

The Archangel

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

December 2008

Advent

This season of the church year begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent is also the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The focus of this liturgical season is a solemn preparation for remembering Jesus, God's only begotten Son and incarnate presence. The event we know as Christmas. Jesus came into the world fulfilling God's promise of a messiah and savior for all mankind, but he came not as anticipated, with the raiment of royalty and the power of victorious armies, he came as an infant born in a stable to parents of no social standing. This is often God's way of presence and providence in the world. Advent is a season for preparing ourselves to meet God's Savior of the world again. It is Jesus who continues to be present in unexpected places and in unanticipated ways. His presence and providence is always with gifts of mercy, forgiveness and grace. The gift of his peace is the sign of victory over this busy, broken world.

Advent is a season to prepare in our hearts the way of the Messiah Jesus once again, so that we can receive and know the word of God's Holy Messengers.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Luke 2:14

God's Peace for All
Tige Newell

Advent Sermon Series

"Prepare the way of the Lord"...

***Make room for him in your
life, mind and soul.***

Even the saints know the necessity of making way again
in lives, busy and distracted, by this demanding world.

Use the Advent season to
Prepare again the Way of the Lord.

First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 30)

Zorba's Solutions for the New Way....

Second Sunday of Advent (Dec. 7)

Life Solutions for the New Way....

Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 14)

Mind Solutions for the New Way....

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 21)

Soul Solutions for the New Way...

Advent Longing

By Larry J. Peacock

In the darkness of the season, in the silence of Mary's womb,
new life waits and grows.
Hope is shaped in hidden places,
on the edges, in the depths
far from the blinding lights and deafening sounds of
consumer frenzy.

In the darkness and silence of my own life,
I wait,
listening for the whisper of angel wings,
longing for a genuine experience of mystery,
hoping for a rekindling of joy and the establishment of
peace.

I lean into the darkness
and silence.
Expectant.

From: ***Weavings***

A Journal of the Christian Spiritual Life
Nov/Dec 2008



Music Notes



Here we are and Advent is upon us already!

Preparing for the birth of our Saviour is always a wonderful time of expectation, introspection, and reflection of our faith. It is also a time when we make a little bit of a change in our service music, for example; we delete the Gloria, and replace it with the beautiful Kyrie. Our hymns reflect the voice of John the Baptist "crying in the wilderness" to "prepare"!

The choir and your church musicians are busy joyfully preparing music to lead the worship services. Debbie and I hope we have chosen your favorite songs to sing for Christmas. If you have any requests, please make them known to either of us very soon. We love hearing from you.

The music for Christmas Eve service starts at 8:30 p.m. We look forward to the pleasure of your company to welcome the "New Born King"

Joyfully singing,
Melinda Sue and Debbie

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat went wonderfully. Thank You, Lord. The weather was warm and sunny, leaves swirling in golden glory. The facilities were gracious and comfortable, the food delicious. Our sessions and services were filled with God's presence, word and communion. Thirty three women came together for the weekend to learn more about waiting for God to act while walking in His abundant life and grace. Since a picture is said to be worth a thousand words, I have done an extensive review of the retreat in photo form. It is displayed in the Fellowship Hall. We all liked Roslyn Retreat Center so well that I signed us up (in pencil) for next fall.

As an outcome of several women's comments on the evaluation forms and conversations in which a desire was expressed to have scheduled quiet days more often, Hank and I are offering Bryan's Oasis on weekends when grieving couples are not using it. A quiet day could be constructed however someone would want. It could be a personal private day or overnight with only a host in residence or it could be a small group, perhaps with some spiritual direction such as Lectio Devina. This would not be limited to women. Hank and I have both taken a 2year course in Spiritual Direction and are privileged to offer this. We have already done several such retreats for various friends. God has graced us with a beautiful mountain house, available for His Kingdom work. Please call, email or speak to either of us if you are interested. "Be still and know that I am God..."

Help Is Available

As the Holiday season approaches those of us dealing with the loss of a loved one have some choices to make. That holiday table is missing a chair or two, there is a hole in our heart that "Jingle Bells" just doesn't fill, life will never return to "normal", but ready or not, here it comes!! We know we are not "The Walton's" so how do we get through these days and weeks of joyful expectation when we may feel anything but? Thankfully, several Hospice organizations in the area offer discussions on just this subject.

Hospice of Virginia
Thursday, Dec 11th 5-6:30pm
72312 Forest Ave.
Richmond, Va.
Highland Building
contact Fran Albro at 281-0451

Bon Secours Hospice
Coping with the Holidays
Sunday, Dec. 14th, 2-4pm
call 627-5372 for more info.

