



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

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Web Site: www.stmichaelspineville.org

DECEMBER 2011

*“Remember, not only what Jesus did,
but what He would have us do for others.”*



*Have a
Blessed Christmas
and a Joy-filled New Year!*





From Our Senior Warden,

Tracy Alletag

Musings of the Senior Warden

When asked by Fr. George to write a commentary to appear in the December newsletter I was flattered at first, but realized that in reality it was likely an attempt to provide additional “filler” for the publication. My assignment was to give a senior warden’s perspective of things as representative of the “unenlightened” within the church (as opposed to the “enlightened” clergy with both terms alluding to the period of history known as the dark ages.) This task has caused a momentary pause for reflection at the beginning of the busy Advent season to think about our individual roles within the life of the church and what we both bring to and take from fellowshiping at St. Michael’s. Advent is about anticipation and perhaps all should think about our expectations for the church entering into 2012 & beyond.

It would be easy to go into a dissertation about administrative matters, budgets, operational issues, “ruling over the peasants” (as I quote myself saying often for an effect & totally in jest, please), or other matters related to the vestry board. What has been the real “take away” from the vestry during this past year is realizing the richness that each individual brings to the body of Christ, that everyone’s needs are important & different, that there truly is diversity & tolerance within our church parish, that we really do minister to the community at large to meet both basic & spiritual needs, that many bring their time & talent in volunteering for various tasks or assignments, that our priest does live his life as both servant & shepherd as does the Christ, that we truly care about the well being of others, that folks do have a sense of humor & enjoy their church life, that there are a lot of members much smarter & wiser than myself, that we seem to really like breaking bread together, and that we consistently strive to offer opportunities for all to participate in spiritual growth & social activities. St. Michael’s represents a refuge and a place to cleanse ourselves from the drudgery of the secular world with many seeing us as a spiritual lighthouse (through the food pantry, work with the YCP, outreach efforts, etc.)

In summary, this past year has provided a fresh perspective of the importance of the church in my life and what a great body of believers that we have. I anticipate continued spiritual growth, expansion of our ministries, and fresh opportunities at St. Michael’s for 2012 & beyond. May all have a fantastic Advent experience!

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Bruce MacPherson

Rector

The Rev. George Gennuso, Jr.

