Happy Easter! The Lord is Risen Indeed!

Enter here... go there... for a foretaste of Heaven’s Banquet.

From the Interim Rector
By Fr. Richard Mallory

I commend this article by Episcopal priest Tom Ehrich to St. Michael’s members and friends. I ask that you consider his strong case for keeping track of who attends what, how long they stay and if they come back. Fr. Tom is sounding a wake-up call for all of us who care about our parish as well as the wider church.

Fr. Richard

Metrics (measure it, or else) By Tom Ehrich

My first glimpse of why metrics matter came on a golf course, when my playing partner showed up angry. It seems his church had scheduled their annual men’s cleanup day, and he had dutifully shown up to work on the property. He was the only man who came.

As we talked, I learned something: the men’s cleanup day had once drawn a large group of men, but then it was five, last year it was three, and this year it was one.

If any leader had been paying attention to those numbers, they would have changed something: recruited personally, rather than rely on a bulletin blurb; invited men to form teams; or even canceled it altogether. Business as usual – if you knew the numbers – wouldn’t work.

That is why measurements matter. Not to fill boxes on a spreadsheet or official church report, but to avoid hurting people, to know when a program needs refreshing, to see growth as it is happening so that you can support it, or to see early signs of decline so that you can take action. Without metrics, leaders are flying blind.

This is what happened 50 years ago. The tide shifted, easy growth gave way to falling numbers. No one noticed.

No one was even counting the things that needed to be counted, and the official numbers became increasingly unmoored from reality. Attendance and membership declines that should have been noticed at the first dip were allowed to worsen steadily, until decline became catastrophe. And then, because good metrics still weren’t available, church folks used decline to blame whatever they didn’t like.

As mainline churches began to lose touch with young adults, for example, no one noticed until half a generation was gone. Even then, few sought to understand it. Now it’s two entire generations gone. As women’s groups drew scant response from younger women, no one thought to ask why or to change the meeting time to evening. When the divorce rate began to spike, churches kept assuming a coupled world. Churches kept offering Sunday Schools as if the 1950s would return.

Leaders shunned outcome-based decision-making and chose, instead, the delusion of desire-based decision-making, sprinkled with resistance by longtime leaders, nostalgia, blame, rumor, pop psychology, and scapegoating, especially of the clergy. People planned programs that had worked before and felt betrayed when they didn’t work another time. People felt pushed to show their loyalty by participating in activities that, by any reasonable measure, had run their course.

As a result, churches kept flogging Sunday worship long after it should have been evident that many weren’t attracted to Sunday worship. It was easy to do Sunday, and maybe if we just did it better, people would “come back.” That single delusion has crippled mainline churches. But without data, no one saw it happening, and without data, they couldn’t justify changing course.

As a result, churches kept flogging Sunday worship long after it should have been evident that many weren’t attracted to Sunday worship. It was easy to do Sunday, and maybe if we just did it better, people would “come back.” That single delusion has crippled mainline churches. But without data, no one saw it happening, and without data, they couldn’t justify changing course.

It was like running a business without a complete set of books, no customer surveys, no trends being measured, no studying of the culture, no learning from enterprises doing better, just the vague and increasingly wan hope that if we
keep on keeping on, things will get better.

Well, things haven’t gotten better.

What needs to be measured? Anything and everything. Average Sunday Attendance is popular but meaningless as a metric. Instead, measure how often people attend. Measure how early they arrive and how long they stay. Look for changing patterns. Measure how many first-time visitors you have, and then track them as they do or don’t return. Call them all, and learn especially from the ones who don’t return.

Get beyond Sunday. You won’t find a better future by perfecting Sunday morning. Measure how many small groups you have and how regularly people attend. Measure interest in different kinds of groups. Measure response to mission activities. If you have to make ten calls to get one person to chair the bazaar but the Habitat for Humanity build is jammed, kill the bazaar and build more houses.

Study your stewardship closely. Measure not only how much people pledge, but how that pledge correlates to their household income. Don’t just raise funds for a budget; use sophisticated metrics to understand stewardship as a ministry.