Crater Community Hospice
Erin Burnette, bereavement coordinator
526-4300



Alpha Course

Saint Michael's will offer the Alpha Course on Wednesday evenings, beginning on January 21, and ending on April 1. The course includes a daylong retreat on Saturday, March 7. The Alpha Course attempts to answer some of the basic questions of the Christian faith. Some of these questions are as follows:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why and how do I pray?
- Why and how should I read the Bible?
- How does God guide us?
- How can I be filled with the Spirit?

Each evening will begin with a brief time of worship with singing, followed by a talk and ending with meetings in small groups. Alpha offers opportunities for fun, fellowship and spiritual growth. You may sign up for the course by stopping by the Alpha Information/Registration Table in the Parish Hall, or by contacting the church office. The cost is \$15.

Youth Ministry News

In the month of November we had 4 meetings. I want to thank David Warriner for hosting the first EYC meeting in his home. We discussed what it takes to stay focused on what mattered.

I want to thank Cindy Moore, Beverly Gay, Kelly Vasiloff, and the Youth for helping and supporting the EYC Spaghetti Dinner.

In November we donated 30 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. I want to thank the Youth and the members of the church who participated in this outreach.

The EYC is recycling ink cartridges. The EYC earns up to \$4 for each one. The box is in the hallway. The ink cartridges must be in a zip lock bag. We accept all ink cartridges **except Epson**. Please help and support the youth.

Kristia Vasiloff is collecting new small stuff animals for her new charity "Stuffed with Love". These items will be donated to CARES in Petersburg, a local woman's shelter. There will be a collection box in the hallway to put your donations in. The donations will be taken to the shelter the week of December 14th.

Your servant,
Michael

The Giving Heart Community Thanksgiving Feast

Greater Richmond Convention Center, Thursday, November 27, 2008
Two Seatings: 11 am and 1:30 pm, Free Admission, Free Parking

The Giving Heart Community Thanksgiving Feast is a free event for those in the Greater Richmond Metropolitan Area. It is an opportunity to come together as a community in celebration of food and fellowship. We invite ALL to our table and hope that you will feel called to join us.

The 2008 event will feature two seatings - 11 am and 1:30 pm. This will allow a more relaxed environment for our guests to enjoy food and fellowship. Feel free to join us at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, 3rd and Marshall Streets, Richmond, Virginia. Free parking is available only at the 3rd and Marshall parking deck (not at the Marriott!). Easy access from area bus stops. Handicapped accessibility. Children are welcome but no high chairs provided.

We wish to issue a special invitation to those who are unable to be with their friends and families during this time - travelers, college students, military personnel and the elderly.

As an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, it is The Giving Heart's privilege to continue offering this Richmond area tradition. Check out our various areas to discover how you can be of help with this eve



The True Story of Christmas

A Children's Christmas Pageant



Advent is a wonderful season in the church year. It is a time of waiting and anticipating the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. During Advent, the Sunday school will be practicing for our Christmas pageant, "The True Story of Christmas". The pageant will take place on December 21, during church. Practices will be during Sunday school on December 7th and December 14th. Our final practice will be on December 21st at 9:15. All children and youth of the church are invited to participate in this special event. Grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and friends are invited to join us as well. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Lisa Horne, (526-2638). We look forward to sharing this very special story with you.

Christmas Eve Service

8:30pm

Hymns, Special Music and
Holy Communion

Bring a friend!



St. Michael's Episcopal Church
501 Old Town Dr., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

The Rev. Tige Newell, Rector
(804) 526-1790

E-Mail: stmikeschurch@verizon.net
Web: www.stmikeschurch.org

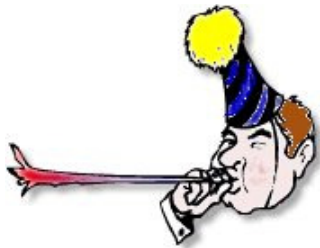
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Permit Number 39

Happy Birthday

Birthday party will be on
November 16th
after the 10:30am worship service .

DECEMBER

- 2 Kelly Vasiloff
- 3 Makayla Callendar
- 4 Patricia Peterson
- 5 Jay Horne
- 9 Cookie Wicker
- 14 Michael K. Vasiloff
Hayley Newell
- 15 Herb Greene
- 16 Wade Scruton
Ken Switzer
- 17 Hilda Traylor
- 18 Carol Peterson
Marco Callender
- 20 Taylor Schabilon
- 29 Sarah Wilkerson



Anniversaries

DECEMBER

- 9 Michael and Kelly Vasiloff
- 18 Mike and Cindy Cole
- 21 Hank and Peggy Graeser
- 26 Joe and Mitzie Lyman

