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The Sword



Your weekly connection with St. Michael's Episcopal Church

13 December 2012

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This Sunday and This Week At St. Michael's

- +Advent Pageant 9:00 a.m., *read more below...*
- +Wednesday Evening Advent Offering, Praying in the Wilderness, 7:00 p.m., *read more below...*

Praying in the Wilderness

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

Dear People of St. Michael's,

Not many of us gravitate toward the wilderness or are even very familiar with it. We like our creature comforts, our technologies and buying our food at Trader Joe's rather than growing or slaughtering it for ourselves. You'd think, therefore, that we'd all look puzzled and disoriented in response to the Advent theme of wilderness.

But many of us seem right at home in the Advent wilderness. We seem to understand that, although the literal wilderness may be mostly foreign to us, one can never completely escape or suburbanize the wilderness regions in our own hearts. We had this surprisingly common inner terrain in mind when planning a liturgy for this coming Wednesday, the 19th, at 7:00 p.m., We're calling it *Praying in the Wilderness*.

Seven parishioners gathered with Fr. Kevin and me this past Tuesday to consider and prepare for *Praying in the Wilderness*. The personal reflections with which we began reminded us that our wilderness regions may be shaped or entered by many ways: the grief caused by the death of loved ones; dreams that never materialized; a good life chapter that's ends; failures in work, love, parenting or sobriety; concern for those in need; or ... well each inner wilderness is unique.

One soul on Tuesday evening observed that being with people in the wilderness is an art. The tone of our upcoming liturgy will be as important or more than exact words. My own

- +The Community Meal
- +Offering Envelopes
- 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 circle with a shell within it representing an expectant Elizabeth.

notes already included the following aims for *Praying in the Wilderness*:

- + Address people's vulnerabilities without being invasive or brutal.
- + Honor life's difficulties without being morose or maudlin.
- + Impart hope and grace without conveying false hope or cheap grace.

I'm know that I'm pressing my luck by focusing, this close to Christmas, on wilderness and all it spiritually connotes. Some will think me a Grinch. But take heed! It wasn't until he finally saw and reckoned with his own wilderness that "*the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day.*"

No one at our planning meeting for *Praying in the Wilderness* could imagine how many people will join us next Wednesday. We hope for a mix of souls: some feeling the wilderness, alongside of others whose halls are decked with holly. Why the latter? Because they may have some extra light or joy to gently impart to others.

Please consider joining us in the wilderness. Your heart may grow because of it.

Patrick +

Also from the Rector:

Lessons & Carols Thanks! Many thanks again to all who took part in our exquisite *Advent Lessons & Carols* service on Sunday evening, December 9. Special thanks to our community leaders who read the lessons; to all of our musicians; and to Dolores Duncan & Co., who orchestrated, hosted and cleaned up after the beautiful reception afterward (and to all who contributed or helped in other ways!).

Ride for 3 Reasons Gift. For those who were not there at Lessons & Carols, we contributed all of the offering to Bob Lee's 'Ride for 3 Reasons.'

Workshop on Dreams. An Advent Offering of a workshop on dreams was given last evening. If you are interested in seeing the Powerpoint Presentation from the workshop, click [here](#).

In the Parish family

+Those for whom prayers have been requested:
Bonnie & Steve; Judie; Mary; Stanley & family; Nancy; Paulette; Sarah; Amy; Doris; Dave; Connie; Arlie; Lindsay & Joanne; Bob; Dolores; Bishop Joseph, Roda, Michele & Grace; Amy; Families in Crisis at Church of the Redeemer; military troops in danger

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

12.16 Matthew Beverly
12.17 Gene Dawson, Jackie Kraus, Joe Kunzon, Debbie Kunzon
12.18 Jeff Cross, Terri Longo
12.19 Caden Chan, Kailey Knoop, Kendall Knoop, Josie Trautwein
12.20 Judy Tammi, Sharon Walcott
12.21 Paul Carrubba, Dolores Kampert, Scott Erickson, Tina Marcinkiewicz
12.22 Kay Richards, Elizabeth Ewart, Bill Arms

including those from our parish, especially, Zane, Robert, Ryan, Michael, Bruce, and Taylor.



Janet Nations and Adele Osmond at AWSM's Advent Event.



Lora Gier, Carol Schmidt, Maria Kuechmann and Virginia Qualiardi enjoying the AWSM Advent Event!

+And two more thoughts on Father Kevin's prompt, "Advent is..."

From Kaky Bowles, the following excerpts from the meditations from a church's hundredth anniversary sermon:

" 'Advent' means 'coming' of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion....An invasion of *holiness*. That is what Advent is about. What is coming upon the world is the Light of the World. It is Christ. That is the comfort of it. The challenge of it. The challenge of it is that it has not come yet. Only the hope for it has come, only the longing for it. In the meantime we are in the dark, and the dark, God knows, is also in us. We watch and wait for a holiness to heal us and hallow us, to liberate us from the dark. Advent is like the hush in a theater just before the curtain rises. It is like the hazy ring around the winter moon that means the coming of snow which will turn the night silver. Soon. But for the time being, our time, darkness is where we are."

From our weekly Clergy Time with the Preschool Children of Little Angels.

