

# The Archangel

December 3, 2010

Disciples Making Disciples

2010, Issue No. 3



## Our Mission Statement:

St. Michael's is a prayerful community seeking to make manifest the love of the Father, revealed through Christ and Scripture through prayer and worship, healing and teaching, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

## Our Motto:

Strengthening the community through the miracle of Christ.



## "Thoughts From the Hart"

This Thanksgiving Day I sit at my brother and sister-in-law's house in Fort Worth surrounded by my family. All the traditional trappings are present: the fall décor, the table stocked with turkey, dressing, cranberry and all the trimmings. I look around and see the faces of my loved ones in the candlelight and want to capture this moment in time. This holiday time is unique in that it is a time of escape from materialism. For one day, we reflect on why we are thankful, for what our blessings are—for family, for health, for friends, for this feast.

Although not a religious holiday, it cannot help but direct us to take a time out from things we desire to a time of rest from the call of those desires that

Continued on Page 2

## Sunday Services Schedule

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Christian Ed.  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

St. Michael's is online at:

[www.stmichaelscolonie.org](http://www.stmichaelscolonie.org)

### Inside...

From the Editor's Desk	Page 02
The Curious Curate	Page 03
African Team Ministries	Page 04
Email Prayer Ministry	Page 06
Jesus Is Better Than Santa	Page 07
Angel Tree	Page 09
Notes from the Webmaster	Page 09



## **“Thoughts From the Hart”**

### **Continued from Page 1**

promise to satisfy us. Rather, I concentrate on the family and feast surrounding me. Thanksgiving prayer said, we begin with the dinner. I am uncertain of where to start—the turkey, dressing, or cranberry. The cranberry speaks the loudest, and I discover not simply cranberry, but a medley of tastes and flavors that overwhelm my senses. The same for every item on my plate. Perhaps the best meal I have ever eaten. A meal within a meal, flavors within flavors.

I am thankful now for so much more than the obvious. I am reminded to be thankful for those things beyond the obvious—for the many blessings we take for granted. I am captured in a place and a time where I am flooded by an awareness of how many ways I am blessed. I am blessed by the obvious—Family, friends, shelter and provision, a wonderful church community where I become more and more cognizant that God is pursuing me with a love that cannot be described or imagined.

Paul writes “In all things I have learned to be thankful.” I am invited to see God’s hand in my life in different ways that I had before. I am thankful even for those who insult, and oppress me, for they are the teachers God has sent into my life to teach me to respond in the language of love. I am thankful for difficult circumstances, for these are the times I am taught faith and learn how God will carry me through these times as well as the “easy” times.

Soon the meal will be over, the candles burned out and we ready ourselves to leave the cornucopia of provision into “Black Friday,” a beginning of a season focused not on what we have, but on what we desire. I have tasted the manna of thanksgiving. I look for my Lord to provide for tomorrow’s manna as well. As I dwell in the house of thanksgiving, I pray that I will live in the place of God’s provision and blessing, and my desires will be formed from that place.



### ***From the Editor:***

We’ve had a beautiful, real summer this year followed by a true autumn and now we prepare for the coming winter, the season of Advent and Christmas.

Speaking of Christmas, please see Peg Barkley’s submission on page 7. It is something that so needs to be said. I could ramble on for pages about it but will let it stand in place of my words.

We have a new website but same web address and a new webmaster, Fr. Neal.

Thank you to John Keimer for the many years he served as webmaster.

Be sure to check out Fr. Neal’s column, The Curious Curate, on page 3 where he’ll give you a short biographical sketch of how he and his family came to be at St. Michael’s.

Also see information on our Email Prayer Line Ministry and Coats for Kids on page 6.

I will attempt to have at least 5 newsletters in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to recognize Wendell Miller who did so much for this church and made me feel like a member of the family the first time I attended St. Michael’s 40 years ago. He was truly one of a kind. Please keep Bev and the family in your prayers.

# *The Curious Curate*

## *Are You Curious About Our Curate?*

Recently there has been a common phrase, “I didn’t know that about you”, that has come up



**Maria, Father Neal, Lisa and Noah Longe**

quite frequently lately in my conversations with people. This has made me realize that perhaps now would be a good time to share some of my background with you. I grew up in Johnstown and Lisa in Plattsburgh. We were both raised as Roman Catholics. We met during our undergraduate studies at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. We both received degrees in music education, Lisa as a trumpet major and me as a trombone major.

