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The Sword



Your weekly connection with St. Michael's Episcopal Church

6 December 2012

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This Sunday and This Week At St. Michael's

+Food for the Journey at 10:05 am, *read more below...*
+Lessons and Carols at 5:00 p.m., *read more below...*
+Wednesday Evening Advent Offering, Dream Workshop,
6:30 p.m., *read more below...*

Dear Father Kevin,
Advent is...

a letter to the people of St. Michael's from Nerissa Brueckbauer

Last weekend at St. Michael's the following was observed:

The altar guild here en masse readying the church for Advent.

Kristen Krueger and Vicki Ridges melting the wax out of the
votives of the aisle-labras in the stove in the kitchen.

Diane Clancy on the floor diligently cleaning something.

Laurie Bateman walking by and offering coffee and words of
encouragement.

Ann Ryba, Ruth Silver, Jane Dawson and a dozen more
(probably an exaggeration -but a lot) tightly packed in the
flower room behind the icon working and working.

30 children answering the casting call for the Advent Pageant
and patiently rehearsing for an hour and a half.

And All the Angels sending over \$1,000 worth of Teen Study
Bibles and gift cards as a donation to LYDIA HOME with the
youth travelling to LYDIA Home to do service.

Nine youth and three adult St. Michael's volunteers building
250 packing boxes to receive gifts for the children of LYDIA
Home in under 40 minutes. The only sound you heard was the

Ministry Quicklinks

- Our Website

Did You Know?

....the white ribbon encircling the pine tree, the "Advent" Christmas tree, in the chapel is a continuation of the white streak running throughout the stained glass windows in the nave and represents the Holy Spirit as on the blue vestments? The red yarn coming from the descending dove at the top of the tree symbolizes the Grace of God. The larger ornaments reflect the Advent Gospels depicted in the first three windows - the Annunciation, the Visitation, and the Nativity.

The ornaments on the "Advent" tree each have a special meaning. The first figure is the angel Gabriel sent from God with the good news to Elizabeth and then to Mary. The second one is a circle with a shell within it representing an expectant Elizabeth.

Third is the Fleur-de-lis, symbol of Mary,

screeching of tape coming off the rolls and the tossing of cardboard packing boxes as they were folded and taped and stacked.

The laughter of a congregation as Father Patrick wondered aloud with the children at the 9:00 a.m. service, "Where is Father Kevin?" The waiting.

The selfless service and acting talents of Amanda Dern, Grace Guthrie and Jack Longo who presented the skit in the Community Room at the beginning of the Advent Celebration.

Laura Dern, Jennifer Tarulis, Mary Mathison and Renee Blue immediately coming to my aid and saying "yes" when I asked for their help at each of the tables at the Advent Celebration.

And so much more by so many more.

Dear Father Kevin, to me, Advent is...the hearts and the hands of the people of St. Michael's.

Peace and quiet in the waiting this Advent,
nerissa

In the Parish family

+Those for whom prayers have been requested:
Judie; Father Orpen; John; The Anderson Family; Steve; Dolores; Mary; Stanley & family; Nancy; Paulette; Sarah; Doris; Dave; the parish of St. Marc's & community of Jeannette, Haiti; Bishop Joseph, Roda, Michele & Grace; Amy; Families in Crisis at Church of the Redeemer; military troops in danger including those from our parish, especially, Zane, Robert, Ryan, Michael, Bruce, and Taylor.

+**Chloe Warner** and **Grace Guthrie** had works of original art featured in the *2012 Journal of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, an international journal that is published yearly by the National Association of the Good Shepherd. Their artwork may also be viewed in color on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd website: cgsusa.org. We are so proud of you, Chloe and Grace!

