

THE MESSENGER

Mailed December 16, 2010

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Christmas Services



December 24 Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm Children's Service with Nativity Play and Eucharist
- 7:30 pm Bilingual (English/Spanish) Eucharist with carols
- 10:30 pm Carols with choir and congregation
- 11:00 pm Christmas Candlelight Festival Eucharist

December 25 Christmas Day

- 10:30 am Eucharist with carols

December 26

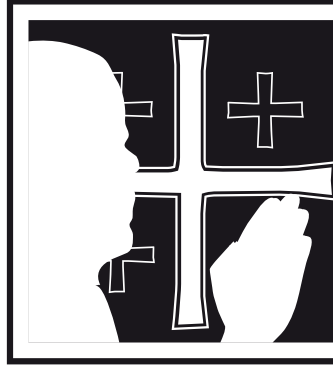
The First Sunday after Christmas Day

- 10:00 am One service today – Eucharist with carols
- 1:00 pm Eucaristía en Español

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Gloria Orellana, Associate for Administration	Ext. 317	David Berkson, Associate for Ministry with Youth	Ext. 319
Scott Tuomi, Music Director	Ext. 315		

Your Prayers Are Asked For...

- + Healing for LARRY STREET, PATTI and STEVE EVANS, LAURA LIEN, ARLA UNGER, and GERRI WISE
- + The engagement of CASH HENRY and SUNDANCE WILSON, to be married in 2011
- + BROOKS SCHAENER and his co-workers, who were laid off in early December
- + The coming ordination of GABE LAMAZARES on January 8, 2011
- + The repose of the soul of Dr. Don Hager and for his daughter and son-in-law CHER and DAVID DONNELL as they mourn
- + The risky actions that make for peace in places of conflict throughout the world



Tickling your Tastebuds

As we tickle your tastebuds at Sunday Lunch, please don't forget to tickle the donation basket. These donations make it possible for us to provide the little extras like salad that enhance the delicious soups and casseroles provided by you, the stellar cooks of our community.

— Lucretia Gardner & Terrie Ingram,
Sunday Lunch Co-Coordinator

Library Ministry Meeting

Is there a ministry for the parish library? There could be, with your help. If you'd like to be part of this ministry, there will be a one-time meeting on January 22, 2011, in the library. Please contact Josh English at 503/406-8364 or Joshua.R.English@gmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Deadlines

For the Messenger, articles are due by **January 12**. Please send them to me at gloria@stmaa.org as an attachment or in the body of the email. If you don't have access to email, you may drop them by the office or mail them.

Annual Reports are due by Friday, **January 14**. Committee chairs, group leaders, Vestry officers, and staff are asked to have their narrative reports to me by then. You can take a look at last year's Annual Report to see what ministries are listed and to know what information to include. You can find it on our website, www.stmaa.org, under *Our Parish*.

— Gloria Orellana

Assistant Rector's Corner

Some of you may have noticed that I was away from Portland the last week of November. I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about what I was up to and its importance for the larger church.

The 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church passed a Resolution C056, charging the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) with several tasks regarding the blessing of same-sex unions, among them (1) "collect and develop theological and liturgical resources for the blessing of same gender relationships;" and (2) "devise an open process for the conduct of its work inviting participation from provinces, diocese, congregations, and individuals who are engaged in such theological work, and inviting theological reflection from throughout the Anglican Communion."

I have had the immense good fortune to be appointed by the SCLM to a task group charged with developing the theological resources that are requested by the resolution for review by General Convention. So I spent four days at a retreat center in Burlingame, California, sitting around a table with four academic theologians and biblical scholars, two bishops, and the rector of a church in Albuquerque, NM, brainstorming and theorizing and arguing about the biblical and theological underpinnings for blessing the unions of two people of the same gender.

Personally, I believe I was cast in the role of the ingénue! But I think I bring several qualities and experiences to the table that are valuable. First, Terry and I actually had a blessing of our union in North Carolina at our home parish in 2007, so I'm very clear about what some of the pastoral needs of couples seeking rites of blessing might be and what the importance of having them might be. I was also one of the younger folk around the table and the only Latino individual in attendance. Though I sometimes felt out of my depth, it was fun to bandy about theological ideas with some very smart, engaging people with a great deal of passion for the Gospel.

In addition, I brought my experience here at St. Michael's and all of the wonderful people I know here. The task groups will continue our work until the next General Convention in 2012. Until then, I hope to have many more clarifying conversations with you about what you think about this work and how we can incorporate the many faces of the Episcopal Church's diversity in our final product. The SCLM is committed to making the process as open and transparent as possible. If you'd like to participate in the conversation, let me know or visit the SCLM's blog at <http://liturgyandmusic.wordpress.com>.



