



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ON SANIBEL ISLAND

Inside:

Men's Ministry

**Wednesday
Worship
December 5th
6 p.m.**

**Covered Dish
December 5th
6:30 p.m**

**The Angel Tree
is here**

The Red Door

DECEMBER 1, 2007

News of the people and ministries of Saint Michael and All Angels Church, Sanibel, Florida

Advent invites us

Advent Season invites us to keep watch, and to expect to see our Lord coming as a child, coming again in glory on a Great Day, and coming to us personally each day.

This is a season of invitations. Here are a few:

Please receive this as my personal invitation to you to meet with our Vestry, Stewardship Commission, new members, and others as we gather soon: Thursday afternoon, December 6th. Among the leaders from whom you will hear is the one of the most sought after speakers in the Episcopal Church today, The Rev. Michael Carlisle of Huntsville, Alabama and Sewanee, Tennessee. We will share news of our top priorities for ministry in 2008 as we become, more and more, a welcoming worshipping community, caring for each other, and caring for others in the community and the world. Join us at 3 o'clock in the Parish Hall. We'll have time for conversation, and we will close with refreshments and social time.

An invitation to the men of the church: register now for the Men's Retreat in January. Retreat Leader is The Rev. Doug Lind, Ph.D., of Connecticut. Details inside.

And register now for the Celtic Spirituality Weekend at Epiphany Weekend. Now is the time to plan to come to this unique event. Brochures are available in the Parish Hall, Church Office, and at our web site.

Inside are other invitations to prepare our hearts for Christ in this season of expectation: opportunities to give through the Angel Tree, to send cookies to people in prison, to support the Food Bank and Soup Kitchen, to sing in the season at Shell Point Village, to pray for upcoming ministries, to contribute to the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief and Development, and to care for ourselves and each other.

I invite you to arrive early for seating on weekends, especially at the 10:30 Sunday Eucharist, and to make the most of the opportunity to be **QUIET** in God's presence, to say your personal prayers, and to read the introduction to the Liturgy, Lessons and Music (written by your clergy and Director of music). It will make your common worship more meaningful!

Another special invitation

I invite you to come to worship expecting new opportunities to sing God's praises. At all services on the weekdays and the weekends of Advent we light the candles of the Advent Wreath, week by week. On Sundays we sing one of the "Great O Antiphons" as we wait the coming of Emmanuel. At 10:30 on Sundays we sing the ancient Psalms of the People of God, hear the prophets, and see the work of John the Baptist, the Virgin Mary, and others, in preparing a place in their hearts and in the world for the coming of the Lord Jesus. May we in our worship be strengthened to do likewise.

Worship is at the heart of all we do

We invite you to worship with us:

- **Saturday at 5** – A “Come as you are Eucharist” and a Reception following.
- **Sunday at 8** – A traditional Eucharist with hymns, followed by Coffee Hour.
- **Sunday at 10:30** – Choral Eucharist, followed by Coffee Hour.*

(*With Sunday Overseas Shuttle pickup at Woodlands and then at SPV Island)

Wednesdays 9 a.m. Eucharist with prayers for healing
Wednesdays 6 p.m. Evening Worship

Announcements

Lay-led Wednesday Evening Worship begins at 6 o'clock in the Chapel of the Angels.

Covered Dish Supper is Wednesday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Join Marilee and Mike Wood and Sally and David Lund as they host a “traditional” covered dish supper. Bring your favorite covered dish to share with others. Any clean-up help is always welcome.

Men's Fellowship meets twice a month, second and fourth Tuesdays. We forward to the return of more snowbird members. See you at 7:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall!

ECW December Luncheon, Monday, December 10, 12:30 p.m. – The children of the Children's Center of the Islands will sing for us. All are welcome. Please sign-up in the Parish Hall to attend.

Outreach Commission News

The Outreach Commission has made Fall grants from our budget as follows:

- ECHO (Education Concerns for Hunger Organization)
- FISH of Sanibel (Friends In Service Here)
- Brightest Horizons Child Care Center
- CCMi (Community Cooperative Ministries, Inc.)
- SWFAS (Southwest Florida Addiction Services)

For further information and volunteer opportunities please call Dick Jacker, 415-0870, or send a note to the Church Office.

