

St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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April 1, 2007

Supporting Our Expanding Ministry

On Sunday, March 11, the Congregation approved spending up to \$3000 to hire architects to develop specific possibilities for expanding our facilities to meet the growing educational needs of the St. Michael. The Facilities Expansion Task Force developed a list of ministry needs and identified several architects to be contacted. Over the last two weeks, four architects have agreed to be a part of the Architectural Study Process. Each architect will develop a set of preliminary design ideas and present their concept to the Task Force at a meeting on Saturday, May 19. The Task Force will use that information to make a recommendation to the Council about whether or not we should actively pursue expanding our facilities. The Council will then schedule a congregational meeting in early June to share the Task Force recommendations and get feedback from the congregation.

I am excited about the Architectural Study Process because it allows us to get concrete ideas and initial cost projections which will enable us to make good decisions about how to support the expanding ministry of St. Michael. The Facilities Expansion Task Force now includes Carol Bland, Jim and Judy Clemens, Cindy Dowdy, Dianne Krallman, Fran Shepherd, Don Linkous, Sharon Robinson, Carla Schwertz, Jody Smiley and Doug Viet. If you have any questions about the process we are undertaking or any ideas you would like to share, please talk to me or to one of them.

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what He has first given us--our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of His gracious love.

Thank you to some “quiet” servants

To all who donated items for the soldiers in Afghanistan during the Lenten season; to Corson Wertz for helping set up the tables in the fellowship hall for the Lenten suppers; to Fran Gallimore and everyone who contributed to our Lenten suppers; to Pat Smith for delivering our donations to the Montgomery County Food Bank and the Women’s Resource Center each month; to Gary Worley for producing our Annual Report for 2006 (and to all committee chairs who submitted their reports in a timely manner); to everyone who helped with yard clean-up on March 31; to Lynn Hickok and Barbara Corbett for creating our toolbox in the narthex.

Because of your gifts

Your generous gifts in March provided music supplies, confirmation camp registration, building repairs, e.g., replacing the narthex light fixtures, Lenten bulletins and Palm crosses, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Christian Children’s Fund, our facilities, salaries for our pastor, secretary, organists, custodian and nursery worker.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** continues to assist our neighbors in the community and the world. In March, we provided rent assistance for two families, contributed to three electric bills and purchased heating oil for a sixth family. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

Cancer Survivors Banquet and Relay for Life

The Montgomery County Relay for Life is sponsoring a free banquet for cancer survivors on Sunday, April 15, at 3 p.m. at the Christiansburg High School cafeteria. Survivors can sign up using the forms on the hallway bulletin board or contact Nancy Franz or Bill Gahnz at 951-1393. Everyone is also invited to donate to or lend a hand with the Relay for Life taking place on Friday, June 15, at the Christiansburg High School track. Nancy and Bill will be happy to accept your donation and/or to sign you up to participate.

Under Construction: a Caring Community



Thank you to all who have completed and returned their **Time and Talent surveys** for 2007-2008. We are truly GOD’S PEOPLE AT WORK as we share our gifts to make ministry happen at St. Michael.

Additional copies of the survey are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary and can be returned in April.

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2308 Merrimac Road
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April Servants

	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
<i>Acolytes</i>	Sarah Crowder	Katy and Scott McGuigan (11)	Katy McGuigan	Sarah Crowder	Katy McGuigan
<i>Altar Care</i>	The Birches and the Smileys				
<i>Comm. Assts.</i>	Randy Robinson	Dave Surface (7) M. McGuigan (11)	Bob Brown		
<i>Christ's Kids</i>	Tacey Apisa		Sandy Birch	Andrea Sharpe	Kris Wertz
<i>Youth Servant</i>	Andrew Bales	Corson and Parker Wertz	Elizabeth and Katherine Berg	Will and Matt Sharpe	Michelle Pasier
<i>9 AM Worship Asst.</i>	Ted Peterson		Sara Bohn	Fred Spengler	Margaret Larson
<i>Greeters – 9 AM 11 AM</i>	Petersons		Tschetters	Schwartz/Harris	
	Ann and Dave Surface				
<i>Lay Reader</i>	Members of the congregation	Jeff Birch (7) M. McGuigan (11)	Shannon Rigsbee	Fran Shepherd	Andrea Sharpe
<i>Ushers</i>	Sam Akers Jeff Birch Don Linkous Ray Howell	Dickie Shepherd Randy Robinson James Pascoe Jay Nagle	Joanne Pascoe Ben and Grace Simmers Roscoe Turman	Bob and Peggy Brown J.D. Robinson Hank Schneider	Isenhour McGuigan Burn and Betty Gross

Women of the ELCA

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter baskets for the Salvation Army and the children sheltered by the Women's Resource Center. We will assemble the baskets after the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, April 1 – all volunteers are welcome.



