



The Guardian

APRIL 2015



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, PALM SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Procession with Palms

MONDAY, MARCH 30

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist • 5:30 p.m. Dinner Eucharist • 6:30 p.m. Tenebrae Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Washing of the Feet and Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3

8:00 a.m. Proper Liturgy for Good Friday (no music or Veneration of the Cross)
12:00–3:00 p.m. Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Brattleboro United Methodist Church
7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy for Good Friday with Veneration of the Cross, St. Michael's

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4

7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter, followed by a celebratory reception

EASTER DAY, APRIL 5

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 10:15 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist with Brass



WHAT IS HOLY WEEK?

During the last week of the Lenten season we celebrate Holy Week, a sacred time of the year for Christians when the events of Christ's passion and death are remembered. In the remembering of the sacred stories, we hope not only to remember, but to experience the drama of these stories ourselves, that we may know Christ's love for us in a new way. All are welcome at any or all of these services!

Palm Sunday. This special liturgy begins with a procession (led by real donkeys and some spirited music) of the congregation and the blessing of the palms, commemorating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The Gospel reading is the complete story of the Passion. The service underlines the contrast between the crowd's joyous greeting of their king and then their condemnation of him—the contrast between shouts of "Alleluia" and "Crucify him!"

Monday and Tuesday. We gather together on the Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week for a brief time of prayer and the Eucharist. At these services, lay people are asked to preach.

Wednesday. Come at 5:30 p.m. and share a meal around a candle-lit table. This is a celebration of Holy Communion as a dinner. There will be songs, prayers, communion, and conversation. At 6:30 p.m., we will have a Tenebrae service in the church. In this service, candles are extinguished gradually as we hear a series of readings about the passion story.

Maundy Thursday. The word *maundy* is derived from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment) and refers to Jesus giving the "new commandment" to "love one another as I have loved you" to his disciples at the Last Supper (John 13:34). The Maundy Thursday service commemorates the Last Supper and often focuses on two things Jesus did at the Last Supper: the washing of the disciples' feet and the institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion. The service ends in complete silence with the stripping of the altar, in recognition of Jesus' prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane and the despair and death to come.

Good Friday. This day commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus. During this solemn service, we mourn for the death of Jesus and for our own sins. No Eucharist is celebrated on this day.

Easter Eve, Saturday. The Easter Vigil is called the "king of liturgies." At 7:00 p.m., we light the new fire of Easter and move from darkness to light telling the ancient stories of God's people. We proclaim the Easter message, "Christ is Risen!" Bring your bells and other musical instruments.

Easter Sunday. This is the most important day of celebration in the Christian year. On this day we celebrate how Christ overcame death to rise to new life, offering his redemption and love to all.

*Yours in Christ,
Mary*



NEWS OF THE PARISH



WELCOME ESMERELDA, GUENEVERE, AND TESS TO OUR PALM SUNDAY PARADE!

This year we welcome not just one donkey to lead our Palm Sunday Parade, but three! Esmerelda, Guenevere, and Tess are three miniature donkeys who were rescued last summer by Bettina Berg and her husband, Chris. Bettina writes, “Guenevere, Esmerelda, and Tess are middle-aged girls as best we know. They have been together for a long time and get along as any family does, with a few squabbles and rivalries but generally comfortable camaraderie. Esmerelda is the oldest. She has a little piece of her ear missing for some reason.” The “girls” will arrive around 9:30 a.m. on Palm Sunday for those who would like to greet them prior to the parade, which begins at 10:15 a.m. Refreshments will be available in the Undercroft from 9:00–10:00 a.m. on Palm Sunday, March 29.



BISHOP ELY AND SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION ON MAY 24, PENTECOST SUNDAY

Bishop of Vermont Thomas Ely will visit St. Michael’s on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. At that time, he will offer the sacramental rite of Confirmation. If you are interested in being confirmed or received, or in reaffirming your baptismal vows, please let Mary Lindquist know (mary@stmichaelsvermont.org).

Confirmation: Baptism is the ancient entry rite into the Church, which is also called “the Body of Christ.” In Baptism, we affirm that we belong to the God who is made known to us in Jesus, and we promise (or, promises are made for us, if we are infants) to live our lives in accordance with this deepest truth about who we are and whose we are. Confirmation in the Episcopal Church is a sacramental rite in which a baptized person makes a mature and public affirmation of the promises that are normally made at Baptism. After making these affirmations, the Bishop lays hands on the candidate and prays a prayer of confirmation.

Reception: Reception is a formal welcome into the Episcopal Church by a bishop for those who have already been confirmed in the Roman Catholic or Orthodox Church.

