



The Guardian

MAY 2015

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE: SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

St. Michael's Vestry and our Rector, Mary Lindquist, invite you to be involved in small group conversations of 4–6 people this May. The small group conversations will be led by trained facilitators from St. Michael's (Cary Gaunt, Jodi Clark, Jen Karstad, Darcy Mercier, Janet Cramer, Margit Lilly, Jack Lilly, Craig Hammond, and Liz Vick) and will focus on how significant St. Michael's is in helping you integrate your faith into your daily life.

The question of integration is meant to connect with St. Michael's vision of being a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to God's presence in our lives. We will use several questions in these conversations, record the responses, and share the findings with the Vestry and the wider congregation. The study is meant to help inform us about how the church helps us (or perhaps does not help us) make connections between our faith and our lives.

Small group conversations are offered for the following dates and times:

- Saturday, May 9, 9:00–10:15 a.m.
- Saturday, May 9, 10:45 a.m.–Noon
- Sunday, May 17, 9:00–10:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 13, 6:30–7:45 p.m.
- Wednesday May 27, 6:30–7:45 p.m.

You may sign up to participate in one of these by calling the church (254-6048, x104), emailing Mary Lindquist at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org, or adding your name to the sign-up sheets in the Common Room.

The ideas and recommendations developed through our small group conversations will be synthesized into a final report that will be shared with the congregation and used by St. Michael's Vestry to help chart future endeavors and experiments in our ministry together. The report will also be utilized as a part of the Luther Seminary Missional Leadership Program in which our Rector, Mary Lindquist, is a participant.



BISHOP ELY TO CELEBRATE FEAST OF PENTECOST MAY 24



The Feast of Pentecost, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church, will be celebrated on Sunday, May 24, at both the 8:00 & 10:15 a.m. services. This year, the celebration of Pentecost will be extra special, because this is the day the Bishop of Vermont, Tom Ely, is doing his official visitation to St. Michael's.

Bishop Ely will preach, celebrate, and confirm several parishioners. In the Episcopal Church, only bishops can offer the sacrament of Confirmation, so if you are interested in being confirmed or received, please let Mary Lindquist know ASAP. Bishop Ely only visits once every 12-18 months, so this is your last chance for awhile!

But that's not all! There will be a special, festive procession with streamers, doves, and incense at 10:15 a.m. We invite all children and youth to participate in the procession by meeting outside St. Michael's before the service.

And don't forget to wear red! Red is the liturgical color of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit.



NEW ATTENDERS, PLEASE JOIN US FOR BRUNCH THIS MONTH!

If you are new to St. Michael's in the last year (or if you still feel new to St. Michael's), we hope you will join us for a series of two New Attender Brunches. The first brunch will be held following the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, May 3, right across the street from St. Michael's at John Daly's home, 22 Bradley Ave. The second brunch will take place on Sunday, May 17, in Marlboro at Craig Hammond and Liz Vick's home.

These brunches will be an opportunity to spend time together and learn more about St. Michael's. Children are welcome. Although we hope you can attend both brunches, it is fine to attend only one. If you can attend, please sign up in the Common Room or contact the church office (254-6048) or Mary Lindquist at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

- There will be a **special festive procession** with streamers and doves on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. Children and Youth are invited to be part of this procession. Please try to make it to Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. for a special craft, then meet outside St. Michael's at 10:00 a.m. to get ready for the procession.
- The last day of **Workshop Rotation Sunday School** (the 9:00-10:00 a.m. hour) will be May 24. Workshop Rotation will resume in September.
- **Godly Play** (10:10–10:45 a.m.) will continue to meet through June 14 then take a break for the summer.
- **The Sunday School Appreciation Picnic** is planned for Sunday, June 14, following the 10:15 a.m. service on the Rectory Lawn. All kids, families, teachers, and helpers are invited. Mark your calendars!
- **Rock Point Summer Camp**—Partial scholarships available for St. Michael's kids! Rock Point Summer Camp, a ministry of the Diocese of Vermont, is held annually at the Bishop Booth Conference Center, located on the shores of Lake Champlain, Rock Point, Burlington. A typical camp day at Rock Point Summer Camp includes a holy rhythm of worship, community meal time, morning program, interest groups, and evening program. In addition, campers will participate in all the fun, traditional camp activities such as games, swimming, sports, singing, arts & crafts, s'mores by the fire, and much, much more. Each week new campers are greeted by enthusiastic, well-trained camp counselors and volunteer leaders who help to plan programs geared especially to each camper age group. Campers stay in cabins with up to 10 campers and 2 counselors. This year, Mary Lindquist will be the chaplain for the Elementary Camp (July 5–10). Check out the website, <http://www.diovermont.org/Youth-Ministries/rock-point-summer-camp.html>



