

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL WEEKEND ANNOUNCEMENTS – 2/8/18

WEEKDAY WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL

Silent Meditation, 6-7 am, Monday-Friday
Holy Eucharist, 12-12:30 pm, Wednesday
Contemplative Worship, 5:30-6:00 pm, Thursday
Centering Prayer, 8-9 am, Saturday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to *Alan McBean* and *Jayne Fritz*, This Sunday, *Robert Anderson* and *Lucia Osiecki*, Monday; *Greg Allen*, Friday.

GROUP ON VETERANS' ISSUES MEETING, THIS SUNDAY MORNING, 9:30 AM IN THE LIBRARY: All veterans, spouses, and others interested in veterans' issues and in developing a veterans' ministry will meet in the Library at 9:30 this Sunday morning. If you are interested but unable to attend, please contact Bill Ames with any questions or for more information at williamsames@comcast.net or 617-733-1888.

ADULT FORUM, 9-10 AM SUNDAY MORNINGS:

- **This Sunday, February 11:** "Discipleship and Discernment Ministry - What's Happened So Far and Future Directions" -- Come hear from Duncan and leaders and participants in the Discipleship and Discernment Ministry about what has happened in the small groups and a vision for moving forward. The forum will include time for people to share their stories of being involved in the small groups, a presentation about what's next, and a time for questions and answers.

*Adult Forums in Lent will explore the topics of "**Diminishment and Empowerment**" in human relationships, in the ways we treat each other in our work and community, in the assumptions we make about each other and within our laws and institutions. To diminish any person is to deny their place and heritage in the family of God. Empowerment is nothing less than the work of God to reclaim that heritage.*

- **February 18:** To introduce this series, Phillip Wilson will lead a discussion with examples from the time of our biblical heritage to today of ways we diminish each other and ways we reclaim our dignity and heritage. We will particularly look for subtle ways we do this without even knowing we are doing it.

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP UPDATE: After meeting for three months, on Wednesday Jan 24 members of the discipleship groups gathered to enjoy a potluck meal, reflect on their experience and begin to discuss how to move forward – whether to continue through May as they currently meet, or whether to open to new members. On **Sunday, Feb 11 at the Adult Forum** members will talk about their experience and someone from each of the six groups will share about how their group is moving forward. Two groups have already decided to open their groups to new members.

- If you would like to join a group that meets at **Hallelujah Farm** on **Wednesday evenings weekly at 6 pm** through May, please contact Jeff Lewis or Duncan.
- Another “open” group will be meeting on **1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 pm at the church with potluck suppers from 5:30-6**. This group does not require a long-term commitment; anyone may come on any date. **Childcare** will also be provided. Contact Duncan if you’d like to learn more.
- Other groups are still in the midst of discerning how they’ll move forward.

POETRY WRITING GROUP MEETS THIS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13: Please note that the Poetry Writing Group will meet on Tuesday February 13, rather than the usual Wednesday. The meeting begins at 7 pm and all writers of poetry are welcome.

SHROVE TUESDAY ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER, THIS TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13, 5-7 PM: St. Michael's Outreach Team members will once again put on the annual pancake supper on Tuesday February 13, serving from 5:00 until 7:00 pm. Costumes and bright colors are welcome! The supper benefits the tiny village of Kaioguchu in Kenya by funding a water purifier for the village. Brian and Joyce Morgan will be traveling there in February and hope to take a water purifier with them.

ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVED THIS WEEK, FEBRUARY 14: The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. The liturgy, which includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist, will be offered at three different times at St. Michael's: **7:30 am, 12 pm with music, and 5:30 pm.**

TUESDAY LENTEN SERIES BEGINS FEBRUARY 20, “THIS IS US: FAMILY, RACE AND BELONGING WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY”: We begin with a simple meal together. We move to the Meeting Room to listen to people in our parish family and the community tell their stories of living in a society where issues of race are always a factor. Speakers will share their challenges and joys and will look for ways to increase racial healing.

5:00 – 6 pm Simple supper in the Undercroft

6:00 -- 7 pm Program in the Meeting Room

7:00 -- 7:20 pm Closing Worship

The schedule follows:

1. **Tuesday, Feb. 20:** Stories from families with children of color.
2. **Tuesday, Feb. 27:** "My Story: Race, Empathy, and the Power of Perspective"
Maurice Harris
3. **Tuesday, March 6:** Stories of each of us: belonging and exclusion
4. **Tuesday, March 13:** Stories of an African-American woman growing up in Brattleboro
5. **Tuesday, March. 20:** Stories of becoming aware of privileges and challenges in our lives and those around us

We close each evening with prayers in the candlelight that, also, give us the opportunity to respond to the stories we have heard and at the same time hear ways that God might be speaking through them.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HOST COFFEE HOUR: Hosts are needed for coffee hours from March through May. Coffee makers are already scheduled, so all you have to do is bring snacks, welcome folks, and pick up after. Find a friend or two and sign up in the Common Room or contact the Church office at 802-254-6048 or Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont about the date you would like to reserve.

