

# St. MICHAEL & All Angels' Episcopal Church

THE "VINE" MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - LONGVIEW, TEXAS

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## MARDI GRAS

FEATURING

**THE ONE FLOAT PARADE!**  
**FAT TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
**6PM IN THE PARISH HALL**



**GUMBO, BLUES, BEADS, FUNNY HATS, KING CAKE**

**LENTEN MATERIAL & SERVICES ON PAGE 2 & 3**



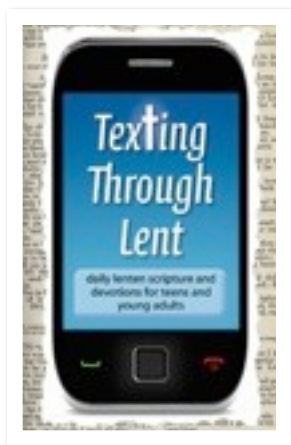
**PICK UP YOUR 2012 CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY IN THE NARTHEX**



# **Pickup Your Lenten Devotion Materials in the Narthex on Sunday, February 19 or during Mardi Gras on Tuesday, February 21**

**a \$2 donation is suggested for each item.**

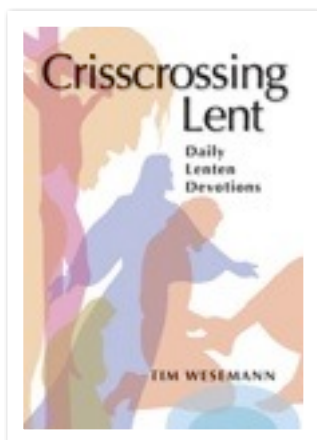
## **Lenten Devotions for Teens & Young Adults**



### **Texting Through Lent**

Encourage the teens, tweens, and college-aged members of your congregation to do a little more texting throughout Lent this year. No, not that kind of texting (though throughout this devotional booklet there are short textable messages to share). The text they'll page through is the Bible as they travel from the Garden of Eden :-( to the Garden Tomb on Easter morning. ;-)

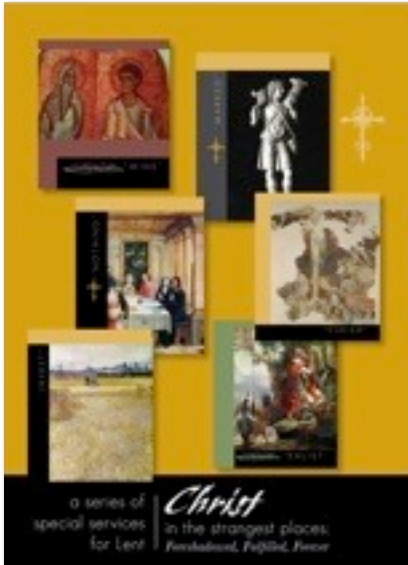
## **Lenten Devotions for Adults**



### **Crisscrossing Lent**

In this modern twist on traditional themes of Christlike love and sacrifice, the devotions in this small booklet relate ways in which we "cross" ourselves in Lent as we go this way and that in our busy lives. These unique reflections help us to explore times when our lives intersect with the lives of others as well as when experiences we have today overlap references to Christ found in Scripture.

# Wednesday Nights in Lent



**Christ in the Strangest Places - Fulfilled, Foreshadowed, Forever**  
Two tablets of stone, a few vessels of oil, simple markings, a small army, a remote field, a solemn oath--these are some of the strangest people, places and things through which God revealed himself to his people in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is chock-full of passion themes, from the serpent being crushed in Genesis 3:15 to Isaiah's Fourth Servant Song. Yet this series looks at some of the lesser-known Old Testament passion themes and focuses on them by means of single words.



*Join us every Wednesday night in Lent for a Lenten Soup Supper at 5pm in the Parish Hall and a special Communion Service in the Sanctuary using Christ in the Strangest Places.*

***Please sign up in the Narthex to provide one of the seven Lenten Wednesday night suppers.***

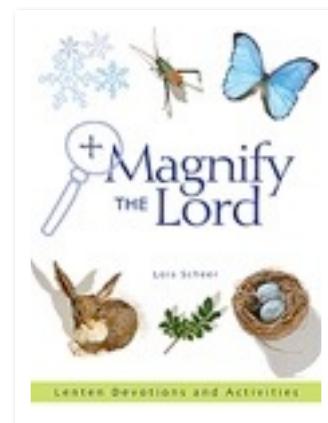
We also have a special program for our Children on Wednesday nights. After the soup supper, the children will use **"Places of the Passion"** which follows Jesus' journey to the cross by focusing on different locations in the Passion story: from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the Courtyard, to Herod's Palace, to the Stone Pavement, to Mt. Calvary, to the empty tomb of Easter. There are coloring pages and activity sheets that go with each week's activity. They will return to the Sanctuary to celebrate Communion with the adults at the end of the service.