Measure indicators that people’s lives are being transformed or not transformed. Is their giving changing? Do you see signs of different personal decisions being made, such as dads spending more time with their children, new ideas being offered, new behaviors like offering to lead?

Measure age distribution so that you can take action to drive down the average age. Measure gender distribution; too many churches have only females up front. Measure your contacts with the outside world, and not just 12-step rentals of your hall. Measure your email distribution lists, and track whether people actually read what you send them. Try A/B testing to see what people read. If you don’t have an adequate CRM app, get one now and use it faithfully. Be smart, not stubborn.

The best metrics are kept consistently and accurately and for years on end. You want to spot trends. One-time measures tell you little. I’m not sure mainline churches will ever recover from the trends they didn’t spot in the 1960s. But we certainly don’t need to keep making that mistake. †

---

Nominating Committee Report, March 2016

By Ohia Hodges

Over the past few months we have been working diligently to gather information to complete our parish profile. First, I would like to thank everyone who has participated by giving their thoughts and time, either at our Dream and Discovery sessions or on the paper questionnaire. All of these events proved to be a great success. We now have a wealth of ideas and information to show our prospective candidates who we are at St. Michael and All Angels and give the candidates a true idea about what we desire in a rector.

The committee is currently working to organize all of the information in order to produce an updated parish website which will include parish profile information and, eventually, a special section for prospective rector candidates. Keep an eye out for the new and improved website in the very near future. [Update: online now—Ed.]

In addition to using the gathered information to update the website and create our parish profile, we are in the early stages of crafting prospective rector interview questions inspired by your dreams and wishes! I am pleased to share this journey with such a wonderful committee and ask that you keep us in your prayers as we continue with our work!

Humbly,

Ohia Hodges
Nominating Committee Chair. †

Dinner with Our Islamic Guests

By Joel Williams

Several St. Michael’s parishioners enjoyed a Mediterranean meal with some members of the Islamic Center of Tucson on Monday, March 7. The delicious meal was catered by Za’atar Mediterranean Restaurant. The meal concluded around sunset, one of the times prescribed to Muslims for prayer.

After prayer, Ahmed Meiloud, president of the Islamic Center, led a spirited and wide-ranging conversation on Islam. Among the topics discussed were the prayer practices, the place of Mary and Jesus in the Qur’an, the attractiveness of Islam to people around the world, and the Sunni - Shia division. In addition, individual parishioners enjoyed informal conversations with our guests.

The free will donation for the meal was given to help Syrians in need.

---

Dinner with members of Islamic Center. Photo by KCH.

Dinner with members of Islamic Center. Photo by KCH.
Day School News
By Margaret Moore
And we’re off…Charting Our Course for the Future!!

As many are aware, our day school recently launched the public phase of a capital campaign that will help set our course for the future. Several years ago, St. Michael’s was approached by a local family foundation with a grant opportunity to benefit our school. As a result, conversations began both with the staff and the Board to identify areas of greatest need that would serve to strengthen our program for the future. Through our internal conversations, a feasibility study within our larger community which included members of the parish, and the advice and direction of a fund raising consultant, a decision was made by our Board of Trustees to launch a capital campaign.

Three main goals are incorporated into this campaign. The first goal is to address needs within our physical plant. Improvements will include a dedicated Science and Language room for our lower school; the addition of a multi-purpose room that will serve as a lunch room, aftercare facility, and center for programs to support our curriculum and professional development; improvements to our Student Center to include air conditioning and blackout shades for our sky lights during stage and audio visual performances; improvements to our main office in order to offer a warmer reception area for our current and prospective families. The second goal will be a STEM endowment fund. With the expansion of a current science endowment fund to include STEM education, this will support not only programs for our students but also professional development for our faculty. Our aim is to develop greater integration of our Science, Technology and Math curriculums while introducing more Engineering components. In order to assist us in carrying out this vision, we are pleased to announce that Ms. Jennifer Gould will be returning to St. Michael’s to serve as the Director of STEM Education, which will include the Math and Science Departments. Our third goal is to continue to build on our general Endowment Fund insuring the long term financial sustainability of our school.

