

The Messenger

A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR + + + + + The Reverend Canon Mikayla Dunfee

11 October, 2023
Feast of St. Phillip

Dear Angels,

Today is the Feast Day of St. Phillip. If you follow the daily office, you'll notice that today's first lesson is from Acts 8:26-38.

"An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

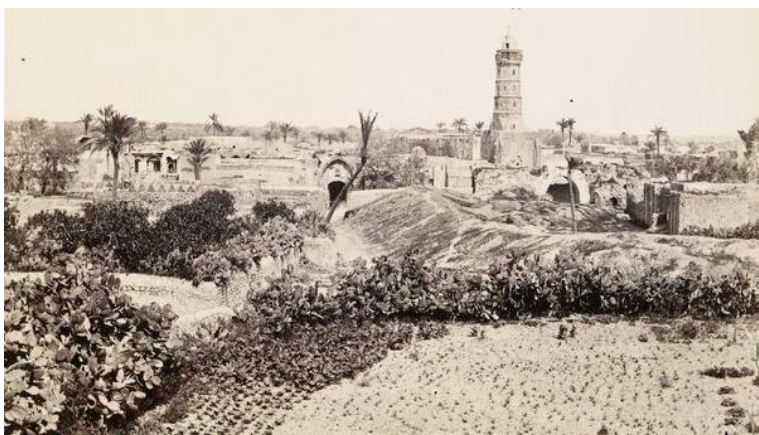
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him..."

I share this to highlight two things. First, God makes no qualms about folks acting out the grace of our

Lord completely willy nilly! It's positively extravagant the way the Holy Spirit intercedes to share the Good News of Christ's mercy, and it is our good fortune that we can respond to it by welcoming those touched by the Spirit into the Christian family without delay.

Second (and more somberly), this lesson begins in the Holy City and moves outward to Gaza, where God has a Gospel destiny awaiting our protagonist, Phillip. The conflict in the modern



<< Photo of the Old Town of Gaza c. 1862-3

Holy Land seems to be the inherited outcome of the generations of bloodshed on that particular bit of earth.

I do not say this lightly, nor with melodramatic flourish. It is no coincidence that the holiest places for our shared Abrahamic religions (as all three: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam trace their origins to Abraham) is also the most consistently fought over. We've been sparring over who 'controls' the Holy Land since Moses led the Israelites into the Promised Land!

Jerusalem 1844 (first photograph of the city) >>>



I know this oversimplifies some modern-political dynamics, but I wish to speak to justifications that are often given for our Each of our traditions have laid particular claims territory of ancient Israel, and have sacrificed for it. As Christians, the territory on which walked and taught and died, is the holiest ground For Jewish folks, Jerusalem is the site of the

Temple, which was constructed to hold the Ark of the Covenant. The Western Wall of the Second Temple is all that remains of the standing today, and it is still the holiest site in Judaism. Finally, for Islam Jerusalem is the Holy City, written of throughout holy Scripture (both the Quran and the Bible), and the Dome on the Rock marks the place where the Prophet Mohammad ascended to heaven.

As people of the one, holy God of Abraham, I think we should be capable of cohabitation. However, we never have been. Sin and hubris, feed our desire for domination, ownership, and greed; and all too often, a willingness to share or make peace can be misconstrued as a loss—whether its territory, power, or superiority.

Thus, this conflict in Israel and Gaza is far from new. And yet, I want to discourage anyone from taking a stark, black-and-white view on this conflict, politically-speaking. We can absolutely condemn and fight the terrorism of Hamas, without accusing all Palestinians of being terrorists. There is great suffering on every facet of the Holy Land, and absolutely none of it is God's wish or will. Many, many people—I reckon every single Palestinian and Israeli living today—have grieved a loved one lost to this conflict. Everybody involved can fight for the “noble” cause of vengeance... but she is a dangerous temptress. All too easily, we can fall into the trap of dehumanizing another beloved child of God. And so I urge you: be careful with your thoughts and prayers with regard to Gaza and Israel. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5: 43-45, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven...”

