me, for Nancy, and I trust, for you during this past decade, plus. St. Michael's Day, 2011, prompts me to share why this is the case. I would not be so bold as to say that holding on to what I am going to say will keep you from experiencing some unpredictable, yes, and even frightening waters. We have not been immune to some choppy seas during the time we have spent together. Nevertheless, what I am about to share with you is, I think, is a rudder of sorts that has stabilized and

..... I know that some of you may be a bit apprehensive and anxious about what the future will hold during the coming chapter in St. Michael's life. This is understandable; change is unsettling. We should own up to these feelings. Just naming it is helpful. But here is what I want to say to this: please call upon the trust that I know is in you and in this parish. We have been able to move forward in so many dimensions of ministry these last, almost eleven years because of a very high level of trust. You have trusted me and your leaders. I have trusted you. Trust is the fertile ground for God's work. I ask you to continue to trust. Your leaders know this church. Your leaders love this church. I am convinced that they will make the decisions that are best for the common life of this church, just as I have endeavored to do as I have exercised my leadership. So, as that wonderful prayer of St. Frances de Sales goes, please try to 'put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.'

guided this ship forward through these years. Here I will be so bold as to say that perhaps maintaining this rudder might be helpful as St. Michael's moves ahead on its journey.

- 1. First of all, I think we have tried to keep our eye on the ministry and the work we believe God is calling us to do, rather than choosing to become embroiled in national church issues that have fractured, weakened and divided so many churches. This is not to say that we have ignored them. Over these years, I recall meetings and forums where we have dealt with them. However, it is to say that we have not allowed debate over contentious issues to consume us, even though we are hardly of one mind regarding these issues. In fact, I have always considered St. Michael's to be somewhat of a microcosm of the larger church. Unlike some other Episcopal churches, St. Michael's is not an ideologically driven church. Ideologically driven churches tend to marginalize people. I think St. Michael's Church "works" so to speak, because, for the most part, it is a faith community that knows the spiritual power of forbearance, mutual respect, and being willing to listen, even in the midst of profound disagreement. I know some churches that never seem to be able to stop fighting. They fight about most everything. Fighting seems to be in their DNA! It is as if they would not know what it was like to be the church without fighting. We are not a fighting church. Perhaps the reason people of various persuasions and forms of spirituality have found a home here lies with the fact that we have been a spiritual oasis in a culture and larger church that seems to find itself in perpetual conflict. Rather than being ideologically driven, the phrase which is much more descriptive of us is ministry or mission-driven. As an example, my mind goes back to 2004 when the waters of national church issues were swirling all around us. I must be honest and tell you that it was an anxious and somewhat fearful time for me. In the midst of this milieu we had made the big decision to build a Memorial Plaza, Columbarium and landscape the rear of the church. Should we do it now? Could we do it now, I asked myself? By the grace of God, we put our fears aside, steeled ourselves, had the wisdom to say yes, and we raised the money that was needed. We allowed mission, God's work, to drive us.*
- 2. Secondly, a joyous playfulness, and a sense of humor are surely parts of our soul. Our processional hymn today, complete with kazoos, and streamers bears witness to this. Furthermore, we enjoy fellowshiping together. The kitchen and St. Mary's Hall have been second altars for us. May it ever be so! I have long believed that parish growth is difficult to pull off without a good kitchen and adequate seating for meals. St. Michael's is blest with two of each....and we've really used them during our time together, haven't we. We will have a big feed following this service. Please join us. Good food, laughter and camaraderie have bound us together. A church is built up, its life is strengthened, when people just have fun, eat and fellowship together. It is true that sometimes laughter is the best medicine for us as individuals....and it is true for churches as well. This medicine has been a good antidote to the challenges we have faced....and, I might add, a good antidote to not taking ourselves too seriously. I believe that our laughter and joyful playfulness warm the heart of God. Potential St. Michael's rectors who are sourpusses should not apply for the job!*
- 3. Thirdly, most new people who look at our Sunday bulletin or who read the Archangel are struck by the high level of outreach ministry that takes place here at St. Michael's Church. It is surely a mark of our identity. I speak of both hands on ministry and providing funding for a multitude of outreach ministries. The gospel mandate to serve is clear and unequivocal: we follow in the tradition of the greatest servant the world has ever known. A church that is mostly turned inward and fixated on itself is not the church of Jesus. We are called to service and not survival. As a church, I think we have embraced this truth. It is part of our rudder. But there is more....and herein lies the challenge that is ours as a church: service means proclaiming our Lord Jesus in both deed and word. The challenge for us concerns the latter. As I said at the beginning of this sermon, change is an inevitable part of life. One of the most significant changes that has taken place since St. Michael's church was founded in 1957 is the fact that we now live and minister in an increasingly secular and un-churched culture. The signs of this are everywhere. In the 1950's, most churches could grow just by opening their doors on Sunday morning. Not anymore. Here's the truth, my brothers and sisters: we can no longer assume that most in our society even know the story of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. The landscape has completely changed. It is no longer a situation of, if you build it they will come. In many respects we are living in a time that is very much like the early church. Just as that church was sent into the world to tell the story, we must once again view ourselves as people sent out to tell the story of Jesus, why we choose to be his followers, and why we decided to become members of St. Michael's Church. Someone has said that the gospel is never more than one generation away from extinction. That is a very sobering thought. Specifically, as part of the church of Jesus we must find ways to reach the un-churched, many of whom are youth, young adults, and early middle-aged adults. The creation of the Sending Ministry Team here at St. Michael's acknowledges this new reality. My hope and prayer is that St. Michael's will make this a priority during the coming years. Simply put, we must imagine and develop new ways of sharing the good news of Jesus with those who do not know it. Perhaps this effort will ask us to partner with other churches. It will surely involve researching models that are*

