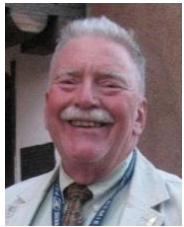




January 2012

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



Epiphany, Season of Missions

by Jon Rinnander

From the earliest days, the lifeblood of the church has been itinerant ministry. Whether called “missionaries” or “church planters” or “revivalists,” they moved from place to place, praying and organizing and kindling a spark, but then they moved on. The prototype is, of course, St. Paul, whose successor, Bishop Padovano, was beheaded by a madman two years ago near Tarsus. The Christianization of Northern Germany and Scandinavia owed its impetus to Boniface, that of the Malay peninsula to the visit of St Francis Xavier more than a hundred years before Plymouth Rock. The dominance of Methodists in American Christianity starts with the visit of John Wesley to the prison colony of Georgia; it spread like prairie fire due to the circuit riders.

The extraordinary history of Christianity in Africa begins in the ancient Ethiopian church but owes its modern manifestations to mission schools staffed by priests, nuns, and lay people thousands of miles from home. The Anglican church in Ireland recently honored the Rev. Albert Ogle (whom it had spurned decades ago as an openly gay priest) for his work in helping Uganda develop AIDS treatment and prevention centers. There is a heroic dimension to the Church in all its branches. The cathedral parish of Saint Esprit in Istanbul would manifest on major feast days its team of French, Haitian, Indian, and Italian clergy.

All congregations and parishes are in danger of being clubs of like-minded people, of roughly the same educational, and economic level. Therein lies the danger of smugness and self-congratulation, on right or left. “Peace and Justice” congregations, of which I have considerable experience, are not immune to it. What

churches and churches alone can do is to teach and live out the Gospel. I asked my friend Sr. Philomena, the Superior of a house of the Little Sisters of the Poor, how she got through the bleak days of tending the cranky and terminally ill patients in her charge. She responded in her inimitable brogue “PRRRRAYERRRR.”

In our own midst we had for a full year an incandescent moment. Hospice chaplain Bob Ebert shared with us on a weekly basis the prayer traditions that sustain him as he ministers to those in terminal illness. The House of Prayer sits still on our property but Bob has taken his itinerant teaching to another location. In a national church riven with dissent, with arguments and court cases over property and pensions, it is well to remember, cherish, and imitate those in our midst who come for a season, live out the Word among us, and then move on.

In this month of missions, we should thank God for letting us be for awhile the object, not the purveyor, of mission. We were the recipients of a beautiful and dedicated ministry. The challenge to us now to respond to it, not fret over its loss. One of the best sermons I ever heard was from a Scots Presbyterian minister on the text, “They came down from the mountain and ate and drank.” As we eat and drink at the Eucharist, let us be mindful of and thankful for the missionary impulse in the church universal, which calls us to be still, to acknowledge God’s Presence, and then go forth as did the Ethiopian eunuch and thousands after him. On Jan 13th the churches of Istanbul will honor Betty and Ken Frank, retiring UCC missionaries in Turkey, continuing the tradition started in 1810 by the American Board of Missions. To them, to Bob, and all those who have ventured to lead others to a deeper knowledge of God, I say “Well done, thou good and faithful servants.” †



A Message from the Rector

by Fr. John R. Smith

Dear Friends:

Greetings in the New Year! We come into this new year with much to anticipate and look forward to. Thank you for being part of it all!

The Rev. Clare Yarborough, known as “Mother Clare,” will be with us as Priest and Chaplain to our school this coming year! At this time we have three catechumens preparing for Holy Baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter. Please pray for Wrigley, George, and Galit.

Over Christmastide new carpeting was installed in the Parish Center. Installation of solar panels on our school and Parish Center roofs will be completed soon (to join our large cisterns that collect rain water for irrigation). And our church and office walls have been re-stuccoed and will be repainted soon. These are just a few signs of new life in our community and gathering places!

Jon Rinnander’s article in this issue on the grace of “itinerant” ministry as part of the church’s soul pays tribute to the meditation ministry that Bob Ebert and Tim Nichols brought to us through Our Lady of the Desert House of Prayer. We’re planning to continue the ministry of prayer, having learned so much this past year from Bob and Tim’s presence among us. Plans are unfolding for adding a hospitality ministry at the house, developed into a place of rest and retreat for modern day pilgrims!

God Bless everyone living out their Baptism at St. Michael’s!

In Christ’s service,



St. Michael and All Angels Parish and School
is pleased to present

St. Michael’s Chamber Players

performing a program

“Flute, Friends and Fun”

Saturday, 21 January 2012, 7:30 pm

• **Sonata for Flute and Keyboard, BWV 1030, J. S. Bach**

• **Five Melodies for Violin and Piano, Op. 35 bis, S. Prokofiev**

• **Serenade for Flute, Violin and Viola, Op. 25, Beethoven**

Free will offering. Suggested donation \$15.00.

Reception following.

Members of St. Michael’s Chamber Players are gifted professional musicians who have individually performed with many orchestras locally, across the U.S. and the world.

- **Alexander Lipay, flute**, is a graduate of Thornton School of Music (USC), has performed as soloist widely in the US, France and Russia, and is Principal Flutist of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra since 2006.



- **Alexander Tentser, piano**, received his piano education at the Russian Music Academy in Moscow. He has appeared with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra as guest soloist.



- **Anna Gendler, violin**, is a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory in Russia, and has been a member of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra since 1991.