Reaffirmation: Reaffirmation is for people who are already Confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Some people presented to the bishop during the service of Confirmation are there to “reaffirm” their Christian vows. These might be people who have been away from the church for a period of time and want to make a new beginning. Others might be people who sense that they are at a new stage in their spiritual life and want to affirm this in ritual. Periodically, a spouse or fiancé who is already a Confirmed Episcopalian will go through Reaffirmation, as a way of honoring his or her partner’s decision to become a Confirmed Episcopalian, saying in effect, “We are in this together.” We all go through



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many changes in our life's journey, and reaffirmation provides a rite for those who want to take stock of their religious and spiritual life anew.



SPRING FOCUS GROUPS ON OUR LIVES AND FAITH

As many of you know, I have been involved in a two-year program called "The Episcopal Missional Leadership Program" through Luther Seminary. This is a new, grant-funded program that involves 12 Episcopal priests exploring their contexts for ministry and thinking about how best to be leaders of the church in our changing culture. I started this program last fall. After our first meeting in September, I wrote a thick description of St. Michael's and our community context.

The next part of the program involves doing research in our congregations. With the help of a small group of conversation partners and the support of the Vestry, we have decided to do research on how significant St. Michael's is in helping people to integrate their faith into their daily lives. The question of integration is meant to connect with St. Michael's vision of being a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to God's abiding presence.

This spring, we will be inviting St. Michael's people to be involved in focus groups of 4-6 people. We will interview you about your experiences of faith and life, record your responses, and share our findings with the Vestry and the wider congregation.

The research is meant to help inform us about how the church helps us (or perhaps does not help us) make connections between our faith and our lives. The next part of the program will ask us to do some experiments based on the results of the research.

So stay tuned for opportunities to participate in the focus groups! We hope to interview a diverse cross-section of our congregation. Thank you in advance for your participation!

Mary

YOM HASHOAH INTERFAITH SERVICE APRIL 15

The Brattleboro Interfaith Clergy Association and the Brattleboro Area Jewish Community mark Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) on Wednesday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m., at the First Congregational Church in West Brattleboro. The hour-long service will include music and readings connected to the Holocaust. Participating in the service will be clergy and lay members from various Brattleboro-area faith communities, including an interfaith choir.

Kate Judd, Spiritual Leader of the Jewish Community, will offer the traditional "El Malei Rachamim" prayer for the dead. Tom White, the Coordinator of Education Outreach at the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College will speak about his recent visit to Auschwitz.

Please note this service is open to people of all faiths and no faith but is more appropriate for those over ten years of age. The service will be followed by coffee and light refreshments.

Kate is looking for people to join the choir, which will lead the congregation in two unison pieces and will sing a four part setting of the Kaddish. Kate will supply music and audio files. There will be a rehearsal before the service, and possibly one other rehearsal.



NEWS FROM PAUL MOBERLY

Greetings from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia! Not much more than a week ago, we had a snow day—and, for this part of the country, a fairly major snowstorm (about six inches). The past few days or so, however, all of the snow has melted, and it seems as though spring is finally arriving in the nation's capital.

In January, I was blessed to be a part of an immersion course, sponsored by VTS, which was taken through the Anglican cathedral and school in Jerusalem, St. George's. The course focused on both archaeology and spiritual pilgrimage, and followed, through a two-week course of study and travel, the life of Jesus Christ



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from his birth in Bethlehem through his ministry in Nazareth and Galilee to his death and resurrection in Jerusalem. It was a tremendous opportunity, one which I know I am very fortunate to have participated in so early in life.

What struck me most deeply about the experience was the visit to Galilee, where Jesus hung out with his friends, performed miracles, and challenged his followers. Although Jerusalem was indeed a memorable place to visit (particularly the Old City), as were other shrines and places of pilgrimage around the Holy Land, I felt a deep connection to the places where Jesus spent time with his family and friends—his “family of choice,” as I came to understand. We were able to visit the Church of the Multiplication, which memorializes Jesus’ feeding of the five thousand, where we were able to sit in on a chanted Evensong service sung by monks in German. (I was able to dust off a bit of my high school and college German to try to follow along with the service.)

Indeed, the Holy Land encompasses more than just territory occupied by the modern-day nation of Israel, and many holy sites lie within what is now Palestinian territory: Jericho, Bethlehem, Bethany, and the site of Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River. Of course, the tensions are quite serious and palpable, and after a few days one gets more or less used to seeing young Israeli soldiers carrying machine guns (if one can ever really get used to such a sight).