“I was in prison and you visited me” (with COOKIES!) Matthew 25: 36



We can't all visit the prison but we can make our presence known and offer our prayers for all who are incarcerated at the prison in Ft. Myers. One way we can do that is to make **COOKIES** to take to them at Christmas time. Last year we were able to deliver many dozens of **cookies** of all varieties to be distributed to the prisoners on Christmas Day and we hope to do the same this year. You are invited to make up a batch of your favorite **cookies**, package them in plastic bags and or boxes (**no tin boxes please**) and deliver them to the Parish Hall on December 15th and 16th. They will be taken to the prison on Sunday afternoon, **December 16th**. Think **COOKIES** and make Christmas more meaningful for those who are not free to enjoy that Blessed Day as we are.

Men's Retreat – join us!

This year's men's retreat is less than two months away so it is time to say yes, put it on your calendar, and send in your reservation to Susan in the Church Office with a check for \$50. The dates are January 10th and 11th at DaySpring Episcopal Retreat Center in Sarasota. We will be leaving from Saint Michael's about noon on Thursday the 10th and will be back on the Island by 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

We are fortunate to have Fr. Doug Lind as our retreat leader. Doug is a priest from Connecticut who attends Saint Michael's in season and has led a retreat for the Vestry this fall. The format of the retreat will be similar to last year's for those of you who attended. We will have singing, worship, good fellowship, good food and a program of four talks followed by small group discussions. Doug plans to lead us through a program entitled "Living in the Fourth Quarter", the legacy we received and the legacy we hope to pass on.

When you send in your reservation please indicate your interest in a single room if they are available (first come first served). Double rooms will be \$115 including everything and singles - if available - will be \$140.

It promises to be a special time of spiritual growth and good fellowship, especially if **you** are there. Please enroll soon.

Holiday Songfest



Come one, come all, especially you good voices! We're entertaining the folks at Shell Point on **Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.** with Advent and Christmas carols and seasonal songs. Meet us at the SPV Pavilion to share the tidings with our neighbors. All are welcome!

Living generously

*Using the gifts God has given us
to do the work Christ is calling us to do.*

3 o'clock this Thursday, December 6th

*A special event with The Rev. Michael
Carlisle of Huntsville and Sewanee,
“the most engaging speaker in the
Episcopal Church today.”*

*This is your invitation to join parish
leaders for this special event, in the
Parish Hall.*

*We'll preview our 2008 ministry
priorities and end with a reception.*

A special gift for family or friends: gifts for life

This year what about giving a gift that goes on giving? You can honor your loved ones by making a donation to the Episcopal Relief and Development ERD – the agency that serves our Church worldwide, providing emergency assistance and long-term programs for third world countries to reduce poverty and disease. Whatever you give to ERD will empower individuals, restore communities and save lives. A gift of \$12 will purchase a much-needed mosquito net to protect against malaria, \$25 will purchase a flock of chickens, providing eggs for a steady income, and \$50 trains one worker to provide life-saving prevention education to communities in countries where HIV/AIDS is spreading the fastest.

A catalogue entitled, "Gifts for Life" listing these and other gifts is available in the Parish Hall along with important information about ERD. Make this Christmas a truly memorable one for your family and those we are called to serve. Call Anne Kimball (395-0733) for more information.

Christmas Poinsettias:

Gifts in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones and friends are welcome as we prepare for the decoration of the Church for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Christmas Season. Please earmark your gift check "Poinsettias" and complete the form below, and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the Parish Office **by Monday, December 19th at noon.**



Given by ...	In memory of ...

Given by ...	In thanksgiving for ...

Weekend of Celtic Music and Spirituality Jan 4th – 6th

Leader: J. Philip Newell

Theme: A new birthing of Christ for today – the Celtic perspective

You will find all the details for the Celtic weekend, and the registration form, in the flier that came with the previous *Red Door*. If this has gone astray, copies of the flier can be picked up from the Church hall, the Office and our website.

