

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS – 12/13/18

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to *Jessica Bennett*, Monday; *Merribelle Coles* and *Annabel Horton*, Thursday; *Susan Avery* and *Ann Bonneville*, Saturday.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO *Deb Jones & Lucia Osiecki*, Friday

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 4 PM: Celebrate the magic of the season with the Choir Schools on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m. Poetry, candle-lighting, prayers, and of course —singing — is what makes this service so very special. A beautiful service for all ages!

ADULT FORUMS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON focus on lesser known but no less important characters of the beloved story of Jesus' birth.

- **This Sunday, December 16: "SIMEON & ANNA"** – You may never meet Simeon and Anna in a Christmas Pageant, but their prophetic presence at the temple after Jesus is born sets the birth story in the wider context of what Jesus' birth will mean for Mary, for Judaism, and for the world. Join us as we explore these two interesting characters through story, art and poetry. Led by Mary Lindquist

THE LONGEST NIGHT: A SERVICE OF HOPE FOR ALL WHO CARRY SORROW OF ANY KIND, THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 4:00 PM:

The holiday season magnifies whatever is going on in our lives. It's often the hardest time of the year. Carrying sadness, pain or loss is an added struggle when joy and celebration are expected. Join us in this inclusive service as we name the burdens we bear and claim the promise of light that follows even the longest night. With candles, readings, music and chants we hope to find comfort as we gather during this time of expectation.

EVENING PRAYER THIS SUNDAY EVENING AND MORNING PRAYER THIS THURSDAY:

Each chanted service, which lasts approximately 30 minutes, includes Psalms, prayers, and readings. The services are in the Mary Magdalene Chapel at St. Michael's.

-- Sunday Dec 16	Evening Prayer	5:30 pm
-- Thursday Dec 20	Morning Prayer	9 am

GIFTS TOWARD ADVENT GREENS AND CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: If you would like to give a gift toward the greens which decorate the Church during Advent and the poinsettias at Christmas, there is a green form at the back of the Sanctuary. You can also stop by the church office, call the office, send a gift by mail, or email jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org about your gift. **Information about all gifts and dedications should be in the Church office by the end of the day Dec 16.**

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Saturday, December 15

Festival of Lights, 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

The Longest Night Service, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 24 (evening) Christmas Eve

Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist, 4:00 p.m.

Festival Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

with Holy Eucharist, 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

Festival Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.

Family Christmas Dinner, 12-2 p.m.

Sunday, December 30

Holy Eucharist, 8 a.m.

Christmas Lessons and Carols (no Eucharist), 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 6,

The Feast of the Epiphany, Bishop Ely's Visitation and the Sacrament of Confirmation

celebrated, 8 & 10:15 am

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT REHEARSAL SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16: We'll rehearse this Sunday and again next Sunday morning from 9:00-10:00 am. On December 23, the dress rehearsal follows the 10:15 service. On the 23rd we will meet right after the 10:15 service in the Undercroft for pizza before the dress rehearsal in the Sanctuary. December 24 is the day of the Pageant. All should arrive that day at 3:15. The pageant begins promptly at 4:00 p.m.

WEEKLY 12-STEP MEETINGS AT ST. MICHAEL'S: Contact the Church office if you want to be put in touch with coordinators of any of these meetings.

- **Overeaters Anonymous, Tuesday, 7-8 pm**
- **808 Meeting (LGBT AA group) Thursday, 8 – 9 pm**
- **Al-Anon, Saturday at 12 noon**

HYMN SING AT THE GATHERING PLACE, TUESDAY DECEMBER 18, 10 AM: All are invited to join Duncan Hilton and Peter Johnson for a hymn sing at the Gathering Place on Terrace St. on Tuesday, December 18, beginning at 10 am.

OPEN DISCIPLESHIP GROUP MEETING, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19: The open discipleship group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 5:30 pm. The group will meet next on Wednesday December 19 in the Undercroft at 5:30 for potluck supper. The meeting begins at 6 in the Dunham Room. This group includes lectio divina, sharing from the heart, deep listening, an exploration of Christian disciplines, and prayer. Child care will be provided. All are welcome, and there is no long-term commitment required for attendance. Questions? Contact jeffreyhiam@gmail.com.

ST. MICHAEL'S FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER, CHRISTMAS DAY, 12 – 2 PM: Once again, there will be the annual St. Michael's Family Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day. Dinner will be downstairs in the Undercroft from, 12-2. Sissi Loftin and Janet Brocklehurst will provide turkey, gravy, and cornbread dressing. If you want to bring a favorite dish or have any questions, please call Sissi at 254-9509. Last year we had to cancel because of snow, so fingers crossed that we will celebrate our 6th Christmas Dinner with cooperative weather. Everyone is invited. **Please use the signup sheet in the Common Room so we will know how many to expect.** Hope to see you there!

TEXT TO GIVE – St. Michael's now has a "text to give" program that allows you to give to St. Michael's through text message. Simply text the numerical amount you would like to give to 802 613 1031 on your cell phone. The first time you give this way, you will be asked to put in your contact information, but after the first time, the phone will remember all your information and make giving very easy and secure.

CALLING ALL FOODIES or JESUS SAYS "FEED MY SHEEP": St. Michael's is developing an enhanced Ministry of Hospitality and is seeking volunteers to help with this. We are looking for people to provide various foods for our potluck meetings and gatherings as well as for volunteers to help with the organization, set up, and wrap up of parish and community events.

There is a grand sign-up area on the table in the Common Room and we heartily invite you to sign up for as many items or tasks as you like. We would contact you with plenty of lead time so you could decide whether you would be able to participate in helping with a particular event. Please contact us with any questions or for more information. *Jen Karstad* (Artemisia_vt@yahoo.com), *Rosie Wojcik* (Rosmarinus@earthlink.net) and *Christopher Wesolowski* (cmwvt@svcable.net)

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: Many thanks to everyone who has made a pledge in support of St. Michael's ministry and mission for 2019. So far, we have received 126 pledge cards for a total of \$244,958! We are well on our way towards our goals for pledges received (140) and total pledged (\$265,000). If you have not had a chance to pledge, we encourage you to do so soon. Pledge cards may be returned in the offering plate on Sundays or mailed to St. Michael's. If you have not received a pledge card, you can pick one up in the back of the church, the Common Room, or we can send one to you. Just contact the office at (802) 254-6048. Many thanks for your great generosity and support!

PROJECT FEED THE THOUSANDS helps your neighbors have access to food. This year, St Michael's has joined the project as a site to collect food and money. Through November and December, the contents of the basket that is brought to the altar before communion will be shared between the Groundworks Drop-In Center and Project Feed the Thousands. The portion of St. Michael's collections that are for Project Feed the Thousands will go directly to Loaves and Fishes, which especially needs food to give to 14 families who receive food for weekends. Especially helpful donations are mac and cheese, tuna fish, canned chicken, soups, peanut butter, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, toiletries, dish soap and laundry soap. *Thanks, Ruth Tilghman and Mission and Outreach*

LOAVES AND FISHES NEEDS YOUR HELP: Contact Ruth Tilghman 254-2761 or rtilgh09@aol.com

- We need your **recyclable containers** that would be good for freezing dinners for people to take with them. There is a box in the common room for you.
- We need **bakers and dessert makers** for Tuesdays and Fridays.
- We need people to join the **food pick up team** at the Coop on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- And of course, we can always use your help with food prep and donations!