

# 2009 Annual Report

for

**SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Sanibel Island, in the Diocese of Southwest Florida



Published for the Annual Meeting  
of the Congregation  
February 28, 2010

## The Parish Mission Statement

- ✦ Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church is a center of spiritual growth for those seeking Jesus Christ.
- ✦ We are an open, welcoming congregation that encourages the participation of members and visitors.
- ✦ We affirm and strengthen our love of God through worship centered in the Eucharist, and through prayer, praise, and learning.
- ✦ We express the love of Christ by ministering to one another through fellowship and pastoral care, and to the larger community through outreach and service.
- ✦ We are stewards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, stewards of the riches of creation, and stewards of the gifts of time, talent and treasure engaged in the ministry of this community of faith.

**SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Annual Reports for the Year of our Lord 2009**

Rector's Report

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, February 22, 2009

The Senior Churchwarden's Report

The Junior Churchwarden's Report

Reports from the Parish Commissions, Committees and Guilds:

Worship

Altar Guild

Flower Guild

Greeters

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Music in Worship

Wednesday Evening Worship at Six

Christian Education Commission

Pastoral Care Commission

Parish Nurse

Parish Life Commission

Hospitality

Men's Fellowship

Suppers for Six

Welcome Ministry (formerly known as Parish Growth Commission)

Outreach Commission

Stewardship Commission

Annual Giving

Madden Education Fund Committee

Saint Michael's Ministries and Facilities Trust

Clergy Wellness Ministry Team

Memorial Garden Committee

Property Committee

Art Committee

Search Committee

The Report of the Episcopal Churchwomen (ECW)

Vestry Committees:

Finance Committee

Treasurer's Report

Financial Results for 2009 and the 2010 Ministry Budget

Nominating Committee

Vestry Nominees – Published also in the newsletter

# Report of the Rector

The Rev. Dr. Ellen M. Sloan

*"We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing."* 2 Thessalonians 1:3

Greetings and love to you all at this 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Michael and All Angels. It seems like I've been your Rector for far more than six months – in a very good way. Your joy in finally calling a new Rector of St. Michael's is only surpassed by your deep commitment to this amazing parish. As the scripture from Thessalonians reads, your faith is growing abundantly and your love for each other as well. You may not feel that at all times, but the new seeds are always present and only need your watchful care to flourish. I remain blessed that the Holy Spirit working through all of you called me to this place.

You have copies of the reports of the many commissions and committees and guilds of this parish. I hope you've had time to review them – if not, please take them home and read. The reports are so much more than words on the paper, and the words don't even do justice to all of you. These reports represent the faith-filled work of hundreds of you who live and pray and work at St. Michael's. They represent thousands of hours during this past year when you have planned meetings and events, facilitated discussions, prepared altars, sang hymns that lifted praise to God, written documents, figured out technology, planted flowers, fixed ceilings, changed light bulbs, read scripture, offered wine (both at the altar and in the parish hall), tallied up figures and prepared spreadsheets, visited the sick, prepared things to sell at the Ark, analyzed data, gathered food for the hungry, opened your homes to parishioners, welcomed people at the church door - and so on and so forth. You are an amazing group of people and for all of this and more, I thank you from the depths of my heart. This little village would not prosper without all you do. Remember that nothing – not even the smallest task – is insignificant. Each piece of work you do is part of the whole that makes this community healthy. Each of you is a part of the whole that makes this journey together a sacred trust.

Is our work finished? Of course not. Do we have new paths to explore? Absolutely. As I speak today, we're already pursuing ways to strengthen the good work of St. Michael's. Whether in education, finance, stewardship, physical plant, newcomer ministry or other areas, numerous steps are being taken to ensure that this parish continues to flourish – not simply for ourselves and posterity but more importantly because as we are healthy and stable, so will we be able to reach out to those who need us – locally and globally. We are called to be a healthy parish in order to seek and serve Christ in others – wherever those others are. It's about getting out of the altar and into the alley. But...you know this and once again, I am blessed. You're already on this path and charging ahead - fully cognizant of the fact that the Body of Christ is all of God's people.

My dear friends, as we move forward in 2010 and live and work and pray together, take guidance from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews: "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses – a great cloud – here present and those we love from the past. We are also surrounded by the grace and love of God in Christ and in that grace we are able to lay aside the worries and weights of life.

Let us also remember that as we continue our earthly pilgrimage with one another at St. Michael's that our perseverance in the race must be one of patience and presence and prayer so that the race truly becomes what Christ meant it to be – not running for ourselves, not running to achieve, but instead running together a race that feeds us all, allows us to carry each other at times, and brings about the kingdom of God here and now – in our very midst.

Blessings to you all,

The Rev. Dr. Ellen M. Sloan

*Fifth Rector of St. Michael and All Angels  
Sanibel Island, Florida*

**SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**  
FEBRUARY 22, 2009  
11:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall

At 11:55 AM, John Pryor, Senior Warden, welcomed the attendees and opened the meeting.

Father John Corbiere, Interim Rector, asked everyone to hold hands in prayer.

He then thanked everyone for the work done over the ten months he has been with us. He noted the extraordinary results evidenced in increased attendance, membership, activities and the general well being and spiritual growth of the congregation.

Father John then read a letter from him to the Vestry reappointing John Pryor to another year as Senior Warden. The letter also mentioned that Bishop Dabney Smith is in concurrence with John's reappointment.

Father John praised John Pryor for his dedication and hard work over the past year. He also commended Betty & Bill Carr, Susan Gonzalez, Roberta Heller and the Priest Associates for their interest in and dedication to St. Michael & All Angels.

John Pryor stated the three requirements for anyone's eligibility to vote on matters of this congregation; a communicant over the age of 16, regular attendee and a contributor of record. John appointed Judy Workman as Parliamentarian for the meeting and said the meeting is being run in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

The minutes of the annual meeting of February 24, 2008 were passed with the corrections.

Alex Flesh, Nominating Committee Chair, was asked to give the Committee's Report. Alex recognized the other committee members; Bill Carr, Jetta Anne Currise, and Ronn Downey. Alex then introduced the candidates for election to the Vestry: Bruce Neill, Joanne Syversen and Hyde Tucker. Alex moved that the candidates be accepted, John Pryor seconded and the three candidates were elected viva voce.

SW John Pryor described which members will be representatives to the Diocesan Conventions. The Vestry members of 2011 (Betty Carr, Charlie Emerson, Christine Steege) will be Representatives in 2009; the Vestry members of 2012 (Bruce Neill, Joanne Syversen, Hyde Tucker) will be Representatives in 2010.

SW John Pryor introduced, with deep appreciation, the three retiring Vestry members and presented each with a Book of Common Prayer engraved with their name. The three retiring Vestry members are: KK Bigelow, Betsy McCullough and Betsy Schuman. John commended each of them on the individual talents and work they have brought to our church family. KK Bigelow had co-chaired the Stewardship Committee for two years; Betsy McCullough had been Chairman of the Pastoral Care Commission and co-chaired our 50th Anniversary Celebration; Betsy Schuman originated the Adult Christian Education Forum and created and now heads our Art Committee.

John Pryor, SW, announced the appointees of the permanent standing committee of the Madden Education Fund remain the Priest in Charge, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chancellor and the President of the ECW.

John also listed the members of the Ministries Facilities Trust Committee who have been appointed by the Vestry: John Opel, Chair; Bob Fuchs, Vice-chair & Secretary; Parke Avery, Secretary and replacing retiring Dick Kimball as a non-voting member is Charlie Emerson.

John announced the new members to the Memorial Garden Committee: Kara Cuscaden, Bill Maruchi and Bill Vollmer. Those retiring from the committee are Bill Currise & Bill Rahe. Remaining members are: Lee Almas, David Bath, Peggie Dodd, Bettie Modys and Edna Hanner. Bettie Modys thanked all those who had contributed to the recent refurbishment of the Garden and said there would be a rededication within a few weeks.

With votes necessary on bylaw changes, John announced that Chris Salerno would be a scribe to write on the newsprint, if necessary and he also appointed Bill Carr, Chris Salerno and Jim Bird as Tellers if a count was called on the proposals.

John asked Judy Workman, as chair of the Bylaws Committee, to lead the discussion on changes to the bylaws. Changes had been printed in the February 2009 Red Door and in a hand out to parishioners.

Judy explained the necessity of changing our bylaws to be in compliance with Diocesan Canons. She moved that we adopt the changes as presented to Articles VI & IX; the motion was seconded by Dottie Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

Judy announced that a subcommittee had been formed, chaired by Dick Jacker, to study the nominating and election process. Judy turned the meeting over to Dick Jacker. Dick explained the changes as put forth in the "from the Vestry" in the February 2009 Red Door and today's hand-out. Dick moved that the amendments put forth for articles IV & VIII be approved by the congregation. The motion was seconded. Discussion ensued. The Senior Warden called for a vote on the amendments to Articles IV & VIII of our Bylaws. The vote carried for changes to the aforesaid articles.

Annual Giving Co-chair Bill Rahe reported on this year's Pledge drive congratulated the congregation on the successful campaign resulting in \$421,563 pledged amount which exceeds the projected goal of \$420,000. One hundred seventy-seven (177) pledges have been received which is 10% more than last year and the average pledge is up 5%. Bill happily announced that we have received 32 new pledges; some of those are re-pledges. Some pledges are yet to come in. Thus it has been a very successful year for giving in a difficult financial climate.

John Pryor congratulated those who have led this year's successful Annual Giving program and announced the Stewardship chairpersons for the upcoming year: Bill Rahe will be the new Stewardship Chair; Mollie Avery will Chair the Planned Giving Committee; Annual Giving will be chaired by Alex Flesh with Bill Carr his assistant.

Ralph Clark, co-chair of the Search Committee, recognized the Committee and had each stand up: Dave Bath, co-chair; Jane Adams, Lee Almas, Jim Bird, Carla Johnston, Alwyn Johnson, Chris Salerno, Penny Lind, Stephanie Rahe, Mike Cuscaden, Betsy Schuman and Doug Lind, consultant.

The Search Committee began meeting on January 3, 2009 and usually have 2 meetings a week, one meeting with the full committee, the other being meetings of subcommittees. Each meeting is opened and closed with prayer and the group is most congenial. To date they have received 64 names, 14 have declined and 34 have been screened. The Diocese does an initial check and the committee compares the candidates to our parish profile. It then asks for written articles and sermons and has the possible candidates comment on what they have learned of our parish from our profile. Next there will be phone interviews and finally visits. After the Search Committee has narrowed the field down to three prospects they will give those names and pertinent information to the Vestry. The committee hopes to be able to present the Vestry with three candidates by May 1, 2009. Ralph asked the congregation to pray for the Committee's work.

Jandy Bird, co-chair of the Survey/Profile Committee, thanked Carl Meier, co-chair, and all members of the Committee as well as the congregation for all the work and responses that went into creating the Profile. She then presented the publication of the Profile of St. Michael & All Angels. She invited each family to take one copy (only).

The Senior Warden then went onto New Business (required by our bylaws). Interim Rector John Corbiere invited Scott Chrysler to announce the Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper, in the spirit of Mardi Gras that will be hosted by the men of the parish on Tuesday, February 24, 2009.

Rev. John Corbiere introduced the Millennial Development Goals one of which addresses extreme poverty in parts of the Earth. The Episcopal Church has invited parishes to commit a portion of their Outreach Committee to MDGs. The Vestry has supported the Outreach Committee in making a commitment to contribute to the Goal of eradicating extreme hunger by 2015. We will have more education and information on MDGs through the Outreach subcommittee that is dedicated to those goals.