being used successfully in other mainline churches. Our Sending Ministry team can provide leadership here, but this is the work of the whole congregation. There is an urgency about this that needs to be recognized.

- 4. Fourthly, the forgoing leads me to say this: I hope that St. Michael's will continue down the path upon which we embarked three years ago when we re-organized our ministry structure and created our ministry teams. The heart of this effort has been an effort to raise up new and more lay leaders in this church and increase the level of involvement and decision-making by the laity. The clergy carry out specific responsibilities in the local church, but in a very real sense our calling is to encourage and facilitate you in your ministry. We have been entrusted with a ministry of mentoring and coaching. I will be the first person to tell you that changing our organizational structure has not been easy. I believe this is true mostly because even though we are a very democratic church, we are also a very hierarchical church. However, we have made good strides. Here is the truth: during the coming period of time, more people in the parish will be needed to assume responsibility for our collective ministry. My departure will move this process along and that will be a good thing. If you are new to St. Michael's or have been sitting on the sidelines, this is the time to step up and offer your time, talent and treasure. I assure you that such initiative will be welcome.*
- 5. Fifthly, I know that some of you may be a bit apprehensive and anxious about what the future will hold during the coming chapter in St. Michael's life. This is understandable; change is unsettling. We should own up to these feelings. Just naming it is helpful. But here is what I want to say to this: please call upon the trust that I know is in you and in this parish. We have been able to move forward in so many dimensions of ministry these last, almost eleven years because of a very high level of trust. You have trusted me and your leaders. I have trusted you. Trust is the fertile ground for God's work. I ask you to continue to trust. Your leaders know this church. Your leaders love this church. I am convinced that they will make the decisions that are best for the common life of this church, just as I have endeavored to do as I have exercised my leadership. So, as that wonderful prayer of St. Frances de Sales goes, please try to 'put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.'*
- 6. Sixthly, our ministry has expanded because we have been blessed with adequate funding. Financial health and stability have been an important part of our rudder. We have faced some stiff financial challenges: paying down the mortgage, dealing with property issues, and expanding our ministry have been major challenges. Nevertheless, we have been able to all of them. This is true in no small part because most of our membership support the work of this church by making a financial pledge and giving regularly. Many do so in a generous way. This is the reason we are financially healthy. I cannot underscore enough how important I believe the continuation of your generous financial support will be during the interim period. If you are not giving regularly, I hope that you will begin to do so. St. Michael's needs everyone pulling together during the coming time of transition. This is not the time to let up! I urge each of you to examine your level of giving and challenge you to move up the ladder, the destination of which is generous, and yes, maybe even sacrificial giving. In doing so, you will discover the joy of supporting the ministry of this church in a substantial way. Our 2012 canvass is about to begin. It would warm my heart more than you can imagine if, at the conclusion of the canvass, there were more dollars pledged for ministry in 2012 than there were in 2011.*
- 7. Finally --- and related to what I just said --- as I reflect on these years, I am so pleased and grateful that we have been able to make much-needed property improvements. I could give you a laundry list of them, but will not do so in the interest of time. Again, these improvements have only been possible because of the financial support of so many of you. I ask for your continued, yearly vigilance with this matter, so that St. Michael's does not find itself having to do the kind of catch-up we have done during my tenure. In late August, Dean Logemann, our Jr. Warden, along with a hard-working committee, completed a long range property plan, dealing with the costs of replacing major capital items over the next 10 years. This is a very important initiative. Making a commitment to this plan will ensure that deferred maintenance will not be an issue in the future. From my perspective, there is always a needed balance between funding for needed ministry and the maintenance of property. I believe we have maintained that balance over these years. I hope this will continue.*

