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# The Sword



Your weekly connection with St. Michael's Episcopal Church

7 March 2013

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## The Solemn Communion Class of 2013 and Duck Dynasty

*a letter from Nerissa Brueckbauer, Director of Children's Ministries*

My 18 year old senior has me watching A&E's Duck Dynasty with him this season. I tried to convince myself that once he is off to college next year, I won't have to watch it anymore; but, truth be told, there are a lot of interesting and funny things going on in Monroe, LA. The Robertson family has taken a Duck Commander Duck Call, patented in 1973, and spun it into a multi-million dollar sporting empire, all the while staying close to their motto: "Only three things matter: God, then family, then ducks."

I was particularly interested last week when the family patriarch, Phil Robertson, took two of his teenage grandsons fishing. Phil was doing all the talking, and it wasn't because he wanted to. He tried to engage the boys in conversation, but they would smile and look down - or look down and then smile. He was concerned about their conversational skills. Finally, in desperation and without malice or rancor, he said something to the effect of, "Well, I think we should stop by WalMart on the way home and pick you boys up some personalities."

This caught my attention because we had been blessed with

**Anniversaries  
This Week  
Birthdays**

3.10 Jennifer Tilly,  
Andrew Gier, Susan  
Beuttas

3.11 Steve Barnum,  
Stephen Walcott,  
Andrew Erbs, Cassie  
Bacher, Campbell  
Mears

3.12 Nicholas  
Marcinkiewicz,  
Brooklyn Murphy,  
Jackson Caruso

3.13 Annilee  
Quinlan, William  
Baar, III, Robert  
Gier, Vicky  
Hutchinson, Charlie  
Greenlief, Giavanna  
Belcore

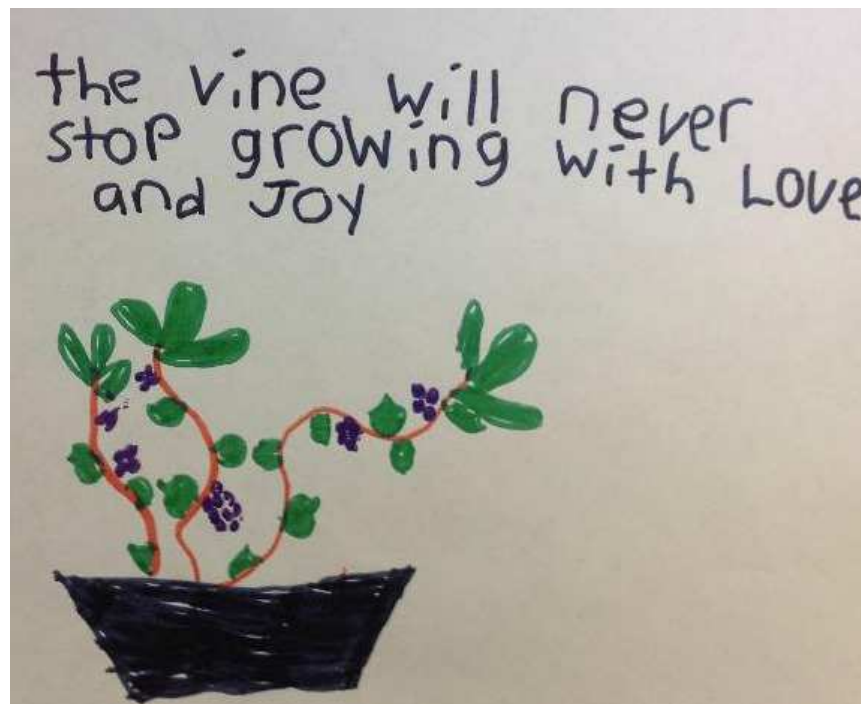
3.15 Hannah Welsh,  
Julia Welsh, Aimee  
Greenlief, Harry  
Wintringer, Felicity  
Caruso

3.16 Linda Keclik

the presence of 13 of the most joyous and boisterous children during our Solemn Communion preparations. For six weeks various people had commented on this group of children, some of whom met on Tuesdays and some of whom met on Saturdays. We heard from the Altar Guild, the staff, the parents, the Little Angels Preschool staff and others that our children were **lively!** Their **joy** and **enthusiasm** was contagious!

During our last meditation with the children and our retreat for the Solemn Communion service it became very clear to us that this class with their own **indomitable spirit** had grasped many of the themes we presented with depth and joy. These 13 children, like so many, are truly **great theologians**. And, thank goodness, they won't have to stop at WalMart to pick up personalities!

The Solemn Communion Class of 2013:  
Sam, Audrey, Macy, Brady, Meghan, Hunter, Mason, Ella,  
Jack, Riley, Sydney, Olivia, and Ellie



Macy's beautiful artwork during our retreat.

