

THE ARCHANGEL

The Newsletter for Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church



July 2013

North Dallas
Shared
Ministry
Collection
Month

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Summer
Worship
Schedule
Begins

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Faith and
Grief
Luncheon

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Family Movie
Night

18

Open Mic
Night

24

Family Swim
Night

Reconnecting in a Lonely World

Ross Douthat of "The New York Times" writes about it and the Beatles sang about it: loneliness. "People become more likely to do



damage to themselves and others when they get disconnected from society's core institutions (e.g., marriage, religion) or when their economic prospects take a dive (e.g., unemployment)," writes Mr. Douthat. He goes on:

"In an essay for 'The New

Republic,' about the consequences of loneliness for public health, Judith Shulevitz reports that one in three Americans over 45 identifies as chronically lonely, up from just one in five a decade ago. With baby boomers reaching retirement age at a rate of 10,000 a day, the number of lonely Americans will surely spike."

"All the lonely people," the Beatles sang in the late 1960s, "where do they all come from? Eleanor Rigby picks up the rice in the church where a wedding has been, lives in a dream. Waits at the window, wearing the face that she keeps in a jar by the door, who is it for? All the lonely people, where do they all come from? All the lonely people, where do they all belong?"

Douthat writes that there are ways to manage this "loneliness epidemic." "Social workers, therapists, pets, and, of course, the Internet, all promise endless forms of belonging and community for the lonely. But all of these options seem destined to leave certain basic human yearnings unaddressed. For many people, the strongest forms of community are still the traditional ones -- the kind forged by shared genes, shared stories, shared geography, shared faith. And neither Facebook nor a life coach nor a well-meaning bureaucracy is likely to compensate for these forms' attenuation and decline."

cont. on page 15

Summer Sunday Worship Schedule Begins July 7

Summer is a time of change; vacations, camps, special projects, and more. And, it's no different at Saint Michael. Parishioners, clergy, and staff are vacationing, the new Courtyard Columbarium construction project will be at its height, adults and youth are on mission trips, and planning is underway for the new fall Christian Formation programs. All of these activities give us the need and the opportunity to adjust our summer schedule for convenience and necessity.

Beginning Sunday, July 7 through Sunday, August 18 we are making the following adjustments to our schedule.

- There will be one worship service in the Church at 10:00
- The Joy, Discovery, and Celebration Masses will be at 10:00 in the Theater
- The 11:00 Rite I service will be held in Saint Michael Chapel
- On Sunday, August 25 we will return to the full complement of worship services
- Special parish-wide fellowship and fun activities include:
 - August 25: Blessing of the Backpacks and Back to School celebration
 - September 1: The Big Chill – All things cool

The 7:30 a.m. Sunday worship in Saint Michael Chapel, 7:00 a.m. weekday Eucharist in Bishop Moore Chapel, and 5:30 p.m. services on Saturday and Sunday remain unchanged.





McSherry Family to Lead Stewardship Campaign

Susan and Dean McSherry will be General Chairs of the 2013 – 2014 Stewardship campaign at Saint Michael and All Angels it has been announced by the Rector, Bob Dannals.

“We are truly blessed to have Dean and Susan lead this most important part of our parish life,” Dr. Dannals said. “They have been very active in nearly every aspect of our church and understand that stewardship, in all its forms, is at the heart of our service to God.”



The McSherrys have been members of Saint Michael and All Angels for two decades. Dean is President and CEO of The Dean’s List an online wine buying company and has spent his career in the food service and hospitality industry. He is an active member of Entrepreneur Organization and past board member of the Texas Restaurant Association.

Susan is the owner of Stephan Pyles CATERERS and is involved in many philanthropic organizations in Dallas including Crystal Charity Ball, Junior League of Dallas, Genesis Women’s Shelter, Baylor Celebrating Women, and the Highland Park PTA.

They have two children, 15 year old Camille who is a Highland Park High School JV Cheerleader and 14-year old, Hannah who is a member of The PowerHouse of Dance Drill Company and incoming freshman at HPHS. Both girls are very active in Youth Ministry at Saint Michael and will attend the New York City mission trip this summer.

Foyer Supper Clubs’ Kickoff Rocks the House

Saint Michael Foyer Supper Clubs kicked off another season at a group dinner on June 7 to the rockin’ sounds of Len and Pam Musgrove, leaders of the Discovery Mass Band. The music ranged from good ol’ rock-n-roll to foot-stompin’ gospel.



