

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF
SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

July 11, 2012

The regular meeting of the Vestry of Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church was held July 11, 2012.

Vestry members in attendance were: Christine Ashmore, Tony Briggie, Cindy Carter, Cliff Miercort, Stephanie Pearson, Grady Schleier, Van Sheets, Nancy Skochdopole, Ron Staffieri, Tom Stewart, Stewart Thomas, and Donnell Wiggins. Auxiliary members included Giffen Weinmann, John Wilson, Chancellor Robert Wilson and Clerk, Margaret Spellings. Guests included Rob Baber, Lowell Duncan, and Shelly Vescovo.

The Rector called the meeting to order at 4:35pm.

Minutes of the Prior Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the June 13, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

Adult Formation Ministry Report

Shelly Vescovo, Director of Adult Formation, presented a summary of the current work of Adult Formation to the Vestry. When introducing Shelly, the Rector expressed his gratitude for Shelly and her team, and their work in Adult Formation, which has been so effective for the church.

First, Shelly described the work of the Adult Formation Council. Scott Wilson will soon step down as chair, and Stephanie Embry will be chair for the following two years. Next, Shelly outlined the program for Adult Formation for next year. She provided a description of the wide variety of study groups that are available on each day of the week (which will also be available in the August Archangel). There will be four adult Sunday classes beginning in the fall 2012. The Church will host three Distinguished Lectures, in October, November and March. The Distinguished Lectures will be offered during the Sunday morning education hour, with a lunch to follow after the 11:00 service for those interested in attending.

In addition, the Church will host an Advent Retreat and a Lenten Retreat. Both retreats will take place on a Saturday at the Church. Two Workshops are planned, one on dreams and the other exploring spirituality and Beatles music. Shelly reported that the Foyer Supper Groups have been popular this year. To date, 13 groups have been formed, including 2 family groups. New groups will form in June and January. Finally, the Church offers Home Communion during Lent and Advent. The Adult Ministries team also publishes meditation booklets at Lent and Advent.

Finally, Shelly reported that Adult Ministries expects to be on-budget or just slightly over for the year. In response to a question, Shelly reported that while Sunday attendance is down (consistent with overall church attendance at SMAA and other churches), small groups have grown, Distinguished Lectures are well attended, and foyer groups have done very well. Shelly and her team are trying to find better ways to get feedback from parishioners regarding Adult Formation.

Finance Report

In Matt Waller's absence, Rob Baber gave the Finance Report. Rob passed around the Income Statement for the Church as of June 30, 2012. Rob reported that revenue is on budget, while YTD expenses are under budget.

Stewardship Report

John Wilson gave the report of the Stewardship Committee. John reported that the Committee currently has 13 members, with a goal of 14-15. John then passed out a timeline for the 2013 Stewardship Campaign, and discussed important dates. The Committee is working on a video to be used as part of the Campaign. It is also working on plans to form a men's auxiliary committee and a children's committee to support the Campaign.

Foundation Report

No report.

Building & Grounds Report

Tom Stewart reported that some work was being done on the new staircase by the parking lot. The plans for the new Columbarium are almost done, and then bids will be solicited for the project. Tom hopes that the Church will break ground on the Columbarium in September or October. Construction is expected to last about 6 months.

Plans for the new playground are also almost done and bids will also be solicited. The Church hopes to break ground within a month. Finally, plans for proposed improvements to the lanai have been obtained but the decision on whether to proceed with this project has been postponed.

Junior Warden's Report

Tony Briggles, the Junior Warden, and his wife, Marla, attended the 77th National Convention of the Episcopal Church held July 5-12 in Indianapolis. Tony and Marla represented the Presiding Bishop as hosts, and thus spent much time with the Bishops and other representatives at the Convention. Tony was impressed with the work of the national Episcopal Church on health, human rights, and other issues. After attending the Convention, he reported that a lot of good work is going on with the national Church that is not widely reported.