## Lent Devotions for Children & Families

### Magnify the Lord

Packed with meaningful ideas for the forty days of Lent, this activity book describes some of the many ways we can magnify (praise!) the Lord. Each child will receive a small magnifying glass to use with some of the nature activities and fun crafts. The Scripture, devotions, prayers and activities (crafts and easy recipes) provide a meaningful Lenten experience for children.



# Sharing God's Love

It was one of those cold damp January days when the clouds seem to encircle you and the gusting wind permeates your skin and travels straight for your bones chilling the core of your body that I walked into the sanctuary of St. Michael's for the first time. Quickly, I slid into the first available pew and was immediately filled with a peace that was indescribable and overwhelming. As I listened to the prelude music wafting through the dimly lit rafters and enormous windows shouting God's beautiful creation, I knew I had entered into a very sacred space. Even today, 17 years later, I can still feel that peace as I enter the sanctuary whether I come with a heart full of joy or sorrow, God's peace surrounds me, comforts me and sustains me.

Within this sacred space resides the love of God evidenced through scriptures, the homilies, the prayers, the communion; yet most transparent through the people. On that first Sunday, as the processional started and the service continued, the music and the lights begin to swell accompanied with the scriptures and sermon. But it was during The Peace that I fully comprehended the uniqueness of this sacred space. As the congregation began to exchange The Peace, an elderly gentleman, who had been sitting to my right, lightly touched my arm and spoke, "Forgive me for not speaking to you earlier. It is a shame to sit through almost an entire service and not say something to the person next to you. My name is Robert Denney. What is your name? Oh, are you visiting with us for the first time? Well, welcome to St. Michael's! We are so glad you are here. It is hard for me to keep track of the congregation these days." There it was—in all its raw form—Love—the core essence of God shaking

my hand and smiling through eyes lined with a life full of experiences. I had come home and I knew it—peace overwhelmed me but love conquered me. Frankly, I don't remember what scriptures were read or the crux of the sermon. All I remember is the warmth of love from a beautiful soul in this peaceful sacred spot called St. Michael's which defied the harshness of the cold outside its walls.

February is the shortest month of the year but right smack in the middle of it is Valentine's Day when human love is expressed with cupids shooting arrows and colorful heart shaped messages. At St. Michael's you will find a different kind of love—it is God's love expressed through humans.

This dynamic force of love cannot be compared to arrows floating through the air but encompasses an energy as powerful as the splitting of an atom. It is God who proclaims His core essence of "I Am Love." Who demonstrates it through every word in the scripture and every moment of our lives. Think about substituting the word love for God, "In the beginning, Love created the world" or perhaps "In the beginning the word was (with) Love and Love dwelt among us." We are reminded through Christ that the foremost commandment is to love and by St. Paul that love is greater than hope and faith. Through my earthly spiritual walk, I have become convinced that God is the core substance of all creation. Thus, Love is the nucleus of everything and everyone. This is the distinguishing trademark of St. Michael's, the love of God expressed through its members not only for each other but also to the world.

## **17 YEARS LATER I CAN STILL FEEL THAT PEACE AS I ENTER THE SANCTUARY**

*continued on page 5*

Whether it be through songs of praise, thought-provoking sermons, prayers for healing, beautifully prepared communion tables, friendly smiles, warm hugs, lovingly prepared meals, touching people's lives in Jamaica and Belize or opening a box of Girl Scout cookies in the middle of a war zone halfway around the world, God reveals Himself through the love expressed by the members of St. Michael's.

At the end of each service, as a body we proclaim, "Sharing God's love...begins with me." May God expressed as Love be the highest calling for each of our lives this month, this year, forevermore. Go in Peace to Love...! The Eternal Message that will be eternally proclaimed and eternally embraced.

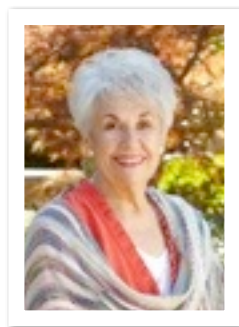


*Belinda King*



Thanks for the prayers and cares from SMAA during my recent and on-going recovery from shoulder surgery. Donna Richardson has now been entered in the World's Best Daughter-in-Law contest. Don't bother to enter your own daughter in law - Donna is miles ahead of any other. She's reached world-class status in shampooing hair and folding clothes!