The supper clubs are made up of parishioners who might not know each other or want to renew on-going friendships. They meet regularly in a member’s home for dinner and conversation. There is no agenda, other than causal fun and fellowship.



They are usually made up of a cross-section of adults, families with children, or young adults. There is still time to join a group. Contact Shelly at Svescovo@saintmichael.org, or go online at www.saintmichael.org/adults/foyer-supper-clubs.



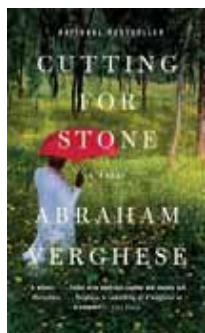
Faith and Literature Moves to 11:00 in the Coke Activities Room

The adult formation class, Faith and Literature, is moving to 11:00 in the Coke Activities Room beginning July 7. The time change is caused by the rescheduling of the summer worship services.

Four fascinating books will be reviewed by our clergy during July. They include:

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July 7



Cutting for Stone

by Abraham Verghese

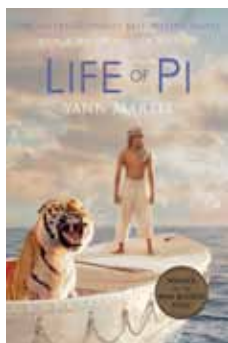
Reviewed by

Brenda Sol

Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, *Cutting for Stone* is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles--and two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined.

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July 14



Life of Pi

by Yann Martel

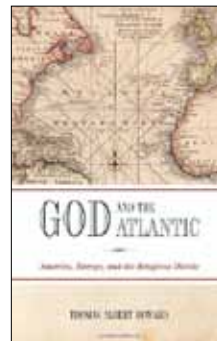
Reviewed by

Kevin Huddleston

After the sinking of a cargo ship, the only survivors are a sixteen-year-old boy, a hyena, a wounded zebra, an orangutan—and a 450-pound royal Bengal tiger. *Life of Pi* is an endless expanse of storytelling about adventure, survival, and ultimately, faith.

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July 21



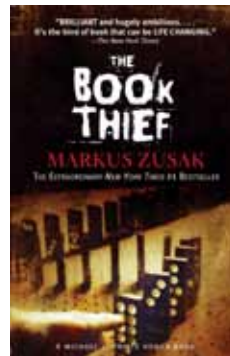
God and the Atlantic

by Thomas Howard

Reviewed by

Greg Pickens

The U.S. and Europe's paths have diverged sharply with respect to religion. Americans have friendlier ties with traditional forms of religion than their European counterparts. This is the first major work of cultural and intellectual history devoted to the subject.



July 28

The Book Thief

by Markus Zusak

Reviewed by

Brenda Sol

It is the story about a girl, some words, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist-fighter, and quite a lot of thievery. Set during World War II in Germany, this is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.



Mission Outreach

Rosebud Mission Work Brings Joy and Fulfillment

Nine Saint Michael missionaries completed a week of hard work at Rosebud tired, but fulfilled by what they accomplished.



During their week at the Sioux Indian reservation in South Dakota they replaced one-half of the roof on the Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, including replacing the church's bell, which Kevin Huddleston swears weight at least four tons. The group also conducted Vacation Bible School, provided fluoride treatments to 30 children from the reservation, and cooked and served dinner for approximately 80 residents in the Black Pipe community.

For several years, Saint Michael and All Angels has conducted mission trips to the Rosebud reservation, which is among the poorest communities in America.



VBS at Rosebud



A fluoride smile

Honduras Threads Seeks to Bolster Economic Status of Women in Rural Communities

For several years, parishioners from Saint Michael and All Angels have been traveling to rural communities in Honduras working to improve the economic status of women and their families. The Honduras Threads mission trip with ten parishioners left on Sunday, June 30 and will spend the week in Tegucigalpa and four nearby towns to continue that work.

With the help of Saint Michael missionaries the women have formed coops sewing pillows, table



cloths, and other fabric products for sale in the United States and other markets in Honduras. Honduras Threads is a micro-enterprise that provides seed-capital and training to women to start self-sustaining businesses. On previous missions the group has focused

on product design and efficient production methods, marketing, and accounting and computer skills.

Products from the Honduras Threads coops are available in the Saint Michael Book Shop.



Pastoral Care:

Letters, We Get Letters...

