

Church of St. Michael & All Angels (Anglican)
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 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1J1
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 (Office and Parish Hall)
Fax: 768-0382
Email:
 stmichaelsch@tbaytel.net
Parish Website:
 www.stmichaelsthunderbay.com
Deanery Website:
 www.thunderbayanglicans.com
Diocesan Website:
 www.dioceseofalgoma.com
Anglican Church of Canada:
 www.anglican.ca



Bishop's Motto: "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil.1.6)

Black book at back of church for you to enter prayers you would like offered at the services.

PRAYER CORNER



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

† Hungry & homeless
 this Christmas



NEWLY BAPTIZED

'Child of God'



FUNERALS

'Rest from their labors'

† Peace in troubled lands & hearts

† For our Families

† Children in our parish & community

† Safe & responsible travels for all



MARRIED

'To Love and to Cherish'

† Glory & Justin Small
 † Kristin & William Cole
 † Ashley & David Bleakney
 † Stacey & Justin Livitski
 † Rhonda & Silvano Ferrato

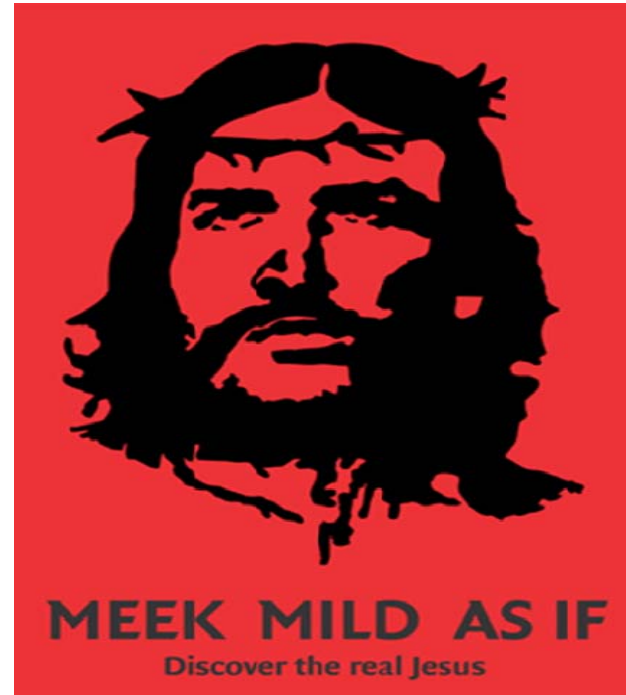
† Eleanor Pilon
 † Theresa Steudle
 † Gary laleunesse
 † Ken Bacon
 † Dorothy Edgley
 † Richard Kubley
 † Kathleen Crowe
 † Alex lee-Basaraba Youmans
 † John Nickerson
 † William Gaskell
 † Eila Kurikka
 † Stanley Wojick
 † Mary Dunnill



ST. MICHAEL'S MESSENGER
 'CELEBRATING CHRIST IN COMMUNITY'

November 2010
 December 2010

Newsletter



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Prayer Corner



Rector: Rev'd Peter Smyth
Hon. Associates: Rev'd Barb Fugelsang
 Rev'd Margaret Lucas
Youth Coordinator: Brianna Locke
Organist: Janet Lortie
Wardens: Wendy Locke, Barb Fontaine & John Lambden
Office Telephone: 767-4711 **OR** 767-9390
Fax Machine: 768-0382
Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9 am to 12 pm
Secretary: Donna Hunt
Caretaker: Allan Grant
Website: www.stmichaelsthunderbay.com
Email: stmichaelsch@tbaytel.net

Rev Peter writes,



It might surprise you to know that St Michaels has a **Mission Statement** which states our primary purpose, specific reason for being.

It is **'We strive to follow Christ's teaching of caring, sharing, hope, peace and understanding.**

It is relatively easy to comprehend the role of a church being to care and share it is something parents, teachers try to instill in children but what about the reference in the Mission Statement to following Christ?? We refer to Jesus Christ in every worship service, almost every prayer and yet do we ever ask ourselves who is he??.