I don't know what the solution is. I can't see it yet. But praying for the lives of the hostages, nurses, children, homeless folks, soldiers, displaced people, decision-makers, and all who suffer is a good place to start.

And finally, let me remind us all, that in even the darkest and most horrible of places, God is still present. Resurrection is still happening. It may be difficult to see, but it's there, and soon... a new day will dawn.

Bless you all,

Mikayla+

day
theological
aggression.
the
many lives
Christ
possible.
historic

[A Litany for the Holy Land](#) – 10/14/2023, Written by The Rev. Leyla Kamalick King, a Palestinian-American priest based in Texas:

God of Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in justice, harmony, and peace. Surround us with your love as we pray for the Holy Land. Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER**

God of Righteousness, who demands that our worldly governors take up their responsibility to protect those in their charge and uphold the dignity of all human beings, pour your wisdom into the leaders of this world [especially Benjamin Netanyahu, the leaders of Hamas, and Joe Biden]. For all who bear such responsibility, that they may put the good of the whole over their own greed for power, Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God of Compassion, who even in the darkest times, shows us your path: we give you thanks for all those who in the face of crisis wrought by evil-doers, work to help the helpless, to hold out hope to the desolate, to speak for the voiceless and to bring understanding and knowledge to a world darkened by ignorance and hate. For our siblings who risk much to aid others, that their actions may be successful, and their words may be heard, Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God of Mercy, who binds up the wounds of those who suffer, bless the victims of the consequences of fear and hate in the last week and over the past 75 years of conflict in the Holy Land: those injured and traumatized, those bereaved and grieving, those held as captives and prisoners, those who face deprivation and desperation because of systems of violence and oppression, so that they may move forward in this life standing firm in your truth and avoiding the temptation of vengeance. For all whose lives are forever marked by suffering, that they may be blessed with the hope of your presence, Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God of Life, whose faithfulness to us is never-ending, we remember before you those who have died by the violence that has become shockingly routine in your Holy Land; receive them into your heart where they may know the peace and joy of eternal life in you. For all who have died, that they may rest in that place where pain is no more, Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

God of Justice, who calls us to uphold the dignity of every human being, every child of this earth, beloved of you: empower your Church to help you heal this terrible cycle of violence and revenge; give us courage to rise above our fear that nothing can be done in the face of the conflict and chaos of our own creating; grant us the conviction to advocate for change and to work for the establishment of your peace, your shalom, your salaam, in this broken world. For your dream of justice and peace on earth, and for us, that we may take up your call to build it, Lord, in your mercy, **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

All this we pray in the name of the One who offered his life so that we might live, Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

Journey to Bethlehem!

At 1pm each Thursday of Advent (11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21), Mikayla will lead a one-hour forum on the hymns that pave the way for Christ's inbreaking. The forum will include a presentation, followed by discussion. About it, Mikayla says:

I named "Journey to Bethlehem" way back in July not knowing where it would lead. I now think it might be lovely to spend some time in the songs of anticipation leading up to the arrival of the Messiah: the psalms of David, the Song of Zechariah, the Song of Mary, and the Song of Simeon. Each of these hymns, carries our hearts and hopes closer and closer to realizing the coming age of restoration and peace. I can't tell you how much I long for that day. Until then, we rest in hope.

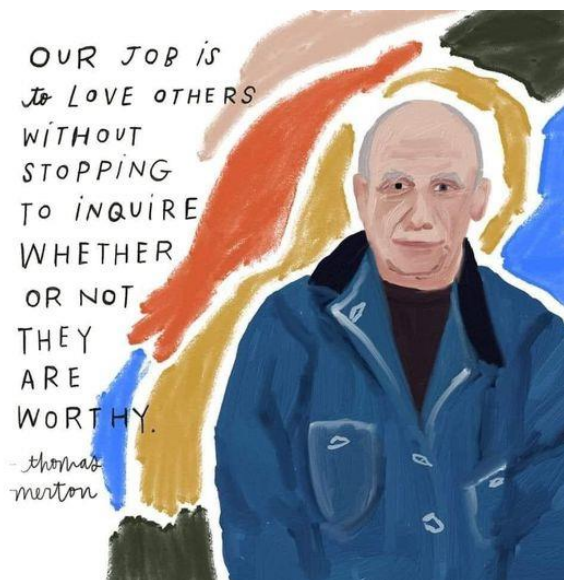
This forum does run immediately following Soup Café and concurrently with Happy Hookers. Bring your knitting if you wish, but there's no need to bring anything but curiosity! You are welcome.

