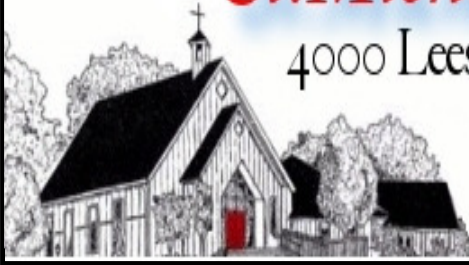


St. Michael's Episcopal Church

4000 Lees Summit Rd, Independence, MO

816 373-5333



March 2009

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

Vol. 2009 No 03

Vicar's Reflection ...

What is Your Destination?

You can construct a great way... a path, a road, a hallway, a passage; but unless it leads to the right destination, what good is it? As we enter the season of Lent, we are asked the question, "what is your destination?" Where are you going? What are your goals? How do you set your priorities? We can't really know where we are going unless we know where we want to go. The same is true for our faith communities. We need a clear goal in order to get where we want to go. St. Michael's has set a vision for all of us and it states in part, "to know and worship God and to serve others in the world." We do that through weekly worship, daily prayer, and our Food and Necessity Pantries as well as through your individual ministries and the ministry teams that we have at St. Michael's.

So, I am inviting you to join me on a journey this Lent. The goal, the destination, is to examine our spiritual selves and see what we need to do in order to move toward our personal goals and our St. Michael's goals. Those who went on the Lenten Retreat found themselves using scripture to examine our faith tradition. They found out that rocks and stones can be used in rituals which remind us who we are; and they can be used as safe places. Stones can form smooth walking paths or be rough stumbling blocks. Stones and rocks in scripture hold meaning and help tell the story of our faith tradition. If you were not able to come to that retreat, we are offering a Wednesday Night Lenten Series entitled, "Stopping on Wednesday Night". This series will invite us to examine our attentiveness to God. We will try to establish our spiritual goals and set new priorities.

Prayer is a key element in any journey. Prayer enables us to listen for God's voice and it also gives us voice to speak our hopes and dreams to God. Prayer is a key part of our Lenten journey. Be attentive to God in the midst of each day. Take time to pray. Join in worship on Sundays, attend the Lenten Series, and plan now to attend Holy Week Services, April 6-11.

Make God the rock of your salvation and the one to whom you give your best. Take time to be attentive to God - come to our Wednesday night series beginning March 4th at 6:30 p.m. Supper will be provided. If you need childcare, let us know in advance and we will provide it. The Lenten Series will continue from March 4th through April 1st, so come and find out how to make conversation with God a part of your daily routine.

See you Sunday, Mother Pat+

From Deacon Larry

Putting Treasure in Heaven

The terrible condition of the economy is on everyone's mind these days. I am writing this article on the very day President Obama is flying to Florida to help promote the newest economic package that he hopes will jumpstart the economy. Many folks are focused on this issue because it has directly affected their lives. Many homes have dropped in value by 20 to 30 percent; companies have dismissed workers or have shut down because of the lack of business or the inability to obtain credit to finance their business. Some college students have found it difficult to find school loans to continue their dream of a higher education. The economic downturn has put an additional strain on state governments as revenues have decreased and they are faced with a growing number of folks needing unemployment benefits and Medicaid.

In the midst of all this economic turmoil I hope people will pause and re-evaluate their priorities. I am sure many have had to adjust their lifestyle because they have less money. But let me reassure you that God has not forgotten or abandoned those who are going through economic, physical or spiritual troubles. Many times such difficulties help direct our eyes heavenward. As the Psalmist writes, "I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep." (Psalm 121:1 to 3)

Let us remember during these troubled times that we need each other more than ever in our community at St. Michael's. We lean on each other in time of hardship. We understand that we need a certain amount of material goods to survive, but Jesus tells us that what we do spiritually and financially for others stores up treasure in heaven. Seventy-five percent of St. Michael's folks have committed themselves to some ministry in the church. This might be as a member of the altar guild, mowing team, an usher on Sunday morning, reader, an acolyte, a choir member, or any of the other jobs that help St. Michael's Church function. We are grateful for everyone's help.

Like so many of you, St. Michael's also has an on-going struggle to meet our fiscal needs. At this point only 52 percent of our members pledged financial support. In the past, as a Mission congregation, we received financial help from the Diocese. This is no longer the case. We **ALL** need to help fund the work here at St. Michael's. We reach out and help over 110 families a month at the Necessity Pantry. We also help provide food for 60 to 80 families a month. So we make an impact in this community. But we must have each other's support.

There is the story of a wealthy woman that died and went to heaven. She was greeted by an angel as she entered heaven and was taken on a tour to find the home she would have in heaven. They walked along and passed by large mansions and the wealthy woman thought that surely one of these fine homes would be hers. They went on and as they got out further on the outskirts they came to some very small homes, little larger than a cabin. They stopped and the angel said, "This one is yours." "What?" shouted the woman. "This small hut for me?" "I am afraid so," said the angel. "It was all we could build with the amount of material you sent up."

