



The GUARDIAN

The monthly newsletter from St. Michael's Episcopal Church

February 2012

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The deadline for the March 2012 issue is Mon., Feb. 20, 2012

Our mission is to provide a nurturing spiritual community in Christ Jesus as the foundation from which we strive to go forth and serve God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Great Commission

In January, the Fairfax Circuit Court ruled in favor of the Diocese of Virginia and the Episcopal Church in our ongoing property litigation. The lawsuit is between Episcopal congregations and the so-called "breakaway" churches who left the Episcopal Church to become part of CANA. This organization, Convocation of Anglicans in North America, is a missionary diocese of the church of Nigeria. Many were elated by the decision of the court to return property to the Diocese of Virginia for use by Episcopalians in the diocese.

I struggle with this feeling of elation. In part it is because there is a great deal of work ahead of us. We are still within the window for appeal by the CANA congregations. Even if there is no appeal, however, we face months, perhaps even years, of transition and healing. But more so I strive to contain my rejoicing because this decision, welcomed by those of us in the Episcopal Church, causes pain for our brothers and sisters in Christ from the breakaway congregations.

Regardless of our differences, we are indeed sisters and brothers in Christ. Bishop Shannon Johnston wrote in response to the court decision, "While we are grateful for the decision in our favor, we remain mindful of the toll this litigation has taken on all parties involved, and we continue to pray for all affected by the litigation." Bishop Shannon made it clear in his pastoral address to Annual Council that worship will not be interrupted in any of these locations. Some churches will be transferred quickly to continuing congregations who have been worshiping in other locations. Others will require more negotiations to effect a more gradual move back into church buildings.

We must not lose sight of the most important mission of any church, regardless of denomination: the Great Commission of Jesus to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20) In whatever building, the people of God are to bring others to the knowledge and love of God.

*In Christ,
Leslie Hague+*



See the Diocese of Virginia Press Release at <http://www.thediocese.net/news/newsView.asp?NewsId=40968209> for more information, including a link to the court ruling.

Welcoming Newcomers to St. Michael's

St. Michael's is known as a welcoming congregation, but there are a few things we can all do to be more welcoming. We will have a forum after the 10 a.m. service on Feb. 26 to discuss how we all can help. Meanwhile, there are five things everyone can do:

1. Wear your nametag.
2. Smile, say hello and introduce yourself to people you don't recognize. Introduce new people to others who may have something in common at coffee hour.
3. Be prepared to share one thing you like about St. Michael's.
4. Consider becoming a greeter.

Fran Olsen

Knitters' Next Project: Hats And Scarves For Merchant Mariners



For the next several months, the knitters and crocheters of Wholly Knit and Whine will be making hats, scarves, and other items to be distributed next Christmas to merchant mariners away from home at the holidays. The garments will be donated to the Christmas at Sea program of the Seaman's Church Institute (SCI). SCI is North America's largest and most comprehensive mariners' service agency, promoting safety, dignity, and improved working and living conditions for millions of men and women serving in the maritime workplace. Founded in 1834, the Institute is a voluntary, ecumenical agency affiliated with the Episcopal Church.

Since 1898, during the Spanish American War, Christmas at Sea volunteers have knitted, collected, packed, and distributed holiday gifts to mariners serving

on the high seas and on America's inland waterways. Crafters from around the country create and donate garments throughout the year for the program.

Christmas at Sea provides patterns and suggestions for yarn on its website: <http://www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea>. The patterns are fun and (mostly!) easy. There is one pattern for a seafarer's ditty bag, so we'd welcome the participation in this project of anyone who likes to sew!

Wholly Knit and Whine meets for fellowship and stitching once a month at 3 p.m. in the library (generally on the first Sunday, but the February meeting will be on the 12th).

Janet Hansen



*St. Michael's
Annual Meeting
will be held
following the
10:00 a.m. service
on
Sunday, February 12*

January Vestry Meeting Highlights

The Vestry reviewed and approved the Treasurer's report. The good news is that the deficit for 2011 is expected to be about \$13,872 rather than the \$28,900 that was budgeted. However, our total pledges were \$13,000 less than the \$280,000 pledged in 2011. There are 17 new pledge units for 2012. The median of all of the 2012 pledges is \$2400 and the mode is \$600. We have had deficit budget results in 2008, 2010, and 2011. A new treasurer will need to be appointed for 2013.