No Soup Café on Thanksgiving Day

Because there are other free community meals on Thanksgiving Day, we will not be hosting Soup Café on November 23rd.

Thanksgiving Blessing for the Harvest (BCP, p. 840)

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seed time and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. Amen.



O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. –

Page 815 , Book of Common Prayer, entitled "Prayer for the Human Family":page 815



Christmas Schedule

Special Greening of the Church

December 17th, following our morning service, we are going to “green” the Church, getting it ready for the Christmas Eve feast on the following Sunday. If you’ve got the time, we’ve got the coffee and maybe a treat or two to thank you for your time. ☺



Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, but the Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 p.m. rather than at 10:30 a.m. as our normal Sunday services. Please mark your calendars for Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m.

Lessons and Carols to ring in the New Year

The first Sunday of the Christmas season falls on New Years Eve this year. Sticking with a tradition begun two years ago, we will mark the occasion with a celebratory Lessons and Carols during our regularly scheduled Sunday service. Let Mikayla know if there’s a particular hymn you want to sing or a reading you’d like to share.



Jeanne Jankovsky, Maud Powell, and JoAnn Bristol.

WRITERS

A friend of my daughter, Maud Mcroy Powell published a young adult historical novel City of Grit and Gold in 2017. I read the book and wrote a review. During the Covid pandemic, Maud wrote another book. This one about FDR's hospital for children with polio in Warm Springs, Arkansas. She sent me a copy of the manuscript for feedback. I asked if I could share it with JoAnn Bristol and Jeanne Jankovsky. Since JoAnn had polio as a child and Jeanne was a student nurse during the polio epidemic, I asked them to read and comment on Maud's manuscript. This year, on September 16th, Maud gave a workshop in Eureka on writing scenes for a play. Both Jeanne and JoAnn attended the class and are currently working on their scenes for a presentation in March. Watch this space for dates and times.

Lisa Priller, John and I also attended the workshop.

Hug Long and Hug Often

I recently read an article that talked about the health benefits of hugs. "A person craves a hug 13 times throughout the day, it takes 20 seconds for a hug to have medical healing properties. However, the average hug only lasts three seconds. Giving eight hugs a day increases a level of oxytocin, a chemical linked to trust, morality and happiness." The author said "I know I don't get enough hugs during the day, so I'm sure others don't either." Maybe we should invite her to St. Michael & All Angels. During Passing the Peace on Sunday, my level of oxytocin definitely increased. Thank you to all of you who gave me a hug!

HELP NEEDED

Parish Registry

When Bishop Marty was here, she brought out the Parish Registry which includes all Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings & Burials since St. Michael's first day. Since then, we discovered that between 1968 and 1982 there are NO entries. During that time, St. Michael & All Angels was served by Libby or Kalispell, on a rotating basis.

Example: John and Sharon LaBonty were married on March 14, 1970; the un-ordained priest in Libby did their rehearsal while Rev. Tom Best from Kalispell performed the ceremony. This marriage could be in either registry. Since Libby's church has closed that may be an issue.

Rev. Mikayla and the Vestry are asking for your help. If you were baptized, confirmed, married, or a family member buried during this missing time period, please provide this information, including date, event, name of priest, etc. We want our Registry to be accurate. Thank you!

2023 Convention

JoAnn attended two educational workshops. The first one was entitled “Ministering to LGBTQI + Community “. The percentage of people in the United States who identify as LGBTQI has been estimated by reasonable authorities as 4.5%. So that’s about 45,000 people per 1 million, or a little less than one in every 20 people. The thrust of the discussion was that as an inclusive congregation, our job is to welcome, invite, acknowledge, and affirm members of that community in the same way that Jesus was welcoming and affirming.

