

DECEMBER'S NEWSLETTER



VICAR'S DESK NOTES:

As I am writing this message, we have completed our Thanksgiving holiday. I hope and pray that yours was festive and comforting. Mine was quiet and that was just what I needed. As we have gone through this holiday, I want to give thanks for you and your families. St. Michael's is a beautiful place to worship and has many wonderful people. I am always thinking about the transition of myself and my family. This has not been easy by a long shot. But almost a year later, we are settling in and grateful to be here with all of you. Thanks to all who have made it easier, it shows who you are as a church family and children of God.

Our church is still in a transition period. We know where we have been and have fond memories. However, the hard work of discovering who we are now and who we can

ABOUT US

St. Michael's
Episcopal Church
500 Edgewood Dr.
Pineville, LA 71360

The Most Reverend Michael
Bruce Curry- Presiding
Bishop

The Right Reverend Doctor
Jacob W. Owensby Bishop
Rev. Wayne Fletcher,
M.Div., Vicar

Rev. Belle Rollins, Deacon
Worship Time: Holy
Eucharist Sunday- 10:00AM

MISSION COUNCIL
Steve Rogge, Warden
Deacon Belle Rollins
Treasurer- Paula Lieberman

Dana Homer
Kay Ferguson

Jamie Raborn
Stuart Spurlin

Brian Warner

become as a church remains the daunting challenge ahead. We are still in Stewardship season and based on your generosity, we look forward to rolling up our sleeves to get to working on an exciting 2019.

By the time you read this, we will have completed our journey through Pentecost and are entering the Season of Advent. Our Sunday gospel readings will come from the gospel according to Luke. Lessons and Carols will be on Dec 16th. We will not travel to St. Timothy's like we have in the past nor will they be here. We hope to resume that tradition in the future. Also, on December 16th, we will begin decorating the church for Christmas. I hope you will be able to come and join in the fun. There will be soup to keep our spirits warm.

Our Advent readings will take us from the darkness of the time and toward the anticipation of the glorious Light that marks the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope you will enjoy the wonderful music that Gale, our choir director has planned. The choir is working hard as usual.

There will be changes to the Mission Council. Steve Rogge would like to step down as Warden and stay involved as the Grounds and Maintenance Committee Chairperson. We pray that someone will step up to assume the role as Warden for St. Michael's. As we are in transition, we have discussed the possibility of lowering the number of Mission Council members from seven to five. This may be taken care of because some members will have completed their duties as Mission Council members. There is still plenty of work to do and I pray that we have willing volunteers.

Brothers and sisters of St. Michael's, I hope you are as proud of this church as I am. It is important that we take every opportunity to invite people (family, friends, neighbors) to share our worship experience and warm hospitality. This will be important throughout the Christmas and

New Years Holiday. It is vital that we keep it up in 2019. Being willing to share our church with others and inviting them to join us will be a vital mission in 2019 and beyond.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. I hope it brings you closer to God. I hope 2019 brings you closer to your families. I pray that 2019 brings us closer together as a church by displaying a love of God and a love of our neighbor. If that happens, we can have an impact on the community around us. That way our church family can become their church family.

God bless you all. Father Wayne

REFLECTIONS: BY DEACON BELLE

Some our Christmas excitement and our Christmas stress comes from our visions of the bright, the big, the expensive, the gaudy, and the elaborate. There is a different vision that can give us hope. We have a whole collection of stories about people who brought simple offerings and found that these gifts were the best because they came from the hearts of small people who gave out of love. We know about the drummer boy drumming for the Christ child. In another story a shy monk juggled oranges before a statue of Mary and found his gift was the best. In the Bible a poor widow gave a small coin that was all that she had. Any gift we give is given in honor of the Christ Child, and He is still pleased with such offerings. We are also called on to make our gifts to the Christ Child by turning in our pledged. Those pledges are made in his honor and He still blesses a mall gift made with simplicity and love!

Deacon Belle

A SMALL STILL VOICE

BY: LAURA COOPER

Mama used to like to tell the story about how, when she was a little girl, she would walk six blocks to hear a radio. This was 1929. It is hard to believe that before this time in history there was mostly SILENCE.

When reading the Bible, to my amusement, the Lord often left his disciples to be alone to pray. He probably had to, to cope with the constant pride, bickering, jealousy, ignorance and lack of love common among them. Things haven't changed that much in our modern world.

In 1955, television was in its infancy. There were only black and white shows and there were one or two channels that signed off at 10:00PM with the Star-Spangled Banner and then static. Shows were corny and wholesome. My, how things have changed! The temptation to fill our minds with the modern idols of Cable, the Internet, Face Book, Twitter, You Tube, movies of all kinds and music of every variety at our fingertips, is overwhelmingly tempting for many of us. So, what about that Small Still Voice? Idols are not particularly good or bad....they just take the place of God in our minds and hearts....

In 1985 when my little world was particularly bleak, I ran across a pamphlet that was entitled, "Five Minutes with God." At that time, while I "prayed," it was mostly a quick dumping ground of my current ills and off to battle the world as best I could. Never missed a Sunday of Mass...I simply didn't get it!

