

The Sword



Your weekly connection with St. Michael's Episcopal Church

22 August 2013

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8.25 Pete Douglas,

Upcoming at St. Michael's:

- +Parish Picnic, Sunday, 25 August following the 9:30 a.m. service.
- +Looking further out, remember three services begin on Sunday, 8 September! 7:45, 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.!

Editor's note: Beginning next week and over the course of a few weeks, we will feature letters from Ministry Leaders with programs beginning this fall. We welcome any Ministry Leader interested in writing a letter to email: nbrueckbauer@stmichaelsbarrington.org



Votes: Now and Later
a letter to the people from the Rector

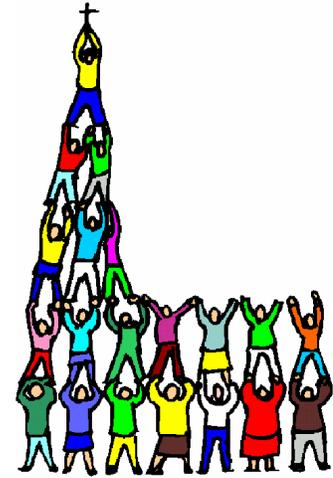
Dear People of St. Michael's,

The Vestry's decision regarding the blessing (or not) of same-gender relationships at St. Michael's is planned for Monday evening, August 26. The whole related process has clearly burdened some of us, exhilarated some of us, and left still others feeling both burdened *and* exhilarated. I hope that some of you, at least, may find some value in the following related pastoral remarks.

First, I brought this matter to the Vestry's attention two years ago partly in hopes of avoiding the kind of parish-wide

Heather Belcore, Ellie
Wintringer
8.26 Thomas Sell
8.27 Dennis Malec,
Shane Allord, Mike
Willis
8.28 Melissa Buckley,
Lora Gier, David
Perrine
8.29 Stanley Pepper,
Bruce Keclik, Brooke
Gunderson, Mason
Darrow, John Cesario
8.30 Ceres Locher,
Gwynne Johnston,
Anne-marie Kampert
8.31 Steve Mathison

spectacle that ensued anyway. This process has included many, many good features but also flaws. Relative to the conceivable-measurable benefits, it's devoured too much time and left wounds on or inside of quite a few of us. I must assume substantial responsibility for these liabilities of the process, and I ask your forgiveness. If there are any of you to whom I should make personal amends, please let me know.



Second, I've recently winced at a few characterizations of the Vestry as a cabal (amidst other, more generous, evaluations). The only St. Michael's Vestry I know is comprised of sincere individuals who – in this matter, as with most – contribute a striking array of thoughtful perspectives. No vestry member has relished the dozens of hours they've agreed to devote to this thorny, complex, divisive matter. If you must throw stones, please aim them at me. If, on the other hand, you wish to throw a bouquet, please make it a big one and target one or all of our sacrificial, faithful Vestry members.

Third, please consider the possibility that the most decisive vote taken at St. Michael's on this matter may not be the Vestry's decision on Monday. The informal but more relevant vote (or votes) could happen anytime: this Sunday or in a decade. I'm referring to the collective "Hello! Welcome!" or the turned shoulders that will greet a gay or lesbian couple when they walk through the doors of St. Michael's together. Whatever your faith or views on questions of same-sex relationships, I gather you get this. How will we vote on that someday Sunday morning? Why?

Naturally, in the context of all that has been a blessing and all that has been difficult, all that has been and all that will be: I again ask for your prayers for all past, present and future members of the St. Michael's family.

Anniversaries

8.26 Jane & Daniel
Eftax
8.28 Susan & Joe
Madonia
8.30 Susan & Bill
Ferry, Jacquelyn &
Steven Knoop

-Patrick +

Also from the Rector

+ The Monday, August 26 Vestry Meeting will take place at the church (likely in the Community Room) starting at 7 pm. This and all regular monthly Vestry meetings are open and visitors are welcomed to comment or ask questions about agenda items. Pending further discussion at the Monday meeting, parishioners will be informed of the Vestry's decision about the blessing (or not) of same-gender relationships by way of a short

letter that will be mailed next Tuesday or Wednesday.

Rest in Peace

8.25 Frances Holmboe

8.30 Sarah Van

Hagen

+ September 12 Kayak Trip on the Chicago River.

Parishioner Paul Clancy has offered to organize a parish kayak outing in Chicago for September 14. Kayak and all gear will be provided for a set fee. Time on the water would be between 2-3 hours. Details to be finalized after we confirm that there



is enough interest. Share your interest or questions with Paul at paulclancy42@gmail.com by Sunday, September 1.

+ Pledge payments often lag over the summer, as the wardens and I were recently reminded by Treasurer John Davis. He went on to also remind us that expenses *don't* lag over the summer. I got the impression that a short *Sword* poke about this might be appreciated. If you've fallen behind on your own household's pledge commitment and are able to catch up a bit - thank you!

Little Red Wagon

During August our food collection will be going to the Families in Crisis program at Church of the Redeemer in Elgin.

