

# LATE JUNE 2006

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

## Summer on Sanibel

We're into summer on the islands... The summer Sunday schedule has begun and we've had a good beginning of it, all in all. Not everyone likes it. (I hope no one thinks I personally like everything we do in liturgy here, but I do think this change makes good sense for lots of reasons.)

We are grateful to Director of Music Willis Bodine and the Parish Choir for sticking with it through the season of Easter till the Day of Pentecost – a first!

The Chapel of the Angels (under the loft) has been in use a great deal, especially on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Not everyone likes it. Many do. And I think more people will be disappointed when it goes away (of necessity) for more seating in season.

The Parish Hall building is complete but is housing the Church Office for the summer. I am distressed that we have to use some of our new meeting space in this fashion, but this will end when Church Office renovations are complete this fall.

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church met in Convention this month. Not everyone likes it. But I was there for much of it – largely in response to Mac Hollopeter's invitation that I preach at her installation as President of the National Altar Guild. Congratulations to her as she begins her three-year term!

Please continue to pray for the larger church after our General Convention. Some ultra liberals are uncaring of others. Some ultra conservatives demonstrate that they will not be satisfied till they achieve a breakup of our Church. God forbid... may God thwart them. Pray that we continue to live and work and come to God's table together.

### COMING SOON

Fourth of July Day Parade  
(No water pistols this year!)

And Picnic Potluck Supper  
At Six on the First Wednesday

Closer to **home**, we're as ready as we can be for **summer storms**. **Check in from time to time at our website: [www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org)**. Click on **News and Updates** for storm or disaster information when necessary. We've made our lists and reviewed our procedures. And we hope you have, too.

And we have begun a new E-Zine – an electronic magazine – that is sent to parishioners for whom we have a valid email address. If you have not received a copy by the end of July, please sent a request to [parishsecretary@saintmichaels-sanibel.org](mailto:parishsecretary@saintmichaels-sanibel.org)

Finally, let me say thanks for all sorts of ministries and ministers, including the prayers for unity these days – prayers that we continue to be one in faith and ministry here in this wonderful parish, with members from more than half the states and dioceses in this country – and beyond. We need not agree on everything, but we do model a good spirit which the national Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion might well envy.

-- *Donald, for all of us*

*Worship is at the heart of all we do*

Summer Schedule

We invite you to worship with us:

Saturdays 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Sundays at 9:30 Holy Eucharist

(\*With Sunday Overseas Shuttle pickup at 8:40  
at Woodlands and then at SPV Island)

Wednesdays 9 a.m. Eucharist with prayers for healing

Wednesdays 6 p.m. Evening worship at 6

**Wednesday Evening Worship:** This month we reflect and pray for the unity of the church and work for this in our ministries. **June 28<sup>th</sup> will be the last Wednesday service for the summer.**

## Announcements

**The July "Picnic Potluck" Supper** is at 6:00 Wednesday, July 5. Join us! Jetta Anne Currise is hostess. Hamburgers will be provided.

**Headed north? Gone north?** Please let us know. We'll send your mail to your other address. We're working to create an E-zine, other email communications media, and to update our website [www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org) Always go for there for storm news and updates.

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

**Noah's Ark Shop:** Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30-12:30.

**The Church Office has moved** to its temporary Summer Office in the new spaces of the Parish Hall building so that existing office space can be renovated over the summer. The Rector is first among those who are disappointed that new space is being used for offices, but this will end in the fall as we open the new rooms to the parish for meetings.

**Prayer Group meeting** – The prayer group continues to meet from 1 – 2 p.m., in the Chapel of the Angels each Thursday. Our time together is informal, a time when we can share our concerns and needs, and support one another in prayer. All are very welcome to join us. **The last meeting for the group will be at the end of June, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you to all those who have joined me in prayer throughout my time here. I have very much appreciated your prayer support – Liz Farrow

**From the Music Room:** *The Choir School of Saint Thomas Church in New York City (grades 3 through 8) is accepting applications. This famous church-affiliated boarding choir school for boys marries three great traditions: music, education and Christian community. If you have a son or grandson who may be interested, contact Willis Bodine for more information and to view their DVD.*

## Welcome, New Parish Secretary Susan Gonzalez



She grew up in the suburbs of New York City, on Long Island – Bay Shore to be exact. With her parents and sister, she moved to the Fort Myers area, July of 1985. After graduating from high school, she attended Edison College (formerly known as Edison Community College) and graduated with an A.A. Degree in Business Administration. She continued her education by attending Pensacola Christian College in Pensacola, FL. and completing her B.S. Degree in Business Management. After working six years in Pensacola, she moved back to the Fort Myers area in 2000.

