

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS – DEC 12, 2019

WEEKDAY WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL

Silent Meditation, 6-7 am, Monday-Friday
Morning Prayer, 8-8:30 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 *Carol Hesselbach*, This Sunday; *Jessica Bennett*, Tuesday; *Merribelle Coles* and *Annabel Horton*, Friday.

ADULT FORUM THIS SUNDAY AND DECEMBER 22 – “ Moving through the Season of Advent with Voices of Faith, Beauty and Hope” – This year, the Leadership Team for the Discipleship & Discernment Ministry has been exploring ways to help us live even more fully into the liturgical rhythm of our faith. This Advent season, we have our very own St. Michael's daily devotional comprised of over 25 voices from the parish. Join Adwoa, who compiled and organized the effort, and some of the writers of the devotions as they reflect on the Season of Advent and their experience of responding through writing to Scripture, Collects, and Antiphons of the season.

SWEET HARMONY SALE THIS SUNDAY AT COFFEE HOUR TO BENEFIT ST. MICHAEL'S: Sweet Harmony Jewelry is selling fused-glass crosses and jewelry in the Undercroft during coffee hour today. Janet and Sissi invite you to come look for Christmas presents for friends and family and yourself. As in the past, a percentage from net sales will be donated to St. Michael's.

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS, THIS SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 15, 4 PM: This year, our choir is journeying even more fully into the radiant season, as we present and share with you the “Great O Antiphons” of Advent, seven ancient chants dating to the 6th century. To accompany the chants, the choir will sing 5 anthems that reflect the nature or emotion of the seven names of Christ, used in the chants or “Great O Antiphons.” As before, the congregation will join in the singing of Advent hymns, and the lessons of the season will be read.” A reception will follow in the Undercroft.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS RECEPTION THIS SUNDAY: The reception after the Lessons and Carols Service on December 15 is a St. Michael's tradition and is a wonderful way to thank our choir and to provide hospitality to visitors to our church. We are asking the congregation to help by bringing food. If you are able to help, please bring snacks such as sweet finger foods, fruit, or cheese and crackers. In order not to have too much of one thing, we ask those with last names A-J to bring sweet finger food and those with last names K-Z to bring cheese & crackers or fruit . Please offer treats that don't require plates! **Food may be dropped off at Coffee Hour or before the Lessons and Carols service later on Sunday .** Thanks for your help.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS THIS SUNDAY AND NEXT SUNDAY, 9-10

AM: All children and youth are invited to join in participating in the Christmas Pageant on December 24 at 4 pm. Practices continue this Sunday and next Sunday from 9-10 am and **we still have plenty of roles that need to be filled for the pageant.** Please contact Caleb Fritz if you have any questions, fritz6844@stuelmail.gcc.mass.edu

PLEDGE UPDATE: Many thanks to all who have pledged so far. We now have 124 pledges for a total of \$239,745. We are getting closer to our goal of 140 pledges for a total of \$260,000. Please don't forget to turn in your pledge cards and participate in supporting our common ministry and mission at St. Michael's!

ADVENT PRAYER AND FELLOWSHIP: EVENSONG, SIMPLE MEAL, AND IMAGINATIVE PRAYER –TUESDAY DECEMBER 17: Advent is a time of waiting and anticipation. Come prepare your heart and mind for Christmas through the ancient Anglican liturgy of Evensong. Stay for a simple supper in community. End the night by practicing imaginative prayer - envisioning yourself in the major stories of the season and reflecting on what they mean for you. People may attend for any portion of any evening. **Childcare** with activities will be available at supper and afterward. All are welcome! Here is the schedule:

5:15 - Evensong;

6:00 - Simple supper in the undercroft;

6:30-7:15 - Imaginative Prayer: Listening for God's in your life through the Advent stories (childcare available)

COMPLINE SERVICE, THIS WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 18, 7:30 PM --

Compline is descended from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer. The service, primarily sung, lasts less than half an hour. All are welcome at 7:30 pm in the Chapel on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER IN COMMUNITY DURING THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASONS: The Leadership Team for Discipleship and Discernment is offering three opportunities to gather in community during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

