



The Guardian

FEBRUARY 2016

FROM THE RECTORY

LIVES OF COURAGE AND FAITH 2016 TUESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES

The times are difficult. They call for courage and faith.

— Thomas Merton

It's hard to believe that we are already talking about Lent, but our Lenten season begins very early this year. In fact, I spent much of the Advent season thinking about Lent and what we might offer this year!

I had two hopes for our Lenten study: that it would connect with real world problems, and that it would expand our imaginations of how we can respond faithfully to the many issues that face our world. These goals came out of a sense that we at St. Michael's really struggle with the many problems in our world and our community (drug addiction, terrorism, racism, etc.) and we want our faith to inform how we respond to such things. We are at once overwhelmed with bad news and underwhelmed by a lack of imagination as to how to respond in thoughtful and faithful ways.

Lives of Faith and Courage is a series where we will learn about five very different, inspiring, and faithful individuals and learn how they respond (or have responded) to various world challenges with amazing vision, imagination, and action. Some of these individuals are still alive, others have died. Some of these individuals are well-known, others are not. The format of each session will involve a presentation and a discussion. We will end with a brief time of worship and prayer in the form of Compline.

- Simple dinner in the Undercroft, 5:15–6:00 p.m.
- Program in the Meeting Room, 6:00–7:00 p.m.
- Compline, 7:00–7:15 p.m.

All are welcome. Please come for any or all parts of the evening. And please invite friends and neighbors who might be interested!

*Yours in Christ,
Mary*

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES FEBRUARY 10

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. The liturgy, which includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist, will be offered at three different times at St. Michael's: 7:00 a.m., noon, and 7:00 p.m.



LIVES OF FAITH AND COURAGE: TUESDAY LENTEN EVENING SERIES

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 16, Tom Tull: Pay Attention and Do Something! Presented by Thad Bennett. What do you do when you find yourself in the midst of illness/death and no one wants to pay attention? You organize, you gather, you pray, and you change the culture of the Episcopal Church forever. The Reverend Thad Bennett will talk about his friend, Tom Tull (1942–1995), who, with a small band of followers, changed the way the Episcopal Church (and later the country) related to HIV/AIDS. Tom's example continues to challenge Thad about how best to respond to the needs of people around us. Come hear Thad talk about Tom, his witness and ministry and its effect upon Thad's ministry in the 1980s and beyond.

Tuesday, February 23, The Reverend Canon Edward Rodman. Presented by Craig Hammond. Ed has been a rare force, sometimes a hurricane, who has made a huge impact on both my life and the work of the Episcopal Church over the past 50 years. We were classmates at the Episcopal Theological School (now EDS) in the mid-1960s. We shared interests and studies, collaborated on our senior research paper, split off from one another over black power in the civil rights movement, and have come back together to share a lifetime of friendship. We've come together in grief and in celebration. He's been a visionary, a pastor, a teacher and mentor, and a brother. It is an honor to speak of him during these forty days we share with our Lord in prayer, contemplation, and preparation.

Tuesday, March 1, Joanna Macy. Presented by Jean Smith. Joanna Macy writes, "The most remarkable feature of this historical moment on Earth is not that we are on the way to destroying the world, we've actually been on the way for quite a while. It is that we are beginning to wake up, as from a millennia long sleep, to a whole new relationship to our world, to ourselves, and to each other." Author, Buddhist scholar, and environmental activist, Johanna Macy is an acclaimed teacher. It is her goal to help us identify our curiosity, energy, and strength that together we may live out the active hope our world needs now.

Tuesday, March 8, Greg Boyle. Presented by Mary Lindquist. A Jesuit priest famous for his gang

intervention programs in Los Angeles, Father Greg Boyle makes winsome connections between service and delight, compassion and awe. He heads Homeboy Industries, which employs former gang members in a constellation of businesses. This is not work of helping, he says, but of finding kinship. The point of Christian service, as he lives it, is about "our common calling to delight in one another."

Tuesday, March 15, Albert Schweitzer. Presented by Karen Guthrie. Albert Schweitzer, a Noble Peace Prize winner, was born in 1875 in a small village in Alsace, then part of Germany. By age 29, Schweitzer held doctorates in philosophy and religion, was an acclaimed organist, a world authority on Bach, had published three books, and had held positions as a church pastor, principal of a theological seminary, and university professor. But many years earlier, aware of the desperate medical needs of Africans, he had decided that at age 30 he would undertake medical studies, become a doctor and devote the rest of his life to direct service in Africa. In 1913, at the age of 37, Dr. Schweitzer and his wife, Hélène, opened a hospital in Lambaréné, Gabon, and he spent most of the rest of his life there, dying there at age 90.



PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP WITH THE LENTEN DINNERS!

Dinner will be available from 5:15–6:00 p.m. so people can come and eat anytime in that time period. As we did last year, St. Michael's will provide fixings for sandwiches, but we are hoping 2–3 people will bring a pot of soup to each dinner. We need help with the following tasks:

- Set-up: 1–2 people to set the tables and set out the food before dinner
- Bring soup: 2–3 people to bring pots of soup to share
- Clean-up: 2 people to clean up food and dishes following the meal

Sign-up sheets are available in the Common Room. Thank you for your help!