We graduated in 2001 and Lisa remained in Potsdam to complete her graduate studies. In 2002 she spent a year in Washington, D.C. as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer

Corp. In 2003 she moved to Schenectady and began working for Schenectady City Schools as a music teacher. She currently teaches instrumental band at four buildings in the district.

I went from Potsdam to Rochester where I began my studies in philosophy as a seminarian for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany. I spent one year in Rochester and was then sent to St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, MD in 2002. In December 2003 I requested a leave of absence from the seminary. During my leave of absence I worked at several of my old jobs: as a dispatcher for the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office, as an EMT-Critical Care, and as a phlebotomist.

In the fall of 2004 I began my studies at Fulton-Montgomery Community College in Johnstown, NY in the nursing program. Lisa and I were married on November 27, 2004. We were living in Johnstown during my studies at FMCC. I graduated in 2006 and began working the emergency department as a Registered Nurse. During my nursing studies I also completed my thesis project and graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Theology from St. Mary’s Seminary in 2006. August 2, 2006 Maria Noelle made her arrival.

In April 2007, we left the Roman Catholic Church and began worshiping at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Johnstown. The pastor at the time directed me to Canon Haskell and the discernment process for ministry in the diocese. On entering the discernment program for the diocese I was referred to Fr. Hart for spiritual direction. His guidance and mentoring have been instrumental to my own and Lisa’s spiritual growth. In 2008 we moved to Gloversville in preparation for Noah’s arrival. Noah Michael was born on May 4, 2008. I was ordained to the Diaconate on May 30, 2009 and to the Priesthood on June 30, 2010.

# AFRICAN TEAM MINISTRIES

serving the church in east africa

**Sunday, December 5—Sunday, December 12, 2010**

**We will have a table set up in Dwyer Hall offering crafts, jewelry, and unique and beautiful merchandise! Please take time to browse. All proceeds will benefit the African Team Ministries.**

**Mission Statement:**

African Team Ministries is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches. With help from Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Anglican denominations, we provide funding for orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa. The support we receive is sent directly to our partnering Bishops to provide school fees, tuition, books, and uniforms. This support ensures that the children receive an education and a measure of stability needed to rebuild their minds. We currently have children registered for sponsorship in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Rwanda. Thru our support we are giving the gift of HOPE!

**History:**

African Team Ministries was founded in 1984 by Bishop Festo Kivengere of Uganda. In the last 25+ years we have been blessed with the chance to work with many bishops, churches, and God driven individuals. Some of the current partnerships we have are with:

Bishop Ernest Shalita – Uganda  
Archbishop Livingstone Nkoyoyo – Uganda  
Bishop Gideon Maghina – Tanzania  
Bishop Zablon Nthamburi – Kenya  
Bishop Joseph Wasonga - Kenya  
Dr. John Gicheru – Kenya

**People:**

Our President is Keith Jesson and his wife Susanne. We are located in Monrovia, California and have a staff to assist you with questions or requests you may have. Please feel free to contact us at 1-800-456-0843 or at: [atmm@earthlink.net](mailto:atmm@earthlink.net).

See more at: <http://www.africanteamministries.org>.

H  
E  
  
I  
S  
  
B  
O  
R  
N



## ST. MICHAEL'S PRAYER LIST

Your prayer requests are always welcomed for our weekly bulletin and *"The Archangel"*. Give your request to [Linda Addison](#) for the bulletin and send your request to [Dave DiSisto](#) for the newsletter.

