

Annual Parish Meeting December 12, 2010—Hensler Hall

Submitted by Staff Writer

The Annual Meeting of the parish will be held on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 12:30 pm during which reports will be presented from the rector, staff, vestry and parish organizations.

Written reports are due in the parish office by Friday, December 3, 2010. They may be emailed to Lisa King, Parish Administrator at admin@stmichael.cc.

Part of the business at the annual meeting will be elections for vestry. The canons of the Church give exclusive authority over the fiscal affairs of the parish to the vestry. But vestry members are also spiritual leaders who are committed to the building of the Body of Christ so that it can be an effective instrument of mission and ministry in the world.

To be elected to the vestry, one must:

- 1) Be a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church enrolled as a member of the parish, 18 years old or older.
- 2) Have been regular in attending services of the church in the year preceding the election.
- 3) Have made and maintained a financial commitment to the parish in the year preceding the election.

These are the qualifications not only for vestry elec-

tion but for continued service on the Vestry.

A vestry member should lead the way in participation in the worship life and financial support of the parish.

The term of a vestry member is for three (3) years and a vestry member is not eligible for re-election in the year following the expiration of his or her term. Under church law, a vestry may have not less than three or more than 21 members. St. Michael & All Angels vestry has six members at this time. This year there will be two positions open for election and 3 positions that will be open for appointment.

The election is by secret ballot. Those entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting (Canon 31.4, Diocese of Atlanta) are "all confirmed communicants in good standing not less than 16 years of age.

A person on vestry commits to attending the monthly vestry meeting, serve on at least one committee and attend the annual vestry retreat.

Pray earnestly for those who are serving on vestry and for those whom we will elect in December. Also, prayerfully consider offering your time and talent to serve God in this parish.

Advent & Christmas Services

Advent I	November 28	9:15 am Christian Ed; 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Advent II	December 5	9:15 am Christian Ed; 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Advent III	December 12	9:15 am Christian Ed; 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Advent IV	December 19	9:15 am Christian Ed; 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Christmas Eve	December 24	4:30 pm Christmas Eve Family Service & Pageant
Christmas Eve	December 24	10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candles & Carols Service
Christmas Day	December 25	10:30 am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
Christmas I	December 26	9:15 am Christian Ed; 8:00 & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist
Friday	December 31	11:00 pm Night Watch



Clergy and Staff:

The Reverend Paul A. Elliott, Th.D.
Rector
rector@stmichael.cc

Don Papenbrock
Music Director
music@stmichael.cc

Lisa King
Parish Administrator
admin@stmichael.cc

Robin Miller
Financial Officer
finance@stmichael.cc

John Harrill
Sound Director
jharril1@bellsouth.net

Licha Lanzas
Thrift Store Manager
thrift@stmichael.cc

Angela Thompkins
Child Care Professional
706-202-8985

Victoria Schwartz
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
victoriaschwartz@juno.com

www.stmichael.cc

Office Hours

Monday—Wednesday 9:00 a.m.—4:00p.m.
(Office) 770-469-8551 • (Fax) 770-413-7022
(Rector) 770-465-6440
(Thrift Store) 770-498-2050

In case of an emergency, please call the office 24 hours a day for a number to contact a member of the clergy. Thank you.

St. Michael and All Angels is an Episcopal Church within the Diocese of Atlanta. We are members of the Worldwide Anglican Communion. For more information on each of these constituencies:

- www.episcopalatlanta.org/index.html
- www.episcopalchurch.org/
- www.anglicancommunion.org/

To receive weekly e-mail newsletters send information to admin@stmichael.cc

Senior Ministry Program & Luncheon For December

Submitted by Faye & Charles Gardner

December 15th at 11:30 am in Hensler Hall The Georgia Classic Club will entertain the crowd. They will entertain us with music, dance and comedy. This will be the eighth year they have given a program for us.

The Georgia Classic Club is a sisterhood of former contestants whose purpose is to serve as role models for senior women throughout the community, to provide speakers and entertainment for various community groups, and to encourage and foster lifelong friendships. And besides all of that, we just plain have fun!

Each year, Senior Georgia Inc. produces the Ms. Senior Georgia Pageant to give honor to Senior women (60 or older) who have become "Classic American Women."

The Ms. Senior Georgia Pageant has as its purpose the promotion of a "Celebration of Positive Aging".

By showcasing active, dynamic, Senior women to an intergenerational audience, we can encourage people of all ages to respect Seniors, plan for the future, and enjoy the present. Reservations can be made by contacting Fay Gardner at 770-491-0413.



Georgia Classic Club performing for the Senior's Ministry in 2009. This is the eighth year that the lovely ladies have brought their Christmas cheer to the monthly luncheon.



Treasurer's Talk

Submitted by Joyce Thompson

Greetings St. Michael & All Angels!

Below is a summary on the financial status of the parish. To date we have received \$156,348.50 in pledged contributions, \$31,852.00 in unpledged contributions, loose/open plate offering \$5,051.84 and other income \$54,890.00. Total pledge budgeted year to date is \$200,833.30. There is a difference of \$44,484.40 resulting from unpaid pledges.

The total expenses year to date are \$261,036.30. Our organ loan has a balance of \$45,177.94 .

On behalf of the Vestry I would like to thank you all for your continued support and urge you to prayerfully consider bringing your pledges up to date by December 31, 2010 .