The Senior Warden, John Pryor, thanked Susan Gonzalez for her dedication to her work and how she has stepped in to do much of the work of Parish Administrator in Edie's absence. John also thanked Ellen Trevor for her very dedicated help in Edie's absence. John updated everyone on Edie's health and asked for prayers for her quick recovery. John thanked Roberta Heller, Parish Nurse, for her dedication and care.

John praised the contributions made by our Interim Rector, Rev. John Corbiere. He also praised Ellen Trevor, Treasurer, for her work in helping us to end the year with a balanced budget. John introduced and welcomed George Farrow as our new Minister of Music; organist and choir director. John thanked, and asked, each non-stipendiary clergy to stand and accept the thanks of the congregation for their faithful and valuable gifts of time and energy to our church family.

The Canon Bruce Duncan led all in a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Steege

# Senior Churchwarden's Report

At the conclusion of my report to you last year, I said "Much of 2009 will be another interim year for us, and knowing the outstanding job done by our Self Study/Profile Committee and the dedication of our Search Committee, I am optimistic about our calling an exceptional Rector for our wonderful church". Little did I know then how prophetic that statement would be; I believe that all of the hundreds of hours our two committees and the Vestry put into the calling of Dr. Ellen Sloan to be the fifth Rector of Saint Michael's was worth all of the time they expended.

In 2009 your Vestry, alongside our Interim Rector John Corbiere, worked diligently to help prepare the way as best we could for the arrival of our new rector. Yes, 2009 was an excellent year in many respects, but the one thing that I value the most was the continuation of our financial stewardship begun in 2008 by our outstanding Treasurer, Ellen Trevor. Ellen's financial leadership is the reason that this church has again balanced the budget, and we are building a reserve account for the future needs of our church. This is a major accomplishment and an important milestone for us.

It has been an honor for me to serve on the Vestry the past five years and as your Senior Churchwarden the last three. I never imagined the extent to which I would be energized by this privilege, and I thank God for the opportunity I have been granted to serve our church.

John Pryor

*Senior Churchwarden*

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# Junior Warden's Report

## **SEXTON**

In late 2008, the Vestry approved a plan to seek a tenant relationship with a person to occupy the church apartment, primarily to eliminate the high costs of cleaning and setups by an independent contractor, and secondarily to support weekend activities of the Parish. In exchange for performing the duties of sexton no more than 19.5 hours per week, the tenant would occupy the apartment with all utilities paid but receive no wages or benefits.

Joe Stahl, a full-time C.R.O.W. employee with fringe benefits, was hired and occupied the apartment beginning April 1. His work for the Parish "wraps around" his C.R.O.W. work schedule (8-4 weekdays). Joe and parish leaders signed a formal agreement outlining each party's responsibilities and obligations. He started working with a prepared list of duties while we added to the cleaning equipment that was needed. Annual net savings from this arrangement are at least \$25,000; moreover, the sexton performs valuable services, especially on weekends that were never available from contractors.

Joe is regularly responsible for: cleaning and policing church property except Noah's Ark; managing lights, sound systems, and certain thermostats before and following services and other functions; arranging furniture for various events in the parish hall and the Chapel of the Angels; and supporting pot-luck suppers and refreshment hours by helping with certain kitchen duties. Additionally, Joe fills out his time by undertaking repairs and small improvement projects. The number of small but troublesome problems that the sexton has identified and corrected is impressive and saves us from working on them ourselves or hiring someone to fix them.

Overall, we feel that the church and other buildings are cleaner and in better repair at less cost and there is the additional advantage that we have become acquainted with a delightful and helpful young man.

## **LANDSCAPING**

In the late fall planning was begun on making some changes in church landscaping away from plants requiring irrigation and hedging to native plants. These plans are consistent with the goal of conservation of resources and a "green environment." which is basic to Sanibel. Lee Williams, who designed the planting around the two art pieces installed last year (Noah's Ark in the back parking lot and St. Francis in the front) agreed to help again. She has drawn plans for areas of the foundation plantings of the church buildings and also an expansion of the plantings around the Saint Francis piece.

It is expected that the new landscaping will be in place and within budget by the end of 2010.

Betty Carr

*Junior Churchwarden*

# The Parish Commissions, Committees and Guilds

## A note on the basics:

**Standing Committees** of the Vestry care for property and purse strings – things like Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Insurance, Compensation, etc.

**Parish Commissions** have to do with *mission and ministry* and care for people and programs.

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## Worship: Altar Guild

Under the able directions of the late Mary Vernon, the Altar Guild of St. Michael and All Angels continued to prepare the altar for each of the regular services.

In addition, a member of the Guild was responsible for special services such as funerals, baptisms and weddings. The membership of the Guild numbered twenty at the end of 2009. Five of these were new members.

The beginning of Advent brought the retirement of Mary after many years of service. Mary had been active in the Ft. Myers Deanery, serving as its president and had faithfully represented the Deanery at Province IV Altar Guild conference at Kanuga for the last ten years.

In December, Bettie Modys became director of the Guild. All members of the Altar Guild strive to treat this ministry of service with respect and love.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bettie Modys  
*Altar Guild Directress*

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## Worship: Flower Guild

The ladies of St. Michael's Flower Guild continue to serve the altar with great creativity and high energy. We now number eighteen members, with the addition of Sylvia Heider this year. We serve on a rotational schedule, usually not more than twice a season. This year we began November 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue through May, at Milena Eskew's suggestion. Floral Artistry will then pick up for us, as so many of our members leave for their northern homes.

Our early fall meeting was a joint luncheon and flower demonstration at the invitation of ECW President Julia Boyd. We had a wonderful time in the larger community, sharing some of the challenges, mechanics, conditioning tips, etc., that we use when decorating the altar.

The biggest change to report is that Harriet Pattison has been serving very graciously and smoothly as my new Co-Chairman and taken on many of the responsibilities beautifully. Especially important is her willingness to make weekly reminder calls which has also helped her get to know the members on a more intimate level. Harriet will take over as Chairman in the 2010-2011 church season and I am very grateful.

Having served as Flower Guild Chair since we began in 2002, I am so confident that she will bring new energy, ideas and members into the group. As with any committee in the church, I do believe strongly that it is so important to bring new and fresh enthusiasm to all that we do – letting the Spirit move us all along in new and surprising ways.

Members of the Flower Guild are: Elise Allen, Birdie Anderson, Gillian Bath, Sara Berendt, Kathy Boatman, Penny Chrysler, Carolyn Clark, Milena Eskew, Beryl Flesh, Sylvia Heider, Gail Meier, Harriet Pattison, Mary Jane Rawlins, Karen Searles, Jean Stanton, Naomi Thompson, Lee Williams and Marilee Wood.

Respectfully submitted  
Carolyn Clark  
*Flower Guild, Chair*

## Worship: Greeters

Saint Michael's Greeters Program was started in 2000. We are now in our tenth year and our Greeters and Saint Michael's Parish are working together and thriving.

The author of Hebrews, in reflecting on a story in Genesis of Abraham's welcoming of the three heavenly strangers, wrote: "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it".

Welcoming strangers/visitors (and also current members of Saint Michael's) to our worship services and parish functions is a Greeter's way of sharing God's love and work in his/her own life with other people. We also realize that a welcome at the front door of the church is simply the beginning. All the Greeters, not just those at the front door continue to welcome and chat with visitors during coffee hours or wine and cheese gatherings and also introduce them to members of the parish.

We believe Greeters are the very reason that many people who enter Saint Michael's doors for the first time, return again and again. Visitors are made to feel welcome and a part of the parish. Greeters are definitely an important part of Saint Michael's evangelism program and have been vital to the growth of our parish.

There are Greeters at the doors of Saint Michael's for all services. This year we have forty-nine (49) Greeters. Each year some of our Greeters need to retire, but someone always seems to step up when needed. Some members greet for two or three months, others year round. Some greet during the winter months, some during the summer. Our Greeters are generous and fill in for each other. Each one is very important to this ministry.

Saint Michael's Greeters are enthusiastic. They really enjoy welcoming friend and stranger alike at the front door of the church and they have a wonderful way of making a stranger a friend.

Our Greeters have been very important for Saint Michael's and they are a vital part of Welcome Ministry. They truly follow Jesus' admonition to: "Welcome the Stranger". In doing so they are, without a doubt, "Entertaining Angels".

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha & Wayne Ponader  
*Greeters, Co-Chairmen*

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## Worship: Eucharistic Ministers

It is an honor to serve as the scheduler for the Eucharistic ministers at Saint Michael and All Angels and I am particularly grateful to the 17 Eucharistic ministers serving at Saint Michael's. The following people are ever faithful and willing whenever I call on them. Sometimes they even call me to volunteer!

Lee Almas, Marvell Bradley, Kara Cuscaden, Michael Cuscaden, Alex and Beryl Flesh, Al Leonardi, Penny Lind, Dale McGinley, Carl Meier, Phil Pilibosian, Christine and Jerry Steege, Bob and Joanne Syversen and Lee Williams, thank you for making my job so easy!

If you are interested in this ministry, please speak to me or to our Rector, Ellen Sloan. This process is often initiated by the candidate who has a strong desire to serve God at His Altar, and is willing to make a deep commitment to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist. Following an interview by the Rector, your name is presented to the Bishop for approval and licensing. The Vestry is informed of the licensing. Eucharistic ministers are responsible for purchasing their own alb, cincture and cross.

Eucharistic Ministers are authorized to administer the elements at any celebration of the Holy Eucharist and, in the absence of a sufficient number of priests or deacons, to assist the Celebrant in any possible way. Two Eucharistic ministers serve at each of the three liturgies during the season, while in the summer season, one serves at the Saturday liturgy and two serve at the single Sunday liturgy.

I would like to thank each of you for your steadfast devotion to God and your service to Christ and His Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Pryor



## Worship: Music in Worship

2009 saw a number of innovations.

1. We purchased a new keyboard in January – a Roland FP4. This was a gift from Judy Workman to commemorate her parents, who sang in choirs throughout their lives. It has proved perfect for intimate worship on Wednesday evenings.
2. The St. Michael's Songbooks were dedicated and introduced on March 15<sup>th</sup>: they contain 126 items, including Taizé and Iona songs, together with old favourites omitted from the 1982 hymnal. Their printing was made possible by the generosity of Judy Workman and Martha Ballard.
3. The psalms were sung to Anglican chant on 15 Sundays during the year.
4. Responsorial psalms were used infrequently: their use is set to increase.
5. One Sunday evening we had a "hymn sing" moderated by Sandy Trevor at which requests were sung: this proved very enjoyable and constituted a valuable safety valve enabling members of the congregation to get their own back on the organist; it could well continue in 2010!
6. We held a Creation service on the beach where the singing was very effectively accompanied by hand chimes, which attracted a number of inquisitive beach-goers; this should be repeated.
7. Music on Wednesday evenings was at times enlivened with percussion, a trend that is set to continue, with the formation of the PPG (Parish Percussion Group): thanks to Ralph Sloan for kicking this off with the djembe!
8. The custom of members of the congregation singing carols on Luminary Night was resumed after a lapse of a few years, though a deluge on the night meant we had no visitors!
9. The 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve carol service was a children's service which briefly featured the children singing A Cappella (in tune!) followed by all available percussion, including a new set of jingle bells! Violin and flute added colour, with Jan Holly accompanying several carols.
10. Over Christmas the choir was enlarged by welcoming visitors and members of the congregation who are not in a position to sing in the choir throughout the year. This opportunity needs to become more widely known: it was a great success all around.

The Minister of Music played the organ from January 11<sup>th</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup> and from November 1<sup>st</sup> – December 27<sup>th</sup>. He played at the 08:00 and 10:30 Sunday services as well as on Wednesday evenings at 6:00. As an experiment, in the early part of the year he also played a hymn at the end of the Saturday service but this was discontinued in the autumn. There was also another innovation – but one that we don't really want to experience again!