The second workshop was entitled “Safety and Security in Our Churches”. Discussion centered around each parish having an established policies and procedure manual, which would include first aid, fire evacuation, official greeters, appropriate insurance, safety of children, and many other topics. The overarching concept was for us to be able to operate out of a position of faith as opposed to fear. The workshop leader went on to explain that being in a position of faith was in large part based on appropriate preparation. More detailed exposition will be made to the vestry in preparation for discussion of action.

Jim attended two workshops. The first was entitled “Marketing Workshop” presented by our very own Mikayla Dunfee. Very informative presentation and discussion. It seems that we have already started doing some of this activity here at Saint Michael. Over the next few weeks, the congregation will begin to see evidence.

The second workshop was entitled “A Conversation – Energizing the Small Congregation”. This was a fascinating discussion attended by about 20 people, all from small parishes, some much smaller than ours. We talked about the purpose of our churches being realized in their effects on our communities, not by the number of people in the pews on Sunday. Bigger is not better, necessarily. If small congregations relate to their communities in three, four, or five different effective ways which improve the quality of life in the community, that is a very successful church (think Wood Bank, Soup Café, prayer shawls, and it doesn’t take much of a stretch to include community theater, to name a few). I’m glad I was sitting in the back row so people couldn’t see me visibly puff up.

The keynote speaker, Tom, had a fascinating perspective. His task with the National Episcopal Church is to work with congregations over 18 to 24 months to help define who, what, and why they are. He said that many congregations, regardless of their membership numbers, have lost sight of their original purpose, and have become clubs. He said that his team has found that for many churches, the members of the church relate only to other church members, and not to the community. He did not say that in a flattering way. As I reflected on the composition of Saint Michael, it was apparent that while we love each other as a family, most of the interactions we have with humanity occur outside the church walls with people who do not attend our church. Our members are integral to the community at large, in addition to worshiping at Saint Michael. And, I believe, that we at Saint Michael enrich the community at large. The workshop passed out bumper stickers:

The Church Has Left the Building

And so Saint Michael has.

Hello friends! If you only hear one thing about Convention 2023, let it be this. Go to <https://diomontana.com/diocesan-convention-2023/> and listen to audio recording of the Keynote Speaker Rev. Tom Brackett. I promise it's worth the listen!

At the 2023 Convention I had the privilege of attending a workshop on Energizing the Small Church. The workshop was well attended with members of several small churches. In fact, there's talk of networking our small churches together for mutual support. The discussion gave me lots to think about and I'm glad to share a bit of it here.

Part I – Who are Small Churches? Small churches often long to be BIG churches but wait a minute – sometimes BIG is not better! Here are some of the characteristics of the small church: welcoming, connected to community, intimate, a place of friendship, resilient, smiling faces, where everyone knows your name, involved in community, and like a family. Those, and others, are amazing qualities that we see in our own small church. We don't need to be BIG to be thriving. In fact, at BIG churches people often work in small groups because that's the best way to really get to know people and get things done.

St. Michael & All Angels has much to be proud about. Here's a question to ponder: what if St. Michael & All Angels disappeared? Really, think about it.... Obviously, there would be no Episcopal worship in Eureka, but there also would be NO Soup Kitchen in the winter, NO prayer shawl ministry, the wood bank would be LESS supported, and other ministries would surely be missed. There would be NO church in Eureka with the message "Everyone is Welcome. No Exceptions." This small church is doing very BIG work!

Of course, small churches have challenges. St. Michael & All Angels has challenges. Have you attended Vestry meeting lately? Please consider coming to a Vestry meeting, you are welcome! But at the end of the day let's not lose sight of who we are, a small church doing BIG things and holding a unique place in our community.

Next issue: Part II – The (Small) Church has Left the Building

State of the Diocese or National Church

The Episcopal Church calls for prayers for peace in the Holy Land.

"We offer our prayers and support during this time of violence in Israel and Palestine. In Luke 19:41, we are reminded 'That when Jesus drew near and saw the city, he wept over it.' Many still weep.

