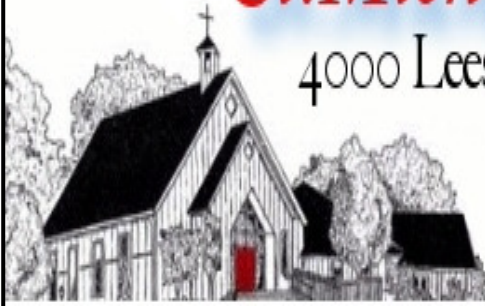


St. Michael's Episcopal Church

4000 Lees Summit Rd, Independence, MO

816 373-5333



August-September 2008

A monthly newsletter of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Independence, Missouri

Vol. 2008 No 9

Vicar's Reflection ... To The Glory of God

Summer is the time we all try to relax and take it just a little slower. We try to arrange some vacation, and of course there are a few holidays tossed in which help give us a break. Even if you don't plan to take any extra time off from work, most people work in some fun leisure activities during the summer months.

Here at St. Michael's we are not taking any time off and the pace has not slowed down. We are hard at work on many different projects. First, we just completed a week-long Vacation Bible School for our children and some children from the neighborhood. We partnered with St. Paul's, Trinity and Resurrection to offer the week's events, and we had a total of 28 children enrolled along with 4 teens and 9 adults. St. Michael's volunteers were 3 of the teens and 5 of the adult volunteers. Our thanks to our teen volunteers: Jon Bickham, Sarah Bickham and Samantha Stewart who worked the week helping little ones do crafts, learn Bible stories, play games and the ever important job of cleaning up the messes which those activities create. Our adult volunteers were Nicky Hayden, Donna Meyer, Jim Swaney, Teri Adams, and Deacon Larry. Our VBS was awesome and you can see pictures on the youth bulletin board soon.

Second, we are progressing quickly on a lease arrangement to put a tall white cross up on our property which will contain a cell tower. This arrangement will give us a great evangelism tool with a beautiful

cross visible from I-70 and from the corner of 40 Highway and Lee's Summit Rd. We will also get a monthly payment for leasing a small part of the property to the cell tower company. We continue to look for ways to make our Church and property highly visible to the community as part of our outreach efforts.

We are also about halfway complete with our rain garden project and we really need your help to make this happen. We need to weed and mulch the whole area to allow the native plants and grasses to take hold. If we do the work now, then next year it will require a minimum of effort to maintain the rain garden. We have a gift of a garden angel and two concrete benches which we will put in the rain garden as part of our new meditation area. If you have not seen the rain garden, go take a look - it changes every week as flowers bloom and more work is done. This project allows for flexible volunteer time since you can come weed, place mulch or plant new plants at anytime of the day or night (the parking lot lights are on). I don't encourage night time weeding but if you are a night owl, okay.

We are still seeking funding for our wind turbine. We have donations in excess of \$8,000 but we need to get significantly more because we would like to put in not only the wind turbine but an emergency generator so we can serve as an emergency shelter for the community. If you know of an agency or local business that would like to help with this project,

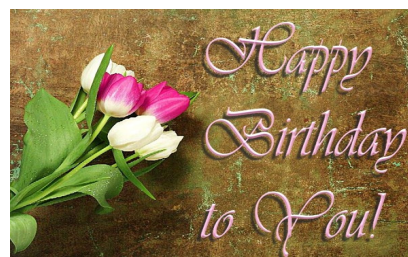
please contact them and let us know of their interest.

During the summer we are also continuing to expand our Necessity Pantry and Food Pantry. We can always use your donations and your volunteer help with both of these projects. We qualified as a United Way recipient this past year and received our first payment the end of June. You can help by designating your United Way donations to St. Michael's Necessity Pantry. You simply have to write in your designation and then United Way will forward your payroll deductions to the Necessity Pantry.

