

# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## February Newsletter

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**“Hearts for God  
lands for Service  
Love for All”**



<p><i>Bishop</i> The Rt. Rev. Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., D.D.</p> <p><i>Rector</i> The Rev. George Gennuso</p> <p><i>Deacon</i> The Rev. Deacon Belle Rollins</p>		<p><i>Sunday Schedule</i> 9 am – Holy Eucharist 10:45 – Angel Food Breakfast</p> <p><i>Weekday Eucharist</i> 10 am – Tuesday 10 am Thursday</p>		
<p><i>Senior Warden</i> Stuart Spurlin (2018)</p>	<p><i>Vestry Chaplain</i> Deacon Belle Rollins</p> <p><i>Asst. Vestry Chaplain</i> Dalton Land (2019)</p>	<p><i>Vestry Clerk</i> Kay Ferguson</p>	<p>Jamie Raborn Steve Rogge (2018)</p>	<p>Paula Lieberman Elton Clark Brian Warner James O’Neal Dalton Land (2019)</p>
<p><i>Sextons</i> Kitty &amp; Gary Wynn</p> <p><i>Altar Guild Director</i> Ann Wells</p>		<p><i>Organist</i> Mary Crump</p>	<p><i>Treasurer</i></p>	<p><i>Flower Guild</i> Rebecca Williams Jennifer Owens Mary Michael Mule</p>
<p><i>Food Pantry Coordinator</i> Carole Hampshire</p>	<p><i>Choir Director</i> Roger McCoy</p>	<p><i>Account Manager</i> Patti Noel Office Hours Tues. 9 – 2 pm Sun. 12 am – 4 pm</p>		

# **The Rev. Dr. Bill Bryant**

## **Guest Speaker**

### **“Origen”**

**Thursday, February 16 at 6 pm**



**The Rev. Dr. Bill McBride**

I grew up in Alexandria, LA. Left in 1968, attended Southwestern at Memphis [now Rhodes College]. Earned a BA in American Studies in 1972. Taught and coached in Memphis and Alexandria for six years. Met and Married Cheryl Wisenbaker in 1978. We both went back to school and both earned a Masters from Northwestern State University in 1979 and then went to Nashville where I earned my Ph.d in the History of the American South. In 1983, I was part of the initial faculty at the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts and served on the faculty for 24 years. In 1990, we joined Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchitoches. Eight years later I began taking classes at the Bishop's School for Ministry and then spent four years in a weekend program in Dallas, TX. The Anglican School of Theology at the University of Dallas.

I completed studies there in 2005 and was ordained a deacon in June of that year. I was assigned to St. Timothy's for my curacy and was ordained a priest in May 2006. In February 2007, I was moved to St. Matthias, Shreveport as Priest in charge under special circumstances and February 21, 2008, I was called by the vestry to be the Ninth Rector of St. Matthias. I served there for nine years and retired in January of this 2016.

### **Taxi Driver in Heaven**

A pastor and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them. 'Come with me', said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had anything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an olympic size pool.

'Wow, thank you', said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the pastor to a rugged old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set 'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up', said the pastor. 'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a pastor, went to church every day, and preached God's word.'

'Yes, that's true. But during your sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'



## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

**February 16**

**February 18**

**February 24**

**Steve & Tish Clarius**

**Tonya & Ray Bass**

**Kent & Dawn Arceneaux**

*Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, 830)*

### **Better than Einstein**

At the conclusion of the sermon, the worshipers filed out of the sanctuary to greet the minister. As one of them left, he shook the minister's hand, thanked him for the sermon and said, "Thanks for the message, Reverend. You know, you must be smarter than Einstein." Beaming with pride, the minister said, "Why, thank you, brother!"

As the week went by, the minister began to think about the man's compliment. The more he thought, the more he became baffled as to why anyone would deem him smarter than Einstein. So he decided to ask the man the following Sunday.

The next Sunday he asked the parishioner if he remembered the previous Sunday's comment about the sermon. The parishioner replied that he did. The minister asked: "Exactly what did you mean that I must be smarter than Einstein?"

The man replied, "Well, Reverend, they say that Einstein was so smart that only ten people in the entire world could understand him. But Reverend, no one can understand you."

