

THE ARCHANGEL

The Newsletter for Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church



December 2013

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Stay Alert to God's Incarnation

There is an advertisement making the rounds this Christmas shopping season which shows an attractive family relaxing in their living room. The centerpiece of their attention -- and one of the few pieces of furniture evident in the room -- is a large-screened television. While seemingly watching the tv screen, others in the room are variously attentive to their own screens -- phone, I-Pad, and laptops. The ad's headline says simply "Family Affair."



In this family affair, no one is looking at the other -- the energy in the room is not focused on human relations but on technology. "Affair" ironically is the correct word for the scene. For it is indeed the seduction from the healthy family relationships and communion which are meant to sustain our life.

The seduction of course is that gratification be instantaneous. There is always something "on" which will fill our life and entertain us, with very little effort required. Yet we know how short lived the gratification of technology is -- people are constantly on the look-out for the next "bell" and the new "whistle;" but the search never seems to satisfy.

My most memorable high school teacher had a way of dramatizing everything he did in the classroom. He had a florid personal style that seemed to keep our attention. His routine antidote to the natural disorder brought on by raging hormones was to shout, "Handle your hormones! Sublimate! Delay your gratifications! Alter your immediate needs!" Of course, these

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Celebrations of Christmas

Christmas Eve Services Tuesday, December 24

- 7:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist – Bishop Moore Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I – Saint Michael Chapel
- 1:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I – Church
- 3:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II – Church
Orchestra, organ and choir (Incense)
- 3:00 p.m. – Discovery Mass, Rite II – Saint Michael Chapel *with the Discovery Mass Band*
- 3:00 p.m. – Joy Mass – Parish Hall
Appropriate for young children
- 5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II – Church
Orchestra, organ and choir (Incense)
- 5:00 p.m. – Discovery Mass, Rite II – Saint Michael Chapel *with the Discovery Mass Band*
- 5:00 p.m. – Joy Mass – Parish Hall
Appropriate for young children
- 7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II – Church
Silent Night sung by candlelight to conclude the service.
- 10:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I – Church
Orchestra, organ and choir. (Incense)
Silent Night sung by candlelight to conclude the service.

Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25

- 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I – Church

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Advent Meditation Booklets Available

You can pick up the Advent Meditation Booklet at reception desks in the South and North Lanai, outside Saint Michael Chapel.

Saint Michael Clergy Offer Advent Minutes and Seek Your Response

Beginning Monday, December 2, the E-Devotions emailed each morning from Saint Michael will feature video Advent Minutes from our clergy. You will have the opportunity to click reply and express your views, and the priest who delivered the message will respond on a blog by 5:00 the same day. If you already receive E-Devotions, the Advent Minutes will come directly to you. If you don't receive E-Devotions, send your email address to rbadgett@saintmichael.org to be registered.

Join #Radvent

Radvent is an image driven devotional delivered each day during advent via email, facebook, twitter, and instagram. Follow the Radvent project on your preferred social network or email, and share Radvent with your network. Follow us at these services: [Twitter.com/smaadallas](https://twitter.com/smaadallas) [instagram.com/smaadallas](https://www.instagram.com/smaadallas) [facebook.com/smaadallas](https://www.facebook.com/smaadallas)



Christmas Flower Memorials

If you would like to remember a loved one this Christmas, fill out one of the Flower Memorial envelopes enclosed in the worship bulletin with the names of those you want to honor either in Memory or Thanksgiving and return it with your check by Sunday, December 15. Flower Memorial envelopes are also available at the South Lanai reception desk.

Advent Home Communion

Home Communion are patterned after the worship and meals of the early Church, which met in homes. These are casual and visitor friendly gatherings open to both members of Saint Michael and the friends and family of the hosts. The clergy bring the order of service. The hosting household provides the bread and wine and contacts people in your neighborhood. All Home Communion begin at 6:00. Please let the host know you are attending.

Monday, December 2

Catherine Carr, 5634 Bryn Mawr Dr., Dallas, TX 75209
(214) 236-0855 cat_carr@sbcglobal.net

Tuesday, December 3

Robert See, 5419 Farquhar Ln., Dallas, TX 75209
(214) 351-5755 rsee@rseelaw.com

Tuesday, December 10

Becky & Mike Casey, 960 Kessler Parkway (East), 75208
beckycasey@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 11

Singles-N-Saints hosting at the home of
Effie & Tom McCullough, 3801 Gillion Ave, 75205
(214) 363-5422 aescobedo@saintmichael.org

Thursday, December 12

Nell Ann Hunt, 3704 Hidalgo St., Irving, TX 75062
(972) 650-1820 nellanne@flash.net

Monday, December 16

Susan & Dean McSherry, 3417 University Blvd., 75205
(214) 794-8187 dmcsherry@prslp.com

Tuesday, December 17

Julie & Bill Borus, 4542 Belfort Ave., 75205
(214) 334-7441 julie.borus@sbcglobal.net

Wednesday, December 18

Kathleen & Frank Lauinger,
3510 Turtle Creek Blvd. Apt. 8C, 75219
(214) 226-9379 kathleenlauinger@mac.com



Advent Fest, Wednesday, December 4.

