



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ON SANIBEL ISLAND

Inside:

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

Christmas Flowers

Christmas Joy!

The Red Door

Mid-DECEMBER 2007

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

Loving, living, and giving in Advent

An Advent invitation: in your thinking about Christmas gift giving, give yourself a gift that lasts until Epiphany and beyond: register now for the Celtic Weekend – its workshops, its music (and dancing) – its spiritual depth, ecumenical worship with sacramental prayers for peace – and its fun!

Additionally, share this gift – invite others to join you for this Celtic spirituality event the first weekend in January. See the registration form printed in this newsletter. The family members, friends and neighbors you invite need not be Episcopalians, nor be members at present of any faith community... All the more reason to extend a generous invitation and welcome.

This Celtic Weekend is made possible by the generous spirits and gifts of Liz and George Farrow and others, and I commend this unique opportunity to you. Not sure whether to accept and share this gift? I encourage you to do so!

Other gift-giving possibilities in Advent as we head toward Christmas:

The Angel Tree

Cookies for prisoners

Flowers, Christmas decorations, and

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD); see their Gifts for Life catalog in the Parish Hall (take one!) or the online Gifts for Life catalog: www.er-d.org and click on **Gifts for Life** in the left column and browse through the astonishing opportunities. (A friend of mine is giving a third world family a goat in honor of his father – his father already has, literally, everything.) You might choose fruit trees or a pack of seeds for drought-resistant crops for a family. Other opportunities to give the gift of life include health and sanitation initiatives, help in starting new vocations or a family business, and much more. The Rev. Anne Kimball here has more information.

We do not ask for annual pledge cards until next month, but if the Spirit moves you to make an extraordinary gift to this parish and its ministries by Christmas Day it will be gratefully received and will be put to use by good and careful stewards here. Please speak with me soon about possibilities!

May God continue to bless us as more and more we become a welcoming worshiping community in which we care for each other, and through which we care for others in God's world.

Faithfully, and for all of us,

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. We do not gather on December 26th.

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.

Names for Vestry Sought

Suggestions are now being accepted for potential Vestry Membership. At the Annual Meeting of the Parish, February 24th, the Nominating Committee, chaired by Ralph Clark and including Dottie Moore, Peggy Hupfeldt, Hyde Tucker, and Lee Almas will present three Vestry nominees for three open positions, each to be elected for three-year terms beginning immediately after the meeting. If you would like to serve on the Vestry or propose another member of the congregation, please present the name in writing to the Nominating Committee and send it to the Church Office. Please include a brief Bio of the nominee. Nominations will be received until January 12th, 2008.

Candidates for Vestry must be at least 18 years of age, members who are active in some ministry or commission, attend worship services regularly, and make an annual pledge to support the ministries of the Church.

Questions may be addressed to any member of the Nominating Committee, Vestry or the Rector.

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.

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.

The next **Red Door** will be printed December 28th. Deadline for news is December 19th.

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 details for the Celtic weekend, and the registration form, in this issue of the *Red Door*. Copies of the flier can also be picked up from the Church Entrance Gallery, the Church 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 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 evening, 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 19th Voices of Advent: Mary

Wanted: Sunday Sexton

Custodian / handyman to work 7 a.m. till 1 p.m. Sundays at a Saint Michael's. Open buildings, move furniture, close buildings. Some AV knowledge would be a plus. \$20 an hour. Dependable, trustworthy, reliable transportation. Contact: Susan Gonzalez at [239] 472-2173 or parishsecretary@saintmichaels-sanibel.org.

From Roberta Heller, R.N., Parish Nurse

Lunch and Learn

The first Lunch and Learn will be held **Thursday, January 24, from 12:30 – 2:00 PM**. Sandi McDougall, Program Administrator of the Senior Center, will be here for a discussion about "Waist Management." Learn to make positive changes in your diet and still enjoy life, incorporate an exercise program in your daily schedule, and most importantly learn how to stay motivated while making these lifestyle changes. It's an intake/output thing!

Excessive weight, lack of exercise and smoking – all controllable behaviors (maybe not so easily) – are large contributing factors to the 3 highest morbidities – heart disease, cancer and diabetes and its sequelae.

The combination of a healthy diet, regular physical activity and weight control has many positive effects on your health. In addition to lowering your LDL or "bad" cholesterol, these positive behaviors can help raise your HDLs or "good cholesterol", lower your blood pressure, reduce your chance of developing diabetes, improve your fitness level, reduce the tendency to develop blood clots and decrease stress.

Please bring your favorite bag lunch. Beverages will be provided.

