

THE TRUMPET

St. Michael's of the Valley...making an eternal difference in each other's lives and in the world

St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church, PO Box 336, Ligonier, PA 15658

Phone: 724-238-9411 Church office hrs. Monday – Friday 9 AM until 1 PM

March, 2024 Issue

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we move deeper into Lent, we are enjoying a respite from the dreary winter weather. The sun is shining here in Rector and it's almost 60 degrees! Though Easter is early this year – at the end of March it does *feel* as if we have made the turn toward spring. Yes, I've been told not to get my hopes up too much. And I do remember one Easter in southern Virginia when we had to toss the Easter Eggs into snow for the children to find them. However, one can't argue with the days getting longer.

The bishop's office has given us a date for my formal installation as the Rector of St. Michael's. It is Saturday, April 20th @ 11:00 a.m. It's been a very long time since St. Michael's has installed a new rector. Maybe some of you have never attended such an event. We have a particular liturgy for this in the Book of Common Prayer, on page 559. Please take a look at it.

Our "Celebration of a New Ministry" will be led by Bishop Ketlen and it will guide our preparations for the day. It is an event to which the whole parish, members current and former, the members of the community and other churches, and my friends and family members will be invited. It's a wonderful reason to have a spring party celebrating God's goodness and our new ministry together. Details will be shared as planning for the day develops. Please contact our Senior Warden, Lisa Laskow, if you would like to offer suggestions or your help.

Meanwhile, we are in our second full week of Lent. The Simple Suppers are going well and Adult Sunday School has steady attendance. However, we are still in need of a new Nursery Attendant to be available on Sunday mornings and during occasional community events. Please help us communicate this need to your friends, neighbors, and family. We would prefer to hire someone who is already known to someone connected to or parish, for example, a favorite babysitter or neighbor. The position description is posted on the website if you would like to refer potential candidates to it.

The Vestry had an annual retreat earlier in the month and we set three goals for St. Michael's for 2024:

- 1.) Re-establish our music program; 2.) re-connect with all parishioners; and 3.) complete the remaining capital improvements (primarily the Smith House restrooms).

The next steps toward achieving these goals involve the hiring of new staff, improved communications, and re-establishment of some committees. Though I personally would like to see all this accomplished right away, we have to be patient to do these things well. Each month the vestry will review progress with regard to each of these goals. We will soon have our new phone call system set up — One Call Now, and a new parish directory.

Please join us on Wednesday nights at 6:30 for our Simple Suppers and Lenten program. The Adult Sunday School continues its study and discussion of N.W. Wright's "Revelation for Everyone" at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. All are welcome.

Faithfully,

Marjorie +

Rector

WOMEN IN THE WOODS RETREAT

Over 150 times in the Scriptures, the Lord bids his people to rejoice and be glad. What are we to make of this call to gladness when life is so often fraught with troubles and grief? How are we to rejoice, really and sincerely rejoice, when suffering, confusion, and injustice seem to meet us at every turn?

This spring, Women in the Woods will explore the call to gladness and rejoicing in the Christian life. What does it mean that Christian believers are called to "rejoice always"? In a world that offers empty comforts on the one hand and raging despair on the other, where shall we look for the enduring gladness which is to mark the Christian life?

Speaker

DEANNA BRIODY

Deanna grew up in New York before making a home in Western Pennsylvania, where she lives with two friends, two dogs, and several chickens. She is in the final stage of her ordination process to become an Episcopal priest. Deanna has enthusiastically facilitated retreats in PA and around the east coast. Deanna loves reading (especially anything by Jane Austen) and being outside.

COST: \$90 **COMMUTER:** \$70 **GROUPS:** \$80 *for 5 or more women

ARRIVAL: April 5th any time after 6:00 p.m.

DEPARTURE: April 6th at 7:00 p.m.