Rock out with John the Baptist and all your church friends! Enjoy dinner by GRIP then stay for a whole room filled with activities to help you celebrate Advent and prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. \$10/Adults; \$7/Children two & older. Please bring a new set of thermal underwear for The Gathering Ministry.



Saint Michael Presents Holiday Concert Thursday, December 5, at 7:30

The Greater Dallas Children's Chorus and the Arts District Chorale will premier Saint Michael Presents, the new community concert series at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 5. The concert is free and open to the public, but tickets are needed. Pick up tickets at the South Lanai reception desk. Information: James Diaz at jdiaz@saintmichael.org.



Advent Retreat Saturday, December 7, 9:00 in Coke Activities Room

Every year we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. But part of celebration is Re-MEMBERING, bringing what is past and making it a living part of our present. How can we welcome the presence of Christ not just on Christmas Day, but each day of the year? Led by The Reverend Andie Wigodsky Rohrs, Priest Associate for Family Ministries, St. Andrews Church, Norfolk, VA. Register online www.saintmichael.org/article/retreats-sign-up/ or call Adult Formation at 214-363-5471.



Lessons and Carols, December 8 at 11:00

Celebrate this Advent with a Lessons and Carols Service at Saint Michael on Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 in the Church. Modeled after the Advent service of King's College, Cambridge, this service will feature the singing of carols by choir and congregation, interwoven with the reading of prophecies. Scripture and music work together in the service to represent Christ's leading the world from darkness to light. The choir will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra and organ in music spanning fourteen centuries.



Advent Liturgy of Remembrance and Light: When Christmas Hurts

Saint Michael will host an Advent Liturgy of Remembrance and Light, on Tuesday evening, December 10 at 6:00 in the Saint Michael Chapel. This is the second year for this event, which is a service for everyone suffering a loss. Its purpose is to bring peace, healing, and wholeness to our everpresent grief, especially at Christmas. This is an evening of Remembrance with sacred music by guest artist, Ana Hernandez and Brice Beard. It features an Advent Grief Liturgy with candles and prayers. The grief we are honoring is not only for loss by death, but is to help those struggling with relationships, job loss, divorce, or for any reason that makes Christmas hurt. Following the service, a reception will be held in the Parlor.



No matter if your grief is recent or as long as 10 or 20 or 30 years ago, this service is for you. We invite you to join with us as we ask God for peace and healing in our lives.



Pajama Prayers

Hop into your pajamas and head to the “Big Church” for kid’s Compline. We will gather for bedtime prayers, storytelling and a yummy bedtime snack. This is ideal for preschool and early elementary families. Led by Emily Given. For more information, please contact Emily Given – egiven@saintmichael.org.



Nativity Pageant 2013

Join us Sunday December 15th at 11:00 in the Church for a production of the Nativity by the children and families



of Saint Michael. Our children and youth have been working hard for several months to re-tell the Nativity story in its full glory! There

will be traditional Christmas carols, superb acting, as well as a live donkey for all to enjoy. We will be celebrating the cast with a Bubba’s lunch in the Parish Hall after the show for the entire parish to join in fellowship. For relatives and friends who can’t be present, the Nativity Pageant will be livecast on the Saint Michael website, www.saintmichael.org.

Greening of the Church – Sunday, December 22nd

Looking for something to get you in the Christmas spirit during the holidays? All adults are invited to help us deck the halls of Saint Michael and All Angel! We begin with



the 5:30 service in the Saint Michael Chapel. Then at 6:30 we’ll gather in the Parlor for light refreshments and to decorate the live Christmas trees

around the church. RSVP to Tish Visinsky (tvisinsky@saintmichael.org) if you plan to join us! Friends, neighbors or co-workers are welcome!

Home For The Holidays – Christmas Eve Open House – Tuesday, December 24th

Stop by the Parlor between 2:00 and 5:00 on Christmas Eve for a holiday reception before or after your favorite service and share a little holiday cheer with friends old and new! Let us know if you would like to be a host or hostess and help extend a warm greeting to all who attend. Children are welcome and we will spill out into the Garden Cloister if weather permits. For more information contact Tish Visinsky at 214-363-5422 ext. 524 or tvisinsky@saintmichael.org or sign up online <http://www.saintmichael.org/article/upcoming-parish-events-signup-form/> to help host or bring cookies for the reception.





