

the dead we should not focus on his suffering and death but life after his resurrection.

The Episcopal Church has always believed in the importance of telling the whole salvation story, and doing so in an orderly fashion. Consequently, we remind ourselves each year of the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. We also remind ourselves of his teachings through the outpouring of the Spirit on His Church.

We find ourselves approaching the season of Lent. The word Lent comes from a Latin word meaning to lengthen. It indicates the lengthening days in hope of the arrival of spring and new life. For the Christian, Lent is a time of hopeful reminders and preparations – reminders of our sinful human condition, our need of repentance, and a realization that we need a Savior. The preparations we are to make during Lent include the examination of our hearts to find any sins or attitudes that need to be confessed and repented of. We also are to prepare our hearts for the celebrations to come of Easter and Pentecost.

reflection. During the next 40 days (not counting Sundays) we will hear lessons reminding us of these things.

When we reach Holy Week we are called to a deeper reflection upon the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus and all that it accomplished for us.

By the end of Holy Week we are ready for a celebration. That celebration is Resurrection Sunday or Easter.

Someone said one time that we cannot fully appreciate Easter without having gone through Lent. We may not like a season devoid of “Alleluias” or one having a little more somber music, but if we look at it as a way of identifying with the suffering of Jesus and a looking forward in the hope of the resurrection, then our Lenten experience will be a much more meaningful one.

Just as we celebrate the Eucharist every week as a reminder of what Christ has done for us, so, too, do we wander through the desert of Lent each year to remind us of a most important aspect of Christ’s life and our life.

LET US GROW!

Fr. Roger

and of course check out the Gift Shop! If you can't come downstairs for any reason, ask one of the Guild members to help you make your bid. You won't be sorry. *V.Bradley*

UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

FISH FRIES: –March 7, 14, 21 & 28 and April 4 & 11.

Many helpers are needed; please contact Jack Bidell 832-0598 or Donna Strain 655-0573.

March 5 – Ash Wednesday at 9 am & 7 pm
March 12, 19, 26, April 2, April 9 at 6:00 PM
Lenten Soup supper and Video
“Becoming a Contagious Christian”

April 13 - Palm Sunday 8 & 10:30 am

April 16 – Tenebrae at 7:00 PM

April 17--Maundy Thursday 6 pm Dinner.
Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar at 7 pm. Following the service, there will be an all night Prayer Vigil until noon Good Friday.

April 18 – Good Friday at noon and 7:00 pm

April 20– Easter at 6:00, 8:00 and 10:30 am

May 29–Ascension H.E. & Pot Luck –6 pm

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES NIGHT AT BUFFALO DESTROYERS:

March 1st – \$3.00 of each \$15.00 ticket goes to ECS. This can be a fun-filled family night. There is a block of seats for ECS and they will be featured on the Jumbotron. See Chuck Gardinier for information.

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES
annual drive will be starting shortly. Please remember to make your checks out to ECS and NOT St. Michael's.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

5. Pat Jarosz 6. Donna Weekley
6. Georgia Peden 11. Claire Stroh
13. Bea Bidell 16. Lee Shatzel
21. Matthew Eckle 22. Janice Rickard
23. Loretta Bidell 24. Nancy Grist
26. Jane Robinson 26. Robert Crump
27. Robert Howard 28. Peggy Gorczyca
Happy Birthday to all!

We have no anniversaries listed. If you have not been included in these listings, please contact the office with the information. Thank you.

THANK YOU:

Home at last: Words cannot express my appreciation for Father Grist and Ronna and the Youth Group's visits and distribution of Holy Communion. The flowers really brightened my day as did all the cards, prayers and good wishes from everyone. To Madeline, a special thanks for all the bulletins and communications she mailed to me. Gratefully, *Norma Crump*

PHOEBE GRISWOLD, Spouse of The Most Rev. Frank Griswold, Presiding Bishop will be at St. Paul's Harris Hill April 5th – see notice elsewhere.

NOTICE:

Perhaps you read Norma Crump's comments elsewhere in The Newsletter, about receiving weekly bulletins. This is a ministry we do for those who are unable to attend St. Michael's during illness. If any one of you qualifies, please contact the office or have someone do so for you so we may keep you updated on the services and activities of your church family. By the same token, when you are again up and about, please notify the secretary. If there are any corrections for the following list of shut ins, please advise the office.

MUSIC LOVERS NOTICE: J. S. BACH'S ST. JOHN PASSION is being presented at St. Paul's Cathedral Sunday March 2 at 4 PM with the St. Paul's Cathedral Girls' Choir and The Gentlemen of St. Paul's. Admission is \$12. in advance, \$15. at the door. Phone 855-0900 for reservations or e-mail at www.stpaulschathedral.org.