Their needs are many.

Please help supply food in the Little Red Wagon to help fill one of those needs!

In the Parish family

+Those for whom prayers have been requested:

Steve & Barb; Rollo; Scott; Ross; Evelyn; John; The Paris Family; Hugh; the Heinrich, Poll and Hubbard families; Jackie; Pamela; Brittani & Chris; Madelyn; Bryan; the Bateman family; Cindi & Mike; William; Tom & Jan; the Bullion family; George & Adonna; Connie; Paul, Chris & family; safety & peace in South Sudan; Church of the Redeemer Families in Crisis, Elgin; military troops in danger including those from our parish, especially, Zane, Ryan, Michael, Bruce, and Taylor.

+At Sunday Children's Chapel, 10 children, ages 2 to 10, worked very hard to create a poem in response to the prompt:

"If Jesus came today, I would..."

This is their poetic response:

If Jesus came today, I would...

**Play with him all day,
in May.**

**I would work and help him,
throw a basketball in the rim.**

**I would ask him to play football,
and help him make a call.**

**I would play golf with him this noon,
I would give him a balloon.**

**I would give him a pig, a dog and a cat,
and we would sit together on a mat.**

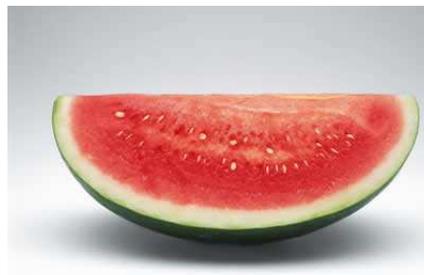
What struck me about the children's response was the simple fact that they wanted to *be with Jesus*, doing the things they do. In their words was the implicit desire to *spend time with Jesus* - not necessarily doing anything special other than doing the things they do - together - and *sharing things that delight them, like animals and balloons!* To me, this is a beautiful poem!



Music at St. Michael's this Summer

Greetings from St. Michael's Music Ministry! Even though the choirs are on break, we still have some exciting things coming up this summer. We have some spectacular guest musicians joining us at the 9:30 services. Here is what is coming up:

August 25th Brandon Viliunas, trumpet



Parish Picnic, Sunday, 25 August after the 9:30 a.m. Service!

Join the fun on the grounds of Pepper Construction, 411 Lake Zurich Rd., Barrington (take the first entrance to Citizen's Park, follow the signs to Hospice and look for the

large office building and tent).

What to bring:

- lawn chairs
- meat for the grill
- a dish to pass

There will be games for the children, easy access to the beautiful park and fellowship for all!!

School-Year Sundays Worship & Ministries Schedule Resumes Sunday, September 8

+7:45 Holy Eucharist, Rite I

8:30 Cantor Choir Rehearsal

+ 9:00 Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:45-Ministries with children & youth

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with children age 3 through 3rd grade.
- The Bridge, for children in 4th & 5th grades.
- LIFT Ministry (Life in Faith Together) Middle School Youth, Sturtz House

10:00 Choir Rehearsal

10:05 Food for the Journey - Adult Spiritual Growth, Education and Fellowship (undercroft)

+ 10:45 Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11:45 SMUSH - Senior High ministry meets in the Sturtz House.

Coffee hour & Fellowship: after all services, in the Community Room.



Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday, 27 August

in the church library from 7-8:30 p.m. The last 2 months we have blessed 10 shawls and 7 baby blankets. Scarves we distribute at the holidays are

starting to come in as well. We would like to have you join us. Some of us gathering at Boloney's starting around 5:00 - all are welcome. (No experience is needed for our group.)



**Are you interested in becoming a Lay
Eucharistic Minister (LEM) or an
Acolyte?**

We are currently seeking those interested in serving in these rewarding ministries! To find out more about LEM, please contact Suzanne Fler, suzannejf2@comcast.net. For the Acolyte Ministry, please contact Wes Kimes, wkimes@comcast.net. LEM training is ongoing, and ~~the next training for acolytes is scheduled on 25 August, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service.~~ (The length of training will not preclude attendance at the Parish Picnic!)

A great way to serve others

On **Saturday, August 31**, we are sending a team of helpers to **Franciscan Outreach** to help serve and clean up the dinner for the homeless and hungry that they serve every night. Many folks from our church have helped with this project and it is indeed rewarding.

We need **8 volunteers** to work at 1645 W. LeMoyné St, Chicago, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Contact [Ann Ryba, greeno51458@gmail.com](mailto:Ann.Ryba@greeno51458@gmail.com), today to volunteer. Carpoolers will depart St Michaels at 3:00 p.m.; it is also a short walk from the Clybourn Metra station if you prefer to take the train downtown.

Thanks for caring for others.



Upcoming project will shut down the Community Room entrance - DELAYED. The Community Room entrance will remain open until the commencement of the project - which is delayed.