Volunteers are also welcome to help **set up for the Easter breakfast**. We will gather at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall on Saturday, April 7.

The April meeting will be held at the home of Jennie Hodge (5007 Tall Oaks Drive) at 7 p.m. Alice Schneider will lead our program. Please join the gathering for friendship and fellowship.

Remember the Food Bank: April is cookies and crackers month, though any kind of non-perishable food is always welcome.

Remember the Womens Resource Center: In April, donations of toilet paper will be appreciated.

WORDshop on Worship on Sunday, April 15

Tools for a Life of Faith WORDshops offer practical tips and ideas for growing in your relationship with God. Each *WORDshop* will focus on one aspect of a life of faith. There will be a **WORDshop on Worship** on Sunday, April 15 at 10 a.m (during Sunday School). Child care is provided. The *WORDshops* are based on the book "Real Faith for Real Life" by Pastor Mike Foss. If you are interested in learning more about any of the tools discussed in the *WORDshops*, you can borrow a copy of the book from the church. Sign up on the "Welcome to St. Michael" form or talk to Pastor John for more information.

Deadline for the St. Michael Scholarship is April 15

Applications are invited for the St. Michael Scholarship, a \$600 award for individuals to pursue studies in post-secondary education. Members of Lutheran churches in Montgomery County are eligible to apply. The application is available on the church bulletin board.

Welcome to New 9 a.m. Pianist - Michael Ho

On Sunday, March 25, St. Michael welcomed Michael Ho as the new 9 a.m. Pianist. Michael lives in Blacksburg and is pursuing an advanced degree at Virginia Tech. We give thanks for Michael's ministry with us.



Happy Go Lucky

We will gather together on Thursday, April 12, at 11:30 a.m. to “go cruising”. Members who have been on a cruise will share their experiences for the benefit of others who may go cruising in the future or who may not have the opportunity. Cruise ship photos will be taken and all will be greeted with a welcome lei.

Let's go traveling....

With our input, seven (7!) super bus trips have been planned for us by Montgomery County Parks & Recreation for this year. The adventures begin in May and include the Blue Ridge Parkway, P. Buckley Moss Museum, Hungry Mother State Park Arts & Crafts Festival, Barter Theater, Swinging Bridge Restaurant, Hotel Roanoke Christmas luncheon (and Farmers Market), and the Wohlfhart Haus Christmas Show. All members of St. Michael (not just Happy-Go-Lucky members) and our friends and family are welcome to participate. A minimum of 8 travelers is required with a maximum of 20 for each trip.

Our first adventure will be a scenic drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway on Thursday, May 24, where we will take in the first explosion of color in the spring as the dogwood and redbud trees burst into bloom. We'll grab a bite at the Mabry Mill Restaurant featuring buckwheat cakes and country ham. The Mill is the most photographed attraction along the parkway. This tour will include a visit to the Chateau Morrisette Winery and a stop at Nancy's Fudge Kitchen featuring over 100 different flavors. The cost of the trip is \$14 plus the cost of lunch and the registration deadline is May 17.

Registration forms and a “travel brochure” for all seven trips is available in the narthex and on the bulletin board. Contact Sandy Birch (951-3455 or birch@vt.edu) for more information.

Hello from Papua New Guinea

By the time you all are reading this, I will have been to Soi Parish and Primary School. Thank you to everyone who contributed jewelry; I have over 125 individual gifts for the women I will visit. We will be meeting with the women and children of our district and I plan to do some Bible studies with them. Our visit is all about building relationships and sharing with one another. We will also do a lot of singing, as music is so important to them. Our team plans to be back in Kimbe for Easter and the ground breaking of the district's new facility, paid for in part by contributions from St. Michael. We truly feel like ambassadors for Christ in Papua New Guinea. Please keep us all in your prayers.

Easter blessings, Karen Mayer



- April 1** **Palm Sunday** **9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**
Reading of the Passion Story
- April 5** **Maundy Thursday** **7 p.m.**
Holy Communion and Stripping the Altar
- April 6** **Good Friday** **7 p.m.**
Good Friday Tenebrae Service



Come Celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 8

Traditional Sunrise Service at 7 a.m.