# Happy Birthday

February 1	Callie Moss	February 15	George Barrilleaux
February 2	Andrew Fernandez	February 16	Shannon Clark
February 3	Tandy Thompson	February 20	Luis Cintron, Jr.
February 7	Jerod Ward	February 24	Zuran Allen
	Evelyn Allen	February 24	Brenda Beckerdite
February 11	Jean Normand		Brady Brown
February 12	Cadence Briggs	February 26	Michael Brewer
February 13	Sara Bergeron	February 27	Michael Coyle
	Riley Brewer	February 28	Carol Anne Cutshall
February 14	Phyllis Ramares		Cyndi Menton
			Fynn Raborn

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. BCP 830



## Bridge House Car Wash

February 4

9 am – 3 pm

Series  
"Fathers"

This series will focus on the Church Fathers and will be presented by priests & lay leaders from throughout our diocese. Below you will find a breakdown of the presentations. As always, dinner will be served at 6 pm followed by the presentation.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Thursday, February 16</b>	<b>Fr. Bill McBride</b> Retired Shreveport, LA	<b>Origen</b>
<b>Thursday, March 16</b>	<b>Fr. Christopher Heying</b> Rector St. Paul's, Abbeville	<b>Basil the Great Gregory of Nazianzus Gregory of Nyssa</b>
<b>Thursday, May 18</b>	<b>Mrs. Mary Deville</b> Lay Leader Trinity Episcopal Natchitoches, LA	<b>Jerome</b>
<b>Thursday, June 15</b>	<b>Fr. Alston Johnson</b> Dean St. Mark's Cathedral Shreveport, LA	<b>Augustine</b>

### **Waiting for the Wind**

My nephew's 10 year old son came for a visit one hot, July weekend. I was enticing him to stay inside by joining him in a Nintendo game. After being mercilessly defeated by a more experienced player, I suggested that we relax awhile. I collapsed into my favorite recliner to let my neck muscles relax and my ego recover from such a beating. He had slipped out of the room and I was catching a few relished moments of peace and quiet. "Look, Alice," he said enthusiastically as he ran over to the chair where I was recovering. "I found a kite. Could we go outside and fly it?" Glancing out a nearby window, I noticed there was not a breeze stirring. "I'm sorry, Tripper," I said, sad to see his disappointed eyes, but thankful for the respite from more activity. "The wind is not blowing today. The kite won't fly." The determined 10 year old replied. "I think it's windy enough. I can get it to fly," he answered, as he hurried out the back door.

I peeked through the slats in the venetian blinds to watch determination in action. Up and down the yard he ran, pulling the kite attached to a small length of string. The plastic kite, proudly displaying a picture of Batman, remained about shoulder level. He ran back and forth, as hard as his ten year old legs would carry him, looking back hopefully at the kite trailing behind. After about ten minutes of unsuccessful determination, he came back in.

I asked, "How did it go?"

"Fine," he said, not wanting to admit defeat. "I got it to fly some."

As he walked past me to return the kite to the closet shelf, I heard him say under his breath, "I guess I'll have to wait for the wind."

At that moment I heard another Voice speak to my heart. "Alice. Sometimes you are just like that. You want to do it your way instead of waiting for the Wind."

And the voice was right. How easy it is to use our own efforts to accomplish what we want to do. We wait for the Wind only after we have done all we can and have exhausted our own strength. We must learn how to rely on Him in the first place!

# Senior Warden's Parish Meeting Remarks

St Michael's Episcopal Church  
2017 Annual Meeting

2016 was a challenging year for many people. I frequently heard people all over the country saying that they were eager for the year to be over: too many deaths, too many bad weather events, too much political turmoil. Needless to say it was a challenging year for St Michael's in some respects, and a very fulfilling year in other ways.

From my perspective, the biggest single challenge was for us to keep the ship afloat financially. 2015 hadn't been a great year for giving, and in 2016 it just got worse. Thank God that Bishop Jake had the compassion and the wherewithal to help us. The Diocese has been helping us balance the books since September, often to a greater extent than they had expected. As a part of us becoming a mission church, they are offering to continue to help financially while we try to turn the corner and get moving in a positive direction fiscally. Notice that I said that they're willing to help, not take over funding our operation. We as a congregation are still expected to contribute all we can to pay our bills. None of us should feel that he can give less because the "deep pockets" of the Diocese will take care of everything. Some of us may truly be in a situation where they can't give as much as in the past. That's okay. But those of who can give as much, or even increase our giving, should do so. That's what the Diocese expects.

The last I heard, we have received pledges for about \$78,000 for 2017. That's well below what we gave last year, and well below the \$105,000 we budgeted for 2017. I fear that plate offerings may be down proportionally, making the overall problem even worse.

If St. Michael's wants to, we can recover, grow and eventually thrive again, thanks to the help offered by the Diocese. But it will take commitment from all of us to truly respond to God's great gifts to us by offering our best: both in time and treasure, according to our individual ability to contribute both.