Enough. We have a busy morning. Some words from your departing Papa who loves you so very much.

In my column in the December *Archangel* I will share some additional thoughts about the interim period of time.

Faithfully,

Paul

The Rector's Last Supper

Well.... sort of! It's the name I've chosen for the November Church Night, to be held on Wednesday, November 16. Supper, which begins at 6:00pm, will be served at a nominal cost. The Rector will be featuring what he considers his "best" Church Night faire. You will have to come to discover what it is! As it will be the last Church Night we will share together, the program, starting at 6:45, will provide an opportunity for me, Nancy, and any others who might be moved to do so, to share reminiscences, thoughts, reflections etc. on the almost 11 years we have spent together as rector and people. Think of it as an "open mike" kind of experience. As usual, so that we can have a fairly accurate head count, a sign-up sheet has been posted on the kiosk.

Time Change

Please note that Daylight Savings time ends on Sunday, November 6. Please turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night.

Thanksgiving Day Worship

We will mark this national holiday with a Choral Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, at 9:30am. I know many of you will be traveling that weekend, but I also know that many of you will be here, celebrating the holiday with family and friends. Furthermore, I know that many do not include Thanksgiving Day worship as a part of their day. Why not start a new habit and join us for worship. We will sing traditional Thanksgiving hymns and feast at a table hosted by our Lord himself, before we return to our own various tables. Please join us. As was the case in preceding years, so that our Thanksgiving worship might make a tangible difference in our community, parishioners are asked to bring a jar of peanut butter. The peanut butter will be given to Northern Churches Care for their food pantry.

Vestry Nominations

At the Annual Meeting, to be held on Sunday, January 29, we will be electing three new Vestry members. All nominees must be confirmed or have received the laying on of hands by a Bishop of the Episcopal Church, must be participating and pledging members of the church and faithful in worship and service. The nominating committee will soon be meeting. Please contact Rich Page, Sr. Warden, with any nominations.

United Thank Offering

Thanks to all who participated in the Fall UTO ingathering offering. We received \$788.00. This collection will be pooled with UTO collections from churches all across this country and provide grant money for needed outreach ministries in the United States and beyond.

From the Senior Warden

"What's going on with the transition process? Who will be our interim priest? When will we start our search for a new rector?" Great questions. We're beginning to get some answers. In September, Canon Lou Blanchard from the Diocese of Colorado met with your vestry to go over the details of a search process. On October 2nd, you heard Rev. Blanchard preach and speak at the Adult Forum. She shared with you much of the same information she gave to the vestry earlier. The vestry is now working on an interim priest selection, and we hope and plan to have that person here at St. Michael's in January. We'll let you know as soon as we have concrete information to share about our interim. Furthermore, the vestry and the ministry team leaders have scheduled a retreat for November 5 to discuss and prepare for the many issues we'll have to deal with moving forward. The vestry will appoint a search committee, and we plan to have that group identified and ready to go in January.

Now is the time to celebrate the ministry of Fr. Paul and Nancy here at St. Michael's. They have given so much of themselves to this church, and we have a deep sense of gratitude and love for them. Please come to our Church Night on Nov. 16 for a night of reminiscing about our time together. Their last service with us will be Sunday, December 4th. We'll have just one service that morning, with a big St. Michael's reception afterwards. Watch for more details to come.