I have just finished a **book** called **'Selling Swimsuits in the Arctic' – Seven Simple Keys to Growing Churches** a popular pursuit so I am told in mid January Inuvik!! The author Adam Hamilton uses the analogy

of a swimsuits salesman called Bob who has to move to the arctic. Despite the cold temps he is not deterred in his efforts to sell a product he is very passionate about, he believes in it. Bob soon realizes that despite his best efforts it is not what the people of the arctic need so he examines the needs of the people and notices that they don't get much exercise esp. outside and so he designs clothing that people can exercise in all year. The first trial goes badly as the product doesn't stand up to the conditions, Bob goes back and fixes the problems knowing he won't get a third chance and this time the product works well however no-one wants to buy it. Bob feels like giving up but doesn't instead he decides to get to know the people better and it soon pays off with people buying the product he has worked so hard to sell.



Adam Hamilton uses this analogy to refer to the work of the church and he asks parishes, each of us the question do we know the product the church is selling?

The product we are selling is to lead people to become committed disciples of Jesus Christ. So knowing Jesus Christ is essential and what a good time of year with Christmas coming to consider how well we know him.

At St Michaels opportunities to do this include the **Tuesday Bible Study group** which meets in parishioners homes contact Carol Harding at 344-8606 for more info.

Church Highlights from June-October from the Wardens

June

Permission for rental houses to be sold is received by the Executive of the Diocese of Algoma.

July – August

The Cross is painted, & vacuum cleaner purchased. Hired a lawn service to maintain the grounds.

Summer holidays and we were extremely busy with funerals, weddings and baptisms.

New bike rake was installed, Rectory windows capped, and furnace in rectory maintained.

September

Successful first time Fall Fair. We thank all the participants, esp. Sue Simonsen and her committee for putting on such a great event!

Lock stone was installed at the rear entrance to make it safe and improve accessibility.

October

The rental houses are sold and a committee to address the funds from the sale is formed. We thank John Lambden for his dedication to complete these transactions.

A very successful Soup and Sandwich Luncheon was held and enjoyed by many. Thanks to convenor Verna Lavoie and her team of wonderful men and women for their assistance with the terrific lunch!

Hosted a polling station for the City of Thunder Bay Elections.

Finances

You will note we are behind in our projected budget amount (page 3). The Rector and Wardens are working diligently to find solutions to this challenge.

With the sale of the rental houses we have a loss of income that we will have to address in a creative way. We are always looking for **your** input into any and all ideas. Please give your suggestion to the Rector or Wardens.

Next events coming will be Beef on a Bun and Family Fun November 13th and the Christmas Tea and Bazaar on December 4th. Please come out and support these activities. *Some ideas for the coming year, a January Friday-night take out Chilli?? –Pancake Supper??Valentine Tea?? St Paddy's Day Irish Stew Supper??* .

Please let us know if there are any concerns or ideas that you have so we may address them.

Many thanks for you continued support.

Warden Barb Fontaine, Wendy Locke & John Lambden



THE BLESSING OF THE PETS SERVICE OCTOBER 8th 2010



Music Ministry

Senior Choir

We will begin shortly , to practice Advent & Christmas music.

If there are singers who would like to join us for this season of celebration join us at rehearsal Thursday evenings at 6:30pm.

Junior Choir

Junior Choir have started rehearsals and will be singing at the 10am service on November 28th. If there are other children who would like to sing with us come along every other Sunday right after church (10am service). Our next rehearsal will be November 14th at 11:15 am. We will also practice at 9:30 am on November 28th just prior to the 10am service in the lower hall.

COME CELEBRATE WITH US

Janet Lortie Choir Director/Organist

**St Michael's and All Angels Anglican Church
Invites you to Beef on a Bun**

&

Family Fun!

Saturday, November 13, 2010

Church Hall

675 Red River Road

Supper 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Adults \$10.00 (\$12.00 at the door)

Children \$5.00 (under 12)

Available from any Parish Leadership Board Member, Church Office



Continued from page 2 RECTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

They are presently studying a book by Marcus Borg called 'Meeting Jesus Again for the 1st Time' and in January they will begin looking at the Gospel of Matthew.