St. Michael's audit report was sent to the diocese by the Audit Committee. The Vestry determined that follow through on three key areas was necessary: 1) good documentation and correct signatures, 2) check clearing and 3) counting sheet information to the pledge secretary including on-line donations.

The deadline for submissions to the Annual Report deadline is Feb. 1, 2012. The Vestry finalized the 2012 budget, and voted give the Rector a \$5000 housing allowance. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual meeting on Feb. 12, 2012 during the 10 a.m. service. We will have an 8 a.m. service that morning. Kevin Laskowski will coordinate the Vestry coffee hour for the meeting.

The first Vestry meeting with the new Vestry members will be held on Feb. 21, 2012. Tim Matlack, Fran Olsen and Kevin Laskowski will contact all of the Vestry candidates.

In other activities:

- The Region 3 Lenten series will open with a pre-Lenten Quiet Day on Sat. Feb. 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Michael's. Margaret Gunther will lead this session. Lunch will be served.
- The Lydia Guild will visit the Holocaust Museum on Feb. 11.
- The Rebecca Guild will hear about Maria Abbott's new book on Jan. 26.
- *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand will be discussed by the Wednesday Book Club on Jan. 25.
- The next Quiz Nite will be Aug. 25.
- The Newcomers' Commission will meet Jan. 25.
- The Youth group will have a mission trip this summer.
- The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be held on Feb. 21, from 6-7 p.m.
- The Greeter Forum will be Feb. 26 during coffee hour.
- Father George has completed his Advent session class.

The next Vestry meeting will be at 7:15 on Feb. 21, after the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. The March Vestry meeting will be chaired by the new senior warden, as Mother Leslie will be away that week. Laura West and Jane Longan will attend the meeting to discuss the counting sheet changes. Mother Leslie will be away at a class for three weeks in July.

A parishioner has donated Booklets for Lenten Contemplation.

The Virginia Court rendered a verdict in the lawsuit regarding the property claimed by the 10 breakaway congregations late last Tuesday, this ruling was for the Diocese. The opponents have 30 days to appeal the finding. If they do not appeal, they have 75 days to arrange the transfer of the property to the Diocese. The bishop wants Sunday school to be held in every church without interruption.

Senior Warden Report: We are averaging 500 unique visitors per month to the website. This information will be put in the Annual Meeting booklet. Kevin will provide a count of YouTube visits to the sermons on line.

Junior Warden Report: A plumber has been called to fix several leaking toilets in the church building. Ken Ditzel cleaned the leaves from playground, and found two non-functioning gates. John Kelleher is fixing the hole in the roof. A company is coming to the Rectory to treat mold the problem within the next two weeks.

Fran Olsen

Rebeccas Celebrate Christmas

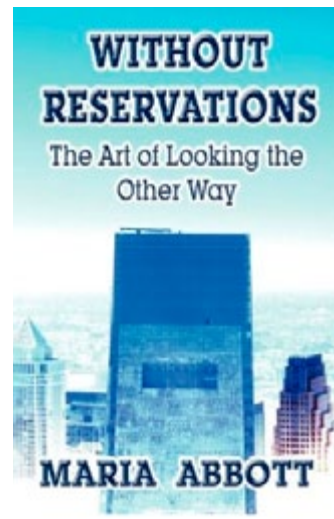
Jane Cook hosted a festive Christmas luncheon for the Rebecca Guild on Dec. 15, 2011. In addition to a delightful feast, Guild member Fran Field and her friends, Carol and Chuck Moran, led the assembled group in singing Christmas carols.

Carol and Fran introduced us to the autoharp (a string instrument similar to a zither) which is played while held upright against the chest. Chuck accompanied the singers and harpists on an Irish drum, the bodhran. Carol and Fran usually play with friends in the Capital Harpers Autoharp Club. Chuck is a member of the group *Irish Breakfast* that plays widely throughout the DC area. Fran has also played for our Childrens Chapel and at the Potomac Nursing Home Sunday services.

Judy Andrews



Two of the musicians and their autoharps.



Author Maria Abbott is Featured at January Rebecca Guild Meeting

Maria Abbott was very excited to speak about her latest published work at the January Rebecca Guild meeting. Maria's fourth book in English is titled *Without Reservations: the Art of Looking the Other Way* and discusses her career in the hospitality industry. Though she is a chemist by training, Maria worked in hospitality most of her life and found it to be a very rewarding (and humorous) experience.

