



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ON SANIBEL ISLAND

Inside:

Men's Ministry

Dance!

Sing!

Bake!

Be an Angel!

The Red Door

MID-NOVEMBER 2007

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

Giving thanks as we move into Advent

Are you thankful to God for this community of faith? I am.

These days we give thanks for the interim ministry here of The Rev. Hayden Crawford, our Interim Associate Rector for eight months. What a bright spirit! Hayden's time with us has come to a close.

I am thankful for the October Vestry Retreat and for an open *Common Ground* meeting of parishioners as part of the follow-up from that Retreat. We are becoming more and more of a **welcoming worshipping community, caring for each other, and caring for others beyond our congregation.** We're looking at new ways to have conversation and communication these days, and we invite ministry participation and leadership from more members!

Are we thankful for the facilities we enjoy? Are we mindful of future needs and possibilities? Parish leaders are exploring our options as possibilities for renewal of our neighborhood move through exploratory stages. You may read in the island newspapers about this as "The Town Center Plan," the Periwinkle Way West District," or "the Nave Property" next to us and which is for sale.

I am thankful for our parish staff members, being Director of Music Willis Bodine, Parish Nurse Roberta Heller, Parish Administrator Edie Huggins, and Parish Secretary Susan Gonzalez. We are fortunate to have each of them!

We're thankful for the glory of God's creation, and Saint Michael's is moving toward becoming a "greener" church — through energy and water management, more recycling, more use of the Internet and less use of paper, and through other means.

The Season of Advent is at hand

In Advent we become expectant, welcoming and watchful. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child and for the coming in glory of the Risen Christ... a time in which we long for and work for the peace of God in our hearts and in the world.

Advent is a time of watchfulness, prayer, and walking together in the light of Christ. We hear prophetic messengers, including John the Baptist, and we celebrate the willingness of a young woman named Mary to welcome God's Holy Spirit into her life and into our world in a new way.

In Advent we pray God to give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. We pray that God will "stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us." We pray that by the Spirit's daily visitation, Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself.

On the three Wednesday evenings of Advent we hear again the voices of the prophets, including John the Baptist, and the voice of Mary.

Throughout the Season of Advent we see in the church itself (not Christmas decorations but) royal blue vestments and greenery at the altar, as we prepare our hearts for Christmas. We want there to be room in the inn for Jesus. See you in church!

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 services have resumed on a weekly schedule. Worship begins at 6 o'clock in the Chapel of the Angels at the rear of the Church.

Men's Fellowship meets twice a month, second and fourth Tuesdays, and has found that schedule to work well. We plan to continue on that schedule and look forward to the return of more snowbird members. See you at 7:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall!

Men's Retreat

This year's men's retreat is now 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 years 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 leads 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.

Thanks to you

Thanks to those who contributed to the Staff Appreciation Fund in thanksgiving for The Rev. Hayden Crawford. He has received a wonderful painting of the church from the hands of parishioner Jim Byrd, along with a check, being the sum total of contributions by parishioners, \$2,200.

Address: 701- 45th Ave. S., St Petersburg, FL 33705
E-mail: frhayden1980@msn.com.



The Staff Appreciation Fund was begun this year to help us say thanks to staff members at Christmas/Epiphany each year, and to help us say “farewell” to staff members and interim staff members when they are called to other ministries. You'll be hearing more about it in coming weeks and months.

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 Parish Hall on Saturday from 10-11 a.m., on November 24th, December 1st and 8th. Scottish dancing is easy to learn, good fun, and great exercise! No previous experience is necessary. All are welcome!

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!

"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.

BE AN ANGEL!! 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**.

BE AN ANGEL! GIVE A GIFT!

Prayer Group

There will be a weekly prayer group meeting together for 20 minutes in the Chapel of the Angels, 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, and asking for God's blessing upon them, and upon the life of Saint Michael's.

Fridays at 12 noon

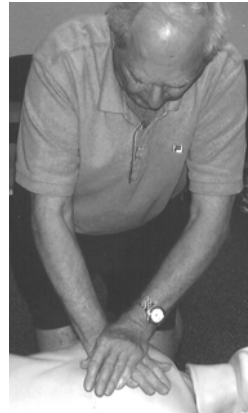
If you would like to be a part of this, and are unable to do so because of other commitments, please still join us in prayer at that time just for a few moments, wherever you are, and become a part of this corporate wave of prayer, as we open ourselves anew to the touch of God's Spirit among us.

The next **Red Door** will be printed November 30th. Deadline for news is November 26th.

From Roberta Heller, R.N., Parish Nurse

Prepared to Respond in an Emergency

On Thursday, November 8th, 11 parishioners and staff of Saint Michael's completed the Heartsaver CPR Course at the Sanibel Fire Department. They learned the basic skills necessary to respond quickly and effectively in an emergency.



Congratulations go to Carl and Gail Meier, John Pryor, Susan Gonzalez, Edie Huggins, Mike and Sue Fuller, Norm and Nancy Beecher, Alex Flesh, and Gillian Bath for a job well done!

Each year 330,000 people have a cardiac arrest outside of the hospital setting. The quick response on the part of CPR and AED trained individuals often makes the difference between death and a positive outcome - leaving the hospital alive and with normal brain function. Please consider taking a CPR course so you will be prepared to help a spouse, grandchild, neighbor or fellow parishioner. A course will be offered again in the winter or early spring.

It is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago he planned that we should spend these lives in helping others - Ephesians 2:10

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, \$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.

Singing the Psalms in worship, Part II

Notes from the Director of Music about this part of liturgy

In the early September *Red Door*, I wrote about the Psalms as a core element of our praise and prayer. More than simply *pro forma* readings, these poems are profound and lyric statements about our faith experience. They were originally the words of deeply felt songs, expressions of intense personal emotions, and served to unite a wandering people. It is no wonder that Calvin's congregation in Geneva sang only the Psalms in services and at home, or that generations of our liturgical ancestors in England and Scotland found such great value in this part of worship. And the *Bay Psalm Book* was the first book to be printed in the American colonies – nothing is more basic than that.

- On **Sunday, November 25th, in the Parish Hall**, we will explore all this together. Between the morning Eucharists, **beginning at 9:15 o'clock**, we will examine the pointing systems, learn how a Psalm appears in the service leaflet when it is to be sung, and practice using some of the tones. Our **Parish Choir** will be with us (since they prepare for worship each week at this time, you will experience the way they come to focus on the liturgy which follows). It's also part of our developing alliance with the Royal School of Church Music in America — and part of our connection with Anglicans throughout the world, many of whom already sing their Psalms every week.
- For **Christ the King Sunday**, we replace the usual Psalm with Cantic 16, *The Song of Zachariah*. Our musical version uses two soloists (one is visiting from St. James' Cathedral, Chicago), and it has an important part for you, congregation and choir, called an *antiphon*. Our manner of singing this Cantic 16 will be a preview of pacing, rhythm and tempo. Yes, we will practice it first.
- For each of **the four Sundays of Advent**, at the 10:30 o'clock Eucharist beginning in December, we will sing the proper Psalm together. It 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. The Parish Choir is already fluent in the details!

Regulars at Wednesday evening services have already experienced some Psalm chanting, and will discover even more in coming weeks. As I wrote you in September, these are "... **fresh possibilities** in new repertory, in new ways to sing and new melodies to hear, and in discovery of new elements in our common praise and prayer."

Willis



SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
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www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org

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

Mid-NOVEMBER 2007

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