+Kathy Mangan's (son-in-law, Casey, and grandson, Patrick) mother died last week in LaGrange. Kathy shared the information they forwarded to the newspapers. Katherine Gail Maca (Dunne) died peacefully surrounded by her family on Wednesday, November 28th, in LaGrange Park, Illinois, at the age of 79. She was married to her late husband, Paul Donald, for 57 wonderful years. She is survived by daughters Katherine Mangan (Casey) of Barrington, Illinois, Marjorie Surpress (James) of Northfield, Illinois, and Sarah Maca (Alex Alimanestianu) of Larchmont, New York;

depicted with a Chi-Rho, a Greek Symbol for Jesus, and the fourth item is the large shell of John the Baptist "preaching a baptism of the repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

Next is the manger with the Christ child on the first day of Christmas with the star that guided the Wisemen to that stable in Bethlehem.
-Ruth Silver

Anniversaries This Week

Birthdays

12.9 Kate Imhoff
12.10 Jerry Conners, Patrick Raymond, David Larson
12.11 Vickie Johnson
12.12 John Kazmier, Ben Michaels
12.13 Randy Lewis, Jerry Seyffert, Colleen Maire, Brehan Bonham
12.14 Charlie Baartz, Natalie Scotti, Hayley Eissler
12.15 Monique Cressey, Daniel Eftax, Peyton Tilly, Forest Mayberry, Brian Summerfield, Ella Holtermann

grandchildren Mallory, Trey, Patrick, Charlotte, Eric and Henry; brother-in-law Allan Leigh Maca and nephew Allan; sister and brother-in-law, Joan and Doug Weart, and their children. A memorial service will be held on Friday, December 21st at 10:30 am at the First Congregational Church of Western Springs, 1160 Chestnut Street, in Western Springs.



Advent Quiet Day: A New Year: Beginning again

Matthew 13:52 Jesus, speaking to his disciples, said: Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it. (Matthew 13:52, The Message)
Advent begins the new church year. Mary is pregnant, on her way to Bethlehem with Joseph. John the Baptist is inviting us to prepare the way for Jesus' arrival. We bring with us what we have acquired before. We seek what new beginnings might mean for each of us. What do we bring out of the storehouse this year? What have we brought before? What new things, what new way of seeing, do we bring this year?

Catharine Phillips will be leading the **Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, 8 December, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; this retreat is for men and women!** She has been an Episcopal priest for almost thirty years, serving in a variety of settings. She is currently a spiritual director and psychotherapist in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. She loves to write and seek God wherever she is.

Food for the Journey, Sunday, 9 December, 10:05
"When Thanksgiving Day is not enough"
If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you', that would suffice. - Meister Eckart

Rest in Peace

12.9 Alice Dally

12.14 Jacqueline

Marie Martin

What does it mean to be a thankful person? How does that translate into living a grateful life each and every day? What difference can intentionally expressing our gratitude have on our lives? Come explore these ideas in a conversation with Father Jim Bullion.



The Peaceable Kingdom, Artist Edward Hicks, oil

Advent Pageant, Sunday, 16 December, 9:00
The Peaceable Kingdom of God by Isaiah, the
Prophet (and Friends)

Please join us for the Advent Pageant where the children of the Church School and the Middle School will involve the congregation in Isaiah's vision. To see, appreciate and connect our lives with God, one another and our world in the context of the portions of our salvation story represented by Isaiah and in the context of the Christian season of Advent and the coming of the Messiah!

St. Michael's Episcopal Church Presents
 Advent Lessons and Carols
 Sunday, December 9, 2012
 5:00 p.m.
 Featuring
 St. Michael's Festival Chorus
 St. Michael's Cantor Choir
 St. Michael's Children's Choir



Edie Davis, Flute
Thom Wibbels, Organist
David Baker, Baritone
Kara Joy Baker, Soprano

Reception immediately
following the service



Assistance needed with the Lessons & Carols Reception, Sunday, 9 December

Dolores Duncan is looking for some assistance for the reception following Lessons & Carols Sunday evening. Specifically:

- help with set up after the 10:45 service
- help with clean up after the Lessons & Carols 5:00 pm service



Wednesday Evening Series On Break

As we approach the holidays, we have decided to take a break from our Wednesday night offerings until Advent. During Advent, there will be two special offerings (see below). Over the next few months we will be reassessing our Wednesday evening program. If you have any comments about our offerings, please call or email Father Caruso at

kcaruso@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

Wednesdays during Advent:

+December 12th, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. - All about Dreaming, led by Father Patrick and Brooke Raymond.

+December 19th, 7:00 p.m.- Praying in the Wilderness. A liturgy for those whose holidays are not all merry, with (optional) anointing & laying on of hands for healing.

