

The Archangel

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

March 2010

EYC Rules of Non-Procrastination for Lent

General:

Homework must be done by 11pm the day before it is due.

Projects must be done the weekend before or 2 days before it is due.

Practice sports or instruments before free-time.

Chores must be done when asked.

Our Prayer

Lord, show me how to overcome procrastination, laziness, and passivity. Help me to practice diligence and to tackle my obligations and tasks with vigor. Remind me that time is a precious resource that You have given us, and teach me to make the most of it. Thank You that my diligence will bring me heavenly and earthly rewards! Amen

I learned on Shrove Tuesday that St. Michael's youth group, EYC, was giving up procrastination for Lent. Additionally they are accountable to each other. I let this choice of discipline for Lent stay in my thoughts and the more I thought about it, the more I like it; so I asked Michael Vasiloff for more information. The above is what I was given. While many of us are no longer in school, the EYC Rules of Non-Procrastination can be adjusted for the season of life in which we find ourselves. I offer four alternatives to the EYC's General Rules.

If our homework this Lent is to be open anew to God's presence, let us be intentional each day to open wide our eyes, ears and spirits, that we may know anew God's presence of love active in our midst. It makes a great difference.

If we seek to show forth the Christ who redeems and blesses us, then live our lives in public and in private as an offering to the Lord, always with praise and thanksgiving. It makes a great difference.

Practice being and living more who Christ wants us to be by learning more, clearly his nature, his motivation and his full commitment to the Father who is in heaven. Certainly read, mark, learn the Holy Scripture and simply spend time with Jesus. In this practice we will gain new freedom and what a great difference this can make.

Chores are part of life, whether we simply do what we know should be done or we are asked to do some by others. Do them well and completely. One of the chores which Christ continually commends to his people is our duty of forgiveness. If you are offended, intentional or not, it makes little difference, forgive, if not in person in your heart. If you offend someone, intended or not, promptly seek forgiveness with no procrastination, it makes a great difference. It's what Jesus wants us to do.



Your Brother in Christ,

Tige Newell, Rector

Lenten Series for St. Michael's Wednesday Evenings, 7:00pm

Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White. This video, discussion and reflection series presents us with some insights on living in an increasing polarized world as a people striving and wanting to live faithfully as followers of the Lord Jesus. This series may give some challenges as well as assurances to each of us.

Each week we will begin the evening with a prayer service, watch and listen to a 15-20 minute video presentation by Adam Hamilton, a noted Methodist pastor, use the given group discussion questions to encourage conversation together and close with the Evening Prayer service. Each evening we will start at 7:00pm and be finished no later than 8:30pm. Light refreshments will be available.

March 3Christ, Christians and the Culture Wars
March 10How Should We Live? The Ethic of Jesus

March 17Spiritual Maturity and Seeing Gray
March 24What Would Jesus Say to America?

Altar Guild Notes

I've been asked by several people to share my thought about the display offerings in the sanctuary during different seasons of the liturgical year. Last month I gave you a preview of the Lenten windows regarding the scripture prayers we can use to pray God's word over many areas of our lives.



I chose the sheep and the lamb as a focal point this year for Lent. The sheep represent us; "we all, like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way." The lamb represents Jesus, the sacrificial lamb, upon whom the Lord laid the iniquity of us all.

At the pulpit there is a collection of symbols that point to us and where our lives are at times in our journey. There is a gate with a sign that quotes the scripture from John 10:7-9 which reminds us that Jesus is the gate we must enter through to be saved. On the outside of the gate is the sheep, representing us. There are rocks, representing obstacles in our lives and a thorny vine representing roots of bitterness and unforgiveness. There is an empty pitcher which represents our emptiness, just waiting to be filled by the water of life. Behind the gate which we need to open, is the jug with the living water (again a symbol of Jesus). Just a little to the right behind the gate is that old rugged cross bearing our sins, the things in our lives we give up to the sacrificial lamb who will bear them for us. To the left of the gate is a bare tree which reminds us of the wintry times of our lives. The tree is waiting for spring and new life to appear.

We too have the opportunity to still our selves as does the tree and listen for God's voice in our spirit. Where or what is he calling us to do this Lenten season? Are we able to let go of the rocks and weeds in our lives and let him do the job he came to do for us?

We have many offerings during this season of Lent to open our hearts and lives to him. Come enter in and take part in a holy Lent as we prepare for the joy of Easter.

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March Birthday party will be on
March 21st,
after the 10:30am worship service .

