



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ON SANIBEL ISLAND

Join us  
September 5<sup>th</sup>  
for  
Wednesday Worship  
at 6:00 p.m.  
followed by  
Potluck Supper  
at 6:30 p.m.

Feast of Saint Michael  
and All Angels  
September 30<sup>th</sup>  
Services start at  
8:00 and 10:30

# The Red Door

SEPTEMBER 2007

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

## *An Interim Associate Rector's Thoughts*

Can you believe that summer has arrived in paradise and soon it will be coming to an end? Especially, when you're having the fun of life, that I have enjoyed, these past few months. Here at the home-base we have not had the low anticipated church attendance that I would expect on such a lovely picturesque tranquil island when many of the homeowners go "north" (wherever that is) away from the humidity. Well, let me testify that on Sanibel-Captiva we have not had too many humid days only the beauty of flora and fauna of God's creation, and that includes God's people, of course.

I have experienced nearly every rite imagined or covered in the Book of Common (BCP) Prayer. I began by co-celebrating the Burial Office afterwards the 40th Renewal of Marriage Vows and co-celebrating a wedding for a sister (St. Hilary's) parish - the Altar Guild and I really enjoyed this surprise and beautiful occasion.

Not to mention celebrating the new birth of Holy Baptism and what a joy with over 102 people in attendance.

How do my baptismal vows have anything to do with living in such splendor and grace?

By our baptism we have been made heirs and stewards of God's creation. We are a missional people having been given the mission by God to do his work in sharing the gospel of the good news with all who come to Sanibel-Captiva. Much of the attendance increase has come from those who come to vacation and recreate. They found the **red doors** of hospitality inviting and welcoming. They heard the gospel preached, lived and shared through the ministry of Noah's Ark as an example.

Antony the Great gave us three suggestions for living in God's grace...

- ü Always have God before your eyes;
- ü Whatever you do, do it according to the testimony of Holy Scriptures; and
- ü Wherever you live, do not easily leave it.

*Worship is at the heart of all we do*

We invite you to worship with us:

### Summer Hours

- § **Saturday at 5** – A “Come as you are Eucharist” and a Reception following.
- § **Sunday at 9:30** – Eucharist with hymns, followed by Coffee Hour.\*

### Fall Hours begin September 30<sup>th</sup>

- § **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

## *Announcements*

**Wednesday Worship Group & Potluck Supper**  
A **Service** will be held from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel of the Angels on **Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>** preceding the potluck supper. Led by lay persons, the Wednesday evening worship services will continue on the first Wednesday of each month through October. **Join Christine and Jerry Steege, Jane Adams, Betty and Bill Carr as they host September 5<sup>th</sup>'s, Covered Dish Supper at 6:30.** Ham will be provided. Bring a covered dish to share and enjoy an evening of prayer, food and fellowship.

**Volunteer(s)** for the October Covered Dish Supper is still needed. Sign up in the Parish Hall.

**CCMI Food Ingathering:** There is an ongoing need to stock the Food Service Pantry. Food can be left in the tubs in our Parish Hall and will be delivered to the Soup Kitchen. **Volunteer to help meal preparation** to those who need help. Sign up in the Parish Hall.

**Investiture Service** for The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith. Saturday, September 15, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. Service to be held at St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral 140 Fourth Street N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701. A reception is to follow. All members of the Diocesan Community are invited to attend this event. To carpool from Saint Michael's contact Sr. Warden John Pryor at 395-0314.

### *From the Rector*

## Focusing the eyes of our heart on solutions and goals

Most of my sabbatical time so far has been spent resting, reading, engaging in new disciplines of prayer and spiritual growth, and reflecting on my vocation from the perspective of 28 years as a parish priest.

One day was spent differently: reflecting on more than 40 years as a licensed driver with no crashes... and working to keep that record.

After an early morning prayer walk my 20-year-old son and I jumped into something we had given each other for our birthdays: a performance driving school. It is not a course in racing but in safe driving. The training was intense and invigorating. And a lot of fun!

In addition to lots of behind the wheel training on a closed course (wet skids, full braking in emergencies, keeping control on corners, accelerating out of trouble), there was classroom time.

One of the primary lessons taught was this:

If you focus your eyes on a problem (say a crash that happens seconds ahead of you on I-75), you will probably become a part of that problem.

Simply put, if I let my eyes center on the crash, I'll probably skid into it.