-Nerissa  
From the Rector:

**In hopes of long-range benefits for St. Michael's: A new chapter in cleaning and maintenance**

For some time, I and others have felt increasingly

**Anniversaries**

## Rest in Peace

3.13 Norton Penney,  
Patrick Kane, Wayne  
Stallard

3.14 Edna Fox

3.15 Max Hoffman

discouraged by the physical condition of the church and by our overall strategy for building cleaning and maintenance. Recently, with the help and support of the parish staff and others, we've made the following changes:

- We recently hired **Lolita Graham** and **Maria Koerner** to do the nightly cleaning of the preschool (as required by DCFS regulation). By focusing these new staff members' responsibilities solely on the preschool, we'll better understand the actual cost for this feature of preschool operations. Lolita and Maria are reporting directly to Caren - and the preschool teachers are now reporting: *"It's never been this clean! We could eat off the floor!"*

- **Ed Allen** began employment and service this week as our new parish sexton (a word we Episcopalians most often use to identify the church janitor and handyman). As we presently envision this half-time role, Ed will be responsible both for the routine building cleaning and also many of the repairs and improvements required in any public building. Ed has retired from other full-time work, and we look forward to benefiting from his extensive related work experience. For starters, Ed will be at St. Michael's each weekday from 9 am - 1 pm.

- These new staff members represent, of course, both our hope for a better overall environment at St. Michael's but also the end of existing relationships. Most of us probably did not know the names of those who've been cleaning the church on a contract basis with a cleaning service for the past few years. Our now-former sexton, **Jeff Schirmer**, for whom this was a second job, also worked mostly at night or in the early morning and was unknown to most parishioners. But Jeff also has longtime ties to St. Michael's. Those who may wish to thank him for his efforts and goodwill are welcomed to make direct personal contact with him.

- There are likely to be some snafus and misunderstandings and adjustments as we try to put new systems in place. I'll be grateful for your observations, feedback and suggestions - and your patience. For now, we will no longer be able to count on the nightly lock-up by a cleaning service. I ask that those who depart from evening meetings assume this responsibility. Also, a few more meetings may be self-serve in terms of setting up tables and chairs (and putting them away). Despite some inconveniences, we are mainly anticipating positive impacts from these changes: a church that is cleaner and better maintained and also, we hope, at least a small savings in our operating budget.

## Holy Week and Easter Worship Notes

- Attention all actual and potential worship ministers! Holy Week is a time when we often need extra EVERYTHING: ushers, readers, singers, acolytes and more. This year, Holy Week also corresponds to Spring Break for Barrington School District 220. We're likely to be short-staffed in terms of worship ministries. Please let us know if you don't normally serve as a worship minister but may be available for one or more of our Holy Week or Easter worship services. Thank you.
- No Maundy Thursday Meal this year ... Two years ago we had 90 participants and last year only about 25. We decided to give it a rest for 2013. If you have questions, or suggestions for future years ... ask the Rector ...
- The Watch Before the Altar of Repose traditionally takes place (in our chapel) from after the end of the Maundy Thursday liturgy through early Friday morning. Please see the sign-up sheet in the church narthex, and thank you in advance for your participation and prayers.

### **In the Parish family**

+Those for whom prayers have been requested:

Pat; Rollo; the Olson family; Brian; Andrew; Cassie; Michele; Frank and Suzanne; Steve and Barb; Sharon; Sue; Bob; Connie; Mary; Debbie; Mary; Bob; Ben & Paulette; Amy; Scott; safety & peace in South Sudan; Bishop Joseph; St. Cyprian Food Pantry; military troops in danger including those from our parish, especially, Zane, Ryan, Michael, Bruce, and Taylor.

+Dolores Duncan has asked that we be reminded that this Sunday is "Mothering Sunday" or "Refreshment Sunday." She will have baked Simnel Cakes for coffee hours. Thank you, Dolores!

+Parishioners Sue Padula and Pete Douglas are running for Village Trustee in Barrington. The election is 9 April.

+Last weekend Marissa Longo and Jessica Malec appeared in Barrington High School's production of *Guys and Dolls*! Congratulations, Marissa and Jessica!

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### **Food for the Journey, Sunday, 10 March, 10:05 a.m.: "Stages of Faith"**

The title for the session is drawn from a modern classic by James W. Fowler, "Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development

and the Quest for Meaning." The premise of this book will be generally considered, and other material may draw on diverse influences such as William James' 'Varieties of Religious Experience,' Hindu notions of spiritual life stages, and examination of Christian notions of 'born again', holiness, conversion, and 'second baptism.' This session may be of particular interest to those considering a Reaffirmation of Faith (as well as those to be Confirmed or Received) at the time of Bishop Chris Epting's April 28 visitation to St. Michael's.