Lunch and Learn will continue over the next few months with speakers on various health topics. On Tuesday, February 19, Dr. Mary Stegman will speak about the physical aspects of end of life issues and how to make informed decisions. Look for details in the future.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive unconditionally loving God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles." Janet Bristow, 1998.

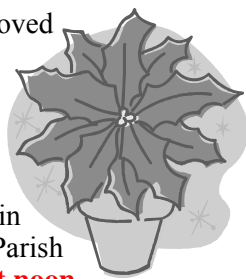
Join us **Tuesday, January 15 at 1:30 PM in room 1** as we begin our Prayer Shawl group. This ministry was started 10 years ago by Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 *Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary* in Hartford, CT. Their ministry is now universal. Care and the love of knitting, crocheting and quilting have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to persons needing comfort and solace. The crafter begins each shawl with prayers. Intentions are continued throughout making the shawl. When the shawl is completed, it is blessed before being sent along its way.

Shawls may be given to persons undergoing medical procedures, as a comfort after a loss, during bereavement, or during an illness and recovery. The possibilities are endless!

We will be knitting, quilting or crocheting – whichever you prefer doing. The knitting and crocheting instructions are very easy. If you like to create, please join us. For more information, please call Roberta at 472-2173.

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 Wednesday, December 19th at noon.**



Given by ...	In memory of ...

Given by ...	In thanksgiving for ...

About the Diocese of San Joaquin

You may have read in the secular news media that the bishop and a number of clergy and lay delegates in the Diocese of San Joaquin (one of six dioceses in California) have voted leave the Episcopal Church and associate with a global south province of the Anglican Communion. The bishop says he will escape mandatory retirement soon as part of the move.

The Diocese has about 8,000 members and is affiliating with a South American province that has about 20,000 members. (The Diocese of Southwest Florida, one of five in this state, has 34,000 members by comparison.)

One of the justifications that bishop cites is that a similar thing was done by dioceses in the South of the U.S. in the Civil War. I must say that I am familiar with that sad reality in that in the 1990s I was Rector of the parish in which met the several Conventions of the Episcopal Church in the Confederate States of America. No matter the bad or other motives then, history has shown this to be an unwise act – one that was, thank God, temporary.

I expect the dioceses of Fort Worth and Pittsburg will follow in this train. Predictably and correctly, the Episcopal Church will assert that a diocese may not leave the Episcopal Church unilaterally any more than states may secede from the Union. Already in San Joaquin measures are in place to continue the Episcopal Church and its ministries and to support those loyal to the Episcopal Church.

I bid your prayers that we continue as Christians to find common ground and common truth within the Christian family – as was said so eloquently in the Adult Forum last Sunday. It is better to stay within the fold and remain in conversation and communion, isn't it? As Archbishop Desmond Tutu says, in the Trinity we find community and unity – and diversity, not uniformity.

– Donald Fishburne

Christmas Eve

Lessons and Carols

5 o'clock in the evening
A special service for everyone including children and families, with congregational carols and Eucharist.

8 o'clock in the evening
The Christ's Mass,
A Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day

10 o'clock in the morning
A simple traditional service of hymns and carols for congregation and the Christ's Mass.

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.

From the Rector

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

With Advent we begin a new Church year and a time of anticipation.

In that spirit I offer some preparatory thoughts toward our Annual Meeting of the Congregation at the end of February.

Some of the business of that meeting is to elect members of the Vestry and lay delegates to Diocesan Convention. Our Bylaws require me to name a Nominating Committee Chair and Ralph Clark has accepted the post. He is a former Senior Warden and did an admirable job as Chair of this committee last year. He has formed his committee and you will see an invitation from them to offer names for consideration.

In an Episcopal Church the Vestry is the board of directors and is chaired by the Rector. In this parish a Senior Churchwarden (a word from the fifteenth century indicating a manager and leader) is named by the Rector and has specific duties described by Canon, Bylaws and local custom. A Junior Churchwarden is elected by the Vestry, and other officers of the corporation are likewise selected. These officers include Treasurer, Secretary, and Chancellor (legal counsel to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry as leaders of the congregation and corporation).

In practice each Senior Warden enters into the work and ministry of that office in her or his particular way, bringing unique gifts, skills and perspectives. Senior Wardens learn they must become accustomed to seeing the good, the bad and the ugly of church administration and leadership. Sometimes it is akin to seeing sausage being made; at other times it is as rewarding and wondrous as seeing a rose garden come into bloom.

I have been blessed that God has raised up as Senior Wardens here some very fine and faithful leaders.