During the prayers of the people at the 10:30 service on All Saints Day a regional power cut left the church in darkness and without keyboard accompaniment. The congregation was obliged to sing some of the great hymns A Cappella - "Ye watchers and ye holy ones", "Ye holy angels bright" and the Schubert Sanctus and Agnus Dei. We did well, but unfortunately our pitch was not quite up to the children's standard in "Away in a manger"!!

St. Michael's continues to be grateful to Lynne Dugan for playing over the summer and to John Bendall for his readiness to act as Deputy.

George Farrow

*Minister of Music, Organist & Choirmaster*

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## Worship: Wednesday Evening Worship at Six

In 2009 the Wednesday Worship Group has continued to provide lay led worship services on Wednesday Evening from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. Three or four person teams take turns planning and leading the mainly non-Eucharistic services of prayer, reflection and music. Clergy sometimes participate in the service and are always available as a valuable resource. Music has been provided by Walter Schuman on the violin and George Farrow on the keyboard. Meeting of the entire group are convened periodically to assess progress, develop themes for the upcoming liturgical season, share ideas and deal with logistics.

Most Wednesdays we meet in the Chapel of the Angels. Refreshments are served after the service except on the first Wednesday of the month when the service is held in the main body of the church and is followed by the Pot Luck Supper. This year we also had two services on the beach followed by refreshments at nearby homes. Services are

held regularly except during Lent when the Rector plans the services. Last summer, June through October, services were held only on the first Wednesday of the month preceding the monthly Pot Luck Suppers.

As in the past our 2009 themes coincided with the Church's liturgical season. During Epiphany our theme was "Manifesting the Light", following Easter the theme was "The Parables of Jesus", November's Theme was "Thanksgiving" and in Advent the theme was "Mary".

Attendance at the services varies: On regular Wednesday nights we have 25 to 40 people. On Pot Luck evening's attendance can reach over 60.

Those attending the services and those participating express appreciation for the fresh and innovative prayers and readings, the opportunity to be involved in planning liturgy, the opportunity to participate in spontaneous prayer and expressions of their personal faith journey, the sense of peace and intimacy and hopefully leave the services feeling closer to each other and God.

Linda Korn  
*Convener*

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## Christian Education Commission

The Christian Education Commission began planning the 2009-2010 season in March 2009. The Theme for the Season, and, especially for the Forums, was "A Spiritual Harbor in a Sea of Uncertainty." The theme title was suggested by Mollie Avery, then a Commission member. The intent was to refocus our spiritual energies in a time of world anxiety.

With the input, suggestions and advice of clergy and parishioners we have had an interesting and well attended series. We started with our new Rector, the Rev. Dr. Ellen M. Sloan on Nov. 1, 2009. The fall schedule continued with Rabbi James Perman, speaking on the Wisdom books of the Old Testament; the Rev. John Martin on the stories of the birth of Jesus in Matthew and Luke; and the Outreach Commission hosting a panel on the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2010 we have had the pleasure of our Rector speaking on the Gospel of Luke; The Rev. Canon Bruce Duncan speaking on Stewardship, as well as Prayer and Your Personality, The Very Rev. Dr. David Lowry on Christianity's Engagement with Society, and Dr. Beckwith on Memory. We are looking forward to: Dr. Maria Roca on Ecology and the Parables; Anne Smith on Conscious Leadership; Debbie Topliff with a pictorial view of Revelation; more specifics from the Outreach Commission on the MDGs; Alex Flesh on Drama and Religion; the Rev. Richard Kunz from the El Hogar ministries.

Our Bible and Book Studies have been well received. In the Bible study we have read and discussed: I & II Corinthians, which was led by the Rev. Anne Kimball in the fall and by our Rector, the Rev. Ellen Sloan, in the winter. The Book Study, beginning last fall, had so many enrollees we ended up with two groups. We are still reading and discussing "The Heart of Christianity" by Marcus J. Borg. George Farrow leads one group, Lee Williams, the other.

Active members this year are: The Rev. Anne Kimball & Christine Steege, co-chairs; Alex Flesh, David Bath, Chris Salerno, Judy Pryor, John Pryor, Penny Lind, Jandy Bird and Jenny Edgar. Those who have participated mostly through email are: Anne Stewart, Betsy McCullough, Betsy Schuman, Charlie Emerson, Norma Emerson, Jane Adams, Judy Workman, Linda Korn, Roberta Heller, and Pat Linneman.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Anne Kimball and Christine Steege  
*Christian Education Commission, Co-Chair*

## Pastoral Care Commission

“We want a rector who will care for us.” This line was in the letter which our SMAA Profile and Self Study Committee wrote for the Church Profile. The Pastoral Care Commission supports this caring in many ways. Monthly meetings assist in coordinating Flower delivery to the sick or shut-in, Prayer Shawls and Holding Crosses ministries, and the Prayer Chain. Shuttle drivers to SMAA from Shell Point are scheduled for weekend services and Potluck dinners. Cards are sent to people in times of illness, anniversaries, or life events. Sing-Alongs are scheduled a couple times a year for our Shell Point Village friends. The Healing Prayers Ministry has taken off to serve at all three weekend services. Meals and food supplies are provided to those who need them. There have been meetings for those suffering from grief and loss. Certified Lay Eucharistic Visitors provide comfort to parishioners unable to attend services. During hurricane season evacuation lists and preparation notes are revised. The Rector regularly updates parishioners’ needs and provides continuous direction to the Pastoral Care Commission.

With the assistance of our Parish Nurse, the PCC offers many more caring opportunities. For example, CPR courses have been arranged, flu shots offered on site, a Health Fair arranged, plus Lunch & Learn sessions offering education on a variety of topics. The Pastoral Care Commission is comprised of a strong core group of people as well as several of our associate clergy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joanne Syversen  
*Chair*

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## Parish Nurse

As I begin my fourth year as Parish Nurse, my goal remains the same - to help parishioners maintain or improve their health status in mind, body and spirit through the integration of faith and health. My role is to be a resource and referral agent, health educator, advocate and health counselor.

About 46 parishioners have completed CPR training, provided by the Sanibel Fire Department; another training will be offered in March or April of this year.

In February, we held an Alzheimer’s Awareness Sunday and had memory screenings provided by the staff at The Alvin Dubin Alzheimer’s Resource Center. For the third year, in October, we celebrated Pink Weekend to bring increased awareness of the importance of early detection of breast cancer and to honor survivors and those women who are fighting breast cancer. A thank you to the many volunteers who helped to make both weekends successful.

In September and November, we held flu and pneumonia vaccine clinics with the Visiting Nurses Association of Ft Myers. Approximately 82 parishioners and members of the Sanibel community took part in this program.

In November, with Ellen’s support and knowledge, we initiated a grief and loss support group which is meeting monthly.

Our health lecture series last year included identity theft, fall prevention and balance, and end of life legal issues. This year monthly lectures will continue through April. Topics include balance, Five Wishes, diabetes prevention and Parkinson’s. Topics chosen reflect health in mind, body and spirit. Our first Health Fair was held this January and was successful.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets monthly and continues to flourish. To date, 67 quilts and shawls have been made. Blessed shawls and quilts have been given to 48 parishioners who have been ill, hospitalized, and bereaved, as an expression of God’s love and comfort through the hearts and hands of our congregation.

Recently I was asked to be a part of a newly formed elder justice coalition for Lee County representing faith community nursing (Parish Nurses). I am honored and proud to be a part of this group.

During 2009, I visited with 153 parishioners in their homes, the hospital, nursing homes or in my office and made phone contacts with 115 other parishioners. I am grateful to the many members of this congregation who volunteer their time to visit with parishioners. Illness and aging can be an isolating experience. Together we have supported our church family in difficult times through prayer, taking the Eucharist to them, offering assistance and advocacy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta Heller, RN, BSN  
*Parish Nurse*

## Parish Life Commission

The Parish Life Commission is the hospitality arm of St. Michael's, coordinating such events as receptions, lunches, and dinners, wine and cheese Saturday evenings and coffee hour after Sunday services, to name just a few of our many opportunities for fellowship.

### Parish Life Commission: Hospitality

The social life of Saint Michael's is kept alive and well by a warm and welcoming congregation. We encourage newcomers, whether they're spending a week in Sanibel, or two months or a year, to come join us and share in our good fortune. In addition to the affairs listed above, we also host monthly potluck and Lenten Wednesday night soup and salad suppers. The Parish Life Commission coordinates volunteers for all of these happenings, and we encourage anyone and everyone with an interest in being a part of "making it happen" to contact us.

This year we continued to pursue an environmentally "green" kitchen. We reuse bags that are supplied to us by Noah's Ark, and have cut back on our use of paper products. Metal, plastic and glass containers are recycled weekly. Members of the congregation generously supply the food for hospitality events and make donations for the wine offered at potluck suppers and the Saturday wine and cheese hour, thereby helping to keep our budget within acceptable limits.

The numbers of those attending have increased during 2009, for potluck suppers from a low of 40 during the summer months to a high of over a hundred during the Season. We had a significant increase in Sunday morning coffee hour attendance between the early service and the Forum at 9:15, and participation in the Saturday evening after-service gatherings have increased.

We wish to thank all of you who have given so wonderfully of your time and delicious foodstuffs to the success of our 2009 Church year. We are grateful for your enthusiastic team spirit, and your hard work. You have created an ambience that welcomes and refreshes those who join us.

Thanks to our many great cooks, we have a collection of recipes which will be available in the kitchen before the Lenten season begins.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Jones and Roberta Winters

*Parish Life Commission - Hospitality, Co-Chairs*

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### Parish Life Commission: Men's Ministry

The Men's Ministries of Saint Michael & All Angels Church was established for Christian Men to be prepared to disciple new men of faith (Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations"). The Men's Ministries consists of the Men's Fellowship Group which meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and the annual Men's Retreat.

#### **Men's Fellowship Group**

The mission of the Saint Michael & All Angels Men's Fellowship Group is to pray, learn, encourage each other and exchange ideas to grow as Christian disciples. Our primary goals are to provide spiritual growth, mutual support and a sharing of ideas, views and opinions.

The group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 7:30 AM to 8:45 AM in the Parish Hall. All men of the community are welcome and are encouraged to bring a friend. Members of the group volunteer to provide refreshments and coffee and lead a discussion on a biblically related topic to study, either a book of the Bible or related materials. A pre-read is available the Sunday before the meeting.

Each meeting is opened with the singing of a hymn followed by a prayer by the rector and the discussion leader for the meeting reviews the selected topic. Sub-groups are then formed in tables of four to six men to discuss the topic and maximize the learning experience. A moderator from each sub-group is selected and presents their sub-group's discussion. An open discussion to share information amongst the group follows and a closing prayer adjourns the meeting.

## **Men's Retreat**

The annual Men's Retreat provides a forum for spiritual growth by the men of Saint Michael & All Angels Church by addressing the major issues facing Christian Men at this time in their life. It is a time of prayer, reflection, learning and information sharing that is led by an outside speaker and meeting facilitator. The 2009 Men's Retreat was postponed until 2010 so that sufficient resources could be devoted to the selection and recruitment of our new Rector.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phil Pilibosian  
*Men's Ministry*

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## **Parish Life Commission: "Suppers for Six"**

2010 marks our tenth annual "Suppers for Six" program. The purpose of these suppers is to enable members of Saint Michael's, whether members for many years or becoming a member of the parish for the first time, to get to know each other by sharing and enjoying an evening of "Breaking Bread Together".