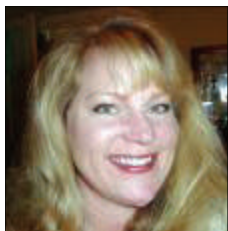
Please contact me if you have any questions at 678-615-7428.

Below is a summary of Revenues and Expenses as of the end of October 31, 2010:

Note: (-) the YTD is under budget (+) the YTD is over budget

Revenues	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	Differences
Pledge Contribution	\$156,348.50	\$200,833.30	-\$ 44,484.80
Unpledged Contributions	\$ 31,852.00	\$ 29,166.70	+\$ 2,685.30
Open Plate Offering	\$ 5,051.84	\$ 4,166.70	+\$ 885.14
Other Income	\$ 54,890.00	\$ 40,000.00	+\$ 14,890.00
Total Revenues	\$248,142.34	\$274,166.70	-\$26,024.00

Expenses	YTD Actual	YTD Budgeted	Differences
Total Expenses	\$261,036.30	\$252,208.80	- \$ 8,827.50
Income—Expenses	\$ 12,893.96	\$ 21,957.90	\$34,851.86



From the desk of Robin Miller, Financial Officer

All Thanksgiving offerings will go to the Appleton Family Ministries. For 140 years Appleton has been a diocesan ministry with a focus on children. Appleton Family Ministries was begun in Macon as a home for orphans of Confederate soldiers and changed with the times to become group homes serving various needs and an outdoor therapeutic center. It now operates as an after-school program for at-risk children and a mentoring program for their parents. AFM

has also provided funding for special projects by application.





ECW Happenings

Submitted by Bonny Collins
ECW Coordinator



The Episcopal Church Women resumed monthly meetings on Sunday, September 12th and enjoyed lunch and fellowship together. Victoria Schwartz led an interesting "hands on program" showing us a new way to observe miracles.

We all appreciated Victoria being willing to share her knowledge, time and talents with us especially since it was the first day of Sunday School after the summer break.

Following Victoria's Program, a lively and informative discussion was held regarding the Thrift Shop Ministry, which will be coming to an end when the shop closes at the end of October. The Episcopal Churchwomen have participated in this very active ministry, serving the local community both inside and outside of the parish, for over fifty years.

The Episcopal Church Women will sponsor a Fall Ingathering of food and necessary items for the Stone Mountain Ecumenical Co-operative Ministry (Co-op) on November 7th & 14th. Please keep the following suggested list of items in mind when you are grocery shopping for the co-op:

- Canned tuna/salmon
- Stuffing Mix
- Canned fruit/Fruit juices
- Jello/Pudding mix
- Soup
- Canned Green Vegetables
- Peanut butter and Jelly
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Boxed Noodles or Rice mixes
- Macaroni and cheese
- Pasta Sauces/Dry Pasta
- Dried Beans
- Tea/ Sugar/Splenda
- Small bags of Flour & Grits
- Small vegetable oil

- Toiletries, toilet paper & Kleenex
- Feminine products
- Dish/face Soap
- Liquid laundry detergent

The Co-op would like to bless families with a \$10.00 gift card for a small turkey or ham during the Holiday Season. If you are unable to grocery shop, please consider purchasing a gift card from Walmart or Kroger to be donated to the Co-op. Gift cards may be handed to Marty Frame (8:00 am service), Kathy Moyer or Bonny Collins (10:30 service) or brought to the church office in an envelope marked "Stone Mountain Co-op".

All the women of the church are invited to the Christmas Party scheduled for December 16th at 6:30 pm. The Annual ECW Christmas Party is going to be at the Kelley's Home located at 3606 Juhan Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Eileen Kelley's phone number is 770-469-3780. Maps are available in the Church Narthex or the Church Office. Please bring a tasty dish to share.





Weaving Our Gifts Conference

By Victoria Schwartz

In October, I attended the Weaving Our Gifts conference, a national conference for teachers in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This conference gives participants an opportunity to share with each other what they are doing in their parishes. About 90 participants from all over the country and from Catholic, Episcopal, other Protestant, and Orthodox churches gathered for workshops, prayer, and fellowship.

The theme for this ecumenical gathering was, appropriately, interdenominational and interfaith understanding. I attended a workshop for teacher trainers on working with a multi-denominational group, a workshop on Orthodox adaptations to the CGS lessons, and a workshop on how the upcoming changes in the Roman Catholic missal will affect CGS lessons.



I also attended more practical workshops, including music in the classroom and encouraging extended work in the 9-12 year students.

All work and no play makes a dull conference, so time was allotted for teachers to meet old friends and new. We also had the opportunity to get to know our new national director, Mary Marrione, who is full of energy and enthusiasm.

On the last evening, a Potluck Entertainment program allowed us to get to know each other even better. I was a jester for the program, encouraging the audience to laugh and clap and singing silly songs. What fun!

After the worship service on Sunday morning, we left to go back to our respective parishes, renewed and with new ideas. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to attend this wonderful conference.



Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

Returning to *Gospel Christmas* is the all-city **ASO Gospel Choir**, under the direction of the newly appointed Leroy Henderson, the Associate Music Director at Atlanta's Elizabeth Baptist Church. The original *Gospel Christmas* choir was started 15 years ago by Sallie B. Parrish, "Atlanta's First Lady of Gospel." Following her retirement, the ASO created its own Gospel Choir, comprised of some members of Ms. Parrish's choir and new members hand-picked from leading church choirs throughout metro Atlanta.