SAY HELLO TO JEFF HIAM!

Yes, the tall slim fellow with the short hair and glasses is Jeffrey Hiam, the same young guy with long hair and glasses you've seen for the past several months at St. Michael's. Having lived in Washington State for three years, sailed on a tall ship in the Caribbean, and camped in the back country, this native of Westminster West settled in Brattleboro two years ago.

An EMT and paramedic, Jeff has worked on ambulances in Brattleboro and on the West Coast, was a member of the Southern Vermont Technical Rescue team, and has been a volunteer firefighter in Putney. He enjoys playing guitar and singing with friends (mostly honky tonk and old country music), reading, and hanging out with his two cats, Howard and Honey.

Jeff is most interested, however, in attending seminary. A regular at St. Michael's Thursday and Saturday meditations, he serves as a Sunday crucifer and is training as a Eucharistic visitor. He volunteers weekly at Loaves & Fishes and is a cofounder of the Brattleboro Feminist Allies. All this he juggles while taking courses at Greenfield Community College. Jeff's interest in ministry comes from a strong desire to serve the disenfranchised. He says, "To reach my hand out to the folks that our society makes invisible. . .to be in service to the vision of the kingdom of God in the creation of a just and loving society is not only the work I hope to do, but the reward for doing so as well."



GIFT TO OVERFLOW SHELTER

With the crazy, cold, and snowy winter this year we decided to give the proceeds of the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to the Overflow Shelter at the Baptist Church to help with the heating costs to keep the folks without homes of their own warm. We also asked at the following two Sunday services for help in matching the \$535.00 in hopes of doubling it. We were blown away by the generosity of you good people of St. Michael's. Thank you, thank you, thank you: you donated \$1,259 above the dinner proceeds. We added \$6 and wrote a check to the Baptist Church for \$1,800. Our Lord said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did for one of the least of my children, you did it to me." Congratulations, Church!

Outreach Ministries Team



LIVING A DEEP-HEARTED LIFE JUNE 12-13

On Friday evening, June 12, and Saturday morning, June 13, Will Duncan, teacher of meditation and scripture from many traditions, will be at St. Michael's to share some things he learned on a recent three-year silent retreat in Arizona.

Duncan grew up attending Christ Episcopal Church in Greenwich, Connecticut. At age 13 he met the Reverend Murray Rogers, an Anglican priest who lived in India and devoted his ministry to working with Christians and Hindus. Duncan studied with Murray for many years and continues to seek spiritual wisdom in the Christian, Hindu, and Buddhist traditions. He teaches meditation, yoga, and scripture around the world, bringing down-to-earth sincerity, humor, and joy to his teachings. You can check out his website at www.willduncan.org.

More information about Duncan's visit will be posted soon. Meanwhile, mark your calendars for two days of insightful, humorous, and deep discussions of how and why to live a deep-hearted life.



NEWS OF THE PARISH



MARCH VESTRY REPORT

The Vestry began its meeting 45 minutes early so they, staff, and major committee heads could learn from the Fire Department about fire safety, evacuating, and how to keep everyone and the building safe. The spur was last Christmas Eve's smoke alarm triggered by incense at the later service. We will have a fire drill at some point, but probably not until the weather is warmer.