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Celebrations of Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 29

7:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I – Saint Michael Chapel

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II – Church

9:00 a.m. – Joy Mass – Parish Hall

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I – Church

5:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer with Eucharist – Saint Michael Chapel

Please note that the Discovery Mass, and Celebration Mass are combined with the services in the Church.

No Sunday school classes will be held.

New Years Eve, Tuesday December 31

7:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Bishop Moore Chapel

The Epiphany, Sunday, January 5, 2014

5:30 p.m. – Feast of Lights – Church

Following the service there will be a Twelfth-Night Reception in Garden Cloister/Parlor/Coke Activities Room

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Feast of Lights – Sunday, January 5th

The Feast of Lights, held on Epiphany Eve, is one of most beautiful church evenings of the entire year. Join us for a casual service of lessons and anthems, beginning at 5:30 in the church, culminating in the Burning of the Greens on the Douglas lawn. Then, it's off to the Garden Cloister for a festive dinner buffet, s'more making and star gazing. An event for all ages! Childcare is available during the service and reservations can be made at 214-692-3019 or childcare.reservation@saintmichael.org

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Church Office Holiday Schedule

The church offices will be closed on Christmas Day and on Thursday, December 26, with no 7:00 a.m. Eucharist. The offices will also be closed on New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1 with no 7:00 a.m. Eucharist.

Columbarium and Nave Courtyard Blessed with Sunshine

The dedication of the Columbarium and Nave Courtyard on All Saints' Sunday, November 3 was blessed with cloudless skies, plenty of sunshine, and cool but comfortable temperatures.

Bishop Sam Hulsey led the ceremony with the Rector, Bob Dannals, and priests Lisa Flores and Brenda Sol blessing areas of the new facility. The project included a new 860 niche columbarium, refurbishment of the original columbarium, the Nave Courtyard, green burial space, and Memorial Wall, and refurbishment of the pet burial ground.



Following the 11:00 worship services, the Verger, Choir, and Clergy led the congregation to the south lawn for the blessings which concluded with the Lord's Prayer and singing of the Doxology. Several hundred parishioners lingered after the ceremony to inspect the new addition to the sacred spaces of Saint Michael and All Angels.





I Believe in Angels Benefiting Jubilee Park Kids and Seniors

The I Believe in Angels Project is a partnership between Saint Michael and Jubilee Park that provides Christmas gifts for children and seniors living in the Jubilee neighborhood. Last year, Saint Michael parishioners made Christmas wishes come true to 118 families with 411 children, and to over 100 seniors.



Jubilee Park

Jubilee families are required to take an active role by volunteering in the community in order to participate in the Angel Project program.

You can "adopt" an angel from the trees located in the ambulatory or near Saint Michael Chapel, purchase your gift and return the gift by Monday, December 9.

We need volunteers to help sort gifts at The Jubilee Community Center on Friday, December 13 and to help with the family "shopping" day on Saturday, December 14. If you can volunteer, contact Mike Davis and Richard Kelley at 214-443-8306 or md.rk98@yahoo.com.

"Heart Of Giving" Christmas Outreach Available Through December 22nd

The "Heart of Giving" offers a thoughtful way to spread the spirit of the holiday season. It is a great way to recognize friends, family members, and business associates. When you make a donation, you receive Heart of Giving cards to give to the people on your list. All of the proceeds benefit the Mission/Outreach Ministries of Saint Michael. You can use a credit card or you can donate online at www.saintmichael.org.



Heart of Giving donations support the following outreach ministries:

The Good Samaritan Fund Nearly every day a family/person requests help: rent assistance, food, clothes for children, gas money from the church. Administered by the clergy, the Good Samaritan Fund offers gentle, non-judgmental hope to non-parishioners in need.

Honduras Mission Project Saint Michael's missions trips to Tele, Honduras provide medical care, construction, and Christian Education. Your gift buys pharmaceuticals and building supplies for the people of Tela and the surrounding communities.

Jubilee Park & Community Center Jubilee Park is about rehabilitating one of Dallas' poorest communities, building relationships, and restoring hope. The results have been transformative; however, decades of neglect cannot be wiped out in a few years.

Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation Our brothers and sisters on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota face crushing poverty, unemployment, illness, and hunger. Your gift supports a wide range of responses to the immediate and long-term needs of the Rosebud community.

Casa Esperanza, Amistad, Bolivia The Amistad Mission ministers to nearly one hundred orphans and countless Quechua natives. The programs at the Amistad orphanage include medical care, education, and spiritual development.

All Souls Episcopal Church Lower Ninth Ward New Orleans All Souls seeks to become a spiritual center, as well as a community center in an area devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Saint Michael mission trips tear down, clean up and build; building homes, building hope and building faith.