*Barbara Richardson  
McClellan (Jeff's Mother)*



It was so good to see everyone at the annual meeting this past month. I am not sure if it was for the great food or not but I really believed it was for the fellowship and helping in the Work of God. We are a Family, working together to Do God's Work in Longview and beyond and I am proud to be part of this family. We have new Vestry Members to lend ideas and prayers for the leadership. And we have a new Senior Warden to lead us. Please remember to pray for all of the Vestry and Senior Warden, Ron Raif.



I trust that you have welcomed the work of the Stewardship Committee, so we can provide for the Work of God. I was really pleased to hear that we had a balanced budget last year, the first in 10 years. Way to Go, St Michaels Family. We can work together and find ways to serve God in many different ways, some we have not even thought of yet.

Thank You for your pledges and tithes to God and His Work on this Earth at St Michaels. If you have any ideas for our family or those in need, please contact a member of the Vestry so we can continue to Worship, Serve and Grow.

With Love and Prayer-  
Tom Keith  
Stewardship Chairman



# EPISCOPALIAN!

*(Adapted from an essay by  
Garrison Keillor)*

We make fun of Episcopalians for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in Des Moines, a relatively Episcopalianless place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Episcopalians, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach!... And down the road!

Many Episcopalians are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Episcopalians to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this, people: Episcopalians, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you are dying, they will comfort you. If you are lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you are hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

Episcopalians believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud. Episcopalians like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.

Episcopalians believe their rectors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.

Episcopalians will always follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.

Episcopalians believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.

Episcopalians feel that applauding for their children's choirs will not make the kids too proud and conceited.

True Episcopalians think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.

Episcopalians drink coffee as if it were a Third Sacrament.

Episcopalians feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Parish Hall.

Episcopalians are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.

Episcopalians still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season.

And finally, you know you are a Episcopalian when:

- It's 101 degrees, with 98% humidity, and you still have coffee hour after the service.
- You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- When you watch a Star Wars movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," and you respond, "And also with you."
- And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye.

# First Sunday Restaurant Run



**FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY RESTAURANT RUN WE: F.O.B.F.O - THAT IS, WE FEED OTHERS BEFORE FEEDING OURSELVES.**

But since the FIRST SUNDAY in February is SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, we're going to do something different. We're still F.O.B.F.O. but we're not actually going anywhere!! **So, for SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, please bring a bag of canned goods or non perishables to St. Michael's for our Food Pantry,** then go and enjoy your SUPER BOWL SUNDAY. And remember that even on SUPER BOWL SUNDAY, February 5, we are still going to **Feed Others Before Feeding Ourselves.**



**East Texas Christian Songwriters meet the Second Tuesday of Each Month at St. Michaels 6:30pm in the Sanctuary JOIN US THIS MONTH ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH**

You don't need to be a musician or songwriter to come and enjoy the music.

Come and listen to brand new songs written by local songwriters each month.



PLEASE BEGIN COLLECTING Aluminum Cans at Home for the Girl Scouts. Those Girl Scouts from St. Michael's will use the money raised from recycling aluminum cans to help finance their trip to Savannah, Georgia this Summer. Contact Amy McCarty for more information, 903-746-0472



All adult Kickball League for those 16 and over. Games are played on Tuesday nights at McWhorter Park and begin in March. Please contact Ruby Hahne, 903-746-3713 to get signed up. Invite a friend or neighbor to play on our Team!



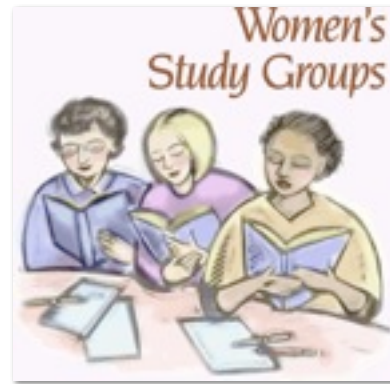
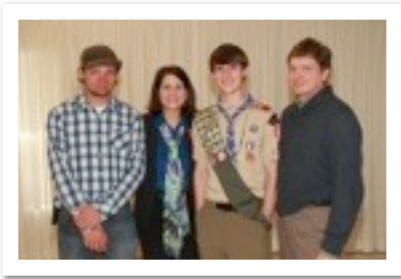
**If you love your church, please turn in your 2012 pledge card by February 14th. It's HEART WORK!**





Our sincere **thanks** to our friends at St. Michael's and All Angels for their support of Michael's recent Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Thanks for sharing that important day with us!

