

# St. Michael's Messenger

January 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  
Home #832-3047

Email: [frcwheeler@aol.com](mailto:frcwheeler@aol.com)

The Rev. Shirley Trail, Deacon  
Cell #604-4379

Linda Seitz, Music Minister  
Home #693-2037

Office Hours:  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday  
8 am – Noon

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5<sup>th</sup> Linda Seitz  
9<sup>th</sup> Norma Crump  
22<sup>nd</sup> John David Bidell  
25<sup>th</sup> Gladys Meacham  
27<sup>th</sup> Norma Fox  
29<sup>th</sup> Sonya Gardinier



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

10<sup>th</sup> David and Mary Noonan

**CONGRADULATIONS TO ALL!**

## 2007 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2007

9 AM Worship Service and the meeting to follow

**Refreshments will be served**  
(more details later)

2007 Vestry to be voted on:

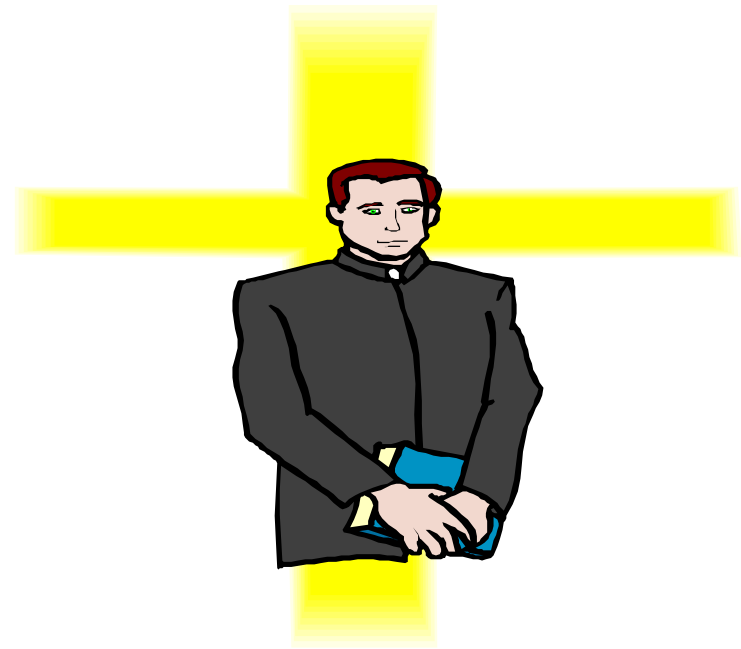
Sr. Warden: Ed Gorczyca

Jr. Warden: Carol Weekley

Addie Broome  
John Neubert  
Mike Ham (new)  
Larry Schlossin (new)  
Jack Bidell (new)  
Dave Noonan

Please plan to attend; this is one of the times in the year when you have an opportunity to join with your fellow parishioners and vote for your spokesperson regarding finances and the future of this parish.

## Reflections from the Rector



*O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for the Epiphany)*

On January 7<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Epiphany Sunday, the season on our liturgical calendar which follows Advent and Christmas. Epiphany is a transliteration of a Greek word meaning “disclosure or unveiling.” In the history of the Christian church, it has been used to refer to various occasions on which our incarnate Lord has been revealed to various groups of men at his birth, his baptism, and various aspects of his early

ministry. During this season we are repeatedly reminded that, at this time in history, God chose to reveal Himself in flesh. John's Gospel proclaims that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (John 1:14)

Christmas was a joyful time at St. Michael's. We were blessed by an Advent Quiet Day led by Fr. Dedde. Several hardworking people turned out to decorate the church for Christmas. The stair treads have been installed and look beautiful. Our Christmas Eve service was well attended. We enjoyed the visitation of "Bishop Nicholas." A real sense of family and celebration prevailed that evening.

January promises to be a busy month as well.

- Our annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a 9 am service followed by the meeting.
- A concert featuring the Fredonia United Methodist Praise Group is being planned.
- Our Deacon Shirley Trail is teaching a course on the Old Testament on Saturday mornings.

It is my hope and prayer that you will enjoy a good and prosperous New Year. May God's richest blessings be yours in Christ Jesus!