Christmas Offering Going to Children's Projects

Offerings collected at Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at Saint Michael and All Angels will go to support projects impacting at-risk children in the Middle East, Rosebud, and at Jonathan's Place in Dallas.

Each of the following organizations will share one-third of the offerings:

- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
- Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota
- Jonathan's Place, an emergency shelter for abused, abandoned, and neglected children in Dallas.



Grounded in Gratitude

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Stewardship reaches 66% in November
Saint Michael's 2014 stewardship campaign surpassed the \$4 million mark in November on its way to the \$6 million goal. When compared to this time last year, both the number of givers and the average amount of the pledge have increased.

The Stewardship campaign chairs, Susan and Dean McSherry said, "We believe that stewardship is a part of our spiritual journey and our relationship with God. We also believe strongly that our standard of giving should reflect our standard of living. At Saint Michael every pledge, no matter what amount makes a valued contribution to our mission and ministry."

Church Open on December 31 Provisions Made for Yearend Contributions

If you need to make contributions toward your 2013 pledge and giving record on December 31, the church will be open Tuesday, December 31 from 8:30 to 4:30. Additionally, a mail slot will be available in the outer door of the Bishop Moore Chapel to accept those gifts. Checks must be dated on or before December 31, to comply with Internal Revenue regulations. If you mail your checks to Saint Michael, they must be postmarked by December 31.

Tax Advantages of Charitable Giving

Did you know that your tax benefits can be increased by donating appreciated stock from your investment portfolio to Saint Michael instead of cash? That and other ways to make your charitable dollars go farther will be discussed Sunday, December 8 in the Parlor following the 11:00 worship services.

Jim Smith, a lifelong member of Saint Michael, will lead the discussion. He is a CPA and serves on the Finance Committees of our church and the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.

According to Jim the donation of appreciated stock is a tax planning tool derived from the general rule that the deduction for a donation of property to charity is equal to the fair market value of the donated property. Where the donated property is "gain" property, the donor does not have to recognize the gain on the donated property. These rules allow for the "doubling up," so to speak, of tax benefits: a charitable deduction, plus avoiding tax on the appreciation in value of the donated property.

Jim will provide information concerning charitable giving and tax opportunities with handouts to take home. And will answer questions about this method of charitable giving, including the limitations and potential problem areas.





Nominations Extended to December 9

The Vestry this week extended the deadline to file as candidates for positions on next year's Vestry and Diocesan Convention delegation. The Saint Michael Foundation also extended its filing period for Trustee positions. The new deadline is 4:00 p.m. Monday, December 9.

Nomination forms are available online or at the South Lanai reception desk. Elections will be at the February 23 Annual Meeting.

Care Giver Support Speaker Discusses Finding Senior Living Options

Paul Markowitz, founder of Senior Living Specialists, will talk about "The Top 10 Things to Think About When Touring Senior Living Options" Sunday, December 8 at 10:00 in the Bishop Moore Chapel.



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!

Advent Home Communion — Meet-up with the GenXers at 6:00 on Sunday, December 8th for an Advent communion and potluck supper at the home of Stuart Newsome (4131 Dunhaven Rd). We'll provide the meat and beverages; you bring a side, salad or dessert.

The Newlyweds

Recently, or almost married (0-5 years), and committed to strengthening your vows in a way that deepens your faith? Join us the third Sunday of each month. Lunch will be provided as you engage in a conversation about how to navigate this new phase of your lives. Each month the topic will be introduced by the facilitator, with lots of time built in for discussion. Our next gathering is December 15 at 12:15 p.m. service in the Coke Activities Room, and our topic is "The 5 Languages of Love."

Joy Mass Changing Locations!

Beginning Sunday, January 5, we are moving the location of the 9:00 Joy Mass from the Parish Hall to the Theatre. Last summer the clergy discovered that contemporary worship with children worked well in that space, thus, we are going to try this new location during the winter and spring. Believing that having this service on the ground level and closer to hallways and parking lots it will be easier and more accessible for families. Please be a messenger of this news, and we invite your feedback along the way.

Confirmation, Reaffirmation & Reception Sunday, January 12

The sacramental rite of Confirmation is for those who wish to make an adult, public affirmation of their faith. Those who have been "Received" or "Confirmed" in the Episcopal Church may Reaffirm their baptismal covenant, and the rite of Reception is for those who have been confirmed in another denomination (e.g., Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.) but who now want to become an Episcopalian by joining the Episcopal Church. These sacramental rites will be performed on Sunday, January 12th at the 11:00am service with the Rt. Rev. Dean Wolf presiding. Please contact Ann Mills or Tish Visinsky as soon as possible if you would like to participate – amills@saintmichael.org or tvisinsky@saintmichael.org 214-363-5422.