Ron, Laura, David and Michael Buckner



The Tuesday night Spiritual Formation Group (also known as Small Group) is moving to Monday nights at 5:45 starting February 1st. We are using a book called "A Year With God" by Richard Foster. Each week, a different member of the group chooses one of the devotional pieces for us to ponder and discuss. As in the previous book, each week is an independent experience. This makes our "come as you are whenever you can" really possible. There will always be an extra copy of the book on hand for anyone just curious to see what we're doing. In the weeks ahead, some of the women who joined in the group last fall will tell you about their personal experiences in this unusual kind of setting. If you have curiosity or questions, please ask anyone of us or call Cyndie Woodbury at 903-241-3206.

## OFFICE ANGELS

Hats off to those who are serving St. Michael's as Office Angels! Those angels are Dorothy Cole, Mary Lynn Dawes, Carolyn Deakins, Melissa Johnston, Margie Litterski, Regina Nesbitt, Cindie Porter, Ron Raif, Samantha Roberts, Sarah Smith, Becky Supercinski and Cyndie Woodbury. These people allow the church office to be staffed every weekday morning from 9 A.M. until noon. Our office manager, Jeff Richardson, covers that time every Monday and Tuesday and the Office Angels cover every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The primary duties are to answer the phone and take messages and to allow hungry people to come and get food from our food pantry. The computer is available for angels to use and there are various jobs for which Jeff may ask help depending on what is going on at church. Please thank these people for their service and call Mary Lynn (903-663-1782) if you have any desire to help in this capacity.



## MENDED HEART

Winter has come, bleak and drear.

The leaves are dead and trees are bare.  
But if you look very close,  
You'll see there's beauty there.

Naked branches rise like sculptures  
Soon to be dotted with buds of green  
That bring a resurrection from winter's death,  
The promise of new life in the spring.

At times my spirit feels lonely and dead,  
Pounded to death by heartache and pain.  
I sometimes wonder if ever I'll be able  
To blossom and grow again.

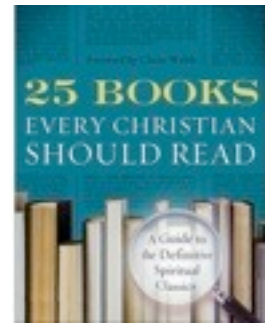
But winter is always followed by spring,  
I'll laugh and love once again  
With the one who loves me as I am.  
And that's when my heart will mend.

© 2012 by Gayle Raif



## ST. MIKE'S BOOK CLUB

The St. Mike's Book Club will be selecting the first book to read from a collection of "25 Books Every Christian Should Read", a list that includes writers from St John of the cross through Billy Graham! We'll pick a date to meet once a month to talk about our reactions and spiritual responses and to make our next selection. This is a great way to be connected to each other on a deeper level, even if weekly small group participation is impossible, impractical, or not your cup of tea! Read with us just once or every chance you get...text or call Cyndie Woodbury at [cyndiewoodbury@ymail.com](mailto:cyndiewoodbury@ymail.com) or 903-241-3206. PS...THIS IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (gender) ENJOYMENT!



NEW Email for Deacon Janice Watson:  
[janice.watson49@yahoo.com](mailto:janice.watson49@yahoo.com)



February is Black History month and as a part of our way to celebrate we will sing African/American Spirituals for our Processional and Recessional each Sunday in February. The Church Publishing Company (of the Episcopal Church) first published "Lift Every Voice and Sing: An African American Hymnal" in 1993. This popular collection of 280 musical pieces from both the African American and Gospel traditions includes service music and several psalm settings in addition to the Negro spirituals, gospel songs, and hymns.



## CHARLES TINDLEY: PRINCE OF PREACHERS/GOSPEL MUSIC FOUNDER

The Rev. Dr. Charles Albert Tindley (July 7, 1851, Berlin, Maryland, USA – July 26, 1933) was an American Methodist minister and gospel music composer.

Often referred to as "The Prince of Preachers", he educated himself, became a minister and founded one of the largest Methodist congregations serving the African-American community on the East Coast of the United States.

Tindley's father was a slave, but his mother was free. Tindley himself was thus considered to be free, but even so he grew up among slaves. After the Civil War, he moved to Philadelphia, where he found employment as a hod carrier. He and his wife Daisy attended the Bainbridge St. Methodist Episcopal Church. Charles later became the sexton, a job with no salary.