Information brochures are available in the church and office that explains our capital campaign. The school website also has a video posted that will share our vision with you. Our goal is to raise in excess of $1,000,000. Already, through the generosity and leadership of key supporters of St. Michael’s, we are approaching $600,000 in cash gifts and pledges. Our hope is to have sufficient cash gifts on hand by late March or early April, allowing us to break ground on the facility improvements this summer. With your help and participation, we will reach our goal. This is a project that will benefit our students now and into the future. At the same time, we feel the physical improvements will allow improved space available for parish use as well. Parishioners are invited to join in our campaign by making a cash or pledge gift that help to carry St. Michael’s into the next chapter of excellence. It’s an exciting time to be a part of the St. Michael’s church and school family. Together, we will be Charting Our Course for the Future…A 21st Century Plan, because at the end of the day, it’s all about the kids.
Margaret Moore
Head of School

Senior Warden’s Column
By John Hsieh

Thank you all angels of St. Michael’s for all your urging, help and trust, enabling me to learn on the job at this exciting and challenging time. First, I want to thank Lisa Sharp for serving five years tirelessly as our Junior Warden and for her wise nomination of Howard Creswell as her successor, and to thank Todd Vick for diligently applying his expertise in legal matters in completing his three-year term on the Vestry on 24 January at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting bolstered the Vestry by electing Lisabeth Almgren of our Mision San Miguel to fill the vacancy left by Todd Vick, and Howard Creswell Junior Warden for a full term, and by extending Katrina Noble her expertise in legal matters in completing his three-year term on the Vestry on 24 January at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting launched our parish into a new phase in our transition: to challenge you to dream on growth. We all know that growth is essential to living organisms. Growth of a parish can be measured in many ways; for example: increase in the effectiveness of certain ministries or programs, in the number of parishioners, etc. Clearly, these increases are interconnected; e.g., an increase in the effectiveness of certain ministries or programs could attract and retain more new members or vice versa. So, let me post my challenge to you in a series of questions:

• Which of our existing ministries or programs should we focus our efforts for growth? To get your thinking started, let me begin with a few more questions. Are there things we do at St. Michael’s that are unique among all the Episcopal parishes in Tucson? How many Episcopal parishes in Tucson or in Southern Arizona have a K-8 parish day school? How many Episcopal parishes in Tucson offer Mass in Spanish each Sunday? Have you read the article by Johanna Willett in the 9 February issue of Arizona Daily Star, which has a quote, “There are no people between 18 and 35 in the Episcopal Church, and I want Christian peers”? If not, here is the URL: http://tucson.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/ash-wednesday-lent-still-draw-some-millennials-to-
church/article_e0d49faa-5b9a-5721-b16d-6edd2069ef82c.html. Do you know what people of age 25-35 could bring with them to church that folks of my age cannot? What else is missing among us or calling our attention? What do you think God is calling us to do, so the Body of Christ, to which we are members, may grow?

- Can you prescribe how to grow in the area you have identified? To bring about growth in a particular area through a specific prescribed process would face peculiar requirements. What are the requirements for implementing the process you prescribe? Can these requirements be met with our existing resources – talents, time, money and space or facilities? Do we need additional resources to meet these requirements? Can you give an estimate on the needed talents, time, money, facilities and space to proceed with your prescription? What can you do to help to meet these requirements?

- What changes in our current ways of doing things might have to be made in order to implement the steps you prescribed above? Can growth happen without change? Can a tree grow without extending its roots and branches, or additional fertilizers and water? Does your prescribed process conflict with any of the things we now do? Are these would-be affected existing practices or activities immutable, hence the growth you want is impossible? Which is more life-giving to our parish? Are these conflicts inevitable or unsolvable? What stands in the way? What would be your solution to such conflicts?

I will rest my case and wait for your response. I hope to see you in church during the Holy Week, staring on Palm Sunday and ending at the Great Vigil of Easter. Please remember, there is no Easter without Good Friday, no Resurrection without Crucifixion. May we be faithful!