Rich Page

"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.

Linda Kean, Co-leader, Connecting Ministry Team

Women Who Read

The next gathering of Women Who Read will be on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30pm, and we will be discussing the novel Mr. Ives' Christmas by Oscar Hijuelos. This is a beautiful story about hard-won forgiveness, and it will provide an excellent start for Advent. Copies of the book will be available in St. Bede's Bookstore for \$8. If you would like to be a hostess for this meeting of the book club, please contact Sally Hubbell at sallyhubbell@me.com or 963-2638.

The Reverend Sally Hubbell

From the Sending Ministry

Fall is here and there is so much for which to be thankful. Most of us have family, friends, homes, and food with which to share on Thanksgiving, but for many in Colorado Springs, that is not the case. Over the past three years, the generosity of the St. Michael's family has assisted over 30 families during the Thanksgiving season. The Sending Ministry Team is again sponsoring several families through Northern Churches Care. There will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk for Thanksgiving items which we will collect from **November 14-November 20**. There will be an additional box near the red wagon for Thanksgiving non-perishable items. All items will be delivered to Northern Churches Care on November 21. Since the freezer space is limited, please bring frozen turkeys and other frozen items on November 20. Thank you for participating in this wonderful outreach opportunity.

The Sending Ministry Team

Columbarium/Memorial Garden's Meeting

There will be a Columbarium Meeting at 9:15am on Sunday, November 20, in the Church Office Conference Room. The objectives of the meeting are to: (1) formalize the work of the Committee, (2) update the Committee members on the progress of work accomplished in the past few years (3) review/update the fees charged for services, and (4) plan a new strategy for publicizing the Columbarium and Memorial Gardens.

The Committee needs individuals who would like to participate in the administration of the Columbarium as well as individuals who can assist the Rector in actually preparing the ground for an interment and others who can assist in installing Memorial Garden pavers. If you are interested in volunteering please attend the meeting!

Despite the long list of objectives, the meeting should last no longer than 30 minutes.

Allan Creely

1st Sunday Mission Box Collection

TLC (The Lord Cares) Pharmacy will be the recipient of our 1st Sunday Collection through 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

Calling All Artisans, Crafters, and Small Business Owners!

Saturday, December 10, from (10:00am to 4:00pm) 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. 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 would like to reserve a table, or need more information, please contact Peggy Toldy at toldyme@aol.com.

The Adult Forum in November

We have an exciting line-up for the Adult Forum in November! On November 6 we bring a two part series by Joe Hattick designed to help us better navigate the holiday season with our loved ones. It's called "How to Care Less and Love More." On November 20, we will have our church-wide Advent Wreath Making activity. Then on November 27, Joe will be joining us for another course aimed at making the most of our interfamily relationships, "The Advantage of Being a Grandparent: The Advantage of Being a Parent."

The schedule in summary:

- November 6 -- "How to Care Less and Love More"
Joe Hattick
- November 13 -- "How to Care Less and Love More"
Conclusion - Joe Hattick
- November 20 -- Advent Wreath Making!
- November 27 -- "The Advantage of Being a Grandparent: The Advantage of Being a Parent"
Joe Hattick

Step into Opportunities Already Happening: Become a Pilgrim Companion

We on the Sending Team at St. Michael's are excited to share with you a brand new concept in community involvement and outreach we call our Pilgrim Companion Program. We take our biblical inspiration from the gospel of Luke, Chapter 10: "After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, 'the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few: pray

therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"

Beginning in January, our Sending Team will challenge you to live out the great commission of Jesus Christ by becoming a Pilgrim Companion. Over the next couple of months be thinking and praying about your mission to the community based on your talents, abilities and perception of God's will in your life. We then ask you to choose one other person to join with you as your Pilgrim Companion. In the spirit of the model Jesus gave us, you will always go out together to serve and will identify yourself as being from St. Michael's Church. In order to expand the number of relationships nourished in this process, we ask you to choose someone other than your spouse as your Pilgrim Companion.

The scope of your mission can be as large and involved as you have time available to serve. Your mission may be to volunteer at one of the many wonderful human service organizations in our community. You may want to work together to improve neighborhoods or to support those in need or in pain. You also may want to reach out to one of the smaller churches in our region needing nurturing and supporting. The harvest is plentiful.

