

The Archangel

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

February 2010

Leave Room for God

The season of Lent this year begins February 17th, on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a forty day period of preparation for Easter. The focus of preparation is for the renewing of our heart and soul so that we may fully celebrate Easter, Christ Jesus risen to new life breaking the grip of death and sin for all who receive Him as Savior and Lord. Some of the practices recommended to each of us are times of fasting, penitence, additional alms giving, and an increased focus and intent of daily prayer and study in order to grow and mature in the ways of the Lord. Each one of these spiritual disciplines can be life giving towards the new life Jesus' Easter resurrection makes available.

I offer a caution for all whether we have observed Lent in an intentional way for years or if this is maybe your first Lent to do so. Lenten intentions can become so focused that the disciplines we choose to practice to prepare for Easter can squeeze God out of the picture. I caution us, whatever we may release or take on for Lent, that we leave room for God, give God "elbow room." Sometimes we calculate and estimate that the Lord will move or reveal His presence in this way, at that time, or in a particular place. We forget to make room for God to come in as He chooses. To give God "elbow room" is not to look for Him to come in any particular way, time or place, but do look for Him, and anticipate to be surprised. Often God will suddenly meet us in life, when we do not expect but "when it is the good pleasure of God..." Strive to keep the spiritual disciplines you make for Lent, but always leave room for God and likely surprise will happen.

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.

February 24	Where Faith and Politics Meet
March 3	Christ, Christians and the Culture Wars
March 10	How Should We Live? The Ethic of Jesus
March 17	Spiritual Maturity and Seeing Gray
March 24	What Would Jesus Say to America?

Bible Confiscation at Keen Mt. Correction Center

Bibles and devotional tracts are being seized from inmates as ordered by the prison warden. Steve Hood called to say that the prison has regulated that no personal items may be taken from cells to the rest of the prison until further notice. This prison has pods which serve as common areas to series of cells all on the same floor. This is where most of the day is spent when an inmate is not at his assigned job. Now, no Bibles are to be allowed in the pod areas and if found will be confiscated.

As he filed to the Mess Hall on Sunday half way down the stairs at a stairwell, a cart was stacked with confiscated Bibles obviously designed to intimidate those Christians who own and rely on them as they face their incarceration and loneliness.

Steve as a Holy habit goes to the chow line early so that he can attend to his morning devotions. He usually takes with him devotional materials received from the chapel so that when an interested inmate may ask him an inquiring question he has something to give to him. People, he says, are more likely to engage over a small devotional such as Day by Day or Our Dailey Bread than if they are confronted by a Bible.

Steve has requested intensive prayer to overcome this attack upon Christianity. Pray for the inmates, correction officers, and Warden that this intrusion may be lifted in the Lord's name.

Thursday evening the Chapel Group of which Steve is its leader, numbering over 70 souls, will meet. They are going to go to the session carrying their Bibles. Pray, brothers and sisters, that no harm may come to them as they meet to study God's Holy Word and give thanks to a faithful God.

A Note About Prayer Requests

Each Sunday, those who have requested prayers are listed in our bulletin.

Current Concerns: People who, due to changes in their health or a crisis in life circumstances, seek the prayers of St. Michael's as they anticipate recovery to resume a more normal life again. Examples are those facing surgery or medical treatments or new personal challenges. People may on the list for up to 6 weeks.

Continuing Care: People who, because of a chronic health issue or change in life circumstances, seek our prayers for a long-term duration. Examples are those who are chronically ill, have become homebound, or change residence to a nursing home.

Thanksgiving: Those who have received God's blessing, recovered or returned to improved health, and for those who gain a change for the good in their life circumstances.

Please notify the office in order to be listed in the bulletin. (Birthdays, anniversaries and other intercessions are listed too.) Also, please remember to contact the church office when names can be removed from the lists.

Youth Ministry News

The first meeting in January was led by Kristia Vasiloff. We discussed 'Stay Focused on What Really Matters'. She did a great job.

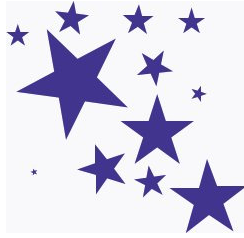
The annual Pancake Supper will be held on February 16. Dinner will start at 5:30 and last till 7:00. We will be accepting donations. Please bring your friends and family. It is all you can eat!!!

