

The Archangel

July 15, 2010

Disciples Making Disciples

2010, Issue No. 2



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



"Thoughts From the Hart"

"Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord." Acclaim means: to announce or proclaim with enthusiastic approval: *to acclaim the new king*. The disciples understood this. In Acts 5, Scripture tells us that *"The apostles many miraculous signs and wonders...more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number."*

This is the life we are called into. We are called to acclaim the Lord, and to walk in the light of His Presence. What does this mean? It means to be so full of His Spirit that His Presence in us brings healing and life to people. Over the next few months, we will be attempting as a church to learn together more about carrying His Presence. We must learn to

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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

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“Thoughts From the Hart”

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live outside of our comfort zones. We must reexamine our ministries to discern if we have become stale or lost our way. We must be open to new areas and avenues of ministry. We must encourage others as they seek opportunities to exercise their spiritual gifts.

St. Michael’s is blessed in so many ways. As we continue to grow in the Spirit and our knowledge of Jesus Christ we will find ourselves going out in the world to bear witness and carry the light of His presence. It is time to go and *bring in* the widow, the lonely, the sick, the hurting and the lost. We do such a good job of being a place of light and spiritual warmth; let us now carry this light of His Presence to our workplaces, our schools--to a world lost in darkness. The best way for us to bring people into relationship with Christ is not with our words, but with the light of His presence that we carry.

See Father Neal Longe’s article on Page 12

A word received at Christ Church:

Today is glorious. Bring it to me. Bring me praise. Tomorrow you may be taken advantage of or misunderstood. Bring it to me. Lay it down at my cross and leave it there. Let go of it.

Bring to me your tears

Bring to me your joy

Bring to me your sorrows

Bring to me your laughter

Bring to me your hurts

your children

your family

your enemy

your friends

your time

Bring everything to me first. I want to be first in your lives. Teach this to each other. Teach this to your children.

From the Editor:

I hope you are all enjoying your summer so far, the weather has certainly been summer-like.

Kathy and I as well as other members of St. Michael’s had the pleasure of attending the Ordination of Neal Longe to the priesthood. This took place at Christ Church, Schenectady and was, for me, a very spiritual event.

I would describe Christ Church as a charismatic church that wholeheartedly with abandon sings praises to the Lord.

Several contemporary pieces of music were incorporated into the service including *Blessed Be Your Name, Let the River Flow* and *Our Great God*.

The sermon was preached by our own Father Stephen Hart and was very well received by all in attendance.

See Father Neal’s first article on Page 12.

We have an elevator and new bathroom. See page 13 for details on this and other upkeep items.

Carol MacNaughton has an article on Treasure Hunting on Page 14.

A calendar of events at the Spiritual Life Center can be found on pages 9-10.

God bless you all.

Asleep, I Listen

A meditation for Care Givers

Nigel W.D. Mumford

Asleep I listen,
To the breathing, to every precious breath,
To any change, to a groan, to the pain, to the fear,
I listen to the fear, in me, and in my beloved.

Asleep I listen,
To any need and want, my body asleep but my ears open,
The constant vigil, ready at a moment's notice
To leap out of bed to address the need.

Asleep I listen,
To the phone, to the TV, to the radio, to God.
I pray and wonder what will happen?
Am I doing my best, what else can I do?

Asleep I listen,
Even when awake guilt pervades my mind.
How can I even go to the store, how can I leave the house?
I listen to the cell phone, did it beep, is it vibrating?

Asleep I listen,
To My faults, to My responsibility, to My blame.
What if? If only! But Why God, Why?
I can't even pray anymore I am so tired.

Asleep I listen,
My mind wonders what will it be like afterwards?
What will I do? Where will I go? How will I live?
Oh no it's not about me, guilt pervades again.

Asleep I listen,
A friend calls and asks me out for a coffee.
"I will call you back, if there is a change."
I wonder, can I really step out of the house?

Asleep I listen,
To God, Who says "Well done good and faithful servant."
Do not be afraid, I am with you always.
Asleep I listen to my conscience and all is well with my soul.