As part of our preparations for the weekend, we are offering the following:

* Prayer Group meets

A weekly prayer group, meets together for 20 minutes, with our prayer focus being the three upcoming special events in the life of Saint Michael's – the Celtic Weekend, the Men's Retreat, and the Parish Retreat, asking for God's blessing upon them, and upon the life of Saint Michael's.

This will be on Fridays, at noon, in the Chapel of the Angels and all are welcome to join us.

If you would like to be a part of this, and are unable to do so because of other commitments, please still join us in prayer at that time just for a few moments, wherever you are, and become a part of a corporate wave of prayer, as we open ourselves anew to the touch of God's Spirit among us.

* Wednesday Evening Worship in the Celtic tradition

Throughout Advent and the two Wednesdays in the Christmas Season, the services on Wednesday evenings will be the Celtic tradition, i.e. drawn from resources written with the following features of Celtic prayer and spirituality in mind:

We hope you will join us for the following evenings, both as a preparation for Christmas as we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ anew, into our hearts and lives, this Christmas, and also as a preparation for the coming Celtic Weekend, when the theme will be 'A new birthing of Christ for today.'

Wednesday, December 5th Voices of Advent: the prophets

Wednesday, December 12th Voices of Advent: John the Baptist

Wednesday, December 19th Voices of Advent: Mary

* Scottish dancing

As a fun way to prepare for the Ceilidh that is part of the Celtic Weekend, we shall be holding Scottish dancing lessons in the Church Hall, on Saturdays from 10 – 11am, December 8th. Scottish dancing is easy to learn, good fun, and great exercise! No previous experience is necessary. All are welcome!

Your parish clergy

Here's a line-up of Episcopal and U.K. clergy serving the parish in particular ways these days:

Donald Fishburne has been Rector for 7 years. Want to see him? Please call the Church Office to arrange a time for a visit at the Church, your home, or elsewhere. Friday is his day off.

Deacon Martha "Mardi" Ponader is non-stipendiary. She works part-time with Sunday liturgy, pastoral care, Suppers for Six and Greeters.

Adjunct Clergy are retired priests licensed by the Bishop to minister in this parish, reporting to and responsible to the Rector. These priests serve as volunteers part-time and are non-stipendiary:

The Rev. Anne Kimball, D.Min. Primary ministries include the Awareness Retreat as well as study groups, and Episcopal Relief and Development. Other ministries, including December liturgical duties, are being added.

The Rev. Paul Goddard, D.D., whose primary ministries center in worship on Wednesday mornings and Saturday afternoons and in pastoral care ministries. (Away the last half of December.)

The Rev. Elizabeth Farrow of the Scottish Episcopal Church, whose ministries center on Wednesday evening worship and the Celtic Weekend, along with pastoral care and spiritual direction. (Away the last half of December.)

The Rev. Douglass Lind, Ph.D., of Connecticut is sometime consultant to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry. We hope to see more of him beginning in February or March.

The Rev. Bruce Duncan, MBE, of the Church of England will be Theologian in Residence for 60 days in from mid-January thru mid-March, centering on the Awareness Retreat.

A national search, concentrated outside the diocese, is on for an Assistant Rector or assisting priest to join us perhaps Lent or Easter Season.

Questions? Please ask the Rector.

A banner season

Banners in our Entrance Gallery or Parish Hall welcome us – and welcome in the seasons of Christmas and Pentecost. Would you like to give a banner for other seasons? Costs are about \$200 each or per pair. Please speak with Parish Secretary Susan Gonzalez and the Rector will be in touch.

United Thank Offering

The fall ingathering for United Thank Offering ministries totaled \$1,600. Thank you for your thankful giving! And thanks for your gifts of food and money at Thanksgiving Eve and Day, as well.

The Stewardship Commission Invites you!

WHAT? A unique afternoon learning and inspirational program followed by a time to visit with each other at a wine and cheese reception.

WHEN? Thursday, December 6th at 3:00 p.m.