### **Food for the Journey Sunday, 17 March, 10:05 a.m.: The Seasons of the Church Year Revolve Around the Life of Christ**

Come and learn about the liturgical calendar and the names of the main feasts and liturgical seasons. Did you realize that every Sunday has a significance and that every Sunday belongs to a liturgical season? We prepare, celebrate and grow continually throughout the seasons of the liturgical year, and this is a repeating, circular, "infinite" pattern. Nerissa Brueckbauer will present.



### ***Lenten Program 2013 Five Wednesday Evenings***

**6:00 pm Stations of the Cross**

**6:30 pm Shared meal in the Community Room**

**7:00 pm Two Opportunities...**

#### ***#1: Faith Reflection Groups***

Three groups that have already formed will meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Additional groups may be formed if there is sufficient interest. To take part in a Faith Reflection Group, share your interest with Fr. Kevin, [kcaruso@stmichaelsbarrington.org](mailto:kcaruso@stmichaelsbarrington.org), 847.381.2323, ext. 13 or complete a form by clicking [here](#).

#### ***#2: "I will, with God's help." Our Responses to the Baptismal Covenant***

#### ***Remaining Wednesdays:***

#### ***Wednesday, March 13***

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor

as yourself?

### **Wednesday, March 20**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?



### **Tina Summerfield, St. Michael's Parishioner, Performs at "A Concert to Bring Hope and Health to South Sudan" in Glen Ellyn**

Please join us **Saturday, March 9th at 6:30 PM** for "A Concert to Bring Hope and Health to South Sudan" at the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton

College (500 College Avenue), sponsored by the people of St. Barnabus Episcopal Church of Glen Ellyn! Silent Auction begins at 6:30 PM, concert begins at 7:00 PM. 100% of proceeds will be used to purchase medicine and provide mid-wife salary at the Renk Medical Clinic in South Sudan. **Tickets are not required for this event, suggested donation is \$20.** Please give generously as all donations will be given to the Renk Health Clinic. Parishioner Tina Beverly Summerfield will be among the performers. We hope you can join us - an inspiring concert not to be missed! This event is not a function of Wheaton College.

### **From our Youth Minister:**

**THIS WEEK:**

Saturday 3/9, 2:00-7:00--Confirmation Service Outing to Animal House Shelter

Sunday 3/ 10 @ 9:00--LIFT Worship & Formation

Sunday 3/ 10 @ 10:45--SMUSHWorship & Formation

**UPCOMING:**

Sunday 3/ 17 , 3:00 pm--LIFT Mission Trip Meeting at Redeemer



### **CROSSwalk II: A Call to Pray and Act**

At a time when news of shooting deaths fills the local newspaper and debates about gun control rage in legislatures around the country, the Diocese of Chicago is once again calling people to pray and to act.

On March 22 at 6 p.m. the second annual CROSSwalk, a prayerful





### Little Red Wagon in February and March

About 20 years ago our church started collecting food for St. Cyprian Food Pantry during Lent. It was an Episcopal mission on the northwest side of Chicago when in 1983 someone knocked on the door to ask for food. That simple beginning of the food pantry has now mushroomed into one serving 855 families (3,825 individuals) in December alone and with a budget of \$56,000 a year. Over time, St. Michael's has included more food pantries in our donation

four-mile procession to inspire and energize participants in the struggle against gun violence, will begin with a service on the plaza at St. James Commons. To read more click [here](#).



### Salem Methodist Mission Trip Fundraiser

Salem Church is planning on a mission trip to New Jersey sometime in June to aid in helping families rebuild after the devastation of super storm Sandy. Salem is holding a fundraising

event at their church on Sunday, March 10 from 12- 2:30, including food, live music and an appearance by Fire Chief Ralph Webster of Woodstock, Illinois who was an early responder in the Sandy clean-up effort.



### The Community Meal

This Month's Meal:

Thursday, March 7, 2013

Hosted By: The Sandner Family

At: Lutheran Church of the Atonement

909 East Main Street

Barrington

5-7 p.m

### What's Happening in March?

- We will be serving corned beef and cabbage to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!
- The meal is being hosted by the Sandner family!

The Community Meal is a FREE meal hosted once a month at various churches and community centers in and around the Barrington area. All are welcome!

### Vestry Meeting Summary

A summary of the February Vestry meeting by the Clerk of the Vestry, Craig Anderson may be found by clicking [here](#).



**AWSM (All Women of St. Michael's) will be hosting a Great Gatsby evening**

rotation, but in Lent we are reminded of our beginnings with St. Cyprian Food Pantry. The needs include breakfast, lunch and dinner foods, detergent, personal items and paper products. May donations to the Little Red Wagon be part of your Lenten discipline.



