



September 2011

A Publication of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Tucson AZ

*Enter here ... for a foretaste of Heaven's Banquet and the pursuit of Truth and Beauty*

### Can Science and Christian Faith Bring Wholeness?



*A personal take as a scientist and a person of faith by Dr. Ke Chiang Hsieh*

*[Ke Chiang (John) Hsieh, recently retired, is privileged to continue to explore the heliosphere enclosing the solar system and its surrounding interstellar space, and also the peculiar dances an evaporating liquid-nitrogen drop performs in a spoon. He has served as a lay catechist at St. Michael's since 1997.]*

Science is a response to our desire to understand the world we live in; and religion is a response to our urge to make sense of our living in the world. In the beginning, responses to these impulses yielded myths of our origin and models for our relations. These stories differ according to tradition, but the yearning to know and to relate remains same. Over time, the accumulation of experiences (data) and the use of reason continuously mold our stories. Differences in interpreting data and in reasoning, unavoidably, make the responses personal, yet always shared.

Following St. Augustine of Hippo and others, I consider these universal yearnings God's call to seek truth and to love God. Science rejects such consideration by its method of seeking truth; but religion, by its commitment to seek truth and its belief that the world belongs to God, must embrace science. Our shared Christian faith enables me to see the self-correcting scientific process as resurrection on our way to truth and each scientific discovery a divine revelation. Hymn 405\* [*All Things Bright and Beautiful – Ed.*] enjoins me to appreciate the evolutionary process that describes life forms on Earth and to celebrate the counterintuitive phenomena in the quantum domain. Science enhances my admiration for God's wondrous works, but also challenges my own faith.

I take the life and teachings of Jesus earnestly; and Hymn 682\* sets me to respond to Christ's love that frees me to live in the world and offers hope for the world we live in. (\**The Hymnal* 1982) †



*Regular and infrared images from the Messenger spacecraft as it flew by the Earth, August 2005.*

### A Theological Reflection from Madeleine L'Engle

A single drop can't make even a puddle, but together, all our little drops and God's planning can make not only a mighty ocean but a mighty difference. ... As the physicists who study the microcosm are discovering, *nothing* happens in isolation; nothing *exists* in isolation. Quanta, the tiny subatomic particles being studied in quantum mechanics, cannot exist alone; there cannot be *a* quantum, for quanta exist only in relationship to each other. And they can never be studied objectively, because even to observe them is to change them. And, like the stars, they appear to be able to communicate with each other without sound of speech; *there is neither speech nor language; but their voices are heard among them*, sings the psalmist.

—From *And it Was Good: Reflections on Beginnings* (1983). (More on L'Engle to come in a class this fall!)

## Greetings from Guatemala by Ila Abernathy

From the mountains of northern Guatemala – RN Sarah Roberts, RN Jason Odhner of Phoenix, and I made our last walking "gira" (circuit) in beautiful Area Xeputul, Chajul, Quiche, from July 30 to August 6, working and collecting new data in three communities: tiny Chaxa and Santa Rosa,



and somewhat larger Pal ("larger" is around 80 families, stretched along a steep ascent). All the communities are in a state of high anxiety because they have heard that the already-erratic services from the Health Ministry will be changing, and they fear a steep reduction in the present limited services. We think their fears are justified and have filed two written reports with the Ixil Area office, and among us have met three times with young, committed doctor Diego Cabrera and other Health Ministry staff. Continued Project work in the small, remote Ixil Area communities may be particularly important over the next two years.

**General observations, Area Xeputul:** too much need for parasite treatment; very good results on hemoglobin testing (screen for anemia), with 84.6% of adults tested, including pregnant and nursing mothers, in the normal range; good work with the local promoters; great emergency suture in Santa Rosa by Diego Lopez (the member of the CPR lead health team who accompanied us), for a severe machete wound across the palm of a 16-year-old boy. The wound will need followup, as tendons seem affected, but we were glad we arrived when we did. No maternal deaths during childbirth in the remote mountains, but two in the major coastal resettlements. Mortality among newborns this year, which is highly variable, was up in the mountains.

I am proudest of the use these communities have made of our "emergency medical travel" money, funded this year by St. Michael's Fowler Community Service Fund. It is used most frequently to move a woman who is having trouble during childbirth. In Santa Rosa, a difficult walk from the nearest road, Chico, the local health promoter, literally saved the life of a 16-year old mother who developed eclampsia during labor: organized the community to carry her out on a board, and demanded not emergency medics but an ambulance and doctor to meet them at the road. She had lost vision and consciousness by the time they reached the road. She survived, after being moved from the small Nebaj hospital to a larger public hospital in Santa Cruz de Quiche, where she spent almost two weeks in recovery. The baby was born dead, not unusual in these circumstances, even with complete access to medical care.