WHERE? The Parish Hall, Saint Michael's

WHO? Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to come to this session sponsored by the Stewardship Commission, and led by The Rev. Michael E. Carlisle, an Episcopal Priest, a former missionary to Kenya, and stewardship consultant to the Episcopal Church.

WHY? To help us explore the role of money in our spiritual lives, and to shed light on some very specific areas we can consider as we contemplate the nature and timing of our 2008 giving to Saint Michael's.

* At this meeting we will preview for the first time the priorities for ministry at Saint Michael's in 2008.

Former bishop John Lipscomb renounces his ordination vows

In September John Lipscomb retired as bishop of this diocese. He is a year older than I, and Parkinson's disease had a lot to do with his resignation. (Bishops must resign their office, they may not simply retire.)

Mr. Lipscomb grew up the son of a respected Southern Baptist preacher and was ordained priest in the Episcopal Church in the 70's and ordained a bishop in 1996.

Recently he informed our new Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dabney Smith, that he will renounce his ordination vows to "solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church." He and his wife are joining the Roman Catholic Church, or in the terminology of that church, "converting to Catholicism." Since that Church does not recognize his ordination, he will be not a bishop, priest or deacon but a lay person, unless he approaches Rome for Confirmation and ordination.

God bless him as he goes, or, as our Bishop wrote, "I am pleased that he and Marcie have found their place of spiritual solace."

More on this is at www.episcopalswfl.org/

I would be pleased to have conversation about this if you desire.

Faithfully, Donald

The Angel Tree is here! Give a Gift!

This year our Angel Tree will provide gifts both for the children at **Brightest Horizons Child Development Center** and for families at **Community Co-Op Ministries, Inc (CCMI)**. The tree will be set up in the Parish Hall from November 24th until December 16th. During that time you are invited to take an angel and leave your donation in the accompanying envelope. The funds from the Angel Tree will be divided evenly between the two organizations. The needs are great and your gifts will make Christmas a more blessed time for those in need.

Brightest Horizons - Each year Brightest Horizons Child Development Center "has Christmas" for the 16- children from low-income working families in its care. With the help of their teachers, the children get to choose a Christmas present from a "home-made catalogue" containing a large selection for each age group (no guns). Each year Santa brings that present to Brightest Horizons just days before Christmas, a time of joy and happiness all around. Toys, as one would expect, are mostly dolls, bikes, and build-it sets for pre-schoolers and after-schoolers - and bouncers, rockers and trikes for the babies and toddlers. Funds from our Angel will be used to purchase these gifts which are such a large part of Christmas for these children.

CCMI provides food as well as gifts for the whole family through their Christmas program. The agency identifies specific families who are in the greatest need and through our donations is able to give a special and much needed gift to each member of the family, choosing gifts that are appropriate for the age of each child and something for the parents as well. In addition, the family will receive a food voucher for Publix which will ensure that these families have a nourishing and delicious Christmas dinner. Please give as generously as you can to brighten Christmas for the families at **CCMI**.

December Birthdays

1 st	Ruth Anderson, Sarah Hart Fishburne
2 nd	Robert Howard, Linda Deason
3 rd	Jane Pierce
6 th	Jo Whittemore
7 th	Lee Dhimos, Bob Fuchs
8 th	Judy Moorhouse, Bob Winters
9 th	Nancy Johnson, Roger Paul
10 th	Bill Eagleson, Ken Ellenberg, Eleanor Hornbrook, David Lund
14 th	June Ingraham
15 th	Ruth Amend, Darrell Phillips
16 th	Rookie Bradley, Sr.
17 th	Nancy Bacon
18 th	Marilyn Bigelow
19 th	Jo Stark
20 th	Diane Miner
24 th	Carol Daniels, Phyllis Sylvester, Lynn Mallory, Pam Blanton
25 th	Paulette Robison
27 th	Patty Sprinkle
30 th	Jane Bone

From Roberta Heller, R.N., Parish Nurse

Grief Support – Pathways of Hope

Grief is a response to events that often seem out of control and often unexpected. It is a forced redefinition of self. There is no way around grief and in order to come out on the other side, one must go through it. Grieving requires patience, understanding and compassion. We all grieve in different ways - there is no right or wrong way.