A memorable moment was a visit to the city of Nablus, which is an ancient city deep within



Palestinian-controlled lands. We were fortunate to be able to visit an Anglican church there and worshipped one Sunday morning with the Church of the Good Shepherd. Fewer than a thousand Christians live in Nablus, well over half of which are Roman Catholic or Orthodox. The church we visited was the only Protestant church in the region. With a population of more than 200,000, it struck me that these people are a very small minority in Nablus, and yet they seem to live with a deep sense of joy and conviction in their Christian faith. I wondered what it must be like to be Palestinian, living with the reality of Israeli



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occupation, but then also as Christians in a society where nearly everyone is a Muslim. I was deeply moved by their hospitality, joy, and deep trust in the living God.

There is so much more I'd love to share with all of you, both about my seminary experience so far, and also in particular about my journey to the Holy Land. I'm hopeful that, sometime this spring, I can come back to share with you some highlights of my experience [Editor's note: Paul will be with us April 19]. In the meantime, know that I am praying for all of you, you are daily in my thoughts, and that I do appreciate all of your prayers and support. I am deeply grateful for each and every one of you.

In peace,

*Paul Moberly
Class of 2017
Virginia Theological Seminary
Alexandria, VA*



ST. MICHAEL'S HOSTS LOCAL ARTISTS

On Sunday, March 15, St. Michael's hosted the monthly meeting of the Brattleboro West Arts (BWA) group. This event was a long time in the planning, since the idea was formed more than two years ago. As some of you know, the church hired several local artists to create works for our refurbished space and new chapel. Last month the larger group finally met to see and hear about the works and their genesis.

- Ron Karpus talked about the *metal cross* he created for the outside wall by the office entrance. Take a look some time at the intricate layering of metals and the fine gilding on the sides. And of course don't miss the wonderful shadow it casts in the sun.
- Jason Breen discussed the *furniture* he built for the chapel, talking in particular about the tables he made simultaneously, because it was easier to measure and cut the legs all at one time. Slender, and of exquisite proportion, these tables of a "feminine" character depict resilience and steadfastness.

- Walter Slowinski explained his commission to create a *communion set* for the chapel as it related to the whole project. A chalice is usually made of metal. Clay is difficult, he explained, because of the classical top-heaviness of the chalice design. When fired, the top would droop, fall away from the base, and ultimately fail in its purpose. Walter related the several attempts to get the proportions just right. The donor appreciated the small detail of shell imprint on the handle of the pitcher. The entire set fits perfectly in the birch box Jason built for it.
- Bill Congleton explained how the curve in the Roman-style frame for the new door between church and chapel was achieved. He made both *doors to the chapel* of solid oak, carefully hand-crafted.
- Finally, it was my privilege to talk about the *Mary Magdalene Triptych*—its commissioning, creation, consecration, and continuing presence with us.

One BWA member wrote afterward, "The group was rapt in the story told by these artists, all working together to create a space worthy of its name. Later, at the potluck meeting downstairs, it was evident that the emotional impact of this space was already working on the whole group."

Zachary Roesemann



PRINTS OF MARY MAGDALENE ICON AVAILABLE

Jeff Woodward, a local professional photographer, has taken a fine, high-quality photograph of the Mary Magdalene Triptych in our chapel. You can see a print in the church office. If you would like your own print, you can sign up with Jeanie in the office. Prints (unframed) are available in 5x7 inches for \$15, 8x10 for \$20, 13x19 for \$50, and 17x22 for \$75. Jeff makes all of the prints himself. Jeanie will take orders until May 4, and all orders need to be paid in advance.

Zachary



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PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE:
OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSES
FOR JANUARY–FEBRUARY

Total Pledges Received:

\$41,146 vs. Budget of \$35,980 (114.4% of Budget)

of which: Total Pledges Received for February:

\$11,265 vs. Budget of \$17,990 (62.6%)

Total Operating Income:

\$61,785 vs. Budget of \$54,277 (113.8% of Budget)

Total Operating Expenses:

\$55,983 vs. Budget of \$55,654 (100.6%)



VESTRY OF
ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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OUR MISSION & WORK...

SPRING TAG SALE MAY 1–2

Our spring tag sale is fast approaching. Lucia Osiecki and I will work together to coordinate the event, which is set for Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2. Prep week will begin on Sunday, April 26, after the 10:15 a.m. service. Watch your weekly bulletins and emails for additional information regarding the daily prep times. There will be ample opportunity (and plenty of work) for everyone interested in helping to make this fundraiser a success.

If you wish to help with the prep/sale and do not receive a call during April, please contact me at 802-896-9446 or anek.cook@gmail.com.

