

# ST. MICHAEL'S 'SUMMER HAPPENINGS'

## PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

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## RECTOR WRITES

I recently read a story by the Very Rev. Sam Candler from Atlanta, Georgia, which I want to share with you, as I think it is very apt for summers in northern Ontario.

The Rev. Candler recalls being on the family farm with father, mother and others gathered around the burning pile of wood. This was a common practice done on the farm to clear the underbrush so it didn't start a more serious fire. The fire was lit on the leeward side that way the fire would stay controlled and burn backwards into the wind.

As they stood around the fire 'hanging out' the family would talk about what was on their minds. Candler also recalls listening to the pileated woodpeckers sail through the air above them, listening but not seeing a flock of sandhill cranes and wondering why several deer sat in a nearby thicket without a care. How there was always water on hand for those occasions when a spark sought food elsewhere.

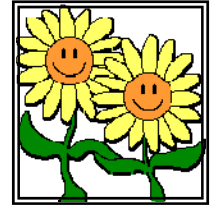
The burning of the bush in this story reminds me of the story of Moses in Exodus, Chapter 3 when Moses watched a bush burning and from the bush heard the voice of God asking him to remove the sandals from his feet because he stood on holy ground.

Holy ground is when fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, family and friends stand or sit together such as around a fire. To feel the energy from being together, to be inspired to see each other, life and the world in a new light. To experience as Moses did the presence of God, the Spirit of God alive and at work in and through us.

May your gatherings with family and friends this summer at camp, at home, at church make for holy ground.

## YOUTH SYNOD AT CAMP MANITOU

The theme is Reckless Faith: Live out Loud! Sheena Larson is going from St. Michael's along with Brianna Locke.



## NEW ADDITIONS BRING RENEWED FOCUS

The Diocese of Algoma of which St. Michael and All Angels is a part, recently hired a Congregational Development Officer, Dr. Jay Koyle, as part of the 5-Year Strategic Plan which you can read on the diocesan website.

Dr. Koyle has had initial meetings with parishes and deaneries, Thunder Bay being one, and will be developing benchmarks—a guide for parishes to become healthier. There will be assessment teams formed to support healthy congregational development.

Dr. Koyle spoke recently in Thunder Bay about the **4 aspects of healthy congregations:**

1. **There is a focus on Jesus Christ 'God'.** To see God in every scene and to ask what God is doing?
2. **Energy is put into people not programs.** Programs as a tool to develop people. People in the parish live a new life that is plausible and attractive.
3. **They attend to what really matters**—the gospel 'good news' and community being the 'body of Christ' not the paint colour when decorating the hall or property.
4. **Members act with confidence and conviction** based on the promises of God. That we have a future filled with promise because God will make it happen.

## RENTAL PROPERTY UPDATE

At the Special Vestry Meeting on Sunday, June 6th at St. Michael's the decision was made **in separate motions to 'sell' the two rental properties No. 8 & No. 18 Sydney St.** *The Diocesan Executive met in June and approved the sale.* The Wardens will be working on selling the properties. A committee will be set up to make recommendations as to the use of the money from the sale, reporting to the Annual Vestry Meeting in February 2011, for a decision. Thanks to all parties who put a lot of work into gathering information so an informed decision could be made.

## VISION 2019

This is a church-wide exercise to discern, dream, and decide where we think God wants the Anglican Church in Canada to be in 2019. There are 'Five Marks of Mission'

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
2. to teach, baptize and nurture new believers.
3. To respond to human need by loving service.
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Check out [www.anglican.ca/v2019](http://www.anglican.ca/v2019) To find out more. Also visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and then type in Vision 2019 and scroll down to the video entitled 'Catch the buzz'.

## PERSONNEL CHANGES AT ST. MICHAEL'S

In June it was with sadness that after 6 1/2 years **Katie Kirkpatrick, the Parish Secretary**, handed in her resignation as she and husband Jim are moving for work reasons to Eastern Ontario. Katie has made a huge contribution to the life of St. Michael's as secretary; she has grown in her ability to manage the many faceted aspects to the job, and she has been a warm and welcoming face to all who come through the doors during the week. Katie has been a support to the wardens and clergy over the years. We take this opportunity to say a big thank you and wish her and Jim God's blessing on their move.

**Brianna Locke** who has been working with those 11-14 years old during the last year is at Bishop Andrew's request taking services and running a summer program at St. Christopher's Anglican Church on McGregor Bay, Georgian Bay. Brianna is now a Parish Lay Reader at St. Michael's focusing on youth ministry and assisting with worship. In September she will be returning to St. Michael's to continue her youth ministry with those 11-14 years. Brianna intends to seek ordained ministry by going to college in September 2011.

In May, 2010, the Caretaker, **John Cassidy**, handed in his resignation due to an inability to continue his work at the church.

The Wardens over the summer will be working on finding both a new Caretaker and Secretary for St. Michael's.

## MARRIAGE AND BAPTISMAL PREPARATION AT ST. MICHAEL'S

From time to time people ask what preparation is done for weddings and baptisms at St. Michael's. I would draw your attention to the leaflets at the back of church.

In addition, let me say how important that preparation is for many who come to the church are unfamiliar with the building, traditions, even the language and so it helps people feel more comfortable, more receptive to their role and what is taking place.

**Baptismal preparation** is about 1 hour 30 minutes based on a video produced by the Anglican Church of Canada called, 'Baptism, A Life-long Celebration', which briefly looks at the origins of baptism, goes through the meaning of the service and the relevance of baptism.

Time is taken to explain the symbolism, go through who says what and where, the role of godparents, emphasize the commitment involved and speak about the Parish.