Treasurer Wayne Cook led us through current accounts. Since more pledgers are using electronic fund transfers, Vanco, or regular payments through credit cards, there is less variation in income despite the weather or vacation schedules. He also reviewed our endowment funds and how careful stewardship is preserving principle while drawing from the increase in the value for current expenses and to help retire the Butterfield Loan for Building for the Future. He also gave us the history of the Schroeder Fund that supports Christ Church, ministerial education, and the SEVCA community-wide HELP fund.

Vestry supported Susan Dedell's grant applications for 2016: another chant workshop (this time with interfaith leaders) and for composing "mud season" music using poems created by children in the Choir School.

Submitted by Janet Cramer



APRIL VESTRY REPORT

It was wonderful to be together again just a few days after our Vestry Retreat at the Lower Farm in Chesterfield, New Hampshire. We were glad to have the opportunity to share our experience at the Forum last Sunday. At the meeting tonight we began our discussion of the book *The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age* by Dwight J. Zscheile. We look forward to exploring these ideas further in the coming months.

Here are some of the highlights from reports at our business meeting:



- Mary our Rector has had a very active month that not only included the many meaningful celebrations of Holy Week, but also the Winged Productions presentation with the Choir School and the Vestry Retreat.
- Winged Productions has been awarded two grants, one for a chant workshop and one for a new composition by Paul Dedell.
- The Fire Safety Policy is being reviewed. The committee will reveal details in the near future that will make us all more prepared.
- Vestry members will attend the newcomer brunches this month (see article above) to greet newcomers.
- The Parish Life Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the Lemonade on the Lawn summer hospitality gatherings after the 10:15 a.m. services. The Vestry will be hosting once a month but there are still opportunities to serve from mid-June through Labor Day weekend.

Submitted by Deb Jones



OUR MISSION & WORK . . . AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

**FROM BRATTLEBORO TO KIGALI:
ST. MICHAEL’S AND CHABHA CONNECT CHILDREN ACROSS BORDERS**

*The following report is from Susanna Grannis,
St. Michael’s, Brattleboro:*

At the suggestion of the Outreach Team at St. Michael’s, Brattleboro, our children Skyped with children in Rwanda! It was March 1 and cold here in Vermont, but warm in Kigali.

CHABHA, Children Affected by HIV/AIDS, an organization founded in Vermont and supported by several churches in the diocese, partners with several grassroots groups in Rwanda and Burundi that help children whose parents have died from the disease or whose parents are ill. CHABHA provides health cards, school costs, after-school programming, fun-filled gatherings, home visits, and skills training. St. Michael’s furnishes CHABHA with office space and, for some years, has contributed financial support.

David Loewenguth, CHABHA Director, was finishing his three-month work with staff in Rwanda on March 1. In the afternoon, some 40 children of one CHABHA group came to the classroom rented for weekly gatherings. David and Mary Lindquist, our Rector, got the connection working. Children asked

questions of one another. The first, from Rwanda, was, “Do you believe in God?” Then there were questions about animals, subjects in school, and the like. Each group sang a song to the other. The St. Michaels children sang, “This little light of mine.” When they saw the huge icicles hanging from the eave of our classroom, the Rwandan children said, “Sorry, sorry.” We had to explain that winter could be fun, too.

After the Skyping the St. Michael’s children saw slides that included photos of parishioners who have gone to Rwanda to help out. Later, our children spoke of ways to help the children they had just met more than we already do. They want to continue the Coin Rolls. Nathaniel Johnson said about the call that it was “cool” to talk with kids so far away. He was amazed that it was so hot there, as the Rwandan children were about our icicles. Nathaniel’s older brother, Jonah, said he liked it that the children are like us because they “believe in God. They also play soccer.” He noted the differences, too. “We have what we want. They don’t. So we want to help. They don’t have computers, and they need to buy food, have houses, and have fresh water.”

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

A HOMILY FOR HOLY WEEK

Preached March 30 by Dianne Clouet

May the words of my mouth, and the meditations of all our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord.