If you're interested, copies of the book can be purchased directly from Maria or from Barnes and Noble or Amazon.

February Calendar of Events

SUNDAY WORSHIP & EDUCATION

FEB. 5

8:00 a.m. Contemplative Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II with Litany of Healing
10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist—Potomac
11:15 a.m. Sunday School

FEB. 12

8:00 a.m. Contemplative Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:45 a.m. Morning Prayer—Potomac
11:15 a.m. Sunday School
Annual Parish Meeting

FEB. 19

8:00 a.m. Contemplative Eucharist with Litany of Healing
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:45 a.m. Morning Prayer—Potomac
11:15 a.m. Sunday School
5:00 p.m. Evensong

FEB. 26

8:00 a.m. Contemplative Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:45 a.m. Morning Prayer—Potomac
11:15 a.m. Sunday School
Newcomers Commission Forum

WEEKDAY & SATURDAY SERVICES

Fri., Feb. 10 Holy Eucharist at Powhatan at 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday HE & Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 a.m & 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Adult Choir Rehearsal—Thurs., Feb. 2, 9, 16 & 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Book Group (evening)—Mon., Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Book Group (daytime)—Wed., Feb. 29 at noon
Homeless Bagged Meal Preparation—Sun., Feb. 12 at 4:00 p.m.
Lydia Guild—Tour of Holocaust Museum & optional lunch, Sat., Feb. 11 at 10:15 a.m.
Meals on Wheels—Feb 8, 13 & 27
Rebecca Guild—Thurs., Feb. 23 at the home of Jane Cook
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—Tues., Feb. 21 at 6:00 p.m.
Wholly Knit & Whine— Sun., Feb. 12 at 3:00 p.m.
XYZ—Thurs., Feb. 2 at noon
Youth Choir Rehearsal—Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 7:30 p.m.

MEETINGS

AI—Anon Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24 at 8:30 p.m.
Finance Committee Tues., Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.
Guardian Committee Virtual Meeting by e-mail, week of Feb. 6
Newcomers Commission Wed., Feb. 29 at 7:30 p.m.
Nursing Home Ministry Sat., Feb. 11 at 10:00 a.m.
Vestry Tues., Feb. 21 at 7:15 p.m.

February envelope collection: 1st Sunday—Rector's Discretionary Fund; all other Sundays—ChildFund International; see article on p. 9

February basket collection: Items for for the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN); see details on p. 8

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS: Barbara Menoche, 2/5; Bruce Leighty, 2/8; Charley Roberts, 2/11; Wil Harkins, 2/12; Rachel Reich, 2/12; Stephanie Uz, 2/13; Steve Bennett, 2/14; Sarah Haynes, 2/15; Leslie Hague, 2/17; Michael Houston, 2/18; Michael Pilot, 2/20; Ardis Sneddon, 2/21; Kay Ferris, 2/24; Adrienne Pilot, 2/27; Joseph Reich, 2/28; Jim Fulton, 2/29

LATE DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES: Terry & Jim Fulton, 2/25

Prayer List

In our parish family we pray especially for Nancy Bailey, Jack Babcock, Kay Ferris, Dennis Sheffield, Dick Jacoby, Trudy Bartis, Anne Jacoby, Thomas Hager, Beverly Grizzard, Dorothy Quimper, John Bryans, and Dave Wright.

In the wider community we pray especially for Katie, Bill, Mary Ann, Al, Beth, Terri, and all persons served by our Nursing Home Ministry.

IN MEMORIAM: We pray for all who have died, especially Ted Schwarz, Winter ("Winkie") Taylor, and Mark Baban.

Treasurer's Report, October 26, 2011

Our mission at St. Michael's is to "provide a nurturing spiritual community in Christ Jesus, from which we go forth and serve God by the power of the Holy Spirit."

We use the Operating Fund, which covers most day-to-day parish activities, and budgeted outreach commitments, to help make that mission happen. The Operating Fund covers salaries for our dedicated staff, repairs to our buildings, office expenses, parish activities, and commitments (transfers) to the Diocese and to the Outreach Fund, to help those in need.

Thanks to extremely generous giving by parishioners and visitors during December 2011, the Operating Fund ended the year with a deficit of about \$13,600 (provisional data), almost the same as 2010's final deficit of \$13,100, and less than half of the approximately \$28,900 deficit that had been budgeted.

