



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

4000 Lees Summit Rd, Independence, MO

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July 2008

A Reflection from the Vicar ...

What we are here to do and to be.....

Last month I began a reflection on the larger church and I am continuing that topic with this article. The Anglican Communion over 20 years ago developed a model or framework for thinking about our ministry and work for God's kingdom. The Anglican Communion said that there are five marks of mission. These five marks are:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptize and nurture new believers

To respond to human need by loving service

To seek to transform unjust structures of society

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

These are ambitious goals for ministry and mission. They were big goals 20 years ago and they remain just as important today. Think about the ways that each of us is called to engage in these marks of mission. Some of you will immediately think of our Baptismal vows since these five marks of mission are all part of that promise we made when we were baptized. So how do we proclaim, teach, respond, seek and serve? The answer is important to our own spiritual life. Each of us needs to engage in these five marks of mission because it takes all of us to do the work of transforming the world. None of us can do the work alone and even if all of us at St. Michael's work together, we can't transform the world by ourselves. It takes us working together as St. Michael's, as the Diocese, as the National Church, and as the Anglican Communion to show the world the marks of Christ's presence.

I invite you to proclaim the Good News of God's love and mercy to those you work with and to those you encounter each day — you will need to proclaim this by word and action. Remember that you represent Christ and his Church whether you want to be an ambassador for God or not. I also invite you to teach and nurture those who are new to the faith. Take an interest in our youth programs and if you have children make sure they attend Christian Education, Vacation Bible School, Youth events and retreats. Talk with our new adult members and help them find their way into the scriptures and a healthy prayer life. Renew your own commitment to study and prayer.

Having equipped you by prayer and study to proclaim the Good News and to nurture others, now we reach out in loving service to others through the work of the Necessity Pantry, Food Pantry, and Emergency Assistance programs that we have at St. Michael's. You can be a part of that by volunteering your time to help with the pantries either in stocking shelves or giving out items. You can contribute needed food and necessity items and

you can help us explore ways to make St. Michael's a community emergency shelter for times of disaster in the area. When we do this work of serving, we see the greater needs which we can't meet by serving people one

family at a time; and that is when we start to lobby our legislators to change how we fund health care or ask them to build more affordable housing or to deal with issues of predator loan practices. You get the idea. Each of us works on a local level to serve but we are also to use our energy to promote social change on a larger scale.

And lastly, we are to work to renew and sustain God's wonderful creation. We have started here at St. Michael's to actively engage in this renewal by expanding our recycling programs, the initiation of our rain garden project, striving to conserve water and electric, limiting the use of pesticides and chemicals, and generating energy through renewal sources such as the planned wind turbine; and when possible through solar and geothermal sources of energy generation. We plant new trees every year and cultivate our existing trees to ensure they are part of God's creation for years to come. We even keep large trees and green plants in the Nave to clean the air, provide oxygen and help remind us of God's beautiful world. Many seasons of the Church year, we use green plants on the flower stands rather than cut flowers as another way to show our care of creation. How do you renew and sustain God's creation in your everyday life? Do you conserve water by not running the water while you brush your teeth or only run the dishwasher or clothes washer when it is full? Do you turn off lights and even unplug appliances when you are not using them? Have you changed your standard light bulbs to energy efficient bulbs? Do you waste gas by driving when you could walk or take public transportation? What are you willing to do to renew God's creation and to help sustain the world we live in?

Prayer and study will equip you to make the best decisions about living out the five marks of mission. Use these summer months to reflect on how you will live out your baptismal covenant and how we at St. Michael's can more fully embrace these marks of mission — to proclaim, to nurture, to serve, to transform and to renew for the glory of God and God's kingdom.

See you Sunday. Mother Pat+

From the Deacon

Prayer

I have been reading a book entitled, Prayer: does it make any difference by popular author Philip Yancey. I have found the Biblical examples of prayer and the many stories of peoples' experiences with prayer a formula for interesting reading. I write this article having only read half of the book, but I will say that Yancey feels prayer does indeed make a difference, and I agree. I don't believe Jesus would have devoted himself to constantly going off alone to pray, and teaching the disciples to pray, if he did not feel prayer was important.

There is much that can be said about prayer, here are few of my thoughts: Prayer is God's plan for us to become involved with the Divine, and carry on God's plan to grow God's kingdom. Though it may feel to us like a one sided conversation when we pray, God is hearing our every word. Answers to prayers are usually not immediate, but praying is the way we gradually align our thoughts and life plan to God's plan. We can't begin to explain the tragedies that take place in life, such as war, illness, murder, hurricanes, tornados, and tsunamis that take thousands of lives. But though these events are an unfortunate fact of life, God is with us when we experience the loss of a loved one, or financial and material devastation. God is not the author of such events, but God is the comfort and peace in the midst of tragedy. Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door shall be opened for you."(Matt. 7:7) Jesus always pictured God as a loving Heavenly Father, only wanting the best for His children. I imagine some of our difficulty is that we are locked in temporal time, whereas God is timeless and our earthly schedules need heavenly adjustment. Prayer is vital and essential to our walk with God, but let's face the fact there is a lot of mystery surrounding the work of God in the world. Perhaps, in praying we are holding onto the shirttail of God waiting to see where God is going to take us next. We simply trust God with our lives because God is God, and we are not.

If there are thoughts that you would like to share on this topic please e-mail me at allenhouse1@prodigy.net.
I would be glad to hear from you, and would like to share the thoughts received in a future newsletter.
God's peace and I look forward to seeing you at St. Michael's. Deacon Larry

Bishop & Mary Howe Visit St. Michael's



Save \$\$\$\$ / Save the Earth

I've discovered a couple of things about gas mileage lately that I thought I'd pass along. High gas prices are only one factor in being conscious of the miles you can drive on a gallon of fuel. We at St. Michael's are dedicated to protecting the earth's sustainability. A huge part of the "footprint" we leave behind is the fuel we consume - dependence of foreign oil, car emissions and use of natural resources are also a huge concern. So much of that seems out of our control.