Deacon

The Rev. Belle Rollins

Vestry

Sr. Warden

Tracy Alletag

Jr. Warden

John Ray

Clerk

Scott McCoy

Chaplain

Lillian Wooley

Sandi McCoy Michael Rachal

Londa Price Clara Kirk

David Mobley Brenda Milam

Frank Stevens Kitty Wynn

Treasurer

Holli Rachal

Accounting Manager

Martha Herren

Sunday Schedule

Holy Eucharist 8 am & 10:30 am

Angel Food Breakfast - 9 – 10 am

Christian Education for all

9:30 – 10:15 am

Weekday Eucharist

Tuesday 10 am

Thursday 5:30 pm

Supply Organist, Janet Rutherford

Choir Director, Roger McCoy

Altar Guild Directoress

Ann Wells

Flower Coordinator

Brenda Milam

Renee’ Alewine

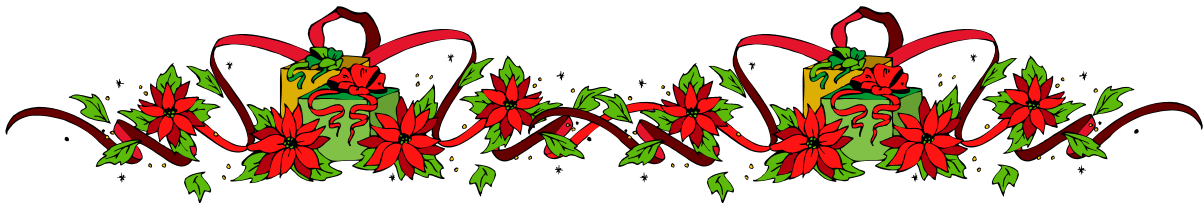
Cyndi Salmon

December Sunday Serving Schedule

DECEMBER	DECEMBER 4 Advent 2	DECEMBER 11 Advent 3	DECEMBER 18 Advent 4	DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day
Sunday Readings	OT - Isaiah 40:11 PS - 85:102,8-13 NT - 2 Peter 3:8-5a GOS - Mark 1:1-8	OT - Isaiah 61:1- 4,8-11 Canticle 15 NT - I Thess. 5:16-24 Gos - John 1:6-8,19-28	OT - 2 Sam 7:1-11,16 Canticle 3 NT - Rom. 16:25-27 Gos - Luke 1:26-38	SEE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVING SCHEDULE
Altar Guild	Diane Lawton Barbara Alewine Rebecca Williams	Dorothy Adrion Christy Adrion Nancy Gingras Gail Wilking	Barbara Dupre C.Fernandez M.Hampshire Carol Hampshire	
Vestry Host	Sandi McCoy Tracy Alletag	Scott McCoy John Ray	Michael Rachal David Mobley	
Angel Food Bfkt.	Price Family	EYA - Team 3	Brotherhood - Team 2	
Altar Flowers	Roy Aldret	Martha Herren	Debbie Fontenot	
Sunday School Teachers	Londa Price Kelly Edwards	Londa Price Kelly Edwards	Londa Price Kelly Edwards	
HOME COMMUNION	Renee Alewine	Father George	Gail Wilking	
NURSERY	Londa & Michelle Price	Bud Sweeney Kelly Edwards	Grace Gennuso Dawn Arceneaux	
LEM - 8 AM	Martha Herren	Suzanne Long	Londa Price	
USHERS & GREETERS 8AM	Fred & Jean Normand	John and Brenda Ray	Don and Lynda Savage	
LEM 10:30 AM	Pam Childress Brian Warner Holli Rachal	Renee' Alewine Michael Rachal Suzanne Long	David Mobley Michael Rachal Lacee Brown	
ACOLYTES 10:30 AM	Boley Edmonds Bud Gingras KayLea Ward	Skylar Edwards Paige Edwards Nathaniel Rachal	Bud Gingras James Clarius Joey Thomson Dax Clarius	
READERS 10:30 AM	OT M. Callaway PS P. Childress NT David Mobley POP J. Childress	OT Frank Stevens PS Nancy Gingras NT L. V. Shipp POP T. Alletag	OT Steve Rogge PS LaNell Alletag NT Lillian Cutshall POP Brian Warner	
USHERS/GREETERS 10:30 AM	John & Mary Jo Morrow	Tracy & LaNell Alletag	L.V. & Jean Shipp	
COFFEE HOUR	December Birthdays	HELP!	"Hanging of the Greens" Luncheon	

St. Michael's Christmas Season Highlights

- ♥ Shepherd Center Christmas Cheer – adopting 12 families (food baskets and gifts)
- ♥ Socks and Wool Caps for our Homeless Veterans
- ♥ Friday, December 9 – Ladies AA Christmas Party (Parish Hall)
- ♥ Sunday, December 18 – Advent Lessons and Carols
- ♥ Sunday, December 18 - Hanging of the Greens and Gumbo Luncheon
- ♥ Saturday, December 24 at 5:30 pm – Christmas Eve Children's Eucharist
- ♥ Saturday, December 24 at 10:30 pm – Solemn Christmas Eucharist
- ♥ Sunday, December 25 at 10 am – Christmas Morning Eucharist



Advent Lessons and Carols

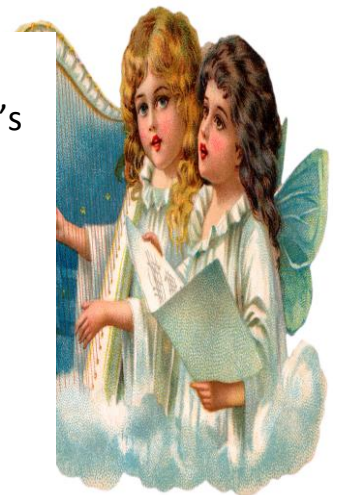
Sunday, December 18

10:30 am Service


One of the highlights of the Christmas seasons for the St. Michael's family is our St. Michael choir's presentation of Advent Lessons and Carols.

Our choir has worked long and hard on this presentation.

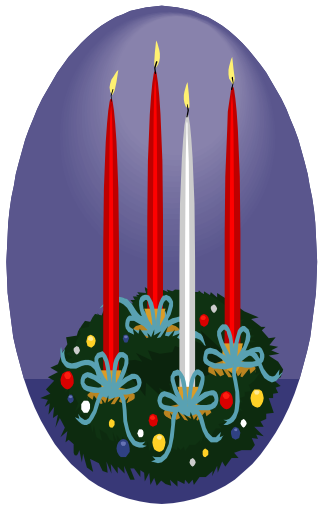
Let's come out and enjoy the Music and Eucharist and support our wonderful choir!!