We pray for those who have been killed, injured, are searching for loved ones, and are struggling with grief and fear. The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem has consistently advocated for peace and justice, teaching us all what it means to walk in the way of love, to which Jesus points.

We are praying for Israelis and Palestinians.

We give thanks for the dedicated staff at al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, part of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and for all who are offering medical care in the region. We pray for their strength and safety.

Please join us in praying that there is a de-escalation and that the root causes of violence and oppression may be confronted and challenged so that a new understanding of peace prevails."

- The Rev. C.K. Robertson, PhD, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Ministry Beyond The Episcopal Church

Assisting Lahaina, Hawaii

Holy Innocents Episcopal Church was destroyed in the wildfire that destroyed much of Lahaina, Hawaii on the island of Maui. However, they are still worshipping together in spots they can find. The Episcopal Diocese of Hawaii is directing financial resources for the affected communities through their [A CUP OF COLD WATER](#) nonprofit. Checks can be sent to our Bishop's discretionary fund, writing Hawaii in the memo line. One of our lay chaplains, Nancy Shively, was vacationing in Lahaina with her family when the wildfire broke out. She and her family are safe and now back in the mainland. She can attest to both the complete destruction and the endurance of the parishioners of Holy Innocents! Please continue to keep the people of the island of Maui in your prayers.

Are You Interested In Reading The Bible From Beginning To End ?

Since April 2014, the website putnamafield.org has encouraged people to read the Bible from beginning to end, reading at the very reasonable rate of 3 to 7 pages per day (depending upon the size of the print of the Bible that you choose to use for the reading). Starting on Monday, April 10, 2023 (the day after Easter), the tenth complete reading of the Bible will be offered on that website.

St. Michael & All Angels Intercessory Prayers

Aaron, Alexandra, Ben, Bonnie, Cam & family, Caden, Carl, Carol, Chez, Chloe, Chy & family, Claudia, Dee & Sam, Derek & family, Don & Linda, Doug & Paula, Drew, Edd & family, Erin, Gwynn, Jamie, Jenny & Paige, Jillian, John & Sharon, Jordana, Kaye, Kendal, Mike & JoAn, Michael, Mitch, Nathan, Nicole, Paisley, Phaelyn, Rebecca, Ruby, Ruth, Rosemary, Sara, Sherry, Steve & Barbara, Sue, Teresa, Tom, Tom & Sandi, and Vicky.

Treasurer's Report – JoAn H. Cuffe

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>
OFFERING	\$ 1,815.00	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 1,272.00
EXPENSES:	\$ 2,432.94	\$ 2,97.33	\$ 2,273.44
<u>ACCOUNT BALANCES:</u>			
ERD	\$ 599.60	\$ 527.60	\$ 492.60
WOODBANK	\$ 1,453.22	\$ 1,453.22	\$ 1,453.22
DISCRETIONARY	\$ 635.09	\$ 85.09	\$ 135.09
OPERATING	\$ 5,106.76	\$ 5,724.70	\$ 6,942.02
SAVINGS	\$ 9,342.81	\$ 9,342.81	\$ 9,342.81
BUILDING	\$ 10,672.20	\$ 10,572.20	\$ 10,472.20
RAYMOND JAMES	\$ 7,532.86	\$ 7,532.86	\$ 7,532.86

A Special Thank You

Claudia has been running her own version of Soup Café for the past several years every Saturday at Wood Bank. Her work there is deeply appreciated. The next time you see Claudia, thank her for the faithful ministry she has in feeding the Wood Bank participants. Thank you Claudia!

Vestry Views – Jim Pettit



< --- Margaret Lambie, exceptional and faithful musician, with or without Nikki Meyer, in appreciation of her continued musical ministry at Saint Michael, is presented special editions of our hymnals that are designed for ease of use by musicians. Once again, thank you Margaret.

For Church Musicians and Artists

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

During the past several weeks at Saint Michael, the congregation size has begun to approach pre-Covid numbers. For this we are all thankful. It's been so good to see you all there. Mikayla has continued to provide us with priestly leadership, and she leads the worship three Sundays monthly during which communion is shared. Typically, those weeks will fall on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of each month. Due to her other obligations as the Canon to the Ordinary for Bishop Marty, we sometimes have to adjust, and gladly. The remaining Sunday/Sundays of each month worship is via Morning Prayer, led by members of the parish. Anyone who would like to think about taking on that responsibility should give me a call, 254.644.7032. We have a method to ease you into this responsibility/ministry. Be safe and God bless.