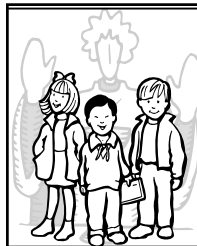
Also I will be running another series of **adult discussion evenings** based on a book 'The Jesus I Never Knew' with DVD by the renowned writer **Philip Yancey**. There will be a helpful participant's guide.

Details of location and how to register will be made known shortly. Contact the church 767-4711.

In these challenging times when the church is looking at how to make itself more relevant living as informed and authentic Christians is more essential than ever.

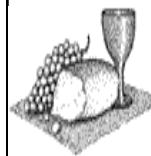
Please take a moment to read this Newsletter and be informed about the life of your parish. A warm welcome to Donna the new parish secretary & Allan the new caretaker.

Blessings to you and yours



LIFE IN THE EUCHARIST

This is a program offered at St. Michael's for those grade 2 + up who can read and write. It teaches the child about the meaning and relevance of the Eucharist' with a workbook that a parent(s) or others can work at with the child at home and in addition do related activities at the church. If you and your child are interested, **please let Rev'd Peter know.**



PRIVATE HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Peter would like to know **no later than Monday, December 13th**, if a parishioner, for health, mobility reasons, is unable to attend church at Christmas and would like to receive Holy Communion at home. Parish Office 767-4711.

A reminder that articles for the January-Mid March Newsletter should be in to Donna in the Parish Office by Monday December 13th 2010

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH, 2010

ADVENT—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

'Advent' is a journey that takes us from the bleakness of late autumn and winter into the brightness of the great celebrations that mark the birth of Jesus 'God With Us'. As we travel through Advent, we recall the journey of the shepherds who from their fields hurried to see the new-born baby. We think of the wisemen journeying long distances to see the Christ child and of course, the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.



Advent is also a time for each of us to journey to a place **where we can reflect upon and grow as Christians in our journey of life with God.** That may be at home, at church, doing things for others? Things for others or amongst the beauty and wonder of nature. What is important is that you make the time so that the joy of the true meaning of Christmas may be realized and born in you.

Advent is a time to clear out rubbish and 'make room for Jesus'. Consider going through your belongings—games, books, clothes, etc. and put what you don't want into a box or bag. Take it to a local charity or agency.



Check out St. Michael's Website at www.stmichaelsthunderbay.com

*The Church is only a 'mouse'click away!
Comments on how it can be improved, are welcomed.*

Let Rev. Peter or Donna, the Secretary, know.



FRESH EXPRESSIONS - Church done a new way for a new unchurched generation. Fresh expressions goes to where people are and doesn't expect them to come to the church. It's not a replacement for the way things have been done, but an alternative to. Check out:

www.freshexpressions.org.uk and

www.freshexpressions.ca.

Rev Peter would appreciate your thoughts

Parochial Offering as of September 30, 2010
Budgeted \$160,842 - Actual \$123,798 =
Deficit (\$37,044)



Sale of Rental Properties

I want to inform you that the 2 rental properties are sold and being refitted by their new owners as viable homes. The sale of the properties owes much to John Lambden who has worked tirelessly. We received \$53,625.81 for the sale of No 8 Sydney St and \$60,395.19 for the sale of No 18 Sydney St.

That money is being put into a short term investment in Thunder Bay until such time as you the parishioners decide what to do with it. That in mind a committee of 6 people Peter Doig, Lynda Lawrie, Rita Ash, Chris Bailey, Barb Fontaine and myself has been formed to discuss ideas and do any necessary research. They are there for you to share your views with as they go around and ask you yours. There will be an opportunity in January after a 10 am. service for you to contribute ideas. From the information gathered recommendations will be made to the Annual Vestry meeting on Sunday February 20th. If a decision is made that is up to vestry, what is important is that everyone has an opportunity to share what they think.

Owning the rental properties over the years has required the time and energy of many people in the parish including wardens and I want to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you. In recent times discussing what to do with the properties has not been an easy issue with differences of opinion however I want to say thank you for the commitment shown by people of all view points. To be passionate about something is how we all need to feel about the work of the church.