Look for more information in the weeks ahead. Our Sending Team is prepared to offer guidance and training to our Pilgrim Companion Teams. Please open your heart to this exciting new idea.

Joe McCulley, Co-leader of the Sending Ministry Team

Young Families

Our Young Families activity for November will be a combination of fellowship and service to our wider church community. The fellowship: chili, hot coco and cider, and pre-season cookies at the home of Joe and Mary Hattick in Woodland Park! The service: gathering greenery for the church to use in our church-wide Advent Wreath making!

This event will take place on Saturday afternoon, November 12, from 2 pm until about 5 pm. Mary and Joe's address is 505 Mills Ranch Road, Woodland Park, CO 80863-9460. Directions from St. Mike's: From I-25 exit onto W Cimarron St/US-24 W. In Woodland Park turn slight right onto CO-67, just past N Elm St. Turn right onto W Lovell Gulch Rd/County Road 73, just past Sunnywood Ln. Take the 1st left onto Sunnywood Ave. Turn left onto Ironwood Dr. Ironwood Dr becomes Mills Ranch Rd/County Road 74. 505 MILLS RANCH RD is on the right. **Please bring pruning implements and work gloves.** There will be a signup sheet on the Kiosk in the Gathering Area.

The Reverend Sally Hubbell

Small Group Bible Studies

As a result of the congregation's response to last winter's initiative, two new small Bible study groups are going strong, praise be to God! And still the fields remain ripe.

If you feel a hunger to learn more about God's Word in regular company with others, please see, call, or write to me. Rev. Sally and I will coordinate times and places when seekers can gather for study, prayer, and fellowship. We are ready and eager to bring more people together for this vitally important means of realizing God's grace and direction in our lives.

Lester Sharpless

Daughters of the King

The women of St. Catherine of Sienna's Daughters of the King (DOK) follow a simple vision: to make Jesus Christ known to others and become reflections of God's love throughout the world. We Daughters are only able to do this by being empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Daughters follow a Rule of Life: The Rule of Service and The Rule of Prayer. The Rule of Service is the application of one's baptismal vow, reaffirmed by Confirmation. In following this Rule, our chapter hosted The Lord's Supper on October 9. Thank you to everyone who helped us minister to those in need, including (but not limited to) Carol McCulley, Jordan Tubbs, Jillian Tubbs, Regina Winters, Tiffany Shields, Willa Marshall, Lee Rasi, Judy Morrill, Cope Mitchell, Ian Mitchell, Lester Sharpless, Marianne Jenkins, Patrick Jenkins, Emily McMorran, Marilyn Wright, and Christine Mattox. Humble apologies to those who served and are unnamed.

Any woman who may be interested in finding out more about our ministry is invited to attend our next meeting on November 19, at 9:00am in St. Francis Chapel. Bring a smile and questions and join us.

Christine Mattox

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 4:30. 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. For more info please contact me or any recent grad: Lee Rasi, Carolyn Moulton and Kathleen Foster.

Bill Oliver, gnarlybill@hotmail.com

High School Students meet at the Well

The youth group has a new meeting time. Beginning October 26th, we switched to meeting between services, 9:15-10:15am on Sundays. This way, you can pick which service you prefer to attend and still make it to youth group. Also, this way we can meet every week instead of three out of four.

November also means overnight lock-in on the 11th at Laser Quest! Sign up now to reserve your space. We have room for only 34 people. Adults, we need a few of you too! Please sign up early so we can be safe. Fliers for the ski trip go out this month. The trip will be Jan 2. 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

What a great year we are having. The group is huge and very involved. The fliers for the November 11th Laser Quest overnight lock-in are on the table in the Gathering Area. Sign up early to guarantee a space. The ski trip fliers will be out this month. Reserve time on your calendar. The trip will be Jan 2. You can always find info on youth group activities at:

<http://www.stmikeschurch.com/ministry/nurturing/youth>, or by call Joe at 201-4351

Laser Quest Lock-In

Friday, November 11, at 11:30pm to Saturday, November 12, at 6:00am we will have unlimited play and lots of great food. This is a super event to invite friends to. Adults, we need you too. Fliers are in the gathering area, or you can download them here. <http://www.stmikeschurch.com/ministry/nurturing/youth>

Sunday School – Teaching About God

It seems obvious, but that is what we do. Sure, we have snacks, and fun as we see friends and learn how to behave well with each other. We treat one another with love and respect. And in all these things, we teach about God. We hope to see your children every week to share the love of God with them.