That little pamphlet led me to a book called, "God Calling" edited by A.J. Russell. It taught me to be quiet and listen. A relationship requires listening. The Buddhist have a saying that not listening is like "clapping with one hand." I certainly didn't become a saint, but what I was "hearing" in the silence of prayer and meditation was profound for my life, and still is.

The WORLD bombards us with "voices" of all kinds. The Bible says... "Be still and know that I am God." Through the modern chaotic din, God still awaits us with his "Small Still Voice." It is the "light upon my feet." We do, however, must look and listen. Isn't that what love really is? Time with the beloved?

What I "hear" is often about developing my talents, various forms of "service"- like writing this....dealing with pride and forgiveness- which I don't want to do- Hey wait, all that takes away from my You Tube time!

St. Michael's Mission Council

Building and Grounds Report- November 2018

I washed the fourth side of the outside of the church windows and the two ends of the building on the inside. I cleaned up the plaza, parking lot and front yard after the wind storm. I power washed the rest of the parish hall tables.

David Noel repaired the women's commode that kept stopping up.

John and Phyllis Ramares paid for the removal of a few trees that were dead or leaning toward a building. The company will be back Friday or Saturday to finish. The Ramares are planning to clean off the walkway covers and the house roof of pine straw.

The leak in the parish hall continues. I'm still working with Igloo Roofing. They've tried a couple of times to stop the leak and are due to try again next week. We'll wait till it stops leaking before fixing the ceiling. Igloo will cover all interior repairs.

Steve Rogge

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Why do we sing all the verses of a hymn? Why can't we just sing 2 or 3?

Good questions and ones I have been asked many times. Let's suppose that you had written a hymn using thoughts gathered from a verse or chapter in the Bible. These words told a story and each stanza was part of the story. What if someone decided to just sing 2 of the verses. What if someone decided to just sing 3 of the verses. What about the rest of the story? Do we just lose that part of the story and not get the full meaning of the lesson you were trying to impart?

Granted, sometimes a hymn is long and we can decide which verses can be left out and still tell most of the story that the composer wished to convey. But sometimes, and I emphasize "sometimes," this just cannot be done. It would be like reading half of a book or Father Wayne only preaching half of his sermon. Wouldn't we feel like something was missing?

You are a singing church and I love to hear you sing so, next time the hymn seems a little long, take the time to read the story that you are helping to share and remember, Jesus loves to hear our voices lifted in praise. I'll bet He never tells the angels to cut their music short.

Just a few thoughts from the choir loft.

May you all have a blessed Christmas Season and a wonderful New Year.

In Christ,

Gail

P.S. We still have plenty of room in the choir loft! Great seats and free voice lessons are included!

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The choir has been practicing an anthem called "Song of Praise and Thanksgiving"

I thought that one verse is so meaningful that I wanted to share it with everyone.

Let our lives be our thanksgiving to the Father up above. Let us worship Him with kindness; let us praise Him with our love. Let us honor Him with virtue; let good deeds become our prayer. Let our lives be our thanksgiving for the bounty that we share.

These are words to live by, in stewardship and in life in general.

Steve Rogge

Announcements

1. Please pray for continued healing for Jeannie Basco, Brian Corley, George Barrileaux, Irene Noel, Ann and Billy Wells, Randy Browning & Betty Rose, Mary Young
2. If you know anyone needing prayers, visitations or home communion, please call the church or email Fr. Wayne. The church will add them to our intercessory prayer list or to make arrangements to visit.
3. Anyone who would like to add to or have any ideas for the newsletter please call Father Wayne.
4. If you would like to put flowers on the altar for any special occasion, the cost is \$50 a Sunday. Please see Laura Cooper, Michael Parham or Patti Noel to mark your date. Please mark check in memo for "Flower Fund."
5. The food pantry is always in need of food: beans and rice, macaroni and cheese, oatmeal or grits, spaghetti and sauce, tuna, cereal, soup, Vienna sausage, ramen noodles, jelly, evaporated milk, canned fruit and vegetables, and peanut butter.
6. The women Half-Way House could use donations of diapers, newborn clothing and essential items needed for newborns. Many of the women are in need of clothing. Please bring donated items to the church and leave them with either Fr. Wayne or Patti Noel.
7. **Pledge letters have been mailed if you did not get one there are extras on the table in the parish hall entrance hall. Also, please see Patti Noel to make sure you are in our system.**
8. Dec 16th after service is or annual Christmas decorating of the church, parish hall and walkway. After decoration is complete lunch will be served. We need volunteers to make a pot of soup, bread, or desert. Please all Fr. Wayne or Patti Noel if you can help.
9. Lessons and Carols- We will celebrate the reading of the lessons and singing of the Christmas carols on Dec 16th. Please come, celebrate, and help decorate the church.

Congratulations Martha !!!!!

Madeline Ariel Sea has arrived!!!!!! 11/26

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 TERRY GARRETT
06 DANA HOMER
10 JENNIFER OWENS
HENRY CUTSHALL
14 SARAH COOPER
16 SUE OWENS
18 GARY WYNN
19 LANELL ALLETAG
MARY CONNELL
20 STEVE MOSS
HOLLI RACHAL
24 JAMES BROOKOVER
29 LUKE WARD
30 JEANNIE BASCO
ASHLEY KELCH



