

## A VISION FOR ST. MICHAELS

We have come to a point in St. Michael's spiritual journey where we find ourselves at crossroads. We are being asked to make a decision as to which road we will travel. One road leads to an acceptance of things as they are and the second road, which I believe is ordained by our Father, is asking us to look at the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us and then respond to Him, the give of all b blessings.

I have learned over the years that one of two things happen when a church finds itself at crossroads --- either they begin to decline or grow. There is no such thing as "holding your own".

One of the many blessings I speak of --- has to do with our children. Over the past few years, we have been given charge over a many more children and their parents. This is truly a blessing and a **statement of faith** that our Savior trusts us with His children.

We have been called to task. How are we going to answer our Lord's command to take care of His sheep? Through the hard work of our Vision/Building Committee and the unanimous support of our vestry who has approved the refurbishing our old education building in such a way that it will be attractive --- as well as useable for children and adults.

This plan will very soon be on display for all to see. Not only do we want you to look at the plans but we also want your input. We want your suggestions as to how to make this project even better.

To make this project more usable:

We are planning to build a covered walk way ... leading from the parish hall to the education building. Yes, doing this will require cutting down a few trees. For this project we are talking about somewhere in the neighborhood of 19 trees to allow the walk way to become a reality.

I, like you, love the trees. It is one of the many endearing features about this holy space. However, in order to make this dream a reality, it will require some sacrifice. What we are planning to do --- is replace the downed trees with some sort of hardwoods. Just for information sake, I ask Hunter Thomson to count the number of trees that lie between the educational building and the back of the church. He counted 103.

We have a lot of work to do here at St. Michaels. The renovation of the educational building is the first step in many areas which need attending. God has called us to carry His light not only to the world out there; but also to our children. In the coming months, we will be calling on you for help in making this dream a reality ... from the developing of a "game plan" to

helping develop ways in which to fund this project. I pray that you will **ALL** be on board. I, also, pray that we will be able to set aside our own agendas and look at the bigger picture. We frequently call our young people “the future of our church”. I challenge that idea. They are our today. If we do not minister to them today ... they will not be a part of our future. Now is the time to act.

I think it only fitting that on this Youth Sunday, as we celebrate those who are starting new chapters of their lives and those like, Hayden, who are just beginning this wonderful journey called life, that I share the good news of the upcoming building project.

To the children of St. Michaels – of all ages --- we, gladly, do this for you and to the Glory of Him who gives us the gifts to do so.

Your servant in Christ,

Father George+