Lastly, you may have noticed that we had significant hail damage to all the roof areas of the church and to the storage shed; as well as to the exterior walls. We have gotten bids from three companies, checked references, checked their Better Business Bureau rating, and now the Bishop's Committee will be making decisions about the scope of the projects and which company to engage for our roof replacement, exterior painting & repairs, and the other minor repairs caused by the large size hail. The Church Insurance Company will cover a majority of the roof replacement and repairs. We will keep you posted on the progress of the work, although you will be able to see much of it for yourself since people will be working on the roofs!

Perhaps you are now wondering why I have given you this long apparently non-spiritual report. These projects are visible evident of our work in the works! These projects are done for God's glory. Each of these items makes us a visible symbol of God in this place. Each of these ministries: Vacation Bible School, the cell tower cross, the rain garden, the wind turbine, the food pantry, and the necessity pantry are about preserving our environment and serving those in need. Even our repairs to the roofs and the exterior of the church are evidence of our stewardship and our desire to draw people to this place in order that they might meet God here.

We all serve God in this place by the praise we offer in worship and by the food and essential items that we place in the hands of those who come here to be fed. We are to be the hands of Christ and we are the ones who touch the lives of those around us. Jesus served those in need with the touch of his hand and the reassurance of his words. That is our ministry as well. Come and worship. Come and serve. Come and find your place at God's table. Come. Mother Pat+



August

- 2 Isaiah Barclay
- 2 Joe Chmelicek
- 3 Jennifer Manning Welsh
- 4 Mary Beth Manning
- 10 Debra Kilpatrick
- 28 Dorothy Coldsnow
- 29 Sandra Dougherty

September

- 3 Carolyn Henson
- 6 Carol Alvarez
- 7 Lisa Stewart
- 8 Randall Napier
- 13 Carl Laurent
- 24 Gerald Anderson

PARISH HAPPENINGS

GOOD STUFF SALE September 19 & 20

It's that time again! Start cleaning house. We need all those items you have wanted to get rid of: your junk is someone else's treasure. Tired of dusting it? Give it to us! Dishes, pots and pans you no longer use, or want to replace. Someone else will be happy to have them. How about going through your closet. If you haven't worn it in the past year, why is it there?! Let's make this the best Good Stuff Sale Ever!

Mark your calendars! We need all the man, woman, and kid power we can get. If you can work both days, or just an hour here or there, we have lots to do. We will start pricing and arranging items on Tuesday, September 16th and work from 9 to 2 each day through Thursday. Snacks provided. Any questions or for item pick up call Donna Meyer, 478-1391, or leave a message at the church.



CHOIR PRACTICE

Evening choir practice begins on TUESDAY, August 19th starting at 6:30 p.m. Come enjoy music & fellowship as we begin a new year. No musical training required. You do not need to be able to read music.

Rachel Swaney

PARISH HAPPENINGS (Continued)

Our Own Samantha Stewart Represents Diocese of West Missouri at the National Episcopal Youth Event in San Antonio, Texas -

Samantha Writes ...

This past week, as I traveled eighteen hours to San Antonio, Texas, I knew it was going to be a memory I would never forget. My summer began with me and my best friend thinking it was going to be the summer of our lives. But the summer started out with a loud bad band ... and from there it only got worse. When I found out I got accepted to go to EYE in Texas I knew my summer had to have some sunshine at the end.

But when more details came in about this trip, I found out the price and after that I didn't even bother telling my mom about it because I knew we didn't have the money so I could go. Then a letter from Trinity Church came in my name, saying they donated all that money so I could go. It also was saying they wanted to keep their identity a secret. So whoever you are, and if you're reading this, me, my family, and my church thank you!!! The memories and friendships I made there will be forever, and my faith could only grow stronger. Thank you so much. You can't possibly know how much your generosity meant.

