

St . michael 's

Messenger

December, 2008



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**

**81 Burke Drive, Buffalo, New York 14215-1305
Phone 836-0220**

E-mail: st.michaelschurch@verizon.net
Website: www.st-michaels-buffalo.org

The Right Rev. J. Michael Garrison, Bishop

The Rev. Charles Wheeler, Rector
Home #832-3047

E-mail: frcwheeler@verizon.net

Rector's office hours: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
9 am to noon or by appointment

The Rev. Shirley Trail, Deacon
Home #892-1563

Linda Seitz, Music Minister
Home #693-2037

Office Hours:

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

Vestry:

Carol Weekley, Sr. Warden; and Mike Ham, Jr. Warden

Sharon Schlossin; John Neubert; Dave Noonan; Jack Bidell;
Bob Weekley and Bruce Von Hasseln
Sarah DiLiberto, Clerk

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

December

Happy Birthday to:

6th Bruce VonHasseln
7th Bob Gardinier
16th Molly Allen
18th Evelyn Heigl
27th Don Szen



Happy Anniversary to:

30th Shirley & Chuck Gardinier
31st Addie & Jerry Broome
31st Cynthia & Father Dedde

Special Service

On Saturday, December 20th, at noon, there will be a Eucharist service honoring Ft. Wheeler on his retirement from the parish. After that there will be a Social Hour with food and beverages, and at 2 pm there will be a dinner. The dinner menu will consist of the following:

Beef Tenderloin or Chicken Florentine
Pasta with Alfredo Sauce
Fresh steamed vegetables
Salad
Dessert - Apple Crisp w/ice cream
Coffee, tea or milk.

Tickets are available from the Vestry members and you need to purchase them before the event. Seating is limited. Beef is \$18 and the Chicken is \$16. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We are looking for all the members of the congregation to attend this grand social event to wish Fr Wheeler and Terri the best in the coming years.

Holiday Shopping

Please don't forget to put Canaan House's needs on your list. Donations are always needed and welcomed.

Also keep the local Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens in mind – when you can buy one – get one free!

JOY TO THE WORLD

I remember it so well, that cold gray day in December, far from home. Accompanied by my priest and some 30 other clergy, I arrived at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Nazareth. As we entered that church our anticipation grew. We were at the place of the birth of our Lord! Following our guide we descended to the site of the manger. The feeling was indescribable: overwhelming really. We were in silence, in awe of the place and the moment. The reality of that birth so many years ago hit home and we left the church changed forever,

As we have gathered to “green” the church here at St. Michaels, my mind has returned to that day. On Christmas Eve we fill the manger with figures of the holy family and dedicate it as our offering to God. I pray that this and other Christmas services will bring you joy and prove to be in some way life changing.

As you prepare to properly celebrate the Christmas season, may I offer a few suggestions. Remember the true meaning of the season. Don't surrender to the commercialism and “holiday hype” of the secular world. Enter into the Advent season. Let it prepare you for a Christmas full of joy and peace. If you are able, attend the services of the church. Let the hymns, carols, decorations and scriptures strengthen and encourage your faith.

It has been such a joy for me personally to share the past several Christmas with you. Terri and I look forward to once again worshiping and celebrating with our St. Michaels family. May the Joy of Jesus be yours this year and in all your years to come.

Peace

Fr. Chuck Wheeler sharing this one as well.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 3rd: Quiet Day beginning at 9:30 am. Light lunch will follow at 12:00 noon.

Sunday, December 7th: Advent 2 – Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am service.

Tuesday, December 9th: Vestry Meeting at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 10th: Women's Guild Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Italian Village at 12:00 noon. Sign-up sheet in the Narthex or see Virginia Bradley. Choice of Chicken Cordon Bleu, Manicotti (\$13.00) or Prime Rib (\$15.00)

Sunday, December 14th: Advent 3 – Holy Eucharist with Healing, 9:30 am.

Sunday, December 14th: Worship Committee meeting following the service.

Saturday, December 20th: Special Service to honor Father Wheeler at 12:00 noon, social hour to follow with luncheon at 2:00 pm.

Sunday, December 21st: Advent 4 – Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am Greening of the Church following the service.

Wednesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve service, 5:30 pm

Thursday, December 25th: Christmas Day service, 9:30 am. The church office will be closed Dec 25th and 26th.

Sunday, December 28th: Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist, 9:30 am

NEWS FROM THE VESTRY

During this time of transition, the Vestry has several concerns and responsibilities to the congregation of St. Michael & All Angels. We need to maintain the membership of the congregation and we are continually trying to encourage parishioners to assist us by bringing other family members and friends to church with them.

Another item is to inform the congregation about the financial health of our church. These economic times are very trying for us all, personally, business wise and for the church as well. You will be given a snapshot of the finances each month by the Vestry to keep you apprised of our situation. If you have other questions, please feel free to ask us. For the month of October, we had income thru pledges of \$5652 and our expenses were \$6655.54.

Once again, this information will be given to you monthly in the newsletter and we are looking forward to your assistance in participating with different committees, attending service regularly, and maintaining the parish building and grounds. We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and look forward to seeing everyone at the fifth Sunday brunch on November 30th after the service.

Thank you,
Michael Ham
Jr. Warden

Also, a note from the Editor and Secretary: I will be staying on as both secretary and newsletter editor for as long as the Vestry and congregation wants and needs me.