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Stephen Ministry Report:

Growing In Number, Expanding in Mission

This caring ministry at St. Michael's will be expanding as new members are being sought to begin Stephen Minister training. This training will provide Ministers with the skills needed to give quality one-on-one Christian care to individuals experiencing many common life difficulties that we all, at one time or other, experience. The 50 hours of training will include, among other topics, understanding and dealing with feelings, the art of listening, distinctively Christian care, assertiveness, boundaries and confidentiality. The training will include special sessions for ministering to those experiencing grief, caring for people before, during and after hospitalization, caring for the dying and their families, care for those in depression, issues related to aging, those experiencing divorce and many other situations where an active Christian love from a caring friend is necessary for the individual to bare their cross and grow through the difficult time.

In addition to providing care to parishioners at St. Michael's, our Stephen Ministry will be expanding to include aid and care to those in nursing and long-term care facilities and other needy parishes in our diocese.

Many people are much more open to giving care than to receiving it because when a person is receiving care, he or she acknowledges vulnerability. They often do not realize that everyone, including Stephen Ministers, have crosses that require the loving help of others to grow at critical times of their lives. None of us (including Jesus) is exempt from the human condition of crosses; it is only a matter of whether or not we will have the courage to grow from them in positive ways. As a result, there are countless people today who, though they could really benefit from a Christian friend who would listen to and care for them, instead tough it out on their own. Society encourages this, particularly for men. But suffering alone is not God's intent for us. Jesus promises: "Come to me all you who are wearied and burdened and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). We can receive this promised rest when we turn to one another for comfort and help.

If you find yourself now or in the future facing difficulties in life, don't succumb to society's norm of remaining strong and suffering alone. Take the courageous step of seeking help. Open your heart to receiving God's love and grace through another person. Our Stephen Ministry offers the opportunity of a very confidential relationship with someone who will listen to you and provide you with the care and encouragement you need while Christ works on the inside to bring rest to your weary, burdened heart.

If you feel the Holy Spirit calling you to grow in your own walk with Jesus either by becoming a Stephen Minister or receiving the care of one, please contact Father Hart or Sharon Triolo.



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:

Wendell Miller, Beverly Miller, James Peer, Annette Peer, Anthony Ridolfo, Josh Unverhau, Beryl Scrafford, Eleanor Withers, Esther Thorsland, Joan Lord, Timothy, Susan Stewart, Matt and Helen Wozniak, Leonard Kastle, Fr. Hart's Family, Fr. Neal's Family, Lois Hardie, The People of Colonie Manor, The People of Rosewood Gardens, Pat Bix, Natalie Scott, Mike J., Mike Straight, Mike, 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, the Kaminski brothers, Marianne, Kathy Fuller, Rachel (Sister of Anne Barkley), Corina Zalace (Norma Unverhau), Robin Taylor (Carol MacNaughton), Raymond Amico (Karyn Dziezynski's Dad), Karen Lockwood (John Dziezynski's sister), Angie & Ed Sickles (Parents of Marie Wark), Sara VanDerVolgen (Leona Tripp), Julie Carlino (Judy DeMercurio), Christy & Kids (Ginger), Bonnie Hildenbrand, Susan Broedel (Dziezynski's), Elizabeth Fitzgerald (Caro Ridolfo), Evan Copp (Leonard Kastle), Natasha Cohen (Carol MacNaughton), Ruthie (Pasko's), George Bailey (Wendell Miller), Patty (Pasko's), Virginia, Frank & Louise (Pasko's), Elise & Jennifer Cardinal, Lauri Walker Mosall, Karen R., Anne B., Hanna (Fr. Hart)

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, Brandon Passno

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, (The Very Rev'd Susan Baker Borjeson, Rev. Frank Lockwood), St. Luke's, Chatham (Rev. Ellen Neufeld), St. Luke's, Cambridge (Jim French), Michael and Christine Hale's mission, Alex Riffée, our seminarian, and Barb Ayers, our Deacon

The 12-Steps for Christians: A Program of Growth in Christian Discipleship

By Mark Pasko

As you are probably aware, 12-Step programs are a uniquely American form of Spirituality that have been used to treat addictions for more than 70 years. But, are you aware that the program has Christian roots and its major inspirations were an Episcopalian minister (Samuel Moor Shoemaker Jr.) and a Lutheran minister (Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman)?