New Testament Brown-Bag Study Resumes in January

The Wednesday lunch and discussion group will resume January 5 and run through March 2 on Wednesdays from 11:15 am - 12:15 pm. We will cover the remaining eight lessons of the lecture series taught by Professor Bart D. Ehrman, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Each video lasts 30 minutes and is followed by 30 minutes of discussion. Topics include Paul's Letter to the Romans; Paul, Jesus & James; The Deutero-Pauline Epistles; The Pastoral Epistles; The Book of Hebrews and the Rise of Christian Anti-Semitism; First Peter and the Persecution of the Early Christians; The Book of Revelation; and Do We Have the Original New Testament? An extra session – exact date to be determined – has been included to enjoy a potluck lunch for fellowship and to discuss where we want to go from here.

It is not necessary to have attended previous sessions to participate, so please join us anytime! Contact Anna Zeigler at aezeigler@comcast.net for more information.

January Book Group Focuses on Faith and Healing

In January, the St. Michael's Book Group will read *A Whole New Life* by Reynolds Price. Subtitled *An Illness and a Healing*, it is a rare work of autobiography by one of the finest American writers of our time. He writes eloquently about his diagnosis with spinal cancer, surgery, treatment, and subsequent paralysis. Price uses exquisite language to tell a searing (and ultimately soaring) story of faith challenged and reborn in the crucible of illness. We will gather on January 20 at 7:00 pm at St. Michael's House for lively discussion. Books are available in the church office for \$10 each.



Save the Date!

EMO's Interfaith Network for Earth Concerns will be hosting an Earth Care Summit on January 31, 2011, from 6:00 to 8:45 pm, at Neveh Shalom, 2900 SW Peaceful Lane, Portland. All congregations throughout Oregon and SW Washington who are interested in caring for creation are invited to this celebration and gathering of congregations going green. Registration forms can be found at http://www.emoregon.org/emo_events.php, or you may call Alison at 503/221-1054, ext. 210. Please check January's Messenger for more details.

Some Friendly Reminders

With my bookkeeper's hat on, I'd like to remind St Michael's parishioners of a few items:

Your last contribution of the year MUST be physically in the church or postmarked by December 31 for it to be included on your 2010 giving statement.

While many of you like to use giving envelopes for your contributions, others would rather not receive them because you use some form of bill pay or ACH, or perhaps you have a tendency to misplace your envelopes (like me). If I didn't hear by the end of October that you wanted to opt out of using envelopes, they have been sent directly to your address from our envelope company. Please recycle whatever envelopes you won't need. I'll be asking the envelope question again next October.

You can find number-free envelope booklets containing just the "specials" for 2011 in the Gallery. We also provide pew envelopes, which can be used by visitors and parishioners alike for privacy and/or to indicate a name, pledge number or special intention for your contribution.

Your envelope number will be the same as this year's if it is 499 or below. For new folks, your pledge acknowledgement will contain your giving number. And nothing would make our dedicated volunteer counters happier than if you would write that number on your check or envelope!

Last but not least, your year-end giving statement will be mailed to you around the second week of January. Please take a moment to look it over and get back to me with any corrections that need to be made. After I close the financial year, I can't go back and make changes to the 2010 records.

As always, you can reach me with questions or concerns at 503/284-7141 or gloriao@stmaa.org. Thank you for being part of this very generous community!

— Gloria Orellana

Home Meal Preparation and Delivery Ministry

Sometimes the presence of Christ is best conveyed by a delicious casserole! Have you or someone else associated with the parish experienced a death or hospitalization or the arrival of a new baby? Amy Valentine and Peggy Gulick head up the team charged with bringing short-term meal support to individuals and households coping with a difficult time. We'll be on the lookout, but it would help if you would let us know who might especially benefit from this kind of ministry. If you have someone in mind, please contact one of the clergy.

Meet the Candidates for Vestry

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Junior Warden Susie Silva-Strommer, is pleased to submit these nominees for election to the Vestry. The four candidates elected will each serve a three-year term on the Vestry which, with the staff, rector and assistant rector, comprise the leadership team at St. Michael's. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2011, at 3:00 pm. There will be an opportunity to listen to the candidates' presentations and ask questions at the FORUM on January 23 at 10:10 am.