Men's Fellowship Group BBQ

September 13th

7-9 p.m.

at the home of Todd Ross
1192 Thorndale Lane, Lake Zurich



With special guest of
honor, Bishop Joseph
PLEASE RSVP!
Sign up poster outside
Community Room
or call Tim Murray at 847-381-
3201



**From: Renk Ministry
Partnership
Team**

**Greetings & Good
News from Bishop
Joseph**

Bishop Joseph Garang Atem, Renk Diocese, South Sudan, sends warm greetings to partners at St. Michael's. He is pleased to report that he has his U.S. visa and is on schedule to arrive in Chicago Sept. 5. He is especially looking forward to being with us for the third annual South Sudan Soiree, Sept. 28, at St. Michael's, a benefit for support of Renk Theological College and training of lay and clergy, men and women Church leaders. The Diocese of Renk serves an estimated population of 250,000, comprised of Christians, Muslims, and African traditional religion believers...all of whom are served by the Diocese in its schools, its clinic, and social services. Bishop Joseph is most appreciative of our prayers for peace among the people, and our support of RTC, without which the diocese would not be able to spread the Good News and do the work of peace, justice and reconciliation in a difficult time.

From our Youth Minister

Please take some time to fill out and return a registration form. Click [here](#) for a copy of the form. This information will be really helpful for me as we get started this year. THANKS!

THIS WEEK:

Sunday, 8/25-Last Breakfast of Summer. Meet at Cook St. Coffee at 8:30 am, dine, and then walk to the 9:30 service.

Sunday, 8/25-Parish Picnic following the 9:30 service

UPCOMING:

Saturday, 9/28-Youth Volunteers at the Sudan Soiree

Friday 9/27-9/29-Episcopal Diocese of Chicago New Beginnings Retreat for Middle School Students at St. Lawrence in Libertyville.

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER MEN'S RETREAT

WHO: Men of St. Michael's, St. Mark's, and others invited, featuring as spiritual director, the Rev. David Gibbons, Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Barrington Hills

WHEN: October 25 to October 26, 2013 (Friday evening to Saturday mid-day)

WHERE: The DeKoven Center, Racine, Wisconsin

WHAT: A spiritual retreat, featuring time for reflection, quiet, and spiritual nourishment set apart from whatever one's normal life habits may be.

THRIVEFEST Rock the Block! 2013

Mark your calendars for the St. James Commons Block Party!

The newly-renovated St. James Commons is now open for all to enjoy and on **September 15 from 3 - 6 p.m.** we're throwing a big block party to celebrate!

This just in: St. Michael's is offering \$20 bus ride to and from St James Commons. Please make you check out to St Michael's. Meet at St Michael's parking lot at 1:45. Point of contact to reserve your seat on the bus is Ann Ryba, green51458@gmail.com.

All parishes in the Diocese - along with friends and neighbors -- are invited to come by. There will be great music, food trucks, fun for kids and tours of the new diocesan center. Come celebrate and discover the ways that St. James Commons can benefit your ministry and make the whole Diocese of Chicago a place of grace and gladness. For additional questions or to RSVP to the party, please contact Jennifer Boyle-Tucker via email jbtucker@episcopalchicago.org or at 312.751.4215.

From the Outreach Team:
St Michael's has a long time relationship with
Lawrence Hall. Please consider supporting this effort
to provide supplies for their students.

Macy's Back to School Supply Drive!
Macy's Annual Back to School Supply
Drive benefiting Lawrence Hall Youth Services

Each backpack or notebook that you collect for our students brings them one step closer to graduation. Please help us with our back to school supply drive.

For more information about this Supply Drive, please click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

- +25 August, Sunday, Parish Picnic after the 9:30 a.m. service
- +8 September, back to three service schedule on Sundays
- +10 September, AWSM Fall Kick-Off Event, 7:00 p.m.
- +13 September, Men's Fellowship Event, 7:00 p.m., at the Ross Home
- +28 September, Sudan Soiree
- +25-26 October, October Men's Retreat

Revised Common Lectionary Year C, Pentecost 14

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Contact Info

St. Michael's Vestry

Kathy Sawyer Randolph - Sr. Warden, Shan Atkins - Jr. Warden

Pete Douglas, Lora Gier, David Bishop, Sof Ts'o

Dolores Kampert, Ray Kean, Pat Kane, Mike Savage

Cristy Cressey, John Totten, Teri Doran, Lance Marcinek

John Davis - Treasurer, Craig Anderson - Clerk

Marissa Longo, Youth Representative
Madelyn Lanham, Youth Representative
Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Patrick Raymond, Rector; The Rev. Kevin Caruso, Associate Rector; The Rev. Laurie Michaels, Deacon; Caren Hunter, Director of Little Angels Christian Preschool; David Baker, Director of Music Ministries; Thom Wibbels, Organist; Kara Joy Baker, Youth Pastor & Director of Children's Choir; Nerissa Brueckbauer, Children's Education Director & Communications Coordinator; Kim Lessner, Parish Operations; Nancy Holmes, Parish Administrator & Rector's Assistant; Rich Hornickel, Sexton.

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The Sword is published each Thursday. Any questions or comments regarding this publication should be sent to news@stmichaelsbarrington.org.

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