If it is true that no good deed goes unpunished, then our present Senior Warden, John Pryor, is due for his reward. John is a superlative Senior Churchwarden and has been this year the right man in the right place at the right time. His one-year term as Warden comes to an end at the Annual Meeting. Bylaws allow (and expect, sometimes) that a Senior Warden may be named for additional one-year terms (up to three terms). And so I am very pleased to say that I am naming John to a second one-year term, and that he has generously and graciously accepted the invitation.

This action will increase the number of persons serving on Vestry in this growing congregation by one, as permitted and anticipated in our Bylaws. You see below the names of present Vestry members, and

the years their terms expire. This year the congregation shall elect three Vestry members. (Christine Steege, serving a partial term, is eligible for re-nomination and for election to a full term.)

Our Bylaws and Canons encourage us to keep the Vestry fresh and forward-thinking by including new members of the Vestry – and by electing to Vestry some relatively new members of the congregation. (No one may serve more than six consecutive years.) Indeed, most of the people you have elected to the present Vestry have joined this church since I came aboard seven years ago. Continuity is provided in that important standing committees of Vestry, and members and chairs of parish commissions, include long-time members of the congregation who are veterans in leadership here.

This year John Pryor and I are at work on ways to recognize and celebrate our leaders of past and present as we begin in 2008 the celebration of our Fiftieth Anniversary. More to come about that.

Questions? Please ask me.

Faithfully,

Donald Fishburne

The Present Vestry

The Rev. Donald Fishburne

John Pryor – 2008

Alex Flesh – 2008

Christine Steege – 2008

Betsy McCullough – 2009

Betsy Schuman – 2009

KK Bigelow – 2009

Mollie Avery – 2010

Dick Kimball – 2010

Dick Jacker – 2010

(Bill Carr, Treasurer; Judy Workman, Chancellor)

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.

Loving, living and giving generously

in a welcoming, worshipping community in which we care for each other – and for others.

In the beginning, God created...

A people of faith, we know this. God created all that is good; everything we “have” is God’s. Or can you think of something we enjoy that is not from God and is not God’s?

More and more we are coming to think of the stewardship of the riches of God’s grace to be a way of life. I think of stewardship of creation, stewardship of the Gospel, stewardship of the time we have, the talent we have been given, the relationships we enjoy, the financial resources that are so much a part of our individual and family lives – and the life of this community of faith.

These days we are making much of these expansive ideas of stewardship. At Saint Michael’s we are seeking to become better stewards of our facilities and of energy use, recycling, and more. This pays off in dollars and is part of our stewardship of creation on this unique barrier island. In the area of personal financial giving, we might think of ordinary giving, extraordinary giving, and ultimate giving – or annual giving from our income to the ministries of the parish, extraordinary giving from our income and assets to a special need or opportunity, and planned giving through gifts from our “net worth” or wealth through such means as gifts from “overfunded” retirement plans and through our estate planning.

In 2007 this parish was able to do some extraordinary things in pastoral care and care of others, largely because of a single one-time anonymous, extraordinary challenge gift. This gift enabled us to hire our part-time Parish Nurse, to expand our pastoral care ministries, and also to increase our outreach ministries to those in need beyond the parish.

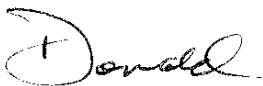
As we near the end of the calendar year and as we approach Christmas, perhaps you would like prayerfully to consider an extraordinary gift to the ministries of this church, to enable us to maintain and expand our pastoral care ministries, or to reach out in new ways in the months to come to those who are most in need in our community and beyond.

Is this a good time to gift appreciated securities before capital gains taxes inevitably rise for all of us? Are you at least 70 and a half? Do you know you can make an extraordinary gift from an IRA and not pay income taxes on the amount you withdraw? This special, particular provision under legislation ends in a matter of days. Ask our Planned Giving Director, Bob Fuchs, or your tax advisor for information now.

Are you especially grateful for something in your life, and perhaps for your life in this community of faith? Perhaps you would like to overpay your 2007 pledge or make some other gift in thanksgiving.

As members of this parish we are learning more about loving, living and giving generously. You will be asked in January to pledge to support the ministries of the parish next year. Without your generosity our ministries will not move forward. As we move in Advent toward the Gift God gives at Christmas, please prayerfully consider your expressions of loving, living and giving, as God gives so generously to us. And may we be good stewards of the riches of God’s grace.

