

INTERSECTION

FEBRUARY 2010

By Alana Pryor

OPEN WITH COLOUR

In February, St Michel's officially opens the year and its programs in a spectacular fashion. We invite you to attend this vibrant event on Sunday 14 February and join us in celebrating the beginning of this new and exciting year at St Michael's.

Colour will abound on this special day and reflect the possibilities of change and the new directions of St Michael's. A vividly decorated church will provide the setting for a special service, integrated with a DVD presentation and inspired music. Further music served with food and drinks in the colonnade after service, many a pleasant moment to reflect and discuss the direction 2010 will take.

In the past few years, St Michael's has

made great changes in response to the orthodox state of religion. We have been searching for a faith that is cohesive and relevant to the 21st Century, a faith that brings hope and inspiration, a faith that cares and doesn't judge. This year is the beginning of a new decade. St Michael's wants to continue this search and encourages those looking for inspiration to participate.

Our varied programs offer different ways to approach this search and restore the body, mind and soul. Throughout the year we will host musical events, therapeutic to the soul and heart, hold discussions and seminars on topics from faith to environmental concerns. We will see a number of inspirational guests at church and speaking at after-church

events and continue to run many of the favourite and popular groups like SAGE, Womenspace, Poetry Group as well as introduce new groups, such as TTM (Things That Matter).

This new year is about continuing a positive change and reaching out to those who want to find inspiration. Join us in a celebration to lighten our hearts and officially bring in 2010 at St Michael's.



SOMETHING EXTRA

St Michael's Uniting Church is known for its uniqueness.

Its unique architecture and interior design, its unique approach to faith and its unique stain glassed windows to name a few. This year, we add

something else to the list: an exceptional new tapestry. Designed specifically to adorn the church, the tapestry represents a major contribution to the quality art and an outstanding treasure to St Michael's. Woven with the history of St Michael's,

it will be viewed by many hundreds of people from all over the world for many generations to come.

If you would like to make a contribution to this exciting project, please pick up a *Tapestry Greet the Traveller Token* from the church or contact the St Michael's Office.

"IT'S ONE THING GETTING CLOSE TO GOD BUT ANOTHER FINDING A CAR PARK."

Have you ever wondered what all the fuss is about at Sunday At St Michael's? People come by tram, two legs and even skateboards to awaken senses, question beliefs and incite conversation. We're sure you'll find a seat available - pity we can't promise the same about a car park.

www.sundayatstmichaels.com.au

120 COLLINS - 10 AM



MUSIC OF 2010

Music forms an integral part of services at St Michael's.

Every Sunday, different artists share their talents with the congregation, performing music that ranges from works written in the 21st century, to music that may have had its origins thousands of years ago as Gregorian chant or folksong.

Music during our church services exists not to serve as entertainment, though it may well do that, but to enrich, enlighten and nourish the soul.

During 2010, our music program will



continue with guest artists ranging from young artists who are taking their first steps into the world of professional music making, to artists who are regarded as masters of their craft.

A list of artists who are coming to perform in the coming weeks and months is posted on the music page of the St Michael's website, but highlights will include pianist Amir Farid, the new principal horn from the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Andrew Bain, and a special presentation of Shostakovich's

Death of a Poet by soprano Judith Dodsworth (to be held on Good Friday).

There is always a large variety of concerts held at St Michael's, and 2010 will be no different. Several concerts are already planned, including a showcase of the Choir of Trinity College Melbourne, the Australian Chamber Choir, a concert given by internationally acclaimed 'cellist David Pereira, supported by Bonnie Smart (cello) and Amir Farid (piano).

Every Thursday of the year at 1pm, the St. Michael's grand organ can be heard played by myself and supported by many local and international artists.

*By Rhys Boak,
Organist and Manager of Music*

A FEELING OF BELONGING

On Sunday 29 November, we were pleased to officially welcome eight new members to St Michael's during Sunday service. This has brought our new members for 2009 to 48.

Each of these people brings something original and wonderful to St Michael's and the community.

Many new members have expressed their wish to be actively part of the church, not only to attend services but to contribute their skills and ideas

in various ways.



We value the new and fresh perspective each new member brings to St Michael's which is why the 2009 New members were invited to attend a session with Dr Macnab to discuss and consider new ideas on how each person can make a difference. With such diversity and a large number of members, we look forward to seeing the what direction St Michael's will take in 2010.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Meredith Beck

Rhonda De Jong

Alan Herbert

Robyn Horton

Yoke Lee

Inha Maciel

(In Absentia)

Elizabeth Trudgeon

Roger Trudgeon



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WHO SPEAKS FOR LIFE?

A human life lasts a bit less than one century, and humans have been around for about 1 million years; all a blink of the eye in cosmic terms. But for how long will our species continue? What are the prospects for life into the future? Is the future of our species assured? And what can we do about it? Our universe is 15 billion years old, and contains over ten thousand million million stars. But does intelligent life flourish in the cosmos? If reaching out to the stars was simple, intelligent life should be everywhere, but "where are they?". We have been scanning the heavens for ET for the last forty years and we have heard nothing. Perhaps life is rare in the Universe, and perhaps crossing interstellar space is incredibly difficult. Should the human race aim to span the known Universe into the far distant future? Should we be



as "numerous as the stars in the heavens"? Or should we stay at home on the Earth, "business as usual", and go extinct here leaving behind a Universe that will continue on without us for trillions of years; a Universe where "the lights are on and nobody's home". When you stop and wonder, "what is the meaning and purpose of your life" the question that we could ask in response is, "Is there any challenge greater, or more important, than reaching for the stars?"

