

Growing our Faith...

"The foundation has already been built. No person can build any other foundation.

The foundation that has already been built is Jesus Christ."

~ 1 Corinthians 3:11

Saint Michael The Archangel Catholic Church

4491 Springfield Rd
Glen Allen VA 23060
Phone 804.527.1037
Fax 804.527.1039
www.saint-mikes.org

Building Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 3 July 2010

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Creating Connections

By Lynne Berkness
Capital Campaign Co-chair



I am grateful and excited to be a part of our building effort at St. Michael Church. I have met so many fantastic folks already and look forward to getting to know more of you in the months to come.

We kicked off our campaign with a parish picnic on May 23. Our superstar Knights fired up their grills and served hamburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings. You all provided sides and desserts (thank you!) and our own Stellar Stella Capocelli organized activities, games, prizes and even lined up Jonathan the Juggler for more family fun. We estimated that about 400 of us enjoyed the afternoon of food, fun and fellowship.

Our next exciting event is Sunday, July 25 at 1:00 pm at church. We are currently making plans for the picnic and would just like to mention two words...Dunking Booth! More information to follow. Please mark your calendars - this promises to be wet, wild and full of fun! ***Please note that the picnic will also be a great opportunity to welcome Fr. Jim Arsenault and Deacon Brian Capuano!

On a more serious note, our parish-wide campaign is so much more than events and newsletters. I was thinking about what I wanted to share in this article and thought about our campaign "goal". Most people will immediately think I am referring to dollars. Of course, we are in the process of raising funds, but what I am referencing here is the "greater goal" and that, to me, is "connections." *Continued on page 3*

Gimme Some Space

Fr. Dan Brady, Pastor

Did you get to the parish picnic? God blessed us with great weather, lots of good food and great entertainment. A sign that it was a success was not measured just by the number in attendance (and it was very well attended), but in the fact that no one seemed to want to go home!! We have another activity in July that promises to be just as much fun. An even better "park area" could support more of this and make room for more possibilities.

And how about *Godspell*? The cast and crew did a great job and impressed everyone who saw them. We had a home Mass with them and their families that was a Spirit-filled blast!! I only wish everyone in the parish could have experienced it. This is just an example of the kind of experiences we need to have for our teens. It is so obvious that our teens here at St. Mike's want their own identity. We need the space dedicated to our teens and the room for them to carry out other activities.

The Knights of Columbus are a group that I believe stand as an example for Councils everywhere. They are involved at every level as we pursue our future. They continue to grow in numbers and are patient in using the spaces we have, but they deserve better! This month we will be welcoming Fr. Jim Arsenault as a second priest. Poor Fr. Francois never quite had an office here, but we need one for Fr. Jim if he is really going to serve us! And so yet another classroom has been *Continued on pg 4*



...It's our Tradition



Building Effort

By Bonnie Campbell
Executive Building
Committee Chair

The capital campaign officially ‘kicked-off’ in May with Fr. Dan’s liturgy announcements, two weekends of informational brochures distributed after liturgies and a parish picnic. More events will occur throughout the capital campaign giving villagers the opportunity to be updated, have fun and continue “Growing our Faith.” Lynne Berkness and Joe McGreal, co-chairs of the campaign, and all of the volunteers are so generous with their gifts. Look for their plans and results. Be sure to read Lynne’s article on page 1 of this newsletter.

As in all campaigns of this nature, there is some reason to wonder ‘why now’ and ‘why us’. It always seems that there is a ‘better time’ and that an effort of this magnitude should fall on someone else’s shoulders. Questions I have asked myself. A glimpse of where I landed....

God is Calling Us ... Now

When we kicked-off the campaign, a couple of parishioners jokingly asked me “You were in charge (along with Linda Lyell) of the building effort ten years ago ... didn’t you learn anything? Why are you back for more?”

My response was “I know! Isn’t it amazing? Who would have thought I’d be back for more?”

For me, the privilege of being part of the last building effort was humbling. To think that God called me to help Build His Kingdom! It seemed too far-fetched but there I was for those four years answering His call. It never dawned on me that I would say “No”. How does one say “No” to Him? Or, I’ll get back with

You later. And, it was one of the best four years of my life.

Now, my daughter is grown, and I am recently retired, living on a fixed income and finally looking for time for me. Here He comes again (such a sense of humor) – gives us a stock market that is really scary (especially when one is retired) and says “I need your time, talent and treasure – NOW.” Are you kidding me? Could He have timed it any worse? But, when I need Him, He is always there. It’s always the right time for Him when in prayer I ask for help.