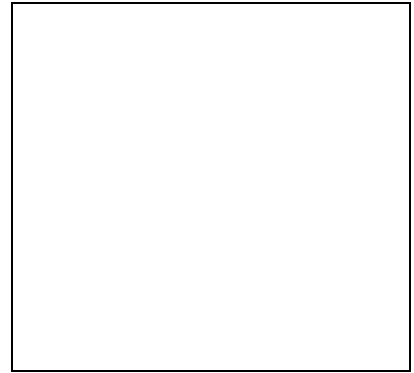
ECW

The ECW Christmas lunch will be on
Thursday, December 18th, 11:00am. Please
meet at the church at 11:00 and carpool to a
local restaurant. Questions, call Mary Lynne,
520-4618.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 14, 9:00-10:15am
Parish Hall

Annual Reports will be ready for you
to pick up and review on Sunday,
December 7.



FYI

If anyone would like to send Jessica
a Christmas card, I know she would
appreciate it. She will be moving to a
new location sometime towards the
end of December. The deadline for
her to receive mail at the present
location is December 15th. She
sounds good and strong when we
talk to her on the phone. We are
really proud of her and we really miss
her. We pray for her safety and that
of others who are protecting our
freedom. I know we are not alone in
our prayers, thanks to all of you, our
extended family at St. Michael's.
Bless You All and have a Merry
Christmas!

Love,
Margie & Frank Ditri

SPC Jessica Ditri
E. Co 1-4 ARB Aviation
4ID Combat Aviation BDE
Unit #6061
APO AE 09378

Christmas Holiday Office Hours

No regular office hours
Dec. 23rd – Jan. 2nd.
Phone messages/emails will be
checked.

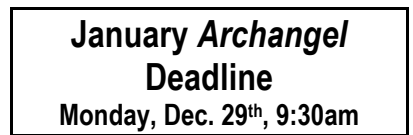
Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 26th
7:00pm



January Archangel Deadline

Monday, Dec. 29th, 9:30am



Altar Guild Notes

Thanksgiving is upon us with all the business of the holiday season before us. As we close out our liturgical year with the Thanksgiving holiday and begin our new church year with the first Sunday in Advent, I'm struck by the fact that we celebrate Thanksgiving in this country once a year. When I read through scriptures I'm constantly reminded to give thanks in and for all circumstances, to approach God with a heart of thanksgiving. We are called to look at every situation in life and find something to give thanks for and the list of reasons to be thankful goes on and on so why as Americans do we hold up this one day a year to give thanks?

May I suggest that as we begin our new church year that we begin to frame each event of each day with a word or prayer of thanks. Thank you Heavenly Father, thank you Lord Jesus for...goes a long way in establishing who is Lord in our lives.

On Sunday, November 22nd, through our Wednesday night Thanksgiving service, there will be signs and reminders in the sanctuary of our thankfulness for the bounty in our lives. As we begin Advent, which is a season of waiting for the church, let us also carry our thanksgivings with us as we wait for the birth of Jesus new in our hearts. What greater event to be thankful for than our Lord renewing His covenant of love for us as we prepare for His coming.

I invite you to look around the sanctuary and find the reminders of our thankfulness along with the reminders of waiting. Take some time out of your days to experience the "expectancy." What is it you expect God to do for you this Advent? What do you think he expects of us this Advent? What gift would He like from us, a grateful heart perhaps?

In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

"Father, thank you for the opportunity to take the time to wait on your coming. Prepare my heart to hear your voice and to know without a doubt which path you are leading me in as I seek to know and love you more each and every day. Give me a thankful heart so that I might share a blessing with someone today. Amen."

- Carolyn Mason



Walk Through Bethlehem

First Baptist Church
410 N. 2nd Ave., Hopewell

Friday, Dec. 5 – 6:00-8:30pm
Saturday, Dec. 6 – 4:00-8:00pm
Sunday, Dec. 7 – 2:00-7:00pm

Experience the sights and sounds of the first Christmas as you stroll through the streets of Bethlehem. Prepare your hearts for the coming Messiah by experiencing the sights, sounds, and smells of ancient Judea. Enjoy refreshments and freshly baked bread following your tour. (Tours take approx 15 min.)

Free of charge. Please bring a canned good to donate to the Hopewell Food Bank. Questions, 458-2752

Poinsettias



We will be using poinsettias to decorate for our Christmas services. We need to have your order and payment in by Sunday, November 30th, with your dedication. The poinsettias will be \$13.00 each. Please include payment with your order. Make checks payable to St. Michael's with a memo "Poinsettias."

----- detach here -----

Poinsettias (order by Nov. 30)

Poinsettias _____ Amount Enclosed (\$13 each) _____

Ordered by _____

Dedication _____

