

THE ARCHANGEL

From the Interim Rector:

February 2012

Begin with me...

Lord, begin with me. Here. Now. This is the point I begin Lent on Ash Wednesday and I hope you will too. In the first months of the Christian year we, as a community, slow down, focus on the need for God's grace and pray for our sincere preparation of the 40 days to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live for, and hope for, as Christians. My sisters and brothers in Christ, we are Easter people. It is not slapped on us in our rush to live. It is sewn in stitches into our being. It takes time and intent to give up hindrances or add a study, prayer time or silence in Lent. We rejoiced in our annual meeting last month with the election of a warden and 4 vestry members. In February the parish offers Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper prepared by the men's fellowship. Ash Wednesday we have 3 services: at 7am, noon and 7pm, with the imposition of ashes at all three services. Lenten Soup Suppers are being offered again on Wednesdays at 6pm, followed by a program called Abundant Living. The details of these offerings are in this newsletter. More than anything we offer a place to be still and "know I am God." May you, St. Michael's Church, be transformed in the late winter and early spring to bloom like nature does in order that you and I bud again. "O Lord, begin with me. Here. Now."

Yours in Christ,

Gary

Vision Statement
*Glorifying God through
passionate Christian
discipleship.*

Prayer for the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From the Senior Warden

I am thankful for the faithfulness of the people of this parish. Many have stepped forward to complete needed tasks during the past month, and the ministries of the church continue. A successful Every Member Canvass is concluded, and the Ministry Teams and the Vestry are moving ahead with plans and activities. Fr. Parker has joined us and has very quickly become immersed in the life of the church. We are so glad to have him here, and look forward to gleaning the benefits of his wisdom and experience as he helps us through this interim period.

The Vestry has begun deliberating on the composition of the Search Committee for our new rector. We are prayerfully considering the names before us and plan to put together a group that will have your trust and can work on behalf of everyone in the congregation. We hope to form the group soon so they can begin their work. We will let you know as soon as the Search Committee is appointed.

The Vestry is also working on an update to our Building Use Policy, which was last changed by the Vestry in 2002. As you might imagine, there are needed revisions due to the passage of time and the increasing use of our building.

I hope to see you all at the Church Night on February 1 for a potluck dinner and hymn sing sponsored by the Gathering Team. Plan also to attend the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 21. These are excellent opportunities for parish fellowship.

Rich Page

February Church Night

Church Nights are back! Our 2012 Church Nights will begin on Wednesday, February 1, at 6:00pm. Our meal will be a pot-luck and a sign-up sheet is posted on the kiosk to coordinate the food for the evening. Our program for the evening will be a sing-along featuring favorite traditional and more recent church music. Plan to come on Wednesday, February 1, prepared to enjoy good food, good music, and good fellowship!

Rick Jenkins

Holy Baptism

The next date for Holy Baptism is Easter Even, April 7, at 8:00pm. Please contact the Rector if you desire Holy Baptism.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The men of the church will be making and serving a pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 21, at 6:00pm. The Tuesday and Saturday morning men's fellowship groups will take the lead in planning, assisted by other men of the church who wish to help on that night. A sign-up sheet for volunteers and attendees will be on the kiosk in the gathering area. Watch for more information.

Rich Page

Monthly Mission Box Collection for Colorado House

The Monthly Mission Box Collection for the February-April period will go to support the efforts of the Colorado House & Resource Center in our community (at Wahsatch & Colorado). It provides transitional housing and a life-skills training program for those who are homeless, but motivated to achieve self-sufficiency. "Our primary objective is to present the highest level of comprehensive self-sufficiency training and resources; and to provide consistent, quality transitional housing in an environment conducive to success, growth and prosperity."

Throughout the year, 27 members of our congregation generously buy and deliver snacks for the CH's Children's Enrichment Center, as families with children make up about half of the homeless population. As the economy continues to falter and the job market remains tight, homelessness remains a critical issue in our midst. Colorado House, among other such agencies, has recently been severely impacted by cutbacks in governmental grants. Please check out their website to see how you can donate and also become a volunteer. <http://www.colorado-house.org/>

Bill Oliver, Outreach Committee Chair

St. Mike's Youth Choir Now Rehearsing!

If you are in 3rd through 12th grade, we'd love for you to join us and raise your voice in song! Rehearsals for our next performance (on Sunday, February 12) will be held on the following Sundays after the 10:30am service: January 22, 29, and February 5. Rehearsals last approximately 1 hour. Come and learn some great music and help us make a joyful noise! Please let either one of us know if you have any questions.