## Summer clergy contacts:

**In case of pastoral need** or emergency 24/7, please call the Parish Office at 472-2173. After hours press 5 for clergy. We will take or return your call.

In an emergency, please also call The Rev. Brenda Monroe at home at 395-2342 and/or her cell 218-0191 if necessary.

The Rector is beginning his vacation. The Rev. Brenda Monroe, Assisting Priest for the summer, has charge of worship and pastoral care. The Rev. Liz Farrow serves alongside through July 5.

Associate Rector Suzy Post is recovering from back surgery and is on medical leave through the summer.

## Pastoral Care Assumptions:

**Do not assume** that clergy will be notified when you or someone close to you are admitted to a local hospital. Hospitals do not notify us. Nor will your name appear on a religious census unless you put it there.

**Do not assume Shell Point Village** will notify us of illness or death. Despite repeated requests, experience shows that when your clergy visit parishioners daily in the hospice unit at the Pavilion and request to be notified of a change in your condition, SPV never notifies us of a death.

**Do not assume** we know of illness, hospitalization or surgery. We will not hear unless you let us know. The sooner we know of your need the sooner we can plan to respond. We try to coordinate hospital visits in that each can take two to four hours to accomplish, depending on the number of parishioners in various hospitals.

**Would you like clergy** and/or Pastoral Care lay ministers to visit you at home? Just ask!

# General Convention: The day after

By Donald Fishburne in Ohio

Two sharp, faithful women were installed in positions of national leadership at the General Convention of the Church in Columbus, Ohio this week.

You should come to know each.

The first is a former chemistry teacher.

Saint Michael's parishioner MaryJane "Mac" Hollopeter began a three-year term as President of the National Altar Guild. For more than 50 years Mac has served in leadership at the parochial, deanery, diocesan, regional and national levels. I was privileged to preach at her installation at Trinity Church, where she was married in 1970. We rejoiced and reflected on God's call to her and her co-leaders, and on worship, and on being blessed by God in order to be a blessing to others.

The second is a biologist who is married to a great guy, and together they are the parents of a 24 year old daughter who is in the U.S. Air Force and married.

She is Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop of Nevada. She was elected the first female Presiding Bishop in the Anglican World – on the thirtieth anniversary of the ordination of women as Episcopal priests. When her surprising election was announced, young people and many women and men in the House of Deputies leapt to their feet, surprised by job. When Jefferts Schori was introduced to the House of Deputies after having been elected by her colleagues in the House of Bishops (she was the front runner in every ballot), and consent given in HOD, the presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable in the huge, packed hall at the Convention Center. I was nearly knocked off my perch on a chair, taking her picture from hundreds of yards away. The energy was real.

I had not met her before and was instantly impressed with her at her first press conference an hour later. She, too was welcomed at Trinity Church, in a follow-up event.

## **The arrogant, imperialist Americans**

Episcopalians in this country have come to have a reputation in some parts of the world close to the reputation of the U.S. in general: imperialistic, arrogant, and uncaring of the realities of life for those outside our borders (and some inside our borders). I

understand this perception but do not witness it at General Convention. There is a great spirit of concern and love.

But there is a huge human and political side of the Church. A former parishioner in another parish, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the legislature in the state of Georgia, asked me to pray over the House of Representatives once, saying, "Neither man nor beast is safe so long as the Legislature is in session." Some feel the same way about General Convention, which for the better part of two weeks is a worshipping community (7,000 at one Eucharist – think of the work of the Altar Guild!), and a trade show, and a collection of special interest groups, and much more.

Episcopalians are our own worst enemy in terms of media relations. Because our bicameral legislature (the largest in the world) looks like a part of a democratic system at work (the system is not democratic), and because we are always on the edge of multiple agendas of interest to society, the secular press in particular (largely inexperienced in covering us) descend on General Convention and center on – you guessed it – our struggles with race and clan, women's issues, and sexuality. When we spend eight days trying to figure out how we are going to say what we might want to say, the members of the press corps are (to borrow a line from a current movie), "As happy as a tornado in a trailer park." [An aside: I saw that movie on the closing day of Convention, and the movie was followed by a tornado warning in the region. I prayed for people in trailer parks, especially]

**When all the shouting and praying and politicking was over, a resolution of particular interest emerged. It seeks to keep us in the worldwide Anglican Communion in the wake of actions of our last Convention, three years ago.**

Resolved...That the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention receive and embrace The Windsor Report's invitation to engage in a process of healing and reconciliation; and be it further

*Resolved*, that this Convention therefore call upon Standing Committees and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion."

CONTINUED ...

It was said to be, “the best we could do.” On the one hand it was seen as a gesture to those who think we are arrogant liberals in the Anglican world. On the other hand it was seen by some as being hurtful, insulting and demeaning to gays and lesbians.