What’s that phrase? Oh yes, it’s

**As Catholics,
we are challenged
to ask ourselves,
if not us, who?
If not now, when? ...
now is the right time
and we are the
right people –
otherwise,
He would
not have called us.**

“We walk by Faith.” And, how about the song phrase “God is calling me?” He is calling all of us. Not in a few years, but now.

I don’t know God’s plan but I do know that He has grown St. Michael’s to 8,000 parishioners for a reason. And now, He (and we) need a bigger house (aka Flower Pot).

So, here I am – once again, scared, humbled and unbelievably excited about this opportunity!

One of my favorite homilies from years ago said that each of us has been given gifts from God but they are not gifts until they are given away. Just picture it - 8,000 gift-giving villagers – answering His call.

As Catholics, we are challenged to ask ourselves, if not us, who? If not now, when? I am convinced that **now** is the right time and **we** are the right people – otherwise, He would not have called us. +

St. Michael Columbarium

By Jan Layne

One feature of the full building plan is a columbarium – a respectful place for the cremated remains (cremains) of our loved ones. This part of the building effort precedes the ‘big’ build with construction from this month to October. Cremation is new to many Catholics, so this first of several articles on the columbarium focuses on the official Catholic position on cremation.

A columbarium is a consecrated place where cremains may be placed with the name and dates of birth and death recorded. It is an arrangement of niches, in a wall into which an urn is placed for a permanent memorial.

The word “columbarium” comes from the Latin and translates as “a compartmentalized house for doves,” the gentle birds mentioned in Holy Scripture and recognized symbols of peace. Our columbarium will be a place for reflection and remembrance, a part of our church’s ongoing ministry to both the living and the dead. It will be a comfortable place, to gather in love and remembrance – a consoling link between earthly life and eternal life.

Roman Catholic tradition has looked upon a Catholic burial as the final act of faith, a witness to one’s belief in the resurrection of the body and everlasting life. Our columbarium will be a meditative space, allowing for ease of visitation, for meditation and prayer. The Vatican lifted the prohibition on cremation in 1963. The Code of Canon Law and the Order of Christian Funerals reflect this revision.

Churches have traditionally been a natural final resting place for deceased members of the Christian community. Burial within the church itself or in an adjacent churchyard was once a common practice. The amount of land necessary for a burial ground is no longer available to most churches and myriad laws and regulations

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 make it extremely difficult to establish a burial site. In recent years, cremation with **inurnment** (the term 'inurned', not 'interred' is used to indicate burial in an urn) of the remains, rather than burial, has become more common. In this way, the remains of the deceased can remain at the church that played such an important part in their lives. In some cases, people are turning to cremation as an economical, dignified way to address the rising cost of funerals. By creating a columbarium we are addressing the needs of those who choose cremation and would prefer to be located on the grounds of the parish.

There will be more details regarding the columbarium, its design, associated costs, and the process for reserving a niche or niches. The creation of the columbarium will begin shortly, and at that time there will be more details available to those interested. +

Chuck and Jan have been members of St. Michael since moving from Rochester, NY in 1994. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, she is a minister of the Eucharist and a minister of the word. Jan also helps at the Haiti garage sale and when called upon in the Church office.



A Puzzling Predicament

By Deacon Andy Ferguson



When I was hired in 2005 (it's hard to believe I've been here five years!), I didn't know how complex the job of Director of Administration would be. Back then, there were just under 1800 families registered at St. Michael's. However, since I was following in the very capable footsteps of Juanita Walker, who had been part of St. Michael's since its founding, I knew things were in good order.

Immediately, I found the most important thing I did was schedule space usage in our building ... I had the power of the calendar! At first, it wasn't too bad but, as time went on, the task of finding the right space at the right time became quite a challenge. Space allocation requires that you match-up times, groups sizes, space sizes, space furnishings – all within the constraint that almost all activities happen between 5 and 10 pm on weeknights. Putting the pieces together can be as frustrating as doing a jig-saw puzzle.

Even before Fr. Dan arrived, we had seen steady growth in the number of families joining St. Michael's. In the past five years we've grown

by more than 35%, and now have 2600-plus families on our rolls. Early on, Fr. Dan recognized that ministries would form and grow, and our staff and office space would have to grow to support them. He was so right! The wonderful increase in ministry activity has made space management even more challenging.

Three years ago we began an effort to better allocate space. First, we established a priority system within which we assign rooms. At the top of the list is Worship and Faith Formation, followed by Pastoral Care, Human Concerns, and Parish Life. Next, to forecast our space needs, we tasked ministries with planning their activities and meetings for a whole fiscal year.