### **Prayer for these members of St. Michael's and these friends of St. Michaelites:**

Beverly Miller, James Peer, Annette Peer, Anthony Ridolfo, Josh Unverhau, Candy Palumbo, Beryl Scrafford, Eleanor Withers, Joan Lord, Timothy, Lenore Bettinger, Matt & Helen Wozniak, Fr. Hart's Family, Fr. Neal's Family, Leona Tripp, The People of Colonie Manor, The People of Rosewood Gardens, Laurie Walker Mosall, the Kaminski Brothers, Pat Bix, Natalie Scott, Mike Straight, Mike, Mike J., Mary Jane and Jesse Vadney, Seth Nield, Maddy Schwartz, Bill Mehielsen, Pat Mullins, Irene Fitch, Lew Stein, Nelson Oliveira, Dr. G, Jeff Rausch, Vinit Pabuwal, Tyler Ladue, Matthew Elfeldt, Marianne, Natasha Cohen (Carol M.), Rachel (Sister of Anne Barkley), Anthony Ridolfo, Elizabeth F. (Carol R.), Jordan (The Smith's), Raymond Amico (Karyn Dziezynski's Dad), Deontae & Family (Dziezynski's), Hanna, Michael, Cristyn & Family, Bob, Deb & Cory Marriott, John Collins (The Trant's), Kelly Grady, Bob Mohr. (L. Addison), Jack Spicer & Family (Jenette & Helen), Lori Timmler (The Pasko's), Loreal, Tara, Reinhold & Margaret, The Bober Family (Sue Plaske), Elaine & Johnny (Kristi Dannehy), Aunt Fran (Sue Plaske), Louise (Mark Pasko's sister), Stacy (The Dziezynski Family), Sarah Patten (The Keimer Family)

### **Pray for our servicemen and those of the local community and their families:**

Elissia Shepard Almaguer (Carol Ridolfo), PFC Ryan Safford (D. Newell-Cooper), Jeric Helfin (Linda Addison), Bob Dziezynski (Dziezynski's), Mark Stuart, Lt. USC R, WO Steve J. Rose, Kenny Szesnat, Sgt. Marcus Rowe, USMC

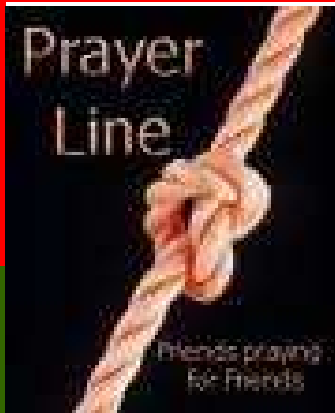
### **Pray for our Stephen Ministers and Leaders:**

Tim Condon, Connie DuVerney, Al Palumbo, Mark Pasko, Sue Plaske, Carolyn St. Denis, Sue Sulzman, Sharon Triolo, Karen Malcolm, and Candy Palumbo

### **Pray for these Churches, their leaders and others in His service:**

St. Mark's, Hoosick Falls (Rev. Lorrie Lyons), St. Luke's, Mechanicville, (Rev. Lynne Curtis & Rev. John Hopkins), Rev. Dr. Shaw Mudge & Rev. Julie Mudge and Lydia, Sisters of St. Mary's, Christ Church, Coxsackie, (Rev. Frank Lockwood, Deacon), Torre & Jean Bissell, Michael and Christine Hale's mission, Alex Riffie, our seminarian, and Oaks of Righteousness Fellowship

**Prayer Wall:** Please feel free to write your prayers and insert them into the prayer wall on the Altar where they will be prayed over daily.



## Email Prayer Line Ministry

Anyone with a prayer request can send a short email to Lisa Longe describing what you would like prayer for. (i.e.: \*From the Smith's: We pray that Joe has a speedy recovery.\*) Lisa will then send the prayer request out once or twice a day to all on the email prayer list. This is a wonderful, quick and easy way for all of us at St. Michael's to keep abreast of each other's needs and to build up spiritual unity with each other throughout the week. If you do not have email, we can also do this with our existing PAC line. We are in need of more volunteers who are willing to make phone calls to a few people who do not have email access.

Please contact Lisa Longe at [StMichaelsPrayerline@gmail.com](mailto:StMichaelsPrayerline@gmail.com) or call St. Michael's at 518-869-6417 to sign up and/or to volunteer to make calls.