Operation Christmas Child

Since 1993 over 70 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have received shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. Through this ministry, children who have endured poverty, disease, and disaster also have the opportunity to hear about God's love for them. Along with many other parishes and individuals St. Michael's has participated in this ministry for many years. Last year the number of boxes from Colorado Springs was over 25,000.

Here are some ways in which you can help in this ministry:

1. Wrap (with lid separate) an empty shoebox (standard size is best) or use a plastic shoebox size container lined with wrapping paper. Fill it with a variety of gifts such as small toys (no war related items please!), stuffed animals, school supplies, sunglasses, socks, underwear, gum, soap, comb, chapstick, etc... You may also put in a picture and letter to the child if you wish. Please donate \$7.00 for each shoebox to help cover the cost of shipping. (make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse)
2. Bring in a few extra gift items to put in the "filler" box (located in the Gathering Area).
3. Make a monetary donation to help with the shipping costs (make checks payable to Samaritan's Purse) and bring them either to the table in the gathering area or the office, or put them in the offering plate.
4. Encourage your friends and neighbors to participate (extra brochures available at the table in the gathering area).
5. PRAY for the children and families that this ministry will impact.

This is a great opportunity for families and everyone of all ages to get involved in a simple, hands-on outreach project and to share the love of Christ with a child and his/her family. Your participation may impact lives for eternity. Please come visit the Operation Christmas Child table in the gathering area on October 23, October 30, and November 6. Our collection Sunday will be November 13. Please bring your wrapped and filled shoeboxes to church on or before that day.

Thanks to everyone at St. Michael's for participating in this wonderful outreach ministry. "Every shoe box offers an opportunity to share the Good News of the Savior with a hurting child."-Franklin Graham

If you have questions or would like to help collect or wrap empty shoeboxes please call Emily McMorran at 570-7321.

Christmas Is Coming!

For our guests at The Lord's Dinner, we celebrate Christmas giving on December 11th.

We know that everyone is struggling this year, and our brothers and sisters that come to Sacred Heart Church are visual, living examples of the great need around us. As Mother Teresa said, "We cannot all do great things. But we can all do small things with great love." That is what this celebration in December is about.

We decorate and put together Christmas bags filled with gifts including extra thick boot socks, hats, work gloves and liners for men, pretty hat and glove sets for women, a canned meal item, can openers, a set of toiletry items and razors. In addition to the items in the gift bag, each guest is welcome to choose a gift just for him or herself. Our guests don't stand in line to receive these gifts. They are given to each guest from the hands of one of our young people so that both giver and receiver feel the joy and love of Christ in the exchange.

Each bag is decorated by Eileen Wilfong, and tied with a candy cane from Ralph and Mary Lou Perry. Pat Farish will be making "washcloth angels" which decorate our lit Christmas tree, put up each year by Les Turner. Each adult guest receives a bag of votive candles, along with the scripture from John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The women of St. Michael's, through the ECW, bake wonderful Christmas cookies and a variety of them are included in each bag, for that homemade love touch. That's exactly what these gifts do; they touch our guests in a way that says, "someone cares about you."

The meal in December is a special one, with holiday pies and desserts, and decorations. Keep your eyes on the Kiosk and sign up to help with cooking ahead of time or on December 11th in the kitchen.

We have craft items available with Mabel Turner, so that our guests can make holiday decorations and ornaments, if they choose.

Each year we ask the St. Michael's parish to contribute to the celebration by purchasing fleece blankets for our guests. The larger sizes are the best. This year we also need children's gifts. We do not have a budget that can accommodate either of these items and hope that you can be generous and give to these fragile people.

Yes, Christmas may come early at the Lord's Dinner, but it comes from the hearts of this parish to the hearts of many struggling people and in the name of Christ. That's just a good thing!

