



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ON SANIBEL ISLAND

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JANUARY 7, 2008

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

Transitions.... Learning to trust the process

The Rector, Wardens and Vestry met Thursday to follow through on discussions and business following the Rector's announcement the week before that he has accepted a Godly call to a new ministry at Saint Paul's Church, Chattanooga.

Senior Warden John Pryor, on behalf of the Rector, Wardens and Chancellor Judy Workman, reported on the status of selling the Rector's residence. Vestry voted the church has declined an opportunity to buy the house, in which we have a 20% equity. The church has had the property appraised. The house is listed for sale; the Church will receive 20% of the net proceeds at closing.

The Vestry invites parishioners to a Celebration Reception honoring the Fishburne family and Donald's seven years of ministry here on Sunday, January 20 at 4:30 p.m. Any gifts to honor his service should be marked "Saint Michael's Appreciation Fund" and will be donated for scholarships at Saint Andrews-Sewanee Episcopal School for future students who are children of Episcopal clergy.

The Rector made his report, stressing the first two tasks set for the parish by Diocesan Policy: saying goodbye to the present Rector and thereafter working with the Bishop and Diocesan Deployment Officer in a search for an Interim Rector, and later a Search Process beginning with a study of the congregation and its ministry.

He stressed that the Wardens and Vestry should be attentive to staffing needs during this Interim Period and should inquire of the Bishop as to the status of four retired non-stipendiary priests and our Deacon. The Rector had had these clergy licensed under his responsibility by the Bishop. John Pryor has talked several times with the Bishop and meets with him next week.

The Rector led the Vestry through the history of a search for a priest to work with him here. That search has ended. (A rumor that Vestry would call a clergyperson this week was just that.) Donald will have no involvement in the Interim Period, call of the Interim Rector, staffing needs, Search Process, or matters related to elections, appointments, or the Annual Meeting. He commended these issues "to your Chancellor, the prevailing customs of this parish, and the Bishop through your Warden(s) and Vestry."

Junior Warden Alex Flesh desires to be attentive to communication among the Vestry, leadership and congregation, and he will form a Communications Committee.

The Senior Warden distributed copies of the Diocesan Manual for Search Processes to Vestry members and made them available to the parish. The Manual was largely written by The Rev. Rob Voyle, who will come to the parish on Saturday, Feb. 2 for a workshop with the Vestry and interested parishioners, then preach at the three services over the weekend.

A discussion was held regarding election of Vestry members. Ralph Clark, Chair of the Nominating Committee, spoke of the difficulty in finding multiple candidates. This matter will be discussed at the next vestry meeting, at 1 p.m. January 17th.

Vestry member Dick Jacker proposed two resolutions which were approved by the Vestry: (1) commending the Rector for his years of dedicated service and (2) expressing the hope and desire that the people of our church will help all of us in this time of transition to assure the continued growth of the ministries of this church and to determine our direction and goals for the future. The Minutes of the December 26 Special Meeting of the Vestry were also approved.

The meeting, at which there was attendance by all 10 Vestry members, was adjourned in a spirit of good will and reassured faith in our ability to communicate and in our future. Almost 20 parishioners participated in this Vestry meeting. All Vestry meetings are open.

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.

Men's Retreat – Last Call!

This year's Men's Retreat is less than a week 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.

Neighborhood Gatherings – Better than ever!

Saint Michael's parishioners are again opening their homes to their neighbors in January for a series of gatherings for members and friends of our Church. Invitations are being sent for dates ranging from January 13th to January 22nd.

Modeled on last year's gatherings attended by nearly 150 parishioners, these events will provide a time for socializing, for learning about the ministries which have been planned for the parish for 2008, for a brief outline of our transition process, as well as for questions and answers.

Look for your invitation, and please let your hosts know whether you can attend. The Stewardship Commission is grateful to all who are serving as hosts!

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.

The 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.

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*.

*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.

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

The Celebration Reception is Sunday, January 20th

Dear Friends:

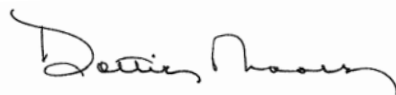
As you know, Donald and Sarah Fishburne and family will be leaving Sanibel in late January, much to our regret, but we wish them Godspeed in their new life at St. Paul's in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

We cordially invite you to attend a Celebration Reception to be held in the Parish Hall of Saint Michael and All Angels Church **at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 20, 2008**. We hope you can attend this event to say farewell to the Fishburnes.

If you would like to join in a gift to honor the Fishburne family and Donald's seven years of ministry among us, please make such a gift to ***Saint Michael's Church Appreciation Fund***, which will be given in the name of the church to benefit the scholarship fund for children of Episcopal clergy in the future at Saint Andrew's – Sewanee Episcopal School, a school dear to the hearts of the Fishburnes. Such gifts to the school are eligible for **tax deductible status in that all gifts would benefit the school and not the Fishburnes**.

This celebration should be a wonderful opportunity to thank the Fishburnes for their years with us, and, again, we hope you can join us.

Faithfully,



Dottie Moore
Chair, Celebration Reception

Last Call for Vestry Nominations

Nominations for Vestry are due by Jan. 12th. Please send your nominations to the Church Office addressed to the Nominating Committee and include a brief bio of the Nominee. Questions? Please call Ralph Clark, Dottie Moore, Peggy Hupfeldt, Hyde Tucker, Lee Almas or any Vestry member.

Cantate Domino ✱ Canticum novum

— A personal note from the Director of Music —

The working relationship between clergy and musician is vital to the quality of worship life in any faith community. From the overall job framework (number or type of services, physical space and equipment, budget), to ongoing activities (weekly planning, bulletin or newsletter production, staff schedules), even down to the minutest details (rhythm and exact timing in the liturgy, or who is to be where in a procession), this unique connection between what is said and what is sung must be solid.

The **Association of Anglican Musicians**, in its document *Musicians Called to Serve*, recognizes this importance in an Episcopal parish. Comments about employment contracts and working conditions are set in the context of fostering a relationship of mutual respect and trust, maintaining lines of substantive communication, encouraging creation of works for the Church, and working closely with seminaries. That document guided Saint Michael's in its 2005 musician search, and a former AAM president served here as consultant. In the same way, the **Royal School of Church Music**, an international and ecumenical organization dedicated to promoting effective and inspiring music-making in worship and in the wider community, furthers the work of clergy and musicians in parishes throughout the Anglican Communion, and touches the lives of countless singers and listeners.

Donald Fishburne's vision for music in liturgy was formed in his early years, then grew in the chapel at the University of the South, and was expanded in the parishes he served. When I came to Saint Michael's as Director of Music two years ago, I knew some of this. But I had no idea of the richness and depth of his knowledge, or of the quality and skill of his leadership in worship. I envy Paul Reynolds, the musician who directs a large and very fine program at St. Paul's, Chattanooga. He will now enjoy the same personal encouragement and professional support that I have experienced here daily, in public and in private. Donald will live a bit closer to Sewanee now, but he will never leave my thoughts. So, as we who remain at Saint Michael's continue together to sing a new song to God in our second half-century on Sanibel Island, I give thanks to have had this time with Donald Fishburne.

Willis



SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH
2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, FL 33957
(239) 472-2173 Fax: (239) 395-1670

www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org

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