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The Sword



Your weekly connection with St. Michael's Episcopal Church

3 January 2013

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Did You Know?

...there were over 35 children and Middle Schoolers involved in this year's Advent Pageant?

This Sunday At St. Michael's

- +Sunday, 6 January, The Feast of the Epiphany (rumored visit from the Wise Men) Regular service times, 7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
- +Sunday, 6 January, Commissioning of the Solemn First Communion Class at the 9:00 a.m. Service
- +Food for the Journey, Sunday, 6 Jan, 10:05 a.m.: Throwing a Great Party... Hospitality and Welcome, in life and at Church with Julia Bishop, Rick and Ann Ryba, and Nancy Holmes

Joy

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

*The angel said to the shepherds,
"Do not be afraid; for see-
I am bringing you good news of great joy
for all the people ..."
- Luke 2:10*

Dear people of St. Michael's,

Starting at 2 pm on Christmas Eve, I heard the Nativity story FIVE TIMES in less than twenty-four hours. But it wasn't until the fifth and last time, during the Eucharist on Christmas Day, that I heard the word *joy*. Heard it with my heart, that is.

When I say I heard it with my heart, I don't mean I understood it. In fact, hearing it with the heart brought up all sorts of questions, none of which I satisfactorily answered, but some of which were:

- Where is the joy in *my* life?
- What exactly *is* joy? And how does it differ from our cultural definition of happiness?
- Why (I wondered most of all) did the angel speak of joy

Anniversaries**This Week****Birthdays**

1.6 Deanna Arms,
Donna Brooks, Julie
Allord, Jack Magro,
Morgan Magro, Nick
Magro, Sullivan
Magro

1.7 Elizabeth
Strouse, Ann
Dickson, Kathy Kent,
Lindsey Murphy, Jeff
Buxton

1.8 Dolores Curran,
Bill Saunders

1.9 Jan Semerad,
Mike Savage

1.10 William Nagy,
Charlotte Cressey,
Jessen Koelling

1.11 Susan Johnston,
Avery Erickson, Kary
Caruso, Rob Imhoff

Anniversaries

1.10 Vicki & John
Schnure

1.11 Marti & Steve
Kahn

Rest in Peace

1.6 Robert Johnson,
Frank Faust,
Antoinette Lutsky

when addressing those shepherds?

Why not: *'I bring you good news of great importance'?*

Or *'great relevance'?*

Or *'great opportunity'?*

But no. The angel used the word *joy*.

I guess the angel spoke of joy because the angel meant joy; meant to convey joy, to impart joy, to indicate that joy would be the end result of those who heeded the good news. Which only led me back to my first question ...

Clearly *my* message right now is partly about joy. But it's also about taking a time in this 12-day Christmas season, if possible as the 12-day Christmas season concludes, to hear with the heart some feature in the Nativity story that may be good news for you.

Whatever captures your imagination or curiosity now, I pray it will bring YOU joy.

- Patrick +

Also from the Rector:

Many thanks to all who contributed to: our worship and other ministries throughout Advent AND our Praying in the Wilderness liturgy on December 19; AND our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship. You know who you are and what your role or contribution was. Please know you're appreciated.

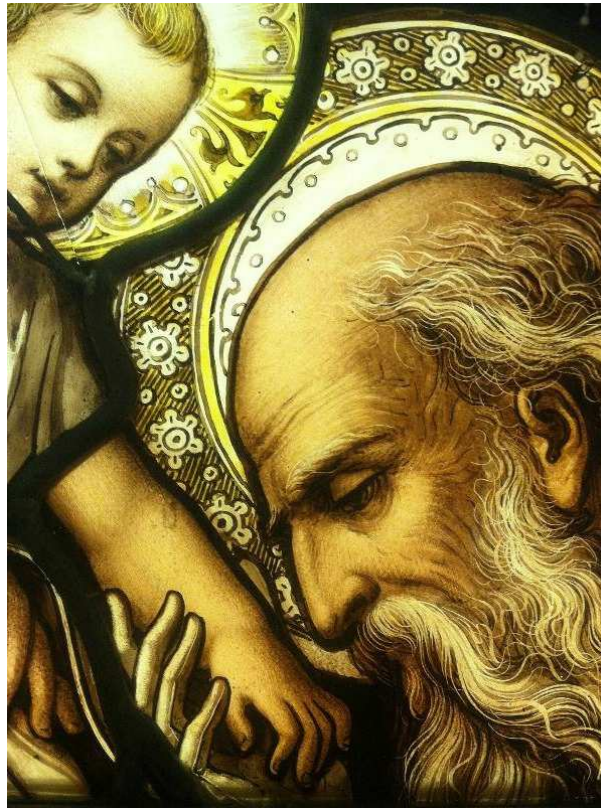
12 Days of Christmas. While it's true that for many in our culture 'Christmas' begins on Black Friday and ends ... well, whenever the good sales end after Christmas - on the calendar of the church, Christmas begins on Christmas Eve and is celebrated for twelve days. This explains why, when you joined us for worship on Sunday, December 30 we were still singing Christmas carols.

