

The Archangel

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

July/August 2010

St. Michael's Congregation Check-in and Conversation A Report

Our meeting held June 13th had a good attendance and participation. Two and a half years have passed since we worked together in prayer, conversation, Bible study and more conversation to define St. Michael's next steps seeking to grow as disciples in the Lord Christ. These steps are formed by our identified common purpose: **"Be who Jesus wants us to be, and do what He wants us to do."** We have accomplished the tasks and goals we set out for our life together such as offering another Alpha course, St. Michael's 101, "Alleluia on the Lawn" and a St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals. Additionally there has been much gained by the emphasis of adult spiritual formation and sound formation for our EYC age members. Indeed we hold a greater understanding of what it is to be who Jesus wants us to be; God's beloved children, heirs of His Kingdom, forgiven sinners.

In the meeting we also acknowledged we currently have very few young children and their parents among us. No one spoke up that this is a desirable state for St. Michael's, for which I am thankful. There was lively conversation as to how St. Michael's can effectively reach out to young children and their families. Some can be done soon such as "Alleluia on the Lawn" Saturday, September 18th, Blessing of the Animals October 2nd and reclaim Sunday school classrooms from the storage bins they have become. Additionally we realize that St. Michael's can no longer limit our communications to what most of us may be comfortable with, but we need to add to our regular parish communications and promotion Facebook, Twitter and the like, because these are the common communications for most young adults. To draw these folks to St. Michael's as an inviting place where they can grow in relation with Christ Jesus we may need to develop a different liturgy offered in addition to our 8:00 and 10:30am worship services. St. Michael's is among many Episcopal churches facing these challenges. We will benefit as we join in conversation with other parishes as well as continue to grow by inviting younger generations to find new life in the Living Lord. These next steps of faith in Christ hold some uncertainties, but this can be an invigorating new season for St. Michael's.

Let us continue to listen, work, pray, play and grow so that God is glorified in our life together.

Your Brother in Christ,

Tige Newell, Rector

Missing Flower Container



One of our favorite glass flower containers seems to be lost. Several months ago, it went home with someone with lovely flowers. We know it is in a good home, but we can't remember where. Please look among your vases to see if you have it. It is heavy glass, about 13" long, shaped like a banana split dish. There are no late fees to pay when returning it. We would just like to use it again.

Thanks in advance for bringing it back home.

Carolyn Mason

Help Wanted

...someone who likes to plan in order to help colleagues help St. Michael's young saints to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

...Job title: Children's Church School Coordinator.

...Job description: to work with the children's church school teachers on curriculum materials, supplies and schedules.

...See Tige to volunteer

A Thank You and an Update on Bryan's Oasis

It has been 2 years this past Memorial Day weekend since we had the house blessings for Bryan's Oasis. Many of you came to that event, many of you keep the ministry and us in frequent prayers and some of you generously contribute to it. So we offer a heart felt THANK YOU! We are simply members of this church body doing what we believe God has called us to do but we count on your help and support. Thank for keeping on with us.

There has been meaningful ministry in the past 6 months and I want to encourage your hearts with this report. Our mission statement reads that "Bryan's Oasis is a place of hospitality in the Blue Ridge mountains away from the normal pressures of life. An oasis is not the destination, but a place to stop, rest and gain strength to continue the journey. We offer B&B style hospitality in Jesus' name to others wherever they are on their journey, or whatever their religious beliefs."

God is unfolding this ministry gradually and lovingly. In January we hosted a grieving couple for a few days, numb from the very recent death of their 4 yr. old daughter. They needed time and space to absorb the reality of their loss, rest from care giving and to prepare for life without her. We were privileged to offer what we could.

A young couple weary from childcare and sickness came for an overnight later in the month. We then were delighted to have a returning grieving couple arrive before us and prepare the meals for us!

During Lent a number of you came for a mini retreat, one in February and one in March. We feasted on communion with our Heavenly Father, among ourselves and as a sacrament, the stillness and solitude touching deep places.

Some long time missionary friends came for 10 days in early April, hosted and then on their own to rest, reflect on 40 years of foreign ministry and refine their current calling. Some pastors joined Hank for a few days of fun, hiking and camaraderie later in the month -- support for the shepherds. As a spiritual director, Hank provided place and structure for 2 men to deepen their relationship with the Lord on individual 3 day get a ways.

Under the umbrella of Bryan's Oasis we offered a retreat at Shalom House for bereaved parents titled "Where is God in our Grief?" The Lord was gently present with His comfort and peace to 14 people seeking His balm on their broken hearts.

From that group a couple grieving many losses joined us in early June for a time in the Lord's creation and care.

Our gracious Lord continues to answer this prayer, given to us out of the Celtic tradition over 3 years ago:

The Telling Place

Bless us Lord, this day with vision.