Donations for the tag sale should be placed in the downstairs closets. If you have larger items, such as furniture, please hold them until the week of April 26. If you are unable to hold these items, we will try to have additional storage space and pick-up assistance beginning in April.

Remember, this event raises vital funds that support both the church and our local outreach and ministry. Together, we can make this a great success.

Anne Cook



CSA FOR LOAVES & FISHES

Last year through the generosity of friends at St Michael's, we were able to be part of a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) at Wild Carrot Farm. We need to raise \$350 for a full share at half price. I usually pick up the vegetables on Tuesday and Friday mornings, and Wild Carrot was extremely generous with our share. If you can help, please make out a check to Loaves & Fishes with CSA in the memo line. Our clients for lunch are always impressed by the array of vegetables we can serve.

Thanks,

Ruth Tilghman (254-2761)





AIDS PROJECT AND AIDS WALK

LEARN ABOUT AIDS PROJECT OF SOUTHERN VERMONT AT MAY 3 FORUM

The AIDS Project of Southern Vermont is a regional AIDS service organization providing direct services to people living with HIV/AIDS and HIV-prevention services to those at most risk in Windham, Bennington, and southern Windsor counties. Founded by volunteers in 1988 as a grassroots, community-based group, the AIDS Project fills an important statewide role in making sure that Vermont's fight against the AIDS epidemic is strong and effective.

Many might think HIV/AIDS is something of the past, but it really isn't. Because of the development of many medicines, people are living and learning to live with HIV/AIDS, but our work is not done. The stigma is still out there and it is hard for those with the disease to talk about it and to live with it in mainstream society. Many who might be infected keep quiet and don't get tested.

As federal and state funding continues to be cut, it is more important than ever to raise money from the community. The funds help those clients the project already serves as well as implementing new ways to reach others in a safe and confidential manner.

Sue Conley, prevention specialist, offers the following to clients: "In prevention, we offer two programs designed to diminish the spread of HIV. One is an evidence-based health promotion intervention for people living with and/or at high risk for acquiring HIV. The other is a testing initiative, which enlists people at high risk to reach out to their social network and encourage them to come in and get tested. Both programs are in line with the new HIV/AIDS strategy for prevention directed by the CDC and the Vermont Department of Health. We also offer community education on HIV/AIDS." She will speak to these and how important prevention is.

Ray Tessier, current board member, will share his own personal story about AIDS/HIV and how the project is a part of his life.

St. Michael's continues to be a strong and active supporter of this local non-profit organization financially, with time and talent, and with presence. Please plan on coming to hear about the wonderful work this organization continues to do.



AIDS WALK FOR LIFE MAY 16

On Saturday, May 16, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, St. Michael's will team up with others in our community to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS with the 28th Walk for Life.

Each year in May we take a walk through Brattleboro to remember our friends who have died from HIV-related illnesses, to call attention to the effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in our community, and to honor those who make a difference in this challenging work.

We will gather at the River Garden in downtown Brattleboro for a brief ceremony to reflect on the memory of those we have lost. After a 20-minute walk through town, we will gather again at the River Garden for music, prizes for fundraising, and a light lunch.

Please consider becoming part of the St. Michael's team to walk, to gather donations, or both! There will be an information table and donation forms beginning May 3rd in the Undercroft. You can also create an online fundraising page. I am happy to help you set one up! A page for St. Michael's has been set up at: www.firstgiving.com/AIDSProject/28th-annual-aids-walk-for-life.

St. Michael's has been a wonderful supporter financially and through its presence at the Walk. Currently Phillip Wilson and I are board members of the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont. To sign up, get a donation form, make a donation to the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, or for more information, please contact me at swbentonvt@gmail.com or 802-579-2185.