Easter Breakfast following Service

Easter Service at 11 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

Everyone is invited to a potluck Easter Breakfast immediately following the Sunrise Service. The Women of the ELCA will provide coffee and orange juice and set up for the meal. Make plans to come, bring a dish and eat Easter Breakfast with the St. Michael family.



2 to 1 Men's Choir

If you enjoy singing, but don't have time to be a part of the Service Choir, come and sing in the 2 to 1 Men's Choir in April. The Choir will practice twice during the month (April 4 and 11 at 7:30 – 8:00 p.m.) and then sing on Sunday, April 15. For more information, contact Donita at dmoore@pathwayacademy.us.

Filling Your Toolbox: Work from Rest, Not Rest from Work

Most people think about resting after a long week of work. When we look at Genesis, we discover that God calls us to find the energy for our work from our time of rest. After God created Adam and Eve on the sixth day and said be fruitful, the very next thing God instructed them to do was rest. Only after resting and spending time focusing on their relationship with God, did they begin to do the work God called them to do. In today's world, we often forget to make time to rest and focus on our relationship with God, but the good news we hear in Genesis and in the 10 Commandments is that rest is an important part of living a life of faith. **Tip:** As you look at the week ahead, write "REST" on your schedule as an appointment and honor that appointment with God just as you would any other appointment you make during the week.

- Adapted from a presentation by Pastor Mike Breen at MACEA Conference 3/24/07

Care of Creation Toolbox

Our Care of Creation Team at St. Michael provides some ways our congregation is caring for our environment:

- buys recycled paper; recycles glass, plastic, cardboard and white office paper;
- uses high efficiency light bulbs; sends our altar flowers to hospice care patients (through Friends with Flowers).

Earth Day is April 22! Take a moment that day to give thanks for the beautiful creation God has given us.

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, March 25, we welcomed Jen Daskal and the Hodge family. The Hodge family feels blessed to be back in Blacksburg. St. Michael was on the top of everyone's list of things most missed for the 18 months they were gone. Tom continues to work for Danaher in University Relations and Jennie is taking classes at Hollins University, gardening and working with Olivia's Brownie troop. Abbi returns to BMS as an 8th grader and avid manga reader. Olivia enjoys 3rd grade at Kipps and the St. Michael Youth Night. David likes preschool and looks forward to kindergarten in the fall.



Jen is a 5th grade teacher at Harding Ave. Elementary. She and her husband Steve moved to Blacksburg from Ann Arbor, MI in 2005 when Steve accepted a job at Virginia Tech to teach in the Department of Philosophy. Both love to be outside and enjoy hiking, running, and canoeing in their free time. Their families are in the Midwest (Wisconsin and Chicago) so they are often headed west during school breaks. Jen and Steve have enjoyed getting to know the members at St. Michael and look forward to meeting more of the family.

Youth Night on April 11 and 25



All youth from kindergarten through Senior High are invited to Youth Nights on Wednesdays, April 11 and 25.

Kid's Night, led by Jody Smiley (esmiley@vt.edu), will offer games, crafts and learning opportunities for Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Confirmation for youth from 6th through 8th grade is taught by Pastor John and offers a chance to have fun while learning more about what we believe as people of God.

The **Senior High Youth Group** for 9th through 12th grade is led by Carrie Mayer (cmayer@mail.mcps.org) and provides an opportunity for fun and service.

Hands On Holy Week for Youth and Families

Saturday, March 31 at Noon
Journey to Jerusalem

Touch and see Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and then stay for pizza

Sunday, April 1 at 9 AM and 11 a.m
Palm Sunday Procession led by Youth

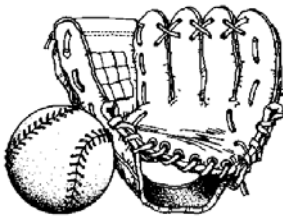


Saturday, April 7 at 11:30 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 8 at 7 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Easter Service

Youth are asked to bring flowers to place on the Floral Cross.

Softball Season begins



The team invites everyone out to the Tom's Creek softball field this spring for some exciting ball. Loud and supportive fans always help the team play better. If you are interested in playing for the St. Michael team and have not been listed on a previous roster, contact Jeff Birch at 951-3455 or jbbirch@vt.edu. The April games will be announced in the Sunday bulletins when the schedule is set by the Parks and Recreation Department.