Senior Warden's Report

Van Sheets, the Senior Warden, outlined an issue that has arisen with respect to the underwriting donations that have been pledged to the Foundation to support the Columbarium. These donor funds are to be provided to the church to repay the construction loan on the Columbarium. After the loan is repaid, the church will give the Foundation the proceeds of niche sales, with the effect that ultimately the amount returned to the Foundation will be greater than the amount of the underwriting donations (which for simplicity have been called the "earnings" on the donations). Underwriters may designate the funds within the Foundation to which their donations will be allocated when the church returns the money to the Foundation. After 20 years the money will be moved to the Foundation's Unrestricted Fund. "Earnings" from the donations have been designated to a church maintenance fund. At least one donor family wants to designate their contribution an endowment fund in the Foundation, to be used for operating expenses of the Church. They ask that the Vestry also allow the "earnings" associated with their gift be designated to the endowment fund as well. They observe that the endowment fund is similar to a church maintenance fund, in that both serve general church purposes rather than a more narrowly defined mission.

This raises a question because the Amended and Restated Independence Policy, adopted by the Vestry and the Foundation in 2005, states that, in general, distributions from the Foundation should not be used for general operating expenses of the Church. However, the Amended and Restated Independence Policy provides that if a donor specifies that a donation is to be used for operating expenses, the Foundation may make such a distribution. If it appears that the Foundation may be a recipient of substantial funds with this designation, the Policy provides that the Vestry and the Foundation should reach a mutual agreement regarding the use of such funds.

The Senior Warden made a motion that (1) the Vestry allow a donor to designate that "earnings" on a donation for the Columbarium may go into an endowment to be used for general operating expenses, and (2) that a delegation of the Vestry meet with a delegation of the Foundation to develop proposed endowment fund guidelines for Vestry and Foundation approval. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Ron Staffieri, Van Sheets and Giffen Weinmann will be part of the committee of Vestry and Foundation members who will draft the proposed guidelines.

Rector's Report

Clergy: Lisa Flores and Brenda Sol are both off to a great start. Brenda will be ordained on August 1.

General Convention: Fr. Dannals posted a statement regarding the national liturgy for same-sex blessings on the Church's website. The statement says that the Bishop of Dallas will not allow same-sex blessings in our parish, and therefore the actions of the General Convention regarding same-sex blessings have no effect on our Church.

August Archangel from Adult Formation 2012

1. Weekday classes: Some Things New and Some Things Tried and True

Study Groups

Monday:

The Un-ending Conversation: (Julia Shoup and Anna Ramey Walker – Coke Activities Room, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. begins October 1st) For those of us who have been part of the church “forever” and want to know how and if the Christian emphasis/experience is changing, join us for a discussion of current books on the subject. Discussion emphasizes “the emerging church”. The first book is Christianity After Religion by Diana Butler Bass.

The Christian Search (Tom Rhodus - Chapel Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.) A small group discussion class based on books by contemporary Christian writers who are seeking to understand how our faith applies to how we live in the 21st century. The first book discussed is A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith by Brian McLaren.

Women and Christianity (Elizabeth Lang and Mary Ann Webster, Youth Café, 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.) Group discussion focuses on our personal and shared spiritual journey through study of contemporary books on the Christian Life. The first book is Christianity After Religion by Diana Butler Bass.)

Education for Ministry (EfM): Dr. Elizabeth Lang – Parlor, 6:30 p.m.-9:15 p.m.) EfM is an in-depth study of Old Testament, New Testament, Church History and Theology. Each week participants engage in prayerful discussion of readings in relation to our culture and personal growth. A process of Theological Reflection relates all readings to issues in society and to our personal spiritual journeys. The course requires a commitment of time and attendance. EfM is an extension course from Sewanee – The University of the South and the cost per year is \$350.00. Elizabeth Lang is a trained mentor for EfM and a trainer of mentors in the program.

Women – Word – Work (Emily Given and Lisbeth McNabb, 7:00-8:30 p.m., 1st and 3rd Mondays, Coke Activities Room) A gathering for community and study for working women. The current study is based on the Book of Psalms.