Women – Word – Work

Drop-in when you can as we share fellowship, snacks, study and prayer. We're currently using 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. Please note that at 6:00 on December 16, we'll meet at the home of Heather Stanton for an Advent communion (4320 Greenbrier Dr). Bring your favorite appetizer, dessert, or beverage to share.



Mission and Outreach Grants \$145,000

The Mission and Outreach Committee and the Vestry has approved the distribution of \$145,000 to 14 charities and programs. The grants are part of the ministry's annual budget and are made after an application and fact-finding process. One of the primary criteria in selecting the recipients is that Saint Michael parishioners must be actively involved. This year's grants go to:

Jubilee Park and Community Center	\$60,000
North Dallas Shared Ministries	\$18,000
Visiting Nurse Association of Texas	\$15,000
Amistad, Bolivia Mission	\$10,500
Rosebud Indian Reservation Ministry	\$10,000
Cuba Mission (with conditions)	\$ 9,000
Episcopal Relief and Development (Philippines)	\$ 5,000
Honduras Mission	\$ 4,500
Honduras Threads	\$ 3,500
St. Philip's School and Community Center	\$ 3,000
Our Friends Place	\$ 3,000
St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital	\$ 1,500
Forest Heights Development Corporation	\$ 1,000
St. Simon's After-School	\$ 1,000

Jubilee Reading Partners Meeting December 8 in Bishop Moore Chapel

Reading Partners are mentors and tutors at O.M. Roberts Elementary School serving the Jubilee Park community. If you want to know more about this program, meet with us at 10:00 Sunday, December 8 in the Bishop Moore Chapel.

Marriage Preparation

If you're planning to be married in 2014, you'll want to sign-up for the Marriage Preparation series! You'll be joined by other couples committed to grounding their marriage in their faith.



We'll meet Saturdays from 9:00-Noon on January 11, 18 & 25. Topics include: "An Overall View of Christian Marriage," "Stages of Marriage and Building a Great Love," and "the On-

going Journey." The series concludes with a fun evening of food and fellowship on Thursday, January 30. The next series begins in May 31. For more information, contact Dianne Boyd (dboyd@saintmichael.org).

Thanksgiving Lunch Served to Jubilee Park Seniors

More than 100 senior citizens living in Jubilee Park ate turkey with all the trimmings, pumpkin pies and more at the annual Thanksgiving lunch prepared and served by Saint Michael parishioners on November 21 at the community center.



More than 40 Saint Michaelites donated, prepared, carved, and served the food. There were enough leftovers that each family took home a "to-go" box for a later meal.

The annual Christmas luncheon for Jubilee seniors will be December 19. If you can help contact Katie Whiteman at kjwhiteman@yahoo.com.





McConnells Honored at Faith Presbyterian Hospice Luncheon

Parishioners Marianne and Tom McConnell were honored by the Presbyterian Communities and Services Foundation at its annual “Each Moment Matters” luncheon in November.

In citing the pair, the tribute read: “A life-long volunteer, borne out of selflessness, Marianne McConnell exhibited a vibrant, colorful joy. Married 50 years to her devoted husband, Dr. Thomas McConnell III, their joy multiplied over the years with a ripple effect that touched countless lives.” Marianne died earlier this year after a long battle with cancer.

The luncheon benefited the Faith Presbyterian Hospice.



Junior League Honors Saint Michael Women’s Leader

Linda Secrest, past president of the Women of Saint Michael, was honored by the Junior League of Dallas as its Sustainer of the Year on Thursday, November 14. She was recognized at the League’s Milestones Luncheon co-chaired by Patti Flowers, another past president of the Women of Saint Michael.



Children and Family Ministry Serving at North Dallas Shared Ministry

Saint Michael’s Children and Family Ministry stocked the shelves of the North Dallas Shared Ministries on Sunday, November 17. The group, made up of 12 families, delivered 108 grocery bags filled with food, learned about the work of the North Dallas Shared Ministries, and helped load the food on the shelves. Several families gathered for lunch at Ball’s restaurant to share their experiences.





*My husband, Bill, died suddenly:
Christmas Past
We Were Able to Come Through that Dark
Time: Christmas Is Present*

At some time in our lives, we will each experience thoughts of Christmas past. Not Scrooge's Ghost of Christmas Past, but those times we remember when a beloved departed was with us.

It is difficult each time we experience a special day, a birthday, or a holiday without that very special someone as a part of the festivities. Whether it is a death or distance that separates us, that separation seems even more cruel at Christmas. There is no cure for the ache that the empty spot leaves and we often go through that day trying to fill the emptiness with other diversions. Remembering the loved one and giving



thanks for those happy times together can create a certain comfort.