Vibeka Hodges has tickets available for the ASO gospel show on Friday, December 3rd at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00, second row center. Please contact her directly at Vibeka.b@att.net If you are interested.



Parish Family Shows Love & Care

By Olive R. Kitt Blake

What an awesome St. Michael experience.....it was a little over a month ago, June 15, 2010, that I suddenly lost my sister, Carmen Broomes, I was absolutely devastated. I received the news over the telephone and went into total shock.

I did not know what to do or where to go???? I did what seemed natural to me and that was to call my St. Michael church family, actually one member, Victoria Schwartz. She tried to comfort her distraught sister in Christ, then she contacted Rev. Beverly Elliott who was standing in for Rev. Paul Elliott, attending a conference in Connecticut. The single call initiated prayers from my church family for God's peace for my family

Beverly called me immediately, inquired as to what happened, how the family was holding up and made an appointment for that evening. Her heartfelt prayers and love for my family and friends overwhelmed with grief was stabling. Two days later on her second visit she brought over prayer books and we had a vigil service, exactly what I needed, and I actually felt God's comforting presence in the room as I prayed and sang hymns.

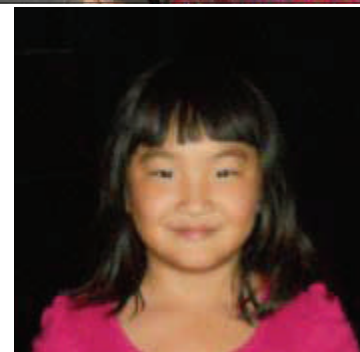
We all know Father Paul, our leader, is 100% committed to taking care of St Michael church family, upon his return he made several home visits and actually counseled my family and friends. He along with his staff, Lisa, Robin and our wonderful volunteers took care of **all** of the funeral arrangements, including service for the dead, set-up and printing, flowers for the memorial service and Mom's home, church family brought meals to our home, prepared, served and cleaned-up after a wonderful repast in Hensler Hall. We continue to receive continuous prayers, love and caring I am forever grateful.

To deepen my experience Father Paul wanted me to share my testimony so others will know when you become a part of St. Michael church family you will have an opportunity to see God and his presence in your life in an entirely new way. I did.

*Sincerely,
Olive R. Kitt Blake*

Go to www.stmichael.cc to view photo albums of events that take place at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church.

Music Event Photos





Emmaus House Christmas Project

Submitted by Marty Frame

St. Michaels is once again collecting presents for the children of Emmaus House. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we filled 2 cars with gifts. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to the parlor on Sunday, Dec. 5, 12, & 19, 2010. We will be delivering the gifts to Emmaus House after the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, Dec. 19. If you have any wrapping paper to donate, please leave it in the parlor as well. Our Youth will wrap and tag the gifts by age and sex. Gift suggestions are listed below. Please contact Marty Frame at 770/270-1027 if you have any questions.

"Your participation helps shine the light of hope into the lives of others."

Infants: Blankets, sleepers, diapers, wipes, baby lotion, powder, shampoo, drinking cups, educational toys and books. Clothing for 8 months and older and items that are easily washed.

Toddlers, 1 - 2 years:

Girls , culturally sensitive dolls, tea sets, hair ribbons, and purses. Boys , age-appropriate cars and trucks, soft footballs, and action figures. Boys or girls, musical & educational toys, stuffed animals, puzzles, games, back packs, art sets, building blocks, balls, crayons and coloring books, videos, and books.

Children, 3 - 5 years: Girls , culturally sensitive dolls, jewelry, purses, barrettes & hair accessories, dish/tea sets, jump ropes. Boys, Tonka trucks, car collections, and action figures. Boys or girls , sports

equipment, backpacks, sleeping bags, stuffed animals, art & craft and magic sets, chalk, books, educational toys.

Children, 6 - 8 years: Girls , culturally sensitive dolls, jewelry, purses, hair accessories, dish/tea sets, jump rope. Boys , trucks, car collections, and action figures. Boys or girls , Sports equipment,

backpacks, duffel bags, sleeping bags, stuffed animals, art & craft and magic sets, chalk, science books, educational toys and games, videos.

9 years – 12 years:

Girls , portable CD players with batteries, science sets, jewelry, arts & crafts supplies, slippers, sports equipment, stuffed animals, backpacks, board games, educational items, CDs, sleeping bags, books and videos, socks, gloves, scarves, and warm hats. Boys , portable CD players with batteries, sports equipment, science sets, watches, arts & crafts supplies, CDs, back packs, board games, educational items, books and videos, socks, gloves and hats.



13 years – 16 years

Girls , portable CD players with batteries, watches, jewelry, makeup kits, hair brush and comb sets, slippers, pajamas, perfume, purses, sports equipment, backpacks, books and videos, socks, gloves and warm hats. Boys , portable CD with batteries, sporting equipment, backpacks, board games, playing cards, cologne, shaving items, nail clippers, sunglasses, crew/sports socks, gloves and warm hats.

**Rite II in Spanish Services begin
Sunday, November 28 at 2:00 pm**



Bishop J. Neil Alexander's Address to 104th Annual Council

Grace to you and peace in Jesus Christ Our Lord!