At one time or another during the ten years almost 300 parishioners have enjoyed being together for dinner and good conversation. This year 90 people are meeting together in groups of 6 to enjoy a meal and to make new friends. In these groups are parishioners who are new to the parish, parishioners who have been in the parish for several years, but have never been part of the "Suppers" program and many, many parishioners for whom this is their 10<sup>th</sup> Supper. They simply enjoy sharing an evening with people in the parish whose names they may know; but have never really known each other. It's fun to go to dinner and make new friends!

The groups in the "Suppers" program are not arranged according to which Church service people attend. It's important for all of us to meet people who attend different services. We are all members of St. Michael's. People who attend the 5:00 p.m. Saturday services or the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service should be encouraged to become a part of the "Suppers" ministry. It's fun!

This may be the only program in the church in which adults of all ages can participate without having to commit a great deal of time. Where folks simply eat and talk in a comfortable setting and get to know each other. "Suppers for Six" is important to the continued growth and well being of our parishioners and our parish.

"Suppers for Six" welcomes all everyone, individuals and couples, whether we have been part of the parish for many years or have just begun coming to church. Whether we are here for many months or a few months, as part of St. Michael's we have a wonderful time having a "Supper" with "Six".

Submitted by,  
Mardi Ponader  
*"Suppers for Six", Chairman*

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## **Welcome Ministry**

I have recently taken over the Welcome Ministry Chair (formerly Parish Growth Commission). Let me review some of the accomplishments for the past year and plans for the future.

We conducted a Newcomer's brunch at Pam Ellis's home last spring and will have another in early March 2010 at the home of Ann Cooper. The idea is to make new parishioners feel comfortable with Saint Michael's, introduce them to other newcomers, and active members of the parish as well as the clergy. These meetings provide us with an insight as who might be able to assume leadership roles in the various ministries. We also make sure newcomers are aware of upcoming church related events and areas in which they might want to contribute their time. We will begin planning for a fall 2010 newcomers meeting shortly.

Members of the ministry designed and developed a Welcoming Packet consisting of a leaflet entitled "Tell us what you would like us to know," a message from the Rector, a schedule of church services and a copy of the current Red Door. The "Tell us" leaflets are also placed in the pews along with blank stick-on nametags.

This year the Welcome Ministry has designed a new Saint Michael and All Angels logo for men's and ladies shirts. An initial order will be available before the first of March. The expenses for the set-up fee for the embroidery were covered through the kindness of a ministry member.

Respectfully submitted,  
Corky Boyd  
*Welcome Ministry, Chair*



# Outreach Commission

*"Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me"*

The mission of the Outreach Commission is to identify areas of need within the wider community to which the parish may respond corporately and where individual parishioners may share their time, talents, and treasure.

The Commission strives to meet the ever increasing human services needs, focusing on providing food for the hungry, care and food for children and families, shelter for the homeless, help for the addicted, and concern for prisoners and their families.

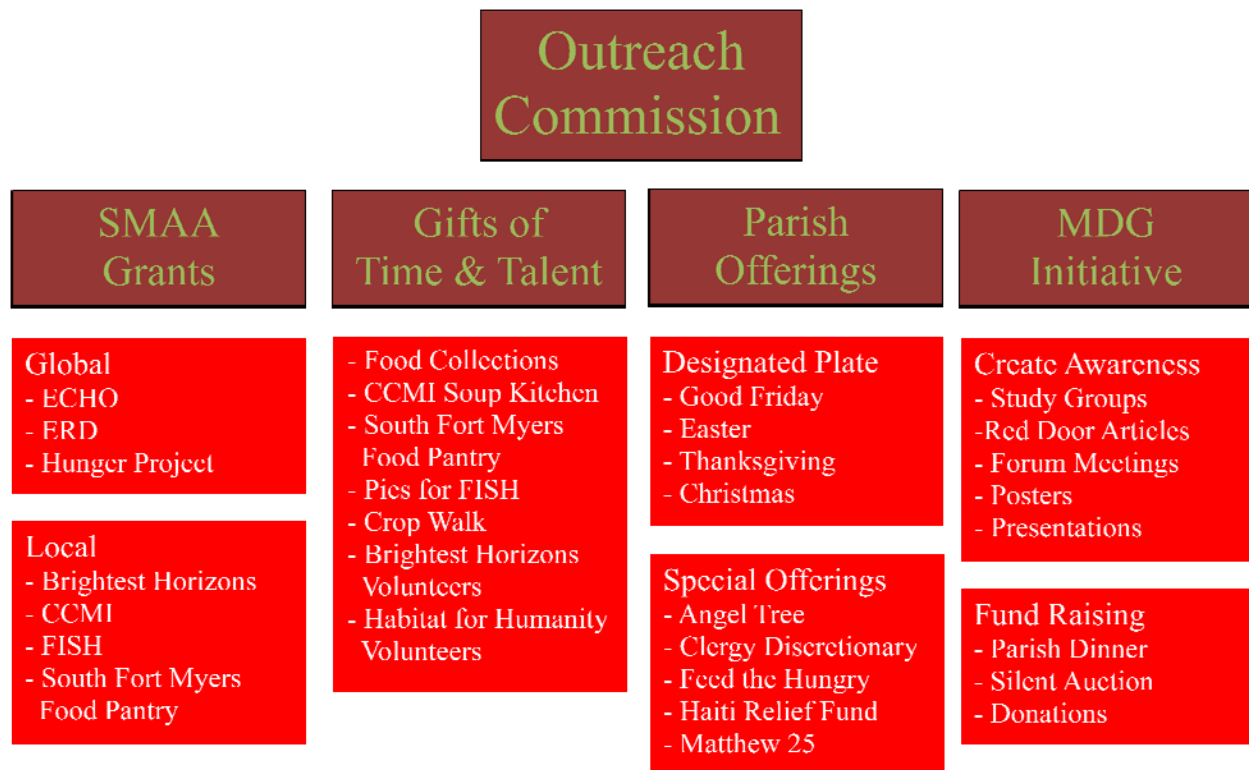
The Commission makes grants only after investigating and evaluating needs for services and the agencies which we support. Every agency requesting a grant must complete a Grant Application Form and, after receiving a grant, must submit a Grant Progress Report within 60 days to us, which we use in our continuing evaluation process.

We benefit from the knowledge and experience of our members as well as other parishioners. In addition we consult, and share information with the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Grants Allocation Committee.

In 2009 for the first time, a single SMAA Grant Application Form was sent on August 15th to those charitable organizations requesting funding for 2010 from ECW and/or Outreach. This form was co-developed by ECW and Outreach as part of our Joint Grant Process for 2010 and was returned to SMAA by September 15th. In addition to the single SMAA Grant Application Form, the Joint Grant Application Process includes a joint planning process to maximize the annual disbursement of donations to the agencies we support, a single Site Visit Process and the assignment of Outreach Liaisons to each of the agencies that receive grants.

These initiatives have streamlined communications and interactions between SMAA and the agencies we support. In fact these initiatives have been so well received by the agencies we support that they have informed us that we have set new standard as compared to the organization that interact with them.

The chart below provides a comprehensive overview of the various Outreach Commission initiatives.



In 2009 the Outreach budget of \$35,000 was equally allocated between local and global organizations as follows:

## **SMAA Grants**

### **Global Organizations**

#### **Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO) - \$2,552**

ECHO whose vision is "to bring glory to God and a blessing to mankind by using science and technology to help the poor." is a non-profit, inter-denominational Christian organization located on a demonstration farm in North Fort Myers, FL. ECHO exists for one major reason, to help those working internationally with the poor be more effective, especially in the area of agriculture.

#### **Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) - \$7,474**

ERD reached more than 2 million people in over 40 countries last year by supporting local, long-term initiatives that address poverty, hunger, disease, economic development and disaster response where the need is greatest. Their partnership with the worldwide Church creates opportunities to serve communities in some of the most remote areas of the world, as well as in urban environments where extreme poverty persists.

#### **The Hunger Project - \$7,474**

The Hunger Project is a global, non-profit, strategic organization committed to the sustainable end of world hunger in Africa, Asia and Latin America and seeks to end hunger and poverty by empowering people to lead lives of self-reliance, meet their own basic needs and build better futures for their children. It carries out its mission through three essential activities: mobilizing village clusters at the grassroots level to build self-reliance, empowering women as key change agents, and forging effective partnerships with local government.

### **Local Organizations**

#### **Brightest Horizon - \$5,500**

Brightest Horizons is a licensed facility and provide service to 163 children, from age 4 weeks to 12 years old, from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM - Monday through Friday. All families pay a fee based on family size and income. The sliding scale is provided by the Coalition for Early Learning. Approximately one half of our students are funded through the State of Florida's Child Care Partnership Program, which matches funds donated to Brightest Horizons.

#### **Community Cooperative Ministries (CCMI) - \$6,000**

CCMI is dedicated to providing nutritious meals, groceries, transportation, and affordable childcare as well as referral services to the homeless, homebound, seniors, working poor, children and the frail in our community. The populations we serve have been identified as some of the neediest in Lee County.

#### **Friends in Service Here (FISH) - \$4,000**

Fish is non-profit, volunteer organization of "neighbors helping neighbors" on Sanibel and Captiva islands in Southwest Florida who rely on their volunteers to share their time, resources, and talents with residents and visitors who need a helping hand, a caring friendship and needed services.

#### **South Fort Myers Food Pantry - \$2,000**

The South Fort Myers Food Pantry strives to overcome hunger in our communities through education and by working in a cooperative effort with affiliated agencies in the procurement and distribution of food, equitably and without discrimination.

### **Gifts of Time & Talent**

Members of our parish donate and collect food for the CCMI Soup Kitchen and the South Fort Myers Food Pantry. They also serve as volunteers at the CCMI Soup Kitchen and South Fort Myers Food Pantry as well as Brightest Horizons and Habitat for Humanity.

Parish members also participate in the annual Sanibel CROP Walk in which all Sanibel Churches participate and raised \$280 funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting.

In terms of talent, the women of the parish baked and delivered Pumpkin Pies for FISH at Thanksgiving.

### **Parish Offerings**

#### **Designated Plate**

The table on the next page lists the designated plate offerings and the organizations that received them.

Organization	Offering	Amount
Church of Jerusalem	Good Friday	\$294
Episcopal Relief and Development	Easter	\$1,936
Feed the Hungry	Designated	\$7,905
Habitat for Humanity	Christmas	\$1,388
South Fort Myers Food Pantry	Thanksgiving	\$808

### **Special Offerings**

A special offering in the amount of \$900 was made by the Ministries & Facilities Trust's Matthew 25 Fund to the Brightest Horizon's Scholarship Fund.

In December the Angel Tree raised \$3003 half of which was donated to the CCMI Back Pack Program to feed school children who do not have food to eat on weekends and the other half to Brightest Horizons for children's Christmas presents.

Finally a significant donation of \$2,000 was given to Brightest Horizons by one of our parishioners.

### **MDG Initiative**

In December, 2008 the Commission adopted Millennium Development Goal (MDG) #1, "Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger." On recommendation by the Commission, the Vestry, at its December 19, 2008 meeting, adopted the same Goal for the Parish.

In April A study group of approximately 12 parishioners who are committed to MDG met regularly to discuss the 6 sessions outlined in the book, "God's Mission in the World." The goal of this group will be to prepare and present a panel on the MDG's at a Forum in 2010. The purpose is to inspire parishioners to expand their view of the global issues facing us today and to recommend a project to fund that is consistent with MDG #1.

In March, 2009, I became Chair of the Commission supported by the past work of my predecessor, Dick Jacker, who continues to provide advice and counsel to me. On behalf of the Commission, we thank Dick for his dedication to outreach and the continuing development of the Outreach Commission.