May this place be a sacred place, a telling place,

A place where heaven and earth meet.

God is bringing this about in one little spot in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and we are blessed to be a part. We praise Him and thank Him and you.

Hank and Peggy

Memorial Garden: A huge thank you to all of those who are tending our gardens ! They look great! I have been unable to put much time into the gardens in the last few weeks, Thank you all for keeping things looking beautiful! Bless you all! - Margie Ditri

Video Visits with Steve Hood

Assisting Families of Inmates is an organization that offers a program to facilitate video visits with inmates. This gives the opportunity to visit with Steve Hood at Keen Mountain Correction Center (in the southwest corner of the state) from downtown Richmond (5th and Main Streets). Groups of up to 5 people can go at one time, with an initial appointment required of the contact person for each group. One group has been approved and has visited with Steve via video. Their next video visit is Sunday, June 27th, at 1:30pm. For anyone else who would like to do this, information and the required forms are available in the hallway. Lynnice Randolph will be happy to answer your questions.

Confirmation

June 20, 2010



Thank You

Thank you to each and every person who helped to make Confirmation Sunday such a blessed occasion! As always, everything was perfection! All flowers in the sanctuary and decorations were Carolyn Mason's loveliest! The reception food was the most delicious! Again – bless each one of St. Michael's best



The Rev. Tige Newell, Larry Lewis, Sarah Wilkerson, Brandon Peet,
The Rt. Rev. Holly Hollerith, Guy Allen, Joseph Gay, Tammy McKeown

Patriotic Potluck Picnic
Sunday, July 4th
After 10:00am worship
Hot Dogs Provided.
Bring "Sides" and "Desserts"



Saying Good-bye to Elizabeth Toslin.

Women's Retreat Update

A big thanks to Cindy Devereaux for buying and distributing the book by Max Lucado, *Fearless*, that we will be using as the theme of our October 22-24 women's retreat. As far as I know she has more for sale at \$12.50. What a deal! I strongly encourage you to get one for summer reading and to work on the pertinent study questions in the back of the book.

Here is a list of the chapters that are highlighted in the DVD series that we will be showing and discussing as part of the program:

Chapter 1: Why are we afraid?

Chapter 2: The Villagers of Stiltsville---Fear of Not Mattering

Chapter 3: God's Ticked Off at Me---Fear of Disappointing God

Chapter 10: Scared to Death--- Fear of Life's final Moments

Chapter 13: What if things get worse?---Fear of Global Calamity

Chapter 14: The One Healthy Terror---Fear of God Getting out of My Box

We have had one successful fundraiser, the pie sale before Thanksgiving, that helped to defray the cost of the retreat at Roslyn Center. In order to reduce our cost a bit further, we will not be planning on having Sunday lunch there. As you remember, the food is delicious, plentiful and expensive so eat a hardy breakfast on Sunday, and we will finish the retreat about noon. We do not have the option of ordering just a few lunches that day. You may remember, I sure do, that we have to be out of our rooms by 9am Sunday but can still be in Gibson Hall all morning. You are welcome to stay on a bit and enjoy the beautiful grounds. And anyone who would like to is welcome to organize another fundraiser before the final payment is due in early October. (We will let you know the date for the final payment in September.) Please let me know if you are unable to make the weekend. We have filled up all the available rooms and are starting a waiting list. A very big thanks to anyone who has to be flexible to accommodate the room restriction.

God is so faithful. He has most graciously blessed, inspired and instructed us over the past 7 years as we have gathered in His name for these retreats. Please join me in praying most specifically for His continued blessings on us, His dearly beloved daughters, as we plan, prepare, read and examine our fears in light of His promises and provision.

Blessings on your summer,
Peggy

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**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**



July birthday party will be on July 18th; August party, August 15th, after the 10:00am worship service .

JULY

- 1 Belinda Ingram
- 2 Cindy Devereaux
- 4 David Noakes
- 5 Jessica Ditri
- 7 Mary Moore
Mary W. Wright
- 8 Gerald Moore
David Dickerson
- 13 Melissa Schablon
- 19 Jeannette Koster
Sharon Vasiloff
- 20 Harrison Shindler
- 21 Krista McCulloch
- 22 Elaine Soper
- 26 Pearl Clark
- 29 Katherine Burton
Vicki Davis
- 30 Oreda Kovalcik