Katie Darling & Elena Zarecky

Interfaith Hospitality Network Hosting Week, starts February 26

IHN, in partnership with area churches and synagogues, provides shelter and support to otherwise homeless families while they work to become financially independent. While families are in the network adults are assisted by IHN caseworkers to find employment and permanent housing, and they receive instruction in life skills such as interviewing, budgeting, family matters, etc. Each host church and synagogue in the network houses families overnight from 5:00pm to 7:00am for one week at a time, on a rotating schedule.

In 2011, 100% of families enrolled in IHN graduated to self-sufficiency.

Families seeking shelter are coming to local agencies in unprecedented numbers.

With the "Great Recession" Colorado Springs has seen a dramatic increase in need for emergency housing for homeless families. At the same time, there have been cutbacks that have reduced the number of facilities to house them. Where individuals used to represent about 80% of the homeless population, now families with children are approaching 80% of the need for emergency housing.

Nearly every day there are sad stories in the news about the persistent high unemployment rate and homeless families. While those of us who are secure financially may be getting used to reports of the situation, it is a very real and desperate situation for the families that are homeless. One of the few hopes for them in Colorado Springs is the IHN program.

Please consider volunteering for our next hosting week, February 26-March 3. Sign up for one or more of the many open slots indicated on the poster that will be placed in our gathering area this month. If you can only sign up for a slot that is shown as one provided by our partner, St. Francis Catholic Church, sign up anyway. We'll work out the coordination issues between churches. Questions? Call Rich Page or Justin Morrill

Candles and Cans Needed

The 'moratorium' on candles for cans is now ended. There's room for more, so we will happily receive any unused candles you might have on hand. And, of course there's always a need for those treasured coffee cans (11 oz. to 13oz.), also the cans from steel cut Irish Oatmeal meal. Place your candles and cans in the bin marked for their deposit. These restored candles go to those guests of The Lord's Dinner who are living outside. Thank you!!

Marilyn Wright

Cookie Tins

If you have empty cookie tins in good condition, we would love to recycle them for next year's cookie sale. You can bring them to Joe's office. Thank you!

Peggy Toldy

Outreach Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Outreach Committee is Monday, February 6, at 6:00pm. We will likely make some preliminary distributions of our Outreach budget. All are welcome to attend.

Bill Oliver, Outreach Chair

United Thank Offering Lenten Discipline

Yes, we say the prayer of Thanksgiving every Sunday, and many of us, I dare say, may have it memorized since our days of catechism classes in preparation for confirmation. But do we really **THANK** God for our blessings - ALL WEEK LONG - EVERY DAY? As is said in computer lingo, "there is an app for that!" The United Thank Offering (UTO) was started in 1889 to make our thanksgivings for our many blessings - "an outward and visible sign of our inward and spiritual grace given to us ..." * Fr. Parker has agreed that Lent is an excellent time for the UTO to be our Lenten Discipline. Perhaps this year we might "take on" a new responsibility, rather than "giving up" something. By disciplining ourselves to make an effort to be financially thankful EVERY DAY, we can effect great works in the world, through the United Thank Offering, in His name! Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. UTO boxes will be available in the Gathering Area and envelopes will be in the pew racks, starting Sunday, March 25. A bookmark with the UTO prayer is also on the shelf in St. Bede's Book Store - FREE! Please take one and join the congregation in this personal commitment to our spiritual growth together - expressed with daily offerings of thanksgiving in the "little Blue Box." The combined contributions are disbursed by the National UTO Committee to provide funds for numerous projects around the world, through grant requests. The UTO Ingatherings at St. Michael's will be April 15 and 22. Any questions or suggestions, please call: Lorrie Pettis, 535-2831, UTO Chairperson.

Nancy Oswell

The DOK's "Little Blue Box"

St. Michael's St. Catherine of Sienna Chapter of DOK has a card and prayer ministry. The 'outward and visible sign' of this ministry is our locked 'Little Blue Box,' located on the side table in the Gathering Area, just left of the fire extinguisher. Near the box are slips of blue colored paper on which one may write a request for a card and/or prayer. If a card is requested, the Daughter/Sister in charge of the box will handwrite and mail a personal note. If prayer is requested, this Daughter/Sister will make the request known to our chapter and prayers will be lifted up accordingly.

Are you curious to learn more about DOK? Besides talking with a Daughter on a Sunday morning, we invite you to join us February 18 at 9:00am in St. Francis Chapel. We look forward to seeing you there.