Signs and stories, stories and signs. They emerge yearly in this unending cycle of Christ’s life and death and resurrection. The Gospel stories can flicker before us, catching light and illuminating our way, before they too slip under, out of our view. But for that moment, the story, or a strand of the story, catches our eye as we walk. If our eye is caught, or our ear, or if for a moment the scent of something precious and

mysterious emerges from the story, what is it we are called to understand?

When Mary asked me to speak here on this Monday of Passion Week, she said, “People often preach about Mary washing Jesus’ feet with perfume, drying them with her hair. Some have thought she was Mary Magdalene, and many other scholars say no.”

The story shifts and shimmers before me. I know this story—don’t I? I begin to wonder, who is this woman, this Mary who holds a pound of nard in her hand? The story is of course memorable for the intimacy of her act. It stands out, startling in its brightness.



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Who is she? What is she telling us each year as she bends over the feet of God and dries those beloved feet with the fall of her hair?

Who is she? This Mary is at the table with Lazarus, restored to life by Jesus. Is she a sister, a niece? I imagine the love and gratitude his family had for Jesus. How could Mary show her gratitude and her devotion? Did she go to the market herself to buy the nard? The perfume is costly, and Mary must be a privileged daughter to get this gift for God. Jesus says that it is for his burial, but she doesn't wait for death, and instead pours it out upon his living feet. What would a girl go to get at the market to show the depth of her love? That she gets a pound, a whole pound, of this precious ointment speaks to me of her youth.

She suddenly shimmers before me, young and newly emerged into her beauty. I think of the photos my own daughters took of themselves on my computer as they emerged from their childhoods into the sudden startling radiance of their beauty. It is a stage, new every time to every young girl, when she first crosses over into the extravagance of her beauty. It won't last, the preoccupation, or the beauty itself, but it flares up, shimmering briefly in the life of each human girl.

And this girl, this Mary, was going to have dinner with God! What could possibly be more appropriate than the most extravagant gift of all?

And then, she bends before us, before him in the traditional washing of the guest's feet, called forward by the family to give care and respect to the honored guest. But her devotion goes farther, and instead of water she pours forth perfume, worth a year's salary, and its scent permeates the house. It is almost enough, but not really—this is God before her! And so she bends forward with what is most newly and truly her own, what can't be purchased at the market, her very beauty. Mary spills her long hair over the feet of Jesus the Son of God, and rubs in and dries the beautiful scent on this man's feet, as he prepares to walk, as all people do, into suffering and death.



The room grows quiet around them. And Mary is chastised by Judas; after all, the poor are everywhere, then as now, and don't they need food?

And as the girl rises from her startlingly devoted act, Jesus defends her. "Leave her alone. You always have the poor with you. You do not always have me."

Unlike us, Jesus sees her act for the devotion it is. What could this girl have given him?

In the story and at that moment, the girl has no doubt, no hesitation. She gives Christ everything she is.

And suddenly the light in the story refracts toward us. What can we give God?

Jesus protects and illuminates the devotion of this young woman with the words, "Leave her alone. You always have the poor with you. You do not always have me."

He was talking to us. Not to us about "them." He was talking to us about us. We are the poor. And the source of our poverty is that we do not always have him.

Our own Mary, our rector, spoke to us yesterday on Palm Sunday of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey to receive his borrowed crown and his borrowed cross. He kept nothing for himself, held nothing back.

If we do not have him, it is not that he has held himself back from us.

The Passion Play is about to shift, about to move forward, and we move forward with it as we walk. We are not always willing, and we are not always aware, but we are always walking.

And as we walk, the gospel stories rise up at their yearly moment, and each shimmers and calls to us.

This girl, this Mary, glances our way for a moment. I picture her bemused by us, or perhaps startled again by her own sudden radiance.

"Give everything," she whispers before she slips out of our sight. "Give everything you are."



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE FOR MAY

May 3, AIDS Project of Southern Vermont—Come learn about the continuing work being done by the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, one of our local non-profit groups we support. Sue Conley will talk about the prevention work she does and Ray Tessier, current board member, will share his own personal story about AIDS/HIV. Sarah Benton will facilitate.

