

## **Annual Report of the Parish Priest for 2011**

*"Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Phil. 4:8*

Looking back over 2011 at St. Michael and All Angels I see that we have come along as a parish seeking to fulfill what we believe to be our purpose. Reflected in the Committee reports, is much of the work of ministry we have been involved with. We are called, by God's grace, to be part of this wonderful parish of St. Michael's. I want to encourage you to continue and even increase your desire and willingness to serve God through the parish.

This has been a year of transition as we have moved from being in an interim period to a period of permanent incumbency. The transition may seem a little less of a transition as your priest didn't change, but the vision and mission before us must now be one that we are all ready and willing to commit to, get involved in and support.

I have concerns about the tentativeness of some of our membership. I would want to emphasize that as a parish we make decisions which require our loyalty. We depend on one another, and there are many instances where we can say that we are glad that we had the support and help of parishioners who reached out to us. This is the nature of our faithful God who calls us and makes it possible for us to reflect that faithfulness.

One of the areas where our faithfulness is needed is in working through decisions made at the Parish Community Development project which we began in 2009. At the time this was to be a five year project but also meant to have a much more lasting effect. We are approaching year three. It was intended to build and strengthen our community so that we can become stronger in mission by the support and involvement of every parishioner. It is on this that I want to focus.

In hopes of seeing this project through to its fullest potential, I met with Janet Marshall who is our diocesan parish development officer. Having gone over the project with her, I was assured that the efforts we made in 2009 produced an excellent tool for us to work with as a help to our growth and development. The Corporation and Parish Council have been working with it by taking one or two recommendations at a time and trying to develop them. For example, one of the points of concern was communication. We have been looking at ways to improve communication and we have now called together a Communication Working Group to help. Another area we wanted to look at was finding ways to increase parish involvement. Parish Council is now working on the development of a working group that will have as its main concern that of enhancing

and increasing the participation of parishioners in Parish events. We will be working on organizing a parish wide stewardship campaign, and in the spring we will initiate a Mutual Ministry review.

All of what we do is supported by prayer. Many of you regularly pray for the parish and I encourage you to continue. We have a monthly parish prayer meeting. We seek to discern the will of God for St. Michael's and trust that God does direct us.

I want to thank you all for your support, and especially thank you to Jean Parnell for her secretarial help. Thank you to Sean Mayes for all he makes of the music ministry at St. Michael's. I also want to thank Debbie Wolowicz as People's Warden in her first year. She managed her new responsibilities with grace and care. Thank you to our Treasurer and Deputy Warden Dominick Merle for his constant, "beyond the call of duty" readiness to help out in any way that is needed around the Parish. Dominick continues as our Treasurer but is stepping down as Deputy Warden. And finally, I want to express my deepest thanks to Brian Hammond who has served as Rector's Warden over this last year. Many of us were profoundly saddened by the death of Pat Hammond on February 7 of last year. The parish has missed her as she always seemed to be at the heart of what was happening at St. Michael's. Brian, Tim and Paul suffered her loss in ways we cannot completely know, and yet Brian was willing to continue on with responsibilities at the church. Having served now for many years he is stepping down and I want to take this opportunity to thank him.

Respectfully submitted,

With love in Our Lord's service,

Rev. Michelle+