John Hsieh
hsieh@dakotacom.net.

Lay Leadership Retreat at Chapel Rock,
Prescott, AZ, March 4-6, 2016
By Margie King and Jim Steinman

We battled Friday afternoon traffic, trucks traveling slowly up the steep grade, and a brush fire. Prescott’s fresh, pine-scented air rewarded our long drive and promised a great weekend. The Chapel Rock staff and keynote speaker, Mary Parmer more than met our expectations.

INVITE WELCOME CONNECT was developed by Mary Parmer, a congregational development consultant and retreat leader based in the Diocese of Texas. During three plenary sessions, Mary introduced us to about a billion ideas for a Newcomer Ministry. The goal of such a ministry is not to convert more people to the Episcopal Church but to introduce them to the love of God through Christ and to a community living out that love. Funny that the institutional church grows as a side effect of outreach beyond our comfort zone!

In the weeks and months ahead, we will share some of Mary’s many ideas with you during committee meetings and coffee hour discussions. We have been warned that growing a church takes courage to welcome others to our cozy groups of friends, open-mindedness to change in unexpected ways, and intentionality to listen deeply to newcomers’ personal stories.

Break-out small group discussions alternated with the plenaries. Jim attended Welcoming Children & Families to our Services, a presentation by Jana Sundin, Canon for Children’s Ministries. Canon Jana stressed a nurturing welcome to visiting children as well as adults, including pew cards that welcome children, bags with quiet activities such as crayons and clay, and training to ushers to smile at them and learn their names.

She noted that the Chapel Rock summer programs are a good way to introduce children to our worship that leads to being comfortable with our church. “Regular exposure to the liturgy increases the likelihood that they’ll stick around when they’re older,” she said.

Other church folk mentioned having Christmas parties for the children, Blessing of the backpacks at the start of school, annual children’s art shows, and mission trips. These are trips such as to San Diego where the older children stayed in a church for a week and went out daily to help at soup kitchens and other projects.

Margie attended Mi Casa es Su Casa, My Home is Your Home: Reaching Hispanics, a presentation by Fr. Martir Vasquez, Canon for Hispanic Ministries of the Arizona Diocese. Canon Martir is a former chaplain in the army and in a hospital in Guatemala, his home country, and also has served in Mexico, Belize, and Los Angeles before coming to Arizona. He cited Leviticus 19: 33-34, and Ephesians 2:19 to remind us to love the stranger among us and invite the stranger into our church home as equals.

Fr. Martir emphasized that the Episcopal Church offers Latinos an important alternative in their search for a spiritual home. According to a recent Pew Research survey, 69% of adults in Latin America identify as Catholic, down from 90% just fifty years ago. “In nearly every country surveyed, the Catholic Church has experienced net losses from religious switching, as many Latin Americans have joined evangelical Protestant churches or rejected organized religion altogether.”

The key to Hispanic outreach is to develop an action plan based on our belief that all people are important before God. Three fundamental principles are: treat Latinos with kindness and courtesy, respect them, and accept them. He followed with a strategy for identifying Hispanics in the neighborhood around our church, worshiping with Hispanic congregations, and conducting joint projects. Anglo and Hispanic congregations need to learn each other’s language, culture, values, and traditions, including special religious days and ceremonies, foods, music, and other entertainment.

St. Michael’s has a huge advantage in our own Mision San Miguel, which worships here every Sunday at 12:30, led by Fr. Jorge Sotelo. The groundwork has been well-laid. A member of the Spanish mass now attends the vestry, and we occasionally worship together. It’s time to enjoy some of that cultural exchange. Bring on the festivities! †
Our New Home on the Web
By Karen Funk Blocher

“The website pretty much is our parish profile,” I was told. The implication: it needed to change.

The Nominating Committee had met with the recommended consultant, and things were starting to move forward in the multi-step process of finding a new Rector. One important part of that process is to define who we are as a parish, and who we want to be moving forward. Another part is to present who we are to the public in general, and to candidates for the position of Rector in particular. That’s where I come in.