Tuesday:

Brown Bag Bible Study: (Peggy Carr and Effie McCullough - Coke Activities Room, 11:00 a.m. – noon. The class will read and discuss Psalms: Prayers of the Heart by Eugene Peterson.

Did Paul Write to Us?: I and II Corinthians (Shelly Vescovo - Chapel Conference Room, 11:00 a.m.-noon) If Paul were going to write a letter to the Dallasites, what would he have written? Can we read Paul's letters to the Corinthian church, written 2000 years ago and find messages on faith and living for 21st century Dallas? This no-homework Bible study

Saint Michael Readers' Book Club: (The Reverend Neal Hern - Parlor, 7:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m., 1st Tuesdays) Monthly gatherings to discuss a current book. Some books for the coming year are: Catherine by Robert Massey, The Photograph by Penelope Lively, Bel Canto by Anne Patchett, In The Bleak Midwinter by Julia Spencer-Fleming, Into the Free by Julie Cantrell.

A Good 5-Week Study: (Shelly Vescovo – Chapel Conference Room, 6:30-8:00 p.m.)

Discuss great books on Christianity in a short 5 weeks!

Oct. 2-30, 2012 Simply Christian by N.T. Wright

Jan. 8 – Feb. 5, 2013, Following Jesus in a culture of Fear by Scott Bader-Saye

Wednesday:

Women's Covenant Group: (Shelly Vescovo - Chapel Conference Room, 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.) Discussing a chapter per week of a book on spiritual growth, prayer, and experiences of lived Christian faith, this community shares our own journeys through the book study. Fall begins with discussion of the novel Forgiving Ararat by Gita Nazareth, followed by Who Will Be Saved? By Will Willimon.

Men's Lectionary Bible Study: (Coke Activities Room, 7:15 a.m.-8:15 a.m.) Shared leadership explores the relation of the coming Sunday's lessons to life today.

Imaging the Word Lectionary Bible Study: (Karen Wiley- Chapel Conference Room, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.) The Bible and the arts are inherently and historically linked. Since the 4th century, people have been guided by the lectionary's imaginative and disciplined journey through the Bible. This class uses visual arts, music, photography, prose, poetry, prayers and commentary to make scripture come alive.

Women of the Spirit :(Emily Given and Suzi Finan – Parlor, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.) A book discussion for women of all ages.

Taste and See Bible Study: (Greg Pickens – Coke Activities Room, 6:30-7:20 p.m., September 12 – November 17, 2012) Join a Bible study that explores the human connections between our Lord and our everyday life using stories, prayers, visual images, and music.

Thursday:

Conversations on Sunday's Readings: (Bob Penn and Stewart Thomas - Chapel Conference Room, 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.) In-depth lecture and discussion of the lessons for the coming Sunday.

Men's Lectionary Bible Study: (Shared leadership. Coordinator – David Loomis - Coke Activities Room, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.) Discussion of the week's scripture.

The Bible in Community: (The Reverend Pamela Theodore - Chapel Conference Room, 9:00-10:30 a.m.) This women's study group will begin the year discussing The Gospel of John.

Pursuing Purpose Book Study: (Marta H olden – Parlor, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Sept. 15 – Nov. 13, 2012) Explore what it means to find our life purpose in our Christian Faith. The first book discussed is If You Want To Walk on Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat by John Ortberg.

Friday:

Broaden the Arc of Your Devotion: (Carolyn Reding, M.A., M.A.R. – Youth Café, 9:30-1:00 a.m. , Sept. Sept. 14, - Nov. 16, 2012). Using Parker Palmer's book A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life, dramatist, educator, author, and poet Carolyn Reding , helps workshop members experience a new approach to reading and discovering new-found creativity through the prayers of Lectio Divina and journal writing. There will be two in-town field trips.

2. SUNDAY CLASSES

Four Sunday classes for adults are offered each week at Saint Michael, September - May, 10:00-10:45. The first Sunday of fall classes is September 16th, the Sunday after Homecoming. All classes are open to anyone interested in attending. Note: On Sundays when a Distinguished Lecture is featured, all adult classes combine in the Parish Hall.

