

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your prayers, cards, gifts and visits. You have all been so generous to both Chuck and myself. Please know you are all in my prayers also. *Chris Wheeler*

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH HOME**

Too cold for a yard sale and don't know what to do with all the trash and treasure from your fall house cleaning? Why not donate these items to the Episcopal Church Home Thrift Shop. Proceeds to enhance the lives of the residents. Items may be left at our Gift Shop. Thank you. *Georgia Peden*

**WOMEN'S GUILD CHRISTMAS LUNCH** at The Italian Village Restaurant, Dec. 7, 2005 at Noon. You have your choice of: Manicotti - Chicken Marsala - Prime Rib. Tickets are available from Lois Conliffe or the Gift Shop. Sign up now for our usual good time.

**"WARM UP FOR WINTER" THEME BASKET!** Tickets are on sale now at the Gift Shop for this basket at \$.50 for 1 or \$1.00 for 3. Support the Women's Guild and their out reach programs by purchasing tickets. The drawing to be held December 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **HURRICANE & EARTHQUAKE**

**RELIEF:** Gifts may be mailed to: Episcopal Relief and Development, c/o US Hurricane Fund, PO Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101; or The US Hurricane Fund by credit card at <http://www.er-d.org> or 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Or The American Red Cross has requested cash donations for the survivors of Hurricanes. To donate by phone: 1-800-HELP-NOW or by mail: American Red Cross, P O Box 37243, Washington DC 20013.

## **RUTH'S MAIL**

Ruth went to her mail box and there was only one letter. She picked it up and looked at it before opening, but then she looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter.

"Dear Ruth: I'm going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I'd like to stop by for a visit.

Love Always, Jesus"

Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. Why would the Lord want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer."

With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. "Oh my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner." She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Five dollars and forty cents. "Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least."

She threw on her coat and hurried out the door. A loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk...leaving Ruth with a grand total of twelve cents to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt good as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm.

"Hey lady, can you help us, lady?"

Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags.

"Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here on the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us. Lady, we'd really appreciate it." Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to.

"Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him."

"Yeah, well, okay lady, I understand. Thanks anyway."

The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley. As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart.

"Sir, wait!"

The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them.

"Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." She handed the man her grocery bag.

"Thank you lady. Thank you very much!"

"Yes, thank you!" It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering.

"You know, I've got another coat at home.

Here, why don't you take this one."

Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over

the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she

turned and walked back to the street...without

her coat and with nothing to serve her guest.

"Thank you lady! Thank you very much!"

Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her

front door, and worried too. The Lord was

coming to visit and she didn't have anything

to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse

for the door key. But as she did, she noticed

another envelope in her mailbox.

"That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day."

She took the envelope out of the box and opened it.

"Dear Ruth: It was so good to see you again.

Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank

you, too, for the beautiful coat. Love Always

Jesus"

The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed.

### **THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

Once again this year we ask your help for food baskets for the needy at Thanksgiving..

Please bring your contribution to church before November 20<sup>th</sup>.

We also accept cash or a check made out to St. Michael's and marked "Food Pantry."

Gift Cards from Tops or Wegman's are also accepted. Please help us to show others we

care. *The Gardinier's*

### **WELCOME OUR NEW DEACON**

Last Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> was a special day at St. Michael's when Shirley Trail was installed as our parish Deacon. Her

installation was followed by a special coffee hour in the parish hall.

Shirley brings several special gifts for ministry to our church. An ordained Deacon

in this Diocese for almost 20 years, she

founded Canaan House, a facility for women recently released from jail and prison. We have had the privilege of supporting her ministry for several years. Shirley will be serving liturgically on Sundays, preaching periodically, and sharing in various other aspects of the ministry here at St. Michael's. Please pray for her she prays for us as well.

Shirley's address is: 42 Haller Ave., Buffalo NY 14211, and she may be reached on her Cell Phone at 604-4379.

### **VICAR'S VIEWS**

There has been much discussion at St. Michael's over the past several months about what we as a church should be "doing." What should our ministry and ministries be? How can we positively affect our community? How should we be spending our time, treasure and talents? All of these are important questions. At the core of this discussion, I believe, must be the realization that our primary purpose for being as a Christian Church is Worship.

Worship is our way of responding to God's goodness, grace, and gifts. The Gloria (page 356, Book of Common Prayer) reads "we worship you, we give you thanks." Worship is that which gives expression to our gratitude for all that our Lord has done for us and for others as well.

Worship can be public as well as private. On Sunday mornings (and at other times on special occasions) we gather as a worshiping community. Generally we do so in the context of the Liturgy using the service of Holy Eucharist. At home, during our own times of private devotions, we can use the offices of morning and evening prayer, Compline, and the service for noon day. Finally, the Prayer Book offers a form of Daily devotions for families and individuals.

This Thanksgiving, let's go "all out." Let's be lavish with our praise and thanksgivings. On Thanksgiving morning, we will have a Thanksgiving service at the church. Please plan to take time out of your day to come and be a part of this joyful experience. It has often been said that God loves a cheerful giver. Let us be cheerful givers of gratitude to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!! May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

In Christ, *Father Wheeler*

### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

3 Patti Moghabghab    13 Chuck Gardinier  
4 Meghan Eckle        14 Addie Broome  
8 Rose Miller           18 Brian Webster  
13 Olive Beutler       25 Elizabeth Walker

### **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

11/19/88 – Donna & Rich Strain

### **QUIET DAY**

Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> will be our Annual Quiet Day beginning at 9:30 am. Plan to join us in preparation for Advent and the coming our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**

If you would like to have your loved ones remembered at St. Michael's, please use the envelopes in your pledge boxes or place your memorial in an envelope marked "Christmas Memorial" and place in the collection plate or mail to the office before December 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

### **LOST DISHES?**

If you have lost some of your serving dishes, please check the kitchen. There are several lonely ones looking for their owners.