Orin D. Bolstad

I have been attending St. Michael's for the past 12 years along with my wife Catherine, my daughter Leah, 30, and occasionally my son Justin, 33. Previously, we attended All Saints Episcopal Church on SE Woodstock, where I served two terms on the Vestry. I am very proud to be a member of St. Michael's. I have been pleased to be associated with a parish that is so active and involved in the greater community, providing service, outreach, and advocating for justice. For the past year, I have been privileged to assist in the development of an emerging partnership relationship between St. Michael's and the Midtown branch of Department of Human Services (Child Welfare) in the service of foster children in our local community. This partnership has included a Christmas party for foster children and their parents, Teddy bear and Giving Tree Donations, and school supplies and backpacks for foster children. I hope our parish can continue to develop ways to serve this very needy population.



As a Christian, I am most moved by the value of Christian service to those in need (Matthew 25: 35-40). If I am elected to the Vestry, I would support St. Michael's tradition of service and advocacy for children in need. I would also bring my background as a child clinical psychologist and my history of management of non-profit organizations (CEO of Morrison Center for Children, Youth and Families; Director of Friends of the Children). Being on the Vestry also would help me to get more involved in St. Michael's and to feel more integrated in this very special place.

Mike Di Blasi

I moved to Portland with my partner Scott six years ago and have been attending St Michael's for five years. Since coming to St Michael's, I have been involved with St. Michael's Singers, Takes the Fifth, and the Red Door Four.

I am an architect and builder. When I served on the Vestry at my church in Boston, I was part of the property committee concerned with maintaining and improving the church's buildings and physical plant. I would be interested in continuing to be involved in those issues at St Michael's on the Vestry.



When not singing, much of my time is taken up with home-renovation projects, traveling to the beach and ski slopes and, of course, party-planning.

Ron Geason

In considering my candidacy for the Vestry, the following may be important:

My early years, born of strong peasant stock in Wisconsin, read like a Garrison Keillor novel. After four years of Saturday Catechism in the Lutheran Church, our Catechumenate process was wonderful. My Christian faith remains strong and maturing.

My general career interest is public administration with a focus on supporting services (education, healthcare, and poverty programs) that make a difference in the lives of the disenfranchised.



I have been attending St. Michael's since 1998 and love my church home. I was a youth-group coordinator for two years and enjoyed leading outreach efforts for our youth to Hollywood East and Oregon Food Bank. I traveled to Nicaragua in 2007 through El Porvenir and am the current EP liaison for Oregon Friends of El Porvenir. I have been a Catechumenate candidate and sponsor. I have enjoyed serving as a greeter/bouncer for the 2nd Saturday Lunch and am trying to launch a prison ministry effort with the Columbia River Correctional facility. Many of you have been riding with our Cycle Oregon team and me on Sauvie Island to the benefit of our Saturday Lunch Programs.

I am an avid fly-fisherman, tennis fanatic and bicyclist. My gifts include a commitment to St. Michael's and skill in finance, administration, planning, and consensus-building. I have four wonderful children — Hannah, a senior at Grant, is the youngest — and seven grandchildren.

Susan Marie

I grew up Catholic in a small Minnesota cornfield town. The Mass and charismatic prayer group were my rock and joy and, as Father John said upon our meeting years ago, "my journey deepened." After college, I felt unconnected to a spiritual community. I stopped going to church for a while. I visited a variety of denominations. I "held the silence" with a Quaker community for a decade. And then, about 12 years ago, my partner Margaret Thiele and I were drawn into St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City. It felt like home. So when we moved to Portland nine years ago and stepped inside our wonderful red doors, we knew we were really "home." I have come to know and appreciate the depth and variety of people here — many wonderfully different lives, needs, values and aspirations, yet brought into this miracle of community by the Spirit. I have participated in our community in a number of different ways, from St. Michael's Singers, to dishing up spaghetti lunch on Saturdays, to Catechumenate, to Centering Prayer.



I would be honored to serve on our Vestry. What might I bring? I smile easily. I have school board and leadership experience with budgeting, conflict resolution, planning — those kinds of things. I enjoy it. I bring an ability to listen

and understand varying perspectives on an issue. I am able to think through possible "unintended consequences" of decisions being considered. I don't talk about things confidentially shared. And I have the time and energy needed to serve. After staying in Ecuador last year, I deepened my appreciation for our vibrant 1:00 community. But most important, I sense a "yes" deep inside, the Spirit nudging, if you will. And so I try to listen, and take whatever that "next step" is on the journey deepening my faith walk and relying on God.

Martha Perez

I was born and raised in Puebla, Mexico. I moved to the U.S. in 1993 and have lived in Portland ever since. I joined St. Michael's 12 years ago and was received into the church by the bishop two years ago. I have been active in the ministry to children during the 1:00 pm misa by teaching the Children's



Liturgy of the Word and have recently been trained in Godly Play. I am also active in the many special activities such as the Altar de los Muertos.