I also want to extent my personal gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Commission for their belief in outreach as God's work, and for their time and effort in doing it. Therefore a special "Thank You" to Mollie Avery, Jim Bird, Carol Daniels, Jenny Edgar, Charlie Emerson, Anne Kimball, Penny Lind, Carl Meier, John Pryor, Judy Pryor and Bob Syversen.

In closing, the Outreach Commission thanks the Congregation for opening their hearts and wallets to support Saint Michael and All Angels' various outreach initiatives. God Bless You all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philip S. Pilibosian

### **The Stewardship Commission Members**

These persons have faithfully served on the Stewardship Commission throughout 2009: Molly Avery, Bill Carr, Ralph Clark, Alex Flesh, Dick Jacker, Dick Kimball, Patty Molnar, Wayne Ponader and Bill Rahe as Chair. Ellen Sloan and John Pryor have attended all meetings and substantially supported the work of the Commission. Also Ellen Trevor has attended several meetings and provided important financial data for all meetings. Don Rolley has agreed to serve on the Commission for the coming year.

### **2009 Annual Giving**

The theme of the 2009 program was "*Celebrating 50 Years – Generations of Generosity.*" The text reference was Psalm 145:4 "*One generation shall laud they works to another.*" Bill Rahe served as chairman with Alex Flesh as co-chair.

An initial mailing included a cover letter and pledge card. Eight neighborhood gatherings were held at the homes of Gary and Carol Kreml, Jim and Mary Nelson, David and Gillian Bath, Bob and Mary Jane Rawlins, John and Janet



Bendell, Corkie and Julie Boyd, Dick Jacker and Carol Daniels and Pete and Gene Pierce. Carolyn Clark coordinated the gatherings.

These parishioners spoke briefly at the three services on why they pledge and the impact of Saint Michael and All Angels on their lives: Bob Ingraham, Sally Lund and Hyde Tucker.

On Stewardship Sunday Betsie Danner, from St. Boniface Church in Sarasota, spoke to us about God's Gifts.

With a financial goal of \$420,000 the parishioners of Saint Michael's pledged a total of \$429,512 in 184 pledges received.

### **2010 Annual Giving**

The text reference for the 2010 program was from Matthew 9: 35-38 "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.* Alex Flesh served as Chairman and Bill Carr was co-chair.

An initial mailing included a cover letter, pledge card and Time and Talent questionnaire. Eight neighborhood gatherings were organized by Jill Dillon who asked the following couples to host meetings: Dick Jacker/Carol Daniels; David and Mel Deming and Dick and Elise Allen at Deming's home; Bill and Jaye Boswell; Jim and Jandy Bird; Phil and Gail Pilibosian; Harvey and Anne Stewart; Attila and Patty Molnar; and Don and Nancy Rolley.

These parishioners spoke briefly at the three services on why they pledge and the impact of Saint Michael and All Angels on their lives: Jim Bird, Dick Jacker, Carla Johnston Patty Molnar, Dottie Moore and Jane Withers.

Preliminary results show that thus far the parishioners of Saint Michael's have pledged \$409,401 in 165 pledges received. We are reasonably confident that when all pledges are received we will have achieved our goal of \$435,000.

#### **Annual Giving 2010** [*Continued by Alex Flesh, Chair*]

The Annual Giving Campaign was initiated in early January 2010 with a mailing, including a cover letter, a pledge card and a survey of all the activities available for our parishioners on which parishioners were asked to tick off the fields of interest within our church where they might be involved and return to the church. In this way, we were trying to emphasize the importance of TIME AND TALENT, as well as TREASURE, as essential parts of stewardship in every successful and dynamic church.

One of the more successful innovations at Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in recent years has been the neighborhood gatherings, organized by geographical zones, where our parishioners have an opportunity within a sociable setting to meet and talk and then hear presentations of our annual giving needs, the budget for the new year and some thoughts of our new rector, Ellen Sloan, followed by a question and answer period to address any concerns of our parishioners. Eight of these geographical gatherings, spread through January, were organized by Jill Dillon, who asked the following couples to extend the hospitality of their homes: Dick Jacker/Carol Daniels; David & Mel Deming and Dick & Elise Allen at Demings home; Bill & Jaye Boswell; Jim & Jandy Bird; Phil & Gail Pilobosian; Harvey & Anne Stewart; Attila & Patty Molnar; and Don & Nancy Rolley. We are grateful to these generous and loyal supporters of our church.

Several parishioners were willing to speak briefly at all three services on why they pledge and the impact of Saint Michael and All Angels on their lives: at two 5:00 Saturday service, Patty Molnar and Jim Bird; at two 8:00 Sunday service, Jane Withers and Dick Jacker; and at two 10:30 Sunday service, Dottie Moore and Carla Johnston. Their witnesses made significant contributions to the campaign process, and we appreciate their fine efforts.

We are also grateful to a task force of the Stewardship Commission for their counsel and manning the phones to follow up with parishioners: Chair, Bill Rahe, and, alphabetically, Molly Avery, Ralph Clark, Dick Jacker, Wayne Ponader and John Pryor as well as the Annual Giving Chair and Vice-Chair,

We sought an ambitious goal of \$435,000 budgeted for 2010. As of the writing of this report in mid-February we are close but still a bit short. We are reasonably confident that, by the time of the Annual Meeting, we will have achieved our goal.

We thank the loyal and loving people of Saint Michael and All Angels for their generous support.

Faithfully,

Alex Flesh

*Chair, Annual Giving*

Bill Carr

*Vice-Chair*

## **Time and Talent**

As mentioned above the initial mailing for the Annual Giving program for 2010 included a questionnaire on Time and Talent. The questionnaire itself was a concise inventory of all the ways parishioners can serve the missions of Saint Michaels. It was developed by Patty Molnar who has headed this new initiative. The objective of the survey was to help achieve the missions of the church, provide opportunities for service and foster the integration of members, particularly new members, into parish life and this community. Thus far 65 responses have been received. Committee heads will be asked to follow up with those respondents expressing interest in serving in their areas. There is a program through Parish Growth to track and follow up with the newer members. Use of the survey will be part of their follow-up. The consensus is that the results obtained were very positive and this effort is off to a good start.

## **Planned Giving**

Mollie Avery serves as Planned Giving Coordinator. A very successful party and program recognizing Angel Society members was held on March 31, 2009, at the home of Parke and Mollie Avery. Angel Society members and other guests numbered 31. All members who pledged were invited to this event. Special guest, Donald Scott, Planned Giving Chair at Trinity-By-The Cove, Naples led the discussion of whys and ways for bequests. During 2009 several new couples or individuals joined the Angel Society.

Another similar gathering is planned for March 25, 2010 at the home of Dick Jacker and Carol Daniels.

The Committee sent a letter to all parishioners reminding them of the Angels Society, along with the Angles Society brochure in mid-November, 2009. A plaque naming members of the Angels Society is planned for church in a location to be determined. The plaque will be suitably dedicated at a church service. Funding (\$1000-\$2000) must be determined.

A planned giving reminder will be added to the service leaflet for several weeks in 2010.

The planned giving portion of the web page will be reorganized in 2010. It was decided that it is not desirable to have a link to the Episcopal Church Foundation.

## **Year Round Stewardship**

The Commission is investigating ways to increase awareness of stewardship and its holistic nature on a year round, rather than just seasonal, basis. Suggestions such as a quarterly bulletin insertion have been made. Other thoughts are to use local examples of good stewardship for including in these insertions. This initiative will be developed as the year progresses. Anyone with ideas that might assist this effort are encouraged to bring them to the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Rahe  
*Stewardship Commission, Chair*

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## **Madden Education Fund Committee**

The Madden Education Fund, reestablished at the 2007 Annual Meeting, exists to provide financial support to parishioners, young and old, who wish to continue their education. Interested applicants may submit an application by contacting the church office. The fund is supported annually by the ECW, and individual contributions from parishioners are encouraged as well. This is a wonderful way for the congregation to demonstrate its interest in our young people.

The Madden Education Trust Fund was also established within the Ministries and Facilities Trust, with initial contributions totaling between \$12,000 and \$13,000. With growth over time, this permanent fund could be expected to assist many future scholars from St. Michael and All Angels Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Workman  
*Madden Education Fund Committee, Chair*

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## Ministries and Facilities Trust

The Saint Michael and All Angels Ministries and Facilities Trust completed its seventh year of operation in 2009. The purpose of the Trust is to hold, disburse, and oversee management of those financial assets of the Parish that are placed in trust for restricted purposes either by the Vestry, by a parish organization, or by individual donors. Those funds donated by individuals represent permanent endowments; *i.e.*, their principal may not be invaded unless specifically permitted by the donor(s).

John Opel served as chairman of the Trust for two, three-year terms ending January, 2010 and declined reappointment. Bob Fuchs, who had been Treasurer of the M&F Trust since its inception in 2003, resigned in January 2010. We are deeply grateful for their faithful service to Saint Michael's Church.

### ***Trust Governance***

The Trust is governed in accordance with a deed of trust executed by the Rector, Senior Warden, and three voting trustees in January 2003. Trustees select one or more professional investment managers of liquid assets. They meet at least quarterly to review investment performance and asset allocation strategies and to conduct other trust business. There are three voting Trustees, who are appointed by the Rector and approved by the Vestry for staggered three-year terms. There are also two non-voting Trustees, namely, the Rector (*ex officio*) and a Vestry member appointed by the Rector.

The 2009 voting Trustees, who also serve as trust officers, were Chair John Opel, Treasurer Bob Fuchs, and Secretary Parke Avery. The Rector's *ex-officio* position was filled by the Interim Rector, The Rev. John Corbiere, until The Rev. Dr. Ellen Sloan assumed her duties as Rector on September 1. Vestry member Dick Kimball resigned as non-voting trustee in January 2009 and was replaced by Vestry member Charles Emerson.

In January 2010, Dr. Sloan appointed Ralph Clark to a three-year term to replace retiring trustee John Opel, and Bill Carr to the two years remaining in Bob Fuchs's unexpired term. Subsequently, voting trustees elected officers as follows: Ralph Clark, Chair; Bill Carr, Treasurer; and Parke Avery, Secretary and Vice-Chair.

### ***Ministries and Facilities Trust Composition***

The Trust is currently comprised of seven funds, each with a restricted purpose. Except for a portion of the Clergy Housing Fund, all assets are liquid. Liquid assets, except for those in checking and money market accounts (representing less than 1 percent of total), are currently combined in a portfolio of equities and fixed income managed by State Street Global Advisors (SSGA) in Boston, which manages investments for the Episcopal Church Foundation and over 100 participating parishes. From January 2008 to May 2009, all M&F Trust liquid assets were in fixed-income instruments. Thereafter, the Trustees adjusted the mix to a blend of equities and fixed assets. Information on the seven funds is given in the table below:

#### **LIQUID ASSETS ON HAND - M&F TRUST FUNDS**

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Disbursement Purpose</b>	<b>Balance 12-31-08</b>	<b>Balance 12-31-09</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Clergy Housing	Own 20% of clergy's principal dwelling	\$279,002	\$202,957	A
Parish Maintenance	Apply income to facilities maintenance	\$ 84,054	\$ 91,819	
Memorial Garden	Maintain / enhance Memorial Garden	\$ 20,762	\$ 22,809	B
Madden Education	Apply income to scholarship aid for student(s) within the parish	\$ 12,227	\$ 18,983	
Matthew 25 Endowment	Apply income to charitable outreach	\$ 18,807	\$ 19,612	C
Memorial Endowment	Vestry designates use of income	\$ 0	\$ 0	D
General Endowment	Vestry designates use of income	\$ 338	\$ 439	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$407,189</b>	<b>\$356,619</b>	E

## Notes:

- A – **Clergy Housing Fund** assets include both liquid assets and real estate. Fund assets include both donor-funded principal and Vestry-designated funds from the sale of Parish-owned residential property. Income from the fund may be used to satisfy the Parish’s monthly clergy housing allowance.
- B – The Memorial Garden Committee administers funds from the Memorial Garden Fund, which is not an endowment.
- C – Up to \$900 per year of principal from The Matthew 25 Endowment Fund may be distributed, even in the absence of sufficient earnings.
- D – Although the Memorial Endowment trust instrument has been executed, it is not yet funded.
- E – Less than \$2,000 was in cash, checking, or money-market funds (Bank of the Islands) at the close of either year; the remainder was in the SSGA portfolio.