Epiphany, January 6. By Christian reckoning, the Christmas season ends with the Feast of Epiphany, January 6, on which the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem is remembered and celebrated. Epiphany falls on a Sunday in 2013, and we're looking forward to a visit from (some local) Wise Men during at least one of our liturgies that morning.

A copy of the rector's Christmas Eve sermon may be found by clicking [here](#).

1.7 Lloyd Silver

1.8 Julia Ward



+Feast of Epiphany, Sunday, January 6

The photo above shows detail from The Three Kings Bearing Gifts, design and fabrication attributed to Franz Mayer, Munich, Germany, ca. 1900; on permanent display at the Smith Museum of Stained Glass Windows, Navy Pier, Chicago. A separate photo from the same window, showing the face of a second visiting king, will be included on this Sunday's bulletin cover. Rumor has it that the three kings (or their distant protégés) may join us for worship at one or more Eucharists on Sunday!



+Sturtz Painting Project Continues

Following up on the painting of the Sturtz House exterior trim last summer, Youth Pastor Kara Baker has organized a three-day paint-a-thon of the Sturtz House interior. Participation so far has included color consultation, taping, patching and sanding ... and painting. A dozen of our parish youth showed up to paint today, in addition to students from Lifeco (a program of District 220 and the weekday Sturtz House tenant) as well as members of the BHS wrestling team (through a contact with Lifeco). The painting will continue on Friday, Jan. 4 ... if not finished today.





+ Parish Annual Meeting,
Sunday, January 27, at Noon in
the Community Room

**+2013 Parish Budget
Presentation,** Sunday, January
20, at Food for the Journey, 10:00
a.m.

Please mark your calendars now!

Additional information will be provided in the coming weeks.

In the Parish family

+Those for whom prayers have been requested:

Bonnie & Steve; Lindsey & Joanne; Ed; Bob; Dolores; Teddy;
Jackie; Paulette; Greg; Thom; Steve; Mary; Rollo; military troops in
danger including those from our parish, especially, Zane, Robert,
Ryan, Michael, Bruce, and Taylor.

+AWSM (All Women of St. Michael's) collected 57 pairs of slippers
and \$200 change at the December 4th Advent Event. The slippers
and sheet and towel sets purchased with the collected money were
donated to Wings. WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger) is
a 501(c)(3) publicly supported organization. Safehouse residents are
women and children who are victims of domestic violence and need
temporary safe shelter or who become homeless due to other
extreme hardships. Women and children in this stressful time of
transition find comfort in simple things like a warm pair of slippers
or a cozy set of flannel sheets.



AWSM makes a practice of having a loose change jar, "Change for Change," at its events. The change from the event in September provided money to purchase extra heavy bags to transport the much needed art and school supplies to Haiti on the mission trip. December's change went to the Wings donation. The change collected at each AWSM event will be donated to various causes throughout the year that the AWSM Service Chairman, Sally Smith, suggests.

+John and Kathy Kent have recently relocated to Salem, South Carolina and are enjoying the warmer weather and plan to join Trinity Episcopal Church located in Clemson.

Food for the Journey, Sunday, 6 Jan, 10:05 a.m.:
Throwing a Great Party... Hospitality and Welcome, in life and at Church with Julia Bishop, Rick and Ann Ryba, and Nancy Holmes

What does throwing a great party have to teach us about being the body of Christ? Join us as we hear from some parishioners at St. Michael's who have a particular panache for throwing parties!

Food for the Journey, Sunday, 13 Jan, 10:05 a.m. :
Baptism and Belonging...

How many of you remember your own baptism? Or the baptism of a loved one? What does baptism have to do with belonging? What does it mean to 'belong' to the Church and how is that different from belonging to other organizations? How do we make sense of Baptism in the 21st century? A popular phrase over the last 30

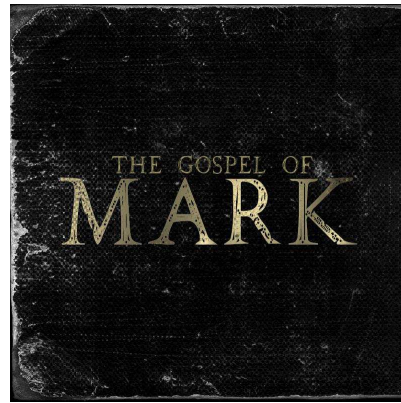


Little Red Wagon in January

Thank you to those who kept the Little Red Wagon filled in December with many good things for the Families in Crisis at the Church of the Redeemer. But the wagon is now empty and ready to be filled to assist the Barrington Township Food Pantry. Its special needs are cereal, crackers, jelly, tea, instant coffee, dish detergent, bath soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Monetary donations are also helpful to the Food Pantry Fund.

years has been that baptism is "full initiation" into the Church. We will explore these questions and the implications of this understanding of baptism. Join the conversation led by Father Kevin.

