

The Archangel

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

September 2008

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia Bishop Search

WHAT IS A BISHOP?

Bishops as we know them in the Episcopal Church emerged in New Testament times. They were called by the title "*episkopos*," a Greek word that means "overseer." The Anglican Communion today teaches that we can trace a direct line from these earliest overseers of the church to today's bishops. The original overseers in the church were the Apostles chosen by Jesus, whom he called to follow him, to whom he taught his message, and whom he prepared for leadership.

As we know, the earliest followers of Jesus were his fellow Jews. But as the gospel message quickly began to touch more and more lives, especially through the ministry of St. Paul, the Apostles to the Gentiles, people from a variety of backgrounds and expanding geographical areas became attracted to the new faith. This growth not only added organizational problems and theological complexity, it also expanded the responsibilities of the Christian community and created a need for more leadership. Persons deemed worthy of leadership positions were chosen to assist the Apostles and their successors in passing on the faith to new generations. By the 2nd century, however, fewer women were being ordained to positions of leadership in the church. That exclusion lasted in the Episcopal Church until the late 20th century, but women are now welcomed to all orders of the clergy in our church, including the office of bishop.

The church has taught from the beginning that the Apostles and those leaders who came after them are to serve as the chief shepherds of the Christian community, the church's chief teachers, and the guardians of the unity of the church. We have bishops in the Episcopal Church today because we believe it is important to govern and administer the affairs of a church according to the norms and traditions inaugurated by Christ himself. Today the office of bishop carries with it a wide range of responsibilities, including defending the integrity of the faith, confirming and receiving new members into the church, ordaining and providing pastoral care for priests and deacons in their charge, providing community leadership, administering the business affairs of their dioceses, and participating in the affairs of the Anglican Communion, both nationally and worldwide.

(Adapted for use in the Diocese of Southern Virginia)

WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR A NEW BISHOP?

The requirements for nomination of a bishop are straightforward. Nominees must be thirty years old when nominated and must be an ordained priest when consecrated as a bishop. In Southern Virginia, the Standing Committee has appointed a Nominating Committee charged with selecting a field of three to five candidates. Candidates are subjected to a rigorous vetting, including physical and psychological examinations, in-depth interviews, and background checks. In addition to the nominees selected by the Committee, provision is made for nomination by petition from within the Diocese. The Nominating Committee in the Diocese of Southern Virginia is well balanced. It has 16 members: 8 laity and 8 clergy, 8 women and 8 men. Care has been taken to ensure ethnic and racial diversity, theological diversity, and diocesan-wide representation.

Sunday Classes Begin September 7th

Children's classes will be held during the first half of the 10:30am worship service. The children will be escorted to class during the opening hymns and will return after the Prayers of the People to join their families for Holy Communion.

The class for Adults, "Learning From Jesus", a spiritual formation guide, will continue in the Fowler Room, 9:15 – 10:15am.

A new offering begins September 7th, 9:15-10:15, titled St. Michael's 101. It is designed for people new to St. Michael's or as a refresher for long-time Episcopalians. Everyone is welcome to this six weeks class. This class will meet in the far end of the Parish Hall.

Infant and toddler nursery open each Sunday beginning at 9:00am.

Thank You

I wish to try to express my gratitude for the amazing outpouring of loving support during my ongoing recovery. Your prayers and presence have been a huge part of my healing process. It's been such a treat to see many of you several times recently! You continue to help make memories which are imprinted on my soul. Thank you so much! I continue to covet your prayers, and pray for God's richest blessings on each of you.

Mary Erickson

Altar Guild Notes

God is good, He is faithful, He is beauty, He is inspiring, He is holy and we can go on forever trying to describe our Majestic God.

Over the past few years, we have tried to create an atmosphere in the various seasons of the church that gives a brief peek at who God is. Through prayer, listening and reading scripture in keeping with the church seasons, our sanctuary has been adorned with offerings from God's creation such as flowers, branches, rocks, fruits and vegetables, etc. There have been lovely fabrics, banners and numerous items which remind us of our lives in Jesus and our lives as a church family.

Your appreciation has been shown in many ways: your offerings of help through your time, flowers and greens, funds to purchase many items we continue to use such as our lovely banners. Your comments of affirmation tell us that there is a gentle ministry to the hearts and spirits of many. To all of you we express our thanks and to God be all the glory.