REMINDER ABOUT CLOTHING DONATIONS FOR TAG SALE: Please remember that we are taking only spring and summer clothing donations at this time. Please hold all winter clothing until after the tag sale in May. We will gladly receive fall and winter clothing after the first weekend in May.

HELP NEEDED FOR THE LENTEN SUPPERS: At 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays during Lent, we will gather for a community supper before the Lenten program. This year we will again have soup and homemade bread. We hope to also serve pizza and salad. We need help to make this happen! You could:

- Make a soup (2-3 people to bring pots of soup to share)
- Make a salad
- Bring 2 large cheese pizzas
- Help set up at 4:45 p.m. (set tables and set out food)
- Help Clean up (clean up food and dishes)
- Signups are available in the Common Room

Thank you for your help! *Ruth Tilghman, Rosie Wojcik & Deb Jones*

THEOLOGY STUDY GROUP BEGINS SATURDAY MARCH 3, 9:30 - 11 AM: If you are someone who is excited about theology and are looking for a group who shares that excitement, the discipleship small group leadership team invites you to join a monthly theology study group! We will be meeting at St. Michael's at 9:30 - 11am on the first Saturday of the month, beginning March 3rd. At these meetings, two members of the group will take turns presenting for 10-15 minutes on a work of Christian theology of their choice. Each presenter will then facilitate a 20-minute discussion on their chosen theology. Don't worry about preparing for the first meeting, as Darcey Mercier and Jeffrey Hiam will be presenting.

We hope that this format will allow us to engage more deeply and more broadly with our subject matter than a traditional book study and will also challenge the presenters to provide a concise and compelling account of what they have been studying. Members of the study group may choose to be presenters, but they are also welcome to come to listen and discuss. If you have been looking for a place to dig into theology, you are not alone! We are envisioning an environment in which anyone with an interest in theology will be welcome. You do not need to be an expert in order to attend, in fact, none of us are experts! We do, however, share a deep desire to grapple with the difficult questions about God and creation, life and death, good and evil, crucifixion and resurrection, and to do so within a curious and supportive group. We look forward to seeing you Saturday, March 3rd at 9:30 am in the St. Michael's meeting room!

MARCH 23-24 LENTEN CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT AT HALLELUJAH FARM :

One of the spiritual disciplines of the discipleship ministry is setting aside time regularly for prayer; this is a rare opportunity to practice silent prayer for an extended time with a community of support. While this will be the primary emphasis during the retreat, we will also practice Lectio Divina or "sacred reading" (the ancient monastic practice of listening to the Spirit speak to our hearts through Scripture), Sacred Singing and Chanting (no prior singing experience necessary!) Conscious Practical Work (a practice of presence and attention), and celebration of the Eucharist. Most of the retreat will be in silence but there will be time for 1:1 conversations of spiritual friendship. Prior experience with silent prayer or meditation may be helpful but is not required. We will make available an optional instruction or review of the practice of Centering Prayer, a method of silent prayer within the Christian contemplative tradition. The retreat may be of special interest to people who attended Fr. Bill Sheehan's workshop in January.

Retreat Coordinators: Cary Gaunt, Karen Guthrie, Rev. Duncan Hilton, Michael Pittman

Date and Time: beginning Friday, March 23rd at 6 pm with a light supper (people are welcome earlier in the afternoon for optional retreat time) and ends Saturday evening after supper, around 7:00 pm.

Cost: All are welcome at Hallelujah Farm and we are grateful for your support in the amount you feel you can afford. As a guideline, suggested contributions for one overnight stay and four meals is \$125.

Venue: Guests receive the hospitality of Sandy & Roger Daly at beautiful Hallelujah Farm. Accommodations are in shared double rooms.

Information & Registration: Contact Jeanie in the office or email Duncan at duncan@stmichaelsvermont.org.

LOAVES AND FISHES NEEDS CONTAINERS: We need your **recyclable containers** that would be good for freezing dinners for people to take with them. There is a box for clean recyclable containers in the Common Room of St. Michael's.

FOOD FOR THE DROP IN CENTER: Please remember our neighbors in need when you go grocery shopping! Bring your food items to church on Sunday and drop them in the basket in the back of the church as an offering. These contributions are taken to the Food Shelf at the Brattleboro Drop In Center and given to those in need of food from our community.

DROP IN CENTER FOOD DELIVERER NEEDED! We are looking for someone who would be willing to pick up the contributed food at St. Michael's and deliver it to the Drop In Center on South Main St. each week. Please speak to Mary Lindquist (mary@stmichaelsvermont.org) if interested.