## 2009 Trust Fund Activity

### *Clergy Housing Fund Transactions*

In July 2009, \$125,917 was transferred from the Clergy Housing Fund to the Parish Treasurer for the purpose of acquiring a twenty percent (20%) equity in the house purchased along with our new Rector, the Rev. Dr. Ellen Sloan, and her husband Ralph at 3366 Barra Circle, Sanibel. Shortly thereafter, the Trust conveyed to the Sloans via the Parish Treasurer \$2,818, **or** 20 percent of the cost of replacing the house’s entire HVAC system, including ductwork, thus raising the Parish’s equity to \$128,735.

The Parish owned, until its sale in December 2009, a 20 percent share (\$139,592 cost basis) in the Mockingbird Lane home of our former Rector, The Rev. Donald Fishburne, and his wife. The property was sold in December at a price below our respective cost bases; the Parish was then due \$108,458 from the proceeds from the sale (a loss to the Trust of \$31,134). Of that total due, \$48,359 was received upon sale closure, and the remainder was received with interest by early February 2010.

At year-end, the Housing Fund’s assets were as follows:

Liquid assets on hand:	\$202,958
Due from the Fishburnes ( <i>now paid</i> )	\$ 60,098
Barra Circle real estate ( <i>20% at cost</i> )	<u>\$128,735</u>

**Total Clergy Housing Fund Assets: \$391,791**

### *Other Fund Activity*

#### *Disbursements*

A disbursement of \$900 was made to the Parish Treasurer for Outreach from the Matthew 25 Endowment Fund, as permitted in the trust agreement. No other disbursements from endowment funds were made because depressed fund values and the prohibition (with the exception noted) of invading principal prevented such action.

#### *Receipts*

ECW contributed \$5,000 to the Madden Education Fund. Individual donors contributed \$150 to the Memorial Garden Fund and \$100 to the General Endowment Fund.

### *Comparative Fund Performance*

The performance of our \$354,778 portfolio as of year-end 2009 yielded a total return of 7.7 percent, somewhat below the blended index due to the timing of our return to a blend of equity and fixed-income investments.

### *Conclusion*

An endowment provides the means to supplement and enhance existing Church activities and facilities and can provide the seed money to undertake new initiatives and ministries. The M&F Trustees are committed to doing their best to protect and grow the endowment assets of the Parish.

We also hope that Saint Michael’s parishioners will continue to provide generous gifts and bequests to the various endowment funds to ensure the financial health of Saint Michael’s Church.

Ralph Clark  
*Chair*

Parke Avery  
*Secretary and Vice-Chair*

Bill Carr  
*Treasurer*

## Clergy Wellness Ministry Team

The Clergy Wellness Ministry team was formed in 2006 to provide advice and counsel to clergy of our parish regarding their health care, medical issues, work load and insurance plans made available to them through the Church Pension Group. The main focus of the CWMT is to assist our clergy in the areas of their health and personal wellness.

Although individual consultations were held in 2009 with Interim Rector John Corbiere, Rector Ellen Sloan and our staff, there were no formal meetings of the Clergy Wellness Ministry Team in 2009.

Members include The Reverend Anne Kimball, D. Min., Betsy McCullough, R.N., Carl Meier, M.D., Wayne Ponader, J.D. and John Pryor, CLU.

Respectively Submitted,  
John Pryor,  
*Chair*

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## Memorial Garden Committee

We have had a very active and productive year. The renovation and expansion of the garden was completed. As a reminder, a plan was developed with the assistance of Mr. Rob Warner, Landscape Architect from the Chicago area. His services were given in memory of his father, Robert Warner, M.D. Mr. Warner is the son of parishioner, Mrs. Maggie Warner.

We have completed a new wall with 24 new niches, removed the cruciform providing more space for attendance at services, the fountain and basin pool have been renovated, including the mechanicals for pumping the water, and all wood decking on ramp and stairs replaced with composite material decking, Scatterfield renovated, the cement walk area has been covered with pavers. We are very pleased and thankful for our updated look.

We had only three niches left in the original wall before completion of the new niche wall. To date, of the 24 new niches, now there are only 12 available.

The Memorial Garden Committee does not receive any funds from the Church Operating Budget. Our income for maintenance is the interest we earn on the reserve we have built from the sale of niches and Scatterfield. We conducted a successful fund raising campaign and drew an additional \$6,000 from the Memorial Garden Endowment. We came in under budget and with brisk sales of niches in the new wall; we have returned the \$6,000 to the reserve.

In addition to the improvements to the physical property of the garden, we have updated and revised the "Terms and Conditions" for purchasing a space and the accompanying application forms and documents. Our "hats off" for the detailed work done by Peggie Dodd and Judy Workman, Church Counselor. Peggie also brought the contracts of purchase and the general files up to date as well as the administration of sales.

The picture informational brochure for the Memorial Garden has been updated by David Bath and Susan Gonzalez.

All the engraving on the marble niche panels have been completed and up to date.

Bettie Modys is no longer a committee member, but she has stayed on a landscape consultant and maintains the garden. Special thanks go to Ronn Downey, President of the Orchid Society working with Bettie. Ronn has donated the beautiful orchids that are on the trees, he has given them, he maintains them and replaces them if necessary.

I wish to thank all those that contributed to the Fund Raising Campaign. Without your help and interest we would not have been able to complete such a beautiful sanctuary Garden.

I also thank all the current committee member of the Memorial Garden for their efforts this past year.

Lee Almas, Chair; David Bath, Treasurer; Bill Maruchi, Secretary; Peggie Dodd, Bill Vollmer, Kara Cuscaden and Edna Hanner.

Lee Almas  
*Memorial Garden Committee, Chair*

# Property Committee

## **Acknowledgments**

Progress was made on several fronts on property matters 2009. Special thanks to those who contributed most in this effort:

- to Ralph Korn for his imagination, energy, and expertise as an architect;
- to Sandy Trevor, a super electrical engineer and most willing collaborator on all issues;
- to Jerry McCullough, who schedules drivers for the Overseas Shuttle Bus, handles most bus repairs and maintenance and also provides expertise in the church property insurance;
- to Lee Williams, for her landscaping skills and ideas as we try to become “greener”;
- to Betty Carr, Junior Warden, who collaborated tirelessly on many issues, especially involving the sexton and landscaping;
- and to all who led a hand from time to time, even though they each carry heavy loads of their own: Ellen Trevor, John Pryor, and many others.

Joe Stahl, about whom the Junior Warden has written separately, has made a great change in how property is maintained and improved within a relatively modest budget.

## **Sexton Joe Stahl**

*See the Junior Warden's report regarding our new sexton, Joe Stahl.*

## **Utilities**

The annual cost for all utilities in 2009 remained under good control, mainly because water and sewer consumption was sharply reduced. Below are some of the reasons for these results. Of course, diligence in shutting off unneeded lights and air conditioning is vital to this effort.

### ***Electricity / Conservation Measures***

#### ***Lighting***

Essentially all incandescent light bulbs on campus except in the low portion of the parish hall have been all been replaced with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), reducing electrical demand by at least two kilowatts (2000 watts) and reducing cooling needs by that amount.

Floodlights illuminating the altar area were converted from incandescent to fluorescent bulbs. There were some energy savings, but a key benefit was reduced radiant heat load on those serving at the altar. The difference was noticeable.

#### ***Air Conditioners - Worship Space***

See Capital project below.

### ***Water and Sewer Usage / Conservation Measures***

Water consumption in 2009 for the entire St. Michael's campus amounted to 166 M gallons, the lowest since 2002, even though the church apartment was occupied for 11 months. Usage was 24 percent lower than in 2008 and 71 percent lower than in 2007. Because sewer fees are charged by the City on the basis of water consumption net of separately metered irrigation, sewer charges were lower as well.

Lower consumption of irrigation water in 2009 was the key reason for the drop in usage; regular sprinkler use was discontinued in late 2008, although new plants (including those in the Memorial Garden) were irrigated as needed until established in 2009. We have received a full year's benefit from 2008 conservation measures, including the low-flush toilet installed in the Noah's Ark Thrift Shop.

Also, sexton Joe Stahl has been alert to plumbing leaks and drips.

## **Driveway Maintenance**

Our gravel entrance driveway is among the most heavily used on Sanibel. Maintenance costs were reduced somewhat by the application of calcium chloride after grading and gravel application (begun in 2008). The calcium helps to cement pulverized and larger gravel into a solid mass that inhibits dust. Nevertheless, potholes still develop when used under very wet conditions. No further improvements in materials or procedures are foreseen short of installation of paver blocks.

## **Repairs and Maintenance**

We experienced seven separate air-conditioner shutdowns from electrical parts failures or improper cleaning. We have switched in 2010 to a new HVAC contractor for preventive maintenance in an attempt to improve reliability.

Sandy Trevor was invaluable in helping to analyze and correct problems with our wireless sound system and other electronic systems.

An outside contractor, The Paint Company, repainted the southern and western exterior exposed portions of the nave and the entire the bell tower. The handicapped ramp for the Ark building had deteriorated from rot and was rebuilt by a contractor.

Sexton Joe Stahl:

- discovered in July that the toilet in the office restroom was in danger of falling through the dry-rotted plywood sub-floor beneath ceramic tile. Without supervision, he completely renovated the sub-floor, laid a cement-board protective layer, cut and laid new ceramic tile, and reset the toilet.
- replaced all boards on the handicapped ramp just west of the main church entrance with treated lumber that he cut to fit the curved ramp.
- pressure-cleaned and repainted the handicapped ramp for Noah's Ark after its repair, and
- pressure-cleaned and repainted portions of the eastern face of the office building.

He also performed a long list of smaller repairs and improvements.

Protective sheets of polycarbonate plastic had been installed several years ago over the nave's stained-glass windows. They had become yellow and semi-opaque, so were removed in February. After evaluation of various protection alternatives and their aesthetic and structural challenges, a decision was reached, with Vestry concurrence, not to protect the windows. They are fully insured and can be replaced without great cost. The windows now sparkle.

## **Landscaping**

Mulch-retaining edging was installed around the new sculpture at the Ark. Landscaping selected by Lee Williams was planted around the sculptures after surrounding vegetation was killed. A special watering program was developed, and the plants have thrived.

About 35 palms surrounding the church and parking lot were professionally trimmed. This may help to reduce the palm rat population and eliminate unsightly palm fronds in the parking lot and landscaped areas.

*See the Junior Warden's report for other landscaping matters.*

## **Capital Projects**

### *Worship-Space HVAC System Replacements*

Until August, the worship space was cooled (or heated as needed) with four, five-ton heat pumps. The two 1994 units were highly inefficient (SEER 8.5) by today's standards. The condensers and their air handlers were replaced in August with two, 4-ton SEER 15.5 condensers with 5-ton air handlers. The cost, including wiring for resistance heaters, was \$10,800. The new units are very responsive for cooling, even in hot weather. Being smaller and more efficient, they draw less electricity per hour and trim peak load accordingly. (Further reduction in peak loads will be pursued in 2010.)