- **Melissa Hamilton, viola**, is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, and currently performs with the Tucson Symphony and the Tucson Chamber Artists.



For further information, please contact the St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Parish office at (520) 886-7292, or visit the St. Michael’s website at:

<http://smaa.mavarin.com/music.html>

Please send your submissions to
church@stmichael.net or mavarin2@gmail.com
or drop off at the church office.

We especially need a new Parish Life columnist.

Thanks to all our contributors!



Epiphanies

by Karen Funk Blocher

January is many things. In the Church it starts with the last five days of Christmas, and continues with Epiphany, a season that commemorates the manifestation of Jesus Christ, the incarnation of the Son of God. This manifestation of the divinity of Jesus is revealed in the arrival of the Magi, in the Baptism of Jesus, and in the miracle of the water changed to wine at the wedding feast at Cana. Epiphany comes from Greek word meaning “appearance” or “manifestation.” I think of the related word “apparent.” It becomes apparent to us from these events that Jesus is no ordinary human being. This is a revelation to us, something that we come to realize, as did the people of the time. In other words, we have an Epiphany.

There are other Epiphanies associated with January, for good or ill. On January 8, 2011, we came to realize that even Tucson, even our own citizens, federal judge and member of Congress are not safe from the devastating effects of a semi-automatic weapon in the hands of a mentally ill man. We also came to realize that the people of this city are capable of coming together after such an event, mourn together, work together. We realized that an individual such as Daniel Hernandez, with the knowledge, cool head and good sense to do the right thing at the right time, can make an enormous difference. And we learned that miracles are possible, that a person incorrectly reported as dead might, with hard work and the right doctors, make a remarkable recovery.

January is also the month when we celebrate the birthday of a man who caused a nation, or at least major parts thereof, to have an epiphany about the way we treat each other, that we are indeed all “created equal,” and should not “be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

As the first month of the year, January is when we begin to take stock of the year just past, where we stand and what we need to do as the new year progresses. This is true for parishes as well as individuals. I’ve just started my second January stint working 20 hours at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church on Old Spanish Trail, helping them determine their year-end numbers in preparation for their annual meeting. There are as many differences as similarities between the two parishes, and that’s an epiphany for me as well. I see things that St.

Michael’s does that would not work at St. Matthew’s, and things done at St. Matthew’s that might be helpful at St. Michael’s. Specifically this year I’m looking at the ways that St. Matthew’s allows parishioners to fulfill their pledges by direct deposit, and researching how that can best be done here, for the convenience of the giver as well as the steadiness and predictability of income for the parish.

And finally, I’m having an epiphany about how connected we all are, here at St. Michael’s. The nurses at Tucson Medical Center are much impressed with the number of people from the church who have been to see Jan Lockett in the hospital or inquired about her condition. I’m even more impressed, as many of you ask after her whenever you see me, make plans to visit her, volunteer as we get ready to move her belongings into storage, and ask what else you can do to help. It’s much appreciated, and it tells me that you are living out the life of service to which we are called, by the Epiphany that Jesus Christ is Lord! †

A Theological Reflection from Pope John Paul II

“...We are like the 3 Wise Men who journeyed to Jesus. Now, like those Wise Men, we return to the world from which we came, to the everyday life where we will witness to what we have seen.

“...Indeed it compels us to start out afresh on a new stage of the journey on which we become proclaimers and heralds...The Wise Men were in a sense the first missionaries. Their encounter with Christ did not keep them in Bethlehem, but made them set out anew on the paths of the world.”

— from the Pope’s Epiphany homily, 2001 †

Save the dates. The Lenten Series at First Christian Church at Euclid and Speedway begins well prior to Lent, on Sunday evening February 5 and subsequent Sunday evenings. Bring a bag supper and stay from 5-7 P.M. The text is Robin Myers’ *Saving Jesus from the Church: How to stop worshipping Christ and Start Following Jesus*. Desmond Tutu has said, “Every once in a while a book comes along that changes everything. This is the book.” To order the book (\$11) and register, call the Rev. Delle McCormick at PastorDelle@gmail.com. All are welcome.

“Where there is no love, put love and you will find love.”
—Lucy Rasmus †

A Little Trivia - by Mary Beggs

In the Middle Ages, the paint made from the borage plant was used solely to paint the Virgin Mary's robe. It was considered as close to the color of Heaven as could be found on Earth! †

Don't miss the Annual parish meeting, January 22nd at 9AM followed by a festive brunch with Chef Andy.

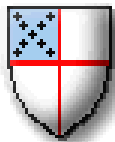
- Presentation of Budget 2012
- Election of Junior Warden
- Appointment of Senior Warden
- Election of New Vestry
- Reports of Parish Organizations

“When you can't sleep,
Don't count sheep -
Talk to the Shepherd.” †

A Thank You

We want to thank all the people that gave their time and hard work in making the Angel Food Candy, including:

Peter Schmidt	Sherry Terrell
Bob Cameron	Dorothy Cameron
Stacy Cameron	Ron Cross
Jody Snider	Rev. Claire Yarborough
Pat Miller	Connie Pascoe
Ellen Schafer	Pattie Benedict
Jo Leeming	Michael Leeming
Carolyn Peacock	Alice Miller
Dorothy Sayles	Nail Beazel
Stevan Alber	Phyllis Newberry
Pat Fisher	Lynette Emory
Steve Coulter	Marge Winton
Lucy Rasmus	Peggy Roesler †



The Messenger

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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 - Thursday 8:30 AM – 4:00 pm

Friday 9:00 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 Yarborough

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*