Never able to go to school, Tindley learned independently and by asking people to tutor him. He enlisted the help of a Philadelphia synagogue on North Broad St. to learn Hebrew and learned Greek by taking a correspondence course through the Boston Theological School. Without any degree, Tindley was qualified for ordination in the Methodist Episcopal Church by examination, with high ranking scores. He was ordained as a Deacon in the Delaware Conference in 1887 and as an elder in 1889. As was the practice of the ME church, Tindley was assigned by his bishop to serve as an itinerant pastor staying a relatively short time at each charge. In 1900 he became the Presiding Elder of the Wilmington District.

Tindley then became the pastor of the same church at which he had been a janitor. Under his leadership, the church grew rapidly from the 130 members it

had when he arrived. In 1906 the congregation moved and was renamed East Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church. The property was purchased from the Westminster Presbyterian church and seated 900, though it was soon filled to overflowing.

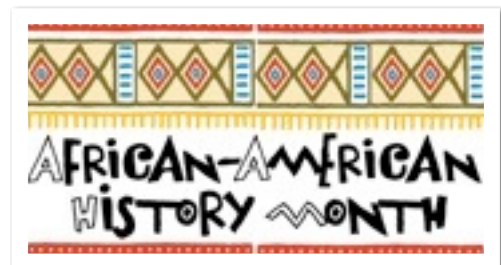
The congregation over time grew to a multiracial congregation of 10,000. After his death, the church was renamed "Tindley Temple."

Tindley was given a Doctor of Divinity Degree by Bennett College and Morgan College in Baltimore Md.

Tindley was a noted songwriter and composer of gospel hymns and is recognized as one of the founding fathers of American gospel music. Five of his hymns appear in the 1993 Hymnal "Lift Every Voice and Sing: An African American Hymnal."

At St. Michael's we regularly sing "We'll Understand it Better By and By" by Charles Tindley. The chorus is:

**By and by, when the morning comes  
When the saints of God are gathered home  
We'll tell the story how we've overcome  
For we'll understand it better by and by**



# FEBRUARY 2012 MINISTRY ROSTER

Sunday Date	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26	March 4
<b>Vestry Person</b>	Frank Supercinski <i>Charlie Parker</i>	John Dawes Bill Keese (T) <i>Frank Supercinski</i>	Ron Raif Amy McCarty (T) <i>John Dawes</i>	Cyndie Woodbury <i>Ron Raif</i>	Tom Keith Ruby Hahne (T) <i>Cyndie Woodbury</i>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<u>Terisa Kirschke</u> Linsay Kirschke Charlotte Stewart	<u>Kim Salerno</u> Regina Nesbitt	<u>Susan Kuhlman</u> Joycelynn Fadojutimi	<u>Dana Parker</u> Lori Dickson	<u>Terisa Kirschke</u> Linsay Kirschke Charlotte Stewart
<b>Ushers</b>	Jerry Ritchie Don King	Tommy Read George Noel	Wayne Deakins Donna Richardson Rachel McCarty	Margie Litterski Laura Buckner	Jerry Ritchie Don King
<b>Acolytes</b>	Jennifer Hahne	Linsay Kirschke Rachel McCarty	Emily McCarty Devan Donley	Donna Richardson James Adams	Jennifer Hahne
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Delbert Burlison Matthew Burke	Mary Retallack Dana Parker	Frank Supercinski Becky Supercinski	Terisa Kirschke Gayle Raif	Sarah Watson Dana Parker
<b>Lector</b>	Ruby Hahne	Tom Keith	Mary Lynn Dawes	Laura Buckner	Greg Harris
<b>Worship Tech</b>	Michael Buckner	David Buckner	Jared Adams	Jennifer Hahne	James Adams

NOTE: If you are not able to serve on the day you are scheduled, please schedule your own substitute. Contact the church office if you need the names of other people in your ministry.

# ST. MICHAEL & All *Angels' Episcopal Church*

909 Reel Road  
Longview, TX 75604

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

### **February Birthdays**

02/03 Charlotte Noel  
02/04 Carolyn Deakins  
02/07 Tim Bell  
02/10 Belinda King  
02/10 Dean Wagner  
02/13 Andrew Duncalfe  
02/14 Jason Cammack  
02/15 George Noel  
02/14 Carolyn Purdum  
02/15 Dr. Sarah Watson  
02/17 Cheryl Cutrer  
02/18 Lauren Hancock  
02/20 Janice Watson

02/23 Kim Salerno  
02/28 Jonathon Roberts

### **February Anniversaries**

02/05 Frank & Amy McCarty  
02/12 Monty & Mary Retallack  
02/14 Jim & Liz Brock  
02/15 Doc & Peggy Wallace  
02/25 Matthew & Rita Burke