Tobacco Valley Food Pantry – Ethel White

Friends – It's that time of year. The Tobacco Valley Food Pantry is preparing for our annual Holiday food basket distribution. Each year the Food Pantry prepares a traditional "make at home" dinner, including a turkey or ham, stuffing, fresh vegetables and dessert. We all know the cost of food has increased which makes it difficult with the extras associated with a traditional meal.

As in years past, Town Pump is offering their cash match donation grant. This grant matches cash donations dollar-for-dollar. Drop off cash donations at the Tobacco Valley Thrift Store or mail to Tobacco Valley Food Pantry, P.O. Box 714, Eureka 59917

Any amount will help and be thankful that you can help.

Christmas Family

The Vestry is in the process of selecting Christmas Family(ies) and will be notifying you by email as soon as the details are finalized.

Bible Cryptogram by Dee Nance

In these puzzles one letter stands for another. In this sample BIBLE, X stands for B, T for I, P for L and B for E (XTXPB). Single letters, apostrophes, and length of word are all hints. Code letters are different in each puzzle.

Clues: V = E

NBF AVIDI INCF SX SKVH, LXGGXD HV NBF C
PCGG HNZV EXD LCIKVQI XL HVB.

- HNGZ 1:17

Birthdays / Anniversaries

October		November		December	
Sam Strand	4	Katrina Williams	3	Kathy Hawkins	9
Jim & Jenny Bartlett	4	Lisa Priller	6	Jeff & Linda Williams	26
Dee Nance	13	John Priller	10	Jim Bennett	28
Zach Bronow	27	Jim Pettit & JoAnn Bristol	11	Mason Bishop	30
Joel & Leslie Graves	28	Genevieve Cleveland	24	John LaBonty	31

While doing your Christmas shopping, keep these two items in mind – they make great Christmas gifts!



← These bags are a fund raiser for the Wood Bank. Three designs - \$20.00 each. Wood Bank bags can be ordered through Pattiann by sending a check or money order to 324 Terning Dr West Eureka. Also at St. Michael.

For Sale at the Montana Market or at St. Michael & All Angels →



Thank You

- Sam McCurry for saying “yes” to the question, “Would you like to serve on the Audit Committee?”
- Jed McCurry for taking on duties as Morning Prayer leader while Jim was at Convention.
- Kathy Hawkins & Art Walters for updating the sign in front of the church (see in “Since Last We Met” column).

- JoAnn Bristol, Jim Pettit, and Lisa Priller for representing St. Michael & All Angels at the Diocese Convention.

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Since Last We Met

Welcome Remy!

August 6th was the first “Coffee Hour” following Services. The congregation used this opportunity to officially welcome Remy McCurry with cards and gifts. We have been enjoying watching him grow and his parents become active members of the St. Michael’s family.



Ana is one !!!



Vivian Helping
Hanging Picture of Saints



Photo by Mike Cuffee



Both babies are getting so grown-up, and they enjoy their weekly visits!

Children are not a distraction from more important work, they are the most important work. – C.S. Lewis

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Michaelmas – We celebrated St. Michael & All Angels Day on September 24th with a great potluck and fellowship.



Desserts galore!

All Saints Day
Celebrated on October 29th



The congregation was invited to bring pictures of “Saints” – heroes or family members who have passed. The pictures were hung from clothes lines around the sanctuary. We were surrounded by our saints during service. The pictures will remain for a week or two.

A quote from one of Mikayla’s saints:

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.” To this day, especially in times of “disaster”, I remember my mother’s words and I am comforted by realizing that there are still so

many helpers – so many caring people in this world.
– Mr. Rogers

Editor's Note: I think it would be good to develop a file of past St. Michael saints, example: Bill & Edna Gwynn, Barney & Eva Olson, for future All Saints Day. Just photocopies of pictures!