Christmas Flower Offering

We need your help to adorn the altar with a wondrous floral display for Christmas! Please consider giving a donation. Your donation



envelope by Sunday, December 16th.

will help cover the cost of the flowers we need to create the beautiful display. Your donation can be made in memory or thanksgiving of someone, and their name(s) will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You can find envelopes on the counter by the front door for your donations. To help ensure that your name(s) appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please return your



The Loving Memory Tree

In this season of Advent and Christmas, a "Loving Memory Tree" has been placed in the narthex. It's a simple tree with no decorations other than small white lights. You are invited to write the name of a loved one who has passed away on one of the white ribbons provided, and tie it onto the tree. The tree starts out barren, but over the course of the Christmas season it will become filled with the memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. By putting their names on the tree, we remind ourselves that our dear departed are present with us in the body of Christ and in our Christmas worship. You are welcome to place as many ribbons on the tree as you would like. Messages of hope, written on the ribbons, are also encouraged. The tree will stay up in the Narthex until after our celebration of Epiphany on January 6th.



Exploring Sacred Music in the Anglican Tradition Sunday, 16 December, Special Advent Celebration and Farewell

Calling ALL prior and current attendees! Please join us for our final Music in the Anglican tradition gathering on Sunday, 16 December, 5:00-8:30 p.m. at the Michaels' home, 459 Pinewoods Dr., N Barrington. The evening will feature Advent music, food and conversation. We will be taking a sabbatical following this farewell celebration.

Beverages and mini- sandwiches provided. Please bring appetizer, salad or dessert to share.



The Bells of St. Michael's to Ring in Concert

We are to receive a wonderful gift from our organist, Thom Wibbels! He will offer a Carillon Bell Concert using the bells of St. Michael's in the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany! Please download the flyer and let your family and friends know! (flyer [here](#))

Advent Concert December 16, 2012 Noon
 Christmas Concert December 24, 2012 5:00PM
 Epiphany Concert January 06, 2013 Noon



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thank you to all who gave scarves to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. By giving, you helped make someone's Christmas a joyful one.

P.S. There will not be a gathering of the Prayer Shawl Ministry this month.



GREET!

Isn't it wonderful to feel like you're coming home when you enter St. Michael's? Do you remember your first time walking in those doors and a parish member introducing themselves to you? The Greeters try to make new and old members alike, feel at ease every Sunday. They show up at their place in the Narthex 15-20 minutes before the service (9 or 10:45) and wear a nametag and their big smiles every Sunday throughout the year. There are many members of this ministry and it is rewarding and easy as "many hands make light of work". We assign the Greeter calendar based on its members' needs. (We schedule you for when you can greet, usually ONLY 3 to 5 times per year.) If you enjoy smiling and welcoming, please join our fulfilling ministry! Please contact Ann Ross at aross60047@gmail.com, home 847-540-0652 or cell 630-992-5618 by 12/21. The next Greeter calendar will be issued 12/28 for January 2013 through the end of May. Separate calendars are issued for the summer and winter sessions. Make a point of welcoming new members today and GREET!



Little Red

**VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN TRAINING-
 BENEFITING CONGREGATIONS AND
 INDIVIDUALS OFFERED BY BISHOP ANDERSON
 HOUSE**

Wagon in December

During the month of December food put in the Little Red Wagon will go to Families in Crisis at Church of the Redeemer in Elgin. So as we prepare for entertaining family and friends this Advent and Christmas season, please buy some extra food for these families of many needs. Suggestions are - rice, beans, corn, tomatoes, canned meats, canned fruits, flour and sugar. Personal items are always welcome.

Every church wants to build a caring congregation and the Volunteer Chaplain Program offered by Bishop Anderson House equips lay people with pastoral care skills that are useful in expanding congregational ministry and developing individual spiritual growth. Applications for the spring term are being accepted now; contact Cherryl Holt, Associate for Chaplaincy at 312.563.4823.

VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN TRAINING CLASS:

- A 13-week program of 2 hour classes
- Wednesdays from 5 -7 p.m., Feb 6 to May 8, 2013
- Training classes taught by experts in their fields
- Participants also commit to two hours per week in the practice of supervised ministry at a field placement
- Classes held at Bishop Anderson House offices, 707 S Wood Street, near Rush and Stroger Hospitals



The Community Meal

This Month's Meal:
Thursday, December 13, 2012
Hosted by First Church of Christ Scientists
At Greencastle Manor
445 East Main Street
Barrington
5-7 p.m

What's Happening in December?

- We will be serving spaghetti, salad, and homemade desserts!
- Visit our new website: www.thecommunitymeal.com.
- Live music will be played during the meal by Marge M.
- There will be a poetry reading by Gretchen Friel, a Barrington High School teacher and Cary resident, from her book, *Coffee Break for Quilters: A Patchwork of Original Poems*.

*Books will be available for purchase at the meal. A portion of the proceeds benefit The Community Meal.

Please Read Proposed Church By-Law Changes Before the Annual Meeting

Please take time to read the proposed changes to the Church By-Laws which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January. To read the by-laws click [here](#).

News from Little Angels Christian Preschool

Little Angels Preschool Teachers had fun shopping for new supplies and materials for their classrooms with a portion of the money we profited from our Oktoberfest Fundraiser. The children will enjoy



having new materials to experience thanks to the generosity of the preschool and church families who participated. Thank-you!

The St. Michael's congregation is welcome to attend our **Christmas Program on Thursday, December 20 at 6:00 pm** in the Sanctuary of

the church. We will enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the community room immediately following the program. All are welcome to attend!

From Our Youth Minister and Children's Choir Director

THIS WEEK:

Sunday 12/9 @ 9:00 & 10:45--LIFT & SMUSH Worship and blanket making. Bring your crafty fingers ready to ties LOTS of knots!

GET INVOLVED:

January 3rd & 4th--Youth & LIFE CO Sturtz House Painting Party--COME ONE, COME ALL

January 25th-27th--New Beginnings, Diocesan Retreat for middle school students

June 8th-15th--SMUSH Mission Trip to Walker, MN

June 30th-July 19th--Diocese of Chicago, Camp Chicago (Check it out at <http://www.episcopalchicago.org/at-work-in-the-church/youth-ministry/camp-chicago/>)

July 28th-August 2nd--LIFT Mission Trip to Rockford, IL

Upcoming Events

- +Advent Quiet Day, Saturday, 8 December, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- +Lessons and Carols, Sunday, 9 December, 5:00 p.m.
- +Advent Offering, Wednesday, 12 December, All About Dreams, 6:30 p.m.
- +Advent Pageant, Sunday, 16 December, 9:00 a.m. service
- +Exploring Sacred Music in the Anglican Tradition, Sunday, 16 December, 5:00 p.m.
- +Praying in the Wilderness Service, Wednesday, 19 December, 7:00 p.m.

Revised Common Lectionary Year C, Advent 2

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4, Canticle 4 or 16, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Contact Info

St. Michael's Vestry

Kathy Sawyer Randolph - Sr. Warden, Shan Atkins - Jr. Warden

Pete Douglas, Lora Gier, Amy Magro, Dave Evans

Dale Griffith, Sean Harrington, Pat Kane, Mike Savage

Cristy Cressey, Bob Gilbert, Michele Philips, Lance Marcinek

John Davis - Treasurer, Craig Anderson - Clerk

Joe Schmidt, Youth Representative Madelyn Lanham, Youth Representative
Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Patrick Raymond, Rector; The Rev. Kevin Caruso, Curate; The Rev. Laurie Michaels, Deacon; Caren Hunter, Director of Little Angels Christian Preschool; David Baker, Director of Music Ministries; Thom Wibbels, Organist; Kara Joy Baker, Youth Pastor & Director of Children's Choir; Nerissa Brueckbauer, Children's Education Director & Communications Coordinator; Kim Lessner, Parish Operations; Nancy Holmes, Parish Administrator & Rector's Assistant; Jeff Schirmer, Sexton.

The Sword, St. Michael's Episcopal Church 647 Dundee Ave. Barrington, IL 60010

Phone: 847.381.2323 Fax: 847.381.3517

website:

www.stmichaelsbarrington.org

The Sword is published each Thursday. Any questions or comments regarding this publication should be sent to news@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

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