Praise be to God,
Your servant, Michael



*Sing, for faith and hope are high --
None so true as you and I --
Sing the Lovers' Litany:
"Love like ours can never die!"*
Kipling – Lovers' Litany

New in the Pew



Meet Nancy Derrick and “Chrissie”, her 13 ½ year old Jack Russell, who both live in a retirement community (she is currently the Secretary of their association) off Route 36 in Hopewell. Nancy comes to us via Varina Episcopal Church in Enon (not sure of Chrissie). She (not Chrissie) has three children—two daughters and a son—and four grandchildren; unfortunately for Mom and Grand-Mom, all live out of state.

It has been noted that big surprises many times come in small packages (now I’m a believer as well) as Nancy packs such exciting experiences under a mild-mannered personality and petite frame. After retirement from a civil service career (Ft. Lee) in January 2001, Nancy was free to exercise the great love of her life: Travel! No, I mean TRAVELING (!) as in Japan, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Alaska and Hawaii, to name a few; not including the numerous cruises she has also enjoyed along the way.

When asked: “Why St. Michaels?” Nancy responded, without hesitation, that she likes Tige (he listens to me) and that she usually sits with Pearl (Clark) in church—they have become such good friends. Nancy truly believes that she can call on anyone of our St. Michaels Family members and they would “be there for her”. She continues: “I also like St. Michaels because *they* let me participate fully and do all the *little things* I enjoy [such as] helping as a depositor and hospitality hostess for Coffee Hour, attending the Sunday morning Adult Class, and participating in the Alpha Program.”

Thank you Nancy for modeling such a “life of service” and drawing us all closer to Christ by your loving presence and support.

Meet Marian Barfield—the feisty cowgirl—who previously hailed from Amarillo, Texas prior to landing in Virginia (family roots were in Bath County) a few years ago at the request of daughter Susan, retired Army, currently employed at Ft. Lee and living near-by with her family. By the way, “feisty” is merely a literary device (i.e. euphemism) that comes to mind since this is a family periodical and there are certain social niceties that should be observed; especially when attempting to paint an accurate personality portrait. Let me put it another way: Did you ever lay awake at night wondering how the popular slogan “*Don’t mess with Texas*” originated? (Well, now enjoy a good night’s sleep on me.)

Actually, Marian is an “Air Force Brat” (born in San Antonio), who has traveled the world, both while growing-up; and later, when raising her own children (there’s also a daughter, named Ellen, still residing in the Lone Star State) and, to this day, is still infected by the “travel bug”—she, just recently, completed an exciting jaunt to and from South Africa! Between action-packed adventures (not counting our Sunday services), Marian quietly

resides in Colonial Heights with her two fur-covered felines “Smoky-Jo” and “Lil’ Sister”. Speaking of the *Don’t mess with Texas* attitude, Marian is extremely passionate regarding Animal Rights issues (enough said).

Besides concocting the most delicious Lemon Squares this side of Heaven, Marian’s skills & talents include being (1) a voracious reader—devouring an average of eight books a week, and (2) an accomplished journalist—majoring in English & Journalism in college, besides teaching high school English in Macon, Georgia once upon a time (really not feeling good about a C-, when she checks this punctuation, grammar & speling).

Even though Marian is a cradle Episcopalian, how and why St. Michaels? The first part is easy; she was invited by Karen (and when you are summoned by “The Murph”, you don’t say no!). The second part is the same old story we’ve heard over and over: She loves the people; the warm, fuzzy, crazy people of the “Order of Silly Grins”. (She loves her four grandchildren too, but that’s a given.) She loves her Altar Guild compatriots (Dick & Jan & Paula); she loves her Hospitality Team members (Nancy, see previous article, & Jane Willis).

Finally, what aberrations would you expect from a well-educated adult, who purchases a house sight unseen?! None, she LOVES it! (Surprised?)

Episcopal Church Women

The February meeting of St. Michael’s ECW is on Thursday, February 18th, at 11:00am in the Fowler Room. We will have a short Bible study, a business meeting and then go to a local restaurant for lunch. Any questions, call Mary Lynne at 520-4618.