**Saturday, April 20th at 7pm for the whole parish.**

**Enjoy appetizers and jazz. Details to follow. Adults only please.**

### **Overwhelmingly Positive!**

That was the reaction to the AWSM (All Women of St. Michael's) Retreat February 22 & 23rd by the 46 women who attended. During the two days Laurie Michaels and Judy Heinrich delivered the inspirational thoughts based on Anne Lamott's book, "Help, Thanks, Wow" through readings, discussions, small groups and both indoor and outdoor activities. Many AWSM board members were working behind the scenes to make sure no detail of the weekend was ignored. Thank you Laurie, Judy and AWSM's Faith and Formation Committee. A survey distributed to the attendees has resulted in overwhelmingly positive reactions so AWSM is at work now to plan a date for next year's repeat retreat!

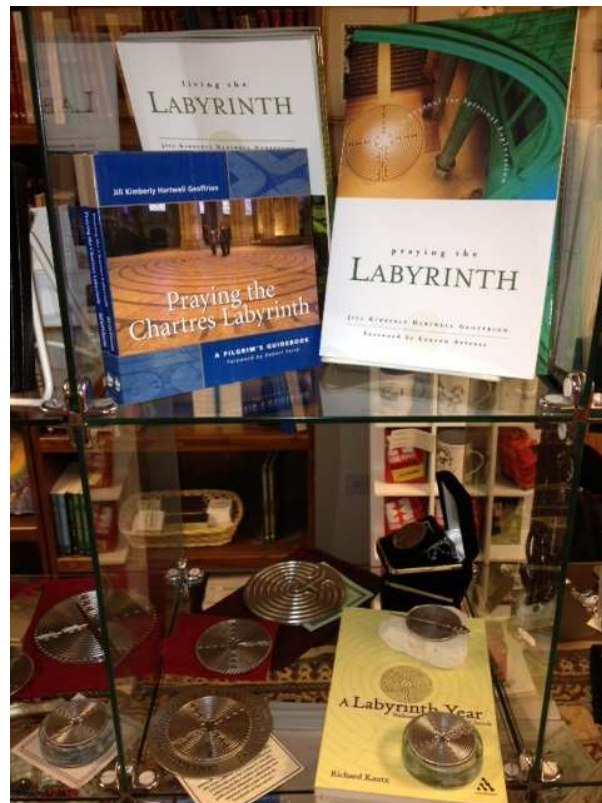


Deacons on Retreat.





Audrey and Tori Poll painting God boxes.



**Come to And All the Angels to see the variety of labyrinths we carry and our books on praying the labyrinth!**

**Nicholas Alvin Johnson Memorial Scholarship Application Call**

2013 marks the eighth year of the Nicholas Alvin Johnson Memorial Scholarship which is awarded to a high school graduate for the purpose of college or university fees to a four year institution. The scholarship is awarded to a high school graduate who has been and is active at St. Michael's, Church of the Redeemer in Elgin, or Holy Apostles in Wauconda. The scholarship is in the amount of \$2500 (per year) and is renewable for four years based upon meeting the standards established by the Scholarship Committee. Application packets were mailed last week to all St. Michael's high school seniors. If for any reason your senior did not receive the application packet please call the parish office. Please note **the deadline for submitting completed applications is 5:00 p.m. on May 1, 2013.** For more information, contact Nancy Holmes at [nholmes@stmichaelsbarrington.org](mailto:nholmes@stmichaelsbarrington.org) or 847-381-2323 ext. 11.

### **Remember Loved Ones and Give Thanks for Blessings through Easter Flower Donations**

As Easter approaches, we anticipate a joyful and inspiring celebration of our Lord's resurrection. We wonderfully enhance our worship by adorning our church with glorious flowers that announce "Christ is risen!"

Donations toward the cost of the Easter flowers can be a special way of remembering loved ones; they can also express thanksgiving for the many blessings we receive. The Easter bulletin will have two lists of names: "In Memory of" and "In Thanksgiving for." If your contribution is in memory of a loved one, his or her name will be listed. If your contribution is given in thanksgiving for a spouse, family member or friend, their names will be listed.

To donate, please use one of the provided flower envelopes located in the narthex. Fill out the names of your loved ones on the envelope, place your check inside, and drop your envelope in the regular collection basket or bring it into the parish office. To have your donation printed in the Easter bulletin please submit your envelope by March 24. Thank you.

### **Receptions will follow all the Easter Services**

Receptions will follow all the Easter Services, 8:00 p.m., 30 March and 7:45, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. 31 March. Please bring a plate of finger food to the service you plan to attend. Marti Callahan is looking for volunteers to help clean-up after each service and to keep the food platters and punch bowls filled. Please contact Marti if you are willing to volunteer at [marticallahan@gmail.com](mailto:marticallahan@gmail.com).

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