Naturally, Chico had advised the family to get the young

mother out before her due date, but this just doesn't happen. And when her condition worsened during labor, the family called a curandero who said she was going to die and they should get the "caja" (board coffin) ready. Chico mobilized everyone. This was a miraculous save. They used Q100 (approximately \$13.50) of Project emergency travel money to help cover expenses. We gave the family another Q100 to help with the expense of the prolonged stay in El Quiche.

God willing, I will return to Tucson August 20 and see you shortly thereafter.

*Ila Abernathy, Project Coordinator. †*

## A Message from the Rector

*by Fr. John R. Smith*

Dear Friends:

St. Michael's continues to get greener! Some years back when we were designing the Student Center/Gymnasium we thought to use the great roof surface to harvest water. So our architect Bob Vint designed four huge cisterns holding thousands of gallons of water each to catch the runoff from the roof. The harvest water is pumped to plantings in the church courtyard, along the back of the school facing the park, and the school "wetlands" in the middle school area.

Our next best effort at going "green" will be the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Parish Center and School Buildings, including the Student Center. The system will be designed to generate the amount of electricity we are currently using and then some! Tucson Electric assigned solar credits to St. Michael's that coupled with a long term lease agreement with our church and school will save our institution about \$1,000 per month. The company providing the engineering and panels is Solar H2O. They are currently installing a system at St. Gregory's.



Water harvesting, solar power generation, and less use of disposables at coffee hour and parish dinners, are making St. Michael's greener by the day, heeding the Word of the Lord in

Genesis 1:26: "Take care of the earth."

Peace and Love,



## St. Michael's Parish Day School News

by Barry Bedrick



Dear Friends,

St. Michael's Parish Day School opened on August 24 with 340 students enrolled including 80 new. These are both the largest numbers in the past three years. Two new teachers joined our faculty. Xavier Zimmer, a native Columbian with two advanced degrees, speaks four languages fluently; he will teach Spanish and computers and coach soccer. Jay Crosswell, a St. Michael's parishioner and graduate, has been appointed to teach middle school English. Jay earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Arizona.

This is an exciting time for St. Michael's Parish Day School. Ensuring the strength of the school and its faculty, facilities and programs is of the utmost importance to the Board of Trustees and school leadership. To that end, we have engaged two facilitators from the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES) to be on campus September 8-10 to lead us in this effort. Parishioners and Vestry members are invited to participate in a focus group scheduled for you on Friday, September 9th at 10:30 AM in the Parish Center.

This year our favorite biennial event, Grandparents Day, takes place on Friday, October 28. We invite you to sign up in the church office to be a surrogate grandparent for one of our students. This will give you a first-hand opportunity to see our school in action and to interact with students and faculty. In 2009, over 20 parishioners participated in this event and enjoyed themselves immensely.

There is far too much exciting news about our Parish Day School to be shared in this brief letter. I invite you to read more about new developments at St. Michael's in our current, just-released Newsletter, *The Eagle*.

Warm regards to all,  
Barry Bedrick  
Headmaster

## Miroslav Who? by Jon Rinnander



Miroslav Volf, one of the world's most prominent and ecumenical theologians, grew up in a Pentecostal home in Catholic Croatia during Communist rule. Life eventually brought him to the US where he taught at North America's largest seminary (Fuller in Pasadena, Ca.) and now at Yale Divinity School. Schooled in the Reform tradition, he wrote his doctoral dissertation under the great Lutheran theologian Juergen Moltmann. Despite his extensive work in academia, he is also a genial and accessible writer for the general public through his regular column in *Christian Century*. He has worked tirelessly to bring healing in the former Yugoslavia and recently *edited A Common Word: Muslims and Christians on Loving God and Neighbor*. In 2005 he received a grant from the Lilly Foundation to write a book on "Faith as a Way of Life". The resulting book, [\*Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace\*](#) was chosen by the Archbishop of Canterbury as the Lenten Reading in 2006 for Anglicans in England. We will study it in the Academy of Theology on 3 Sundays beginning September 11. If you wish to join the class at 9 A.M. those days in the Womble Library, please order your own copy of the book from Amazon or other bookseller. Miroslav Volf, [\*Free of Charge\*](#), Zondervan, 2006 ISBN 978-0-310-26574-0.†

