

The Archangel

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

November 2011

Embarrassments, Giving and Freedom

More Christians are discovering a wonderful truth. When we are diligently searching for a deeper and more nourishing spiritual life, we look for it in mountain top experiences, but it is more often found in ordinary practices about money.

It may seem counter intuitive. How can spirituality have anything to do with something so mundane. Our decisions about money disbursements reflect on what is important to us, and this reflects our spiritual lives. If we are willing to look at our checkbooks or credit card statements in a new, open and honest manner and additionally if we would have a real conversation about giving and stewardship, we will gain a significant insight about our priorities based on how we disburse money. Such fresh insights can lead us to discover something freeing, something joyful and something deeply spiritual.

God has graciously given us a powerful tool for transforming ourselves and finding a deep and more nourishing spiritual life. This tool is an essential part of our faith. There is another but lesser truth, that evil intends to rob us of that too, to rob us of freedom and joy, by filling us with fear, guilt, embarrassment or shame. We begin to break the hold of evil whenever we begin to talk openly, honestly and faithfully. Jesus proclaimed, straight out, "The truth will set you free." So it truly does and so it will, when some open honest and faithful consideration about money, for the purpose of gaining freedom, joy and a deeper spiritual life is your focus.

First, truth recognizing and truth telling is essential. In the history of the broad church, we may hold some embarrassments, the crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, the treatment of many Native Americans by the church. Additionally there may be some embarrassment or shame about the Episcopal Church and some of public proclamations and actions, and this may continue to some bishops and priest we know. Honestly it can be pretty embarrassing that it has taken us too long to "get it" about a number of things in the church and in the world. We have all heard about some of the notorious scandals involving money and famous televangelists, but it makes me wonder sheepishly what things I still don't "get" as a follower of Jesus.

Other embarrassments or guilt come as we honestly assess our practices of living a recognizably contagious life to glorify God, or our practices around giving to God's mission in gratitude and our good stewardship of our faith, other people and God's creation.

These embarrassments are by no means the only reason why we're so hesitant to talk openly, honestly and faithfully about money, giving and stewardship, but it leads to two more embarrassments, our embarrassing silence and for some our embarrassing practices.

So in the interest of dispelling embarrassment, guilt or fear, and discovering new freedom, joy and the blessing of a deeper spiritual life, have an open, honest, truthful discussion with yourself or even better with someone you respect as you begin to prepare for the commitment card coming from St. Michael's later this month. Our Ingathering will be Sunday, November 20th.

Your Brother in Christ,
Tige Newell +



Poinsettias

Poinsettias used to decorate for our Christmas services need to be ordered by Sunday, November 27th. Each poinsettia is \$12.00. Please include your dedication and payment with your order and use the special envelopes in the pew racks. Make checks payable to St. Michael's with a memo "Poinsettias."

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Poinsettias _____ Amount (\$12.00 each) _____ Ordered by _____

Dedication _____

Reminder...Reminder...Reminder

Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, November 5th

5:00-7:30pm

Donations Accepted.

Take-out Available.

All Are Welcome.

Treasurer's Corner

Your pledge cards for 2012 will arrive in the mail in early November. Please return your pledge card as soon as possible. The Vestry will meet in late November and early December to prepare a 2012 budget. Your pledge input will determine the budget for 2012.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Wednesday, November 23rd, 7:00pm

Thanksgiving Fruit and Veggies

Monies for Thanksgiving fruits and veggies will be received up until November 14th. The church will be decorated with them for the Sunday services on November 20th, and then they will be delivered to the Lafayette House before Thanksgiving.

Checks can be made out to "St. Michael's Church," noting "for fruit and veggies."



EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE
of Southern Virginia

Thank you!

To the Vestry and members of St. Michael's,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your 2011 pledge to the diocese. Your positive response allows our common ministry in Southern Virginia to move forward.

May God bless you in your ministry as you have blessed our diocese with your commitment of support.

Faithfully,


The Rt. Rev. Herman "Holly" Hollerith

Youth Ministry News

We had seven youth attend this year's October Weekend. The theme was Warm Fuzzy Explosion. Everyone had a great time. They really got a lot out of the weekend.