Sarah Benton



CELEBRATING WINTER . . . INSIDE AND OUT





ROTA FOR APRIL

LITURGICAL ROTA FOR APRIL 2015 • 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM SUNDAY SERVICES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Position	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
8:00 A.M. SERVICE				
Lay Assistant	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook	Wayne Cook	Kate McGinn
Intercessor	Kiersten McKenney	Bill Ames	Joanne Patalano	Anne Brown
Sacramental Healing	Janet Cramer	Jean Smith	Janet Cramer	Trudy Crites
Usher	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Bill Ames	Anne Cook
10:15 A.M. SERVICE				
Crucifer	Jessica Bennett	Jack Karn	Jeff Hiam	Ricky Davidson
Torch Bearers	Jonah Johnson Avery Bennett	Clara Fritz Caleb Fritz	Andachew Mousin Nathaniel Johnson	Thea Porter Rebecca Porter
Element Bearers	Sue Dyer Chris Hart	Nancy Barber Ken Jacobs	John Daly Leigh Marthe	Bill and Sandy Maclean
Lay Assistant	Sarah Benton	Greg Lesch	Brian Morgan	Miranda Smith
Lector	Jodi Clark	Sarah Rich	Mary Barber	Martin Leggott
Intercessor	Mary Carnahan	David Mattocks	Valerie Abrahamson	Jen Karstad
Ushers	Liz Vick Betsy Bates	Andy & Elise Burrows	Michael & Ron Doty-Tolaro	Linda Rice Sue Dyer
Sacramental Healing		Janet Cramer Sarah Benton	Margit Lilly Robin White-Diamondstone	Betsy Bates Trudy Crites
Altar Guild	Jane Sbardella Christine Gauthier Lucis Osiecki	Jane Sbardella Christine Gauthier Lucis Osiecki	Craig Newbert Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel	Craig Newbert Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel
Coffee Hour	Vestry	Deb Jones & Lucia Osiecki	Bruce & Carol Hesselbach	Susan Heimer
Counters	Judy McGee Anne Cook	Vince Johnson Wayne Cook	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Sherry Stimmel Judith Hildreth

If you cannot make it, please find your own replacement; then call Jeanie in the Office at 802-254-6048, ext. 104. Thank you.





EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

April 5—No Forum

April 12, Discussion with St. Michael's Vestry—Come hear from St. Michael's Vestry about their recent Vestry Retreat, meet the new Vestry leaders, and let the Vestry know what is on your mind.

April 19, St. Michael's Seminarian Paul Moberly—Paul, who is in his first year at Virginia Seminary, will lead an informal discussion about what he is learning and how his life has changed as a seminary student. He will also share about his recent trip to Jerusalem.

April 26, About recovery—TBD



APRIL LECTIONARY

April 5, Easter Sunday:

Acts 10: 34–43; Psalm 118: 1–2, 14–24;
1 Corinthians 15: 1–11; John 20:1–18 or
Mark 16:1–8

Sunday, April 12:

Acts 4: 32–35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1: 1– 2: 2;
John 20: 19–31

Sunday, April 19:

Acts 3: 12–19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3: 1–7;
Luke 24: 36b–48

Sunday, April 26:

Acts 4: 5–12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3: 16–24;
John 10: 11–18

GO GREEN—RECEIVE YOUR COPY OF THE *GUARDIAN* BY EMAIL!

If you would like to receive the *Guardian* as a PDF file that would be sent to you by email, please contact Jeanie Crosby at jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org or (802) 254-6048, x104.



CELEBRATIONS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- April 2 Elizabeth Wilkinson, Becky Anderson
- April 3 Mateo Course, Callan McDowell
- April 5 Monica Mattocks
- April 6 George Connell
- April 7 Neil Montgomery
- April 8 Kelli Allen, Ramon Escalera
- April 10 Sherry Stimmel, Bruce Capponicelli
- April 11 Peter Johnson, Kurt Johnson
- April 12 J. Michael Wilmott, Devin Starlanyl
- April 13 Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, Cliff Dempster, Diane Clouet, Ron Bell, Robert Baur
- April 14 Kate Perrin
- April 15 Ian McBean, Emily Brown
- April 16 Zachary Roesemann, George Connell
- April 17 Trudy Crites
- April 18 Douglas Switzer
- April 21 Samuel Kochinskas
- April 22 Marcia Steckler
- April 24 Norma Willingham
- April 25 Alison Hale
- April 27 Susan Heimer, John Daly
- April 29 Marta McBean, Annie Landenberger, Brian Hesselbach, Zsolt Pomazi
- April 30 Lawrin Crispe, Douglas Bonneville

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- April 9 Charlie & Susan Daigneault



The Guardian is published monthly by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. News items, announcements, articles, etc., should be submitted to Clark Anderson, *editor*, by the 15th of the month for consideration.

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The Guardian

a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to the abiding presence of God



Our Worship Together

SUNDAYS—8:00 a.m., Quiet service of prayer and Holy Communion

10:15 a.m., Prayer, music, and Holy Communion, with Sunday School and childcare

WEEKDAY MORNINGS—6:00 a.m., Silent hour in chapel

WEDNESDAYS—Noon, Brief service of prayer and Holy Communion

THURSDAYS—9:00 a.m., Rite I service; 5:30 p.m., Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer

SATURDAYS—8:00 a.m., Centering prayer

This Month At St. Michael's Episcopal

MARCH 29—APRIL 5:

HOLYWEEK

(see schedule on front)