



Saint Michael's \*\*\*\*\*

## MESSENGER

**Mission Statement:** Saint Michael's Episcopal Church is a  
Worshiping body called by Christ to create and sustain a caring  
Christian family, addressing the spiritual needs of it's people,  
Providing for future growth, and promoting Christ's ministry  
And precepts of the Episcopal Church in the community.

DECEMBER, 2009

### Christmas Day Prayer

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure vir-  
gin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made  
your children by adoption and grace, may daily be re-  
newed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be  
honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Vestry Short  
November 8, 2009

**Finances as of October 31<sup>st</sup>:**

Total Income*:	\$10,961
Total Expenses:	\$11,433
Net Income:	\$ (472)
Bank Balance:	\$ 852

\*Includes transfer from Savings of: \$ 5,316

**Other information:**

- Need to transfer \$15,000 from the DIT fund, with \$4,000 designated to cover a portion of the Pension Fund payment that is in arrears.
- Karen Longman presented a summary sheet of Income and Expenses from Jan. 2008 through August 2009

Income:	\$124,303.60
Savings used:	\$127,783.37
Expenses:	\$253,723.47

Prospective expenses for 2010(averaging 20 month figures plus increasing average needed for pension fund): \$149,490.84.

- Bill Piggott reported that:
  1. floor cleaning underway in the church building
  2. Christmas tree will be planted soon
  3. donation from the Veteran's Hospital in Loma Linda of cushions for church pews is in process
- The December 6<sup>th</sup> Lunch on the House of God will also be a farewell luncheon for Janet Clark who is moving to Texas.
- Ingathering of pledges involving time, talent and money will be on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Karen Longman is working on some fund-raising ideas that she will present to the Vestry for the December meeting.

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**Volume 18-Issue 12- December 1, 2009**

Buzzy Bee says that:

The October 31<sup>st</sup> service in the church was a drama of spirited significance. The workers in the hive were awed by it. Thanks to Kathleen, Robert and the rest of the cast.

The Workers in the hive will miss Evelyn Reed (Janet Clark's mother) who left us on November 1<sup>st</sup>. for the new fields of flowers in Texas.

Hope to see you at the November 29<sup>th</sup> Advent church party. Plans will include Advent crafts and a present for every family in the hive.

The November birthdays are listed in the Messenger

On December 6<sup>th</sup> a reception is being hosted on the departure of another member of the hive leaving. Janet Clark is moving to Texas. Good buzzing in the new fields of flowers in Texas.

December birthdays and wedding anniversaries are listed along with plans for Christmas Eve and Day.

Joyful Beauty Bee



Volunteer Worker Bee #77 has been observing and listening to the words of Grandpa and Joyful Beauty Bees. Buzz, Buzz to you both on the future of the hive. Years of service to produce honey, attend to the flowers, social contact with other workers, the joy of preparing for the services within the hive, the music and words of inspiration to make the voice hum with joy, and is asking other volunteers in the hive to join in the work to be continued.

Volunteer Recruiter #77



Grandpa Buzzy Bee is still remembering past events in the hive:

Forty years ago the hive had grown and new ones were needed to produce more honey.

Forty three years ago the new hive was built and dedicated to making more honey through the efforts of the worker bees. The activities within the hive included:

furnishing it

providing music to make the heart hum

reading, teaching and praying words of inspiration for workers of all ages.

keeping the place clean

providing honey to the surrounding community by serving its physical/ spiritual needs

I hopes and pray that the present generation of workers will keep up the hive and service the flowers that need to be visited.

Grandpa Buzzy Bee



**CHRISTMAS EVE:**

**Carols at 10:00 p.m. followed by Eucharist**

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**

**Children's Pageant and Eucharist with CAYA lunch following.**

## Nativity of Jesus

The Nativity of Jesus refers to the Christian belief that the Messiah was born to the Virgin Mary. The story of Christmas is based on the biblical accounts given in the Gospel of Matthew, namely Matthew 1: 18-Matthew 2: 12 and the Gospel of Luke, specifically Luke 1: 26-Luke 2:40. According to these accounts, Jesus was born to Mary, assisted by her husband Joseph, in the city of Bethlehem. According to popular tradition, the birth took place in a stable, surrounded by farm animals, though neither the stable nor the animals are mentioned in the Biblical accounts. However, a manger is mentioned in Luke 2: 7 where it states "She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Early iconographic representations of the nativity placed the stable and manger within a cave (located, according to tradition, under the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem). Shepherds from the fields surrounding Bethlehem were told of the birth by an angel, and were the first to see the child. Many Christians believe that the birth of Jesus fulfilled prophecies from the Old Testament.

