

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WEEKEND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR LIFE AND MINISTRY THIS WEEK

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 ***Marcia Steckler***, This Sunday; ***Norma Willingham***, Tuesday; ***Alison Hale***, Wednesday; ***Susan Heimer*** and ***John Daly***, Friday; ***Rich Cogliano***, Saturday.

SPRING CLEAN UP THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 9 – 12 NOON: Join us for the spring cleanup of the rectory and churchyard on April 21, with a rain date of April 28. Bring your rakes and work gloves. The more folks we have, the quicker the work goes. Hope to see you there!

CHANT WORKSHOP ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 20 + 21: All are invited to "Chanting the Daily Office: A Contemplative Practice Using The Book of Common Prayer," a workshop to be held on Friday evening, April 20, 2018, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the sanctuary and on Saturday morning, April 21, from 9:00 to 10:30 am in the Meeting Room. The two interactive sessions will offer participants the opportunity to learn chant tones from the Service Music of the 1982 Hymnal that can be used, either alone or corporately, to enhance Morning Prayer II and Evening Prayer II. We will also use a chanted setting of Compline.

Participants will explore the rich history of chant, how to read musical notations in the Psalms and the different portions of the services, and how to find appropriate readings. The workshop will be led by Valerie Abrahamsen, ThD, a St. Michael's parishioner and choir member and a long-time Associate of the Society of St. Margaret in Duxbury, Massachusetts. Attendees are encouraged to attend both sessions, although a short review of the Friday material will take place at the Saturday session. **Participants do not need extensive musical background and the workshop is free and open to all.**

ADULT FORUM:

- **This Sunday April 22 -- "Water"** – The poet Samuel T. Coleridge once remarked "Water, water, everywhere nor any drop to drink". Perhaps Cape Town is just the beginning. We will explore the subject of fresh water and the crisis facing us all - a crisis to be addressed by our children and grandchildren. A crisis about which we should be much more informed. Bill Ames will lead.

- **April 29** – “Come hear about the Sabbatical Time” -- Join us for a relaxed, conversational forum about sabbatical time -- Mary's and St. Michael's. Bring your questions, hopes and inspirations!

FURNITURE DONATIONS FOR TAG SALE: We will be accepting larger pieces of furniture the week of April 29, when the Rectory garage will be available. If you have a furniture donation that you are unable to bring to the church yourself, we may be able to help. **There will be a one-time pick up on Saturday, April 28, from 11 am to 1 pm. Please call Lucia @ 251-7404 to arrange pick up.**

APRIL 28 WORKSHOP: “APPROACHING THE SCRIPTURES FOR PREACHING AND LEARNING”: The Sabbatical Committee will offer a workshop open to all on approaching the scriptures for preaching and learning. The April 28 workshop will run from 9 am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room. The leader will be Rev. Allen ‘Mick’ Comstock, longtime UCC pastor in Heath and Charlemont in western Massachusetts. Mick has devoted his ministry to being and teaching in the community where life is lived and bringing the Word, worship and prayer to bear on daily living. In this workshop which is open to everyone, he will lead us in approaching the scripture expecting to be surprised.

Mick writes, *“One of the greatest temptations in approaching scripture, especially for the purpose of preaching, is to come looking for re-enforcement of what you already think. The second greatest temptation, especially if you've been at this for a long time, is to come thinking you already know what it's going to say. Preaching from the lectionary is a discipline that tries to help us overcome both of these temptations, but it can't do so by itself. It's up to us to approach the scripture passages desiring and expecting to be freshly addressed by God in them. This workshop will give us the opportunity to discover and cultivate this practice together.”*

MYSTERY PLAY, “A MIGHTY OUTCRY,” APRIL 28 + 29: The Choir School presents the fourth in Paul Dedell’s mystery plays written for young people. “A Mighty Outcry” explores the complex young woman known as ‘Joan of Arc’ who not only led armies but who wept for those perished on both sides. The core question of the play may be the one at the heart of human existence: “How does one discern the rightness of the inner voices that guide our decisions?” Performances are Saturday April 28 at 7 pm and Sunday April 29 at 4:30 pm. Make plans to come to the Choir School’s production, support the polished efforts of 14 incredible young people, and your hearts will be opened and your spirits enriched!