**Marriage preparation** depends on the couples situation i.e. have they been married before. There is now an annual marriage prep course of one full day run by the Deanery of Thunder Bay which couples are required to go to. In addition, I explain the service and who does what and when. It is a necessary time commitment in light of the marriage commitment and the rate of separation and divorce today. *Rev'd Peter*

## EMAIL ADDRESS



If you are willing to pass your email address on to the parish office as an efficient and easy way to get in touch with you, please consider it. It is a great way to receive information and cut down on parish costs re paper.

**SUMMER HOURS** During July and August you can leave messages on the answering machine and Rev'd Peter or a warden will get back to you. Sandra Drindak, the Parish Treasurer, will be in on the following dates:

JULY		AUGUST	
Thursday, July 8 <sup>th</sup>	9 am - 12 pm	Thursday, August 5 <sup>th</sup>	9 am—12 pm
Tuesday, July 13 <sup>th</sup>	9 am - 12 pm	Thursday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>	9 am—12 pm
Tuesday, July 20 <sup>th</sup>	9 am - 12 pm	Tuesday, August 17 <sup>th</sup>	9 am—12 pm
Thursday, July 29 <sup>th</sup>	9 am - 12 pm	Tuesday, August 24 <sup>th</sup>	9 am—12 pm
		Tuesday, August 31 <sup>st</sup>	9 am—12 pm

**THE POWER OF FLOWERS**

When you get a moment to step outside to **The Memorial Garden**, you will pause, reflect and stare, and take a breath of fragrant air. There you will see shapes of flowers to bring thoughts of memories and make you think.

This year's flowers are in the shapes of a **Butterfly, Celtic Cross, Heart and the Burning Bush**.

**Butterfly**—represents our changing bodies into spirit in a new life as a caterpillar cocoons they change into a beautiful butterfly.

**Celtic Cross**—the red geraniums represent God's arms around Jesus on the cross which is the silver dusty miller plants.

**Heart**—white flowers represents the pure all encompassing and unconditional love.

**Burning Bush**— as God spoke through the burning bush, we pray God will continue to provide us with love, guidance, and peace. God is represented by the red geranium and the multicoloured flowers spark and flame from the centre of the viny bush.

*So remember to Stop, Pray and Smell the Flowers.*

by Penny Turner



*A word of thanks to Irene Wyrozub, Penny Turner and Linda Wells for planting out the flowers in St. Michael's Memorial Garden and in the baskets.*

**SUMMER**

*I like to lie and smell the green grass sweet against dark shadows when the world is full of summer softness and the nights are young, and all is hovering just like a dandelion full of seeds that sits upon the wind. MD*

**FUNERAL PREPARATION**

We are a society which struggles with and denies death and yet it happens all around us and to us all. It makes sense to make plans in an age when people, especially younger generations, don't go to church, to make sure that your wishes are respected in particular if you are a faithful church member. The staff and clergy at St. Michael's are here to help you.

There is a booklet available at the church for \$10 called **'My Last Wishes**, a guide to help families know what their loved ones want.

At the back of the church there is also a **leaflet** entitled **'A Service of Thanksgiving'** helpful guidelines for when a service is to be at St. Michael's. It includes details about St. Michael's Memorial Garden beside the church.

To clarify one thing in particular, if you want a service at St. Michael's Church with other clergy not presently ministering at St. Michael's, please, where possible, let Rev'd Peter know and all effort will be made to accommodate your wishes, but there are no guarantees.

DIARY DATES FALL 2010



- On **Saturday, September 11th at 7:00 pm**, **John Sands**, described as 'an extraordinary entertainer' will be giving a return performance at St. Michael's in the church. John, a resident of Milfred, Nova Scotia, began his professional career as a pianist and organist more than 4 decades ago. He will have an eclectic program of instrumental music including Celtic, classical, sacred and popular songs. He presents music tastefully in a way that fosters an ambience of peace and gladness. Go to [www.johnsandsmusic.com](http://www.johnsandsmusic.com) to find out more about John Sands. **Ticket prices are \$15**, with 20% going to 'Our Kids Count', and *will be available from the Parish Office, Janet Lortie and Barb Brayshaw Fontaine.*

- FALL FAIR Saturday, September 18th from 11 am—3 pm** at St. Michael's Parking lot. There will be live music, magic shows, children's games, food court, including a bake table, mini-market (consider planting and donating a row of vegetables). If you can help or have ideas, contact Sue Simonsen at 345-5905 or Evan Simpson at 768-9481.



- Plans are also underway for a visit of the **Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Fred Hiltz** to Thunder Bay for the **weekend of Friday, September 24th— Sunday, September 26th**. There will be a Deanery Day at St. John's on Saturday, September 25th and a joint service on the Sunday afternoon, September 26th at St. Paul's Anglican Church at 3:00 pm followed by supper. **The Primate is due to celebrate and attend the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, September 25th at St. Michael's, which will be followed by a reception.**



**Please pray for those getting married this summer—** Glory Jewitt and Justin Small, Kristen Schafer-Stones and William Cole and Ashley Shaw and David Bleakney.

**For those to be baptized** at St. Michael's.

For those **who are sick**, may the summer bring better health, time with family and a renewed sense of God's presence.

For the **wardens and clergy** with much to act on this summer in terms of rental properties and personnel change. That the Fall will bring the opportunity for a renewed focus by us all on ministry and outreach on what is the real asset in and to the church; people.

'OUR KIDS COUNT'

On Sunday, June 13th, **Gladys Berringer, Executive Director of Our Kids Count** came and expressed thanks for the money we, especially the Sunday School children, raised—approximately \$810 to help buy bus tickets. **Crystal Phillips** had this to say, *"I cannot even begin to say how grateful I, and a lot of others are. Having the bus tickets makes it easier for families to reach the centre, without having to choose between 'Playgroups' or 'Groceries'.* **Small ways we give do matter!**