I have a strong faith in God. I enjoy learning new things and feel that serving on Vestry will give me the opportunity to learn more about and to serve St. Michael's. I believe that being a member of the Vestry will also

give me the opportunity to represent the Spanish-speaking community at St. Michael's and to work toward greater unity between the Spanish- and English-speaking members of our church.

I enjoy reading and spending time with my two sons, Kevin and Eder, and my husband Abel. I also enjoy the company of my 14-year old-dog named Lucky and our new kitten named Junior.

Kathleen Rose

I was raised in a tight-laced Norwegian Lutheran home. As a young adult, I followed an even more fundamental faith tradition. Disillusioned, I left the church for several years. As my heart softened, I began to hope I could find an inclusive and welcoming faith community — and I did!



I was drawn to St. Michael's in the summer of 2005, and the Catechumenate process brought me all the way home. With the love and support of fellow candidates, a transformative spiritual strength brought me out of my shell. I started showing up more often. I worked on fundraising, sponsored a Catechumenate candidate, and helped with several receptions.

Professionally, I work in non-profit administration and currently am a program coordinator at Legacy Health Good Samaritan in the residency-training program. Activities in my down time include quilting, reading, long walks and coffee with friends.

And now the next step: the Vestry. I would be honored to serve where I can share more of my talents. As the Vestry plans and leads, I pray others will be transformed by the Holy Spirit within and amongst this community. I certainly have been!

Wendi Schaener

I started calling St. Michael & All Angels my home when I was two years old. My parents were married in the chapel on my third birthday, and the next day Dad and I were baptized together. My journey has taken me to Catholicism and back only to be warmly “welcomed home” by Fr. John and my fellow St. Michael's family members.



I have served one full term on the Vestry and was the Junior Warden with Ann Hargraves as Senior Warden. I was lucky enough to complete Michael Sagun's last year on the Vestry this year, and I have enjoyed being a part of the action and able to serve my church home in this way.

You might think that, after being here off and on since I was two, I am not a “newcomer” and am just one of the “old-timers.” That couldn't be further from the truth. I am experiencing St. Michael's in a new way and with new eyes ever since marrying my husband Brooks on May 16, 2009. We are having a great time involving ourselves in new and old ministries together. I sing in the St. Michael's Singers and Chamber Choir, we serve together at the Community Meal the last Saturday of the month, we are starting to dive into youth ministries, and we deliver food from Trader Joe's to the Salvation Army every other Saturday morning. Serving on the Vestry this year has reawakened my passion for doing everything I can to contribute my time and talents to St. Michael's and give back as much as I can to the community, home and family who have been there for me through thick and thin, happy and sad, all these years.

I would love the opportunity to serve you for a full term on the Vestry.

Bob Tongue

I first attended St. Michael's in about 1960. My earliest memories are of participating in the Christmas play and attending variety shows in the Children's Chapel. As a youngster, I spend seven years as a member of the Men & Boys Choir until our family moved to Salem.

Fast forward to the 1990s when I returned to Portland with my wife, Mary, and son, Sam. After a couple of years of looking, we found ourselves back home at St. Michael's.

Over the years, I have found joy in trips to Nicaragua with El Porvenir, singing in the choir, and as a member of the Discernment Committee, which searched for candidates to be our next rector. There have also been so many wonderful shared celebrations, meals, and even a wild night of Bunco.

What made me start thinking about serving on the Vestry, though, is the personal connection to both old friends and new. The St. Michael's community has supported my family and me, and I pray for the opportunity to give more in return.



Recovery Ministry

Circle of Faith evening prayer continues. All are invited to join us every Monday evening at 6:00 pm in the Chapel where we gather to share our experience, strength and hope with each other in sobriety and recovery. On the first Monday of every month, *Circle of Faith* offers a Recovery Eucharist. Wherever you find yourself in this journey, please join us in the unity of the Holy Spirit as we travel this road of happy destiny together.

St. Michael & All Angels Recovery Ministry exists to support those who desire a renewal of faith and life through recovery and understanding of drug, alcohol, and other addictions. Through education and trust-building, we work to develop an environment where support, hope, and understanding are available to all.

— Kevin Warren

Winter Term Begins for ESL

English as a Second Language classes will start again on January 11, 2011, and run through March 29. Tutors and students are always welcome. Please contact Cathy Searls at searls@comcast.net for more information.