NEWS OF THE PARISH

CHOIR SCHOOL FOR YOUNGER SINGERS BEGINS FEBRUARY 4

Due to the success of the Choir School program, the choir school is expanding! Beginning on Thursday, February 4, the Choir School will offer a new class specially designed for incoming singers between the ages of 6–8. The program runs for a half hour, from 3:45–4:15 p.m., although children may arrive as early as 3:30 for a healthy snack.

In this half hour, students will learn basic concepts of rhythm, pitch, and “choircraft” in addition to singing some wonderful music. No prior musical experience is needed, just the love of singing and the desire to learn more.

Although the program is funded and hosted by St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, no church affiliation is necessary. So your singing child can bring a friend! In addition to the thrill of singing with others, choral singing is a wonderful way to foster poise, respect of self and others, commitment, leadership, and teamwork. The Choir School programs are free of charge. Talk to director Susan if you have any questions or need more information. Susan can be contacted at sdedell@sover.net, by phone at 802-348-7735, or leave a message at the church office, 802-254-6048.



BLACK LIVES MATTER: WHY WE PUT UP A SIGN

Susan and I are putting a “Black Lives Matter” sign in front of our home on the much-traveled Westminster Road in Putney. Why? It is one very small way to say that we are deeply concerned about the legacy of racism within our nation and the inequalities it creates. It is one way to keep in focus the unique challenges that people of color face today in education, employment, and with the legal system. It is one way to remind ourselves of the privileges we enjoy as white, not shared by those who are black.

But, don’t all lives matter? Why not have a sign with those words? Of course all lives matter. Our sign in no way says they don’t. But not all lives carry the heritage



and effects of 246 years of chattel bondage, followed by the terror of lynching and Jim Crow Laws. Not all of us have had our ancestors bought and sold as property, families destroyed, dignity ignored. Of course all lives matter! What we want to do with this sign is to remind ourselves of ways the fall-out from this cruel heritage lives on today.

We are so proud of St. Michael’s for hanging out a huge Rainbow Flag in June for all to see as they drive by on Putney Road. That multi-colored flag proclaims that lesbian and gay lives matter. That is the same spirit in which we are placing a Black Lives Matter sign in front of our home on Westminster Road.

Susan and Phillip Wilson



PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE: OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSES FOR JANUARY–DECEMBER

Total Pledges Received: \$226,582 vs. Budget of \$215,878 (105% of Budget)

of which: Total Pledges Received in December: \$21,275 vs. Budget of \$17,990 (118%)

This is the amount of income from pledges alone that we have received. The first line shows the amount so far this year; the second line shows the amount for just the month noted.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

Total Operating Income: \$340,659 vs. Budget of \$325,663 (105% of Budget)

This is our total income and includes rental income, fund raising (including pledges), memorial gifts, altar guild flower income, hospitality, tag sale, and other miscellaneous income.

Total Operating Expenses: \$328,214 vs. Budget of \$328,962 (100%)

This is the dollars needed to run the church, including salaries, utilities, repaying our building loan from the Diocese, outreach, rectory expenses, administrative expenses, mission and ministry, worship and music, congregation development, grounds upkeep, and snow removal.

St. Michael's Vestry



GETTING UP TO GOD'S SPEED

Dear Beloved St. Michael's Community,

I have arrived safely in the Holy Land and am staying quite busy here, with my first two weeks being filled with visits to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem for the Orthodox Christmas, Jerusalem's Old City, Abu Gosh (a mainly Arab-Israeli community west of Jerusalem), Emmaus Nicopolis, and Battier in the West Bank (Palestinian village). I've also accompanied Jerusalem Peacebuilders' youth on a field trip to Be'er Sheba in southern Israel to learn about the land's social and environmental past and to have lunch with a Bedouin community. Over the next three months, I will be teaching classes on peacebuilding and leadership at the Sts. Tarkmenchatz School in the Armenian Quarter of the Old City, in addition to my work with the JPB after-school program in Jerusalem.

I am slowly beginning to adjust to the lifestyle and culture here by learning to navigate my way around the city, walking and taking public transportation, and adopting the use of the two main languages of Hebrew and Arabic. My days are filled with a balance of work, prayer, and learning about the significance of the various holy sites revered by the three Abrahamic faiths. Believe it or not, Jerusalem is the first city that I have ever lived in! Indeed, I have much to learn.