ST. MICHAEL'S "GREEN FLING"

Our first ever "Green Fling" will be held on October 4, which is also the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. It will be from 1 to 4 and will include the following:

Continued on page 4

From the Deacon ... Vacation Bible School—The “Be-Attitudes”

We finished another Vacation Bible School in July co-hosted by our sister church, St. Paul’s in Lee’s Summit. The theme this year was “Beach Party-Surfing through the Scriptures.” Each day had a different “Be-Attitude.” For Monday the “Be-Attitude” was **be obedient**, and the Bible story was about Gideon. Tuesday’s Be-Attitude was **be kind**, and the Bible story was about King David’s kindness to his friend’s child. Wednesday’s “Be-Attitude” was **be forgiven**, and the Bible story was about God’s forgiveness even when we are the unforgiving servant. Thursday’s “Be-Attitude” was **be bold**, and the story was about a man and a woman being bold in asking Jesus for healing. Friday’s “Be-Attitude” was a call **to believe**. It was a story about Thomas, one of the disciples that struggled with belief after the resurrection; and a reminder that we are given the Holy Spirit in order that we might believe without having seen with our physical eyes.

I thought it might be fun to see what you might remember about each of the Bible stories we had at VBS. Use your Bible to find the answers. Many Bibles have a concordance and possibly a section with proper names.

In the story about Gideon found in the Book of Judges who came to Gideon with instructions? To test God what did Gideon do? Who were the people Gideon was to fight against? How was Gideon to battle against this group of people? How many men was Gideon to use to battle against the enemy?

In the story of King David being kind to his friend’s child named Mephibosheth what was his friend’s name? Who was Mephibosheth’s grandfather? What physical ailment did Mephibosheth have, and how did it happen? (The kids nicknamed Mephibosheth-Bob since it was easier to pronounce.)

The story for Wednesday was about a king and an unforgiving servant. The servant owed the king a great deal of money. What did the king do? After the servant left the king what did the servant do? What was the final consequence of the servants’ action?

Thursday’s story was about a man named Jarius and a woman that was ill. Jarius asked Jesus to do something for one of his family members, who was it and what was it? As Jesus was on his way to help Jarius what happened that caused Jesus to feel power to leave him?

There is always something that can be learned from Holy Scripture. We do have a time for learning from the Bible every Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M. I understand how much effort it takes to get up Sunday morning but if we are obedient to God we want to give God time and join the community for Sunday school and worship. God’s Peace, Deacon Larry

Continued from Page 3 ... ST. MICHAEL’S “GREEN FLING”

- Bridging the Gap, an environmental group, will provide an educational experience for everyone. We will have recycling exhibits, alternative energy exhibits, natural healing exhibits, and more!
- The Lakeside Nature Center will bring its birds of prey, a mammal (depends on the weather), and a reptile for you to get up close and personal with. We will also have REGAP (Retired Greyhounds as Pets) and Animals Best Friends on hand with dogs for adoption.

We hope to have lots of neighbors come to see how we are trying to preserve what we have on this wonderful earth. At 6:30 p.m. we will have Holy Eucharist and Mother Pat will bless the animals, so bring your dogs or cats or other critters for a blessing. It should be a glorious day! See you there!



St. Michael's Church

Feast Days Calendar

August 6 6:30 p.m.
The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus
Christ

August 15 6:30 p.m.
St. Mary the Virgin Mother of Our
Lord Jesus Christ

August 25 6:30 p.m.
St. Bartholomew the Apostle

September 15 6:30 p.m.
Holy Cross Day

September 22 6:30 p.m.
St. Matthew the Apostle and
Evangelist

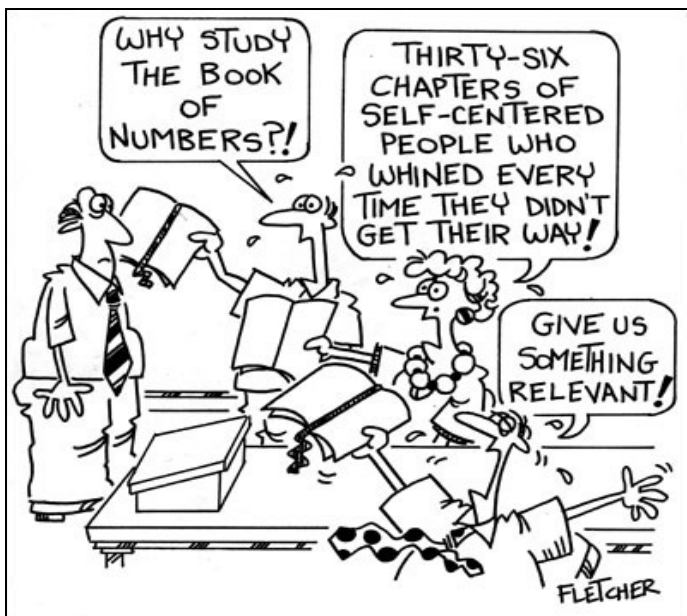
September 29 6:30 p.m.
St. Michael & All Angels