It is with enormous affection and profound humility that I stand before you this afternoon to report to you on the progress of God's mission among us as I observe it from the vantage point of being the bishop of this great diocese. Rabbi Edwin Friedman once quipped that "a large part of being the head is to hold the eyes and to see things on behalf of the whole body." Surely a most imperfect metaphor for episcopal leadership, particularly as our church has received it, but it is a reminder to me, at least, that part of being the bishop is to see things from a vantage point that no one else shares, and to speak as clearly as possible to the church about what I am privileged to see. What I see, of course, is from only one point in the spectrum; mine is a narrowly conceived vantage point in some respects, and it comes with its own unique set of blinders. That's why it requires all of us – bishops, laypersons, presbyters, and deacons – to work God's mission together. That's why seeing is to be accompanied by listening, and why listening is to be accompanied by thoughtful speaking.

This afternoon I am going to frame my observations – what I see – on the basis of what I take to be the core teaching found in Chapter 5 of Saint Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. The core of Chapter 5 is perhaps Saint Paul's strongest exhortation on the ministry of reconciliation. And, as Saint Paul sees it, reconciliation is the primary vocation of those who walk by faith; and, the faith of which Saint Paul speaks is not simply the capacity to believe in the unseen, but more specifically to have faith in the transforming power of the resurrection of Jesus. Reconciliation is possible only because in the resurrection of Jesus a new world order comes into being that, in the spirit of last Sunday's gospel, means that we can love our enemies, we can do good to those who hate us, we can bless those who curse us, and we can pray for those who abuse us. I believe that Saint Paul's point – and it is certainly a theme that runs through the New Testament – is that reconciliation is impossible as long as your view of the matter is that peace and harmony – cheap reconciliation – is only a matter of being nice and getting along. The old way of seeing things, Saint Paul believes, simply cannot be sustained. Reconciliation comes only by way of a new vision of reality that comes only by faith in the reorientation of all things that is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

I want to reflect with you, then, on three short verses from Chapter 5 of Second Corinthians. The first is this: For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

I read these verses as one more relentless reminder that those of us who are in Christ are called to live a vocation of reconciliation based upon the paschal pattern of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The love of Christ that is urged upon us, is life, for us and for all, that springs forth from the death of Jesus so that, because he is raised, we are no longer captive to death, no longer bound by the old order, but are made free in Christ to live no longer for ourselves.

Why, friends, does this seem so important from my vantage point as your bishop? Think about what we have lived through in recent months, and here I don't mean the exigencies of the economy; we'll get to that. What breaks my heart is the fact that we're losing the battle against the powers and principalities when a bright, young Bobby Tillman, whose single mother seems to have done a fine job raising a good young man, finds himself, without provocation and through no fault of his own, getting kicked and stomped to death while something like 80 of our teenagers stood around and watched. We're losing the battle with the powers and principalities when 12-year-old Jehem Herrera and 13-year-old Seth Walsh choose to hang themselves after school one afternoon because they could no longer take the allegedly anti-gay bullying that was a constant terror in their young lives – both precious young teenagers who were probably a long, long way from figuring out their sexuality with any certainty. We're losing the battle with the powers and principalities when the teenage suicide rate for all causes among teenagers of all races and socio-economic positions is at an all-time high. We're losing the battle when the four-year graduation rate in Georgia high schools is estimated in one recent study to be as low as 56 percent.

The love of Christ urges us on so that we might no longer live for ourselves. There are no quick fixes to these problems; there is not a program or a new ministry that's going to instantly turn around the deep sickness that lies beneath these social ills. While I am sure that much of what we do makes a modest contribution toward ameliorating these problems, and I know that any faithful Episcopalian upon hearing such news will shake their head or shed a tear, dear friends, where is our outrage? Where is our passion? Where is our unrelenting desire for justice for all of our children? What is the visible evidence that we have, in fact, been urged on by the love of Christ to live no longer for ourselves?

The second verse of Saint Paul's teaching I want to highlight is this: All of these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and who gave us the ministry of reconciliation. In other words, God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, by not counting people's sins against them. He has trusted us with the ministry of reconciliation.



Saint Paul's point, I believe, is that God entrusts the ministry of reconciliation to the very ones whose sins are the premier model of separation from God, who because of the cross of Jesus and his resurrection have themselves received the divine gift of reconciliation. Having received that gift with humility and with joy, God assigns us sinners to be ministers of reconciliation in God's name, for the sake of our souls and for the life of the world.

By not counting my sins against me, God has made me a minister of reconciliation. There are so many arenas of my life to which this applies, but today I want to speak of only one, the sin of racism. There are other sins, of course – gender-based sexism, ageism, heterosexism, and classism – to name only a few, but it is racism and working toward its eradication, I believe, that cries out to be claimed as a new and renewed priority.

If God, in Christ, has made us ministers of reconciliation then we must be keenly aware of the sin of racism in all its forms: personal, relational, corporate, and institutional. We must be sensitive, especially those of us burdened by white privilege, to how easily we rationalize away the more difficult transactions of daily life when they involve persons of other races; and, how easy it is for persons of color to slip all-too-easily into their own stereotyping of each other and of the rest of us.

None of us is without sin, none, when it comes to matters dealing with race. I grew up in a fairly typical Southern family during the most difficult years of the civil rights movement. Many of the stories of those years that my children read about in school, I lived through, as did many of you. While my family was a "southern white family" in nearly every respect, looking back on it now, I do believe that my parents were measurably more aware of civil rights issues than most of our neighbors and much of our extended family. They were not radicals, for sure, hardly progressive, but they did make it possible for my brothers and me to discover that the world we inhabited was not a closed system for white people only, but that there were other folks in this world who were both different from me and very much like me and that we were all in this world together.