- **DECEMBER 19, 5:30 -7pm:** Calling all ages to decorate cookies for the community meal at Loaves and Fishes. Please sign up in the common room to bring a dozen cookies to share. Pizza will be provided for dinner.
- **DECEMBER 22, 12:30 pm:** The Laneglicans will be bowling again in Brattleboro! Four lanes will be reserved for St Michael's and guests from the L'Arche community. Some folks will gather for a seasonal noonday prayer in the chapel after coffee hour and then head to Brattleboro Bowl together; others may choose to meet the group at 12:30 at the bowling alley. Come join in the fun! (Ten dollars for bowling and shoe rental fee).

- **DECEMBER 28, 12:30 pm:** You are invited to attend a Christmas pray and play at Adwoa's home. Bring your Christmas leftovers and desserts to share in a special time of fellowship. Group games and prayer will be offered as we gather together.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS, SATURDAY DECEMBER 21, 4 PM: Join our Choir Schools for a magical afternoon of singing, reading, and candle-lighting as we edge closer to the Feast of the Nativity! Students from all three levels of Choir School will be participating to make this heart warming afternoon a joyful blessing for all of us.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE, SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 4 PM: The holiday season can magnify what is going on in our lives, including pain and loss. "Peace on Earth," or even peace in our hearts, may seem an impossible dream. Sadness and memories may seem overwhelming at a time when joy and celebration are expected. The Longest Night is a service of hope for all who carry sorrow of any kind. Join us in this inclusive service, during which we honor the burdens we bear and claim the promise of light that follows even the darkest night. We hope that the cello playing, readings, candles, chants and naming the pain may help us to find the comfort we need and strengthen the connection we share. All are we.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER: The Annual St. Michael's Christmas Dinner will be in the Undercroft from 12-2 on Wednesday, Christmas Day. Turkey, gravy, and fixings will be provided. Please sign up on the list in the Common Room to let us know who will be coming and if possible, what side dish or dessert you will be bringing. Any help with clean-up will be much appreciated. For more information, sissiloftin@hotmail.com. All Welcome!

SIGN UP TO HOST A COFFEE HOUR THIS WINTER! Coffee, snacks and warm fellowship are especially welcome in the winter. A sign-up sheet for hosting coffee hour this winter is in the Common Room. If the cost of snacks is a barrier to hosting, you may submit receipts for reimbursement of part of the cost. There is also a coffeemaker each Sunday, so the host is not responsible for that task. The hosting tasks include bringing and setting out snacks, cleaning up after coffee hour, and helping people feel welcome. Thanks for your help!

2020 SACRED GROUND GROUP AT ST. MICHAEL'S: This fall, a Sacred Ground dialogue group has been meeting at St. Michael's. Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. We would like to offer another group beginning in the new year. We would meet every two weeks from mid-January through mid-May. If you are interested in joining or want more information, please contact Sissi Loftin at sissiloftin@hotmail.com or 254-9509.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Sunday, December 1

First Sunday of Advent

Breakfast (9-10) with Wayne & Anne

Cook

Tuesday, December 3

Evensong, 5:15 pm

Simple supper, 6 pm

Imaginative prayer, 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

St. Nicholas Day Fair after 10:15 service

Tuesday, December 10

Evensong, 5:15 pm

Simple supper, 6 pm

Imaginative Prayer, 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 14

The Greening of the Church, 9 am

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

Advent Lessons & Carols, 4 pm

Tuesday, December 17

Evensong, 5:15 pm

Simple supper, 6 pm

Imaginative Prayer, 6:30 pm

Saturday, December 21

Festival of Lights with St. Michael's

Choir School, 4 pm

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Longest Night Service, 4 pm

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Pageant & Holy

Eucharist, 4 pm

Festival Candlelight Christmas Eve

Service with Holy Eucharist, 8 pm

Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25

Festival Holy Eucharist, 10 am

Family Christmas Dinner, 12 – 2 pm

Sunday, December 29

Holy Eucharist, 8 am

Christmas Lessons & Carols

(no Eucharist) 10:15 am

Sunday, January 5

Feast of the Epiphany