These data will be finalized after the books officially close in March. If you have any outstanding expenses from 2010, please submit an expense voucher as soon as possible.

2011 Budget at a Glance (rounded to nearest \$5K)

Planned Expenses: \$345K
Planned Income: \$320K
Of which pledges: \$280K
Pledge Units: 74

Provisional

2011 Actuals at a Glance (rounded to nearest \$5K)

Actual Expenses: \$325K
Actual Income: \$310K
Of which pledges: \$270K

Operating Fund Results: Jan-Dec 2011 (Provisional) (\$)

	Jan - Dec 2011 Actual	Jan - Dec 2011 Budget	\$ Over Budget
OPERATING FUND OPENING BALANCE (1/1/2011)	88,156	88,156	
Income			
Pledges	267,537	280,000	-12,463
Other Income and Transfers (see NOTE 1)	43,783	38,000	5,783
Total Income	311,320	318,000	-6,680
Expense			
Total Salaries & Benefits	194,656	209,294	-14,638
Total Buildings & Grounds	48,435	52,800	-4,365
Total Parish Administration	36,180	34,006	2,174
Total Parish Activities / Education	10,604	15,800	-5,196
Total Outreach & Mission (see NOTE 2)	35,000	35,000	0
Total Expense	324,875	346,900	-22,025
Net Income	-13,555	-28,900	15,345
OPERATING FUND ENDING BALANCE (12/31/2011)	74,601	59,256	15,345

NOTE 1: Includes \$317 transfer from WOSM Fund.

NOTE 2: The "Outreach & Mission" line item includes the Diocesan pledge as well as budgeted transfers to the Outreach Fund.

Provisional results for all funds are shown below.

Fund Results: Jan-Dec 2011 (\$)

	Dec 31, 10	Income	Expenses	Fund Transfers	Dec. 31, 11	\$ Change
1 - Operating Fund	88,156	311,003	324,875	317	74,601	-13,555
2 - Special Purpose Funds	0	6,680	6,660	0	20	20
3 - Major Maintenance	31,431	20,251	20,000	0	31,683	252
4 - Prepaid Pledges	7,500	20,800	7,500	0	20,800	13,300
5 - Memorial Fund	30,093	739	5,274	0	25,558	-4,535
9 - Staff Development Fund	18,048	126	4,138	0	14,035	-4,012
11 - St. Michael's Fund	251,210	3,159	0	0	254,369	3,159
12 - Altar Guild	4,950	4,662	4,943	0	4,669	-281
13 - Women of St. Michael's	317	0	0	-317	0	-317
14 - Scholarship Fund	5,535	0	775	0	4,760	-775
16 - Organ Fund	7,112	150	732	0	6,531	-582
17 - Music Fund	4,851	0	484	0	4,367	-484
18 - Rector Discr Fund	389	7,139	6,270	0	1,258	869
22 - Clergy Sabbatical Fund	5,000	2,063	0	0	7,063	2,063
26 - Outreach Fund	8,136	12,895	15,522	0	5,510	-2,627
30 - Sr Youth Group Fund	3,384	498	760	0	3,122	-262
Total Monetary Funds	466,111	390,164	397,932	0	458,344	-7,767
31 - Plant Fund	2,859,778	0	0	0	2,859,778	0
Total All Fund Balances	3,325,889	390,164	397,932	0	3,318,122	-7,767

(cont'd on p. 7)

Treasurer's Report (cont'd)

The table below summarizes inflows into, and outflows (donations) from, the Outreach Fund during January-December 2011. All income, other than the budgeted transfer from the Operating Fund, represents generous donations by St. Michael's parishioners, primarily via yellow envelope collections.