The 12-Steps are a form of spirituality that has taught repentance (the grace of being transformed) to millions of souls lost to various forms of destructive thinking and behavior. If it can do this for those of us who have been to hell and have been given new life, can it teach the average person to be a better Christian and church-person? The answer is a resounding YES!

In many ways, a 12-Step program operates the way a Church does and its principals and methods can enrich our Discipleship. The program teaches that repentance and transformation is a life long process, not a single event like salvation. It teaches us to be able to share our burdens with others whose love and acceptance allows us to be honest with ourselves and, in turn, find healing by giving back in loving behavior to others. It's method of sponsorship is like having a close Christian friend (or Stephen Minister) to walk with on your path as you carry your personalized cross and realize that it is slowly being transformed into a treasure and blessing. In short, the Program teaches love and community in a way that many people need desperately to heal and grow. We don't need to hide and go it alone anymore.

The Steps, generalized for the average person trying to be a better disciple of Christ, are as follows

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Letters and emails to the editor at ddisist1@nycap.rr.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.

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(including relevant Biblical passages for you to look up):

1. We realized that we are powerless over our fallen and sinful natures and that our lives have become unholy. (Romans 7:18)
2. We came to believe that Jesus Christ can restore us to holiness through His graces and the power of transformation and repentance. (Philippians 2:13)
3. We became willing to turn our lives over to the care of Jesus Christ. (Romans 12:1)
4. We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. (Lamentations 3:40)
5. We admitted to God, ourselves and another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. (James 5:16a)
6. We were entirely ready to have God remove all of these defects of character (James 4:10).
7. We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings. (1 John 1:9)
8. We made a list of all persons we have harmed and became willing to make amends to them all. (Luke 6:31)
9. We made direct amends to such persons whenever possible except when to do so would injure them or others. (Matthew 5:23-24)
10. We continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong, promptly admitted it. (1 Corinthians 10:12)
11. We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with Jesus Christ, praying only for the knowledge of His will and the power to carry it out. (Colossians 3:16)
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message of transformation to others and to practice these principals in all of our affairs. (Galatians 6:1)

After consultation with Father Hart, we believe the Holy Spirit is leading us to begin a Christian 12-Step Program at St. Michael's Church. It will be a program, not only for those with addictions, *but primarily for all who would like a fuller and more meaningful Christian walk with members of their faith community.* Beginning on Thursday July 22, an approximately one hour meeting will be held every Thursday at 7:00 pm in Dwyer Hall. Each week a different step will be examined, discussed, and applied to our lives. One cycle through the steps will take about three months but will continue for as long as needed by members of the group. The first meeting will be a general overview and time to answer questions that you may have. The book we will be using is "The Twelve Steps for Christians" (revised edition of 1994) by Friends in Recovery. It will not be necessary to buy the book but you are encouraged to do so as it will be useful to "work the steps" during the week. You can purchase a new copy at a bookstore for about \$13. You can purchase a used copy from Amazon.com for as little as \$2 plus shipping/handling.

We hope you will join us as we progress in our communal Christian walk. For further information, please contact Mark Pasko at 456-5619 or e-mail me at mpasko1298@aol.com. Also, please contact me if you plan to attend as it will help to prepare refreshments.

Outreach Ministry Projects

St. Michael's is sponsoring a Giffy's Bar-B-Q to be held on Saturday, July 31, from 4—6 p.m. at The First National Bank of Scotia at 1705 Central Ave. (corner of Killean Park), Colonie. Meals are "take out" only and for the \$11.00 cost per ticket you receive a dinner that includes a 1/2 chicken dinner, baked potato, coleslaw, roll/butter, cookie & beverage. Proceeds will be added to the budget for programs such as Outreach (to individuals & other churches that are needy), youth, & Christian education.

We are asking that every family in the parish take 5 tickets (or more if you think you can sell more) and try to sell them to friends, family, coworkers, etc. It is important that we all help with the ticket sales. In order to have the BBQ, we had to commit to selling at least 250 dinners, so the church will be responsible for paying the base price for those dinners. If you do not sell all your tickets, please return them to the church.