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Angels playing in the Cemetery on
October 8th.



Cannon Pearson as
Sheriff Frank Baney



Jed McCurry as William
F. Yoakum

Also participating were BeeGee Cole, Kelley Comstock, Ethel White, John & Sharon LaBonty.

First Annual Nonprofit Expos October 14th



Sign Updated – Mikayla's name added.



What's Happening?

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Jenny Bartlett



Left to right: Jenny Bartlett, Dee Nance, JoAnn Bristol, Jeanne Jankovsky (the birthday girl), Becky Grey, MaryAnn Schuler, Sharon LaBonty, and Eliane Rasmussen. Front: Shari Nance with flowers, a gift from the Happy Hookers.

Happy Hooker Celebrates Milestone

One of the members of the Happy Hookers reached a milestone recently when she celebrated her 90th birthday in a big way. Jeanne Jankovsky turned 90 on August 2 and was honored by family, friends and Hookers during a gathering at Jerry's Saloon.

The Hookers had been looking forward to helping Jeanne celebrate this milestone birthday since her 89th birthday last year. But when we learned that Jeanne's family was planning a shindig for her and it would be family only, we had something to say about that! We're not sure if it was fear of a group of Happy Hookers crashing the party or just a desire to make Jeanne's celebration over-the-top special, but the Hookers were invited and made a grand appearance (including several "close friends of Hookers," also known as husbands). Jeanne's family seemed to get a real kick out of the Hooker presence. We showered her with love and flowers and she was even serenaded with a special birthday song performed by our very own MaryAnn Schuler.

The food and fellowship were wonderful and Jeanne was glowing the entire evening as she was honored and celebrated by family, friends and many Happy-to-be-there-Hookers. We are so BLESSED to be able to call Jeanne our friend and to have her in our lives and in our group.

Many thanks to Jeanne's family for organizing and putting on such a fun celebration. And congratulations to Jeanne on reaching this tremendous milestone. May God bless you with many more years ahead!

Angels on Stage! The Eureka Community Players presents

NUNCRACKERS, A Nunsense Christmas Musical

Friday, November 10th – 7:00 p.m.; Saturday & Sunday, November 11 & 12 – 3:00 p.m.

John & Sharon LaBonty, Artistic Directors

Margaret Lambie – Musical Director

Nikki Meyers – Sister Robert Ann

Emerson Roberts – Percussion

A Fun Way to Start the Holiday Season!

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Soup Café – Jim Pettit



Hello friends.

Since this year, like last year, the farmer's almanac says that cold weather will be starting early in

November, once again we will begin Soup Cafe early in November. That will be 11:00am - 1:00pm on 2 November 2023, and each Thursday following until 28 March 2024, the last Thursday prior to Easter, which falls on 31 March 2024. However, if it appears that cold weather will continue into April, we may consider extending Soup Cafe.

It's important to note that we have elected to do Soup Cafe on Thursdays this year instead of Wednesdays. The Senior Center will be having a luncheon meal every Wednesday. We thought that not conflicting with the Senior Center would provide more people in town a greater opportunity to eat soup and bread with us.

St. Michael's Book Nook – Jeanne Jankovsky

Proof of Heaven by Eben Alexander, M.D.

Quote from Raymond A. Moody, Jr. MD-PHD, *Dr. Eben Alexander's near-death experience is the most astounding I have heard in more than four decades of studying this phenomenon. He is living proof of an afterlife.*

As a neurosurgeon, Dr. Alexander could not reconcile his knowledge of neuroscience with any belief of Heaven. Recovery from a rare illness was a medical miracle – but the real miracle was elsewhere.

This book is a fascinating read, in spite of a surplus of descriptive details.

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“Every book, every volume, has a soul – The soul of the person who wrote it – and of those who read it and lived and dreamed with it. Every time a book changes hands, every time someone runs his eyes down its’ page, its’ spirit grows and strengthens.” – from The Shadows of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Book Suggestion: The Only Necessary Thing, Living a Prayerful Life by Henri J.M. Nouwen

Prayer is the bridge between my unconscious and conscious Life. Prayer connects my mind with my heart, my will with my passions, my brain with my belly. Prayer is the divine instrument of my wholeness, unity and inner peace. – Henri J.M. Nouwen

Reading to children, even before they can understand words, teaches them to associate books with love and affection.