## Mission and Ministry – "Let's have a conversation!"

Some parishioners are inviting their fellow parishioners to a time of sharing as part of a congregational development growth initiative. Look for bowls of M&Ms on tables in the Parish Center where these conversations can take place. Many are enjoying getting know the people in the pews they have never really met or talked to. Join in these conversations and have a couple of M&Ms! –Father Smith

Please send your submissions to:

[church@stmichael.net](mailto:church@stmichael.net)

or [mavarin2@gmail.com](mailto:mavarin2@gmail.com)

or drop off at the church office.

We especially need a new Parish Life columnist. Thanks to all our contributors.

## Who is Madeleine L'Engle? by Karen Funk Blocher

In October, I will be offering a four week introduction to the theology of Madeleine L'Engle, as part of the St. Michael's Academy of Theology. "Who is Madeleine L'Engle?" people are already asking me. The implied second half of that question is, "and why should I care?"

Madeleine L'Engle was a major contributor to both children's literature and Episcopal theology in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. She wrote 23 novels for children and adults, four faith-infused autobiographical journals, nine books of personal commentaries on Scripture, three books of poetry, three books of prayers, and a number of less easily categorized works.

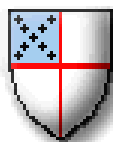
Madeleine L'Engle is most famous for her young adult novel *A Wrinkle in Time*, which won the John Newbery Medal in 1963. This seminal book, about two misfit kids traveling by *tesseract* to rescue their scientist father (aided by a friend and a trio of retired stars/angels), is a rich mixture of science, fantasy and theology. Numerous sequels and related novels followed.

L'Engle wrote that all of her writing was a single work. This is readily seen in the cross-pollination of characters and themes throughout her vast oeuvre: flawed characters trying to do the right thing in both cosmic and everyday settings, love of the arts and the importance of story, modern science and a strong but exploring, questioning faith.

Born in 1918, Madeleine L'Engle Camp grew up with her nose in a book, and wrote stories and poems from an early age. While writing her first novel she worked in theatre, where she met and actor Hugh Franklin. They married and moved to Connecticut to run a general store, while L'Engle continued writing. They had three children, one of them adopted. Eventually they moved back to New York, where Hugh resumed his acting career.

L'Engle became the librarian and writer-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, where she remained for decades. She also taught school and led seminars. Hugh died of cancer in 1986, but L'Engle continued to write well into the late 1990s. She died on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Intrigued? Then I'll see you in class! †



## The Messenger

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church  
602 N. Wilmot Road  
Tucson AZ 85711

telephone: 520-886-7292

email: [church@stmichael.net](mailto:church@stmichael.net)

blog: <http://smaa.blogspot.com>

web: <http://smallangelstucson.org>

### Vestry

The Rev. John R. Smith  
*Priest & Rector*

Debbie D'Amore, *Senior Warden*  
Stephen Coulter, *Junior Warden*

Al DeAugustine, *Treasurer*  
Carolyn Schlager, *Clerk*

Ron Cross  
Richard Dolan  
Steve Larsen  
Michael Leeming  
Penny MacArthur  
Lisa Sharp  
Joyce Tracy



### SUNDAY MASS

7:45 am Mass with Homily

9:00 am Family Mass

9:45 am ~ Sunday School / Child Care

10:15 am High Mass with Sermon

12:30 pm Misa en Español

5:00 pm Mass with Homily

### Weekday Mass

MONDAY ~ 5:30 pm Low Mass  
for Nuclear Disarmament

WEDNESDAY ~ 12:10 pm Low Mass  
with laying on of hands

SATURDAY 8:30 am Low Mass

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday 8:30 AM – 4:00 pm

Thursday & Friday 8:30 am – 12:00 noon

### Clergy

The Rev. John R. Smith  
*Priest & Rector*

The Rev. Canon Ed Harnsberger

The Rev. Joel T. Ireland

The Rev. Jorge Sotelo

The Rev. Clare Yarbrough

The Rev. Michael Meyers, Deacon  
*Assisting Clergy*

### Staff

Jane Haman, *Organist/Choir Director*

Nancy Vernon, *Parish Secretary*

Karen Funk Blocher, *Bookkeeper & Webmaster*

Barry Bedrick, *Parish Day School Headmaster*