Christmas Eve Serving Schedule

	<p>DECEMBER 24 5:30 FAMILY EUCHARIST</p>	<p>DECEMBER 24 10:30 SOLEMN EUCHARIST</p>
<p>ALTAR GUILD</p>	<p>St. Michael's Altar Guild</p>	<p>St. Michael's Altar Guild</p>
<p>LEMS</p>	<p>Londa Price Kisses Thomson Josh Thomson</p>	<p>Michael Rachal Holli Rachal Celeste Mobley Renee' Alewine</p>
<p>ACOLYTES</p>	<p>Joey Thomson Ashtyn Keehnen Abbi Clarius Preston Edwards Abbi Price</p>	<p>Drew Coleman Liz Keehnen Jimmy Clarius Hunter Keehnen</p>
<p>USHERS/GREETERS</p>	<p>John and Brenda Ray</p>	<p>Tracy and LaNell Alletag</p>
<p>READERS</p>	<p>OT – Clara Kirk NT – Mike Edwards POP – Michelle Price</p>	<p>OT – David Mobley NT - L.V. Shipp POP - Brenda Milam</p>





ADVENT 2011 STUDY SERIES



Wednesday, November 30th

Wednesday, December 7th

Wednesday, December 14th

5:30 pm – 7 pm

Dinner served...

Nursery available on request!

“ADVENT ATTITUDES”

*TOO OVERWHELMED TO CARE, TOO LAZY TO LISTEN
and TOO BLIND TO SEE.*

ADVENT: The Season of Wonder....

Have you ever wondered what Anna the prophetess would say to a busy mother, looking for time in her day to be alone with God, or perhaps what would have happened if one of the shepherds was really clueless and just did not get what the star meant? Well, your time of wondering may be over! Join us for our Advent Study series as we prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah. In our three humorous sketches we will be transported back to the days just before Christ's birth, where characters of the New Testament era face similar weaknesses as we do today. We will find them, and ourselves: *TOO OVERWHELMED TO CARE, TOO LAZY TO LISTEN and TOO BLIND TO SEE.* Amid the laughs, I hope that truths emerge about our attitudes and actions in this season of anticipation.

Bonhoeffer Christmas Letter

This is a Christmas letter written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer to his parents on December 17, 1943. Dietrich had been held for several months with no formal charges being made. He assumed he was being held on suspicion of a relatively minor charge and would be released soon. In several earlier letters he had expressed the hope of being free by Christmas to celebrate the holiday with his family and close friends. By the time he writes this letter, he has given up on the hope of being free for Christmas. In his words we find the true meaning of Christmas. I hope we can carry the message throughout the season.

In peace,
Father George+

Dear parents,

Above all, you must not think that I will let myself sink into depression during this lonely Christmas. It will take its own special place in a series of very different Christmases that I have celebrated in Spain, in America, in England, and I want in later years to be able to think back on these days not with shame but with a special pride. That is the only thing that no one can take from me.

I don't need to tell you how great my longing for freedom and for all of you is. But you have for so many decades provided us with Christmases so incomparably beautiful, that the grateful memories of them are strong enough to outshine even a dark Christmas. From a Christian point of view, a Christmas in a prison cell is no special problem. It will probably be celebrated here in this house more sincerely and with more meaning than outside where the holiday is observed in name only. Misery, poverty, loneliness, helplessness, and guilt mean something entirely different in the eyes of God than in the judgment of men.

That God turns directly toward the place where men are careful to turn away; that Christ was born in a stable because he found no room in the Inn—a prisoner grasps that better than someone else. For him it really is a joyous message, and because he believes it, he knows that he has been placed in the Christian fellowship that breaks all the bounds of time and space; and the months in prison lose their importance.

On Holy Evening (Christmas Eve) I will be thinking of all of you very much, and I would very much like for you to believe that I will have a few beautiful hours and my troubles will certainly not overcome me.

If one thinks of the terrors that have recently come to so many people [with the heavy allied fire bombings] in Berlin, then one first becomes conscious of how much we still have for which to be thankful. Overall, it will surely be a very silent Christmas, and the children will still be thinking back on it for a long time to come. And maybe in this way it becomes clear to many what Christmas really is. . .

Your Dietrich

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in NSW in Australia, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value. Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. One nurse took her copy to Melbourne and it found its way to the local paper. The old man's sole bequest to posterity And this old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem.