Context is everything. "Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight" reverberated in our souls a bit differently in 1964 than it does in 2010, but its truth is no less urgent today. I am grateful to my parents for helping me glimpse a different view of the world I was growing up in, even if it was, in the end, only a glimpse. But that glimpse, as grateful as I am for it, never saved me from the sin of racism. I did have black friends growing up, several of whom I loved deeply, but that did not erase from my heart the sin of racism. My parents were uncommonly kind and cared genuinely for our black nannies, and housekeepers, and gardeners, and lest you think I grew up in a family of means, we were at best in the lower half of the working middle class, but in those days the economic disparity between the races was such that even

working folks like my parents could afford domestic help without too much of a problem. It was a proud family moment for my brothers and me when my mother asked a black man to be among the pallbearers at my father's funeral, an action that outraged many of our parishioners, friends and neighbors and even some members of our family. But none of these things, as positively as I view them now, ever removed from me the blinders I had inherited that kept me from confronting my own racist sinfulness.

Not counting our sins against us, God has made us ministers of reconciliation. When I talk with people about racism, one of the first comments I get in response is this: "But we've come along way in the last 40, 50 or 60 years." Of course we have, and let us rejoice in every mile of the journey thus far. But, dear people, we're not home yet. We are a long way from the vision of the reign of Christ on this one; we have many miles of the stony path still to trod, still to walk, together.

Bishop Whitmore and I attended a meeting some months ago at which one of the reports we heard was an update on how dioceses across the church are working to sensitize our people to the continuing sin of racism in its many manifestations. And what we got to hear was that the Diocese of Atlanta is as far along in that work as any other diocese in our church and significantly deeper into that work than most others. But as good as that felt at one level, it was hard, at moments, to receive the accolades on your behalf because we knew that as far as we have come, we still have a long way to go. I am proud of the energy and commitment of our people. The Commission on Anti-Racism is providing good leadership for us, but they know as well as any of us that we have only just begun.

I beg your indulgence for a few sentences about a related topic: civility and public discourse. While I have never for one nano-second been embarrassed to be an American – I love my country, I must confess to you that I am mortified and distressed to the core by the lack of civility in our public discourse and behavior. So far as I can see, no one is without sin; neither side of the political divide, and all of the lesser variations, is innocent; all are guilty. Perhaps you saw the interview a couple of days before the recent election when a news reporter confronted a political candidate and questioned her about some of the "facts" she was touting about issues facing our country. And her response to the challenge was breathtaking: "This is my truth," she said. "I am not concerned with the facts." That response gave me a whole new appreciation of the edgy prophecy of former President Bush when he responded irritably to a reporter at a news conference, by saying, "You have a right to your own opinion, but you do not have a right to your own facts!"

The seeming ease with which we destroy each other's character, invent things about others, their lives, and make up stories about them and their positions they hold that



have no basis in fact or reality, and the total loss of anything that begins to look like kindness and charity toward one's opponents, makes for deeply troubling times through which to live. And let me hasten to say, that such problems are not in the public and political spheres alone; they are alive and well in the church.

In the last year alone, Bishop Whitmore, Canon Callaway and I, and those who work with us, have spent more time helping parishes, vestries, wardens, and clergy through conflict than in any other time of my episcopate. And while there are number of important variables, what is common to every single case is that the problem was either invented or made significantly worse by the lack of appropriate boundaries and civility in communication, especially on e-mail and social media by those engaged in leadership. Memos that should stay within the vestry get freely forwarded to everyone we think might be "on our side," including messages that are "accidentally forwarded" to folks who are then devastated by the contents. Such memos are often filled with rumors and unverified information, impressions rather than reality, opinions rather than fact; at times it appears as pure meanness. Then mix in a few responses from folks who have had a tension-filled day at work, and one too many glasses of wine by night, and they start firing off caustic and impatient responses to everyone on the list in reaction to what turns out never to have been the truth. But by this time, feelings are hurt, character is damaged, relationships are broken, truth is unrecoverable, and the possibility of reconciliation is next to zero. And most of what got said would never have passed the lips of civilized Christian people sitting face-to-face in a room together faithfully working out their differences.

When I was a young priest, the challenge was to have conversations at vestry meetings, not in the parking lot afterwards. Today the challenge is to have vestry meetings in each other's presence and not on the internet. (The parking lot would be an improvement!) Frankly, dear ones, the lack of civility and this disinterest in making sure we have our facts correct before pouncing on someone else, is not only rocking the foundations of our country, it's killing our parishes and in some measure it's destroying our church. Not counting your sins against you, God has entrusted to you the ministry of reconciliation.

Yet another word from Saint Paul: So we are ambassadors of Christ, because God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God! Saint Paul's appeal here is rather simple: those who have been reconciled to God in Christ, are, like Paul himself, to be ambassadors of Christ, entrusted with God's appeal to the world that all might be reconciled in Christ. That's a tall order, of course, and one that is easy to embrace, but oh so difficult to accomplish. But the call to being an ambassador for Christ is an irresistible one to those who know in their own lives the power of Christ and of his resurrection, that is, the only means toward

reconciliation.

The good news, dear ones, is that there is abundant evidence in the Diocese of Atlanta that we are seeking to be ministers of reconciliation and ambassadors of Christ engaged in the holy vocation of reconciling the world to each other and with God. Allow me one brief reflection.