For twelve years I’ve been gathering information about the many ministries at St. Michael’s, and putting it online, along with names and photos of clergy and staff, the mass schedule, photos of major and minor occasions, photos of the building and grounds, and on and on. But the church website was over ten years old, and its age was starting to show, to put it mildly. To present our best face to our potential new Rector, and to all the potential parishioners out there who might benefit from what we have to offer, every page needed to be updated, with current information, fresh pictures if possible, and a sleek new look. Each page needed to be more Google-friendly, easily viewed on smart phones and tablets, take advantage of modern web capabilities, and, for a more unified presentation, resemble the school website in its basic look! Ack! That sounded like a lot of work! It was a little scary, but exciting as well.

I was partnered with Vestry members Alec Kennedy and Katrina Noble as the new Communications Committee, charged with defining the parameters of the new website. St. Michael’s School had recently relaunched their own website with a new look, based on the WordPress platform. WordPress had started as a blogging platform similar to Blogger, but more sophisticated; and over the years it has resembled learning the newer, trickier forms of coding. But would I grown to be a full Blogger, but more sophisticated; and over the years it has resembled learning the newer, trickier forms of coding. But would I need to take a course to learn it all? Years ago, I had turned to a friend in Texas for instruction in the few non-HTML upgrades to the website that I had ever attempted.

There was certainly a learning curve, but it wasn’t nearly as difficult as I had anticipated. Our web provider, GoDaddy, offered WordPress sites. Alec researched what template (basic web design) the school was using, and set it up as a temporary domain on GoDaddy so we could do most of the work on it before taking it live for the world to see. Alec and Katrina went over the existing site and proposed what web pages we needed on the new one, how they would be arranged and what would be on them, and worked up an outline. From there we collaborated and revised, renamed and rearranged until we had a strong basic setup, where visitors could find the info they wanted with less searching and scrolling. The Welcome page would no longer be about ten pages long, and there would be a whole new page for Search candidates to look at, and find the information most relevant to them. (We’re still working on that part.) Alec and Katrina put in a lot of text, from the old site and other sources, and I added photos and still more text.

On March 7th, during a long pre-midnight call to GoDaddy support, I downloaded everything that was on the old website, some of it twelve years old; and then the new website went live on our original web domain, at http://smallangelstucson.org. Since then, our Senior Warden, Vestry and Nominating Committee members have been looking it over and making suggestions, I’ve been adding to it, making corrections and tweaking, tweaking, tweaking. Just yesterday I added a Where We Are page, with the Google map, brand new photos taken at the church entrance, and even a note that you really should turn right as you pull in! The Nominating Committee and Peter Medine have worked hard on a Core Statement, now featured on the Welcome and Who We Are pages.

There’s more to do, and there will always be more to do; but I think it’s looking rather splendid. Check it out! 

---

Left: the top of the “Welcome” page on the new website. The pictures are part of a “slider,” with six banners in rotation, showing six different aspects of the church. This is the Family Mass banner. Screen capture by KFB.
Head Notes:
By Margaret Moore

I’m often amazed when people who are not familiar with day school communities assume that our students “live in a bubble.” A friend who is a priest even commented to me some years ago that the kids don’t experience real life. And so I begged to differ. Even in small schools, students experience the realities of life. In our Episcopal schools, we are diverse and we celebrate that because it is real life. Our diversity includes students of different race, color, religion, economic level, countries of origin, languages, family structures, and talents. Amidst our diversity and within our community, life does happen and that includes not only the celebration of life but the sadness and grief of loss. Joy is experienced but so is tragedy. And yet no one is alone.

The beauty of being in community here is that we are able to walk together, adult and child, through the ups and downs of life. We can share stories. We can laugh together and, yes, we can cry together as well. Over the last two weeks, we have shared stories of our colleague and friend, K.C. Cameron. Each member of our community walked with K.C. through his illness and many had the opportunity during the last month to say goodbye. K.C. modeled optimism and a positive spirit to all of us. Regardless of whether his hair was long, short, or buzzed; regardless of times of weight loss; the children were always accepting, compassionate, and eager to say hello and pet Darlin’. Over the last two years, we experienced the thrill of good news and the agony of defeat. During it all, our community reached out to K.C. and to each other. The past two weeks have been no exception as we have had the opportunity to hug one another, laugh and share funny stories, and recognize that it is absolutely all right to be sad and shed a tear.