Its language about who can be a bishop means everything and nothing: what does this mean: “any candidate... whose manner of life presents a challenge” to members and bodies of the worldwide church? In my view, there are some African bishops whose manner of life presents a challenge to me, but we haven’t legislated about that.

### **Other legislation**

A wrap-up of final day legislation, reported by Southwest Florida’s Jim DeLa and others, is at [http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/3577\\_76322\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.ecusa.anglican.org/3577_76322_ENG_HTM.htm)

Other summaries will be posted by Episcopal News Service – and on the websites of dozens of outlets.

The status of all legislation is at <http://gc2006.org/legislation/> Note: at the opening page, one must choose from five categories of legislation in order to scroll down A,B,C,D,E. It will begin to make sense as you do it – but be prepared for an astonishing array of proposed and passed legislation.

Our Bishop and the President of the Standing Committee of the Diocese issued a statement the day after the election of the Presiding Bishop. See [Note: her name and title: The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori. Bishop Jefferts Schori will be “The Most Rev.” after her seating at the National Cathedral November 4.]

### **Back at the ranch...**

I’ll have more to say about General Convention another day.

In the meantime, let me say it is exhilarating and exhausting. It’s a rush and a downer. It’s immensely caring – and incomprehensively, mind-numbingly complex in its legislative deliberations.

But it does raise up a few good women. And men, too, for that matter.

What does it mean to the worshipping communities we call congregations? Everything and nothing. Looking back over my life in the church, I know it was General Convention that helped break down walls that separated races, even in the church. It has opened up our worship, and our minds. Over time, the councils of the church have honored women as spiritual leaders and will wrestle for the rest of my life with issues related to human sexuality.

And, in a remote way, General Convention will impact – and I hope encourage – our work and joy in worship, education, evangelism, pastoral care, service to others, stewardship, congregational life, and our relationships with those of other denominations and faiths – and the world around us.

### **The last word**

The last word is from the Presiding Bishop-elect’s first homily to the Church at Convention:

Our invitation, both in the last work of this Convention, and as we go out into the world, is to lay down our fear and love the world. Lay down our sword and shield, and seek out the image of God's beloved in the people we find it hardest to love. Lay down our narrow self-interest, and heal the hurting and fill the hungry and set the prisoners free. Lay down our need for power and control, and bow to the image of God's beloved in the weakest, the poorest, and the most excluded.

We children can continue to squabble over the inheritance. Or we can claim our name and heritage as God's beloveds and share that name, beloved, with the whole world.

### **Something to add?**

Deputies to Convention, together with our Bishop, are invited to submit articles and responses at our weblog: <http://swflgc.blogspot.com/>

Simply email [revbrenda@gmail.com](mailto:revbrenda@gmail.com)

**Thanks to Saint Michael’s Church, Sanibel for hosting this site, and to The Rev. Brenda Monroe for managing it for us.**

# *Au revoir,* from Liz and George

As we approach the end of our time with you, we want to thank you all very much indeed for making us so welcome once again, and for enriching our time at St Michael's simply by being the dear people you are. It has been great to be part of the life and worship of the Church here, and we return home with many happy memories; we are so grateful for all the hospitality we have received, and especially for the kindness and generosity of the Kimbells and the Schumans for opening their beautiful homes to us. Once again Liz was delighted that Donald invited her to be part of the ministry team at St Michael's; she has enjoyed the pastoral contacts, being part of the worship and deeply appreciates Donald's support and encouragement.

The new buildings truly amazed us. They have been done so effectively that, from the outside, it seems as though they have always been there. During our first month here in the apartment, we seemed to see Lee Almas and Bill Currie every day, such was their commitment to ensuring the smooth progress of all that needed to be done. How blessed we are here at St Michael's in so many ways!

We have especially valued our visits to the faithful Thursday group at Shell Point – the intimacy of the group there makes the Eucharist with prayers for healing very special. We also value the weekly Wednesday Healing Eucharist at St Michael's, which this year we feel has been enriched by being held, since Easter, in the newly formed Chapel of the Angels. There is something very special in worshipping the Lord in an environment which is both informal and provides a greater degree of intimacy than is possible in the larger area of the Church, Sunday by Sunday. This little chapel is simply beautiful, with the angel window an inspiration as we sit quietly and wait upon the Lord.

It has been really good again to be part of Wednesday Evening Worship, and to experience how this has developed through the year. The group which prepares and leads these Wednesday Evening services is an open and inclusive one, and they would love to welcome new faces. If you haven't attended any of these Wednesday evenings yet, we encourage you to do so when they recommence in the autumn.

