

St . michael 's

Messenger

December, 2007

Our Purpose

*To bring the light, love and joy of
Jesus Christ into this world – by living the written
word, sharing the living word, and loving without
exception.*

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

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The Right Rev. J. Michael Garrison, Bishop

The Rev. Charles Wheeler, Rector
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Office Hours:

Karen Sundin, Secretary & Editor
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8 am – Noon

Vestry:

Ed Gorczyca, Sr. Warden; Carol Weekley, Jr. Warden;

Addie Broome; Sharon Schlossin; John Neubert; Dave Noonan;
Jack Bidell; and Mike Ham
Sarah DiLiberto, Clerk

December

Birthdays

6th Bruce Von Hasseln
7th Bob Gardinier
16th Molly Allen
18th Evelyn Heigl
27th Don Szen
31th The Rev. Charles Wheeler



Anniversaries

30th Shirley & Chuck Gardinier
31th Addie & Jerry Broome
31th Cynthia & The Rev. Joseph Dedde

Thanks from the Women's Guild

Many thanks and blessings for all the warm hearts of St. Michael's. It made our "Mitten Tree" a wonderful joy.

Thanks,
Marion Wohlford and Olive Beutler

Thank you to everyone who filled shoe boxes with gifts and made donations to "Operation Christmas Child." The shoe boxes will be distributed by Samaritan's Purse to children around the world. We here at St. Michael's contributed 37 gift-filled boxes that will bring happiness to boys and girls who otherwise wouldn't receive any presents. The children also receive Christian literature introducing them and their families to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thanks
Shirley Szen

DECEMBER EVENTS

Sunday, Dec 2nd – Advent 1 (Services at 8:00 & 10:30 am)

Wednesday, Dec 5th – Quiet Day from 9:30 – 11:30 am
Guest Speaker: The Rev. Abuid Sam. A lunch to follow.

Sunday, Dec 9th – Advent 2 (Services at 8:00 & 10:30 am)

Tuesday, Dec 11th – Vestry Meeting

**Wednesday, Dec 12th – Women's Guild Annual
Christmas Luncheon, 12:00 noon sharp**
Lois Conliffe has tickets.

Sunday, Dec 16th – Advent 3 (Services at 8:00 & 10:30 am)

Saturday, Dec 22nd – Greening of the Church, 9:00 am
Saturday, Dec 22nd – Altar Guild Meeting – 9:30 am

Sunday, Dec 23rd – Advent 4 (Services at 8:00 & 10:30 am)

Monday, Dec 24th – Christmas Eve Service – 5:30 pm
This will be a family-friendly service.

Tuesday, Dec 25th – Christmas Day Service – 9:00 am

Sunday, Dec 30th – Lessons and Carols – 9:30 am
This will be a combined service.*

*Starting in December, 2007 the 5th (fifth) Sunday of the month will be a combined service at 9:30 am.



Plants

Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat. But many plants can cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.

Food and Cooking

The holidays often mean preparing large meals for family and friends. Wash hands, utensils, sink, and anything else that has come in contact with raw poultry. Keep in mind that a stuffed bird takes longer to cook. Refrigerate or freeze leftovers in covered shallow containers (less than two inches deep) within two hours after cooking. Date the leftovers for future use.

Stress

The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year. You can't avoid stress completely, but you can give yourself some relief. Allow enough time to shop rather than hurry through stores and parking lots. When shopping, make several trips out to the car to drop off packages rather than trying to carry too many items. Take time out for yourself. Relax, read, or enjoy your favorite hobby at your own pace.

Facts you can live without!

The Liturgical Colors:

This year Advent 1 is December 2nd and we begin the Church Year A. For many years the Altar hangings and Vestments were **purple**.

Purple can symbolize pain, suffering, and therefore mourning and penitence. It is the liturgical color for the Season of Lent. It is also the color of royalty, so, traditionally, has also been used for Advent, and is still used in (Roman) Catholic churches. However, Blue is replacing purple for Advent in many Protestant churches.

Even the church has made some changes and now uses **Blue** and **Rose** (sometimes) to signify the season of Advent.

Blue symbolizes the sky or heaven, where heralds proclaimed Jesus' birth. In some traditions, it symbolizes Mary, who is known as "the Queen of Heaven." It can also symbolize the waters of Genesis 1, the beginning of a new creation. It is increasingly used for Advent in Protestant churches to distinguish it from Lent.

Rose also is used to symbolize joy and happiness, and is an alternate color for the Third or Fourth Sunday of Advent.

So now you know why you will see Purple, Blue, and /or Rose during Advent!

Now I would like to leave you with this prayer by Robert Louie Stevenson.

Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the Angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the Wise Men. Close the door of hate, and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Merry Christmas and All God's Blessings!

What would December be without sweets?

Gingerbread

Eleanor Foster, St. Clements

½ cup shortening
½ cup molasses
1 ½ cup flour
1 tsp soda
½ tsp ginger
1 egg

½ cup brown sugar
½ cup boiling water
½ tsp salt
½ tsp cinnamon
½ tsp allspice

Beat sugar and shortening; add egg. Dissolve soda in boiling water; add flour, sifted with spices and molasses. Bake at 350 deg for 20 minutes or more. 6 ½ x 10 ½ inch pan. Batter will be thin.

Nut Bread

Mrs. Vinnie Dooellte, St. James

1 cup sugar, scant
½ cup butter
2 eggs, beaten lightly
2 cups sweet milk

1 cup walnuts, chop coarsely
4 ½ cups flour
2 Tbsp baking powder
¼ tsp salt

Put in tins and let rise 20 minutes. Bake in 2 loaves about 1 hour.

Christmas Cake

Lois Conliffe, St Michael's

1 cup Thanks to God
3 cups forgiveness
2 ups sacrifice for others

1 cup good thoughts
1 cup kind deeds
3 cups well beaten thoughts
(compassion)

Mix thoroughly, add tears of joy, sorrow and sympathy for others. Flavor with little gifts of love and kindly service. Fold in 4 cups prayer and faith to lighten other ingredients and combine to texture of great heights of Christian living. Bake well at high degree of human kindness and serve with a warm smile.

HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY

Fireplaces

You should not try to burn evergreens or wreaths in the fireplace or in a wood stove to dispose of them. They are likely to flare out of control and send flames and smoke into the room. Also, do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace because it often contains metallic materials which can be toxic if burned.

Candles

Never use lighted candles near trees, boughs, curtains/drapes, or with any potentially flammable item.

Toys and Gifts

Be especially careful when you choose toys for infants or small children. Be sure anything you give them is too big to get caught in the throat, nose or ears. Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off. If you are giving toys to several children in one family, consider their age differences and the chances that younger children will want to play with older kids' toys.

Older adults

Select gifts for older adults that are not heavy or awkward to handle. For persons with arthritis, make sure the gift does not require assembly and can be easily opened and closed. Choose books with large type for anyone with vision impairment.