Annette Lentz, leader of the Christian Yoga classes at Saint Michael, shares some letters that class members have sent her lauding the benefits they have received from participation in the classes.

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When I first started going to Christian Yoga I wasn't sure if I would like it or be able to do it! I really don't like stretching (even though it's probably the most important thing to do) and I'm not very good at being "still".

But now I LOVE it and look forward to your class every Monday. I have the normal aches and pains associated with getting older. I have found yoga to be quite beneficial in keeping all that in check .

I also really appreciate all the different readings you do at the beginning and end of class. They really help us get centered —Marcie

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Yoga is the fountain of youth!. I see it in others, and I feel it in myself. I sleep better on Monday nights if I have done your class, Annette. Yoga also relieves the chronic back, neck and shoulder pain I experience from many hours of working on the computer. —Gayla.

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Annette, I loved class last night and want to thank you for all you do to promote health and well-being at Saint Michael's. Other than the feel good merits, I want you to know that I've had some medical benefits as well.

I have two medical problems that seem to have been mitigated by yoga. The first thing I noticed was the pain in my right knee disappeared. I had an MRI on this knee two years ago and was told I have osteoarthritis. The orthopedist recommended physical therapy and explained that to avoid surgery, I needed to strengthen the muscles around the knee. My internist suggested I might also try yoga. So, when I heard about your class, I decided to try yoga first. Two years later, I rarely think about my knee, which used to constantly remind me it was in pain.

And, I have had osteopenia in my spine (in the neck). I have yearly bone density tests and the trouble spots have remained consistent, with one part of my neck becoming increasingly more porous. I switched from calcium to Vitamin D about two years ago and at the same time started yoga. Last year's bone density results were about the same as the year before. But, last week, to my surprise, my internist said "whatever you are doing, keep it up. Your neck bone density is in the normal range." I'm thrilled about the spine results.

The other thing the doctor recommended to prevent osteoporosis is twenty minutes a day of sunshine. I don't have to go outside on Mondays. I get to be with you at Yoga. You are my sunshine! — Stephanie

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Annette Lentz agreed that "one of the most powerful parts of the time spent together, in addition to the health benefits, is the community building that yoga is offering us as we spend time in silence and relaxation at the end of our sessions. There is just something soothing about being at church, lying on the floor and being given permission to go inward, letting all thoughts be put aside for just a few minutes. Many of those attending say that they feel rejuvenated at the end of class and sleep better that night."

We don't promise to cure you of all your ills, but we do promise you will feel more relaxed by the end of a session.

Annette reminds us that there is no pressure to do what one is uncomfortable doing. Beginners are welcome and encouraged to go at a slow pace and rest anytime. Consider joining the Monday night Christian Yoga classes. Contact Annette Lentz, annette.lentz@abcglobal.net





Alcoholics Anonymous:

Meets in the Coke Activities Room on the first and third Sunday of each month from 7:30-8:30 in the evening. This group is open to both men and women. More information is available by contacting The Rev. Neal Hern, nealhearn@aol.com

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Parish Nurse Ministry

Visit the Parish Nurse Ministry in the South Lanai on the third Sunday of July to receive important information regarding Skin Cancer and Sunscreen Awareness. Contact Dianne Boyd, dboyd@saintmichael.org.

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July Faith and Grief Luncheon

The Faith and Grief Luncheon at Saint Michael is Thursday, July 11, in the Coke Activities Room, Noon until 1:00. The monthly meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month. There is no charge for the luncheon but donations are greatly appreciated. Make reservations at www.faithandgrief.org, or calling 469-251-9612. Questions: contact The Rev. Lisa Flores, lflores@saintmichael.org or Madalyn Teal, mteal@aol.com.



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The **Sunday Service Prayer Team** is not meeting during the months of July and August. For information about how you can be involved with this vital ministry, contact lay leader, Steve McKenney, ssmckenney111@gmail.com.

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Regular Weekly Meetings:

MONDAYS

Women's Cancer Support Group, meets every Monday, at 1:45 in the Parlor. Contact: Sue Patton, pattons@sbcglobal.net, or Charlie Stobaugh, charlie@stobaugh.net.

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The Caregiver Support Group meets on the first and third Mondays. Meetings are held in the Parlor, 11:00 to 12:30. Contact: Sandra Klingeman, jsklingeman@sbcglobal.net, or Drew Stull, jstull3141@aol.com.