Church Directory

We are scheduled to have pictures taken for our new Pictorial Directory on Friday, February 19th, from 2:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., and then again on the following Saturday, February 20th, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Appointments for families of 4 or fewer take approximately 10 minutes, those with 5 or more are scheduled for 20 minutes. Picture taking and proof viewing take place on the same day.

Please sign up to have your photo taken for our new directory!





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

FEBRUARY

- 2 Lisa Erickson
- 7 Judy Arehart
- 8 Lynnice Randolph
- 12 Shanon Cole
- 14 Marta Janauschek
Susan Creed
- 15 Carolyn Mason
Keith McMurdo
Fred Moore
- 16 Cindy Cole
Courtney Newell
- 19 Cindy Moore
Woody Woodfin
- 20 Reggie Snell
- 22 Torsten Peterson
- 23 Jan Condit
- 24 Oreda Schabilon
- 25 Peter Devereaux
Tom Wicker
- 27 Justin Snell

Anniversaries

- 11 David and Lynette Dickerson
- 23 Steve and Becky McDonough

"Souper" Bowl Pot Luck Sunday February 7

Some are making soup. You who are not soup makers may bring salad or dessert or some loaves of yummy bread. Plan to share in this time of fellowship immediately following the 10:30am service.

March Archangel Deadline

Monday, February 22nd, 9:30am
Ministry Schedules for March – May are due also.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 16th 5:30 to 7:00

The EYC will be doing our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We are asking for donations from those who attend. Invite your friends. It's all you can eat!

Ash Wednesday Wednesday, February 17th Noon and 7:00pm

Service and Imposition of Ashes



*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.*

Summary of Vestry Minutes Regular Meeting, January 4, 2010

- Vestry Areas of Oversight
Communications and Hospitality – Patti Christmas
Senior Warden – Lynnice Randolph
Junior Warden – Bob Wilson
Outreach – Jane Elliott
Prayer and Worship and Children and Adult Formation –
David Noakes
EYC Rep – Kristia Vasiloff
- Will keep 50 brown stacking chairs and give remaining in good condition to Hope Center.
- Piano in Fowler Room will be given away with approval of donor.
- January 31 – Confirmation, Bishop Hollerith. Only one service at 10:30.
- Vestry exploring idea of providing Tige with business cell phone.
- Youth attending Acquire the Fire in Richmond Jan. 29-30

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Altar Guild Notes

The Lenten season is on our door step. It seems to have arrived so quickly. I think that we get in such a hectic pace from Thanksgiving through Christmas that it takes a while to slow down after the new year begins.

Lent can be a time of refreshing our lives by spending some quiet and holy time with our Lord and King. I'm always saying I want to know Him better and to discern His plans for my life. I consider Lent a true blessing of time to come apart from the world and experience the Lord through prayer and the reading of His holy word.

One of the gifts I received for Christmas is a book by Beth Moore entitled "Praying God's Word." I truly believe that prayer is where and how I build relationship with our Lord. What better way to pray than using the scripture.

Some of the Lenten offerings in our windows this season will be some examples of praying through the scriptures. I invite you to participate in a Holy Lent, turning to God's Word and begin to pray the scriptures and claim God's promises as you build new relationship with Him. He has given everything to have that relationship with us. What are we willing to give to join Him?

Carolyn Mason, Altar Guild Chair

Thank You

To Our St. Michael's Family,

Kirk and I continue to be amazed at the unconditional love and kindness given by our "Family" here at St. Michael's.

We told you all just a few short weeks ago that our son, Bryan, was going in the Navy and that we only had two weeks to plan a wedding! From there so many of you offered your talent, your time, items to be used, food to be made, flowers to be put together, etc, etc.

We cannot begin to express the gratitude and appreciation we feel. We will continue to wonder how it is that we became so lucky to have you all in our lives! GOD is so good and his glory is SO abundant!!

A very special Thanks to you, Tige, for performing the ceremony, for blessing our children and us and for going out of your way to make it a day we will all never forget. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

Kirk, Tracy, Bryan, Jaimi and Jackson