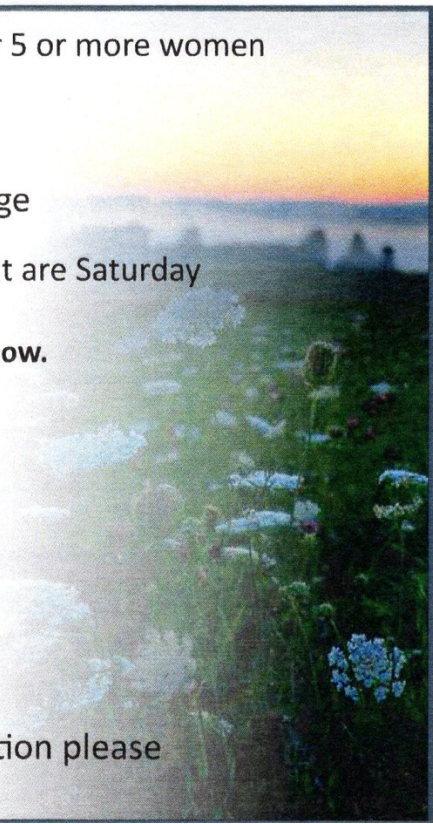
Arrival and departure will be at the Refuge

MEALS: Meals that are included for the retreat are Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

***If you have any food allergies, please let us know.**

SLEEPING ACCOMMODATIONS: The Elijah Retreat House has 6 rooms with 3 sets of bunk beds in each. They are claimed on a first come, first served basis. There are 2 spacious floor bathrooms with 3 showers and bathrooms. The Creekside cabins sleep 12, have integral bathrooms and are perfect for small groups.

For more information and online registration please visit www.pinesprings.org



ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

The Annual meeting was held between the services on January 21, 2024. Rev. Bevans opened the meeting with a prayer and grace for the breakfast. The usual business took place of approving the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting and presenting the slate of candidates for the Vestry Class of 2026. Upon a unanimous vote of approval, the new Vestry members Jay Follansbee, Mike Ledgard, Mary Walton Whittemore and Brenda White were welcomed. Rev. Bevans announced the officers for 2024:

Senior Warden – Lisa Laskow
Junior Warden – Mike Ledgard
Treasurer – Jim Beck
Secretary – Cindy Purnell

Rex Ashbrook was thanked for his 10.5 years of service as Treasurer. His was a job well done! He reported that the Church ended 2023 with an operating surplus. Rev. Bevans suggested that the Treasurer position might be a 3-year commitment and that an Assistant Treasurer be added.

She then discussed the need to find a nursery attendant and to restart the children's program. There is work to be done to the classrooms and to find teachers.

Finally, Rev. Bevans discussed future staffing needs which might include a deacon to aid in pastoral care and outreach. She noted the importance of Outreach to the mission of St. Michael's. Ten percent of our budget is dedicated to Outreach. Two organizations that she thinks we might add to our commitments are "5 Talents", a microfinance organization that works primarily in Africa, and "Citikidz", a summer camp nearby on Weaver Mill Road that hosts urban children.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM and a delicious breakfast prepared by "Carol's Corner Store" was enjoyed by all.

VESTRY HAPPENINGS

The Vestry took care of business in December and January and welcomed the class of 2026 at the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2024. Among the highlights of these meetings is the formation of a Search Committee for a Music Director. The Committee members are Rev. Bevans, Jim Beck, Brenda White and Jan Cox and Sean Murphy. The search will begin shortly.

As many parishioners have noticed, the altar rug was looking very frayed and tired. It is believed that this rug has been on the altar since the church began and there is a strong feeling that it should be repaired rather than replaced (for an equal or perhaps higher cost). Cindy Purnell led an investigation and determined that the rug could be repaired (rewoven) at some expense. Contributions have been received to cover the cost of repair. Northside Rug Company has loaned the church an altar rug while the repairs are being made.