Cranky Old Man

*What do you see, nurses?What do you see?
What are you thinking when you're looking at me?
A cranky old man,not very wise,
Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes?
Who dribbles his food and makes no reply.
When you say in a loud voice 'I do wish you'd try!'
Who seems not to noticethe things that you do.
And forever is losing A sock or shoe?
Who, resisting or not lets you do as you will,
With bathing and feedingThe long day to fill?
Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, nurse you're not looking at me.
I'll tell you who I am As I sit here so still,
As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of Ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another
A young boy of Sixteen with wings on his feet
Dreaming that soon now a lover he'll meet.
A groom soon at Twenty my heart gives a leap.
Remembering, the vows that I promised to keep.
At Twenty-Five, now I have young of my own.
Who need me to guide And a secure happy home.
A man of Thirty My young now grown fast,
Bound to each other With ties that should last.
At Forty, my young sons have grown and are gone,
But my woman is beside me to see I don't mourn.
At Fifty, once more, Babies play 'round my knee,
Again, we know children My loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me My wife is now dead.
I look at the future I shudder with dread..
For my young are all rearing young of their own.
And I think of the years And the love that I've known.
I'm now an old man and nature is cruel.
It's jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body, it crumbles grace and vigor, depart.
There is now a stone where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass A young man still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells
I remember the joys I remember the pain.
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years . all too few gone too fast.
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last..
So open your eyes, people open and see.
Not a cranky old man . Look closer see ME!!*



Choir Notes



St. Michael's Choir is eagerly anticipating the Advent and Christmas seasons. As we prepare our music, our goal is to enhance the worship experience and provide a meaningful message. We want to thank you for the support we feel from our church family. When you tell us you enjoyed the music, it gives us a blessing, and lets us know that our hard work was worth the effort. This time of year gives us two opportunities to give you special gifts--Lessons and Carols, and the Christmas Eve pre-service concert. We hope you enjoy both and find them meaningful. The choir has had a lot of sickness and surgery lately. Please pray for us, for our health and stamina. Our wish for each of you is that you have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.

God's House.... Our responsibility!!!!

Our St. Michael's family has been blessed with a church campus that is not only beautiful but also functional.

We have an awesome Parish Hall, an incredible house of worship, a brand new Christian education building, an activity building and church grounds which are spectacular.

All of the above is God's gift to us and how we take care of it is our "Thank you" to Him.

This incredible church cannot be maintained by a few. It must be a responsibility of our entire family.

If something needs cleaning ... clean it. If dishes need washing ... wash them. If you see clutter ... clear it.

Yes, we have sextons who take care of the "general up-keep" of our church plant; however, the day to day upkeep is OUR RESPONSIBILITY. So please, treat God's home in the same way you would want your home treated ... with respect and pride. If we all commit to doing just a little ... a lot can happen. Thanks for your help in this matter.

Father George+

2012 PARISH MEETING

AND

LUNCHEON

JANUARY 15, 2012

“LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD”

On Sunday, January 15 (immediately following the 10:30 service),
St. Michael’s will hold its annual Parish Meeting.

This is an opportunity for St. Michael’s to gather as a family
and celebrate the many blessings that God’s has bestowed on us.

It is also a time to look forward to 2011 and begin to prayerfully consider what
God is calling us to in the coming year.

We will also elect four vestry persons for the coming year.

COME AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION!!!

World Population

BOOM

The world’s population has exploded in the last fifty years. With **unprecedented growth** that will catapult our numbers over the **7 billion** mark this fall. But birth rates aren’t up, longevity is. With life expectancy rising, a **global aging trend** accompanying by social, economic and political consequences – is here to stay.

By Betsy Towner

7,000,000,000

Earth is now home to some **7 billion** people – that’s almost triple the population of 1950. By 2050, the **60+ population** will grow from over 750 million to 2 billion, and rise from **10.7% to 22% of people** on the planet.

(reprinted from AARP Bulletin, October 2011)

EYC

In November, we talked about a 4 letter word, "YEAH". This topic, Texting/Distractions, covered fatalities and life-changing situations caused while driving. It not only covered Teens doing it; but also when others who are driving do it (parents, friends, etc.) Our kids learn by what they see and hear!!!!

We also talked about deep-seated fears and how to cope with some of them. This discussion stemmed from the recent bomb threat at Pineville High. Currently, we're on Thanksgiving Break.

**CHECK OUT THE FAMILY WE'VE ADOPTED –
IT'S IN THE SIGN UP AREA AT THE PARISH HALL!!!!**

EYC – Please bring your donations to this family by the posted deadline at the sign up area!

We are averaging 10-14 EYC'ers... this is phenomenal! We will meet November 30, December 7 & December 14; then break for the Holidays, reconvening January 4, 2012. New time is 6:00PM!!!!

January 4, 2012 – we will be having a **Twelfth Night Party.**

*****If you don't know what that means – do some research on your own! More details to come.....

CAMP HARDTNER ---

HAPPENING – January 20-22, 2012....

****Get your applications from www.camphardtner.org

Get them in now!!! Short on cash? Ask someone to pay for your event as a present!

SAVE THE DATE.....

Bishop's Ball is coming February 11, 2012

EYC IS FOR ALL YOUTH...

6TH GRADE THROUGH 12TH!!!!