

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

4000 Lees Summit Rd, Independence, MO

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April 2008

A Reflection from the Vicar ...

Happy Easter! Alleluia!

St. Michael's is a special place where we live and work as a faith community. Each of you who are part of the St. Michael's Church Family is important and I invite you to take an active part in the ministries of the church. For example, we reach out to those in need providing the basic necessities like toilet tissue and laundry detergent. Those who come to the Necessity Pantry can't make ends meet without our help and so social service agencies all over Jackson County refer families to us for those essential items that we take for granted. You may not realize that we also operate a food pantry which assists those families unable to buy sufficient food for themselves and their children. Most of us do not know what it is to be truly hungry, but those whom we serve certainly know what it feels like to be food insecure and to not know where they will find food to feed their children. Perhaps you did not know that when local agencies run out of money to help families and the elderly keep their heat or their lights on. How can you help us reach out?

We also reach in and help those in our own Church Family with food and other assistance when they lose a job or find themselves in a difficult period. We reach in and provide a pastoral presence to those who are sick or shut-in members of our congregation. We stand together as a faith community as an example of what Jesus calls us to do in caring and loving each other as Christ loves us. We may have many challenges facing us, but we never let those challenges hinder our service to those who are part of our church family. We don't let the lack of resources stop us from reaching out to those in need in our larger community. Perhaps your ministry involves helping us reach our own members. How is God calling you to use your gifts?

So in this season of the resurrection, I invite you to help St. Michael's live into our own resurrection time. Come and be an active part of this faith community by regularly attending worship, by volunteering in at least one outreach ministry, and by getting involved in the many educational opportunities which we offer. Christ's resurrection invites us to be new people. We put on new Easter clothes and we live new Easter lives. Come and see what Jesus has in mind for you this coming year. Come and be a part of the exciting life in Christ. Come help St. Michael's grow and change as we reach out to those who don't yet know God. Come help as we care for those within the family, and as we explore all the new ways that Christ calls us to be His presence in the world. What is Christ asking of you now?

In this Resurrection season, we are embarking on our new projects - a rain garden, a wind turbine, an emergency sheltering location, a neighborhood block party, an expansion of the food pantry and so much more! Come and see what God is doing and how you can be a part of this great work. Alleluia, Christ is risen and we too are raised to new life in Him. Mother Pat+

From the Deacon

Having Cancer

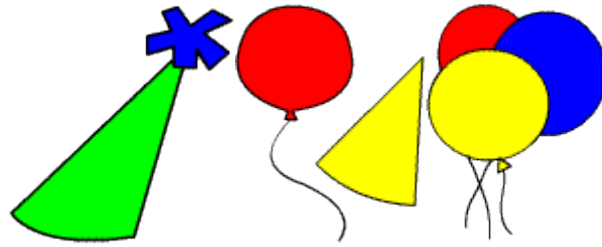
I turned 65 in October, and fortunately became eligible for Medicare. I thought it a good idea to go to my doctor to get a check-up. The blood test revealed an elevated PSA level so the doctor ordered another blood test the next month, and it revealed an even higher PSA. An appointment with an urologist was set up and he thought it a good idea to have a biopsy taken of the prostate tissue. This was done on Wednesday, February 13. Some dates stick in a person's mind, and a biopsy experience is something that won't be soon forgotten. I was told the results of the biopsy would be known the next Monday. I did not hear from the doctor all day, and thought it might be Tuesday before I would know the results. I had to stop by the grocery store for a few items, and was loading them into the car when the doctor called on my cell phone. He told me I had three spots of cancer from the twelve samples taken. The good news was it was in the very early stages, and most likely had not spread outside the prostate. The next step was to meet with him again to discuss a plan of treatment. He suggested I read up on prostate cancer from a website, and a couple of friends had some information for me to read. Talking with a friend before the biopsy about what I could expect to happen greatly helped quell my anxiety. In meeting with the doctor and thinking about the many options for treatment ranging from surgery, hormone treatment or exterior radiation, I decided that the Brach therapy procedure would best for me at my age and with my type of cancer. This procedure uses small rice sized radiation pellets inserted into the prostate. The radiation emitted is confined to the immediate vicinity of the pellet. This is the plan at this time. At the writing of this article, I am waiting to meet with the specialist that will work with my urologist to insert the seeds. A date will be set for the procedure. It is also the purpose of this article to encourage other men to go to the doctor, especially men who are over 50 years of age, and have their PSA checked. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men, but is one of the most successfully treatable cancers when detected early. My PSA score was 8.1 and a John Hopkins study noted that with a PSA under 10 there was only a 28 percent chance of cancer. Well, I was in that 28 percent group. If we are to be effective ministers for God, it is good to take care of ourselves so we can help others for as long as possible. We owe it to ourselves and to each other to have regular medical checkups, especially those of us who are men over 50 years of age.

God's Peace, Deacon Larry



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The new technology led to greater efficiency at First Church.



FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Ron & Sandy Byers	4/17
Jim & Rachel Swaney	4/29

BIRTHDAYS

William Hayden	4/3
Matthew Onka	4/5
Stacey Long	4/7
Camille Onka	4/8
Jim Swaney	4/10
Gina Crawford	4/13
Delaney Russell	4/13
Ken Ireland	4/20
Debra Heacock	4/22
Tyler Long	4/22
Ann Prettejohn	4/22
Genie Kuske	4/28
Donna Meyer	4/29

BAPTISMS

Vicky Anderson	4/x
Rick Cox	4/x
Donna Meyer	4/x
Nikole Hayden	4/6
Marcus Manning	4/10
Bob Napier	4/12
Sarah Crawford	4/14
Trish Doran	4/15
Jennifer Manning Welsh	4/17
Marybeth Allen	4/20
Stacey Long	4/20
Jay Kilpatrick	4/21

congratulations!



APRIL FEAST DAYS

April 1	The Annunciation of Our Lord	6:30 p.m.
April 25	St. Mark the Evangelist	6:30 p.m.

FAITH

Whoso draws nigh to God one step through doubtings dim,
God will advance a mile in blazing light to him.

Unknown

FRIENDSHIP

I didn't find my friends; the good God gave them to me.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

GIFTS

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

Elizabeth Bibesco

WISDOM

The best cosmetic in the world is an active mind that is always finding something new.

Mary Meek Atkeson