### *New North Handicapped Ramp*

The Vestry approved, in late 2009, the installation of a new handicapped ramp designed by retired architect Ralph Korn and used by a Florida architect to gain City approval. Work was performed by Dan Hahn Contractors. The ramp was essentially ready for use by mid-February 2010, although final painting and permit approval has not been obtained.

Bill Carr

*Property Chairman*

## Art Committee

The mission of the Art Committee, which was formed early in 2008, is to work in concert with the Property Committee to select and display works of visual art in the Gallery and elsewhere in parish spaces, both inside and out, that are welcoming, attractive, and environmentally responsible. All items to be displayed on the church premises must first be approved by the Art Committee. (Bulletin boards excluded.)

Three significant displays were hung in the Gallery this year by the Art Committee. The first, a photographic display entitled "St. Michaels: The First Fifty Years," was hung in time for the church's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on the weekend of Jan. 16, 2009. The photographs reflected the life and growth of the parish from the early years with Fr. Madden until the present day. The display was so well received it was left on display through the search process and summer so that the visiting candidates and eventually our new Rector could get an appreciation of St. Michael's history and its people.

In September a second photographic display entitled "Getting to Know You" was hung in the Gallery. It began with pictures of significant events in the life and ministry of our new Rector, Ellen Sloan. A month later it was expanded to include members of our congregation and churches that either played a significant role in their lives in the past or churches that they attend during the part of the year when they are not on Sanibel. The show was on display through Ellen Sloan's Installation Service on Jan. 30, 2010.

The present display in the Gallery is the "St. Michael's Members and Friends Show." It includes a wide variety of artwork created by 18 members and friends of the congregation and will be on display until May 1, 2010.

While not responsible for the content of the material on the bulletin boards, the Art Committee monitors the appearance and timeliness of the information on display, to maintain a high level of interest on the part of parishioners who wish to be kept up-to-date and informed about current happenings in the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Schuman  
*Art Committee Chair*

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## Search Committee

### **The Committee**

David Bath and Ralph Clark, *Co-Chairs*

Chris Salerno – *Secretary*

Jane Adams – *Treasurer*

Jim Bird – *Data Management*

Penny Lind, Carla Johnston, Mike Cuscaden, Alwyn Johnson, Lee Almas

Betsy Schuman – *Vestry Liaison*

Doug Lind – *Consultant*

While our process officially began on January 10, 2009 with a joint meeting of the Vestry and Search Committee, David Bath and I had started months earlier to develop our process and interview each of the members of the committee to establish an organization which would take advantage of the skills and time of each member and to develop a plan that would allow us to meet a very aggressive schedule. We were blessed with a very talented and committed committee and a very compressed schedule.

We were asked to produce three outstanding candidates to turn over to the Vestry by May 1<sup>st</sup>. We processed over 90 names with over 75 willing to be considered. We prayed at the beginning and end of each session and a few times in the middle. We believe the Holy Spirit was indeed a partner in our process and really critical in our ability to come to a unanimous conclusion.

### **Profile and Study Process**

The Profile and Study team provided us with two extremely useful documents. First the survey results gave us a set of criteria we used to screen candidates, particularly their CDO submissions. Secondly the Parish Profile, which was very professional, gave us a document (we used the electronic version) which candidates could respond to in their written communications with us. It received many compliments and attracted a number of candidates to us.



## **Networking**

Where do you get names of good candidates? We were told our best source would be friends and parish members and it turned out to be true. Of the final 6 all but one came from parishioners or friends of the parish. We asked the parish every week for two months and many on the Committee and Vestry talked to priest friends. This turned out to be our best source.

## **Web Site Improvement**

The church web site had been in use for some time but mainly used for service schedules, directions, and newsletter source. When Chris and Jane reviewed it as an integral part of our search process - particularly as a selling tool to attract applicants – they decided it needed major revision. After a few weeks of their work with Susan Gonzalez doing the technical work, we had a very good web site which drew compliments from candidates often.

## **Meeting schedule and approach**

We scheduled meetings every Wednesday 9 to noon to review resumes, written material, sermons etc on many candidates. In addition teams met every week separately, more if necessary. Most of the work was done in team meetings.

## **Minutes**

Chris Salerno was our keeper of the minutes which she did very well. The minutes were used to keep us all on the same page from week to week. No one else saw them and they have now been destroyed. Status of candidates was kept separately by Jim Bird and reviewed weekly. Jim managed all data on all correspondence on all candidates. What a blessing!

## **Visits – new teams**

New teams and new team leaders were formed so that the teams who had reviewed the candidates in earlier stages were mostly different from those who went to visit the candidates at their home parish. On returning from the onsite visits each team wrote up a report on the candidate they visited and these were quite detailed- often three or four pages- single space typed. Observations from parish visits as well as detailed reports from the references discussions. These write-ups were to be a key part of the vestry package for those final three who were submitted.

## **Narrowing to three—consensus**

From the beginning we had decided that we would attempt to make our decisions by consensus rather than by voting and we were able to do so. The Vestry was given three very detailed packages on the three finalists in the first week in May. The Vestry was thorough, thoughtful, brilliant, and blessed, and made the right choice – unanimously. Thanks be to God!!!

Rev. Dr. Ellen Sloan and husband Ralph are among us and she is leading us. We are truly blessed!!!

Ralph Clark and David Bath  
*Co- Chairs*

# Episcopal Churchwomen – ECW

*“Outreach and Fellowship are at the Heart of all we do”*

## ECW – Membership

Every woman who is a member of Saint Michael and All Angels is automatically a member of ECW and the Fort Myers Deanery.

## WITHIN OUR CHURCH

The success of our ECW depends upon our ministry at Noah’s Ark. In 2009 our grants were made primarily with the goal of addressing the enormous problem of hunger and its ramifications. After deducting administrative expenses of the Ark, we are proud to have been able to distribute \$234,443 in grants:

Community	20 grants	52%
Worldwide	7 grants	14%
Deanery	3 grants	3%
Diocese	8 grants	5%
St. Michael and All Angels		26%”

In the fall representatives from ECW Allocations and Outreach also met for an exchange of information relative to grant making. Both groups are motivated by a desire to best serve the community at large with the least amount of duplication. ECW grants are allocated for the following in 2010:

A.C.T.	Our Mother’s Home	South Ft. Myers Comm. Foundation
Brightest Horizons	PACE	South Fort Myers Food Pantry
CCMI	Quality Life Center	SW FL Addiction Services
FISH-Sanibel	Salvation Army	Voices for Kids
Habitat for Humanity	Sanibel Community Hsg./Resources	El Hogar Projects, Honduras
Harry Chapin	Literacy Volunteers	Episcopal Relief & Development
Hope Hospice		Honduras Little Roses
Immokalee Friendship House		Sustainable Aquaculture Initiative, Haiti

Each month a wonderful luncheon and program is held in the parish hall. Every woman from the church is encouraged to attend. Last year we heard from the Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society, CCMI, photographer John Carney, and St. Michael’s Flower Guild. In February we held our annual fashion show to thank our customers. Later that month the Women’s Guild of St. Isabel’s invited us to join them for lunch and enjoy a program given by Jana Teleka of Floral Artistry. At the end of the year we learned of the Sustainable Aquaculture Program in Haiti, which sadly did not survive the January 2010 earthquake.

Noah’s Ark is our main ministry. Upwards of 90 men and women from the church work together for its success. Donations including clothing, furniture, bric-a-brac and other sundries, are inspected for quality before being put out for sale. Lasting friendships and camaraderie are among the not-so-hidden benefits of working at the Ark.

## DEANERY AND DIOCESE

There were 2 deanery meetings this year, one at St. Hilary’s in March and one in September at Epiphany Church, which were attended by the ECW president.

In November our rector, Rev. Dr. Ellen Sloan, was the featured speaker at the annual ECW diocesan convention. Bursting our buttons with pride, many of us traveled to DaySpring in a showing of support, and, of course, to join in the convention.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julia Boyd  
*Episcopal Church Women, President*

## Finance Committee

Origin and Charge. John Pryor announced the membership of a new Finance Committee at the May, 2009 meeting of the Vestry. The establishment of the committee followed from a recommendation by Treasurer Ellen Trevor, endorsed by John. Their objective was to augment the resources devoted to the financial functions of the Church, in order to provide additional support to the Treasurer and the Vestry in carrying out their responsibilities for financial affairs.

The Committee held two meetings in October and another in November. In reviewing the Church's financial situation and recommendations from its independent auditor, the Committee concluded that its charge should be expanded to include "strengthening internal controls and operating efficiency." That phrase comes from the auditor's recommendations. Accordingly, we recommended to the Vestry a charge that included undertaking strengthening initiatives. Because our audited financials and the required annual Parochial Report necessarily encompass all of the Church's financial activities, the charge also includes reviewing the financials and controls of all organizations operating under the congregation's authority. The Vestry approved the proposed charge at its December, 2009 meeting.

Governance and Method of Operation. The Finance Committee is an arm of the Vestry, to which it reports. The sweep of its activities, however, necessarily impinges on the work of the ECW and the Ministry and Facilities Trust, both of which have significant financial operations. Thus the Committee is interacting with organizations to which it does not report. This fact was one important contributor to our decisions on our method of operation, particularly to the decision that we must function solely as an advisory group. The Committee did not seek and should not be accorded any decision-making authority. Our opportunity to add value must come from recommendations that find favor with the organizations to which they may apply. That circumstance requires that our operation be transparent and participative. In carrying out our charge of developing strengthening initiatives we rely on working teams, teams that will probably include individuals drawn from beyond our membership.

Plans for 2010. As part of its work in 2009 the Committee started building relationships with the ECW and the M&F Trust, as well as with the Memorial Garden. That activity will continue in 2010. We now have three teams working on specific initiatives to improve operations and controls. We expect to identify additional initiatives, to address them in a planned sequence based on their priority, and to develop a system for keeping track of them and reporting on progress. We will continue to work with the Treasurer on budgets and financial reports. We also want to serve as an added communications link for members of the parish who have questions or comments about the Church's financial operations. We welcome any suggestions that parishioners may care to offer.

Bob Winters,  
*Chair*

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## Treasurer's Report

### **2009 Financials**

2009 was a challenging budget year. The church completed our Self Study and our New Rector Search and related expenses came into play. Another challenge was budgeting for an Interim Rector and a new Rector package of stipend and benefits for uncertain time periods.

2009 was also a challenging year for the Finance Office. Our longtime Parish Administrator, Edie Huggins, retired at the end of April. The change led us to re-evaluate our Finance Office staffing and assigned duties. We now have Wanda Adler in the Finance Office two days weekly in charge of payables, records management, and accounting system oversight. The Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer is responsible for income entry. Payroll has been outsourced. An accountant comes in monthly to balance accounts and funds. Attila Molnar, a member of our "counting team", will be reviewing all our transactions through bank statement review monthly. These changes not only account for over \$10,000 in savings yearly, but provide the checks and balances we need to insure the safe and accurate handling of the monies.

Assistant Treasurer, Bill Carr, is now serving as a Director and the Treasurer of the Ministries and Facilities Trust. He will be resigning as Assistant Treasurer as soon as a replacement is found. Bill generously gives of his time in

training, supporting, and counseling me, and sharing his wealth of experience and historical knowledge of the finances of Saint Michaels. Many thanks to Bill for his service to the church as Assistant Treasurer.

The last and most significant change is that a Finance Committee has once again been formed at the Treasurer's request. Senior Warden, John Pryor, appointed an excellent and able committee, chaired by Bob Winters, to assist with reviewing financial affairs, recommending procedure changes, documenting policies and procedures, and assisting the Treasurer. Please see the report of the Finance Committee for detail.