This is what community is all about. We live together and share life as it happens. Sometimes we have so much to celebrate and cheer about. Other times, we can only look to tomorrow to be a better day. We learn from each other and we sometimes step on toes. We reconcile, we forgive, and we recognize the value of true friendships, even on “the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day.” We do not live in a bubble on our campus. In reality, we live in a vibrant, living, breathing community where all that life has to offer can be experienced among us. And at the center of it all is God.

Another Award for St. Michael’s Students
By Tracy Holsinger

The much anticipated envelope arrived in the mail and for the tenth straight year, Eagle’s Quill, our school’s literary magazine, has received recognition from the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)’s Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines. Eagle’s Quill was awarded a ranking of “Superior.” Only one other school in Arizona (Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix) received that designation. What’s all the more impressive is that the vast majority of schools competing in the NCTE contest are high schools. On Sunday, February 21st the Arizona Daily Star featured an article about St. Michael’s and the long tradition of Eagle’s Quill excellence.
Thank you! Thank you!
By Karen Funk Blocher

I received a letter a week ago from First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC. My dad, Dr. Frank E. Funk, was an elder and officer at that church for years, as was my stepmother, Ruth. The Easter after Ruth died, I received a letter telling me that there would be an Easter lily at First Presbyterian in Ruth’s memory, and inviting me to Easter services there. Needless to say, I didn’t go.

So when I got this new letter, I assumed it would be something similar in honor of my dad, who died on August 21, 2015. But that’s not what the letter said. Inside the envelope addressed to me was a letter addressed to one Elaine S. of Wilmington, NC, telling her of a lily in memory of Robert S., for Easter services on April 20th.

April 20th?

It’s a simple and understandable mistake for some church volunteer to put a letter in the wrong envelope. I have personally mailed actual checks to the wrong businesses a time or two over the years. But it does seem to show a lack of attention, a lack of caring. The fact that that church got a major bequest from Dad and Ruth’s estate at the end of last year makes the mistake seem that much more egregious. Maybe it’s too much to expect that they would know that a deceased congregant’s relative in Tucson isn’t going to accept an invitation to cross the country at Easter to look at a lily. (They probably feel it’s polite to make the invitation anyway.) But at the very least, they should get the date of Easter 2016 right. It’s a little thing, but it rankles, just a bit.

But it makes me wonder whether I’m doing enough, and whether St. Michael’s is doing enough, to make individual parishioners and their families feel appreciated. For a few years we were only sending out contribution statements twice a year. My reasoning was that really, you just need the December one for tax purposes, but now I realize that that’s not the point - or, at least, that’s not the only purpose of those statements. People like to know how much they have contributed - and they like to know that someone at St. Michael’s has noticed their faithful stewardship, and appreciates it. Similarly, a one-time visitor or well-wisher from afar who makes a contribution of more than a few bucks should be thanked, both for tax purposes and to show that we really do appreciate the gift.

So that’s a task we are taking on now: to make a greater effort to show genuine appreciation for all that people do for St. Michael’s. If you help to support us financially, thank you - and I plan to thank you more individually when I send out the March statements in April. Every contribution, small or large, is appreciated. Non-parishioners will get thank you letters from parish treasurer Jo Leeming. Guatemala Project contributors are already getting individual thank-you’s from Ila Abernathy, so I’d also like to thank Ila for this effort.

Beyond that, I’d like to thank all who support the church and its ministries in other ways. If you volunteer in the office, thank you! If you help with the work of the Altar Guild or ECW, thank you! If you donate to the pantry or make sandwiches, thank you! Everyone, really and truly, thank you! This place could not even exist without its faithful stewards - and that includes you! I challenge everyone in every ministry in this church: please take a moment to thank the people around you who are helping out, in large ways and small, and know that you are appreciated, too. Together, we ARE St. Michael and All Angels! †

Thanks for the lilies! Photo by KFB.