If instead I always have an eye for solutions and for possibilities, I have a good chance of avoiding the problem. If I have been broadly attentive all the while, keeping a range of options open and if at a moment of crisis I look not to the problem but to the solution, my hands will follow my eyes, and I'll steer around the pile-up and into the solution.

On the road, this means learning skills to be watchful and to have a plan to escape bad situations: construction zone foul-ups, accidents, wet road skids, and other surprises. One learns to steer around a problem and to brake later and take stock of the situation.

**I could not help but think of life in general and of life in the church.** I am a devotee of “Appreciative Inquiry” in which church leaders build on strengths, keeping their eyes on where we want to go, rather than spending lots of time lamenting the past or examining the problem under a microscope.

**If we keep our eyes out for solutions,** we'll probably end up where our eyes are looking.

Seems to me we can put this reality to use in the parish, and in the diocese, and in the larger church – and in our daily spiritual journey. Jesus spent little or no time wallowing in a problem. He kept his eyes up and forward-looking. “Follow me”, he said. “Come and see... Take up your pallet and walk... Be healed... How many loaves have you? ... Give them something to eat... You are forgiven... Go, then, and make disciples... Look! My mother and my brothers are here. Anyone who does the will of God is brother and sister and mother to me... Don't be afraid... Anyone who puts his hand to the plow and then looks behind him is useless for the kingdom of God... Stand up now, and go on your way. It is your faith that has made you well... I shall ask the Father to give you someone else to stand by you, to be with you always. I mean the Spirit of truth... I tell you truly, this day you will be with me in Paradise... Father, forgive... Peace be with you, My peace I leave with you.”

Faithfully, *Donald*

# A Message from the Parish Nurse

## Spirituality and Health



Spirituality can be defined as the way you find meaning, hope and inner peace in your life. It is the connection to something greater than you. People find spirituality in practicing religion, meditation and in nature. For Christians, it is our connection with God.

In recent years research has been done looking at the relationship between spirituality and physical health. We know that one cannot separate mind, body and spirit. When one of these elements is not in good health, the other two areas are affected. People develop headaches and stomachaches that are not always caused by a physical illness. Rather they can be the result of stress or other unrest in the spiritual/emotional dimension.

Although no one knows why, there does seem to be a correlation between a person's spirituality and health outcomes. Positive beliefs and strength that we get from our religious practices can contribute to feeling better, improved healing, and helping us cope with illness when it cannot be cured.

There are some daily practices that help us stay healthy. Hand washing is the #1 way to prevent the spread of disease – *good* hand washing that is. It is recommended that we exercise – 30 minutes each day to improve our overall wellbeing. There are also daily practices to help us nourish our spirituality. We should take time to read the Bible, pray and practice spiritual awareness exercises.

I recently heard Sister Carol Beevers from Mother of God House of Prayer speak about spiritual awareness exercises. These exercises help to nurture the spiritual side of our being. Here is a brief description of what she said. It is important to put aside a time each day to take time to be still, to “just be.” Ask God to bring you an awareness of a moment in that day (or the previous day if you do this in the morning) for which you were *most* grateful. What was said or done in that moment to make it special? What made you feel close to God? Take time to reflect on that moment. Then ask God to bring you an awareness of a moment that day for which you were *least* grateful. When were you least able to give or receive love? Why was that moment so difficult? Don't try to change those feelings. Simply take time to reflect on it. It is a journey.

How do you define spirituality? What do you do to nourish your spiritual side?

*“Be still and know that I am God. I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth.”* Psalm 46:10

## LOOKING AHEAD:

**CPR will be taught on Thursday, November 8 from 1-4 PM** at the Sanibel Fire Station. Fee is \$20.00, which includes the manual. If you are interested, please call the church and leave your name and phone number with Roberta or Susan.

The VNA will be giving **flu shots on Wednesday, November 14 from 1:30 -3:30 PM** at the church. The cost for this year's vaccine has not been set as of this date. Last year it was \$30.00.

# The Sunday Forum Series, Community Lecture Series and Special Events

2007-2008 Christian Education Calendar

Last year was a time of rediscovering the value of Adult Christian Education at Saint Michael's. At the Annual Meeting the Senior Warden, Dottie Moore, referred to the year as “The Year of the Sunday Forum.” A new format had been introduced for the Sunday Forum and a Community Lecture Series was offered on four Monday evenings for the Sanibel community. The response and support for both programs far exceeded the expectations of the group of parishioners who had met to develop a curriculum for an Adult Christian Education Program. In addition there was a well- received Bible study as well as a book study.