George has enjoyed the chance to sing again after a period of two years when he had no singing voice! It was particularly fine to learn the new music introduced by Willis and it has indeed been fascinating for both of us to experience Willis' input into the music of St Michael's.

Our unexpected contact with St Columbkille's Catholic Church, Iona Road, was memorable indeed, and came about through the prayers of Ginnie Leigh and her contact, Albert Doyle. It was amazing for both of us to be in this particular church on the Feast day of St Columbkille (St Columba), talking about their patron Saint and introducing them to Iona, one of our favorite places.

The one big regret about our time here has of course been that dear Suzy was out of service, and we will continue to pray for her health and strength, and her return to ministry among you all a.s.a.p! We are only too aware how much she is missed.

This is now the third consecutive year that, through the kindness and support of Donald and the Vestry, we have been enabled to be with you. So perhaps no one will be surprised that we feel so very much a part of St Michael's family, and have experienced a real sense of calling to join you for a longer time. We are prayerfully considering the possibility of returning here later in the year and spending the season, or perhaps longer, amongst you. First, of course, we need to check on visa restrictions, but we are more than hopeful.

**We are looking for a three-bedroom home to rent on Sanibel, from November through May. If you know of anywhere that might suit us, please contact us by email [george.farrow@gmail.com](mailto:george.farrow@gmail.com)**

## Pastoral Care News

Milbrey J. Rushworth, 79, passed away June 3. She is survived by her husband of 50 years John L. Rushworth Sr., daughters Merrell and Jennifer, son John L. Rushworth Jr., his wife Carol and grandchildren Lindsay, Scott and John L. Rushworth III and several nieces and nephews.

In 1983 Milbrey became a member of the Sanibel Historic Preservation Committee and helped open the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum starting with the Rutland House. She has been display chairman of the museum ever since until her retirement recently due to ill health.

She was Treasurer of St. Michael and All Angels Church for six years.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Michael's or to the Sanibel Historical Village and Museum (850 Dunlop Road, Sanibel, FL 33957).

### **We are also saddened by the deaths of**

Mary Eileen Holly, longtime resident of Sanibel, died Friday, June 9, at age 85. She was born in Indianapolis, where she grew up, married and raised three daughters. She was a graduate of Butler University. Mary was an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Indianapolis and Saint Michael and All Angels on Sanibel.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband, John. She is survived by her daughters, Judith Workman, Janice Holly, and Susan Holly; her grandchildren, Michael Workman, Jennifer Workman Lessinger, and James T. Holly; and her great-grandson Sam Lessinger.

A memorial service will be scheduled for a later date. Donations may be made to Saint Michael and All Angels, the Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Center or Hope Hospice.

**Also, David Haweeli** of Greenwich, CT and Sanibel, who remembered Saint Michael's in his will.

**Molly Wolfe,**

**And Bill Hupfeldt** of Maryland and Sanibel.

## The Fourth of July Parade

At the request of parade organizers and the Vestry, there will be no water pistols, water cannons, etc., at or near the church before, during or after the parade this year. Thank you. Enjoy the parade and our Noah's Ark float!

## How does a hymn mean? (Part One)

*Notes from the Director of Music about our songs for worship*

With apologies to the American poet John Ciardi, whose book title I have adapted for this column, let's look at a page in *The Hymnal 1982*.

*Really look! This only works if you open a hymnal, right now . . .*

OK, let's begin. **The pages aren't numbered**, but the hymns, canticles and other service music are. Page numbers in a bound hymnal would be both useless and confusing. The **page headings in bold** tell us in general what the hymns in that section are about. So adjacent hymns are usually about the same thing, but perhaps with fresh language or from a different point of view. A complete subject and contents list is found in the front, just after the title page.

*Turn to the Contents pages, and look.*

You've already noticed that it follows the *Book of Common Prayer* sections very closely. That's no surprise! There are two large divisions: **Service Music** (the Offices, the Ordinary, and various canticles), and **Hymns**. And then there are some **Indexes** (why not "indices," I heard you ask — it's because the committee was trying very hard to be contemporary and direct in their language).

*Now turn back to the hymns.*

I'm looking at Hymns 139 and 140, on facing pages. The hymn on the left is the last one in the Epiphany section, and the hymn on the right begins those for Lent. See just how handy the **hymn numbers** are, neatly placed in the top outside corners and surrounded by white space? And the tops of the pages are uncluttered (no titles or extra dingbats), so your eyes go straight to the first **stanza**. All of the stanzas are numbered for convenience. If there are more than four stanzas, a little underscore underneath the 3 helps your eyes keep track through the singing. And the occasional asterisk tags a stanza that could be left out if need be, without damaging the thought.

**To be continued, in the next *Red Door***