### **2009 Budget**

A budget is a tool for managing overall income and expense. Budgeting is not an exact science. I was pleased with the budget results in 2009. Our estimates were accurate to a surprising degree considering the number of changes affecting the financials during the year.

Contributions fell below budget by about \$8900. (This was due to unfulfilled pledge contributions of about \$14,000 at year-end, \$9,000 of which has come in during 2010.)

We received two bequests in 2009 totaling \$14,211.

Overall, income exceeded the budgeted amount of \$570,000 by \$7,588.

Total expenses for 2009 were below budget because all committees, commissions, guilds, and staff worked so hard to stay within their budgets.

In Ministries, several areas like Worship, Music, and Parish Life had overruns that were offset by special gifts or designated funds. The Convention expense included two years of dues for the CEEP and Parish Growth exceeded budget due to expense for expanded advertising and newcomer packets. In total ministry expenses were below budget by ~\$2000.

Office expenses were below budget by ~ \$8000.

Personnel was below budget. With the retirement of the Parish Administrator and re-staffing of the Finance Office, as well as the Interim Rector and then new Rector Compensation Packages, Personnel had many changes during 2009. For the year, Personnel was ~\$19,000 under budget.

Self Study and Search which started in 2008 and ended in 2009 was over budget by only ~\$3000, but almost on budget when looked at over the two year period.

Property was only over budget by ~\$3000 due to an insurance refund that was not received by year-end. See the property report for details.

The Net Total was \$41,656. A Vestry approved capital expenditure of \$10,800 on A/C Unit replacement reduced the Net Operating Total to \$30,856. Of that \$30,856, the Bequest total of \$14,211 was invested 50% in the Reserve Account and 50% in the General Endowment of the M&F Trust. By Vestry vote the new handicap ramp at ~ \$12,000 will be paid from the balance. Any remaining balance will remain in operating funds.

The Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets is consistent with our Modified Cash Basis of accounting. Note that the 2009 numbers have yet to be audited.

### **2010 Budget**

A Budget Review was held on December 8, 2009, open to all parishioners. This was the opportunity to review and comment on the 2010 Proposed Budget. The Proposed Budget for 2010 was passed by the Vestry at the December 17, 2009 Vestry Meeting.

The Chart of Accounts has been adjusted to reflect the current needs of the committees, commissions, staff, and the Finance Office. Some designated accounts have been moved to the Income/Expense Statement to better reflect the total income and expenses of the church.

The Contribution Income budgeted for 2010 reflects the goals set by the Stewardship Commission. That represents an anticipated increase of less than \$5000 over 2009. ECW pledged support of the operating budget has remained the same at \$53,000, but this year the designated funds pledged by the ECW for Youth Ministries, Parish Life, Clergy Discretionary Fund, and Altar Guild are included in the budget. This is to show all operating income and expense including these designated funds.

Ministry Budgets increased in the same areas of Youth Ministries and Altar Guild (both part of Worship Commission), Parish Life, and Clergy Discretionary Fund (Outreach). These expenses funded by the ECW gifts previously were not shown in the operating budget but were reflected on the balance sheet only. Other increases in budgeted ministry expense include budgeting expenses for the Flower Guild (Worship), organ repair work in the Music budget, funds for conference attendance by the Parish Nurse, and the New Rector Installation Celebration.

Office Expenses are budgeted to increase by \$4,500 over the 2009 Budget. Part of the increase is the moving of Published Materials to this heading, the needed upgrading of computers and software, and increased materials and telephone costs.

Personnel expenses decreases by about \$14,000 for 2010 vs. 2009 due to staffing changes.

The Property Budget remained nearly unchanged despite increasing utility and insurance costs. Continued cost savings are being realized with the employment of our Sexton rather than a contracted cleaning service which had cost us about \$24,000 in 2008.

The Increase to Net Assets budgeted for 2010 is over \$49,000. These funds are needed to cover any necessary capital expenditures and to increase our Reserve Funds. This Reserve Fund, or "Rainy Day" Fund, had a balance of only \$33,085 at year-end 2009. With the Vestry approved addition of \$7105 in January 2010 the balance is now \$40,190. A balance of about four times that amount would be a prudent reserve to maintain. We have a distance to go toward that goal.

### **2008 Audit**

With the satisfactory completion of the 2008 audit, the audit firm of Dees & Dees sent to the Vestry an Internal Control Memorandum listing suggestions for the strengthening of our financial procedures. This list was received by the Vestry. The Finance Committee is working toward recommendations on how to best comply with the Memorandum suggestions. Our changes in Finance Office responsibilities have already addressed two of the seven points. A copy of the 2008 audit is available for review in the Finance Office.

### **Finance Office Activity**

During the long absence of the Parish Administrator, from November 2008 until the end of April 2009, it became obvious that we needed to prepare a manual to give adequate direction for running the Finance Office in an emergency situation and to have enough individuals cross-trained to fill-in in that event. We are working toward that goal.

The Finance Office is in the process of preparing for the 2009 audit of the church books, updating and documenting financial procedures, strengthening our practices, and encouraging the Finance Committee to review our work. As part of that process of improving our practices, I attended the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes Workshop for Treasurers and Administrators in New Orleans in March 2009, (at no expense to the church). Wanda Adler and I were part of a daylong year-end closing workshop in December and I attended a "Best Practices" seminar in Sarasota recommended by the Diocese Finance Office in February 2010.

### **Treasurer's Recommendations**

As the Treasurer of Saint Michael's, I have recommended to the Vestry that they continue to strengthen our financial position with contributions to our Operating Reserve Account (Vanguard Investments) and to establish a separate Capital Reserve Account and a Capital Expenditure Plan. We have established during the past two years that we are able to make cuts in spending, budget conservatively, and stay within those budgets responsibly. Now, we need to look toward these longer term goals of placing the church in a position to weather unexpected events or required major repairs. Building our Operating Reserve and starting a Capital Reserve are important steps toward the financial health of Saint Michael & All Angels Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Trevor  
*Treasurer*

# Nominating Committee

## The 2009 Candidates for St. Michael's Vestry

### David Bath

David Bath is a life-long Anglican with worship experience in four churches in England, one in Spain, and three Episcopal churches in the US. A member of St. Michael's since 2000, he served on the Vestry from 2002 to 2005, and had experience as Treasurer. He is currently serving on the Memorial Garden, Christian Education, and Millennium Goals committees. David and Gillian live on Sanibel year round.

He states, *"I believe my 10 years background with St. Michael's, and more recently, my involvement with the Search process for our new Rector (he co-chaired the Search Committee), will be helpful on Vestry as we work together to strengthen our church."*

### Jandy Bird

Jandy Bird attended St. George's by the River in Rumson, NJ, for over 30 years, and participated in every aspect of church life: as Church School teacher, Vestry member and clerk, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Choir member, and Search Committee member, among many others. She has been at St. Michael and All Angels since 2004, and here serves on the Altar Guild, as a lay reader, on the Christian Education Committee, and co-chaired the Self-Study Profile Committee. Jandy has been on the Vestry for the past 6 months, fulfilling an unexpired term. Jandy and Jim live 8 months of the year on Sanibel.

She says, *"If elected to the Vestry, I will bring some experience (I have already served on this Vestry for six months), a strong love for St. Michael's - my spiritual home, and a prayer that God will enable me to do His work."*

### Roger Heider

Roger Heider served on the Vestry of St. John's Church, Chicago. His activities included being part of an Outreach Committee, the Stewardship Committee, being a facilitator for the Disciples of Christ in Community program for several years, and working with Priest candidate discernment process. At St. Michael's since 2005, Roger presently is a member of the Finance Committee and the Millennium Goals Committee. He is an active participant in the Men's Fellowship. Roger and Sylvia live on Sanibel from October through June.

The proficiencies that Roger would bring to bear are those of project and operational management, as well as quality and risk management. He states, *"If elected to the Vestry, I will bring the necessary listening, experience and organizational skills to continue to achieve the parish Mission."*

### Penny Lind

Penny Lind was raised as an Episcopalian, and worshipped as such until she married Doug, then a Presbyterian minister. She served as an ordained Deacon and Session (Presbyterian Vestry counterpart) Member, chairing or co-chairing the Presbytery (similar to Diocese) Committee on Ministry for 10 years. She also served on the Board of Directors of International Development Enterprises, a \$20 million not-for-profit organization dedicated to the needs of poor farmers in under-developed countries. At St. Michael's, Penny served on the most recent Search Committee, and is a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Penny and Doug have attended St. Michael's since 2004, and live in Ft. Myers 8-9 months a year.

Penny says, *"I bring to the Vestry years of experience of what works and what doesn't work in the local church. I understand the role of a church lay leader and the role of the clergy. I will share my passion for the work of the church."*

### Phil Pilibosian

Phil Pilibosian was active growing up in the Episcopal Church as a choir member, Boy Scout, and acolyte. Later he was a Vestry member and church treasurer at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Southborough, MA, developing and implementing an automated pledge and membership system that was used as a prototype for the diocese. He also managed the every member canvass there, as well as at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Mendham, NJ. At St. Michael's, Phil coordinates participation at the CCMI soup Kitchen, the Crop Walk and

the Men's Fellowship. He serves as an LEM, drives the church bus, assists with ushering, and has sung in the choir. He is the Outreach Commission Chair, and partnered with the ECW to streamline the grant application process. Phil and Gail have been communicants since 2003, and live on Sanibel 7 months a year.

Phil states, *"Utilizing my knowledge, skills and experience, I believe that I could make a significant contribution to the continued achievement of the mission and goals of St. Michael and All Angels church."*

### **Dick Salerno**

Dick Salerno worshipped at the First Congregational Church in Ithaca, NY, and served on the Church Council as chair of the Stewardship Commission for a number of years. He also sang in the church choir there. For several weeks in 1993 he was one of two physicians working in a free clinic at a Catholic parish church in Kingston, Jamaica. At Trinity Episcopal Church in Newtown, CT, Dick served on the Vestry for 3 years, and chaired the Outreach Commission. He also was a choir member. During his time at Trinity he also served on the board of the Housatonic Habitat for Humanity for 6 years. At St. Michael's Dick volunteers weekly at Noah's Ark in the repair/testing area. He also attends book study, sings in the choir, and worships at Sunday and Wednesday services regularly. Dick and Chris have been members of St. Michael's since 2005, and live on Sanibel 7 months a year.

Dick states, *"My contribution to the Vestry would be to support the mission of the church and to contribute where needed."*

### **Lee Williams**

Lee Williams attended St. George's in Dayton, OH, for 41 years, where she was a Lay Eucharistic Minister and a Bible Study leader. She also was a member of a Search and a Discernment committee, and chaired several fundraising activities. In summers she attends St. Christopher's Anglican Church in McGregor Bay, Ontario. She has been a Lector for 31 years, Grounds Committee and Cemetery Chair, and Chair of the Garden Group. At St. Michael's Lee has been a Lay Eucharistic Minister since 1990, a bible Study Leader, a co-leader of both the Friday Book Study and the Art Committee, landscaping consultant for the church grounds, and a member of the Flower Guild and the Prayer Ministry. While having attended St. Michaels longer, longer, Lee has been a member since 2007. She and Tom live on Captiva 6 months a year.

Lee states, *"My interest in becoming a member of the Vestry stems from my involvement at St. Michael's over the years. I may be able to contribute in several areas of church life, having a varied background in several churches over a long period of time, which may give me insights into different situations. I believe my strengths, as related to the Vestry, would be that I am responsible, responsive, and generally goal oriented. I would want to be as supportive of our Rector as possible."*