May 10, A Dream Come True: Krista Burtis' Trip to Paris—Krista Burtis, accompanied by her parents, Dick and Irene Burtis, will talk about how despite her disabilities she traveled to Paris last fall. An (almost) native of Brattleboro, Krista has attended public and private schools and traveled with her family to favorite places, including Nashville, where she enjoyed country and folk music and met many performers. Ruth Tilghman will facilitate.

May 17, Small Group Conversations—There will be no Forum on this Sunday. Instead, we encourage you to participate in one of the small group conversations that will be held in different parts of the church (see article on p. 1). We encourage you to sign up ahead of time so we can organize groups and spaces to meet.

May 24, A conversation with Bishop Ely—It has been our tradition when our Bishop visits that we gather in the Meeting Room for an informal conversation with him. This will be your chance to ask questions and hear about diocesan news and events. Everyone is welcome.

May 31, Sacramental Healing: Debunking the Myths—Join members of the Sacramental Healing Team for an interactive discussion about healing prayer, what that means, and experience anointing and being anointed in community.

GO GREEN—RECEIVE YOUR COPY OF THE *GUARDIAN* BY EMAIL!

If you would like to receive the *Guardian* as a PDF file that would be sent to you by email, please contact Jeanie Crosby at jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org or 802-254-6048, x104.

MAY LECTIONARY

Sunday, May 3:

Acts 8:26–40, Psalm 22:24–30,
1 John 4:7–21, John 15:1–8

Sunday, May 10:

Acts 10:44–48, Psalm 98,
1 John 5:1–6, John 15:9–17

Sunday, May 17:

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26, Psalm 1,
1 John 5:9–13, John 17:6–19

Sunday, May 24:

Acts 2:1–21; Psalm 104: 25–35, 37;
Romans 8:22–27; John 15:26–27, 16:4b–15

Sunday, May 31:

Isaiah 6:1–8; Psalm 29,
Romans 8:12–17, John 3:1–17

VESTRY OF ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS





OUT OF THE LION'S MOUTH



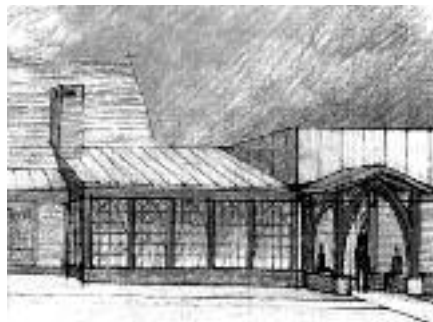


ROTA FOR MAY

LITURGICAL ROTA FOR MAY 2015 • 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM SUNDAY SERVICES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