THE RECTOR'S FORUM (Coke Activities Room)
"Life's Most Important Questions"

During the coming year the Rector and guests speakers will pose and respond to life's most stirring and transformative questions. Most people don't ask them out loud, but everyone has pondered these questions in their heart and mind at some point in their life. The responses will determine what our lives are and what they will become.

WORDS TO LIVE BY: The Bible and Everyday Life (Parlor)

Join in an exploration of how the words of scripture, both Old and New Testaments, speak to our lives today. Fr. Kevin Huddleston and guest speakers open up the familiar, and not so familiar, stories of the Bible, bringing the experiences, faith and questions of these stories into relevance for life in the 21st century.

PRESSURE POINTS: Real Decisions/Real Time(ESD Library)

Every day of our lives, we need to make decisions, both small and large. How does the Bible inform how we make these decisions? What does our faith as Episcopalians add to the conversation? Some presenters are Roy Heller, Pamela Theodore, Scott Bader-Saye, Bryan Elwood, and Lee Taft.

THE FAMILY FOUNDATIONS BIBLE STUDY (Parish Hall)

This class provides an adult-depth view of the same lessons being taught in both the Children and Family Ministry and Youth Ministry areas. The overall purpose is to form community where adult spiritual needs are met while providing talking points to start family faith conversations in the home.

3. DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

Saint Michael is honored to offer our parishioners and the Dallas community persons who are on the forefront of religious thought through their books, lectures, and the media. To make it possible for more people to conveniently hear these remarkable people, the Distinguished Lectures are now offered during the education hour on Sunday mornings. These presentations are at no charge. Speakers are invited to go into more depth at a second presentation offered over a lunch after the 11:00 service. This presentation and the lunch has a \$15.00 per person fee. For lunch reservations contact aescobedo@saintmichael.org or register on-line.

The 2012-2013 Distinguished Lecture Series features:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

"Laying Down the Sword: Why We Can't Ignore the Bible's Violent Verses" - how to move to a more spiritual and peaceful world.

DR. PHILIP JENKINS, Distinguished Professor of History, Institute of Studies of Religion, Baylor University, and author of *The Next Christendom: The Rise of Global Christianity*.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

"The Evidence for God: Dispatches from the Frontiers of Faith and Science" at 10:00

"Ask NPR: God, Science, and the Future of Religion" at lunch

BARBARA BRADKEY HAGERTY, award winning religion correspondent for National Public Radio and recipient of the Templeton-Cambridge Journalism Fellowship in Science and Religion. Author of Fingerprints of God: The Search for the Science of Spirituality.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2013

"Social Ethics for Social Justice: Renewing an Ecumenical Tradition" at 10:00

"Economic Democracy, Then and Now: Renewing an Ecumenical Tradition" at lunch

THE REV. DR. GARY DORRIEN, Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics at Union Theological Seminary and Professor of Religion at Columbia University; Episcopal priest, author of Social Ethics in the Making and Economy, Difference, Empire: Social Ethics for Social Justice.

4. RETREATS

a. ADVENT RETREAT

"While You Are Waiting For God: Live!"

When women carry a child, there are nine months of "waiting". But as the child grows, the mother continues to live. So it is in our spiritual lives when God is birthing something new in us, we live and move and have our being in God's world.

Saturday,, December 1, 2012

9:00 to noon

Led by The Rev. Frank Allen, rector of St. David's Episcopal Church in Wayne, PA.

b. LENT RETREAT

"Having The Time of Your Life"

Jesus promised us abundant life. This is within our grasp. Br. Curtis will speak about gratitude, kindness and encouragements, 3 practices that open the door of our heart to delight.

Saturday, February 9, 2013

9:00-noon

Led by Br. Curtis Almquist of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist

5. WORKSHOPS (separate articles)

a. DREAMS: GOD'S FORGOTTEN LANGUAGE

Saturday, November 3, 9:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m., Parlor. \$10 per person.