We held a car wash on October 1st and raised \$140. Thank you for all who helped.

Our October meeting was led by Joseph Gay and he did a great job.

On November 5 we are holding our annual Spaghetti Dinner from 5:00 to 7:30. We are accepting donations. We will be taking take-out orders. All are welcomed.

We will be collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child on the week of the 14th and delivering them to Covenant Christian on the 19th and 20th. Thank you for your support with this very special outreach.

Praise be to God,
Your servant Michael



November birthday party will be on November 20th after the 10:30am worship service .

NOVEMBER

- 1 Leslie Wright
- 4 Diane Wilson
Vickie Zevgolis
- 5 Guy Allen
- 6 Katelynn Hood
- 10 Maia Vasiloff
- 14 Stacy Stafford
- 15 Marian Barfield
- 16 Berkley Stafford
- 17 Robbie Chamberlain
Karen Anderson
Mark Roudabush
- 20 Tom Randolph
- 21 Margie Ditri
- 22 Jess Swogger
- 26 Leslie Peterson
- 28 David Warriner
Chris Anderson

Anniversaries

NOVEMBER

- 3 Jay and Sabine Allen
- 10 Rob and Jane Elliott

Christmas Family

Monetary donations to St. Michael's with "Christmas Family" in the memo line. A chart is posted in the hall if you would rather purchase a gift. Please write your name on the chart beside the item you wish to purchase. All donations need to be made by December 1st.

Questions: call Jane Elliott, 520-2266



A Reflection and Thank You From the Altar Guild

Tige spoke today (Oct. 23) about stewardship of our time, talents, our money, ourselves as a whole. I started thinking about all the ways as a church we lovingly share our lives with each other. We give a needed smile here and there, a ride to the doctor's office or to church, a meal after a trip to the hospital, a reception after the memorial service of a loved one, an automobile to someone who is without, etc., etc. Many times memorial money is donated to the church for specific things or just to the general church fund. When monies are donated specifically for the Altar Guild, we begin to look at what needs or desires we have that are not covered by the general budget. Sometimes a family may have an item they would like to be presented to church, which we would honor. Many times the gifts of money noted for Altar Guild use are left to our discretion.

St. Michael's received memorial monies noted for Altar Guild use for instance after the death of Johnnie Barnes. We have been blessed to use those funds in the past year and a half for a number of things such as a pair of angel candle holders which we've used in the Christmas season. We also purchased a beautiful wood carving of Jesus washing a disciple's feet, which we've used in Lent on the font. You may have noticed the Christ Rex crucifix which we are using from Easter until Lent. We have just acquired two ceramic chalices and pitcher to be used during Advent and Lent in memory of John Barnes.

Paul Flexon's memorial monies helped purchase some of our lovely banners. Other banners and items used during the different liturgical seasons that you see we have due to the generous gifts of friends and church members.

The flowers on Sunday mornings and at Christmas and Easter are gifts of thanksgiving and memorial remembrances of loved ones.

All of these offerings are made possible by the stewardship of each one who chooses to give out of what they've been blessed with. The Altar Guild thanks each and every giver for each and every gift which we use to enhance our worship and our worship space.

Thankfully,
Carolyn Mason

December Archangel Deadline

Monday, November 28th, 9:30am

Ministry Schedules for Dec., Jan. and Feb. due also

**Richmond and Tri-Cities USA Dance Chapter
Dance at St. Michael's**



Saturday, November 12, 2011
Parish Hall
7:30-8:30 – Lesson
8:30-10:30 – Ballroom Dancing

\$8.00 for non-members
Questions: Phone 804-672-2657
e-mail: rw4013@earthlink.net

**Pot Luck Lunch
Sunday, November 6th**

Plan to stay after worship for good food and fellowship.
Bring a hearty dish to share.
Ya'll come!

St. Michael's Vestry Nomination and Election Notification

Election of our new Vestry representatives will occur during the parish Annual Meeting Sunday, December 11, 2011. All active parish members in good standing, age 16 and over, may vote at the Annual Meeting.