I found two things REALLY can effect my gas mileage - I am sure you have heard these before (I had), but I didn't realize how big the impact is. I am suggesting you try them and see if you get the same results I have.

At my last oil change, I complained that my mileage had fallen from 30 MPG to 24. The solution was easy! My tires needed air! Since I can't check them myself, I've found some places will check them and air them up for free. (I use Shamrock Tires at 23rd and Noland.) The result was immediate!

Then a couple of days ago I saw a guy on TV saying that by changing your driving habits you can increase your mileage up to 80 MPG! I'm not sure I believe that, but I have been experimenting with his suggestions. The first one is to never accelerate going down hill. The momentum and incline will keep your car going. In many cases, your car will slow, but that prevents you from having to use the brake at the bottom of the incline. Both acceleration and braking are gas eaters! The other thing I've tried to do is slow down - **never go over the speed limit**. What I have found is that speeding is a habit and I am as guilty of it as anyone! But it is a habit that can be unlearned with practice. Working on these two little changes has raised my mileage by 4 MPG! Not a monumental amount, but I am not very good at them yet either! But it is nice to be going in the right direction.

Although I am not convinced I'll ever get 80 MPG on my little Scion, it is good to know I can do something to stretch out the gas for which I am paying almost \$4 per gallon.

Margie Gray

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

July 14 thru 18
9:00 a.m. to Noon

For children ages 3 yrs through 4th grade. Older youth can sign up to be teaching assistants and helpers. VBS will meet at St. Paul's in Lee's Summit. If your child needs a ride to VBS, let Mother Pat+ know so we can arrange appropriate carpools. We need adults to help with setup on Sunday July 13th at 4 pm at St. Paul's.

OPPORUNITIES FOR LAY EDUCATION Laity School of Theology

www.spst.edu

Each Saturday seminar is designed to meet for one day from 9:00 to 3:00 on the Saint Paul campus.
Cost: \$35 per person, lunch included.

September 13

Consumer or Minister? What is the Role of the Laity in the World Today?

Dr. Susan Smith, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship

October 11

How to Read the Gospels Like a Scholar

Dr. Mike Graves, William K. McElvaney Visiting Professor of Preaching

November 15

Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience and Moral Discernment

Dr. Angela Sims, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics and Black Church Studies

February 21

Reformations of the 16th Century and the 21st Century Church

Dr. Jim Brandt, Associate Professor of Historical Theology

March 14

The Bible, War and Peace, and the Church

Dr. Harold Washington, Professor of Hebrew Bible

April 18

Growing Closer to God: Some Advice from John Wesley

Dr. Hal Knight, Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Wesleyan Studies

5123 East Truman Road
Kansas City, Missouri
institute@spst.edu, 816-245-4815



HELP A CHILD START THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH CONFIDENCE!!

**Community Services League's
Back to School Store
School Supply Needs List**

Pencils & Writing Tools

Pencils - #2 Lead
Large Pink Erasers
Ball Point Pens – Blue & Black
Red Pencils
Colored Pencils – Set of 12
Crayons – Sets of 24
Watercolor Sets with Brush
Markers – Broad Tips
Highlighters

Paper Supplies

Construction Paper – 9x12, 8 Colors
3 Ring Notebook Paper – Wide Lined

Folders & Binders

3 Ring Binders
Folders with Pockets
Subject Dividers

Miscellaneous

Calculators
Glue Sticks
Scissors – 5" Sharp
Rulers (with metric notations)
Zippered Pencil Pouches
School Supply Boxes
Backpacks (No Wheels Please)
Boxes of Kleenex

School supplies may be delivered to 300 W. Maple, Independence, MO between 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. PLEASE DROP SUPPLIES OFF NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2008. They will gladly accept cash donations to purchase needed supplies.

OR

For More Information, Contact Jean Marie Egger at 254-4100, Ext. 308



Many folks want to serve God
but only as advisors.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation
bangs on your door forever.

I don't know why some people change churches;
what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

Be ye fishers of men. You catch them – He'll clean them.

FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Deborah Hogan	7/6
Frank Manning	7/6
Shirley Nelson	7/9
Bob Napier	7/14
Irene Cline	7/15
Jacob Stewart	7/15
Joshua Kilpatrick	7/19
Jessica Laden	7/23
Jackie Parker	7/29

Anniversaries

Donna & Scott Meyer 7/19

Baptisms

Hannah Bentley 7/8

St. James the Apostle Fri., 7/25 6:30 p.m.

St. Mary Magdalene Tues., 7/22 6:30 p.m.

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER ... THE
MORE YOU CONTRIBUTE, THE
BETTER IT IS. SEND ANYTHING
YOU THINK WOULD BE OF
INTEREST TO:

Shirley Nelson

shr12nelson@sbcglobal.net

Deadline: 15th of each month!

LIFE

Congratulations!!!

God asks no man whether he will
accept life. This is not the choice. You
must take it. The only choice is *how*.

JULY FEAST DAYS

Henry Ward Beecher

DETERMINATION

O'Lord,
Thou givest us everything.
At the price
Of an effort.

Leonardi Da Vinci

AGE

I shall grow old, but never lose life's
zest, because the road's last turn will be
the best.

Henry Van Dyke

REGRET

I have wept in the night
For the shortness of sight
That to somebody's need made me
blind;
But I never have yet
Felt a tinge of regret
For being a little too kind.

Unknown