POSITION	MAY 3	MAY 10	MAY 17	MAY 24	MAY 31
8:00 A.M. SERVICE					
Lay Assistant	Anita Crosson	Kate McGinn	Wayne Cook	Anita Crosson	Kate McGinn
Intercessor	Kiersten McKenney	Doug Switzer	Anne Brown	Joanne Patalano	Laura Lewis
Healing Team	Betsy Bates	Jean Smith	Janet Cramer	Janet Cramer	Jean Smith
Usher	Judy McGee	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Anne Cook	Anne Cook
10:15 A.M. SERVICE					
Crucifer	Peter Johnson	Mikael Mattson	Jeff Hiam	Jessica Bennett	Ricky Davidson
Acolytes	Kierstan Landin Nathaniel Johnson	KC Mattson Jake Mattson	Ken Nielson Fred Bump	Avery Bennett Jonah Johnson	Kierstan Landin Andachew Mousin
Lay Assistant	Sarah Benton	Nancy Barber	Liz Vick	Miranda Smith	Annie Landenberger
Thurifer				Greg Lesch	
Lector	Martin Leggott	Annie Landenberger	Frederick Bump	Sherry Stimmel	Joyce Vining Morgan
Intercessor	Mary Carnahan	Craig Hammond	Devin Starlanyl	Diana Bingham	Brian Morgan
Ushers	John Daly Leigh Marthe	Ricky Davidson Betsy Bates	Sherry Stimmel Annie Landenberger	Judith & Alan McBean	Michael & Ron Doty-Tolaro
Element Bearers	Sue Dyer Chris Hart	Ken Jacobs Judith Hildreth	Fritz Family	Allen Family	Craig Hammond & Liz Vick
Altar Guild	Mary Carnahan Charlene Kemp Betty Elwell Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead	Mary Carnahan Charlene Kemp Betty Elwell Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead	Madelyn Howard Carol Hesselbach Lynn Billington	Madelyn Howard Carol Hesselbach Lynn Billington	Susan Dyer Elise Burrows Pat Laubach Laurie Chiperfield
Healing Team	Margit Lilly Robin White-Diamondstone	Sarah Benton Trudy Crites	Margit Lilly Jean Smith	Robin White-Diamondstone Trudy Crites	Sarah Benton Betsy Bates
Coffee Hour	The Porter Family	Bruce & Marie Lawrence	Tara Castine	Michael & Ron Doty-Tolaro	Deb Jones Maria Escalera
Counters	Jared Rediske Judy McGee	Vince Johnson Ricky Davidson	Wayne Cook	Sherry Stimmel Judith Hildreth	Doug Switzer Gwen Mousin

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





MILESTONES & TRANSITIONS

Milestones & Transitions features updates about what is happening in our community: graduations, retirements, changing jobs, moving/change of address, birth of a child/adoption, deaths--all those major things that the community would want to know about and lift up in prayer for God's blessing. If you have an item to share please contact the Church Office at Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org or 254-6048.

On April 18, we held a service of thanksgiving for the life of **Mark Reinhardt**, who died on March 24. Mark was a beloved member of St. Michael's and faithfully attended the 8:00 a.m. worship service until he became too ill to sit through the service. We remember fondly Mark's kindness, humor, and generosity. We are also very grateful for a generous bequest that Mark left to St. Michael's. Mark's ashes will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery later this spring.

We give thanks for the birth of **Madeline Grace Hart**, granddaughter of Deborah and Martin Leggett and daughter of Alexandra and Jason Hart, who was born on January 29, 2015, in Richmond, Virginia.

We give thanks for the birth of **Peter Edward Saccoccia**, grandson of Bruce and Carol Hesselbach and son of Erica and Michael Saccoccia, who was born on April 1, 2015, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE: OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSES FOR JANUARY-MARCH

Total Pledges Received:

\$68,427 vs. Budget of \$53,970 (126.8% of Budget)

of which: Total Pledges Received for March 2015:

\$27,280 vs. Budget of \$17,990 (151.6%)

Total Operating Income:

\$103,078 vs. Budget of \$81,416 (126.6% of Budget)

Total Operating Expenses:

\$85,349 vs. Budget of \$83,480 (102.2%)

CELEBRATIONS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Holden McDowell
May 2	Sarah Colson
May 4	Deborah Leggott, Carol Beninati, Bruce Landenberger
May 5	Bill Ames
May 6	Mark Mayer
May 7	Diane Pitcher, Beatrice Johnson
May 8	Opal Mayer
May 10	Sarah Nohl
May 11	Brian Morgan, Diana Bingham, Julian Siegel
May 12	K.C. Mattson
May 17	Brian White
May 19	Susan Dyer
May 21	Ruth Struthers
May 22	Lawrence Smith
May 23	Chloe Hull
May 25	Serina Keppel
May 26	James Crosson, Sylvester Mayer
May 29	Colby McGinn

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 2	Karren & Steven Meyer
May 19	Sarah Colson & Cliff Dempster
May 24	Janet Brocklehurst & Sissi Loftin



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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., Rite I service; 5:30 p.m., Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer

SATURDAYS—8:00 a.m., Centering prayer

This Month At St. Michael's Episcopal

MAY 3, 17:

New attenders brunches

MAY 24:

Feast of Pentecost with Bishop Ely