## Coats for Kids



**Our Outreach Ministry is again asking for Gently Worn, used coats for children who will not have a coat this coming winter season. We are collecting "Coats for Kids" of all sizes. If you have a contribution, please hang your coats upstairs on the coat rack in Dwyer Hall. We will bring them to Best Cleaners, 265 Osborne Rd. , an ECO friendly cleaner. Best Cleaners will clean the coats and pass them on to social services for us. Thank you for your participation!**

*The Archangel is a publication of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Albany, NY 12205. Some material contained in this newsletter may have been taken from the following sources:*

*Anglican News Service (ANS), Ecumenical News International (ENI), Episcopal Diocese of Albany, Episcopal Life Online (ELO), Episcopal News Service (ENS)*

*Editor:*

*Dave DiSisto*

*Contributors:*

*Father Steve Hart, Rector*

*Father Neal Longe, Curate*

*Peg Barkley*

*Printing and Circulation:*

*Linda Addison*

*Letters and emails to the editor at [ddisist1@gmail.com](mailto:ddisist1@gmail.com) are welcomed and with permission will be published.*

*From time to time, The Archangel provides information and resources which we consider to be of interest to our readers. However, statements and opinions expressed in the articles and communications herein, are those of the author (s) and not necessarily those of ANS, ENI, EL, ENS, the Episcopal Church, the Diocese, St. Michael's priests, wardens, vestry or the editor.*

## Jesus Is Better Than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole.

**Jesus** is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh.

**Jesus** rides on the wind and walks on water.

Santa comes but once a year.

**Jesus** is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies.

**Jesus** supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down a chimney uninvited.

**Jesus** stands at your door and knocks.

And then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see Santa.

**Jesus** is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap.

**Jesus** lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is, "Hi little boy or girl; what is your name?"

**Jesus** knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hearts are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly.

**Jesus** has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is ho, ho, ho.

**Jesus** offers health, help and hope.

Santa says, "You better not cry."

**Jesus** says, "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys.

**Jesus** make new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but

**Jesus** gives you joy that is your strength

While Santa puts gifts under your tree

**Jesus** became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison. We need to remember who Christmas is all about.

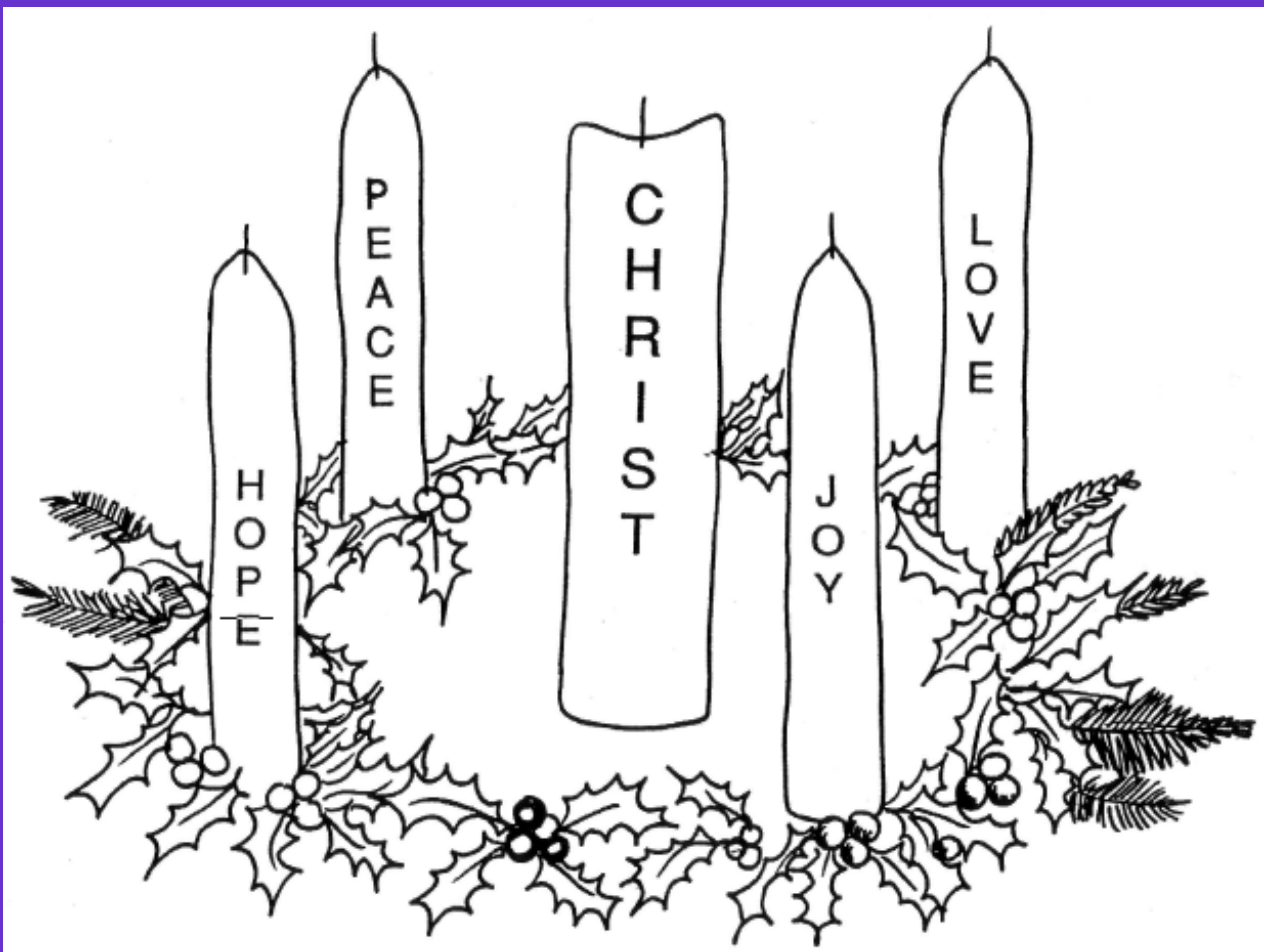
We need to put Christ back in Christmas.