Sean Murphy has kept the Vestry apprised of the good work that our new Sexton, Darrin Testa, has accomplished such as arranging for a new water filtration system,

In other matters, the pledge campaign has gone well. The Vestry is grateful for the support and participation of the parish in this important part of our life together. The Vestry continues to focus on Outreach and on the Sunday School, both for children and adults. It is important that we reestablish an Outreach Committee as 10% of the annual budget is committed to Outreach. If anyone would like to serve on that committee, please contact Rev. Bevans. The Adult Sunday School is now a regular feature of Sunday mornings in between the two services. There is work to be done to reestablish the children's program.

Vestry Happenings (Continued)

Rev. Bevans proposed that we engage One Call Now, a communication company, to improve our parish communications. A parishioner has offered to underwrite this service for one year. The Vestry approved the idea and expects this will improve communications with parishioners. The service will include phone calls, texts and email.

In a final note, the church has been asked to be a polling place. We have served as a polling place in the past and look forward to serving the community in this way again.

ST. MICHAEL'S WEBSITE UPDATE

Did you know that St. Michael's has a website? It's <https://stmichaelsligonier.org>
We've been working hard to update the look and the content.

On our website you'll find:

- Rev. Bevans' weekly sermons
- A Printable monthly calendar
- An interactive online calendar of events -when you hover over the date, you can click on the specific event for date, time and pertinent details.
- Lists of ministry opportunities and staff updates
- Contact information for staff and ministry members
- A tab containing a flip Book of Common Prayer, compliments of Forward Movement.

In addition to working on the website, we've been working to grow our online presence through social media. Right now, we have a Facebook page and would like to reach more people via other avenues like Instagram and Pinterest. These would all be linked to our website.

How can you help?

- Check out our website to start. You may notice that the colors will change seasonally as the liturgical year does. We're working on a place to flesh out the meanings of the colors and services. We're in the Season of Lent, so purple is the highlight color. If you have suggestions or comments to make it easier to navigate or to read, feel free to email me julie@alpacamom.com or call me and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. I think it would be great to have resource tabs like, Coffee Hour Set Up Guidelines, Local resources for Families, Favorite Recipes from Parishioners, Craft ideas for Kids according to the Liturgical calendar, Wedding Guide and other ways to make our beautiful church more integrated into the community and a resource for all as well. You may see me around taking pictures to add to the site and to our social media. Any photos you've taken and would like to share, would be most welcome.
- If you are on social media, LIKE our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsofthevalleyligonier/>)
- Once you LIKE the page, please LIKE individual posts, make a comment, and share posts to other individuals and local pages who may be interested in church events or services. All that interaction will make us more visible online and hopefully draw in some new faces. Unique interactions and comments help to raise our online profile.
- Please be patient as we work out the wrinkles. There is still a lot to do. Updates occur weekly or as needed. You may need to refresh your page (that's the little circular arrow in the upper left corner next to the forward and back arrows) to make sure you are on the newest update.
- If you need any further explanation on how to do that, just ask and I look forward to watching our online presence grow with your help and God's help!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024 ~ Third Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 10, 2024 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 17, 2024 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalm 51:1-13

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 24, 2024 ~ Palm Sunday

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Mark 14:1—15:47

Maundy Thursday ~ March 28, 2024

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-4, 5-10, 11-14

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday ~ March 29, 2024

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalm 22

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Gospel: John 18:1-19:42

Easter Sunday ~ March 31, 2024

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: John 20:1-18



SCHEDULE FOR MARCH SERVICES

Sunday, March 3, 2024

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
Children's Offering
Adult Christian Education ~ 9:15 am
Coffee Hour after the 10:30 am service

Sunday, March 10, 2024

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
Adult Christian Education ~ 9:15 am
Coffee Hour after the 10:30 am

Sunday, March 17, 2024

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
Adult Christian Education ~ 9:15 am
Coffee Hour after the 10:30 am service

Sunday, March 24th, 2024 ~ Palm Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
Adult Christian Education ~ 9:15 am
Coffee Hour after the 10:30 am service