Pathways of Hope Counseling, part of Hope Hospice provides adult grief support groups for those who have experienced the loss of a love one. The support group will help you discover new insights into yourself, break down your feelings of isolation, and allow you to talk about your loss with people having similar experiences. **Pathways of Hope** meets at Hope Hospice, 9470 Health Park Circle, Ft. Myers, on Tuesdays from 6:00 – 7:30 PM and Wednesdays from 10:00 – 11:30 AM. Support groups are also held in other surrounding communities. For more information, call 239-985-7792.

If you would like to go a meeting and would like someone from Saint Michael and All angels to go with you, please call Roberta Heller at 239-472-2173 ext. 3.

"Grief and pain are the price we humans have to pay for the love and total commitment we have for another person. The more we love, the more we are hurt when we lose the object of our love. But if we are honest with ourselves, would we have it any other way?" – C.S. Lewis, A Grief Observed.

Health Website Designed for Older Adults

This website is not new, but I have found it an excellent resource to look up general health topics. It is a joint venture of the National Library of Medicine and the National Institute of Aging (NIH). The website is easy to navigate and easy to read. There is everything from Alzheimer's to exercise for older adults to talking with your doctor. At the top of the website there is a place for you to enlarge the text size. Explore at <http://nihseniorhealth.gov>

December Anniversaries

1 st	Michael and Mary Ann Billheimer
2 nd	Jerry and Betsy McCullough
3 rd	Bob and Joanne McLeod
7 th	Cal and Dorothy Wallace
11 th	Art and Polly Pinney
19 th	Lynn and Char Mallory, Handy and Dottie Moore
20 th	Carol Daniels and Dick Jacker, Jack and Betsy Winters
23 rd	Parke and Mollie Avery
29 th	Ronn and Joan Downey

The next **Red Door** will be printed December 14th. Deadline for news is December 5th.

What's different about Advent this year?

— Notes from the Director of Music about the coming season —

A brand new year is about to begin ... perhaps earlier than you think! **The season of Advent** is a time of expectation and anticipation, so the Sundays of Advent have a different tone, a different character and emphasis. We will do some things differently in our worship beginning December 2nd, and here are some notes to help explain why:

- In place of *Gloria in excelsis Deo* during this season, following an ancient tradition, we will sing a different one of the “Great O” antiphons (see **Hymn 56**) at each morning Eucharist — as we successively light candles in the **Advent wreath** to mark these four Sundays of awaiting.
- In Advent worship our lessons, our Psalms, our hymns, our choral and instrumental music, and our sermons focus on preparation for the coming of Christ, both at the Feast of the Nativity (commonly called Christmas Day) and at the final day of judgment. Beginning with **Advent I** on December 2nd, we begin Year “A” in the three-year cycle of readings of the Revised Common Lectionary, so that clergy and musicians focus on common themes.
- We will sing a Psalm each Sunday in Advent, using the Psalm tones and pointed Psalter versions which several groups at Saint Michael’s have already experienced. This may feel a bit strange at first, but you will quickly get used to hearing the even flow of the words, the movement of the breath, and the melodic inflections that are a natural part of this most Anglican worship style. Our Parish Choir is already fluent in the details!
- On Sunday, December 23rd, we observe **Advent IV** in the morning, with emphasis on the role of Mary. On Monday evening it will be Christmas Eve, with **Lessons and Carols with Eucharist at 5:00 o’clock** for the whole family. The **8:00 o’clock Eucharist** with the Parish Choir will clearly anticipate the celebrations of the following day, as we light the Christ Candle and sing *Gloria in excelsis Deo* with renewed understanding.

As we hear the ancient Scriptures of Advent, and sing our old and new hymns and carols and anthems throughout the season, and seek their significance for our own lives today, may they bring ever fuller meaning to our hearts and minds.

Willis



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www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org

Weekend Worship:
Saturdays at 5, Sundays at 8 & 10:30

DECEMBER 1, 2007

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