By Len Halprin and George Galanis

Len Halprin & George Galanis present:

WHO SPEAKS FOR LIFE?:
The Big Picture of the
Search For Meaning and Purpose (and
maybe some answers)

When: Sunday 7 March after Sunday
Service

Where: Waratah Room, Level 2
St Michael's Administration Building

GLOBAL CONCERNS

On Friday 4 December, Global Concerns held their highly anticipated Christmas Market Day.

As people flocked from the surrounding offices the home-baked goods flew off the tables. The hand-made crafts, books, CDs and various bric-brac were just as popular.

The market was successful, raising \$3135.55 for the many charitable organisations Global Concerns supports. Thankyou to all those who baked, sorted and helped with the stalls

IN REMEMBRANCE

People of St Michael's were sad to learn of the death of Laurie Wilhelm at the end of 2009. Laurie had spent a number of years as the caretaker of St Michael's. He had spent the last few years at Mayflower.

His funeral, attended by Dr Francis Macnab was held at Mayflower on 31 December 2009.



2010 DEANS

The Deaneries structure plays an integral role at St Michael's. Dividing all aspects of running the church into five different deaneries, they facilitate the smooth running of church services and events.

Each Deanery is headed by a Dean and Deputy-Deans who are responsible for the management of their area.

The job is a big one - juggling meetings, liaising with committee members and administration and writing reports. A lot of work on top of their already full schedules.

Deanery I Household

Dean: Bill Morgan

Deputy-Dean: Mike Neville

Deanery II: Church Services

Dean: Graeme Adamson

Deputy-Dean: Alan McLaren

Deanery III: Contact and Care

Dean: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy-Deans: Joy Arnot &
Marion Robertson

Deanery IV: Programs - Enhancement, Inspiration

Dean: Maree McDonald

Deputy-Deans: David Ward
& Val Gill

Deanery V: Promotions - St Michael's New Development

Dean: Neil Blood

Deputy-Dean: Liz Moss

SAGE

SUCCESSFUL AGEING, GROWTH AND ENJOYMENT

FRIDAY 26 FEBRUARY

How you cope with
your moods now
compared with when
you were 43.

Better?
Worse?



Time: 11 am to 1 pm
Where: St Michael's Hall
120 Collins St,
Melbourne.
Cost: \$15 inc. Lunch

For more information please
call Cairnmillar on 9813 3400

ST MICHAEL'S

ON COLLINS - MELBOURNE

120 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

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F: 9650 3863

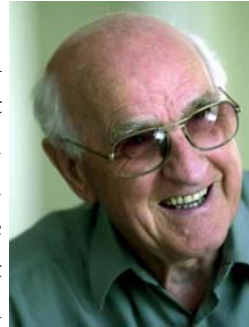
E: office@stmichaels.org.au

W: www.stmichaels.org.au

SIR LLOYD GEERING

We are pleased to announce the visit of Professor Sir Lloyd Geering in April 2010.

Sir Lloyd Geering, now aged in his 90s, is a man of great courage—he proposed a real overhaul of the Christian Faith back in the 1970s. He was tried as a heretic. He left his position and forthwith became a professor of Religious Studies in Wellington. He has written several provocative books, including *Christianity Without God*,



his autobiographical *Wrestling With God and his latest, Coming Back to Earth*. He continues to be a leading voice in the International Scholars of the Jesus Seminar.

Sir Lloyd Geering will bring his life experience and present the SAGE on Friday 23 April. On Sunday 25 April, Dr Macnab will interview him during service and a presentation with question and answers session is planned after service.

JOHN WATERS FELLOW

The 2010 recipient for the John Waters Scholarship has been selected. Camilo Martinez from Bogota, Colombia to study the Master of Psychotherapy at the Cairnmillar Institute.

The Scholarship was established in 2006 as memorial to John Waters and to honour his outstanding commitments to St Michael's and Cairnmillar.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

The offerings from last years' Christmas Day service totalled \$6000 and will be donated to our 2009 St Michael's Medallion recipients Seda Douglas and Wendy Stamps-Marshall to continue

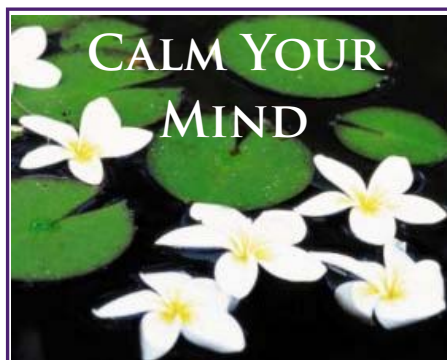
their good work. Both women have worked hard to change the lives of disadvantaged young people. They have made positive changes to young orphans and the families who adopt them.

Dr Francis Macnab's New Book

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Bookstore and office



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