MARCH

- 1 Ferguson Gemeny
- 2 Brandon Cole
- 4 Megan Bottoms
- 6 Mollie Ogilvie
- 9 Vera McDonald
- 11 Olivia Wilmarth
- 13 Melinda Sue Strach
- 15 Les Wright, Jr.
- 19 Jane Flexon
- 21 Colette Robertson
- 22 Anne Marie Bowden
- 23 Cindy Warriner
- 25 Tanya Callender
- 28 Montovani Gay
- 29 Charlotte Price
- 31 Curtis Konkel

Anniversaries

MARCH

- 9 Derrick and Kerry Hudson
- 15 Tige and Courtney Newell
- 16 Larry and Colette Robertson
- 18 Woody and Ruth Woodfin

April Archangel Deadline

Monday, March 22nd, 9:30am

Pot Luck Sunday

March 7

Please remember to bring your covered dish to share at our monthly pot luck lunch after the 10:30am service. You'll enjoy the fellowship and delicious food!



Youth Ministry News

Aquire The Fire was amazing, inspirational, invigorating! The music and skit were awesome! Due to the weather we were only able to go on Friday. The great people at ATF have graciously given our group another opportunity to attend another ATF in May. The EYC will be going to Baltimore on May 7 and 8 for another Spirit filled weekend. Praise God!

This years annual Pancake Supper was one of our best. We had about 80 guests come to get filled. The EYC made \$320 from the donations that were given. I want to give special thanks to Kelly, Beverly, Kerry and Brandon for helping in kitchen.

Our annual Yard Sale is just a few short months away. So if you have anything you would like to donate, or would like to reserve a table. Please contact me at 804-677-1593 or at mvasiloff@comcast.net.

Nikki Gay did a great job in leading our meeting this past February where we discussed what it means to Respect Yourself.

This year's Diocesan retreat Blackstone will be held the weekend of March 26-28. Youth in 8th-12th grades are welcomed to attend. Please let me know if you would like to go to this event.

Thanks be to God,
Michael

Summary of Vestry Minutes

- The Bishop's Visit and Confirmation will be rescheduled after Council.
- The Sign Committee made its report. The Vestry requested a more complete rendering from the sign company.
- Tige is conducting a Lenten series on Wednesday evenings during Lent.
- The next meeting is March 1st, 7:00pm, Fowler Room.

*The Common Purpose of St. Michael's
Episcopal Church is:*

*We're growing to be who Jesus wants us to be and
do what He wants us to do.*

Episcopal Church Women

The ECW will meet at Christ and Grace Church, Petersburg, on March 2nd for the Lenten program at 11:55am. We will not have a regular scheduled meeting in March.



Video Visit with Steve Hood

Some of you saw the early February article in the *Times Dispatch* regarding a program to facilitate video visits with inmates. The program is offered by an organization called Assisting Families of Inmates. The newspaper article can be found at this link: http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local_other/article/VIDE01_20100131-201607/321426.

This gives the opportunity to visit with Steve by video from downtown Richmond (5th and Main Streets) -- much closer than actually visiting Keen Mountain, in the far SW corner of the state. Groups of up to 5 people can go at one time, with an initial appointment required of the contact person for each group. One group has been preapproved and will have a video visit on March 13th.

For anyone else who would like to do this, information and the required forms are available in the hallway, and I'd be happy to answer any questions about the process.

Meanwhile, Steve's legal status has been in limbo since the end of 2009, when his granted Habeas was put on a temporary (but so far long-term) hold, at the request of the Attorney General's office. A part of that limbo status is that Steve asked his negligent attorney to step down, and he agreed to do so effective some months back -- but never actually did.

Please continue to hold Steve up in prayer through this trying time. Also, you'll see that his grown daughter, Michael Jennifer, is back on our prayer list for healing, after recent major surgery.

God's blessings to all,
Lynnice Randolph



Where Is God in Our Grief? A Time to Share and Seek

A retreat for Bereaved Parents
Offered by Hank and Peggy Graeser,
Bereaved Parents, Hosts of Bryan's Oasis
Supported by the Bereavement Coalition of Central Virginia

Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24
Shalom House Retreat Center
Montpelier, VA

In our pain and grief, almost all of us ask some form of the question, "Where is God in all this?" No one has the complete answer, but many times we find insight as we engage the question with others in a safe and accepting atmosphere. Our objective is to be open and accepting of the wide range of faith, as we explore together from a Biblical and Christian viewpoint. Grieving parents of any religious persuasion are welcome. We will share together our stories, our response to God, and His response to us in the time of grief.

Cost is \$75 per participant; \$37.50 due with registration by March 12th. Contact Peggy or Hank Graeser (804)796-2021, graeserh@comcast.net for more information. There is a brochure on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Easter Flowers

We will transform our sanctuary into an Easter morning garden with an assortment of Spring flowers. You may donate a flower offering for \$13.00 (or more) with a dedication. Please make checks to St. Michael's with notation "Easter flowers." We will attempt to keep the flowers in the church for the first Sunday after Easter also. After the service on April 11th, you may take a flower with you or leave it to be given away. All flower orders, dedications and monies need to be in by March 21st. **Please note:** Every order needs to include a flower form and payment. Thanks.



Easter Flower Form
Deadline: March 21st

Ordered by _____

Amount Enclosed _____ [] Cash [] Check

Dedication _____