The first call for vote will be for our new Vestry representatives. There is a custom that twelve people serve on the Vestry, but there is no mandate that twelve must serve. We are receiving nominations for persons to fill 2-year terms with a third year option. **St. Michael's needs Vestry members who will employ their leadership skills and work as a team member for the benefit of the parish community under the Lord Jesus.** Our parish would be of greater service to the Lord Jesus and His people if those serving on Vestry brought with them enthusiasm and consider new possibilities for our life in Christ and to serve him and his church. Service on St. Michael's Vestry should be looked upon as a call from our Lord to this ministry.

St. Michael's Vestry members should:

- Model spiritual maturity by prayer, word and action.
- Seek God's will for St. Michael's and work toward this over and above personal issues and preference.
- Live in their home and function in their workplace to honor the lordship of Jesus Christ in their lives.
- Exhibit mental and emotional soundness, reflective of a pursuit of a balanced life.

Members of St. Michael's may nominate one or more members from our congregation. Members may also nominate themselves if they believe our Lord may be calling them to serve on the Vestry. Each nominee should sign a Vestry nominee Letter of Commitment and return it to the church office or the Rector's mailbox by Sunday, November 27th.

VESTRY PROFILE

- I. Eligibility. The Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Southern Virginia determine eligibility as follows:
 - A. One must subscribe to the Declaration of Conformity to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA:

I do believe Holy Scripture to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church; and I promise that I will faithfully serve as a member of the Vestry of St. Michael's Parish in Colonial Heights, VA according to my best knowledge and skills. (Canon XVII, Section 8: Qualifying Declaration)
 - B. One must be at least sixteen years of age and a "Confirmed-Communicant-in-Good-Standing."
 1. A Confirmed Communicant is a baptized person who has been confirmed or has been received into the Episcopal Church or has a letter of transfer on file and has received communion at least three times within the last twelve months.
 2. A Confirmed Communicant "in good standing" is one who is active, attends church regularly, participates in parish events and financially supports St. Michael's on a regular basis.
 - C. One must have at least one year break or sabbatical between each two-year term served.
 - D. It is the policy of St. Michael's Episcopal Church that married couples do not serve on the Vestry at the same time.
 - E. The Rector and Vestry serve as the Nomination Committee.
- II. Church Government. Policy within the Episcopal Church is representative.
 - A. The Vestry of St. Michael's is comprised of the Rector and up to twelve members of the congregation who are elected at the Annual Meeting.
 - B. A Register and Treasurer are extended seat and voice privileges, if they do not sit on the Vestry.
 - C. All Vestry meetings are open for anyone to attend, except when in "executive session."
- III. Spiritual. The Vestry is to seek the "mind of Christ" for St. Michael's.
 - A. Vestry members have received Jesus Christ as Savior and know or are coming to know Him as the Lord of their life.

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- B. They seek the power of the Holy Spirit for their lives and ministries.
- C. They commit to praying for the church and members on a regular basis.
- D. They are a financial supporter of ministries and works God is doing through St. Michael's:
WE COMMIT ourselves to the biblical tithe of giving (10%) of what God has given us. We also commit that every Vestry member will continue to increase giving until the tithe is reached or exceeded. WE ENCOURAGE the entire congregation of St. Michael's to join the Vestry in this commitment. E. They commit to the concept of unanimous votes on all Vestry matters as a safeguard for determining the Will of God and Vestry action.

- IV. Responsibilities. Each Vestry member is responsible for attending:
- A. Regular Commission meetings (Monthly meeting date set by commission).
 - B. Regular Vestry meetings (Currently, 1st Monday of month, 7:00pm).
 - C. Special Vestry and/or Commission meetings, if called.
 - D. Annual retreat(s) for planning, fellowship and spiritual refreshment.

- V. Commission Membership.
- A. Currently there are six commissions, each with Vestry and non-Vestry members.
 1. Administration and Finance: Financial and day-to-day operations.
 2. Christian Formation - Children.
 3. Christian Formation – Adults
 4. Communications
 5. Hospitality for New and Current Members
 6. Prayer and Worship
 - B. Each elected member of the Vestry serves on one of the commissions.