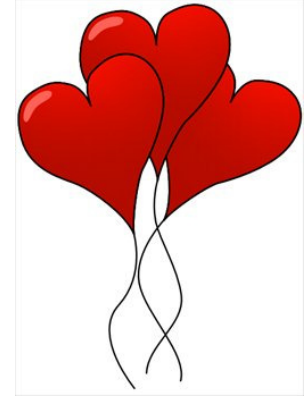
AUGUST

- 2 Mary Shindler
- 4 Ruth Woodfin
- 7 Sally Rainey
- 8 Allison Collette
- 9 William Christmas
- 10 Rob Elliott
Jeanne Henry
Elliott Shindler
- 12 Allen Nelson
- 15 Kim Williams
Sandi O'Mery
- 17 Martie Warriner
- 19 Lisa Robertson
- 21 Steve Hood
- 23 Nicole Snell
David Collier
- 24 Joseph Richel
- 25 Charles McCoull
- 28 Lynette Dickerson
Amy Burcham
- 26 Maleah Callendar
- 30 Joe Lyman
Tracy Bailey
Casey Burcham
- 31 Michele Snell

Anniversaries

JULY

- 4 Mantovani and Bev Gay
- 8 William and Barbara Smith
- 10 Bob and Diane Wilson
- 12 Ken and Judy Arehart
- 14 Bo and Melissa Bottoms
- 20 Fred and Mary Moore
- 26 Tom and Milly Thompson
- 29 T. O. and Sally Rainey



AUGUST

- 5 Kirk and Tracy Bailey
- 7 Don and Sue Strach
- 14 Herb and Paula Greene

Summary of Vestry Minutes

- A/C has been replaced in the sanctuary and the kitchen has been professionally cleaned.
- The Vestry voted to replace the fence at the back of the church with vinyl fencing.
- New church sign is being constructed at the sign plant and will be installed over a 2-day period by June 20th or soon thereafter.
- Vestry approved replacing the A/C in the office wing.
- Confirmation is June 20th with eight persons being confirmed.
- St. Michael's is hosting the Executive Board of the Diocese on June 24th.
- Lynnice Randolph has volunteered to be a delegate. We need volunteers to fill the other delegate and alternate slots.
- Lisa Horne resigned as Children Co-ordinator.
- Next meeting is July 6th at 7:00pm (Tuesday rather than Monday)



Food Pantry



The Rev. Mike Murray called to express his sincere thanks for the contributions of food that our church makes to the Community United Food Pantry at Covenant Christian Fellowship Church. It is a great blessing and help.

Please continue to drop off your contributions of non-perishable food items in the bucket in the hallway. The food items will be taken to Covenant for the food bank.

September Archangel Deadline

Monday, August 23rd, 9:30am

Ministry Schedules for September, October and November due also.



Make a Joyful Noise

Pick-Up Choir meets each Sunday during summer at 9:20am in the choir room. Please join us one Sunday. Who knows, you might like it so much, you'll keep singing with us.

Regular choir rehearsals will resume on Thursdays, 7:15pm, beginning September 9th. All are welcome and invited to give the choir a try!

Episcopal Church Women

The ECW will gather for their summer outing on July 22nd at 11:30am at Ruby Tuesday's. We will resume regular meetings in September 2010. Any questions, call Mary Lynne Switzer at 520-4618.

Coming This Summer...

July 4th - Patriotic Potluck Picnic
Hot Dogs Provided
Bring "Sides" and "Desserts"

August 1st - Potluck with Ice Cream Social
Bring regular potluck dishes
Ice Cream and toppings provided

August 15th - Sabine's "Watermelon Spitting Contest"
Watermelon and seeds provided
(after the birthday party)

Reminder Finger Food Donations For Summer Light

Our hostesses at Coffee Hour could always use another food donation – only two hostesses scheduled per Sunday, sooo if you have a favorite recipe, feel free to let us sample it. Homemade or purchased, it will be consumed! Just bring it and leave it on the kitchen counter. Beverages such as soft drinks or tea also welcome – they keep from week to week.

***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.*



Summer Coffee and Conversation

Sundays, 9:00-9:30am
In the Parish Hall

No agenda
No subject too small. Each week different. Some weeks just conversation!
Come when you can.

Join us

Alleluia on the Lawn

Save the date of September 18 for our second annual "Alleluia on the Lawn." We plan to begin sometime around 1:00pm, and it will end at approximately 5:00pm. There will be live music, food, games, and fellowship. We want as much participation as possible so we will be advertising this event and ask that you invite someone to come along as well. More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date and our plans solidify.



Steve Hood Praise Report

For anyone who missed the recent verbal announcement in church (by Pete Devereaux), there have been good developments for Steve in recent weeks. First of all, the judge upheld or reissued his order from November granting Steve's Habeas request -- which will ultimately lead to freedom or a new trial. Then the best possible attorneys have come forward to represent Steve while the Attorney General's office appeals this ruling. All this is an answer to many prayers.

Meanwhile, a small group from St. Michael's visits Steve by video conferencing approximately once a month. Additional small groups can do the same, if interested.

Thank you for your prayers, letters, etc.

On Steve's behalf,
Lynnice Randolph