ASK THE RECTOR

Art Linkletter used to have a show on TV called "Kids say the darndest things." In that light I want to focus on some questions asked by our Sunday School to the teachers of their classes. Each month for the next few months I will answer those questions.

How come we don't know about Jesus when He was a little boy? All we hear about is when He was born and when He died.

This is a normal question for a child to ask. Although there are writings which claim to recount

and knowledge.

I believe the reason why more is not known about the childhood of Jesus is that his childhood was not too unlike that of other children. He probably worked with his dad Joseph in the carpenter's shop, and helped his mother Mary with chores around the house.

Perhaps the Bible is trying to remind us by this lack of information that the important things of Jesus' life (apart from his birth and circumcision) occur after his baptism as an adult of around 30 years of age. It was around this time that Jesus began to pursue the ministry to which His Father in heaven called him. That ministry was to preach the good news of God's salvation through God's Son (Jesus), to set people free from the bondage of Satan and sin, and to heal the sick.

We don't know much about the boyhoods of many great Presidents of the United States. We know much more about the important things they did as President. The same is true about Jesus. It is not so important to know what happened to him as a boy or young man as it is to know what He said and did after he was anointed by the Holy Spirit at his baptism.

This serves as a reminder that it doesn't so much matter what we have done before we come to Christ and are anointed by His Spirit. What is important is - what have we done with our lives after we become a follower of Jesus and his teachings?

covered by a free will offering taken each week. We will also be looking for volunteers to bring bread each week. Our Lenten series will be an exciting one.

Have you ever been faced with the opportunity to talk about the Lord or your faith with someone and did not know what to say, how to say it, or even how to bring up the subject?

Have you wanted to talk to your unchurched friends, neighbors, and relatives, but were afraid you might not be knowledgeable enough? Have you felt uncomfortable with traditional forms of evangelism and witnessing because it is just not your style? If you answered yes to any of these questions then we have a deal for you. For five Wednesdays during Lent (beginning March 12) St. Michael's and others will gather in the Parish hall for a Lenten Soup Supper and Video program.

Beginning at 6 p.m. a Soup and Bread Supper will be offered (prepared by Volunteers). After the meal a video series entitled "Becoming a Contagious Christian" will be offered. After a discussion time following the video the evening will conclude with a Compline service (around 8 p.m.).

The video series will feature Bill Hybels, Pastor of the largest church in the U.S.; Lee Strobel, former atheist and law editor for the Chicago Times, and Mark Mittleberg, an evangelism trainer. These three have developed an effective way to be more effective in our lives and witness.

foreheads (the ashes come from burning the left over palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday celebration). This ash cross is a personal reminder that we are "dust and to dust shall we return." Just as the Old Testament saints showed their repentance and sorrow by the use of ashes, so also do today's saints remind themselves of the need for a season of repentance from and sorrow for their sins through this symbolic ritual.

Some ask, do I keep the ashes on all day or wash them off after the service? The church suggests two ways of looking at this. Some may not want to make an outward show of their religion and wash them off. Others may view this as an opportunity for witnessing for Christ. When someone says, "you've got some dirt on your forehead," or asks, "what is that on your forehead?" You can use that as a springboard for sharing the real meaning of the cross on your forehead.

This day has been viewed by the Church as a day of obligation, meaning that Episcopalians are expected to attend church this day. We invite you to begin a "holy Lent" with this meaningful service.

ministry or this church. Would you look at the opportunities for service below and seek out the Vestry member serving in an area that interests you?

Below are the Vestry teams and the areas over which they are responsible:

Administration & Stewardship responsible for the oversight of the Buildings and Grounds, Staffing, Leadership development, parish operations, communications, and telecommunications/technology. They oversee the fall Stewardship campaign, Endowment Committee, and special fund raising projects.

The Finance Committee is under the umbrella of this Team. This committee is responsible for the oversight of the finances of the parish. They work with the Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer to provide accurate collecting, accounting, and reporting of our finances. Contact Donna Strain – 655-0573; Jack Bidell -832-0598, Michael Rickard- 823-0354.

Church Growth responsible for the oversight of publicity, evangelism training, ALPHA, Vestry flock-tending, follow-up for visitors and lapsed, increasing parish visibility, taking public positions in support of Biblically supported issues. Contact Mike Ham- 877-3517.

Education responsible for the oversight of adult, youth and child education programs. This includes Sunday School, Adult Bible studies, Healing and other types of seminars. Education related to the Church year and

new ministry development, spiritual gift identification, ministry training and support, increasing service opportunities, and missionary sponsorship. Contact Gary Kadow- 832-5469.

