



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ON SANIBEL ISLAND

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The Red Door

JANUARY 1, 2008

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

Transitions...

In His wisdom, God is leading Donald Fishburne to continue his ministry at Saint Paul's, Chattanooga, and I believe He will also lead us in our search for the fifth Rector of Saint Michael's. This is not only a wonderful opportunity for Donald, it can also be a valuable time for us to pause and evaluate who we are today and who we wish to be tomorrow.

If you are interested in learning a little about the outstanding church that has called Donald, you can go to their web site at stpaulschatt.homestead.com.

Please know that prior to his departure at the end of January, Donald will be vitally involved in all aspects of parish life here as his leadership will continue right up to his departure. I am personally grateful for the opportunity I have, on your behalf, to work closely with him for a little while longer.

One of the first things we will do in the immediate future will be to make plans to celebrate our fruitful seven years together, and for this we have formed a Celebration Committee. Details of their plans will be out shortly.

Those of us who have served in the past on Search Committees or have been through an Interim Period at another church know that this is a special time for us as we work together to do what needs to be done to move us forward in the direction God leads us.

In the Episcopal Church there are standard operating procedures that we are to follow in our transition period, and it is our intention to follow those guidelines carefully. The Vestry will soon consider the Bishop's recommendation that we contract with a consultant to assist us in this entire process.

As soon as possible, we will begin work with the Bishop to call a priest who is highly experienced in interim work to be with us as our Interim Rector. This person could be with us for a year or longer, and he/she would serve here for the duration of our search.

One of the most important steps we will soon take will be to enter into a Self-Study period. A questionnaire soliciting information concerning who we believe we are today and the qualities we would seek in our new Rector will be distributed to all parishioners. The results will become a Parish Profile which will form the basis of our search efforts.

Please do not hesitate to visit with me about any of this. I look forward to working with you as we do the valuable work that must be done in the search for the next Rector of our wonderful parish.

"What you can do, we cannot do and what we can do you cannot do, but together we can do something beautiful." Mother Teresa

With thanks,
John Pryor, Senior Churchwarden

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

Wednesday Worship

Lay-led Wednesday Evening Worship begins at 6 o'clock in the Chapel of the Angels. This week's evening worship at 6 p.m. continues the celebration of Christmas, with the theme:

'Emmanuel - God is with us.'

It will also be an opportunity to hear the Celtic musicians for the first time as they accompany the service, and to hear Philip Newell give a short reflection

Covered Dish Supper is Wednesday, January 2nd. Join Hosts Libby Hawley, Gail Meier, Betty Carr and Christine Steege as we celebrate the New Year with food, friends and fellowship. Come welcome our Celtic Weekend guests!

ECW Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 14th at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. After a short business meeting, luncheon will be served followed by a program “Agape Flights” presented by Carol Ann Wilkenson. Agape Flights provides air transport for critical supplies to missionary communities in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Bahamas. It is one of the outreach organizations receiving a 2008 grant from ECW. Everyone is invited. Please sign up in the Parish Hall.

From Roberta Heller, R.N., Parish Nurse

Mark your calendars!

Prayer Shawl Ministry, Tuesday, January 15th at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 1-2. Please join us if you like to knit, quit or crochet.

Lunch and Learn, Thursday, January 24th at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Special speaker Sandi McDougall will speak about “Waist Management” – learning to make positive changes in our diets and in daily exercise. Bring a bag lunch – beverages provided.

History of Saint Michael's

As we near the beginning of our church's fiftieth anniversary, we are making progress with writing a history of these past years.

History is really about people, and we would like to have your stories for this project. Please speak with Dory Rooker or Alex Flesh, or write a paragraph or two telling about some of your experiences as a member of Saint Michael and All Angels.

History is simply a record of human experiences – our stories. So please share your stories. If there are significant events or people whose lives should be recorded, please share them. Old photographs would be appreciated; but it would be helpful if you would give us copies, so there would be no worry about returning them.

Men's Retreat – join us!

This year's men's retreat is less than two weeks away so it is time to say yes, 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, Fr. Fishburne will be. Please enroll soon.

The next **Red Door** will be printed January 14th. Deadline for news is January 11th.

Dear Members and Friends of Saint Michael's Church,

You have received the news that after seven years of ministry among you I have heard and honored a Godly call to a new ministry. In late January I take up a call to be Rector of Saint Paul's Church in Chattanooga. That vibrant downtown parish is the mother church of all other Episcopal Churches in that region of the Diocese of East Tennessee.