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Basic Christian Yoga. Summer is an excellent time to try this healthy way to exercise your mind and body. Saint Michael offers Christian Yoga, led by licensed Yoga instructor, Annette Lentz. THERE IS NO FEE. Every Monday evening at 5:30-6:45, in the Youth Space. Contact: Annette Lentz, annette.lentz@sbcglobal.net

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TUESDAYS

Centering Prayer Group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 in the Chapel Conference Room. Contact: Mary Ann Webster, maryannwebster@gmail.com

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The **Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry** meets every Tuesday, 1:00 to 3:00 in the Coke Activities Room. Contact: Byrd Teague, Byrd.Teague@gmail.com.

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The **Alterknit Knitting Ministry** meets every Tuesday night, 6:00-8:00 in the Drake Room. Men and women are invited to participate. If a daytime meeting is not a good fit for you, Contact: Nancy Cantwell, nmkj@sbcglobal.net.

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Women – Word – Work

Are you a working woman? Are you craving spiritual connection, but know you can't commit to one more thing? Then this is the perfect group for you! Drop-in when you can as we share fellowship, snacks, study and prayer. For the rest of the summer, we'll use one of the Sunday scripture readings as a jumping-off place for our discussions—no preparation required. Bring a friend and join us on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month from 7:00-8:15.

SMAA 20s & 30s

Invite others and let them know...single, married, kids, no kids, job, no job, deep faith, struggling faith...wherever you are, and whoever you are, you are welcome at Saint Michael!

Home Communion & Potluck

We gather the first Sunday of every month for food and fellowship. On July 7th, Kevin Frazar will host us (2323 N. Houston St). Arrive at 5:30 for the worship service or drop in at 6:30 for the potluck. Meat and beverages will be provided, please bring a salad, side or dessert to share...all friends & musical instruments are welcome!



Open Mic Night, sponsored by 20s & 30s

Calling all musicians (and those who love to listen to great music). Bring your lawn chair, your dog, your favorite refreshment and your instrument... look for the lighted tent in the north parking lot on Thursday, July 18. Sign ups at 7:00, first set at 7:30



Keep an eye on our webpage for other activities and event locations: <http://www.saintmichael.org/smaa20s30s/>.

Farmers Market Attracts New Vendors

About 400 shoppers turn out every Saturday for Saint Michael's Farmers Market, which continues to attract new vendors and a greater variety of produce and products.

Since opening in April nearly a dozen new vendors have joined the market line-up selling everything from special soaps to pickled fruit and vegetables to pralines to pastries. More than 30 vendors are on hand every Saturday with farm fresh fruits, produce, eggs and meats.

The market has become a Saturday morning gathering place for the Saint Michael neighborhood. A refreshment tent with a cool zone provides a place for friends to gather for coffee or a soft drink, taste a fresh market "goodie," and enjoy causal conversation.



If you want to help promote the market, pick up one of the new Farmers Market signs and put it in your yard. They are available in the church Narthex or in the South Lanai. Or, you can also help by being a Saturday morning greeter. It's a great way to tell our neighbors about Saint Michael and invite them to come. Contact Brenda Sol at Bsol@saintmichael.org.

Roughriders Game August 15th, 7:00

Join us for a night at the Frisco Roughriders ballpark. Our tickets for shaded seats include all you can eat dinner and a RoughRiders hat.





Courtyard Columbarium Construction on Schedule

Construction of the new Nave Courtyard and Columbarium is continuing on schedule with completion expected this fall. The foundation for the columbarium walls has been completed as well as the foundation for the new doorway which will lead into the courtyard from the South Lanai.

In late July or early August, the south wall of the Church will be opened for installation of the new stained glass doors which will lead into the columbarium and courtyard from the sanctuary. A temporary barrier-wall will be built in the church to seal off the construction area and a row of pews will be removed to create an aisle for parishioners returning to their seats from the communion rail. Also, work will begin this month on refurbishment of the original columbarium.