Living together in community is not easy and yet that is what we are called to be. I hope that we will all work harder to watch how we care and share with and for another. May that and our love of God be what keeps us moving forward together.

Your servant in Christ
Peter (Rev)



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST 'TAKE A BREAK'



Another opportunity to get together on **Saturday December 11th beginning at 8:30am** upstairs in the church followed by breakfast. The name of the guest speaker and topic will be announced shortly, we finish no later than 10am



ALL MEN WELCOME



Baptismal Reunion

Saturday January 22nd
2011 11-30-1p.m.

Those baptized at St Michaels within the last year, along with siblings, parents, godparents, are being invited by mail to a reunion in the church hall. It begins with refreshments then some games, a short service upstairs and then a meal



Rev Peter & Rev Barb with Archbishop Fred Hiltz Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada who visited St. Michaels & Thunder Bay in September of this year



Altar Guild serving at the table



This a group of ladies (men welcome also) who prepare the table for services and at certain times of the year like Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving also decorate the church.

It is way to grow spiritually as you 'take care' of the space where we worship God.

Some more assistance is needed, training is provided and Rev Peter is on hand to answer questions. Speak to Rev Peter or Elizabeth Stasiuk if you are interested or would like to know more.



HARD TO BE MERRY AT CHRISTMAS—The seasons of Advent and Christmas are an emotionally charged time. There is pressure on people not only to spend a lot of money, but to feel a certain way and maintain a particularly joyous mood. For those who for any number of reasons are hurting, the atmosphere of this time of year can amplify feelings of pain, grief, loneliness or despair. On **Sunday, December 12th at 8:30 & 10 am at St. Michael's**, there will be an opportunity to come together to acknowledge that pain, be reassured you are not alone and to experience the message of God's unconditional love, which is at the heart of this season. **The Blue Christmas Ceremony will involve prayers and the lighting of candles.**

Christmas Humour: Harry was always very sentimental about Christmas. Every year he'd take his socks off and stand them up by the fireplace.



"I never had a sledge when I was a child."

"What a shame! What did you do when it snowed?"
"Slid down the hills on my cousin".

TABLE PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS
*For food in a world where many walk in hunger, for faith in a world where many walk in fear, for friends in a world, where many walk alone. We give you humble thanks, O Lord.
Amen.*



St. Michael and All Angels
Christmas Tea
and Bazaar
on Saturday, December 4,
2010
2:00 ~ 4:00 p.m.



Crafts, Bake & Deli Tables
Unique Handcrafted Sterling
Silver Jewellery for sale
Tickets: \$5.00 at door




Christmas Services 2010
Details will be sent out nearer to Christmas





CONFIRMATION 2011

If you are 12 years + and are interested in learning more about the Christian Faith and how to live it speak to Rev'd Peter as soon as possible.





Coffee and Conversation 1-3pm
Every Wednesday 'come as you are' to a 'Coffee and Conversation' in the church siderooms