Diane Verlinde and Marianne Jenkins

Acolytes

Training. Ian McMorran and Jim Moore have trained as servers. Tristan McMorran has trained as a banner bearer. Congratulations, Ian, Jim, and Tristan!

If you're an acolyte who wishes take on a new position; *or* if you're not an acolyte and would like to become one, and are at least nine years old; *or* if you're a former acolyte and would like to return to service: please see, call, or write to me to arrange one-on-one training at a time of mutual convenience.

New Scheduling Procedures. The adventure continues! We are still finding our way in the transition from centralized scheduling by the church secretary to scheduling by personal sign-up. Here are my observations, reflections, and guidelines thus far.

- Sign-up Sheet Postings.

-- The kiosk will always have sign-up sheets for *the next two months*, with changeover at each *Archangel* deadline day.

--- For instance, today (Oct. 16) is deadline for the November *Archangel*. The sign-up sheet for November is coming down and that for January will soon go up. The December sheet posted last month will remain up until the next *Archangel* deadline circa mid-November.

-- Special services will have a special sign-up sheet. The one for Thanksgiving will go up by early November, and the one for Christmas by early December.

- Sign-up Procedures.

-- Acolytes / parents of young acolytes, please do sign up for a service each month if you can.

-- When a blank sheet is first posted for a new month, please do not sign up for more than *one* service that month. This initial limitation will give everyone a more equitable opportunity to serve.

-- After the changeover date, if there are still open spots for the *very next month* that you can fill, please feel free to sign up for a *second* service that month.

--- To repeat: Feel free to sign up for a *second* service for the first (earlier) posted month. Do not sign up for a *second* service for the second (later) posted month.

-- Example: After today, the sign-up sheets for December and January will be up. You may now double-up in December. Please do not double-up in January until the December sheet has come down and the February sheet has been posted.

-- Note: Special services (e.g., Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving) *do not count* towards the initial

limitation. An acolyte may sign up for one of those services as soon as its sheet is posted, even if he or she has already signed up for a regular Sunday service during that same month.

- If my verbose and *highly italicized* explanation is unclear, please see me and I will try to elucidate it.

- If you find that this procedure is too complicated, please suggest a better way we might operate and I will gladly consider it.

Again, I truly appreciate your patience and understanding as we learn how best to implement the new procedures.

Lester Sharpless

Pine Ridge

We are hoping to return to the Porcupine Valley in the summer of 2012 to reconnect with our friends and the St. Julia's Church parish there. They have remained faithful to God and our friendship through some changes in high level leadership in the diocese over the past few years. We would like to respond to that with our faithfulness to them. We are not intending to do a construction project this summer, nor is the trip going to be long. We may be led in that direction in future years, but for now we are keeping a smaller scope.

We would like to bring crosses and grave markers up to Pine Ridge. This was suggested by a minister living on the reservation and confirmed as something that honors those who have died and touches peoples' hearts. That will be the tone we bring with us, honor and reaching out. We would like to do a Community Meal after attending church with the parish. This trip would be from a Saturday through a Tuesday evening.

If you have been a part of any team to Pine Ridge before and are interested in going this time, please call Marianne Jenkins at 260-8839. I can give you more details and set a meeting time that will work for all of us to get together and decide what makes sense for this trip.

If you are interested in building crosses and markers, if we fund the purchase of the wood and paint, please call Marianne.

Thrift House: Did You Know

In April of 1958, in a small house in Colorado Springs, a group of Episcopal Churchwomen opened a consignment shop. With \$1,500 and the determination of the women, the resale store known as Thrift House began. The Thrift House is now located at 1027 South Tejon, and is open for business Monday through Saturday (10:00am to 4:00pm). Donations are received Monday through Saturday (10:30am to 3:30pm). Those who donate items receive a tax receipt for the items given.