Remembering is a central way that Christians celebrate Christmas. There is a very long tradition of the Nativity of Jesus in art. The Eastern Orthodox Church practices the Nativity Fast in anticipation of the birth of Jesus, while much of the Western Church celebrates Advent. In some Christian denominations, children perform plays re-telling the events of the Nativity, or sing carols that reference the event. Some Christians also display a small re-creation of the Nativity, known as the Nativity scene or crib, in their homes, using figurines to portray the key characters of the event. Live Nativity scenes and tableaux vivants are also performed, using actors and live animals to portray the event with more realism.

Nativity scenes traditionally include the Three Wise Men, Balthazar, Melchior, and Caspar, and who are said to have followed a star, known as the Star of Bethlehem, and arrive at his birth. However, this conflicts with Biblical accounts in that their names and number are never mentioned nor is their arrival at his birth. (Matt. 2:7-8, 16). Likewise, the Bible makes no mention of farm animals, though their presence might be inferred because Mary laid her baby in a manger.

Excerpt taken from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia on the Internet

## The Church Cat

Greetings from the Neighborhood!



I am sorry I missed some of you on St. Francis Day. When the Thin Man said he was going to bless me and some of my friends, I had no idea that 16 dogs would show up.

I'm not a cool cat, like the cat who belongs to that nice lady in the choir, and there was no way I could get in the middle of all that barking and commotion. It just was not the same quiet church I have been used to, so I retreated to a quiet spot on the edge of the church yard.

Over the next few days I talked with several members of the parish and learned that they, too, get concerned sometimes when too many people come here at once. They like people, but they just can't handle large crowds. But then someone else said that we always need to keep our doors open to welcome visitors because, "if you are not growing, you are dying."

That really confused me for awhile, until I watched some other things happen. Like the Sunday that nice lady who was always there with her daughter said she was leaving to go to Texas to be with family. Someone later told me that her daughter was leaving, too. leaving, too. It is sad to see them go.

Then there's that nice family that came all spring and summer. Sometimes there would be as many as 12 of them—in three different generations. We saw one family member get married and another have water splashed on her by the Thin Man. Some of them would come on Wednesday nights to study the Bible. Mom would bring the boys on Friday afternoons to learn about God and the church.

All the grown ups were so proud of the boys when they would light the candles and help the Thin Man on

Sunday mornings. But the best part was when they would shoot baskets at the hoop out back. Sometimes mom and dad would turn on the car lights so the boys could shoot baskets after the sun went down. They were always nice to me. I sure wish they would come back.

I know the Thin Man is concerned about all of this. He told me he does not want to see anyone leave, but sometimes we have to move. After all, the Thin Man himself moved here from Texas in order to live nearer to his own family, and the rest of his family will be moving to California as well. We need to love and appreciate the people God places in our path and to stay open to the blessings God has in store for us.

That makes sense. We have some really faithful people here who are trying to do God's will. I hear Christmas is coming soon and that will bring more people looking for a church home. I promise I will do all I can to show them a good time and let them know how much God loves them. I'll try to get the Thin Man to relax and enjoy the season as well.

In the meantime, see you around the church. Don't forget to let me out when you leave!

The Church Cat



From the Priest in Charge

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Happy New Year! Because God's graciousness allows the life of the Church to cover the fullness of salvation history each year, we will soon be moving from the anticipatory season of Advent into the joyous, albeit brief, Christmas season.

Our worship and educational opportunities at this time allow us to prepare:

For the Messiah (Savior) promised by God and foretold by the prophets;

For the expected coming of the baby Jesus, born of Mary, at Bethlehem;

For Christ, the Prince of Peace, who will come again at the end of this age to rule as Lord over the Kingdom of God.

In all of these preparations, the Good News, now more than ever, is that "Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again."

From the Priest in Charge cont.

We are not just celebrating what has come. We are preparing for what is to come. As we joyously await Christ's coming in the fullness of time, may each of us heed his call to repent, to turn in the areas of our lives where we have fallen away from our walk with God. And having turned, may we allow God to renew and transform us so that the joy we celebrate this Christmas may be complete and eternal.

Come Lord Jesus!