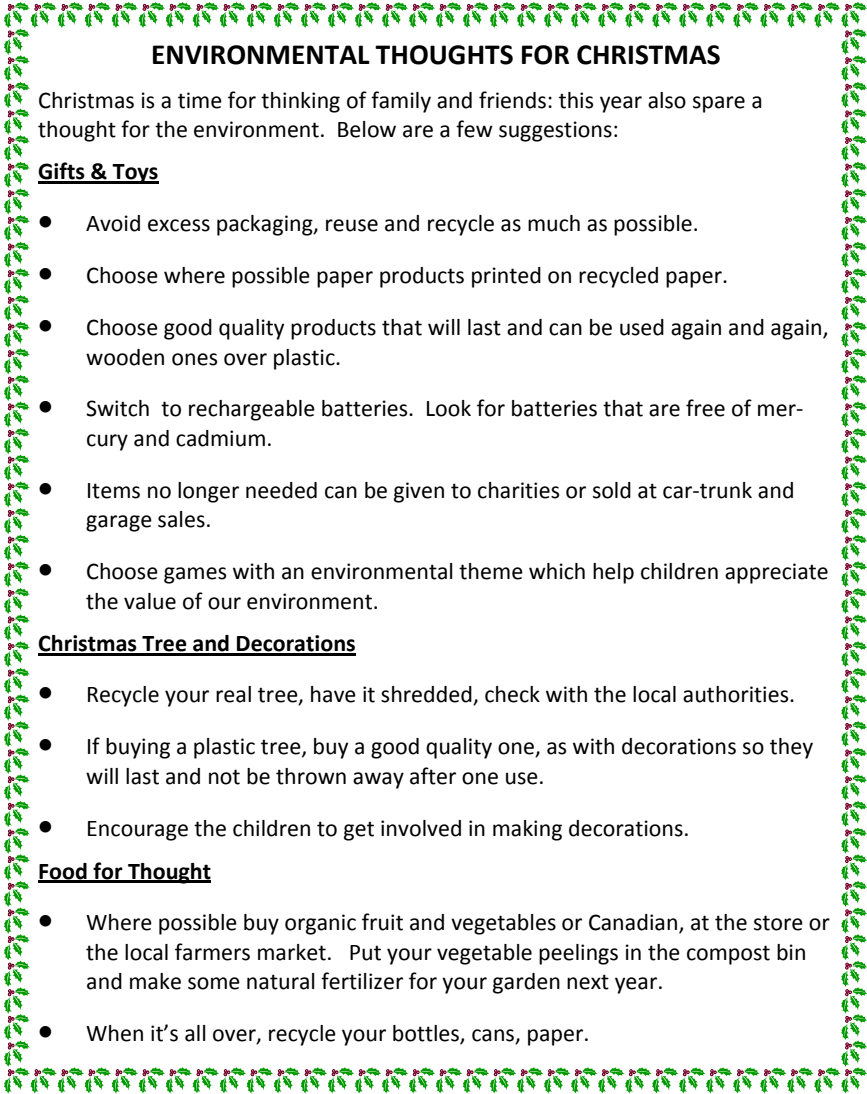
Everyone Welcome!
Hot Coffee

ACW COOKIE DAY FOR SENIORS

The ACW will be meeting on **Tuesday, December 7th at 11:00 am** to package cookies for Seniors and are requesting donations of homemade cookies for this very worthwhile event! **Please drop off your donations at the office on Monday, December 6th from 8:30 am—12:20 pm or before 10:30 am on Tuesday, December 7th.** Thank you! **Sunday 28th November 8:30 am ACW presentation and Thursday 2nd December and Sunday 5th December.**



St. Michael's Fall Fair Saturday 18th September. Sandra Drindak (Parish Treasurer) and Brianna Locke (Youth Worker)



ENVIRONMENTAL THOUGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time for thinking of family and friends: this year also spare a thought for the environment. Below are a few suggestions:

Gifts & Toys

- Avoid excess packaging, reuse and recycle as much as possible.
- Choose where possible paper products printed on recycled paper.
- Choose good quality products that will last and can be used again and again, wooden ones over plastic.
- Switch to rechargeable batteries. Look for batteries that are free of mercury and cadmium.
- Items no longer needed can be given to charities or sold at car-trunk and garage sales.
- Choose games with an environmental theme which help children appreciate the value of our environment.

Christmas Tree and Decorations

- Recycle your real tree, have it shredded, check with the local authorities.
- If buying a plastic tree, buy a good quality one, as with decorations so they will last and not be thrown away after one use.
- Encourage the children to get involved in making decorations.

Food for Thought

- Where possible buy organic fruit and vegetables or Canadian, at the store or the local farmers market. Put your vegetable peelings in the compost bin and make some natural fertilizer for your garden next year.
- When it's all over, recycle your bottles, cans, paper.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Anyone wishing to donate Christmas Flowers may do so by placing an envelope on the collection plate, or by bringing it to the church office. **Please print the name(s) in whose memory the flowers are given, and your envelope number.** The flower list has to be printed ahead of time so it is very important that you get the names in **no later than Friday, December 10th.**