Upcoming El Porvenir Events

The El Porvenir *Rice and Beans* friend-raiser and fund-raiser dinner and auction, hosted by your St. Michael's EP ministry team and Portland Friends of El Porvenir, will be held on Saturday night, May 14, 2011, at St. Michael's. We hope to have several surprise guests to pique your interest. If you have been to Nicaragua on a work brigade, come and share memories of your experiences. If you haven't been yet, come and learn about El Porvenir, including what the organization has accomplished in 20 years and how you can get involved. And, of course, there will be delicious food, items and crafts "made in Nicaragua" for purchase, music and lots of fun and laughter.

Are you looking for an opportunity to go to Nicaragua with a work group from St. Michael's? Good news! A 10-day trip in the summer of 2011 (July 2-11) will provide an opportunity for youth/young adults and their parents to build lavaderos and baños with villagers in a rural area. If you are in high school or college, or a parent of one of our youth, think about joining with family and friends on this trip. And more good news! Would you prefer a work trip that will take you away from Portland in the winter? Be the first to sign up for the work group that will go to Nicaragua January 7-21, 2012. Sign-up sheets for both trips are in the Gallery.

If you have any questions, please contact Bev Hoefler at hoefberb@msn.com, Ron Geason at rwgeason@comcast.net, or Joy Young at grin4joy@yahoo.com for more information.

Joyful News January 2011

...heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies."

January 2: Celebrate Epiphany with a visit from the Three Kings on Sunday morning! Come to the Nativity Hall at 10:10 am and meet the travelers from the east who followed the star.

January 9: Baptisms and festive receptions after the 9:00 and 11:00 liturgies.

January 12: Joyful Noise Art Center begins its ten-week winter term. Students in grades 1-5 meet Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-5:00 pm for an after-school snack and art class with teacher Julie Jetton. Tuition is \$50 per student. Everyone welcome!

January 15: Family Worship Service, Saturday at 5:00 pm in the Nativity Hall followed by a potluck feast! This liturgy is designed for families with young children to worship together in a relaxed and joyful circle of prayer, stories, songs and thanksgiving.

Looking ahead...

February 6: Souper Bowl of Caring! All monies raised on Souper Bowl Sunday go directly to our local NE Emergency Food Program to help our hungry neighbors.

February 26: Children's Day at the Cathedral. Don't miss this year's event, *Saints Alive!*

— Leslie Sackett,

Associate for Ministry with Children & Families

Employment Network Luncheon

We continue to gather and support one another as we navigate through these challenging economic times in search of gainful, meaningful employment. Please join us every Monday at noon in the Parish Hall where we share job-search tips, resources and feedback to those of us who are seeking new employment opportunities. Wherever you find yourself in this journey, all are welcome to participate and offer their experience and expertise. When one of us succeeds, we all succeed.

— Kevin Warren

Position Available

Shared Joy BRingers Handbell Choir is seeking an interim ringer to fill in for an 18-month period beginning in January. One of our ringers is beginning an MBA program. No musical background is needed, although it would be helpful.

Please contact Christine Weber-Kearney at 503/901-3117 for more information regarding this ministry.

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Calendar Highlights

- DECEMBER 19 FORUM 10:10 am Carol Sing**
3:30 pm Christmas Caroling - meet at St. Michael's House
- DECEMBER 21 12:10 pm Advent Concert featuring Audrey Sackett, followed by lunch in the Parish Hall**
7:00 pm Longest Night Prayer Service
- DECEMBER 27 & 31 Church Office Closed**
- JANUARY 2 Regular schedule – 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 am & 1:00 pm (Spanish)**
FORUM 10:10 am Arrival of the Three Kings & Epiphany Cake
- JANUARY 8 4:00 pm Ordination of Gabriel Lamazares**
- JANUARY 10 7:00 pm Taizé Service**

PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE FOR A FULL OFFERING OF
UPCOMING SERVICES, EVENTS, AND CLASSES:
WWW.STMAA.ORG



**Holiday Office Closures
and Inclement Weather Plan**

The church office will observe the following holiday closures:

- December 27 (for Christmas Day)
- December 31 (for New Year's Day)
- January 17 (for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Please do not risk an accident or injury in icy or snowy conditions to attend a church event or worship service. The parish staff will use the following guidelines:

Weekdays: If Portland Public Schools are closed for ice or snow, the church office will be closed. Evening events will most likely be cancelled or postponed.

Sundays and weekend events: If other area churches and institutions are closed for wintry weather, then St. Michael's will likely be closed. We will post closure information on the church website and update the message on the telephone system. We will also post closure information on local media websites.