Outreach Fund Results: Jan-Dec 2011 (\$)

	Jan - Dec 2011 Income	Jan - Dec 2011 Outflow	Net
OUTREACH FUND OPENING BALANCE (1/1/2011)			8,136
Budget Transfer from Operating Fund	7,000		7,000
Bishop's Discretionary Fund	291	500	-209
Homeless Bagged Lunches	0	2,722	-2,722
Rebuilding Together	608	1,750	-1,142
Rev. Lauren Stanley	0	0	0
Solar Cookers for Sudan	728	1,000	-272
ASPAN	494	1,000	-506
AFAC	545	1,000	-455
Reading Connection	361	1,000	-639
Episcopal Relief and Development	391	500	-109
Committee on Human Need	0	0	0
Doorways	438	1,000	-562
SAMS USA - Russ & Heidi Smith	65	1,000	-935
ChildFund International	1,152	0	1,152
Mission Aviation Fellowship	190	1,000	-810
Other	633	3,050	-2,417
TOTAL	12,896	15,522	-2,626
OUTREACH FUND ENDING BALANCE (12/31/2011)			5,510

There were no yellow envelope collections in the month of December because of Salvation Army Angel tree and stocking activities. Outflows in the month of December included:

- \$1,500 to Washington National Cathedral, for earthquake repairs
- \$1,000 to AFAC
- \$1,000 to Solar Cookers for Sudan

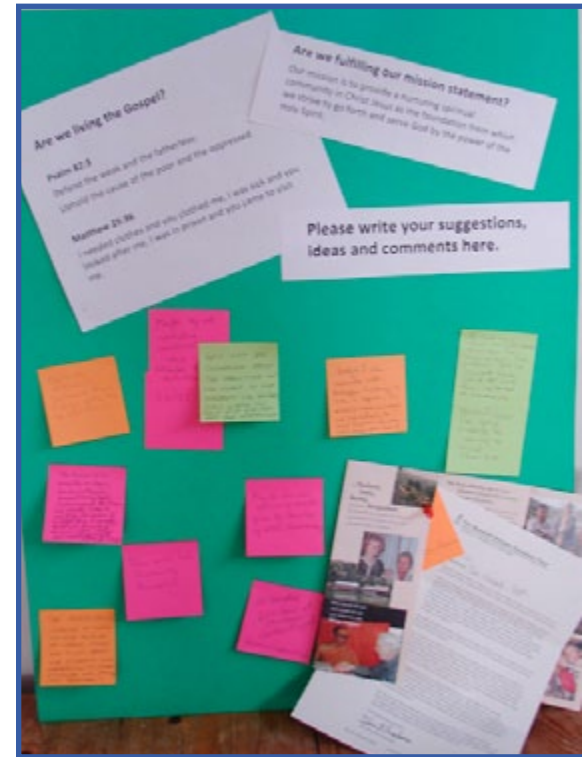
For questions regarding Outreach Committee activities, please contact the Committee Chair, Caroline Haynes.

Additional financial data will be provided at the annual Parish Meeting, scheduled for Feb. 12. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the above information.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura West

treasurer@stmichaelsarlington.org



The suggestion board

Mission & Outreach Sunday

Many thanks to all of you provided feedback with your “votes” for the various ministries that St. Michael’s currently supports. The information is extremely helpful, both in helping to formulate the proper mix of ministries, and in helping to inform decisions on how to direct our resources of time, talent and treasure. We are planning a Mission & Outreach Meeting for Wed., Mar. 14 and encourage all members of the parish who are interested in exploring the direction of our mission and outreach program to join us in that conversation. We will continue to collect feedback from the parish on the website. If you have not yet “voted” for the ministries which you particularly support, if you have additional comments, or if you are interested in reading more about each of the ministries, please go to the Mission & Outreach tab on the St. Michael’s website. (If you already “voted” on Jan. 29, we ask that you not vote again, but please do feel free to add comments and suggestions.)

We hope to see you at the Mission and Outreach meeting on Wed., Mar. 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Caroline Haynes
M&O Committee



The results are in: stickers were used to indicate interest in the various ministries that are currently supported by time and treasure.



ChildFund International

Our Yellow Envelope offerings for the month of February will go to ChildFund International (formerly Christian Children’s Fund). Your donations will go toward sponsorship for our five children: Wilhelmina from Indonesia; Melvin from Honduras; Alonte from Mississippi; Mailyn from the Philippines; and Marcos from Brazil. Throughout the year, St. Michael’s receives letters, pictures and progress reports from each child. Some of the children’s letters are truly heartwarming. Look for CFI information, pictures and letters on the bulletin board outside the church office. Remember, our ongoing sponsorship helps these children receive food, clothing, education and medical care. We are making a real difference in these children’s lives. If you are able, please be generous in your giving.