Faithfully,  
Fr. Chuck Wheeler

St. Michael and All Angels Church  
to host the

BISHOP BRENT SCHOOL  
OF MINISTRY

**INTRODUCTION  
TO THE  
OLD TESTAMENT**

Beginning Saturday January 13, 2007 thru March 3, 2007  
9 am to 11 am

Instructor: The Rev. Deacon Shirley Trail

Course to include:

**Overview of Hebrew Scripture**  
(Dialogue: World-God-Humans)

**The Exodus**  
(Mark of Freedom & Identity)

**The Beginnings**  
(Myths, legends & sagas)

**The Davidic Empire**  
(The "Formal" History)

**The Prophets**  
(The Critique: Impatience with Injustice)

**The Spiritual Dimension**  
(Reflection, Worship, Inner Journey & Spiritual Witness)

Registration Fee \$45.00

For my information or registration form, please contact the church office  
or Deacon Shirley

Thank you's from 2006

### **Operation Christmas Child**

Thank you to everyone who filled shoe boxes with gifts and made donations to "Operation Christmas Child." The shoe boxes were distributed by Samaritan's Purse to children around the world. We here at St. Michael's contributed 26 gift-filled boxes what 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.

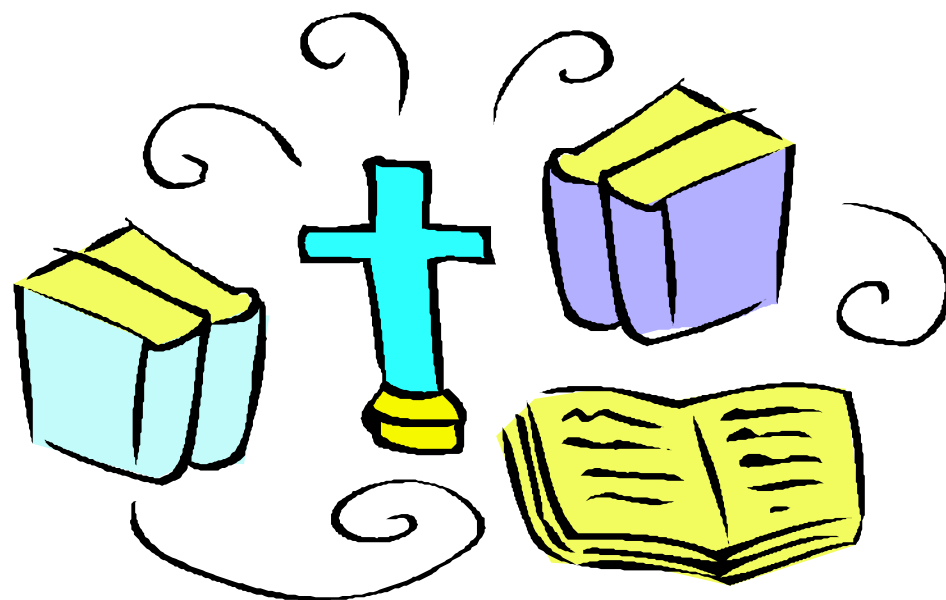
### **Women's Guild Annual Christmas Luncheon**

The Women's Guild graciously invited me to join in the festivities and I really enjoyed myself. The food was wonderful but the cookies were extra special (made by Virginia Bradley). If you weren't able to attend this year, I highly recommend you try to make it next year.

Thank you to the Guild for including me in your celebration.  
Karen Sundin.

### **New Altar Linens have been purchased thru the generosity of:**

Eve David in memory of her husband, Chuck  
Joan & Brian Webster in memory of Evelyn McCrory  
Lois Conliffe  
The Bidell Families  
Virginia Bradley  
St. Michael's Altar Guild



# Church Library

Looking for something to read during these cold winter months? The Church has a wide selection of Reader's Digest books residing in the undercroft. Please feel free to help yourself. There is something for everyone available. Also for your listening pleasure there are CD's available.

**Enjoy!**



## **The Parable of the Spoons**

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, “Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.”

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew which smelled delicious and made the holy man’s mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly.

They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms; each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful, but because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, “You have seen Hell.”

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man’s mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The holy man said, “I don’t understand.”

“It is simple,” said the Lord, “it requires but one skill...You see, they have learned to feed each other...While the greedy think only of themselves. A friend is someone who reaches for your hand, and touches your heart.

“People say true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don’t need to hold hands because they know the other hand will always be there....”

Thank you for your friendship in my life.