Parishioner, Meg Badgett shared her personal story with us:

My husband Bill died suddenly, over 22 years ago. We were living in Chicago, but both grew up in the Park Cities, so I moved home with our two sons who were under the age of 3. There were many hard years when I struggled with the loss of the love of my life, the father for our sons, and the future we had envisioned together. It was only because of our loving families, sweet parents of the boys' new friends, my grief work, and the anchoring of our lives by our involvement at St. Michael, that we were able to come through that dark time. I have spent the last 22 years totally dependent on God to lead me and the boys so that we could become a new family and make a new life. The blessings along the way have been incalculable.

Meg is now the Lay Leader of the Saint Michael Grief Ministry. Her experience as a young widow and single mom gives her a history of dealing with all the issues and occasions of grief. Eventhough her loss was in the past, Meg recognized that as her sons became young adults and were "leaving the nest," she still needed the support of a loving Christian community. For the last four years, Meg has

been actively involved as a facilitator in the Grief Ministry at Saint Michael, and specifically with the Faith and Grief Luncheons.

Our mission, in hosting the monthly Faith & Grief luncheons, is to welcome grief into the arms of faith and extend comfort to those who mourn. While acting as a facilitator for these monthly luncheons, I have learned to be present in my listening, and not to talk at all, other than to guide the table in discussion. I have learned to be sensitive to the fact that we all grieve differently and that I truly cannot fix another person's grief, but can only be there for them as they find their own way. Listening to the monthly speakers tell how their grief journey has intersected their faith journey has taught me how powerful our own stories can be for others.

Meg and the Grief Ministry invite you to become acquainted with the Grief Ministries at Saint Michael and All Angels:

In addition to the Monthly Faith and Grief Luncheons, twice yearly, we sponsor a six-week Grief Seminar. And, on December 10, we will host an Advent Liturgy of Remembrance and Light, followed by a reception in the Parlor. We invite each of you to attend, celebrate your beloved departed and be present as Jesus is Present in our lives.

If you have any questions regarding the Grief Ministries, contact The Rev. Lisa Flores, lflores@saintmichael.org or Meg Badgett, mmbadgett@gmail.com

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A Stephen Minister Maybe The Answer For You

Have you hit a rough patch in your life? Do you have a burden that you cannot handle alone? Perhaps you haven't found the right ministry for your particular hurt. A Stephen Minister is someone who will walk beside you while you are hurting—listening to you, praying for you, and encouraging you. Saint Michael and All Angels offers a very dedicated group of men and women who have received specialized training to walk with you, confidentially, on this journey. If you know someone who might benefit from having a Stephen Minister or you could use one yourself, please contact The Rev. Lisa Flores, lflores@saintmichael.org.



Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets, on the first and third Sundays of each month, in the Coke Activities Room, from 7:30-8:30 in the evening. Contact, The Rev. Neal Hearn, nealhearn@aol.com.

Caregiver Support Group

Caregiver Support Group meets on the first and third Mondays, in the Parlor, 11:00 to 12:30. Look for the new Care Givers Corner in the Power Library. Contact: Sandra Klingeman, jsklingeman@sbcglobal.net or Drew Stull, jstull3141@aol.com.

Parish Nurse Ministry:

The third Sunday, December 15, the Parish Nurse Ministry will focus on Mental Health, Stress, and Grief Awareness. Questions? Contact Dianne Boyd, dboyd@saintmichael.org

Prayer Ministry

The Saint Michael Prayer Team, "SMAA Perspectives on Prayer." Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 19. Meeting at 6:00. Our Rector, Bob Dannals, will be the guest speaker on "Prayer as Conversation and Communion With God." All are invited. For more information, contact lay leader, Steve McKenney, ssmckenney111@gmail.com.

Regular Weekly Meetings:

MONDAYS:

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

Christian Yoga. Give yourself a gift for Christmas. Get your body and mind in shape, and have fun with fellow parishioners. Saint Michael offers Christian Yoga, led by licensed Yoga instructor, Annette Lentz Monday evenings at 5:30-6:45, in the Youth Space. THERE IS NO FEE. Contact: Anette Lentz, annette.lentz@sbcglobal.net

TUESDAYS:

Centering Prayer Group meets every Tuesday morning at 10:00 in the Chapel Conference Room. Contact: Shannon Callewart, scallewart@tx.rr.com

The Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry meets every Tuesday, 1:00 to 3:00 in the Coke Activities Room. All with an interest in knitting and a desire to contribute to those suffering from a need, consider joining one of the knitting ministries. Contact: Byrd Teague, Byrd.Teague@gmail.com.