Tickets are available after each service. We will need people to help with minimal set up and clean up on the 31st. There is a sign up list on the bulletin board. Any questions, contact Linda at the office (869-6417) or Karyn Amico-Dziedzinski.

We are currently collecting school supplies for two Colonie Elementary schools who have significant number of children who come from no-income and low income homes. The schools were selected by Colonie School District's Superintendent of Curriculum. Brandon Seney and Mary Pasko are the leaders for this ministry project. The boxes in the narthex are dedicated for specific supplies. We ask that people use the yellow handouts or the list of supplies printed below,

SINGLE SUBJECT COMPOSITION

BOOKS: Marble - Any Color
Spiral Bound - Blue, Green,
Red, or Yellow Cover

CRAYONS: Unscented 24 and 16 Count

ERASERS: Pink Pearl Soft

FOLDERS: Two Pocket and Five Pocket-
Red, Green, Blue, Yellow and Purple
: Horizontal Pockets- (No
Green), Only Red, Blue, Yellow, Purple

GLUE: Sticks some Large, many Regular
size
: Liquid Squeeze and Paste Bottle
that dries clear

HIGHLIGHTERS: Thin Yellow

PACKAGED LOOSELEAF: (No College
Rule) ONLY Three Hole Regular Rule

MARKERS: Crayola Washable Magic Mark-
ers with Thin Tip in Classic Colors

LOW ODOR Dry Eraser Markers Black,
Red, Blue, Green (NO Yellow)

PENS: Boxes of Erasable pens; (Blue,
and Black)
: Gel Pens (No Black or Yellow)

PENCILS: Boxes of Number Two
: Variety of Colored Pencils

PENCIL BOXES: Large enough to hold:
pens, pencils, markers, glue stick,
highlighter, pencil sharpener eraser,
and blunt scissors.

PENCIL SHARPENERS: Child size with
a Cover (NO Electric)

RULERS: Twelve Inch

SCISSORS: Only Blunt

MISCELLANEOUS NEEDS:

Large Boxes of Tissues; Clorox
Wipes; Cotton Socks-any size;
Sponges; Playdoh 5 Oz.; BACK-
PACKS (NO Wheels); and Gallon and
Quart ZIP LOCK BAGS



Christ the King

Spiritual Life Center

575 Burton Road
Greenwich, NY 12834
518-692-9550
www.CtKcenter.org

Christ the King is available for retreats, conferences, picnics, camping, Ropes Course challenges, weddings, meetings, and family functions. Our modern facilities are well-equipped, including audio-visual, internet access, and conference supplies. Our dynamic staff strives to exceed the expectations of our guests and is eager to help make your event successful. For more information, go online at www.christ-the-king-center.org/facilities.

Community programs are offered by CtK as part of our commitment to reach out to our local communities and churches. All are welcome! Our community is always welcome to stop in for a visit. Please just sign in at the Welcome Center. You are also welcome to come in for lunch Monday - Friday at noon. The cost is \$8.50 plus tax and the meal consists of a fresh salad bar, soup, entrees, sides, dessert and a large beverage selection. We hope to see you soon! Kids under 5 eat free.

Calendar of Events

School of Healing Prayer® "Commuter Course" Level 1

July 25 -Aug 29

We offer a 6 week "Sunday-Only" teaching of School of Healing Prayer Level 1. This is DVD series; Level 1 is the beginners course for learning more about Healing Ministry. Classes begin at 3:45 pm and end around 8:00 pm. Cost: \$215.00 (*this includes dinner, student manuals and teachings.*) To register, please contact Sandra, at the Healing Center. (ext. 202)

7:00pm Taize Healing Service

July 29

Evening Healing Service with taize music. We invite all to attend this Holy Spirit filled service.

Day of Healing Prayer

Aug. 5

Individual prayer for healing in a group setting. Includes a Generational Eucharist 10:00 am—3:30 pm. Sign up required, please call the Healing Center. (ext. 202)

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Sunday 4:00 pm Healing Service

Aug. 8

Praise and Worship, with laying-on-of Hands. Similar to our Tuesday Healing Service. Open to all denominations. Led by Fr. Nigel Mumford.