APRIL 29, RECEPTION SENDING MARY OFF ON HER SABBATICAL: On Sunday April 29, there will be a sabbatical-sendoff reception after both the 8 am and 10:15 am services for Mary on her last Sunday with us until her return at the end of August. We are hoping for warm, spring-like weather so that we can meet outdoors in the newly purchased tent. If the weather does not cooperate, we will be in the Common Room.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 AT 12 PM, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MEETING: While Mary is on sabbatical, we would like to gather those interested in Christian Education for children and youth for conversation and inspiration. Along with reflecting on our current programs and activities and deciding how best to move forward, we will be discussing how St. Michael's ministries with kids might become more visible and accessible to parents and kids in our community, many of whom have no experience with any faith community. Please join in the conversation on Sunday, April 29 at noon in the Meeting Room. *Lydia Taggert, Mark Horton and Christy Fritz.*

BAKED GOODS AND OTHER ITEMS NEEDED FOR TAG SALE, MAY 4+5: Each day of the tag sale, we sell wonderful food for workers and buyers. You may donate baked goods such as brownies, cookies and coffee cakes to be sold. This year, we are also looking for folks who want to purchase or donate funds for the following items: 6 packages of club rolls for sandwiches, 100 plastic forks and spoons, 75 plastic forks, 100 4" paper plates, square dinner napkins, and individual small bottles of water or seltzer. Please contact Craig Newbert at 246-4530 or craig_newbert@comcast.net with any questions or to say what you will donate. Thank you!!

UPDATE FOR SPRING TAG SALE, MAY 4 & 5

There will be ample opportunity (and plenty of work) for everyone interested in helping. **In need of additional help for all days, especially Sunday table set up and Saturday clean-up. Also looking for a few strong people and a truck to move items from the rectory garage to the tent on Friday around noon.**

Sign-up sheets are located on the Common Room Table. Simply add your name, preferences and contact info on the appropriate sheets. As always if you have questions you may contact Anne Cook at 802-896-9446 or anek.cook@gmail.com.

PREP WEEK: **Sunday April 29 table setup will begin after the 8 am service.**

The sabbatical-sendoff receptions for Mary after the 8 am and 10:15 services will be outdoors or in the Common Room.

Work bee hours will run Monday-Friday 9 AM-4 PM (with the possibility of one additional evening session, Monday 5 PM to 7:30 PM if folks sign up). Please watch your weekly bulletin and E-mail blast for additional information.

GENERAL DONATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY MAY 1. Please place all new donations in the closets. Larger items should be held until Sunday April 29 when the rectory garage becomes available.

UNACCEPTABLE DONATIONS: NO TV'S, COMPUTERS OR MATRESSES/BOX SPRINGS, MAGAZINES, ENCYCLOPEDIA'S OR OLDTRAVEL BOOKS. (We have to pay to dispose of these items.)

Remember we have very limited storage space so PLEASE hold all FALL, WINTER and CHRISTMAS items until after this sale. Thank you, *Anne Cook*

SHELA LINTON COMES TO ST. MICHAEL'S ON TUESDAY MAY 15, 2018 -- We will meet from 6-6:30 for coffee and desserts and meet with Shela from 6:30-7:30. Shela Linton, co-founder of The Root Social Justice Center, was born and raised in Brattleboro. She's been an advocate for social justice since high school at Brattleboro High School. In 2014, she was honored as a "Hometown Hero" -- One of 50 Phenomenal Women Who are Making a Difference in America, by Glamour magazine. In May of 2017 the Brattleboro Area Interfaith Initiative presented her its Unsung Hero Award.

Shela was a scheduled presenter as part to the Lenten Series: **"Our Stories: Family, Race and Belonging within our Community,"** but was snowed out. It is so important in our conversations about race that we hear from someone in our local community that we rescheduled this time to be with Shela. During the Lenten Series we listened 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 as we together look for ways to increase racial healing.

SAVE THE DATE, PLAY & PRAY WEEKEND, MAY 26 - 27: Please join us Saturday and Sunday, May 26 - 27 over Memorial Day weekend for the St. Michael's Play & Pray Weekend at Hallelujah Farm. We will gather for workshops, games, meals, walks, prayer, music, quiet, and fun. Please contact Leigh Marthe, leigh_marthe2000@yahoo.com or by phone at 603-208-7726, if you have questions or would like to help in the planning or activities of the weekend. **Registrations for people who would like to stay overnight are due by no later than May 13. People who will participate in day activities must register by May 20th to allow for planning for meals and activities.** The registration form may be found in the Common Room and on the website, www.stmichaels-vt.org, under "News." Please note that the cost of meals and activities is covered by St. Michael's as part of the Sabbatical Grant.

FAITH CLIMATE ACTION WEEK: Efficiency Vermont has set this week as "Faith Climate Action Week." There are a number of materials from Efficiency Vermont on the table in the Common Room. You will also find there a sign-up sheet for Home Energy Consultations in which Efficiency Vermont could conduct a one-hour wall-through assessment of your home's energy efficiency.