As we prepare to celebrate the first 50 years of life at St. Michael's, we are excited about how to do that. One of the ways will be a new set of banners that will help to express our heartfelt thanks to the Lord our God of all blessings. They are banners that will be used from September until Advent begins each year.

We also will use extra flowers in our sanctuary for our celebration. If you would like to contribute to either of these additions in thanksgiving for something special God has done for us here at St. Michael's or in memory of a special person in your life, please fill out the form below indicating the amount of your donation towards flowers and banners.

Our desire in this ministry is not just to feed our own spirits each Sunday morning but to say, to those who visit or are looking for a new church home, "the love of Jesus Christ abides here in us, will you join us?"

As we begin our new fall season we find ourselves in need of new members for our Altar Guild. We have five teams that meet every five weeks to prepare for our Sunday morning worship services; no experience necessary. If you have talents for washing and ironing linens, arranging flowers or cleaning brass and would be willing to help, please let me know. Linens, brass cleaning and flower arranging are not a requirement for anyone to be part of our Altar Guild. Talk with Carolyn about this wonderful ministry to the Body of Christ at St. Michael's.

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St. Michael's 50th

My contribution towards flowers and banners is \$_____.

Dedication: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Make checks payable to St. Michael's Church and note "Altar Flowers/Banners".

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Happy Birthday

Birthday party will be on September 21st after the 10:00am worship service .

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Gayle Floyd
- 6 Lisa Horne
- 7 Kirk Bailey
- 9 Herb McCulloch
- 10 Mark Vasiloff
- 11 Marcy Forte
Michael Cole
- 12 Jane Elliott
Maiya Callender
Henry Koster
Milly Thompson
- 13 Barbara M.
Gemeny
Kira Kaseloo
- 14 Peggy Graeser
- 15 Timmy Creed
- 17 Margaret Spivey
- 18 Ida Costello
Linda Chamberlain
Paul Gardner
- 21 Monica Erickson
Ryan Ingram
- 23 Dianna Santos
- 26 Jane Willis
Steve McDonough
Mattie McLaughlin
- 28 Andy McDonough
Dominique Gay
- 29 Cynthia Goad
Tige Newell
Enid Lewis

Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Keith and Heidi McMurdo
- 7 Dick and Jan Condit
- 12 Woody and Berkley Stafford
- 15 Ferguson and Barbara
Gemeny
- 16 Brad and Julie Wilmarth
Roy and Teresa Crawford

October Archangel Deadline
Monday, September 22nd , 9:30am

CHOIR REHEARSAL will start Thursday, September 11th, at 7:15pm. Ya'll come....

MEN'S BREAKFAST resumes Saturday, September 13th, 8:00am in the fellowship hall. All men are invited to come share good food and fellowship.

PANERA BREAD MINISTRY continues. If you would like to help, contact Ken Switzer.

ST. MICHAEL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY: Please remember, we must have reservations for this event so we'll know how to plan.

OUR CHURCH AND GROUNDS need a little extra cleaning before our 50th anniversary celebration. Please try to help with clean-up on September 13th and/or September 30th.

CHILD FIND: The Colonial Heights Public Schools is conducting a CHILD FIND, an effort to locate all children with special needs who reside in Colonial Heights. Special education services are available to any disabled child from birth through twenty-one years of age. Contact the Office of Support Services at 524-3445.

FROM THE DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER: On July 24th, the trustees of the Ridley Foundation were pleased to approve over \$116,000 in scholarship grants to 67 undergraduate students and 13 seminarians to assist with their 2008-09 education costs.

Episcopal Church Women

Our first meeting of the new year will be Thursday, September 18th, at 11:00am in the Fowler Room. We will be starting our Bible study on Job, chapter 1, in the study book; chapters 1 and 2 in the Bible. After a short business meeting we will go to lunch at a local restaurant. Any questions, call Mary Lynne Switzer at 520-4618.

Yard Sale

Saturday, September 27th

Tables for sale, \$15

Proceeds will go towards events for the group through-out the year. If interested please contact Kelly or Michael at 768-8664.

St. Michael's Annual Women's Retreat

This will be our fifth year to gather as the wonderfully unique community of St. Michael's women for a time of spiritual learning and reflection, of fun and fellowship, of prayer and restoration. God has been very gracious to bless us, his beloved daughters, with these experiences in the past and I know He yearns to continue.

The retreat this year will be held Friday, October 31, 5pm through Sunday, November 2, 3pm. We will be gathering at Roslyn House, a retreat center of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. It is located west of Richmond, just across the James River. For more information, pictures of the Retreat House and applications, go to the display set up in the Fellowship Hall.