Sunday, March 31, 2024 ~ Easter Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
Adult Christian Education ~ 9:15 am
Coffee Hour after the 10:30 am service

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Simple Supper ~ 6:30 -8:00 pm
Light Meal, Lenten Study &
Service of Compline

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Holy Eucharist & Healing Prayer Service ~ 10 am
Simple Supper ~ 6:30 – 8:00 pm ~ Parish Hall
Light Meal, Lenten Study &
Service of Compline

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Simple Supper ~ 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Light Meal, Lenten Study & Service of Compline

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Holy Eucharist and Healing Prayer Service ~ 10 am

Thursday, March 28, 2024 ~ Maundy Thursday
Service @ 7:00 pm

Friday, March 29, 2024 ~ Good Friday
Service 7:00 pm

SCHEDULE OF SERVERS FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 3rd ~ 8 AM

Lay Reader: Bobbie Off

Usher: Sam Pollina

Sunday, March 10th ~ 8 AM

Lay Reader: Joe Moravec

Usher: Joe Frederick

Sunday, March 17th, 2024 ~ 8 AM

Lay Reader: Mary Whittemore

Usher: Ray Speicher

Palm Sunday, March 24th, 2024 ~ 8 AM

Lay Reader: Lisa Frederick

Usher: Joe Frederick

Maundy Thursday, March 28th~ 7:00 PM

Lay Reader: Mary Whittemore

Usher: Carl Campbell

Easter Sunday, March 31st, 2024 ~ 8:00 AM

Lay Reader: Mary Whittemore

Usher: Jim Beck

Sunday, March 3rd ~ 10:30 AM

Lay Reader: Laura Fisher

Usher: Carl Campbell

Sunday, March 10th ~ 10:30 AM

Lay Reader: Laura Fisher

Usher: Rex Ashbrook

Sunday, March 17th ~ 10:30 AM

Lay Reader: Cindy Pompelia

Usher: Rex Ashbrook

Palm Sunday, March 24th, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM

Lay Reader: Cindy Pompelia

Usher: Mick Pompelia

Good Friday, March 29th~ 7:00 PM

Lay Reader: *not needed*

Usher: Jim Beck

Easter Sunday, March 31st, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM

Lay Reader: Pilar Herr

Usher: Andy Herr

SIMPLE SUPPERS DURING LENT

During the Lenten season we are holding simple suppers on Wednesday evenings. The simple supper's will be from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the parish hall. The evening includes a light meal, a Lenten study, and the service of compline. The dates are as follows:

Wednesday, March 6th, March 13th and March 20th. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on Wednesday evenings.

OPEN ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIAL DATES

The following dates are available to have memorial flowers on the altar at St. Michael's. The cost is \$55.00 payable to St. Michael's of the Valley.



Sunday, April 7th

Sunday, April 14th

Sunday, April 21st

Sunday, April 28th

Sunday May 12th

Sunday May 19th

Call or email the church office to reserve one of the dates if you are interested.



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS



We will once again be having Lilies on the altar at St. Michael's for Easter. The cost of a memorial will be \$30.00. If you would like an Easter Lily in honor or memory of someone, please call the church office by **Monday, March 25th**. Send your check for **\$30.00** payable to **St. Michael's of the Valley** and mail to:

St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church, PO Box 336, Ligonier PA. 15658.

HIRING NURSERY ATTENDANT & ORGANIST CHOIR DIRECTOR

St. Michael's is looking to hire our next Organist/Choir Director and an individual to serve as a nursery attendant on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 AM service and during special services or events.

If you know anyone who might be interested, please have them contact Rev. Marjorie Bevans at the church office.



ON THE MOVE: NEW ADDRESS FOR JIM SIMONS

Jim and Sandy Simons have moved. Their new address is as follows:

The Rev. Dr. James B. & Sandy Simons

257 11th Square S.W.

Vero Beach, FL 32962