Now is the time for me to say thanks to you for these seven years together, in which we have built on the ministries of the lay people and clergy who have ministered here before us. I am grateful for the members and ministries of this wonderful, unique parish... and I am especially grateful to some among you who have made sacrifices for our ministry here, and for my spiritual and vocational health and well-being.

What is next?

We will have time in the month of January to make plans, to follow through on things, to carry on in ministry together, to care for each other – and finally, to say goodbye, “God be with you.” There will be time enough for that later.

The Lord is opening before you a time filled with special promise and possibility.

This week and this month will bring special ministries in Epiphany Season, including the Celtic Weekend, the Men's Retreat, a Sunday Music Event, and a Community Lecture. Jump in!

Your Senior Churchwarden and Vestry will be meeting as your elected leaders to move through the busy present and to look to the future. They will work with our Bishop and key staff members in a deliberate, orderly, creative process – much like the one in which the parish engaged eight years ago.

I will have nothing to do with that process but can tell you from experience that it will help you reflect on the history which brought this parish to the place it now enjoys. The process will help you discover and celebrate the strengths on which you wish to build. The Interim time, a sabbath time of sorts after seven busy years, will have its own energy – and its own peace. You will let go of the vocational ministries of the clergy who have served here in the past – and keep those friendships. For example, beginning in the Lenten Season I will be your former Rector – and I will continue to be your friend and brother in the Lord Jesus.

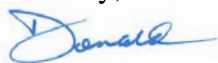
Before and until you move into the Interim time that begins in Lent (February and beyond) I shall, as your Rector, continue to work with lay and clergy leaders here. **The Annual Giving ministry** through which you pledge to support the important ministries here is deserving of our careful attention this month and this year, especially.

In this time, may we gather in the Name of our God who creates us, comes to save us in the person of Jesus, and makes us God's holy people through the work of the Holy Spirit. May we speak the truth, in love. And may we pray for each other, that God will continue to bless us so that we may be a blessing to others. May God continue to grace this welcoming, worshipping community as we learn more of generous Christian loving, living and giving.

Be attentive to your Senior Churchwarden, John Pryor, who continues in office. He is a man of many gifts, and of boundless energy, integrity, faith and skill. Pray for him each day. Work with the superlative ministry staff.

Do you have questions? Please ask. Don't guess, don't make something up. Ask. Gossip is your only natural predator, and misinformation is the chief tool of your enemy. The Lord is near.

Faithfully,



Donald A. Fishburne

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(239) 472-2173 (after hours ext. 5)

Christmas Season 2007

SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SANIBEL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
TEMPLE BAT YAM

present



Harvey Cox, Jr.
Professor of Religion, Harvard University

**“Faith in an Age of Religious Resurgence:
Jews, Christians and Muslims as Children of God”**

Rather than fading to the margins of modern urban, globalized and technological society as many had expected, religious traditions all over the world are resurgent. What explains this, and how can we live together and appreciate each other without falling into mere relativism? Is a “clash of civilizations” inevitable? In particular, what does the future hold for the “Children of Abraham”, the Jews, Christians and Muslims?

Harvey Cox, Jr. has been teaching at Harvard since 1965. He received his A.B. degree from the University of Penn., his B.D. from Yale University Divinity School and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in history and philosophy of religion. An American Baptist minister, he served as chaplain at Temple University and the campus minister at Oberlin College. Later he was professor of theology and culture at Andover Newton Theological School. His book *The Secular City*, published in 1965, became an international bestseller. His latest book, *When Jesus Came to Harvard*, was the topic of his presentation at the Sunday Forum last March as well as the subject of a Saint Michael’s book study last winter. He is married to Nina Tumarkin.

Tuesday, January 15, 2008

7:00 p.m.

in Saint Isabel’s Social Hall
3559 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel

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

Friday evening, January 4th, 6 p.m.

Light refreshments will be served on arrival; then Philip will share with us his interest in Celtic spirituality. He does this in a reflective way, interweaving stories from his own experience as illustrations. There will be times too of meditative music; \$10

Saturday, January 5th, 9 a.m.

Philip continues his teaching, which will be interspersed with times of worship and music. We shall be reflecting upon new insights gained from the ancient wisdom of the Celtic Church, and how these can speak to the world today. Followed by soup and sandwiches at 12:30 p.m.; \$10

Saturday Evening, January 5th, 6:30 p.m.