Hoping to build upon the enthusiastic momentum that was generated by last year's program, the offerings this year have been expanded to include a truly ecumenical Community Lecture Series and the addition of two major Special Events.

Rather than working independently, Saint Michael's will work in partnership this season with the Sanibel Congregational Church and Bat Yam Congregation to sponsor the Community Lecture Series. Saint Isabel's Roman Catholic Church has agreed to host the events. This cooperative effort marks a great ecumenical step forward for Saint Michael's and its congregational neighbors on Sanibel.

Each of the two major Special Events will add a spiritual meditative dimension to the overall program for the year by offering multiple opportunities for learning and spiritual growth over a three-day period.

The first will be a weekend of Celtic Music and Spirituality co-sponsored by the Wednesday Evening Worship Group on Epiphany weekend, Jan 4-6, 2008. The weekend's activities will be led by internationally known Celtic Theologian, J. Philip Newell and his musicians, culminating in a Celtic Mass for Peace on Sunday evening.

The second Special Event will be an All Parish Retreat at DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center, Feb. 13-15, 2008. It will be led by Saint Michael's Theologian-in-Residence, the Rev. Canon Bruce Duncan and Mr. Stephen Tabor. The theme of the retreat, “Living as a Christian in a Diverse World,” will further expand on the theme of the Sunday Forum “Living Our Faith in Diversity.”

Tucked into this issue of the *Red Door* is the 2007-2008 Christian Education Calendar for the Sunday Forum Series, the Community Lecture Series and the Special Events mentioned above. We hope you'll read it carefully and mark your calendars in advance for what promises to be an exciting year of Christian Education at Saint Michael's.

Updated information and articles will appear in future issues of the *Red Door*, website and the church bulletin.

# Charitable IRA Rollover – Time is Running Out

If you have an IRA, you should be aware that a window of opportunity for special giving to Saint Michael's may be closing soon. In August 2006 Congress established the Charitable IRA rollover, an advantageous means of giving money from an IRA directly to a charity by avoiding income tax on the distribution. Unfortunately, this provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 is scheduled to expire at the end of 2007, unless extended by Congress.

Many people used this favorable tax provision in the closing months of 2006 to avoid taxes on IRA withdrawals and make significant contributions. Churches, colleges, and other charities have been big beneficiaries.

The main parameters of the IRA rollover are: minimum age 70½; up to \$100,000 maximum rollover allowed during the year; can be part of or in addition to your annual required minimum distribution; only public charities are qualified recipients (that includes Saint Michael's).

Using an IRA rollover (or you may encounter its official government name or acronym, the Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD), here are some interesting things that you will be able to do:

- Pay your entire annual pledge in one lump sum.
- Make a special gift to one of Saint Michael's growing ministries.
- Make an endowment gift to one of the Ministries and Facilities Trust's funds such as the Matthew 25, Parish Maintenance, or Madden Education endowments, or start a new fund.
- Fund a small capital project (Father Donald always has a list of needs).

If you have worried about hefty taxes that you have to pay when making required annual withdrawals from your IRA, here is a way to ease the problem. Contact Bob Fuchs (437-3235) for further information about how to get this done. We can provide a sample request letter with the necessary information to get the process started, and your IRA custodian will have procedures and forms to accomplish this.

Bob Fuchs, Planned Giving Coordinator

## A Broader Concept of Stewardship

The Book of Common Prayer says, "Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty."

When I prayed this on August 18, I thought of our stewardship program here at Saint Michael's, and of the way we intend to approach stewardship not just as our yearly giving to the Church, but in a broader fashion,

looking at how we take care of, or steward, all that God has given us.

We will have our annual giving campaign in January, led by Mike Wood and co-chaired by Bill Rahe. We will continue and expand the program of planned giving to Saint Michael's, inviting parishioners to become Saint Michael's "Angels." This has been guided by Bob Fuchs, and represents a way in which we can continue to support the values that have been ours in life after we are no longer here.

Looking beyond these areas, we will also look at ways that we can steward the earth that God has given us, first focusing on things that we as a church can do to be kinder to the earth and our immediate environment. Of course, this is an area to which the Rector is devoting study, thought, and prayer this summer.