St. Michael’s Guatemala Project Delegation – One path to a Holy (and wholly adventurous) Lent
By Ila Abernathy

Saturday, April 9, join us in the Parish Center for coffee at 9 AM, followed by a brief report, and lots of photos, and information about Project summer teams.

In late February retired nurses Dorothy Chao (Tucson Samaritans, second Project visit) and Lahna Chaffee (Green Valley, long-term Project supporter) and I joined Fr. Smith and Terri, and two couples from their mission in Antigua Guatemala, on a fast trip to Nebaj, in the wildly mountainous “Ixil [Maya] Area” of northern Quiché Department. There we met with local health workers of the CPR-Sierra, many of whom who left their mountain communities around midnight, some on foot, some paying to shiver and bounce in the back of 4WD pickup trucks, in order to be with us.

A highlight for the local workers was receiving needed medicines and supplies purchased with a combination of Fowler Fund money and a very, very generous donation from one of Fr. Smith’s parishioners. We had also arranged for an Area Health Ministry nurse to join us for part of the day, and the local promotores gave her a very respectful and earful about a Ministry traveling nurse who was charging for “free” nutrition supplements for undernourished children and for other basics. The nurse promised to investigate. Communication and civility, which our presence helps foster, are key, as the communities recover from decades of abuse and neglect.

After the Nebaj “encuentro,” the Antigua group and Lahna headed for Antigua, where Fr. Smith was to preach the next day, and Dorothy and I and one of the lead health team took a gorgeous, if bumpy, ride to the point where we walked straight up the side of a hill (think mountain) to meet with community leaders about a special solar project, and incidentally, to give a few health consults in the dark little dirt-floor clinic. Dorothy’s fondest memory is that of sitting by the cooking fire in Olivia’s kitchen, eating tortillas hot from the comal, as the children gathered round.
After that, our trip turned formidable as we worked with the Health Ministry, local leaders, CPR-Sierra leaders, a small hospital, and various relatives to get treatment for a young woman with advanced breast cancer, of a type that typically does not metastasize. She lives in a community so traditional and so remote that many patients refuse to leave, and her husband’s resistance also figured. We gave them the confidence to seek solutions, though it is very, very late. Want to know more? Come to the session April 9.

Dorothy wrote a couple of tremendous blogs about our adventures. Write me at ila@mindspring.com if you would like to connect.

Fr. Smith and Terri are still waiting for those promised visits! They are well, and happy. Bishop Armando Guerra, Episcopal Church of Guatemala, told us Fr. Smith is doing very useful pastoral work with his special congregation. Bp. Guerra, consecrated bishop in 1982 at the height of Guatemala’s long internal conflict, when he was a very young priest, plans to retire next year. See you April 9!

ILA †

---

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

**Vestry**
The Rev. Dr. Richard Mallory
Priest & Interim Rector

John Hsieh, Senior Warden
Howard Creswell, Junior Warden
Jo Leeming, Treasurer
Carolyn Schlager, Clerk

Lisabeth Almgren
Andy Harris
Reed Karaim
Alec Kennedy
Marjorie King
Chris Lewis
Linda Morrison
Katrina Noble
Joel Williams

**SUNDAY MASS**
7:45 AM Mass with Homily
9:00 AM Family Mass
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 World Peace
Tuesday: 8:10 AM Lower School Mass
Wednesday: 12:10 PM Healing Mass with laying on of hands
Thursday: 9:40 AM Upper School Mass
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. Dr. Richard Mallory
Priest & Interim Rector
The Rev. Clare Yarborough
The Rev. Jorge Sotelo
The Rev. Peter Cheney
The Rev. Jeffrey Reed
The Rev. Michael Meyers, Deacon
Assisting Clergy

**Staff**
Nancy Vernon, Parish Secretary
Douglas Leightonheimer, Music Director and Organist
Karen Funk Blocher, Bookkeeper, Editor & Webmaster
Margaret Delk Moore, Head of School

---

Petrona, a cancer patient. Photo by Dorothy Chao.