Jubilee Park Needs Summer Camp Chaperones

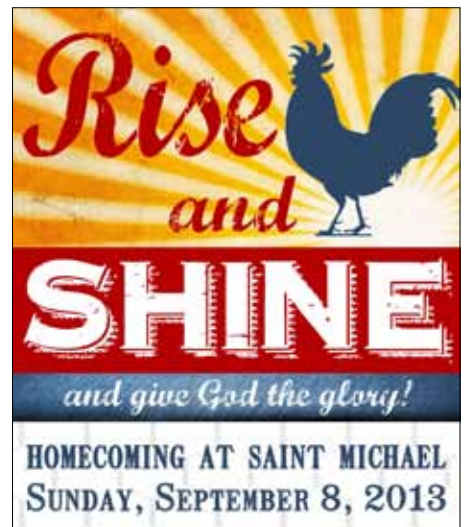
Jubilee Park's summer camp needs volunteer chaperones to accompany the campers on field trips to exciting and educational sites during the next few weeks. Look at the list below and, if you can help, contact Reiner at volunteer@jubileecenter.org.



- July 5 The Perot Museum
- July 19 The Dallas Arboretum
- July 26 The Planetarium
 at UT Arlington
- August 8 Hawaiian Falls

Homecoming: Save the Date

Homecoming will be Sunday, September 8. As you plan your summer be sure you're back in town in time to participate. There will be one of the best breakfasts you've ever had, a mini-Farmers Market, petting zoo, fun games for the kids, and the kickoff of a season of fellowship, learning, and worship at Saint Michael. There are a lot of opportunities to help plan the



“Extravaganza.” Contact Tish at tvisinky@saintmichael.org. Be ready to Rise and Shine and give the glory to God!



Family Swim Nights

Gather your family and join us at the University Park Pool for Summer Family Swim Nights: Wednesday, July 24th and Wednesday, August 21st from 6:00-8:00. Dinner and snacks will be provided and all ages are welcome! Contact Suzanne Finan at sfinan@saintmichael.org for more info.



family swim nights!
University Park Pool
6:00-8:00PM
Wednesday, July 24th
Wednesday, August 21st
*dinner and snacks provided

Family Movie Nights

Beat the heat and bring your entire family to the CFM Summer Family Movie Nights: July 12th and August 9th at 7:00 in the Youth Center. Popcorn and beanbags will be provided! Contact Emily Given at egiven@saintmichael.org for more info.

Youth Center July 12 August 9
7 PM
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

Women of the Spirit

Join us for summer fellowship Monday mornings in the Edge Room on July 15th and August 12th . New members are always welcome! Come experience a place of support and renewal of your spirit among friends. Contact Suzanne Finan at sfinan@saintmichael.org for more info.

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Family Devotion Hour Beginning July 14 at 11:00

Join us at 11:00 on Sundays this summer for fellowship and devotion time with the whole family led by Emily Given and Suzanne Finan. Starting July 14th we'll meet in the Youth Center for a short devotion with fun activities and plenty of fellowship to follow. For more info contact Suzanne Finan at sfinan@saintmichael.org

Family Devotion Hour
Starting 11:00
7/14
Youth Center refreshments, devotions and activities.

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Lego My Bible

“Lego My Bible” is returning on Wednesdays in July. The nationally recognized children’s Bible experience will meet on Wednesday mornings July 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 10:00 to 11:00 in the Coke Activities Room. It is designed especially to meet the needs of Kindergartners through 4th graders. For information contact Jill at jdelabano@saintmichael.org.





Vacation Bible School Attracts More than 300



There were more than 300 children, youth counselors, and moms at this year's Vacation Bible School. Public school schedules pushed the dates later into June, but they didn't impact the enthusiasm.





The children were taken on a trip throughout Athens and Greece with the Apostle Paul as he proclaimed the gospel of Christ. In their trip, they experienced the dangers Paul faced telling the story of Jesus, learned how he wrote letters to newly formed churches, competed in "Olympic Games" with Mr. Donovan, and worshiped together as the apostle did with early Christians in ancient times.



Three Summer Camps Entice Preschoolers in July

The Saint Michael Preschool summer camps offer three enticing weeks of fun and learning for young children. The week-long camps beginning on July 8 are a perfect outing to fill the hot summer days.

Grab your baskets and buckets and let's celebrate all of our favorite holidays in one week. We will have a whirlwind week of trick – or - treating, Easter egg hunts, making holiday crafts and singing Christmas carols. What is more fun than celebrating Christmas in July?



A new cooking project everyday! Join us for a week of hands-on-learning. We will be focusing on math, manners and tasting. Come learn how to set a table, measure, stir, shake and create!



You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose.



You're on your own and you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go. Join us for a week of Dr. Seuss and all his fun books. We will read a different book everyday and make a coordinating craft and snack. You do not want to miss this fun filled week!