Have you ever awoken from a dream and wondered what it meant? Are dreams only a function of our fantasies, filled with undecipherable symbols from daily life?

Or are they perhaps more?

The Old and New Testaments are filled with divinely sent dreams and visions of wise men and prophets, sinners and saints. Yet, in our churches today we only read about the dreams of early

Christians or occasionally hear about them from the pulpit. We seem to have lost touch with our own dreams on many levels, especially in how they can connect us with God.

Analyst John Sanford says:

We Christians are afraid today of that very soul from which our heritage springs; we want creeds, not religious experiences; and dogma, not inspiration. Above all, we refuse to accept the non-rational unconscious because it threatens the tyranny of rationality that has gripped us today.

This workshop focuses on the meaning and significance of dreams, providing a structure for understanding the symbolism and meaning of dreams for our lives and for giving us the inherent hope for the future they carry.

The presenter and discussion leader is Dr. Donna Cozort, member of Saint Michael, is a clinical psychologist and Jungian analyst. She is a diplomate of the C.G. Jung Institute of Zurich. She works with Jungian training locally and nationally. And, she is a long time member of the choir at Saint Michael.

b. GETTING SPIRITUAL WITH THE BEATLES

Saturday, January 26, 2013, 9:00 – 3:00, Youth Center. \$15.00 per person included lunch.

For everyone who feels like they work “Eight Days a Week”,
And
For those who occasionally feel overwhelmed and want to cry out “Help!”,

This retreat is for you.

It is also for those romantics and/or grandparents whose hearts skip a beat when loved ones say, “I Want To Hold Your Hand”.

The Beatles lives and songs lead us to ponder God’s providence and redemption in new and meaningful ways through the gift of music, rhythm, and the poetry of the lyrics. The day will full of fun, hope, and promise. The day will be spent in conversation and reflection as we enjoy some of our favorite songs.

The Rev. Dr. Fran Shelton is a spiritual director at the Pastoral Counseling Center of Dallas. She was formerly at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church where through her efforts among others, the Faith and Grief Lunches, in which Saint Michael participated, originated. She received her M.Div. and her D. Min. from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

6. FOYER

Foyer Supper Groups are:

The great way to make new friends,
Enjoy good conversation,

Savor the best of home cooking,
Make a big church small.

Groups will meet monthly for a meal and fellowship in the home of one of the members. Groups of 8-10 are put together randomly (though you can make specific requests) so that we can get to know parishioners we might not otherwise meet and renew on-going friendships. Generally, the host provides the main course with the other members filling in the rest of the meal.

New small groups form twice a year in June and January, but you're welcome to join anytime. The first gathering of each 6month period is a combined meeting over dinner and with a speaker at the church.

There is no agenda or plan – just casual fellowship.

Three of groups are available, made up of:

1. Families with children attending the dinner
2. A cross section of Saint Michael adults

Join a Foyer Supper Club!
A new exciting fellowship opportunity.

7. HOME COMMUNIONS

During Advent and Lent each year, Saint Michael offers Home Communion. These informal evenings center around Eucharist celebrated in parishioners homes and are followed typically by light refreshments or a simple meal. All Home Communion begin at 6:00 on a weekday and are presided over by one of our parish clergy.

The earliest Christian fellowships began in homes. If you would like to invite your friends, neighbors, and parishioners who live around you to enjoy a Home Eucharist, please contact Abby Escobedo in Adult Formation at aescobedo@saintmichael.org. For Advent, please contact her prior to October 15.

I have asked Prime Timers and SIPS to send you an article on their activities for the fall.

8. Prime Timers article being sent by Ruth Mason

9. Singles in Prime (SIPS) article being sent by Cherri Oakley and/or Shannon Callewart
And in case NOT:

Singles in Prime provides a way for single adults 50+ to gather for fun and fellowship. Beginning with a Kick-Off party for dinner at Matito's on Sunday, September 9th, monthly

fellowship events are planned September through May. In addition, SIPS offers seasonal Home Communion for friends and neighbors during Advent and Lent.