Nurturing responsible for the oversight of pastoral care, fellowship activities, small group opportunities, healing ministry, prayer chain, and coordinating group activities to meet parish family needs. Women's and Men's groups would fall under this team. Contact Eve David- 836-8466, Addie Broome-692-2788.

Outreach – responsible for the oversight of all of St. Michael's outreach projects (financial and hands on) to those in need in the greater Buffalo area, and around the world. Contact Bob Duvall-743-1507.

Worship responsible for the oversight of worship services, bulletins, in –service ministries, youth services, special services, choir, music ministry, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Ushers, Greeters, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers, and Prayer and Praise. Contact Sarah DiLiberto- 823-6907, Jack Bidell-832-0598

Note: The above mentioned leaders are not directly responsible for the listed activities; they are Vestry representatives to each activity, group, or event listed. They attempt to make sure that the things listed are being done or at least addressed by someone. Again, they need you to help on these teams. Please contact a team member today and join a team!

seems to be showing us that we are in the midst of a spiritual battle that needs to be fought by prayer. This spiritual warfare will determine the success of St. Michael's church in the future. As strongholds of the enemy are brought down by prayer, new strongholds of faith and expectation will arise. The enemy is intent on dividing us, and distracting and derailing our efforts. **WE CANNOT LET THIS HAPPEN!**

Won't you consider joining us for prayer, praise, and study in the conference room each Thursday at 7 p.m.? Some may feel led to fast in preparation for this gathering. If you can't be here, would you commit to praying either during this time or at another time for a victory in this battle that faces us and all Christian churches.

MORE LAY READERS NEEDED

St. Michael's is in need of more Lay Readers/Lay Eucharistic Ministers. This job would entail serving at the Altar once a month. You will be trained on how to lead the Psalm, the Prayers of the People, Acolyte, and serve the chalice at Communion. If you are interested in exploring this ministry, please contact Fr. Roger or Sarah DiLiberto- 823-6907.

HELP WITH NEW SONGBOOKS

Ronna Bulera, Jack Bidell, and Fr. Roger are beginning to work on a new Songbook to replace the green books in the pews. They will be adding some new songs, removing some seldom used songs, and generally improving

compiling these books. If you would be interested in helping with this project would you contact Fr. Roger?

NEW ST. MICHAEL'S WEBSITE

Our Webmaster Bob Weekley has registered the official domain name for our website and we hope to have it up and running by March 1. This website will feature information about St. Michael's, current parish news, staff information, schedule of services, ministry descriptions, definition of Episcopal terms, archived "Notes from the Rector," upcoming events, a link to Fr. Roger's Doctoral Dissertation, links to other websites like the Diocese of Western New York and the National Church website, our "Vision for Growth and Renewal," "How to become a Christian," a map with directions to the church, and a "Virtual Tour" of our facilities. More things will be added as our site grows.

When our site is up and running the World Wide Web address will be www.st-michaels-buffalo.org (notice no periods after st or no apostrophe after the l in michaels). Visit the site weekly or anytime when you need to be reminded of upcoming events, or anything else pertaining to the ministry of St. Michael's.

If you have friends that are interested in learning more about our church, send them to the website. People searching for a church in the Buffalo area will be able to find our church on the web.

3/16 Addie, Jack Donna, Addie
3/23 Mark, Donna Ronna, Jack
3/30 Jack, Addie Mark, Sarah

VESTRY NEWS

Citing personal, business, and family issues, our Jr. Warden, Michael Stroh has asked to resign from the Vestry and his position as Warden at this time. Please pray for the Stroh family as they work through these difficulties.

We want to thank Michael for his dedicated service to the Vestry and the Search Committee. We look forward to his return to leadership roles in the future.

At the February Vestry meeting the following were highlights.

- Michael Stroh submitted a letter of resignation from the Vestry citing personal, family, and business concerns.
- Accepted with regrets the resignation of Michael Stroh as Jr. Warden.
- Appointed Jack Bidell as new Jr. Warden.
- Appointed Betty Walker as Treasurer, Shirley Gardinier as Assistant Treasurer, and Carol Weekley as Clerk of the Vestry.
- Agreed to pay the Diocesan Fair Share asking after all of St. Michael's bills are paid, and reviewed quarterly.
- Officially adopted the 2003 budget.
- Received from the Finance Committee a newly formatted Financial Statement reflecting a more

- Website is up and running in its temporary location. It will soon be set up with our domain name.
- The Minutes and Treasurer's Report for the previous month's Vestry meeting will be posted after they are approved each month.