For registration information go online at www.saintmichael.org and click on Saint Michael Preschool Summer Camps or call 214-361-1224.

Youth Cool Off at Hydrous

Nothing felt better on a hot Friday afternoon in June than splashing around at Hydrous. And, that's what several of our youth did. They spent the afternoon wakeboarding, water skiing, or knee-boarding at the water park in Allen. The only sign of "wear and tear" was a few red arms, legs, and noses.





Austin Mission Trip Focuses on Middle School Service, High School Youth To Serve in New York

Saint Michael middle schoolers spent the last week of June on a mission trip in Austin. The group made St. David's Episcopal Church in downtown its headquarters and worked with several Austin outreach agencies in programs serving disadvantaged youth, the homeless, and the hungry.



Among those agencies, our young people worked with El Buen Samaritano, an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas committed to helping Latino and other families in Central Texas lead healthy, productive and secure lives through high-quality and affordable health-care, education and economic-stability services. They also served at the Capital Area Food Bank. On Saturday, they worked with Mobile Loaves and Fishes, a social outreach ministry for the homeless which uses catering trucks to distribute food throughout the city.

The students did find time for some fun and great food.



the Congress Street bridge.

They found their way to Barton Springs and Zilker Park, and took a Kayak tour on Lake Austin and watched the bats fly from

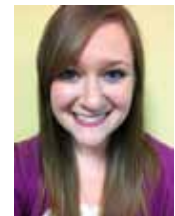
High School Students Head for New York

On July 7, more than 20 Saint Michael high school students and adults depart for a weeklong mission trip to New York where they will partner with the Center for Student Missions to serve in outreach ministries in the city's five boroughs. They will work with kids in after-school tutoring, mentoring, and sports programs, and will serve at facilities that feed abandoned and homeless families.

You can follow the activities of our high school missionaries in New York on our website, www.saintmichael.org, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SMAADallas.

Youth Ministry Coordinator Joins the Saint Michael Staff

Jackie Walker has joined the Youth, Children, and Family Ministry staff at Saint Michael and All Angels as Youth Ministry Coordinator beginning July 1, The Rev. Greg Pickens has announced. She is working with Andy Sahl and Carolina Armstrong, serving



as an event and small-group leader and handling the administrative duties of the youth program. Among her first duties will be as a leader on the Youth Mission Trip to New York July 7 – 13.

Ms. Walker comes to Dallas from Birmingham, Alabama where she has been Coordinator of Service-Learning at Birmingham-Southern College and serving part-time as a Youth Ministry Assistant at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. She is a 2010 graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in International Studies, Religious Studies and Women's Studies. In August, she will begin pursuing her Master's Degree at SMU. Some of her interests include traveling to "faraway lands," good conversation, working with youth, delicious restaurants, and being in the sun.



Grant Them Eternal Rest

Charles Wesley Goyer, Jr., June 1, 2013, father of Wesley Goyer, father-in-law of Anne Goyer

Robert Alston "Bob" Langhorne Jr., June 5, 2013, father of Nancy Horvath, father-in-law of Mike Horvath, grandfather of Matthew and Emily

Paul Walter Eggers, June 21, 2013, husband of Virginia Eggers, father of Steven Eggers, father-in-law of Julie Eggers, grandfather of Amanda and Alexander

Alfred Russell "Rusty" Fenton, Jr., June 24, 2013, husband of Denise Fenton, father of Emma and Ellie Rose, Kara and Katie

Michael Henry Barbera, June 28, 2013, husband of Pam Barbera, father of Nathan Barbera, father-in-law of Alisha Barbera, grandfather of Palmer

In its Annual Report, the North Dallas Shared Ministries said that in 2012 Saint Michael and All Angels' Church and parishioners gave more than \$56,000 to the organization, volunteering nearly 1,400 hours of service and donating 556 bags of food for distribution to the hungry.