**Jesus** is still the reason for the season!

**Editor's Note:** The item on the left and the quote below were submitted by Peg Barkley who says, "I think we need to be reminded what Christmas is really all about." I couldn't agree more.

God dwells within you, as you. God dwells within you, as yourself, exactly the way you are. God isn't interested in watching you enact some performance of personality in order to comply with some crackpot notion you have about how a spiritual person looks or behaves. We all seem to get this idea that, in order to be sacred, we have to make some massive, dramatic change of character that we have to renounce our individuality. To know God, you need only to renounce one thing-your sense of division from God. Otherwise, just stay as you were made, within your natural character. - *Elizabeth Gilbert*





*In Memoriam*

*Wendell R. Miller, Jr.*

*2/17/18—11/23/10*

**Don't forget to "GoodShop" during this holiday season or whenever you shop online!**

Please make every gift count! More than 1,600 top stores including Amazon, Toys R Us, Best Buy, Apple, Gap and more will donate a percentage of virtually every sale to the "St. Michael's Episcopal Church—Colonie".

Just go to [GoodShop.com](http://GoodShop.com), designate us as the cause you support and then click over to your favorite store. You pay nothing extra—and you even save money as [GoodShop](http://GoodShop) lists thousands of money-saving coupons and free shipping offers.

Or, add our toolbar to your browser at [www.goodsearch.com/toolbar](http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar)—and your purchases will count even if you forget to go to [GoodShop](http://GoodShop) first! There's no easier way to support us this holiday season. Please spread the word.



## Annual Angel Tree

*This year our Angel Tree is looking for gifts for a mom and her four year old son.*

*Just take a card from the tree and bring back the gift by December 19th so we can present your gifts to this year's mom and son in time for Christmas.*

## Notes from the Webmaster

- We have rolled out a new website. Please check it out [www.stmichaelscolonie.org](http://www.stmichaelscolonie.org).
- If anyone does not currently have a stmichaelscolonie.org email address ([firstname.lastname@stmichaelscolonie.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@stmichaelscolonie.org)) please email me, [webmaster@stmichaelscolonie.org](mailto:webmaster@stmichaelscolonie.org), to set up your address. I will need the address you want your email forwarded to.
- If you do not wish to use an at stmichaelscolonie.org email address please let us know your email address so we can put you on our email update list. We have launched a new weekly update service to keep all members updated on all that is happening at St. Michaels.
- Please check us out on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).
- If you have any comments or suggestions on our Facebook site, email newsletter or website, please email me at [webmaster@stmichaelscolonie.org](mailto:webmaster@stmichaelscolonie.org).