Christine Mattox

Holy Confirmation

We are in the process of gathering a group of adults who would like to receive the sacramental rite of Holy Confirmation. Bishop O'Neill will be visiting St. Michael's on Sunday, May 20 and confirmation will take place then. Confirmation is the ancient, apostolic rite of the laying on of hands with prayer for the daily increase of the Holy Spirit. It is for those who have been baptized as children and have decided to pledge themselves to Christ personally. Adults who have been away from the Church or who have come into the Episcopal Church from another denomination are encouraged to be confirmed once they decide to live as Christians within this Church. Please contact the Rev. Sally Hubbell if you would like more information and/or you would like to be part of the class. Our youth are in a separate confirmation class.

The Reverend Sally Hubbell

High School Students meet at the Well

What a great start to the new year! We had a very successful Ski trip. On January 28, we will have an outing to Laser Quest. February 5 we are having our awesome Superbowl party, again at the Trujillo's house. February 11 we are going Snowshoeing. This earlier date means better snow and more chilly fun for all. On February 25, we are hosting an event called *Hope For Living*. This is a training event for youth to have the skills to intervene in the lives of their peers when their peers are suicidal. This event is open to teens from all over. It will hopefully result in a reduction in teen suicide across El Paso and Teller counties.

In addition to all the special events, we will have youth group every Sunday morning in February from 9:15-10:15. 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

We have an amazing group of middle school students at St. Michael's. They meet Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15am. This February they will be invited to the Superbowl party, February 5, and Snowshoeing on February 11. Also this month we are inviting the middle schoolers to sign up for the Summer Mission to Leadville. Parents, this trip will sell out fast, so registering early, is the only way to get your child a slot. You can always learn about upcoming events and content for group meetings at: <http://www.stmikeschurch.com/ministry/nurturing/youth> or call Joe at 201-4351 for details.

Sunday School – It is all about being there.

Sunday School has come back from a great Christmas Pageant to have a wonderful start to the new year. The children are having a great time learning and growing. Our catechists are dedicated to our relational model of ministry. It truly is a wonderful hour between 9:15am and 10:15am on Sunday mornings. If your child has not yet been, please bring him or her. All are welcome.

Superbowl Sunday

We will have a party this year on February 5 at the Trujillo's. Check the website for a downloadable map. <http://www.stmikeschurch.com/ministry/nurturing/youth>

Hope for Living

Sign up to learn how to intervene in the lives of those who are suicidal. Learn the patterns of speech and behavior that can tip off suicidal thoughts and feelings. Make a difference at your school and with your friends. The event is Saturday; February 25, from 9:00am-4:00pm. Fliers are available by contacting Joe at: joehattick@gmail.com or 719-201-4351.

Flower Chart

The 2012 Flower chart is posted in St. Mary's Hall. Two Memorials or Thanksgivings may be given on a particular Sunday. This is a most fitting way to remember loved ones and/or express your thanksgivings for blessings received. The cost is \$30.

Tuesday Women's Fellowship

The Tuesday Women's Fellowship Group--aka Tuesday Ladies--will begin a new book in the new year! Our selection is "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life," by Richard Rohr. The book is available at amazon.com; if you would like to be part of a bulk order, please contact Wanda Berthelot at 266-8110 as soon as possible. Projected date for beginning this book is mid-January. You don't have to be a regular member of T Ls to pop in on us any Tues. at 11:30am.

Wanda Berthelot

Register before March 1st for the 2012 Women's Silent Retreat Weekend

It's for all women of the Diocese of Colorado and sponsored by The Church of St. Michael The Archangel. When: April 20-22, 2012. Topic: Intentional Living and the Cultivation of Virtue. Retreat Conductor: The Reverend John Wengrovius. Where: The Franciscan Retreat Center @ Mount St. Francis, Colorado Springs. See flyer located on kiosk or St. Michael's website for more information OR contact: Sue Kana 719-487-9113 or suekana@comcast.net OR Jane Hammond 719-579-9767 or jane.hammond@comcast.net. Help is needed. Please contact Jane Hammond 579-9767 to find out how your gifts may be utilized.

*****Truly a weekend that will touch your life forever*****

Jane Hammond

Address Update

Many of you have asked about Jane Johnson, a long-time member of St Michael's. She has moved to an assisted living facility in Nebraska to be close to family. Her address is: C/O Gold Crest Retirement Center, 200 Levi Lane, Adams, Nebraska. 68301

Women Who Read

The next meeting of Women Who Read will be on Thursday, February 16, at 6:30pm. The book we will be discussing is Surprised by Meaning: Science, Faith, and How We Make Sense of Things by Alister E. McGrath. This is a short book (115 pages) that isn't too dense, but very helpful for putting the relationship between science and religion in a proper perspective. It is for sale at St. Bede's bookstore for \$20. If you aren't able to read the book but find the subject matter of interest, just come for the discussion!