Evelyn Neill will head our approach to stewardship of the environment, and would like to know if you would like to be involved in planning and executing this program. Please be in touch with her if you are interested: [evelyn@sanibelseaschool.org](mailto:evelyn@sanibelseaschool.org).

The Stewardship Commission is open to study of other areas of stewardship, such as with our use of time and talent. Perhaps we can address these areas later.

Mollie Avery, Chair, Stewardship Commission

## HIGHLIGHTS OF VESTRY MEETING OF AUG. 16, 2007

In the absence of the Rector, Senior Warden John Pryor chaired the meeting. Father Hayden Crawford opened the meeting with scripture and prayer.

**The Rector's Report:** A letter from Father Donald to the Vestry was distributed. In his letter he expressed his deep appreciation for the opportunity for his Sabbatical refreshment and renewal. He looks forward to further conversation about his sabbatical upon his return.

**The Interim Associate Rector's Report:** Father Hayden again told us how much has valued his time with us. He stated that the summer number of congregants at the services were impressive with an average of 35-42 at the Saturday 5 PM service and an average of 80 at the Sunday 9:30 AM service.

**The Senior Warden Report:** A suite has been reserved for a post Hurricane Response Center for Saint Michael's at the Hilton Homewood Suites next door to Bell Tower. It will be a place to get in contact and get information.

Dabney Smith's Investiture as Bishop of the Southwest Florida Diocese is to be held in St. Petersburg on Saturday, September 15, 2007. Call John if you are interested in attending. Car pooling is being arranged.

There will be a Fall Deanery Convocation at St. Hillary's Church on September 19, 2007. Clergy and vestry delegates are encouraged to attend. Vestry members who plan to attend are Donald Fishburne, K.K. Bigelow, Dick Jacker, Christine Steege and John Pryor.

We are planning to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Saint Michael's All Angels on Sanibel Island in the spring of 2008. If you have something to share about the history of our Parish, please contact John.

## Highlights of Vestry ... continued

There are plans for developing a Town Center on the property immediately East of Saint Michael's. Two non-profit groups are interested in the \$15,000,000 property and have plans before the city which were outlined in the local papers. On behalf of Saint Michael's, John met with Sanibel Planning Director Bob Duffy and two members of the consulting firm hired by the city.

**The Junior Warden's Report:** We will have a new co-chairwoman of the Parish Life Commission beginning October 1, 2007. Betty Carr has agreed to serve as co-chair with Marilee Wood. Anyone interested in helping on this is encouraged to contact Betty or Marilee.

**The Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bill Carr was unable to attend. The report was distributed and discussed. Year to Date Income is ahead of budget and Expenses are slightly over the YTD budget. The net result is that our finances are in good order.

### Various Commission and Committee Reports:

**Pastoral Care:** Betty McCullough reported that a Prayer Shawl Project is being organized by Barbara Maruchi and June Ingraham. A CPR Course will be held for all interested at the Sanibel Fire Hall on November 8, 2007. Flu shots will be available this fall on a date to be announced.

**Stewardship:** Mollie Avery reported that pledges this year total \$278,000 up from \$193,000 in 2006. Plans are underway for direct payment through your checking account for your pledge and Edie and Bill Carr are researching the possibility of pledge payments through credit cards. We have a committee that is also working on Stewardship through the Environment; Members are Evelyn Neill, Don Adams and Dick Jacker.

**Christian Education:** Betsy Schuman presented the brochure for the 2007-2008 Forum series for Christian Education, which also includes the Community Lecture Series, the Celtic Worship Weekend and the Parish Retreat

**Madden Fund:** Chair Judy Workman reported that The Madden Education Fund was pleased to be able to grant scholarships from gifts in honor of Mozella Jordan. Scholarships went to Alicia Jordan who attends Howard University and Angel Jordan who attends FGCU.

**Men's Ministry:** The group has been meeting twice a month during the summer studying a book entitled "Soul Brothers: Men of the Bible Speak to Men Today". It is enjoying good attendance. All men of the parish are invited.

There will be an All Clergy Diocesan Retreat on Sept. 10, 2007, which Father Hayden will attend.