*The Reverend Bill Dunn+*



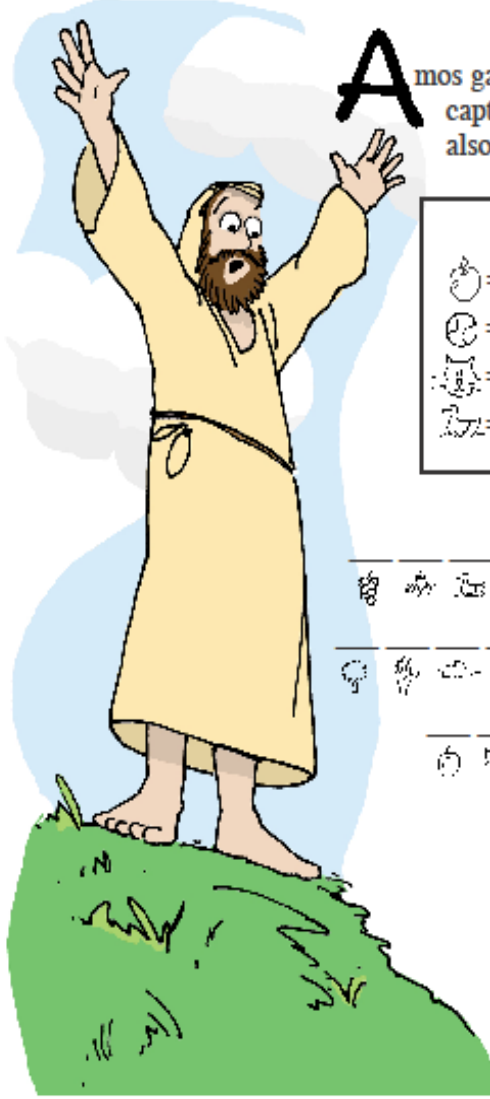
At a Christmas Service, a 4 year-old boy whispered to his dad that he had “to go potty”. The father escorted him up the aisle towards the rest room. About halfway up the aisle, the little guy stopped and turned around to say: “I have to go potty God, but I’ll be right back.”



December 2nd	Melissa Ann Schellerup	January 1st	Amy Reimer
December 12th	John Penland	January 7th	Theodore Gonzalo
December 13th	Nicole Reimer	January 18th	Ruth Record
December 15th	Beverly Calamia	January 31st	Fernando Moulton
December 16th	Stewart Bateman		
December 23rd	David Jones		



December 24th	Stewart & Monica Bateman
January 4th	James & Evelyn Guidangen



**A**mos gave God's message to the people. He told them of the captivity and punishment they would suffer soon. But he also brought another message.

Code										
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🍷 = B	🍷 = F	🍷 = J	🍷 = N	🍷 = R	🍷 = V	🍷 = Z				
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God promised to re-establish the  
The Messiah would come from this family line.

Fit the pieces in the puzzle.

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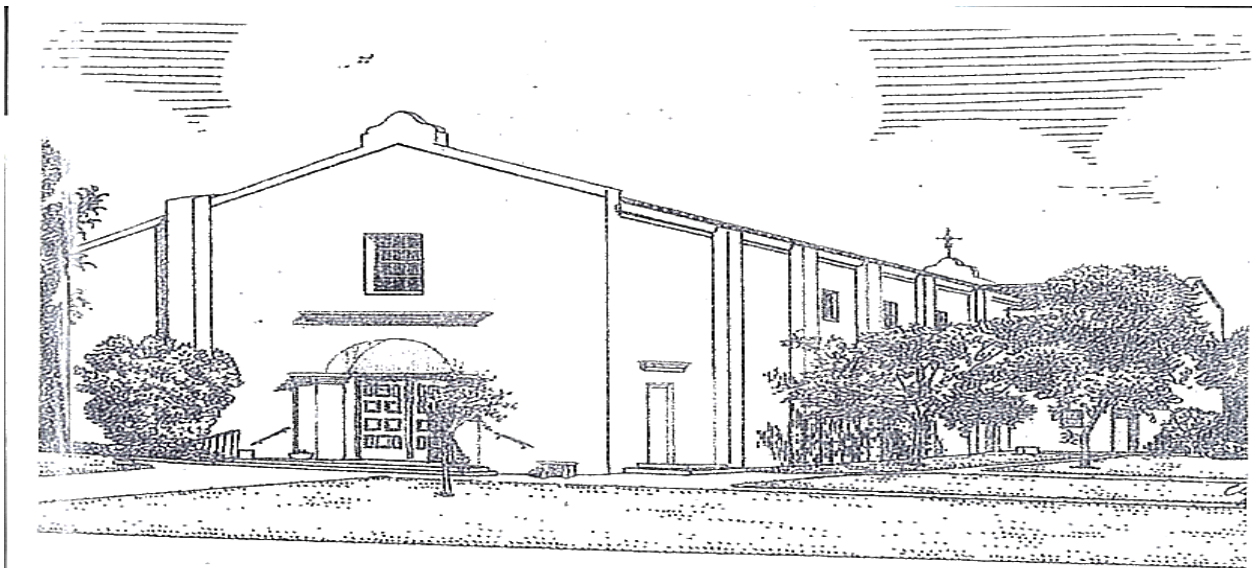
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**THE MESSENGER**

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