School of Healing Prayer® Level 3

Aug. 15-18

An intense course in the continued teaching of the Healing Ministry. Students must have completed Level 1 & 2. For information visit the [School of Healing Prayer®](#) page or contact Sandra at 518-692-9550 x 202.

First Responders! (Dealing with everyday Trauma) Day Program

Aug. 21

10-3pm [A Healing Program](#) for EMT's, firefighters, police officers, ER nurses, ER doctors, etc... Helping to deal with their day to day trauma. Program will be led by Fr. Nigel Mumford. Fee includes lunch; \$20.00 (+ tax) per person.

Sunday 4:00 pm Healing Service

Sept. 12

Praise and Worship, with laying-on-of Hands. Similar to our Tuesday Healing Service. Open to all denominations.

Day of Healing Prayer

Sept. 16

Individual prayer for healing in a group setting. Includes a Generational Eucharist 10:00 am—3:30 pm. Sign up required, please call the Healing Center.

School of Healing Prayer® Level 2

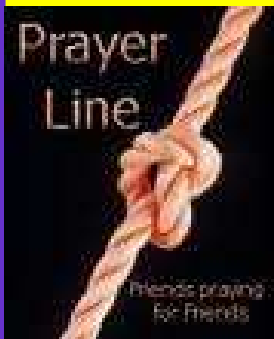
Sept. 19 -22

The continued teaching of the Healing Ministry. Students must have completed Level 1. For information visit the [School of Healing Prayer®](#) page or contact Sandra at 518-692-9550 x 202.

Beaver Cross is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany and has been "Building Community in Christ" for more than four decades. The ministry has expanded in the last five years since we moved from Cooperstown to Greenwich, New York. We now offer many different programs besides just overnight summer camp, such as Christian retreats for teens, confirmation retreats, summer day camp, year round daycare for young children, programs for Greenwich Elementary and Middle School children, and we also host many youth groups. If you would like more information about any of our programs, please feel free to contact the Camp Director at 518-692-9550.



Email Prayer Line Ministry



Please sign up for our new *Email Prayer Line Ministry!* Anyone with a prayer request can send a short (about one paragraph) email to Lisa Longe describing what it is that you would like to have prayer for.

(Example: *From the Longe's: We hope to be closing on a house sometime in mid-August. Please pray that everything will go smoothly and quickly.*)

Lisa will then send the prayer requests out once or twice a day to all who are 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 use 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:

StMichaelsPrayline@gmail.com

or call St. Michael's at 869-6417 to sign up and/or to volunteer to make calls.

Our newsletter Prayer List can be found on Page 5 in this issue of *The Archangel*.

Tent-a-Thon 2010



A FAMILY EVENT TO BENEFIT



August 12-19, 2010

Tawasentha Park
Rt 146w, Guilderland, NY

Directions to Tawasentha Park: From Rts 20 & 87, west on Rt 20 for 4.1 mi., turn left (south) on Rt 146 for .6 mi.



Capital District Habitat for Humanity is a not-for-profit, ecumenical housing partnership dedicated to providing simple, decent and affordable housing to low-income families. We invite people from all walks of life to work together in partnership to build houses for families in need. These partnerships include volunteer labor and donations of money and materials. Established in 1988, CDHFH is the Albany County, NY affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. To date, CDHFH has built 49 homes.

It is important to stress that Habitat for Humanity is not a giveaway program. *Our houses are sold to our partner families at no profit and are financed with affordable zero interest loans.* Our partner families are also required to invest 350 hours of labor, or "sweat equity", into building their house and the houses of others.

The Habitat program allows people to demonstrate their faith through action.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.CapitalDistrictHabitat.org

In His Service

Father Neal Longe

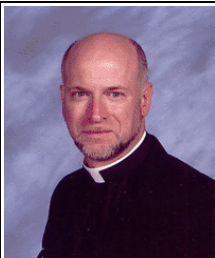
“Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?”.... “I will.” (BCP 532)

The question and response above were part of the examination I received from Bishop Love during my recent ordination. It occurs among a series of questions in the examination that are put forth to the priest to be prior to the consecration. The examination summarizes what the ordained ministry is all about. I have found this question to be at the heart of priestly ministry and wanted to share some thoughts with you.