Wednesday Evenings at St. Michael's - Eucharist, Shared Supper & Conversation - will return 16 January!



SOUL JOURNEY: A WOMEN'S GATHERING...

returns after the holidays on Tuesday, 8 January. We are continuing with our study through the Gospel of Mark. We meet on Tuesdays in the library from 9:30-11:30. Remember, there is NO requirement for attendance, and no prior knowledge of bible,

prayer book, etc. required. We will AGAIN repeat the splendid DVD performance of Max McLean (an actor) who has memorized the whole gospel of Mark. (It's very cool.) That takes about 2-3 weeks, if you'd just like to come to that.

Also, for you frazzled mothers, we have a lovely (mother) babysitter so that you can come and have an oasis of time to be with other women from all walks of life.

We have a space on the couch for you. Any questions, call or email Kay Lewis.

Kay Lewis - 847-381-7820, kaylewis1029@gmail.com



St. Michael's Veterans' Group

Next scheduled formation is Thursday, January 10th @ 1900 hours in the Library.

We have another fine speaker lined up for our war stories hour. Point of Contact is Jim Tammi,

847.382.4262.



And All the Angels After the Holidays Sale



40% off of all Holiday Merchandise
30% off of all Holiday Books
20% off of all Nativities

Please come down to the lower level to take advantage of these low prices!

The angel gift shop helped to donate books to Bishop Anderson House! Thank you for your patronage.



Stand Up and Be Counted! *or* Does Our Church Database Have YOUR Family Membership Record Correct? *or* Are your adult children living on their own, moved away, not attending on a regular basis?

Please! We need your help to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information on the church database. This database is the source we use for all of our current members, those considering membership, and many others with whom we connect. It is vital to have updated information to ensure all parishioners receive important information like the Annual Meeting packet and so that we may verify our voter list used at the Annual Meeting. In order to make this effort as efficient as possible, you have three options:

- fill out a Member/Family Profile Sheet by clicking [here](#) or
- you may go to the website and go to the Home Page, then follow the the directional bar at the top to "About Us," then follow the drop down to "I'm New" and "Getting Connected." Under the heading "Explore Membership" you will find the link to the form.
- or you may pick a form up in the back of the church and return it to Nancy Holmes in the Church Office

We are asking that you update your information no later than Friday, 18 January. Thank you!



Parish Potluck

20 January, 5:00 p.m.

Spaghetti is on the Menu!

Last Name A-K Bread or Dessert

Last Name L-Z Salad or Side Dish

Sign-up sheets outside the Community Room this

Sunday, 6 January

All ages, please join us for spaghetti and
fellowship!

Vestry Meeting Summary

by Vestry Clerk, Craig Anderson A summary of the most recent Vestry Meeting, 17 December 2012, is available by clicking [here](#).

Volunteer Chaplain Training at Bishop Anderson House

BENEFITING CONGREGATIONS AND

INDIVIDUALS

As the new year begins have you made a resolution to take the time to just "be" with others? Perhaps the Bishop Anderson House Volunteer Chaplain Training program is for you. The 13-week class equips students with the pastoral skills to establish a ministry of presence with anyone in distress, and tools for processing encounters in ways that lead to self-discovery and growth.

Class topics include the theological purpose of pastoral care; active listening; non-combative communication; faith, sacrament and prayer; older adults and home bound; loss and death; ethics, boundaries and self care.

Graduates are able to expand the pastoral care ministry in the congregation and taught the techniques for building or starting caring ministries in nursing homes or hospitals. 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

Upcoming Events

+Sunday, 6 January, The Feast of the Epiphany (rumored visit from the Wise Men) Regular service times, 7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

+Sunday, 6 January, Commissioning of the Solemn First Communion Class at the 9:00 a.m. Service

+Tuesday, 8 January, Soul Journey Women's Study, 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library

+Thursday, 10 January, St. Michael's Veterans Group, 7:00 p.m., Church Library

+Sunday, 20 January, Parish Potluck, 5:00 pm, Community Room

+Sunday, 27 January, Annual Meeting, 12:00 pm, Community Room

Revised Common Lectionary Year C, The Epiphany Isaiah 60:1-6,
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12

Contact Info

St. Michael's Vestry

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

Pete Douglas, Lora Gier, 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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