Lisa Harkins
M&O Committee

Episcopal Relief and Development

The Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) organization is an international relief and development organization that takes its direction and mission from the words of Jesus in Matthew 25: 37-40 directing the body of Christ to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and welcome the stranger. St. Michael’s has taken this charge to heart and given a portion of our mission and outreach funds and yellow envelope funds to help in times of disaster around the world. There is a five member board that directs and oversees the fund’s efforts to alleviate human suffering by partnering with local charities to see that the needs are met, allowing the church to consolidate parish and individual donations with minimal overhead toward needs as they arise. Examples of our timely mission and outreach efforts via the ERD are the Katrina disaster relief in New Orleans, and the tsunami disaster relief in Japan; and the youth of St Michael’s have supported Nets for Life in Africa via ERD as well. Below is the mission statement of ERD from their website, www.er-d.org/.

“Episcopal Relief & Development is the compassionate response of the Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. Hearing God’s call to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, Episcopal Relief & Development serves to bring together the generosity of Episcopalians and others with the needs of the world.

Episcopal Relief & Development faithfully administers the funds that are received from the Church and raised from other sources. It provides relief in times of disaster and promotes sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering.

Episcopal Relief & Development cherishes its partnerships within the Anglican Communion, with ecumenical bodies and with others who share a common vision for justice and peace among all people.”

Linda Denson
M&O Committee

Basket Collection for A-SPAN

The collection of outerwear, blankets, and toiletries for A-SPAN (Arlington Street People’s Assistance Network) continues in February. Hats, gloves, overcoats, warm socks, used or new, are welcome. New socks and underwear are always needed. People seem especially grateful for travel size toiletries, particularly foot powder and cosmetics for the ladies. This is an act of giving that has a direct and effective impact on very grateful recipients.

Monica Dinan, M&O Committee

Bishop Shannon Johnston Visits St. Michael's

At his visitation, Bishop Shannon confirmed four youth who had been through an informative and enjoyable confirmation class, including an overnight retreat at the church. Confirmed were Chris Hume, Andrew Lewis, Kathryn Lewis, and Matthew Vance. In addition, Terry Fulton reaffirmed her faith. Congratulations all!



Photos courtesy of
Greg Hume and Elizabeth Keys



Congratulations, Kevin!

The National PTA Reflections Program is one of the largest student arts recognition programs in the country. This year's theme was *Diversity Means* and Kevin Cronk, a first grade student at Arlington's McKinley Elementary School, entered the literature and photography contests. The two entries both received awards in the K-2 primary level at McKinley: his poem was awarded the second place prize for literature and his photograph (shown at left) took first prize.

First place prizes go on to compete at the county level and Kevin's photograph came in first again and has now moved on to regional competition. Way to go, Kevin!

Do you need reimbursement for a 2011 expense?

Have no fear! Even though it's 2012, you can still turn in a reimbursement request! Just follow these easy steps:

- Pick up an expense reimbursement form from the near-lower-left mailbox, outside of the counting room (box labeled Check Request Blank Forms).
- Fill in the form, sign it, and attach receipts.
- Place the completed form in the far-lower-left mailbox, outside of the counting room (box labeled Check Requests Awaiting Approval).

What happens next?

- The next Sunday, one of the Vestry counters will review and sign the form.
- The parish accountant will pick up the form during his regular stops at the parish office (1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month).
- The following Saturday, the parish accountant will place an unsigned check in the counting room.
- The Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and/or Register will sign the check shortly thereafter.
- Our Parish Administrator will mail the signed check to you (or you can pick it up in the parish office).

To maintain effective stewardship of our parish funds, our financial controls framework requires three different signatories during the reimbursement process (expense form submitter, expense form reviewer, check signer). If you are a Vestry member, please take care to ensure the 3-person rule is followed!

Laura West
treasurer@stmichaelsarlington.org



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Articles, comments & suggestions are welcome and should be placed in *The Guardian* mailbox at church or e-mailed to guardian@stmichaelsarlington.org. All articles are subject to editing.



Quick Links on www.stmichaelsarlington.org

Links on our website include:

- Information for Visitors
- Ministry Schedules
- Sunday Readings
- Videos of sermons, past and present, on *Open Mike*, the parish blog
- Latest issue of *The Guardian*
- Photos from parish events

You can also:

- Dedicate altar flowers
- Sign up to provide food for coffee hour
- Sign up for ministry opportunities (like volunteering at the A-SPAN shelter)
- Make single or recurring donations (pledges) via Network for Good



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