Blessings and thanks,



For the Stewardship Commission

SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON SANIBEL ISLAND

Welcomes Celtic Theologian J. Philip Newell

January 4th – 6th 2008

Celtic Music and Spirituality: *The New Birthing of Christ for Today*

Friday evening, January 4th, 6 p.m. Coffee and dessert, followed by a talk, and meditative music; \$10	
Saturday, January 5th, 9 a.m. Talks interspersed with times of quiet and music. 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., his topic will be ‘ <i>A Celtic perspective on unity and diversity</i> ’	Sunday Evening, January 6th at 6 p.m. A Celtic Mass for Peace To be held in Peace Lutheran Church *, 15840 McGregor Blvd, Fort Myers*, 437-2599 * All meetings are held in the Parish Hall unless otherwise noted.

Throughout the weekend, we shall be reflecting upon new insights gained from the ancient wisdom of the Celtic Church, and how these can speak to the contemporary Church, and to the world today.

The Christianity of the Celts included:

- An evangelical love for the Bible;
- A radical commitment to caring for the whole creation
- An awareness of God’s presence, deep within and all around
- A depth of spiritual life and stillness
- A strong belief in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit

Philip Newell is a poet, a scholar and a teacher. Formerly warden of Iona Abbey in the western Isles of Scotland, he is currently Writer Theologian for the Scottish Cathedral of the Isles as well as Companion Theologian for the American Spirituality Centre of Casa del Sol in New Mexico. He is internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic Spirituality, including his best known titles *Listening for the Heart-beat of God* and his poetic book of prayer *Sounds of the Eternal*.

Philip will be joined by six musicians when he visits Saint Michael’s Church in January. These are the musicians who accompanied his CD *Sounds of the Eternal*. They also played at the Scottish premiere of the Celtic Mass for Peace in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, last November. Their instruments include violin, guitar, piano, percussion, clarinet, and the clarsach (Scottish harp).

Bookings for the weekend are now open.

You can book for all, or some, of the events. Sunday events do not need to be booked.

Numbers for the Ceilidh will need to be limited – **EARLY BOOKING IS RECOMMENDED!**



Mail this form to: Susan Gonzalez, Parish Secretary (239) 472-2173, ext. 0
 Saint Michael’s Church, 2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957

Make checks payable to: Saint Michael and All Angels Church (Celtic Weekend)

Date	Time	Venue	Cost per Ticket	Number of Tickets	Total Cost
Friday, January 4 th	6 – 9 p.m.	Saint Michael’s Parish Hall	\$10		\$
Saturday, January 5 th	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Saint Michael’s Parish Hall	\$10		\$
Saturday, January 5 th	6:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Sanibel Community House	\$25		\$
Amount enclosed					\$

Please print:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone #: _____

Sounds of the Season

— Notes from the Director of Music about music in Advent and beyond —

How often our lives are touched by music! As we prepare for the festive holidays and think of distant family and friends, the words of a song or fragments of melody can spring to mind at surprising moments – and trigger unexpected memories. Associations arise throughout our worship in Advent and Christmastide with people and places and Scriptural passages and musical settings, forming a rich texture that connects us with worshipping Christians throughout the world.

“I was glad ...” These words of Psalm 122 began our singing of the great Psalms of the Advent season, to a Gregorian tone used by the early Church. Each week, listen as a single voice (the “cantor”) begins the Psalm, then join in the song with the Parish Choir, allowing the rhythm of the words to flow naturally as the Psalm continues.

“Sing, choirs of angels ...” Our Parish Choir has a new mid-week rehearsal time in this new liturgical year — **Wednesdays, 4:00 to 5:30** — to mesh with the larger parish schedule. And each one of you has a new opportunity, to encourage people who enjoy singing to join with them in preparing weekly praise and prayer. Give me their names, and talk to them.

“Our Lady sings Magnificat ...” The Song of Mary (Canticle 15) will appear in various ways and times as we approach the Holy Birth, and will be especially prominent at 6:00 o’clock on Wednesday, December 19th, and on Advent IV.

“Welcome, Father Christmas ...” On Sunday, December 23rd, beginning at 9:15 o’clock in the Parish Hall, we will take a closer look at the music of Advent IV, Christmas Eve, and the Feast of the Nativity. Be prepared for some surprises!

“Rejoice, rejoice, believers ...” Children sing easily and naturally. In the Voices for Life portion of Royal School of Church Music materials, this natural approach is expanded for all ages, for all the young at heart. In season, we will find some new possibilities.

As we hear the ancient Scriptures of Advent, when we sing our old and new carols and hymns and anthems and seek their significance for our lives today, may their meanings open our hearts and minds.

Willis



SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957
(239) 472-2173 Fax: (239) 395-1670
www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org
Weekend Worship:
Saturdays at 5, Sundays at 8 & 10:30

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Mid-DECEMBER 2007