Ceilidh (a party!) – song and dance led by the musicians in the Sanibel Community House*; buffet meal included; \$25

Sunday January 6th, The Feast of the Epiphany

Philip will preach at the weekend services, Saturday – 5 p.m., Sunday – 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and speak at the Sunday forum at 9:15 a.m., when his topic will be ‘*A Celtic Perspective on Unity and Diversity*’

Sunday Evening, January 6th at 6 p.m.: A Celtic Mass for Peace

Philip Newell and American composer, Sam Guarnaccia, have written a Celtic Mass for Peace as an expression of the great longings for peace that are stirring in the human soul today. To be held in Peace Lutheran Church, 15840 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers*, 437-2599.

*All events are held in the Parish Hall at Saint Michael and All Angels unless otherwise noted.

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.

Harvey Cox to speak...

at the Shared Scholar Community Lecture Series and Saint Michael’s Adult Sunday Forum

Tuesday, Jan. 15 and Sunday Jan. 20.

Harvey Cox will be returning to Sanibel and to Saint Michael’s this year for two special events sponsored by the Christian Education Commission.

On Tuesday evening, January 15th, he will be making a presentation entitled “*Faith in an Age of religious resurgence: Jews, Christians and Muslims as Children of Abraham*”. The program will be hosted by Saint Isabel’s in their Social Hall at 7:00 p.m. and is being co-sponsored by Saint Michael’s, the Sanibel Congregational Church and Temple Bat Yam.

This cooperative effort marks a great ecumenical step forward for Saint Michael’s and its congregational neighbors on Sanibel.

Harvey and his wife, Nina Turmarkin, agreed to lead the discussion at Saint Michael’s Sunday Forum the following Sunday morning Jan. 20, at 9:15 in the Parish Hall. Their topic will be “*Inter-faith Marriage: Problems and Possibilities*”. They will talk about their own personal experience in an inter-faith marriage which led to the writing of Harvey’s book *Common Prayers: A Christian’s Journey Through the Jewish Year*.

Please mark your calendars for these two events.

January Birthdays

2 nd	Lee Almas	19 th	Carol Smith
3 rd	Christine Steege	20 th	Chalmers Pierce, Sarah Fishburne, Suzanne Scutakes, Martha Eustis
4 th	Ginny Irvin	22 nd	Joan Wyon
5 th	John Opel	23 rd	Peter Pierce, Maggie Warner
6 th	Nancy Miller, Mary Jane Rawlins	24 th	Liz Coffey
7 th	Betty Stephenson, Reta Ariss	26 th	Christopher Brady, Mark Lorenger
8 th	Penny Chrysler, Judy Dirks, Karen Rahn	27 th	Claire Anderson
9 th	Sharon Buckingham	28 th	Bruce Duncan
10 th	Brenda Demaree, Mollie Avery	29 th	Corky Boyd
11 th	Gail Meier	30 th	J.T. Holly
12 th	Mary Ann Billheimer		
15 th	Marneka Bradley		
17 th	Barbara Billheimer, Alan Gast		
18 th	Nancy Paul, Barbara Thompson		

January Anniversaries

8 th	Wes and Judy Dirks
10 th	Ted and Dorothy Charles
16 th	Thomas and Jacquelyn Wash
19 th	Bob and Emilie MacNaughton, Donald and Pat Van Alstyne
24 th	Robert and Patricia Rohde
25 th	Brad and Karen Rahn
26 th	Ralph and Linda Korn
29 th	Irving and Alwyn Johnson
30 th	Joe and Joan DiMicco
31 st	Tom and Connie Edgar

Look over a composer's shoulder

— Notes from the Director of Music about writing music for worship —

Have you ever watched, as a potter works to create a vessel? Or listened, as a writer arranges words to create a new poem or an essay? Many myths abound about the process of writing music – and most of them are supported by fantasies out of Hollywood, or from television commercials.

On **Sunday afternoon, January 13th**, beginning at **3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall**, I invite you to look over my shoulder at some of the procedures used to create music today. We will

- See how the latest computer software has made a musician's life easier, and replaced the medieval *scriptorium* with a computer screen
- Examine how a text from Scripture or from the Prayer Book is turned into music that is then sung or played as part of our worship
- See the process of creating a new composition for the 50th parish anniversary, now in progress
- Hear an infinite variety of vocal and instrumental sounds in electronic form – almost like an orchestra at one's fingertips
- Find out how the new music facilities at Saint Michael's enable a variety of community possibilities for ministry and worship in the 21st century

This will be the first of several **Second Sundays in Season** in the new year of 2008, a new kind of music series at Saint Michael's – part of our affiliation with Royal School of Church Music programs, and a significant part of our outreach to this island community.

Willis



SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957
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Weekend Worship:
Saturdays at 5, Sundays at 8 & 10:30

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