Although we do need your financial contributions, this story is not about using your money to buy your way into heaven. It is instead about spending your life in ways that help to build up God's kingdom as it is coming to this earth. During these difficult times we do need each other. We need to see each other at worship and to encourage each other with our presence and prayers there and in the rest of our various ministries. Let us continue to keep our baptismal promises, support our work here at St. Michael's and store up for ourselves treasure in heaven.

God's Peace, Deacon Larry

Focus on Ministry

The "Holy Folders" is a ministry where you can work in community with others and share conversation while you work. Carolyn Henson, who coordinates the "Holy Folders," says the fellowship is the most meaningful aspect of this ministry to her. She says the group always has a good time and still gets the job done. Whenever there are worship booklets or the newsletter, or anything else which needs collating and assembling, the "Holy Folders" roll into action. Carolyn contacts the regulars whenever needed. They are Dorothy Coldsnow, Joe Harrison, Donna Meyer, Barbara Wright, and Shirley Nelson. They can always use more hands, so if you would like to be on call as one of the "Holy Folders," just let Carolyn Henson know.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daughters of the King Discernment Classes

**Are you called?
How do you know?
Please join us to find out!**

Save These Dates:

**Saturday, April 14, 18th
10:00 a.m.—Noon**

**Saturday, May 2, 16, & 30
10:00 a.m.—Noon**

Be on the lookout for more information coming your way.

**Questions?
Contact Donna Meyer, Abbey
Amador, Peggy Chmelicek, or
Mother Pat**

Women of Faith Seminar at Sprint Center

**"It's a Great Day"
March 13 and March 14
Cost is \$89.00**

**(includes a box lunch)
See Peggy Chmelicek for more
details**

**Temme Martin, Nurse Practitioner
is accepting new and established patients**

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

**Family Medical Care Associates
100 NW Mock Avenue, Suite 200
Blue Springs, Missouri 64014**

816-228-1000

CURSILLO UPDATE

On January 31 the Heartland Episcopal Cursillo presented A Day of Deeper Understanding (DDU) at St. Michael and All Angels in Mission, Kansas. Of the 27 candidates at the weekend that was held November 6-9, 2008 at Our Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, Kansas, 17 attended the DDU, along with about 30 other people, which was as large a group as we have seen for a while, if ever at a DDU. Our own Rachel Swaney was DDU ringmaster.

The next local Ultreyas are scheduled for March 6 at the Church of the Redeemer in Kansas City north and April 3 at St. Michael and All Angels in Mission. We'll have a group of people leaving from St. Michael's Independence together on both evenings around 5:15 to use less gas and have more fun.

On March 14 the Heartland Episcopal Cursillo will present its first team training event, which is designed for people who have attended a three-day weekend and would like to work on a three-day weekend team. That event will be at Haden Hall at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City, Missouri. There is no charge, but we do want people to RSVP so we have a good idea about how much food will be needed for lunch. The event is scheduled to begin at 9:00 and to conclude by 3:00. Mother Pat, Deacon Larry, Donna Meyer, and Jim and Rachel Swaney are all involved in the planning and presentation of the event, along with several folks from other congregations, and we're all excited. Contact any of them for additional information.

Jim Swaney



March 7

March 8

March 12

March 18

March 18

March 18

March 23

March 25

March 31

Margie Gray

Grant Prettejohn

Teri Adams

Marybeth Allen

Ethan Trowbridge

Genesis Trowbridge

Joseph Hogan

Michelle Parsons

Barbara Wright

The spiritual eyesight improves as the physical eyesight declines.

Plato

Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

Mark Twain

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Married couples who love each other tell each other a thousand things without talking.

Chinese Proverb

Marriage is our last best chance to grow up.

Joseph Barth

No March Anniversaries!



BAPTISMS

We may never be martyrs but we can die to self, to sin, to the world, to our plans and ambitions. That is the significance of baptism; we died with Christ and rose to new life.

Vance Havner

Shaun Bentley	3/X
Jewell Cox	3/X
HazelAnn Barkie-Cox	3/8
Sheri Williams	3/28

LENTEN SERIES

On Wednesday evenings beginning March 4th and continuing through April 1st, we will have a Lenten program beginning with Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m., a Lenten dinner at 7 p.m., and a Lenten teaching series at 7:30 p.m. and concluding by 8:30 p.m. The series is entitled, "Stopping on Wednesday Evenings." It is focused on helping us become more attentive to God in the midst of our busy lives.

See you Sunday, Mother Pat+

MARCH FEAST DAYS

March 19	6:30 p.m.	Saint Joseph
March 25	6:30 p.m.	The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary

LENTEN QUIET DAY

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Center on and savor God's love for you in the stillness of your heart

Presented by Sister Patricia Cushing CSJ

(Founding Director of The Dear Neighbor Center for Spirituality and Healing)

This day is for all who are drawn to a day of peace and quiet reflection.

This day will unfold with Morning Prayer and Noonday Prayer, a morning and afternoon reflection by Sister Patricia, and plenty of time for quiet meditation to let yourself be embraced by God's special love for you in the silence of your heart.

Saturday, March 7th

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
1815 NE Independence Avenue
Lee's Summit, Missouri 64086

9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

A \$10 per person charge will cover lunch

RSVP

816-524-5552

cindy@saintannesls.org

By Monday, March 2nd