While reconciliation is a matter of the heart, the ministry of reconciliation is often a matter of money. That's true simply because dollars mean ministry. And we all know that for much of the last two-and-half years, money has been tight for all of us: personally, in our workplaces, in our homes, and certainly in the church. We have among us those who have lost their jobs or had their incomes significantly reduced. We have among us those who are on fixed incomes and the resources that generate those incomes, however small or great, have moved down and up with an erratic market. Our endowments, often the source of outreach and mission funds beyond our operating budgets, have suffered severe losses during this time.

But, dear friends, it is not all bad news! From the smallest of our parishes to our largest, we have creatively figured out how to do more with less. We have redefined what is essential and kept our resources and our spirits moving toward the greatest needs. Several of our parishes have added feeding programs for the needy during these times – Covington and Morrow, to mention only two – and the parishes of the Macon Convocation have been working together to re-envision a powerful new coalition for shared outreach and social justice ministry to those in need in their region of the diocese. And there are many other such stories all across our territory.

At the diocesan level, with a flat budget for the last two years and a significantly reduced budget anticipated for 2011, we've been able to see a way to deploy a part-time urban evangelist to minister to the day laborers at various sites around metro Atlanta. We've begun the work of organizing a new Hispanic congregation on the west side of the diocese and have started the consultation for additional Hispanic work in the northeast. It became clear that we needed a homeless ministry-street immersion as a component of the discernment process. With a little creativity on the part of the staff and support from the Church of the Common Ground, we got it done. These are but of few of the tales to be told. Every Monday morning when Bishop Whitmore and I sit together and talk about our weekend activities, we are often sharing stories of the faithfulness of our people and their parishes to keep ministry moving forward even in these economically challenging times.

Against this backdrop, it is important to say that in spite of the challenges our people have been enormously generous. I have been deeply moved by the stories I've been told, sometimes by the clergy, sometimes by the people themselves, of what they have sacrificed in order



to continue their faithfulness to the church's mission. There's one particular story I want to share with you.

One Sunday, just after the first of the year, I was visiting a parish south of Atlanta. During the reception after the last service a wonderful gentleman that I remembered well from his days on the vestry asked if he could speak to me privately. We arranged to meet a few minutes later in a space more private than the parish hall, and when I got there he was waiting for me alongside his wife. They simply wanted to tell me how much they loved their parish and how difficult it had been for them when he lost his job in the financial industry. But they also wanted me to know the deep joy they had discovered when they figured out that since their kids were grown, educated, and on their own, with a little sacrifice they could make ends meet on his wife's salary as a teacher. The only thing they could not afford was to keep up their pledge to the parish. For a few months, he filled his days with job applications, interviews, and whatever else he could do to secure employment. But looking for a job did not pay well, so he continued to spend a portion of every day on the job hunt, while soon finding a part-time job at little more than minimum wage stocking shelves in a warehouse store nearby. After a couple of weeks he received his first paycheck and after taxes it was almost exactly the amount he and his wife had pledged to the church before he lost his job. When he brought the money home, it was clear to them that his part-time job was going to be the way they continued their support of the church because keeping that commitment was important to them. "Our parish means everything to us," they told me. I am pleased to say that, in the meantime, he has found new work in his profession and life is getting back to normal.

Many of the stories we have heard are not that dramatic, but are nonetheless the stories of real people who care deeply for their church and its ministry and have made powerful sacrifices during hard times. Once again the people of God have demonstrated that if you give them half a chance they will come through every time. Such stories are about people whose lives have been transformed by the reconciling power of Christ, people who have not only heard the call of God to be reconcilers, but who put their time, their passions, and their resources on the line in response to the reconciling love of Christ they have known in their own lives.

For those of you who have been to Annual Council before, you have no doubt figured out that this is a different sort of episcopal address than the standard fare you have come to expect from me. As Saint Paul says in verse 13, If I am crazy, it is for God's sake. If I am rational, it is for your sake. Whether this particular oration was crazy or rational, I don't know. I suspect there are all sorts of reasons for me to be stuck between the crazy and rational these days, some of which you might guess, others

of which I don't suspect even I am aware of. But what I can tell you is that for some time now, I keep finding myself wallowing around in Chapter 5 of Second Corinthians because it contains the apostolic declaration that I need most clearly to embrace these days in my own life. Stuck here in the middle of Saint Paul's teaching, on the ministry of reconciliation that flows from the cross and resurrection of Jesus, is that apostolic word on which many a heart clings for dear life: So then, if anyone is in Christ, that person is part of God's new creation. The old things have gone away, and lookout, new things have arrived!

Is there any better news than that? Is there another promise more life-giving? Is there other encouragement elsewhere that even begins to compare with it? Is there another word that overflows with any more generosity and grace? I don't think so.

Being in Christ. Being ministers of reconciliation. Being a part of God's new creation. Friends, this is God drawing the world in closer. This is God making manifest through us the power of resurrection. This is God – deep in our hearts and relentlessly on our lips – reminding the world that because Christ lives, the way things have always been need not be the way they always will be!

To God alone be the glory!

The Right Reverend J. Neil Alexander, ThD, DD
Bishop of Atlanta
November 12, 2010



Something told Pastor Mike that this year's stewardship drive would be more difficult than usual.



THE NEXT VESTRY MEETING will be the Retreat in January with the 2011 Vestry members.