What is key to this question and to the successful ministry of any parish is that ministry is a team effort. Every priest promises to serve the people, but also to co-labor with them to build up God’s kingdom. This statement emphasizes the corporate nature of ministry and the dependence we have on each other to make ministry happen.

By virtue of our Baptisms we are all ministers for the Lord responsible for building up his kingdom and bringing new people into God’s family. God has blessed each of us with unique gifts and talents for this purpose. Successful ministry depends upon the shared participation by all God’s people. We each have unique roles to play but we all have to play our part. No one person can do everything by himself or herself and no ministry belongs to us personally. We are all in this together. And, everything belongs to Christ.

I am very excited to be joining your ministry team and I look forward to ministering with you. I know you have so many vibrant ministries already happening here and I am excited and looking forward to doing anything that I can to further equip you for your ministry. On behalf of me and my family, thank you so much for the warm welcome and we look forward to the journey ahead: “ministering to build up the family of God.”



*From Bishop
Bill*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In last year’s convention address, I hinted at the importance of not only reading the Bible, but also trying to memorize key Bible verses. In this year’s address, I invited and encouraged parishes to send me a list (preferably by August 15th) of the ten scripture passages that individuals in the parish have found to be most helpful or meaningful in their lives.

Please send your scripture passages to: BibleVerses2010@albanydiocese.org and please include the translation used, book, chapter, and verse number (s). I have already received hand written submissions from a couple of individuals.

We will compile a copy of the top 50 to 100 passages and send them out so children and adults alike can be touched and blessed by them, hopefully committing to memory those they find most helpful. We are exploring ways to honor and recognize (at a parish and diocesan level) those folks who commit themselves to memorizing God’s Word.

Faithfully your brother in Christ,

+Bill

A Note from Alex Riffée, Our Seminarian:

Greetings St. Michael's Episcopal,

Although it is a belated token of appreciation, I wanted to thank Fr. Hart, the Vestry and the entire St. Michael's community for the warm welcome I received when I came to visit during Lent. The warm invitation, the Scottish eggs, and the deep love for Christ and others that I saw in you was both inspiring and encouraging as I continue to journey on my path to the priesthood. My hope is to come visit again real soon for worship and fellowship.

Before I do, though, I want to tell you a bit about myself so that our relationship will continue to grow as I continue in my discernment with the Diocese of Albany. I was born in Charleston, West Virginia and as a child I was very interested in baseball, hiking, and playing saxophone. I am engaged to a lovely woman who is my high school sweetheart, Yinghao Long. I have always felt welcome within the Church, but it was not until I reached high school that I truly felt my heart transformed by Christ. From that point, I followed Christ's call trying to find out how I was to serve. At Centre College in Kentucky, I majored in Biblical languages and Archaeology. This inevitably led me to discern my call to the priesthood after having worked on a dig in Cana, Israel. Another overpowering experience with Christ at that place empowered me with the desire to serve as a priest and since then I have been looking for a spiritual home as a Yale seminarian. St. Michael's and the Diocese of Albany have shown me the love and hospitality to continue my journey and has become my home. In time, I hope to learn more about you as you will of me.

In Christ,

Alex Riffée

New elevator! New Bathroom! What's next?

The installation of the new elevator is complete. A "grand opening" was held on June 27th complete with ribbon cutting. Associated with the elevator installation was the conversion of the two small main floor bathrooms into a single large, handicap accessible bathroom. A special thanks to John Harmon, project manager for the church for these two major construction projects. Thank you to Marcia Allen who donated the beautiful bathroom tile after Sara Stein and she worked their contacts and got incredible pricing for the materials.

Other projects in progress:

- Repainting the two main daycare rooms
- Replacing the ceiling of the two main daycare rooms
- Replacing the lights of the two main daycare rooms
- Replacing the floor of elevator room, Sunday school room, offices and hallways
- Replacing the sagging ceiling tiles in other Sunday school rooms
- Putting in new rubber playground mulch

A big thank you to everyone who has helped in our building improvements and workdays in March, April, and May. More to come - watch the Sunday bulletins for additional dates.