Spiritually, I am continuing my daily practices of Morning and Evening Prayer and Compline, and I am adding more prayers using my Anglican prayer beads. I appreciate the rich and diverse spiritual practices that people here use in their daily lives to honor and give thanks to the Great Spirit. Catching the Muslim call to prayer at noontime, listening to the Armenians sing Evening Prayer, and watching Jews pray and study Torah at the Western Wall are but a few of these beautiful examples. For me, I believe that my call to the work and ministry of peacemaking requires that I deepen my commitment and discipline to these daily Christian practices. I am steadily learning to surrender my whole self to the Lord and put all fears and false idols behind me. For me, Jerusalem is the ultimate proving ground of my commitment, resolve, and will to further God's call for me to compassionately serve others in Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,
Jack Karn, Jerusalem Peacebuilders



CELEBRATIONS





ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

LITURGICAL ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2016 • 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM SUNDAY SERVICES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Position	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
8:00 A.M. SERVICE				
Lay Assistant	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook	Kate McGinn	Wayne Cook
Intercessor	Kiersten McKenney	Anne Brown	Doug Lilly	Bill Ames
Sacramental Healing	Carolyn Taylor-Olson	Janet Cramer	Janet Cramer	Janet Cramer
Usher	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Judy McGee	Anne Cook
10:15 A.M. SERVICE				
Crucifer	Jessica Bennett	Mikael Mattson	Jeff Hiam	Ricky Davidson
Torch Bearers	Annelise Fedoruk Avery Bennett	Nathaniel Johnson Andachew Mousin	Brian White Liz Vick	Caleb Fritz Kierstan Landin
Element Bearers	Sue Dyer Betsy Bates	Nancy Barber Ricky Davidson	John Daly Leigh Marthe	Jeff Hiam Dick Burtis
Lay Assistant	Jeff Hiam	Greg Lesch	Miranda Smith	Brian Morgan
Lector	Joyce Vining Morgan	Mary Carnahan	Matt Wojcik	Julia Fedoruk
Intercessor	David Mattocks			
Ushers	Brian Morgan Elaine Curry-Smithson	Andy & Elise Burrows	Darcy Mercier Nancy Barber	Bill & Sandy Maclean
Sacramental Healing	Margit Lilly	Robin White-Diamondstone	Carolyn Taylor-Olson	Robin White-Diamondstone
Altar Guild	Mary Carnahan Charlene Kemp Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead	Mary Carnahan Charlene Kemp Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead	Madelyn Howard Carol Hesselbach Lynn Billington Judy Walker	Madelyn Howard Carol Hesselbach Lynn Billington Judy Walker
Coffee Hour	Landin Family	Lydia Taggart		Altar Guild Team of Carnahan, Olmstead, Kemp and Elwell
Counters	Anne Cook Judy McGee	Ricky Davidson Judith Hildreth	Jeanette Landin Wayne Cook	Wayne Cook Vince Johnson

If you cannot make it, please find your own replacement; then call Jeanie in the Office at 802-254-6048, ext. 104. Thank you.

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

Sunday, February 7: Exodus 34:29–35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2; Luke 9:28–36

Sunday, February 14: Deuteronomy 26:1–11; Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16; Romans 10:8b–13; Luke 4:1–13

Sunday, February 21: Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 13:31–35

Sunday, February 28: Exodus 3:1–15; Psalm 63:1–8; 1 Corinthians 10:1–13; Luke 13:1–9



CELEBRATIONS

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Steven Meyer
February 5	Andy Burrows
February 7	Douglas Lilly, Chris Landin
February 8	Emma Allen, James Landenberger, Gordon Landenberger
February 9	Richard Burtis, Susan Wilson
February 10	Sissi Loftin
February 11	Alan McBean, Jayne Fritz
February 12	Robert Anderson, Lucia Osiecki
February 16	Greg Allen
February 19	Ross Kinney
February 20	Judy Wagenbach
February 24	Kirsten Mattson, Steven Perrin
February 25	Anne Cook, Ron Doty-Tolaro
February 26	Paul Love, Charlene Kemp
February 28	Joseph Garofalo, Leigh Marthe
February 29	Asa Taggert

ASH WEDNESDAY IN VERMONT

It happens this way
in Vermont,

when snow feathers
light as ashes from God's fire

drifting over us all,
reminding us of love

that dances from heaven,
soundless joy

given as a gift
on the dirtiest gray days

in March.
Beauty mixed with air
and water frozen with dust
into the absolutely perfect faces

of children smiling
at tiny miracles landing

as angel kisses
on risen rosy cheeks.

*Parishioner Leigh Marthe wrote this poem on Ash
Wednesday of 2014 (when Ash Wednesday fell in March).
Many thanks to Leigh for sharing her poem with us!*

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

ADULT FORUMS FOR FEBRUARY

February 7, New Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's inaugural sermon via video feed — Come and find out what it means to be “crazy Christian.” Led by Phillip Wilson.

February 14, 21, 28—A Lenten series is being finalized. Please watch the Sunday Bulletins for announcements.



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The Guardian

a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to the abiding presence of God



Our Worship Together

SUNDAYS	8:00 a.m., Quiet service of prayer and Holy Communion
	10:15 a.m., Prayer, music, and Holy Communion, with Sunday School and childcare
WEEKDAY MORNINGS	6:00 a.m., Silent hour in chapel
WEDNESDAYS	Noon, Brief service of prayer and Holy Communion
THURSDAYS	9:00 a.m., Morning Prayer Rite I
	5:30 p.m., Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer
SATURDAYS	8:00 a.m., Centering Prayer

Coming Up at St. Michael's Episcopal

February 4	Choir School for younger singers begins
February 9	5:15 p.m., Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
February 10	7:00 a.m., noon, 7:00 p.m., Ash Wednesday services