Alterknit: Please note that we will meet for the last time in 2013 on December 10. After our winter holiday break, we will resume again on January 14, 2014. The Alterknit Knitting Ministry meets on Tuesday nights, 6:00-8:00, in the Drake Room. Men, women, people of all ages, are invited to participate. Students looking for Community Service projects, consider this as an opportunity to serve. Don't know how to knit? We'll teach you! Contact: Nancy Cantwell, 972-523-4911.



Veterans Day 2013

A wonderful evening was spent celebrating and honoring our Veterans Sunday, November 10th. The chapel was filled to capacity with veterans and their families and friends. Over 50 vets and active duty military, representing all 5 branches of the Armed Forces and ages ranging from 30 years old to 101 years old joined us. Thank you to everyone who sent in a photo for our Wall of Honor. We love honoring ALL veterans – they do not have to be members of SMAA. Please continue to send us pictures of your parents, grandparents or great grandparents who served so we can add them to our wall for 2014! Photos can be emailed to Tish Visinsky (tvisinsky@saintmichael.org)





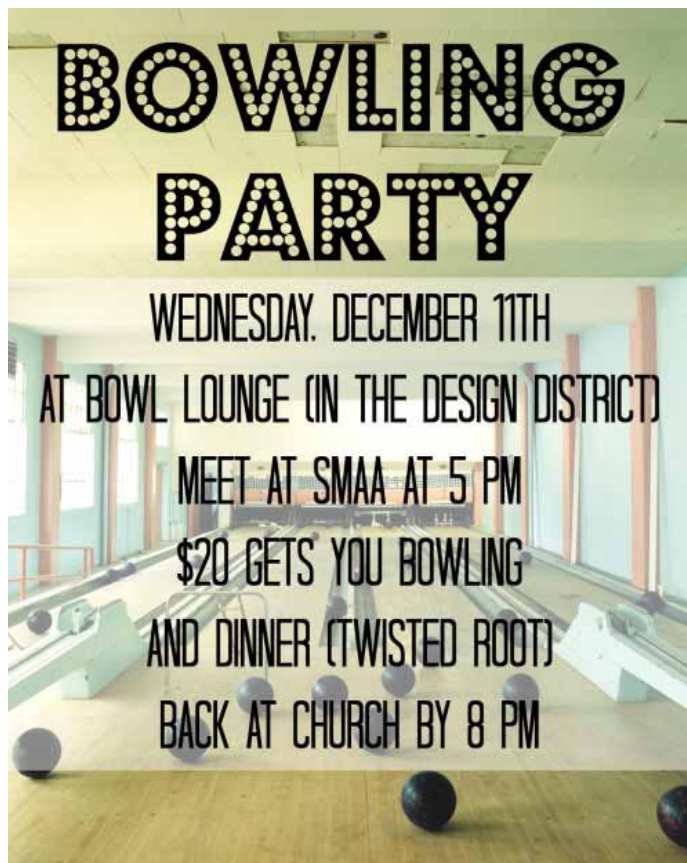
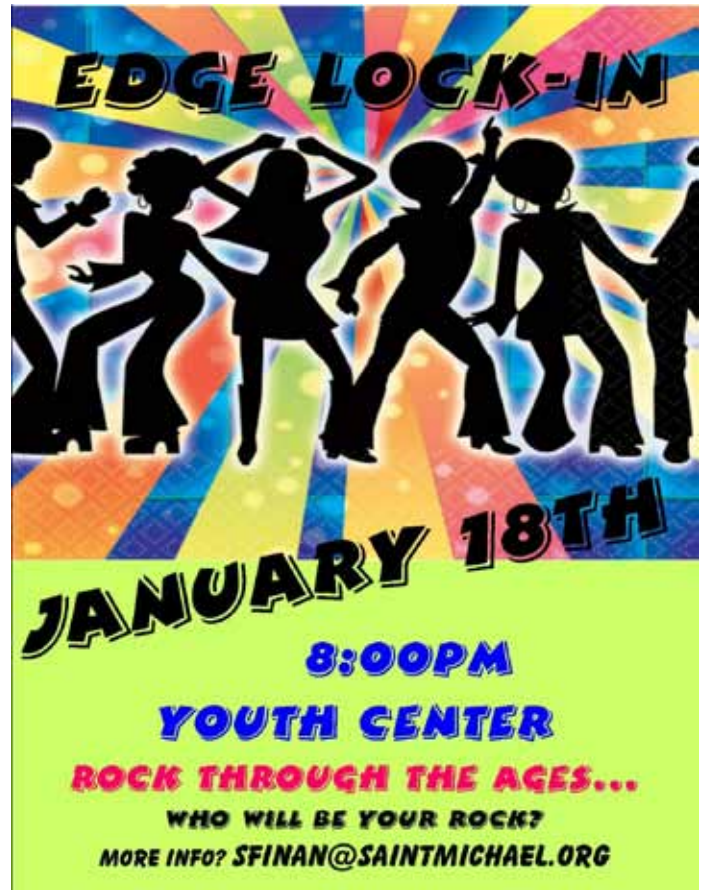
College Care Packages

The high school students will spend Wednesday evening, December 4 assembling and mailing care packages to Saint Michael college students as they prepare for finals. We would love to include any college students you know. Email carmstrong@saintmichael.org with their a mailing address and we'll make sure they get a care package.