Father Donald will return mid September and will be presiding at the Vestry Meeting on September 27, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted, Christine Steege, Secretary

## September Anniversaries

- 8<sup>th</sup> Dick and Elise Allen, Alan and Tal Gast
- 9<sup>th</sup> Everett and Martha Ballard
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jack and Sara Hurst, Phil and Gail Pilibosian
- 12<sup>th</sup> Bud and Jane Wagner
- 13<sup>th</sup> David and Pearl West
- 14<sup>th</sup> K. K. and Marilyn Bigelow
- 20<sup>th</sup> Bob and Jeanne Fuchs
- 21<sup>st</sup> Sandy and Ellen Trevor
- 24<sup>th</sup> Michael and Shirlla Cuscaden

## Noah's Ark Thrift Shop

After a successful summer season, Noah's Ark will be closed from Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> for cleaning, painting and restocking. The doors will open again Monday, October 1, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. for the winter season. Hours of operation will be Monday – Friday and the first Saturday of the month 9:30 – 12:30 p.m. Volunteers are welcomed, if interested call the Ark at 239-472-3356.

*Noah's Ark shares with you this beautiful note from one of their shoppers.*

### Thank You to Noah's Ark

I feel the Lord leading me to share with you. The other day while waiting for you to open, there was a conversation going on between those waiting to get in. All who heard were in agreement, I feel you should know. "Noah's Ark allows us to buy many exciting things but more than that the workers show the love of Christ. This never changes. Each of you are kind to all and continue each day to show his love." That is a real testimony. So I feel I can say from those who come. Be encouraged knowing each day, you are showing the world the love of Christ. For all who are and were here that day, we thank you for what you are doing here on Sanibel Island; you are a testimony for Jesus.

Love in Jesus,  
From Us All, Thank You.

## September Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Melinda Pavlu, Phil Pilibosian
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Betty Thomas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Frances Kennedy
- 5<sup>th</sup> Karen Searles
- 6<sup>th</sup> Carol Kreml, Mary Agnes Melton, Dick Allen
- 8<sup>th</sup> Ruth Denhart, Donald Reid
- 10<sup>th</sup> Art Napier, Lil Waterhouse
- 11<sup>th</sup> Joseph Wiggins
- 12<sup>th</sup> Ralph Korn
- 13<sup>th</sup> Bob McLeod, Roxie Bashian
- 14<sup>th</sup> Jim Jordan
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tyler Edgar
- 17<sup>th</sup> Gayle Spring
- 18<sup>th</sup> George Vernay
- 19<sup>th</sup> Jim Hunter
- 20<sup>th</sup> Marvin Bradley, Jr.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Anne Hall
- 23<sup>rd</sup> David Connor, Wes Dirks, Jeff Vollmer, Dorothy Wallace, Paul Goddard
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mary Vollmer
- 30<sup>th</sup> Beryl Flesh

# Singing the Psalms in worship

## *Labor Day thoughts from the Director of Music about our faith song*

In the August *Red Door*, while telling you about my time at Sewanee, I wrote that “**Singing the Psalms is a core element of our praise and prayer**”. I mentioned that we chanted a Psalm at every service, in different modes and styles. On Sunday morning, September 9<sup>th</sup>, we at Saint Michael’s will experience one of the many different ways to sing a Psalm in worship — and we are already familiar with the style! In fact, our liturgical ancestors in England and Scotland sang nothing except “metrical” psalms for many generations, before Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, and many others eventually began to write the hymns we enjoy singing today.

In their original Hebrew, most of the Psalms were song lyrics, attractive rhyming poems in various meters, and often had acrostics and other literary devices as well. As Scripture points out, they were sung with joy by the people to familiar melodies — they were true folk music. Today the *Book of the Psalms* still has “verses” (unlike hymns, which have stanzas), but the original rhymes and rhythms have been lost by translations into formal English prose. To sing the Psalms of our Prayer Book, we will need some practice later on in the year, after the Parish Choir is back in action.

For September 9<sup>th</sup>, however, **we will sing Psalm 139** in a metrical version — translated so all the syllables will line up the same way, each time through the music. We will get better acquainted with the early American shape note tune at the September Covered Dish Supper, and by Sunday that Kentucky folk tune, called *Tender Thought*, will be totally familiar.

Our hymnal contains more material from the Psalter than we realize. There is a “proper” Psalm for every service in our liturgical calendar that fits well with the appointed Scripture lessons that we read. Singing the Psalms is one of the hallmarks of Anglican worship throughout the world, and we will learn several different ways to “come into his presence with singing” this year.

Willis



**SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH**  
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