Gifts of Stock- Updated Information!

We gladly accept gifts of stock as a means to fulfill your pledge obligation.

To transfer stock certificates to the Parish:

Transfer to:

Account Name: St Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

Account Number: 89263685

DTC Number: 0141 sub-firm 072

Via mail, stock certificates can be sent certified to:

Attn: Rob Pippenger

First Clearing LLC

6111 Shallowford Rd

Suite 103

Chattanooga, TN 37421



PARISH PROVIDERS

The Coordinator for the Parish Provider Ministry for the month of December is VACANT.

If you would like to volunteer to be a part of this ministry, you can contact Lisa King, Parish Administrator. Please call the church office (770-460-8551 x3#) if you are able to help. The Parish Providers is a ministry at St. Michael's & All Angels which provides meals to those in the parish community who need a bit of relief, whether recovering from surgery, childbirth, illness, a death in the family or feeling overwhelmed with life. The Parish Providers is an "in-reach" ministry where we minister to each other. We need additional monthly coordinators as well as volunteers to provide meals.

If you have a need or would like to volunteer, please call the church office 770-469-8551 x3# or inform Father Paul Elliott.

Parish Register

In: 13

Denise & Stephen Woodall

Deng Mayen Mach

Jacob Kuol Alter

E,manuel Solomon & Naomi Knoh

Solomon Majok Duang

Deng Riak

Bernard & Veronica Ossom-Boafo

Adah Douglas-Cheatham

Paul & Carol Stephens

Out: 3

Gwen & Chuck Seeliger

Merrill & Bill Coker

Linda Thompson

Deceased: 2

Holliday Gordon

Daphne Levy



Vestry Matters

Submitted by Bonny Collins, Clerk



Thompson, Treasurer, and Bonny Collins, Clerk of Vestry.

The Sr. Warden reported that the Executive Committee met on November 20, 2010 and discussed the cash flow needs for the remaining months of 2010; the results of the Stewardship Campaign to date and a draft of the preliminary budget for 2010. Several motions were recommended for vestry's consideration. A discussion followed and the following two motions were presented and approved by vestry (1) that \$10,000 be moved from reserves to the general fund to cover the shortfall of funds for 2010 budgeted expenses, caused by unpaid pledges and (2) that funds up to the amount of the current balance in the unrestricted repair fund, be used to cover the unexpected and unbudgeted expense for the electrical repairs made in the Sanctuary.

Your vestry met on November 21, 2010. Present were Fr. Paul Elliott, Mark Boggs, Sr. Warden, Dawn Charles, William G e o r g e , Meghan Birdseye, Joyce

The Sr. Warden reported that an additional sixteen pledge cards were received today, bringing the total to sixty-six cards with a total amount pledged at \$158,884. The second stewardship letter was mailed last week, and Mark will conduct telephone calls on November 27th to the remaining parishioners who are pledging in 2010, but have not turned in commitment cards for 2011.

Vestry reviewed a preliminary draft of a proposed budget for 2011. The figures are tentative; the new pledges will be figured in, expenses adjusted, and an amended spreadsheet will be circulated for consideration by vestry.

The Executive Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 28 and vestry will meet on Monday, November 29th, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 5th is a tentative date for a Town Hall Meeting to be held between the two services, if applicable.

Sunday, December 12, the Annual Meeting will be held with reports from all committees and the election of three new vestry members.

Lisa King will host the December 17th Vestry & Staff Christmas Party at her home. Mark suggested that vestry members chip in to share the costs of the party.



Members of the Daughters of the King enjoyed a retreat in North Carolina. The Rev. Bev Elliott was the worship leader. l-r Mary Speights, Lisa King, Anita Adams, Adah Douglas-Cheatham, Kay Conoley, Thelma Francis, Bev Elliott, Joyce Thompson, Elizabeth Millington and Bonny Collins.



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Christian Century November 16, 2010

Lectionary for December 2010

November 28

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

December 5

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7,18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:4-9

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Romans 1:18-25

Matthew 1:18-25

December 26

First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 147

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

Revised Common Lectionary, Year A

Birthdays for November Carol Winkler (1), Rolston Osborne (1), Justus King (1), Archimore Fredericks (2), Percival Jupiter, (2), Maya Gelting (3), Robin Miller (5), Marvis Black (6), Roy Dyer (8), John Stalcup (9), Adelia Bovell-Benjamin (13), Honey Van De Kreke (13), Arthur Sutton (17), Danue Grimes (18), Deng Riak (19), Toni Johnson (20), Carla Schwartz (22), Lisa King (24), Mary Ann Fair (25), Dot Hagosky (27), Chijioke Ebbis (27), Kristine Hart (28), Eileen Kelley (29), Josephine Njoku (29), Mark Boggs (29), Pat Mielke (30).

Bbirthdays for December: Warabek Thuc (1), Heather Greene (3), Thelma McGhie (4), Gerry Fogel (4), Donna Fogel (6), Kevin King (9), Arok Thuc (9), Walter Vitrano (10), Lynne Warthan (10), Kyle Hart (12), Jo Valentine (13), Isabella Duphorn (13), Inez Carnegie (14), Sue Gelting (16), Veronica Ossom-Boafo (16), Liselle Bovell (17), Fran Moyer (18), Marjorie McNamee (18), Hazel McIntyre (19), Monnie Daughtrey (21), Cameron Taylor (27), Bev Elliott (29), Christian Abbate (29).