VESTRY NOMINEE LETTER OF COMMITMENT

The Vestry meets once a month. Vestry members are expected to attend regularly and notify the Rector or Senior Warden when an absence is necessary. These meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. (Occasionally schedule conflicts cause us to hold them on an alternate date.) Formal Vestry meeting begins at 7:00pm with prayer. On-going and new business are addressed and voted on as necessary. Commission reports are received. We close with prayer, usually about 9:00pm.

Each Vestry person serves on a Commission (a standing committee) and may or may not chair that body. Each Vestry person may, in addition, be expected to head or serve on one or more special committees during the year or carryout special projects as requested by the Rector or Wardens.

A term of office is for two-years, with one year off before a person may be elected again. The only exception is when a person is elected to fill an unexpired term. Then he/she may run for another two-year term upon the completion of the unexpired term, without the year interval.

Also, during each year, each Vestry person is expected to attend a retreat/planning session of one or two days, and a one day evaluation session. Obviously, whichever commission you serve on will meet throughout the year – some, more than others.

There is another aspect which is intrinsic. Vestry member accepts the responsibility of spiritual presence, as well as business responsibility. Regular church attendance and attendance at special services, whenever possible, is assumed, as well as a desire to serve the Lord in whatever fashion gifts are issued by the Holy Spirit. It is assumed that everyone who is willing to serve believes in the Divinity of Jesus Christ, the Lordship of God, the Father, and are the Holy Spirit. It is also assumed that anyone serving in this capacity will pledge to the financial support of the church and is a confirmed Episcopalian, being a voting member and communicant of St. Michael's Church.

Besides the above, an openness to grow in one's understanding of God and His power as known through His Son and the Holy Spirit would be necessary to fulfill the position as a Vestry person. A part of each Vestry meeting will be dedicated to this goal. We pray that you will respond.

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(Due November 27th to the church office or the Rector's mailbox)

Understanding the responsibilities as outlined above, and after prayer and much thought, I happily allow my name to be placed in nomination to serve as a Vestry person in St. Michael's Church.

(Date)

(Signature)

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

November 2011

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| | | 1 1:00-Bible Study 7:00-Cursillo Gr. | 2 10:30-Al-Anon | 3 | 4 | 5 EYC Spaghetti Dinner 5:00-7:30 |
| Pot Luck 6 8:00am-Morning Prayer 9:00am-Adult Educ. 10:30am-Morning Prayer w. Sun. Sch. 5:00pm-EYC | 7 1:00-Cursillo Gr. | 8 1:00-Bible Study 7:00-Cursillo Gr. | 9 10:30-Al-Anon | 10 | 11 Happening | 12 9:00-Al-Anon District USA Dance 4:30-10:30 #57 - Chanco |
| 13 8:00am-Holy Euch. I 9:00am-Adult Educ. 10:30am-Holy Euch. II w. Sun. Sch. 5:00pm-EYC | 14 1:00-Cursillo Gr. | 15 1:00-Bible Study 7:00-Cursillo Gr. | 16 10:00-A.A.R.P. 10:30-Al-Anon | 17 | 18 7:00-Cursillo Ultreya | 19 |
| Birthdays 20 8:00am-Holy Euch. I 9:00am-Adult Educ. 10:30am-Holy Euch. II w. Sun. Sch. Stewardship Ingathering 5:00pm-EYC | 21 12:00-Garden Club 1:00-Cursillo Gr. | 22 1:00-Bible Study 7:00-Cursillo Gr. | 23 10:30-Al-Anon 7:00-Thanksgiving Worship | 24 Thanksgiving Day Office | 25 Closed | 26 |
| 27 8:00am-Holy Euch. I 9:00am-Adult Educ. 10:30am-Holy Euch. II w. Sun. Sch. | 28 Archangel Deadline 1:00-Cursillo Gr. | 29 1:00-Bible Study 7:00-Cursillo Gr. | 30 10:30-Al-Anon | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Nov. 14 – Deadline for Donations for Thanksgiving Fruit and Veggies</p> <p>Nov. 27 – Deadline for Poinsettia Orders</p> <p>Dec. 1 -- Deadline for Christmas Family Donations</p> </div> | | |

*The Common Purpose of St. Michael's Episcopal Church is:
We're growing to be who Jesus wants us to be and
do what He wants us to do.*