Don't forget we are trying an Alternate method to help maintain the church property. If you can't come on a Parish Workday, we are trialing a "To Do" list. The list is posted by the front door. You can sign up and work an item when it is convenient for you.

Questions? Talk to Carol MacNaughton.

Treasure Hunting

By Carol MacNaughton

What is it?

It's a very simple, rewarding method to bless our neighbors and ourselves. The concept is that we go on a Treasure Hunt for God's treasures - people who are in need of an encouraging word, reminder of God's great love for them, or healing prayer.

How?

You go Treasure Hunting in small groups of 2-3 people. (You can start as a larger group then breakup into smaller ones.) The small group meets and prays for God to show them his treasure. Then in silence, each individual listens for the Holy Spirit to reveal the clues to finding God's treasure. This is actually very simple! The clues are what pops into your mind. The clues are written on individual pieces of paper and become your Treasure Map. Supplied with a map to find God's treasure, the team goes hunting.

An example of clues from when Father Hart, David Bayer and I went out on our first treasure hunt: silver pony, apples, chilies, sport drink, line of cash registers, blue jackets, baseball, shovel, the name Bill, tennis shoes, Easter basket.

Sometimes the clues include a location or help you determine the location. Where might you find apples, chilies, baseball related stuff, and shovels? We head to Wal-Mart.

At the location, look for people who fit any of the clues. Better still - if they fit several. You can combine clues between people. When you find a "treasure", you speak to them explaining you are on a Treasure Hunt and that they are on your list. You can show them the clues. Build rapport with them then let them know that God has highlighted them and wants to bless them. If they say "No", ask the Holy Spirit if there is anything to highlight for them. Then give them encouraging words without being religious. In my experiences Treasure Hunting (with St. Michaels and at my Global Awakening class), people have accepted prayer 80% of the time. If accepted, ask if there is anything that they would like prayer for. Ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit to come at the start of the prayer. End the prayer with a blessing on the individual then move on to the next Divine Appointment on the Treasure Map.

This is easy and rewarding. On that first Treasure Hunt, I was petrified when I found my first treasure in Wal-Mart. She was a cashier, wearing a blue Wal-Mart jacket, working in the nursery (shovels) section. When I explained the Treasure Hunt and clues and asked if she would like prayer, her response was "Boy! Could I use some prayer!" We prayed for her husband who has a severe disability and unable to work for several years and we prayed for her. It was wonderful. She was very grateful. I was charged up to find our next Treasure.

Why go Treasure Hunting?

The Bible repeatedly tells us to love our neighbors. It also tell us to go out and share His word. You will be obeying the Lord. You will be richly rewarded. It is incredible how it feels to do this. The blessing comes back to you immediately. It is also very freeing to discover that all of us have this ability.

So I've covered the what, why, and how of Treasure Hunting. For when and where: Meet at the church Saturday, August 7th at 9 a.m.

Questions? Or want to hear more Treasure Hunting stories? Interested but can't come on the date listed above? Contact me—carol.macnaughton@stmichaelscolonie.org or call 526-2598.

P.S. Two months after that first Treasure Hunt, I went back to Wal-Mart to see my "first treasure". She was delighted to see me again. She said the prayers had helped. Then she asked if we routinely came to Wal-Mart to pray for people - adding, "it would be great if you do!"

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

<i>Sundays:</i>	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	9:00 a.m.	Christian Education (All ages)
	10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
	11:15 a.m.	Coffee & Fellowship Hour
<i>Monday-Friday:</i>	8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
<i>Wednesdays:</i>	6:00 p.m.	Mass / Unction (Healing Services)
	7:15 p.m.	Vestry Meeting (<i>2nd Wed every month unless otherwise stated</i>)
<i>Fridays:</i>	7:00 p.m.	Revival Prayer & Praise (<i>3rd Friday every month</i>)

- All schedules are subject to change -

The monthly calendar, posted on the bulletin board in the narthex at St. Michael's should be checked on a regular basis for any changes in the scheduled activities