Ignite Winter Retreat - January 17-19

The winter retreat has become a favorite tradition for many of Saint Michael's young people. This year we will travel to Camp All Saints on Lake Texoma where high school students and middle school students will spend time in intentional discipleship; leading and learning in Bible study, outside activities, and passionate worship.

All current 6-12th graders are invited, sign up at saintmichael.org/youth



Disciples serve at Jubilee

The 6th Grade Disciples (Confirmation) class recently ran a literacy fair for the students at Jubilee. 85 Saint Michael Disciples collected over 1,500 books. The Disciples then spent Saturday morning November 9 at Jubilee decorating book bags, making book marks, playing games in the field, and passing our books and sack lunches with all of the Jubilee students.





Grant Them Eternal Rest

Diane Owen King Burney Hughes, November 9, mother of Kendall Wilson and King Hughes, mother-in-law of D'Ann Hughes, grandmother of Lauren Savage, Jessica Savage, Alexandra Highes and King Hughes

Claudia Mozelle Cooper Wright, November 15, grandmother of Whitney Grogan, grandmother-in-law of Jay Grogan, great-grandmother of Will

Gene Grogan, November 19, father of Suzanne Lipscomb, father-in-law of Jay Lipscomb, grandfather of Will, Lisa, Maggie

Carolyn Hoffman Unsworth, November 21, mother of Lee Logan, mother-in-law of Bruce Logan

Dean Patrick Guerin, November 23, husband of Jo Guerin, father of Mark Guerin and Stephen Guerin father-in-law of Lee Guerin, grandfather of Shay, Alex, Julienne.

Edward Steele, November 23, father of Chris Steele, father-in-law of Connie Piloto Steele

Diseased Tree Removed for Safety

One of the Red Oak trees in front of the Church had to be removed recently because it was diseased and posed a safety problem. The tree had Hypoxylon Canker, a terminal disease unique to Red Oaks that is capable of spreading to other trees. It also had developed a major crack in one of its larger limbs that extended over the sidewalk, potentially endangering people walking under it.

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Stay Alert to God's Incarnation

moral outcries were different enough from "shut up" that they had a way of getting to us. In retrospect, it turns out that he was a prophet of Advent.

The Season of Advent is a medicine for our culture. It reminds us of our lack of fulfillment and our deeper longings as human beings. Rather than promise us instant gratification, Advent calls us to wait and watch, to be alert to God's Incarnation. Wreathes with candles to light and calendars with tiny windows and doors to open each day and daily prayers to share, significant outreach opportunities, Lessons and Carols, quiet mornings, liturgies for those experiencing loss, and Nativity pageants -- all reinforce the waiting and the expectancy.

St. Augustine (not Hallmark Cards) once wrote, "longing makes the heart grow deep." To recognize our longing makes us aware of the empty places in our hearts where there is room for the other to come. The other who is our family member or circle of friends. The other who is our brother or sister in need of love. The other who is someone very different from ourselves, someone possibly on the margins. The other who is Christ, the holy One for whom there was no room in the inn and who is still and always seeking a home in our hearts.

In the familiar pageant scene, can we imagine ourselves to be Wallace Purling who while playing the Inn Keeper is struck by the falsehood of his own edict: "There is no room in the Inn!", by turning quickly to Mary and Joseph and saying: "You can stay in my room, there's plenty of space!"

I invite us as a parish family to remove from the center of our lives whatever it is that distracts us from communion with God and one another -- and the neighbors who are not yet part of us. For this season is meant to be a family affair in which we can look at each other, find new communion in the longing of our hearts, and discover again the Christ in our midst, because Holy Gratification is on the way.

A holy Advent and Christmas to you and yours.

Bob Dannals, Rector

THE ARCHANGEL

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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

9:00 a.m. – Eucharist Rite II - Church

9:00 a.m. – Joy Mass - Parish Hall

9:00 a.m. – Discovery Mass - SMC

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School Classes
(Children and Adult)

11:00 a.m. – Eucharist Rite I – SMC

11:00 a.m. – Celebration Mass - Theater

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 Reverend 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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