Night Watch Service January 31, 2010 at 11:00 pm in the Sanctuary of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church.



For prayer requests please call the church office 770-469-8551 x1# or email admin@stmichael.cc.

Pray for the healing of: Joe Anduze, friend of Jim & Bobbie Unger; Baby J, grandson of Tammy & Michael Randles; Madge Barnett, mother of Dianne Diaz; Frederick Parker, friend of Joyce Sirju; Marilyn Clifton Martin, friend of Heather Dickenson; McNish Jeffers, brother of Heather Dickenson; Don Carnegie, son of Inez Carnegie; Ansley Arnette, granddaughter of Terri & Dozier Griffith; Evelyn, friend of Faye Gardner; Joe Livingston, brother of Faye Gardner; Alfred Real, neighbor of Kathy & Fran Moyer; Jo Ann Myers, daughter of Faye Garner; Chris Adu, friend of Heather Dickenson; Tommy Holzman and Becky Gallagher, friends of Mary Ann Fair; Tammy & Michael Randles; Margaret, sister-in-law of Phoebe Clay; Ralph Collins, husband of Stephanie Kit-Collins; Hazel Success; Brent Karasick, friend of Shirley Edwards; Beth Kroger, Bob Crawford, friend of Vibeke Booterbaugh; Henry Lee Cole family of Lyndsey Bland-Gunn; Alberta Parish; Lena King; Harry Smith, father of Eileen Kelley; Carla Carrier, friend of Meghan Birdseye; Ida Thompson, Edward Smith and Patricia Henderson; Carter, grandson of Anita Adams; Aimee Adams, daughter of Anita Adams; Charles & Faye Gardner; Bertie Clarke; Sharon Dennis; Gladys Wright, mother of Tammy Randles; Robbie Hodges, nephew of Vibeke Booterbaugh; Ed White; Vaughn Grant, son of Elaine Primus; Buck & Betsy Cole, brother & sister-in-law of Cary Happe; Monnie Daughtrey; Earl Hunt; Charmain Coke, aunt of Hyacinth Edwards; Virgie Hams, mother of Kathryn Harris; Henry Roark, the baby of a friend of Vibeke Booterbaugh; Esther Brunner, mother of Meghan Birdseye, Chijioke Njoku, son of Godwin Njoku; Becky Gallagher and Tommy Holzman, family friends of Mary Ann & Ed Fair; Bev & Paul Miller; Mary Howell; Toni & Arthur Johnson; Louise and Archimore Fredericks and their family; Joyce Thompson. Nigel & Sarah Myers, son and daughter-in-law of Joyce Thompson.

Pray for our Vestry: Father Paul Elliott (chairperson), Mark Boggs, (Senior Warden), Arlington Success (Junior Warden), Dawn Charles,

SAVE THE DATE!

November

- 25** Thanksgiving Day Service & Feast 10:30 am
- 28** First Sunday of Advent
- 30** Education for Ministry, 7:00 pm

December

- 1** Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am
- 5** Second Sunday of Advent
- Town Hall Meeting, 9:15 am
- 8** Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm
- 12** Third Sunday of Advent
- Annual Meeting, 12:30 pm
- 14** Education for Ministry, 7:00 pm
- Toastmasters, 7:00 pm
- 15** Women's Bible Study, 10:00 am
- Senior's Ministry Program & Luncheon, 11:30 am
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm
- 16** ECW Christmas Party, 6:30 pm
- 17** Staff & Vestry Christmas Party, 7:00 pm
- 19** Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Delivery of gifts to Emmaus House
- 21** Education for Ministry, 7:00 pm
- 22** Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm
- 24** Christmas Eve Services, 4:30 & 10:00 pm
- 25** Christmas Day Service, 10:30 am
- 26** First Sunday After Christmas
- 28** Toastmasters, 7:00 pm
- 31** Night Watch Service, 11:00 pm

Leticia R. Cuenca, Meghan Birdseye, William George, Joyce Thompson(Treasurer), Bonny Collins (Clerk)

Pray for wisdom and guidance: Chinasa Njoku, daughter of Godwin Njoku as she prepares to take her final exam for Ph.D. in International Business; Jonathan Tennant, son of Joyce Sirju, Sherry Parker, friend of Joyce Sirju; Joyce Sirju; Dionple & Kathleen Robinson.

Prayer for employment: Mary Robinson; Davin Penn, son of Mary Robinson.

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

6740 James B. Rivers Dr.,
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
(Phone) 770-469-8551 • (Fax) 770-413-7022
(Email) admin@stmichael.cc
(Website) www.stmichael.cc

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The Herald

The Herald is a publication of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Communications Committee. Please keep us informed. Submissions are welcomed! The deadline for submissions is the third Friday of each month. Articles may be either dropped off to the church office or emailed directly to: **admin@stmichael.cc**. Thank you!

For pastoral care call 404-668-4655.
To view the Herald in color go to www.stmichael.cc



On September 24, 1950, 15 men, women, and children met in a home on Hambrick Road midway between Stone Mountain and Clarkston. Their purpose was to establish an Episcopal mission to serve the area between Decatur and Covington. The following Sunday evening, on the feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, 24 people attended a first service. Now, 60 years after its founding, **St. Michael and All Angels** counts over 250 households with more than 500 baptized members in its diverse congregation.

Regular Weekly Worship:

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15 a.m. Christian Education
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
and Healing Service