Join us in celebrating these feast
days, and share in Holy Communion.

**“Blessed are the pure of
heart: for they shall see
God.**

Matthew 5:8

Deadline for next newsletter will be September 15. You can email items to me at shr112nelson@sbcglobal.net or put them in the newsletter box in the church office.



August

14 Larry & Mary Beth Allen
26 Ken & Aneta Ireland

September

9 Mike & Ann Prettejohn
26 Rick & Hazel Ann Cox

Ecumenical Women's Gathering

I was honored to attend the recent Ecumenical Women's Gathering at the Community of Christ headquarters in Independence. I would like to share some of the high points of this gathering of women.

There were over 1000 people from 22 denominations in attendance, from all 50 states and several other countries. The theme of the gathering was "Claim a New Vision Together."

There were over 50 workshops and a children's art exhibit of work from several states around the theme of "Building a World Fit for Children."

It was a wonderful experience to be with so many committed sisters in Christ and see what can be done when we work together toward building a better world. We began each day in worship and prayer, and broke again at Noon for same.

Donna Meyer

"God reveals himself not in 'saving truths' but in saving relation by means of sacrificial love."

Rowan Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury

Reminder ...

It's not too late to check the website for Bishop Howe's reports and reflections concerning the Lambeth Conference, which is ongoing through August 4. Many of you have supported him through prayer during this conference. You can link to the Diocesan site from our website:

www.stmichaelschurch.org

Policy Alert

Resolved, That the Church recognizes that a faithful commitment to voting is an extension of our baptismal covenant to "strive for justice and peace and the dignity of every human being" and asks all Episcopalians to actively engage in advocating for voter rights, encouraging voter registration, getting out the vote, and volunteering to assist voters at the polls. ([Executive Council 02/2004](#))

That 2004 Executive Council resolution affirms that voting is a critical part of our Episcopal call to "strive for justice and peace among all people." As Election Day approaches, we want to provide you with resources to help you make the most of your opportunity to vote and helping others to do so.

Are You Ready For Election Day?

Not sure if you are registered to vote? Wondering where your polling place is? Need to find out if your state has early voting or absentee ballots available? The National Association of Secretaries of State has put together a web site that can help answer all of these questions and more in just 7 easy steps: <http://www.canivote.org>

Learn More About the Candidates

A key part of casting an informed ballot is educating ourselves about the candidates. One great source of information is Project Vote Smart which compiles information on candidates including biographical info, voting records, issue positions, interest group ratings, public statements, campaign finances. Visit them here: <http://www.votesmart.org/index.htm>

Thanks to Rachel Swaney for contributing this information from the Episcopal Church Public Policy Network.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

SPECIAL THANKS
To
Ron McIntire
Of Resurrection Episcopal
Church of Blue Springs

A special thanks to Ron for all his efforts in helping me recreate our newsletter in Publisher. His patient and excellent instruction in helping me learn to use Publisher is much appreciated. I will get better at formatting and organizing our newsletter over time, so bear with me. Also, by sharing his thoughts with me, he helped me to think more creatively about a church newsletter. But just as importantly, I appreciate the contributions I received for the newsletter, and hope all of you will forward me any and all items for possible inclusion in our newsletter in the future. My email address is: shr12nelson@sbcglobal.net. Articles can also be placed in the newsletter box in the church office.

Ron,
Many Thanks!