This week, a class of three year olds and four year olds listened to the story of Mary's visit with her cousin Elizabeth after learning that she would be the Mother of the Son of God and that her cousin was also with child. They heard the words directly from the Bible how the child leaped in Elizabeth's womb when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting. The children listened to Elizabeth's declaration of Mary as Mother of her Lord, and, finally, they were favored with the words of the Magnificat, or Mary's Song. We pondered with the children about the gift for which Elizabeth and Mary were waiting, the coming of Christ, the Light, and thought together how we, too, might prepare as we wait for the Light of Christ to born again in our hearts. As we were readying to close in prayer, Father Kevin said that, perhaps, we should pray for those things for which we were

Anniversaries

12.19 Helen & Ken
Curtis

12.22 Ellen & Rick
Lindeen

thankful. He asked the children what we should pray in thanksgiving for, Cooper's hand was the first up. He said, simply, "Mary." Lesson over.

+A couple a pictures below from last Sunday's wonderful Lessons and Carols service. Thank you to all the musicians and readers for your gifts of time and TALENT!

Rest in Peace

12.17 Peter Forbes,
Jean Treveiler

12.18 Barbara Mabbs

12.19 Bette Sue
Thomasson, Scott
Treveiler, Jr., John
Dowling

12.20 Anthony
Slone, JoAnn
Godfrey



+Children from the S.O.S. group - Fourth and Fifth graders from Church School - packaged over 100 bags of cookies on Sunday, 9 December for the Soup Kitchen at Church of the Redeemer Elgin. On the second Thursday of each month, a group from St. Michael's cooks and prepares the meal for the Soup Kitchen. Point of contact for assisting in this ministry is Mary Beth Kovacik. You can see a picture of our S.O.S. group at work below!



Kate, Grace, Ella, Justine, Emma, Eric, Jackson and Campbell packing cookies for the Soup Kitchen!



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!

Food for the Journey, Sunday, December 23, 10:05 a.m.: The Nativity in the art of John August Swanson

A conversation led by Father Kevin

Join us we explore Christ's birth using John August Swanson's serigraph of the nativity as a starting point.



"John August Swanson is noted for his finely detailed, brilliantly colored painting and original prints. His works are found in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, London's Tate Gallery, the Vatican Museums' Collection of Modern Religious Art, and other prestigious venues..."



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 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 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 envelope by this Sunday, December 16th.



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



Anticipate Christmas Eve Music at St. Michael's

2:00pm and 4:00pm

Tina Summerfield, soprano(2:00pm)
 Kara Joy Baker, soprano
 David Baker, baritone
 Brandon Viliunas, trumpet

9:00pm and 11:00pm

St. Michael's Festival Chorus
 Solisti Di Camera String Quartet
 Paul G. Ross, timpani
 St. Michael's Flute Choir
 Kara Joy Baker, soprano
 David Baker, baritone



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



Little Red 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.



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!

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](#).



Get Your 2013 Calendar Now!

Featuring 12 beautiful paintings done by Children of St. Marc's Jeannette, Haiti.

An 8 1/2" x 11" full color calendar
Calendars are \$ 18 each. All proceeds support the school in Jeannette, Haiti where we traveled in October.

Calendars are available for purchase in

And All the Angels gift shop.

Summary of the Most Recent Vestry Meeting from the Clerk of the Vestry, Craig Anderson

Summary of the November 19, 2012 Vestry Meeting may be read by clicking [here](#).

AWSM (All Women of St. Michael's) wants you to save the date for a Lenten Retreat

Feb 22-23 at Camp Stronghold, Oregon IL (90 Minutes west of Barrington)

Led by Deacon Laurie Michaels

Details coming in January

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

Are you at a time in your life when you look to deepen your spiritual life and grow your pastoral skills?

Individuals yearn to have fulfilling spiritual lives and the Bishop Anderson House Volunteer Chaplain Training not only develops basic skills necessary for good pastoral care, but provides self-reflection and spiritual growth as a vital component of the training.

Class topics include the theological purpose of pastoral care; active listening; non-combative communication; addiction; faith, sacrament and prayer; a medical view of illness; older adults and home bound; loss and death; ethics, boundaries and self care. In particular, students learn how to establish a ministry of presence with anyone in distress, and are shown how to process encounters in ways that lead to self-discovery and growth.

Applications for the spring term are being accepted now; contact Cheryl 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

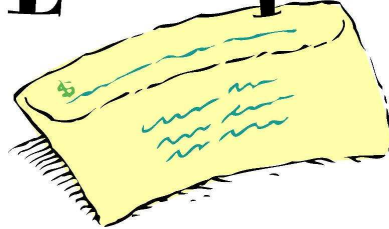
5-7 p.m

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.

Offering Envelopes



Offering Envelopes for 2013

Your 2013 offering envelopes are available for pick up in the Community Room foyer. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Lessner, Operations Manager in the parish office at 847-381-2323, ext. 16 or via email at

klessner@stmichaelsbarrington.org. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

- +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 Wildreness Service, Wednesday, 19 December, 7:00 p.m.

Revised Common Lectionary Year C, Advent 3

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Canticle 9, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

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.

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

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