From that small beginning, Thrift House has grown into a major ministry and business. Thrift House is an incorporated, non-profit organization, having a 20 member elected Board of Directors. Several years ago the mortgage was paid off and it is now self supporting. Three Colorado Springs congregations, Chapel of Our Savior, Grace and St Stephen's Church, and St. Michael's Church, share the responsibility of scheduling volunteers to operate the store. Two hundred volunteers from area Episcopal churches volunteer their time. Thrift House is a success story mostly because of these volunteers. In exchange for volunteered hours, the ECW's of each congregation receive a share of the net income. The following church's have helped in staffing the store with volunteers: St Andrew's, Manitou Springs; St David's Church, Woodland Park; St. Raphael's Church, Security; Resurrection Church, Limon; Christ Church, Canon City; St. Andrew's Church, Cripple Creek; and Good Shepherd Church, Colorado Spring's. Thrift House employs five manager-supervisors, a bookkeeper and one Senior Manager. The store outfits the needy and destitute as well as sells to low income families and bargain hunters from all walks of life.

Each Church supports a number of agencies. They include: T.E.S.S.A, The Ronald McDonald House, Chins Up, Silver Key, the local Red Cross Shelter, Life Support, Ecumenical Social Ministries, Children's Literacy Center, Salvation Army, Peak Hospice, Springs Rescue Mission, Lord's Dinner, Beth Haven, Multiple Sclerosis, Habitat For Humanity, Mission Medical Clinic, Home Front Cares, Heifer International, Alzheimer's Assoc., Operation Christmas Child, Liza's Place, Pikes Peak Mental Health, Life Network, God's Pantry, Heart Beat, Hope and Home, One Nation, Partners in Housing, Westside and Northern Churches Cares, Help the Needy, Marian House. Kind (Kids In Need Of Dentistry), CASA, The Empty Stocking Fund, Pajama Program, Community Action Agency, Urban Peak, Komen Race For the Cure. Prescription Glasses are given to the Lion's Club. Used candles are melted into tin cans for the homeless (by our own Marilyn Wright). Used tennis shoes are sent to Nike for recycle.

In 1990, an agency working for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, (now T.E.S.S.A) contacted the

Thrift House about establishing a voucher system to help victims of domestic violence pick out free items to help them rebuild their lives. Each year, over 100 vouchers are given out totaling over \$3,000 in merchandise, along with used cell phones to be programmed for 911 and given to women for protection when they leave the Safe House. In exchange, the agency directs donations of clothing and household goods to the Thrift House.

Thrift House offers year-round bargains in its Boutique, Antique and Collectables sections as well as in household goods, sports equipment, baby needs, toys, books, and men's, women's and children's shoes and clothing. If you would like to donate any of these items, you are invited to bring them to the shop during the above-stated hours.

St Michael's staffs the store with volunteers on the 16th of the month through the morning of the 23rd. Backroom volunteer markers are needed any day of the week during store hours. To volunteer, please call Mary Lou Perry at 495-3063 or email her at rmlp2@g.com. The shifts are 10:00am to 1:00pm and 1:00am to 4:00pm. Three volunteers are needed for each shift. Keep Thrift House and our faithful volunteers in your prayers. Our share of the proceeds are used by the ECW for their outreach programs.

Carolyn Braley, Vice-President, Thrift House Board

Haiti Mission Trip

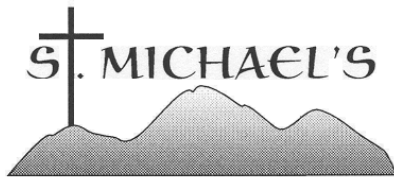
This January I will be traveling to Haiti on a mission trip. The trip is a joint effort between Ascension Episcopal Church in Pueblo, and Health4haiti. The latter is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that is also working with St. Mary Corwin/CHI – Catholic Health Initiatives/C.U.R.E.

Ascension Church first became involved with Haiti in 1999. After Hurricane Jeanne in 2004, Health4haiti donated surgery and anesthesia equipment. They also do free surgeries, conduct free primary care clinics and are completing a clinic at the church there, which will serve as a primary school.

I would like to take supplies with me when I go. If you feel moved to make a donation, a box has been placed in St. Mary's Hall for that purpose. The kiosk has a list of needed items. Over the counter meds, pencils, soccer balls and single pack candies will be gratefully received. HALLOWEEN CANDIES ARE PERFECT.

Google health4haiti for more information. If you have any questions, please call me at 528-1596, or e-mail me at balto0707@gmail.com.

Pat Austin



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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
Allen Creely
Emily Gustafson

Yvonne Franklyn
Lee Kulbitski
Joe McCulley

Steve Merrill
Ken Sagendorf
Marilyn Wright

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