

NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends of St. Michael's, I am writing to you for the last time in this column. It is with a heavy heart and mixed emotions that I leave St. Michael's to accept a call to a church in Ft. Worth, Texas. I carry with me many great experiences and relationships. I have appreciated everything done by you for me and my family. It has been a privilege serving the Lord with you. I especially want to thank the Vestry and the two Wardens for all of their support.

I feel much like I suspect St. Paul felt when he had to leave the people of Ephesus (Acts 20:32ff.).

I want to echo some of his words when he said, "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

I had a professor in seminary (unfortunately not the Episcopal one) that made a stand for truth in his denomination (Presbyterian). He recalls what happened, "I made my stand. I lost everything this world considers to be valuable and worthwhile. I was stripped of everything that I had worked for, for 12 years. In that hour, Jesus came to me closer than ever before. When I lost everything, and when I was washed up, and I was through because I had stood fast for the truth, in that hour, He was tremendous. If I've got to lose so much to have that, it's always worthwhile."

What I learned from that professor is that standing for the truth of the essential elements of God's word (as it has always been interpreted by the Christian Church) will inevitably result in difficulties and persecution. We here at this church have seen people who could not stand for the truth of God's word leave and go else where. We have had our church dragged through the mud of diocesan judgmentalism. We have had to challenge a diocesan bishop to hold to the truth of the faith once delivered to all the saints. We have had others who,

while in agreement with us, could not or would not carry on this battle for truth with us. Still others have just decided that too much time and energy has been spent battling the church hierarchy and not on spreading the gospel. Many have chosen to stay and carry on the mission to which God is calling them here at St. Michael's.

Each person must make their own decision based on what they think God is calling them to do.

What ever you do as individuals and as a church, I want to leave you with this one thought. **STAND FOR JESUS AND HIS WORD, IT IS ALWAYS WORTHWHILE!**

"For the time will come (and has already come) when men and women will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations..." (2 Timothy 4:3-5 paraphrased).

Please know you will be in my thoughts and prayers as you face the difficult days ahead. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Follow the Word of God; it is a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path.

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it" (1 Thess. 5:16ff.).

I love you all in the Lord and pray God's blessings to be upon you.
Fr. Roger

CORRESPONDENCE

Canaan House has sent a “thank you” for the recent donation of \$200.00 and cleaning supplies. “Your continuous support of our ministry allows us to continue serving God’s children. We are truly blessed to have you for our friend. Thank you for your gift of love to the women of Canaan House, The Rev. Shirley E. Trail, Director, Canaan Ministries, Inc.”

COFFEE HOUR

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Undercroft for the coffee hour. It does not require much work. A few items to compliment coffee or tea, set up the coffee pots and a quick clean up. It is only necessary to sign up for an occasional Sunday. See Shirley Gardinier for information on this ministry to St. Michael’s Family.

CANAAN HOUSE:

Their needs are many; from all kinds of paper and plastic products, laundry and cleaning products and personal items including lotions, shampoos, toothpaste and toothbrushes, even combs and other personal grooming products. Some of these women really have nothing. When we shop and “buy one, get one free,” perhaps we could donate the free item to our friends at Canaan House. *Joan & Brian Webster.*

MEALS ON WHEELS of Buffalo & Erie County need volunteers to deliver food to the homebound. Even one shift per month is appreciated. Call 822-2002 to volunteer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Schedule note: There will be no Sunday School on 10/17 due to the single service that day at 9:00 AM.*

If you’ve been thinking about teaching Sunday School or getting involved with our Youth program now is the time to step forward. We need you! Due to unforeseen circumstances and family needs I must step down as SS Superintendent and will no longer be able to teach Sunday School. I have had the pleasure of working with St. Michael’s children and youth for many years and feel blessed to have had that opportunity. I’d like to extend special thanks and appreciation to everyone in St. Michael’s family, especially my co-teachers, who have supported the children and me throughout the years.

We are looking for teachers for the Sunday School age children (PreK-6th grade) and for our Youth. Currently most of our youth are of Jr. High age (7th grade). SS and Youth are two distinct areas and necessitate separate classes.

Please call me at 873-2638 (evenings) or leave a message with Madeline in the office (836-0220) if you can help. My last teaching day will be Sunday 10/31. I will share our curriculum and invite you to co-teach during the next few weeks to familiarize yourself with the program and the SS routines.

Our children are our future and deserve our wisdom, guidance and love. Jesus held children in high regard even when others thought this was wrong...

Matthew 19:13-15 Then the little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

Please give thoughtful prayer about this vital ministry. Without you, there will be no Sunday School. Our children need you to show them the way. God Bless, *Diane Meacham* :)

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A reminder: Please bring all gift-filled shoe boxes to church by October 24th. They will then be taken to the distribution center and sent to needy children throughout the world. Filled boxes may be left at the Gift Shop or given to Shirley Szen. Thank you for your support.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Jack Bidell for his contribution of copy paper for the office.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Yes, we are having an October Meeting. It will be as usual on the first Wednesday of the Month, October 8th with the bag lunch at 12:00 noon and dessert will be provided.

All of the members are looking forward to enjoying the annual Christmas Luncheon at The Italian Village on Wehrle Drive. That will be held on Wednesday, December 8th at noon. Tickets are available from Lois Conliffe. They should be paid for when purchased. The choices are: Stuffed Shells @ \$12.00, Chicken Cordon Bleu @ \$13.00, and Prime Rib @\$15.25. We always appreciate this chance for a social event before everyone is too busy with their Holidays.

Please remember each of our former active members who can no longer do the things they really enjoyed doing. Just a card or a telephone chat might brighten their day.

Don't forget the Guild will raffle the Electric Barbecue Grill & Rotisserie on Wednesday, October 6th at our meeting. Tickets are still available at the Gift Shop @ 50 cents each or 3 for \$1.00. Good Luck!

See you Wednesday, October 6th when we will again discuss the "Operation Christmas Child".

Virginia Bradley, President