Emily McMorran has graciously offered her home as our meeting place. The address is 6735 Ashley Dr., 80922 (directions below). There will be a sign up sheet on the kiosk in the gathering area, and you'll be able to indicate there if you would like to bring *hors d'oeuvres* or a dessert for us to enjoy before the discussion begins at 7pm. I hope to see you on February 16!

Directions to 6735 Ashley Dr. from St. Michael's:
Head East on E. Woodmen Rd. ,
Turn right onto N Academy Blvd/CO-83 S.
Turn left onto Austin Bluffs Pky.
Turn slight right onto Barnes Rd. (go 2.5 mi)
Turn right onto Purcell Dr. (go 0.04 mi)
Take the 1st right onto Holt Dr.
Take the 1st left onto Ashley Dr.
6735 ASHLEY DR is on the right.

The Reverend Sally Hubbell

Young Families

Our next Young Families gathering will be a Gumbo Dinner on Friday, February 17! Please come to the church around 6pm (or earlier if you want to help make the gumbo. Just call or send an e-mail if you do--I'll be cooking most of Friday.) I will make arrangements for childcare here at church, along with dinner for the kids. The grownups will be eating in St. Mary's Hall, and the kids will have dinner and activities in St. Andrew's. Please bring a side salad or dessert to share. A sign up sheet will be on the kiosk in the gathering area. Let me know if you have any questions: sallyhubbell@me.com or 963-2638.

I hope to see you all on February 17!

The Reverend Sally Hubbell

Adult Forum in February

We have an exciting line up for Adult Forum in February! We hope you can join us in St. Mary's Hall from 9:15-10:15, between the services each Sunday.

February 5 -- Margie Arms will be talking with us about the spiritual and psychological aspects of *Transitions*, a very timely topic for us at St. Michael's right now as we search for a new rector.

February 12 -- Marriage and Family Counselor Gene DeLoux will be the first of several speakers talking with us about how his Christian faith shapes his work in the secular world, particularly in his work with young children.

February 19 -- This will be the second presentation by the Sending Ministry Team about the Pilgrim Companions Ministry.

February 26 -- This will be the first of our Lenten Adult Forum Series on Good and Evil. We will begin with a three-part presentation by the Colorado College Philosopher (and Episcopalian) John Riker about his new book Why It's Good to be Good, and conclude with a two-part presentation on Evil by Margie Arms.

The Reverend Sally Hubbell

Wednesday Night Lenten Series:

Abundant Life

Scrub your calendars for Wednesday evenings in Lent! We will be having our regular Lenten Soup Suppers, and the program will be something entirely new and very worthwhile. Father Gary, Mother Sally and Youth Minister Joe Hattick are collaborating on a five part series called "Abundant Life." Each week will feature a new topic based on the Gospel passage for that week. Here's a brief run down:

March 1: *Angels in the Wilderness* This program will be based on Mark 1:9-15 about Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, when he is waited on by the angels. Alison Sharley, Executive Director of the Colorado Haiti Project, will be with us addressing the question, "Are there Angels in Haiti?"

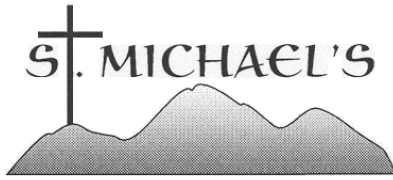
March 7: *Setting our Minds on Human Things* Based on Mark 8:33 "you are setting your mind not on divine things but human things," we will be asking the question, "what does it mean to set our minds on human things?" How are human things different from divine things and how do we tell the difference?

March 14: *Zeal for Your House: What Consumes Us?* This program will be based on John 2:13-22, when Jesus drives the money changers out of the temple and his disciples are reminded of Ps 69, "Zeal for your house will consume me." What would it look like for us to be consumed with zeal for God's house?

March 21: *What's Biting You?* Remember when the serpents were biting the Israelites way back in the desert as a punishment for their complaining, and Moses lifted up a bronze serpent so that all who looked upon it might live? This program will be based on John 3:14-15, when Jesus says "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." What's biting you, that Jesus might be the antidote for?

March 28: *Let Go, Let God* The theme for this night is John 12:24: "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." We will be asking the question, how does letting go lead to true abundance? Also on this last Wednesday before Holy Week, the youth of our church will be acting out the Stations of the Cross.

The Reverend Sally Hubbell



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Church of St. Michael the Archangel

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The Reverend Gary Parker, Interim 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
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