The theme this year is "Waiting and Walking." For all of us, life gives many opportunities to learn to wait. Together we will share what God is teaching us about patience, trust and stillness through waiting in His presence. And while we wait, life goes on. God calls us to deeper gratitude and obedience as we walk in the spirit while waiting for the not yet.

Our speaker will be Irene Handy. Most of you know Irene and her many gifts. She was the youth minister here at St. Michael's EYC for 5 years. She is currently ministering to and counseling women struggling with abuse and gender issues through Living Waters. She also serves as spiritual director for several women. She will be sharing principles of waiting for God's time, illustrated by her own life examples and those from the scriptures. We will have time as individuals and as small groups to do activities and have discussions that personalize these lessons. There will be time for personal prayer and quiet as well as group fun and community.

We invite you to come and join us as together we explore God's word, share our lives, enjoy rich fellowship and celebrate life, waiting and walking.

Please get your application in ASAP as we must finalize numbers by October 12th. The cost is \$140 for 6 meals and 2 nights. What a deal!! This is a beautiful retreat center and will actually costs more than we are charging each person.

Therefore . . .

St. Michael's BBQ Fundraiser

Help support the women's retreat
Saturday, September 20, 2008
Pick up here 11am to 3pm

Menu:

½ chicken only..... \$5.00
Dinner: ½ chicken, slaw, baked beans and roll... \$8.50

All checks payable to: St. Michael's Episcopal Church
memo: women's retreat BBQ

Please, O Please sell tickets for pre orders!! Sell them at work, at home, at church, on the street corner, at the workout center, to your bridge or bunco group, at the golf course, at Food Lion and Ukrops! Wherever you meet people who would like to eat on Saturday, September 20th! Tickets are available near the display for the BBQ in the Fellowship Hall.

This is a great opportunity for outreach to the community. Our mission statement reminds us to reach out to others. What a fun way to do this!! And fun fellowship in the cooking and serving and selling. You may sign up for that in the fellowship hall soon, too!

Stay tuned for creative announcement coming to a sanctuary near you!!

Youth Ministry News

Calling all youth, grades 6th -12th to be a part of the EYC (Episcopal Youth Community), join us for fellowship and fun each Sunday evening. The September meeting will be on the 7th at 5:00. We will be discussing the events for the upcoming year, playing games, having fun and making new friends. Dinner will be served.

On September 27th the EYC will be hosting a fall Yard Sale. We have tables for sale. Proceeds will go towards events for the group throughout the year. If interested please contact Kelly or myself at 768-8664.

Registration for October Weekend is going on now. The deadline is September 21. This October Weekend is being held October 3rd – 5th at Chanco for grades 8th-12th.

We pray that the Lord will bless us with another good year!! Praise be to God,

Your servant, Michael

Adult Spiritual Formation Sunday Morning Classes begin September 7, 2008 !!!!

We'll pick up where we left off in May, just barely into a new study "Learning from Jesus". Please read further for the assignment for that day.

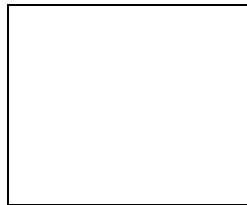
If you have not attended this class, you are invited to join. We meet Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Fowler room. Please contact Hank or Peggy Graeser to get a workbook.

We have just started "Learning from Jesus", a "Spiritual Formation Guide". This study and experience is all about gaining VIM – Vision, Intention and Means to live as Jesus did in the Kingdom of God. Or to use our congregational Mission/Vision: "To be who Jesus wants us to be and do what Jesus wants us to do."

For the first class, please review "The With-God Life" (5 pages, pp. xi – xv), which we covered in detail in our first few meetings last year. Then re-read the single page "LEARNING FROM JESUS: AN OVERVIEW", which is found just before the first lesson. Finally, re-read pages 1-4, do the "MY LIFE WITH GOD EXERCISE" and answer the questions in italics on those pages. If you still have the handout "Homework for 5/18 and 5/25/2008", you can use that to write out your answers.

See you soon!
Hank and Peggy Graeser

Do you remember 50's fashions?



***Check out the pictures of fashions on the
Parish Hall board!***

***For the 50th Anniversary of St. Michael's on October 5th, why not wear something
reminiscent of the actual 50's fashions!!!***

(This is optional – but we'd love for you to wear a hat.)