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**THERE IS NO APP
TO REPLACE YOUR LAP!
READ TO YOUR CHILD**

Wood Bank – Rev. Pattiann Bennett

Greetings from the Wood Bank ~ a Jubilee Ministry of the Episcopal Church.

At Diocesan Convention in 2011, we heard exciting stories about ministries in our Episcopal churches in Montana. St. Michael's Wood Bank and Soup Cafe are outcrops of those stories that day. Claudia was a delegate that year and still speaks with the greatest pride about how St Michael acted and became part of the web of Episcopal ministries all across the land.



A great crew, including Claudia Evans (2nd left) who has made it her mission to make soup each workday.



Cookie Baker Extraordinaire - Kim Lundstrom

The Wood Bank has evolved so much since then. We've become part of the national Wood Bank network this year.

The first year we gave 35 pickup loads. Last year the count was 250+.

From the beginning this has been an outreach in many ways. Volunteers come from the whole community, not just our little church. Other churches are involved, businesses, school groups and individuals.

We gather in rain, snow or shine with sawyers, splitters and stackers working like noisy bees in a beehive and ants in an anthill. Saturdays 9-12 are like barn raisings with friends and strangers working side by side, glad to be together and to help.

The first work day in September we didn't have a stick ready to go. Now...5 Saturdays later, we have 15 rows stacked, 5 feet high, 40 feet long.

There are still 3 1/2 mountainous piles of split wood waiting to be stacked because after a few work days of hard chain sawing, on Sept. 22-24, Marty Low brought his industrial wood processor and skidder. Hwy 93 Rental donated an excavator and Dexter Schermerhorn and Bert Lebig ran it. They worked all the heavy gnarly forest service loads up and the complete pile of big logs Ben brought just for that. They were a very impressive few days.

We'll be there every Saturday, 9am all fall & winter, to finish the work and then for load ups.



Because of the grant we received last year from the Alliance for Green Heat we were able to purchase all the logs we need this year and already have 4 loads for next year's drying. Another grant has become available to banks like us who give more than 100 cords a year.

We thank the above for raising the Bank to a new bar with much needed help!

Thank you to Eureka Hardware for 3 new wheelbarrows last month, dozens of gloves and new pickeroons. Thank you to Western Builders too for a wheelbarrow. Thank you to the greatest crew: Claudia, Ethel, Kim, Sheila, Gretchen, Alice, Kathie, Skye, the Chrysalis girls, Pat, Bruce, Tom, Rick, Bill, Ben, Chris, Mike, Joel, John, Jon, Leon, & Billy. Thank you to the Baptist Church and to those who donated financially.

Deepest thanks and gratefulness for the life of this amazing ministry and for the people who make it happen...God through us all is at work in the world...

Here's to a warmer winter...

Solution: And Jesus said to them, Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men. – Mark 1:17

**St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal
P.O. Box 342
Eureka, MT 59917**

The Messenger Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Messenger* is December 15th. Please send any news or happenings at St. Michael or an Op Ed to Sharon or hand it to her at church.
E-mail: sharonlabonty@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

Ongoing

Coffee Hour – 1st Sunday of each month

Vestry – 2nd Sunday of each month. Open to all.

Pot Luck – 4th Sunday of each month

Soup Café – Every Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of "The Messenger" is to be in contact with all the members and friends of St. Michael & All Angels, near and far. That they may be involved and informed about the ministry, services, activities and opportunities.

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JoAnn Bristol Jim Pettit

Ethel White JoAn Cuffe

Dee Nance – Proof Reader

Upcoming



Angel (Soup) Cafe

Soup Café opens November 2 and continues every Thursday until Easter.

Journey to Bethlehem! At 1pm each Thursday of Advent (11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21)

Greening of the Church – December 17th following morning service.

Christmas Schedule – See page 5.