Food Bank Volunteers who served in June

Cradle Role

Welcome to our newest members born into our parish family

Nelson Joseph Gotvald

May 28, 2013

Meg Carstens & Daniel Gotvald

Graham Calder Gotvald

May 28, 2013

Meg Carstens & Daniel Gotvald

The sale table is filled with jewelry, gifts, and books. All 50% off! The "Faith and Literature" books also are available at The Book Shop

The Book Shop Summer Hours:

M, T, W, Th, 10:00 -3:00

CLOSED Fridays

Sat. 9:00 -11:00

Sun. 8:30 - 12:30



cont. from page 1

Reconnecting

Kurt Vonnegut once asked: “What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create personal, stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured.” We at Saint Michael and All Angels agree! In fact, that is the very nature and purpose of a parish community. A parish is the place where people from disparate backgrounds come together to be a faith community -- in corporate worship, where we serve together in the shadow of the cross and in the light of Easter morning. It’s the place where we are brought when we are born and where we are brought when we die -- and where, in the time between, we gather over and over with our friends -- new and old -- with our sisters and brothers in Christ, to celebrate our very life itself. For all its imperfections, for all its foibles and incompleteness, and, yes, sometimes silliness, the parish community is the closest we come in imitating Christ and the Kingdom of God.

That’s why Saint Michael, for all its growth and maturity as a community of faith, feels most like itself when things go well and when little things go wrong. In a good novel, D.H. Lawrence once observed, there is always a banana peel on the premises. So, too, with a good church. Grace and growth and belonging come through a willingness to be vulnerable and transparent, a willingness to risk and try and fail and then start afresh. I hope our children know that about our faith journey -- that it is solemn, but its also fun, sometimes even funny. Like when on Palm Sunday the donkey dropped what donkeys drop in the grass. Or, the older lady who was a good sport several years ago when the Easter vigil candle momentarily ignited her well-coiffed hair. Or, the infamous story of the Thurifer who caught the old peach carpet on fire. Or, the little boy who stopped me cold during a dialogue children’s sermon in the Discovery Mass: “The answer is ‘Jesus.’ The answer to all your questions is always ‘Jesus.’ “

During this summer when we have the chance for rest, renewal and reconnection, I invite us to consider the wonderful gift of our parish community. So herewith some suggestions for summer recreation and reconnection:

+ Reconnect with family and close friends. Summer is a great excuse to take time for others. Sometimes neutral ground helps. A quiet hike, a talk away from the picnic table, or just a fishing buddy by a good trout stream.

+ Restore lost patterns. Get a good night’s sleep. Take time to eat real food. Sit still for, say, fifteen minutes and meditate.

+ Read. If you routinely wish you could get to a book and you fall asleep after a few pages, this summer could be your book alert. Try on that meaty, narrative book that deserves to be read ... I suggest Jon Meacham or Doris Kearns Goodwin... or, how about a significant portion of the Bible. Yes, you would expect me to throw that in.

+ Church attendance. If you’ve been a “church rat,” hanging around Saint Michael all the time, then take a short vacation from churchgoing. And to those who have long-running excuses for staying away, surprise yourself. Go.

See you in church where belonging and connection trump loneliness and isolation. It’s good for the soul.

Bob Dannals

THE ARCHANGEL

A monthly publication of Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church



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Worship

Monday – Friday

7:00 a.m. – Eucharist – BMC

Wednesday

10:00 a.m. – Healing Service – BMC

Saturday

8:30 a.m. – Eucharist – BMC

5:30 p.m. – Candlelight Mass

Sunday

7:30 a.m. – Eucharist Rite I – SMC

10:00 a.m. – Eucharist Rite II - Church

10:00 a.m. – Joy Mass, Discovery Mass,
Celebration Mass - Theater

11:00 a.m. – Sunday School Classes
(Children and Adult)

11:00 a.m. – Eucharist Rite I – SMC

5:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer
and Eucharist Rite I – SMC

Parish Clergy

The Reverend Bob Dannals, Rector

The Reverend Kevin Huddleston

The Reverend Greg Pickens

The Reverend Lisa Flores

The Reverend Brenda Sol

The Venerable Jim Webb

The Reverend Michael Harmuth

The Reverend Neal Hern

The Reverend Pamela Theodore

The Reverend Michael Dangelo

The Reverend Ariail Gores

Parish Vestry

Clifford Miercort, Sr. Warden

Tom Stewart, Jr., Jr. Warden

Matt Waller, Treasurer

Robert Wilson, Chancellor

Margaret Spellings, Clerk

Christine Ashmore, John Gorman,
Kathy Jenevein, Stephanie Pearson,
Sallie Plummer, Randy Rekerdres,
Grady Schleier, Nancy Skochdopole,
Ron Staffieri, Stewart Thomas,
Donell Wiggins, and Sheryl Wylie



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