Perhaps most vexing is our need for dedicated space for our youth. As long as I have been here, parishioners have asked why we don't do a better job of attracting our youth to stay connected to the parish, the way some of our neighboring church communities do. Young people need a place they can call their own – space they can design so they have somewhere to not only explore their faith, but to hang out with each other as well. We now have the opportunity to address these and other needs as we plan our new spaces.

I am excited about the prospect of new and appropriate space to support ministry growth at St. Michael. Years ago, we came together believing it takes a village to raise a child. Inherent in that wise proverb is the notion that we all participate, not only for the good of our children but for our own good as well. Community participation keeps us connected, not only as a social body, but also as the Body of Christ. +

Deacon Andy Ferguson is a native of Annandale, VA and a graduate of the College of William and Mary. After his ordination to the diaconate in 2003, he made a career change, and in 2005 became the Director of Administration at St. Michael. His wife, Jennifer, is a physician. They have a 19 year-old son who will be a sophomore at Virginia Tech.

Are You Up to the Challenge?

We need your help to raise funds for a wide range of needs in our parish. Meeting these needs is especially important in our youth faith formation program and the 65 other ministries that are growing by leaps and bounds .

Would you like to help our youth Grow in their Faith?

Do you like to meet and talk with interesting families who support our church community?

Are you interested in a challenging volunteer opportunity as a Campaign Counselor with the St. Michael capital campaign?

Will you participate in training sessions on the needs of St. Michael and parish fund raising?

If you answer yes to any of those questions, then we have a challenging opportunity for you. We invite you to join our team with fellow campaign counselors in a major effort to raise funds through our 'Growing our Faith ... It's our Tradition' Building Campaign. You will work with other parishioners in a team effort while receiving orientation, training and administrative support from experienced parishioners.

If you need more information and would like to support and meet this challenge—then contact Joe McGreal, Major Givers Program at tradi-tions@saint-mikes.org.

Summer Splashtacular



Sunday, July 25th
1-3pm at the church

Food
Sandwiches, Subs & Sundaes

Fun
Dunk-a-Deacon &
our very own special 'Dunkee'

Fellowship
Support our Building Campaign!

Friends
Meet Fr. Jim Arsenault &
Deacon Brian Capuano

***Sign Up in the commons or**
on the website

Space...from page 1

given over to counseling and meeting space and now will become his office. "Administration" accounts for very little of our office space. In fact most of it's given over to counseling, pastoral care and ministry support for faith formation, sacramental prep, youth RCIA and liturgy. The number of volunteers served from these offices has steadily grown but is hitting a limit as the space to support them is limited.

And then there are my adult ed sessions. The Wednesday morning session can still find room though it is crowded right up against Job Assistance Ministry. The evening sessions, however, will have to find a new home off-site if they are to happen at all. We're trying to find space even as I write this, but no solution will be easy to manage – every where else we have only second (or third) call and getting materials and support off-site offers some real concerns and difficulties.

In all these limitations, the Spirit of St. Michael's has served us well. But as Pastor, I must urge us to create the space needed to carry out our mission as a parish and maintain the best of that Spirit! To give us the space we need offers some real challenges, but we can't afford to not face those challenges. Already, our pursuit of this goal has pumped new life into our faith community. Please join us in this pursuit! +

Peace ~ Fr. Dan

Connections...from page 1

As an example, my son, Russell, was a part of the incredible Godspell production. This dedicated group of our youth and adults spent countless hours practicing and perfecting the play – singing, dancing, memorizing lines, mastering tricky choreography and more. The resulting performance was nothing short of spectacular. The play is over, but the connections it created remain. You see, because of the opportunity the play afforded Russell, he was able to participate and make lasting connections with other youth and adults, but, more than that, he connected at a much deeper level with his faith and our God.

Part of our "greater goal" in this building campaign is to increase spaces and opportunities in our church home where we can congregate, form bonds and connect with each other and with our faith. St. Michael's is already such a special church home and it can be more. What could be more important than creating opportunities for growth in our faith – especially for our youth?

Our campaign motto 'Growing our Faith ... It's our Tradition' is truly what it is all about. There are many more Russells out there – let's unite and support our amazing tradition – and create spaces and places for our parishioners to connect with each other, deepen our faith and forge a closer bond with our God. As we have sung so many times "Go make a difference" – let's make that difference and let's do it together! +

Check out the picnic fun



Lynne Berkness, husband Peter, and son Russell joined St. Michael's parish in 2009. They are happy to have found their church home.