I want to take a minute to thank a few people. I want to say how much I appreciate the McCoys along with Mary Crump and all the choir. They are my family within the larger St. Michael's family. They're a real source of support to me personally. The only thing that could make it any better would be if more of you were moved to be a part of it.

I want to thank Father George for his spiritual leadership of St. Michael's, for the love he shows people, especially my family, for the special friendship that he and I share, strengthened by the work we do together and the mutual support we offer each other in our frequent family dramas. I wish him every happiness and satisfaction in his new endeavors.

My thanks to our little paid staff and our many volunteers, who do so much, week in and week out, much of it without our thanks. Special thanks to our Altar Guild and flower arrangers, our cooks, those who work fundraisers, those who clean and organize and straighten, those who enable our food pantry and clothes closet to be a beacon of Christ in our community. My thanks also to our lay eucharistic ministers, acolytes, readers, greeters and ushers, who enable us to have a meaningful worship experience. My thanks to the Vestry for wrestling with the problems and celebrating the successes.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Sherri Voebel, who has turned her lemons into lemonade, by putting in countless hours to help out in so many ways, most recently her yeoman's work with the donated clothing.

My thanks to my family, Phyllis and Dalton, who have been supportive of my serving as Senior Warden, and patient with the time that it takes away from home.

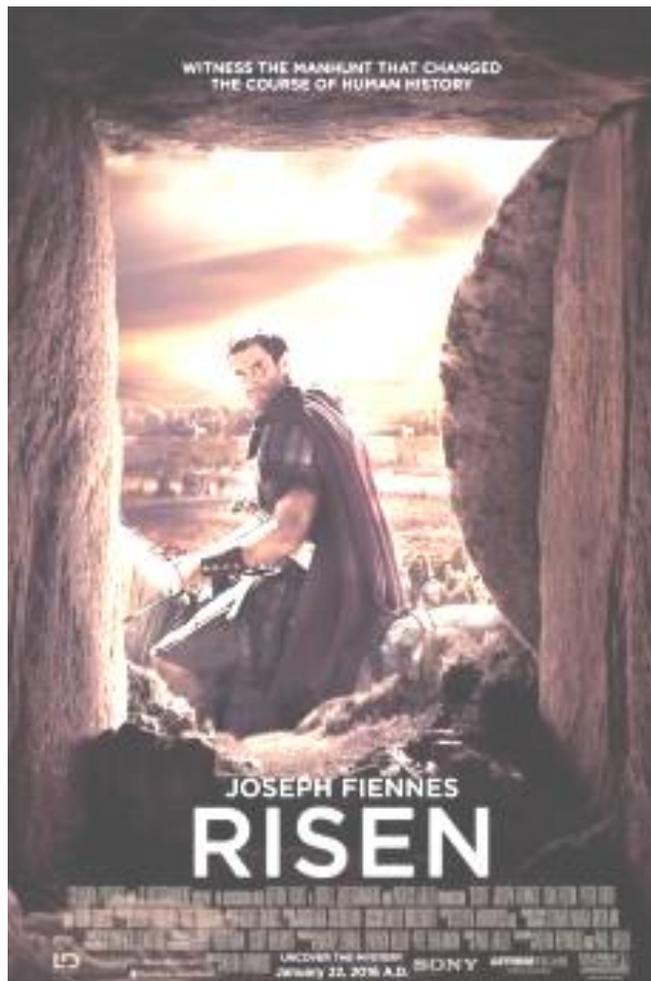
And last but not least, I want to mention Deacon Belle Rollins. She is an inspiration to me. She is always eager to serve in any way that she can. She has probably worn out God's ears with her prayers for me and my family and for many of you as well. She has an incredibly positive attitude, and serves us well as deacon during worship services and at Vestry meetings, Tuesday and Thursday morning activities and other events.

I'll close with questions: Why am I here at St. Michael's? Why are all of us here? There are many reasons, but the most important one is that we can serve God in this place. We can respond to His love for us by working for his Kingdom through our membership in this church. I pray that we can all set aside anything that gets in the way of that service, including being unhappy about Person A or disappointed about Specific Situation B. God wants us to not sweat the small stuff and to realize that it's mostly all small stuff. I for one am going to try to be more accepting of others, quirks and all, in 2017 in order to focus on what I need to be doing.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden these last two years.

Steve Rogge

# MOVIE DAY AT ST. MICHAELS'



## **Risen**

This film follows the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. Clavius, a powerful Roman Military Tribune, and his aide Lucius, are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.

**Tuesday  
February 28**

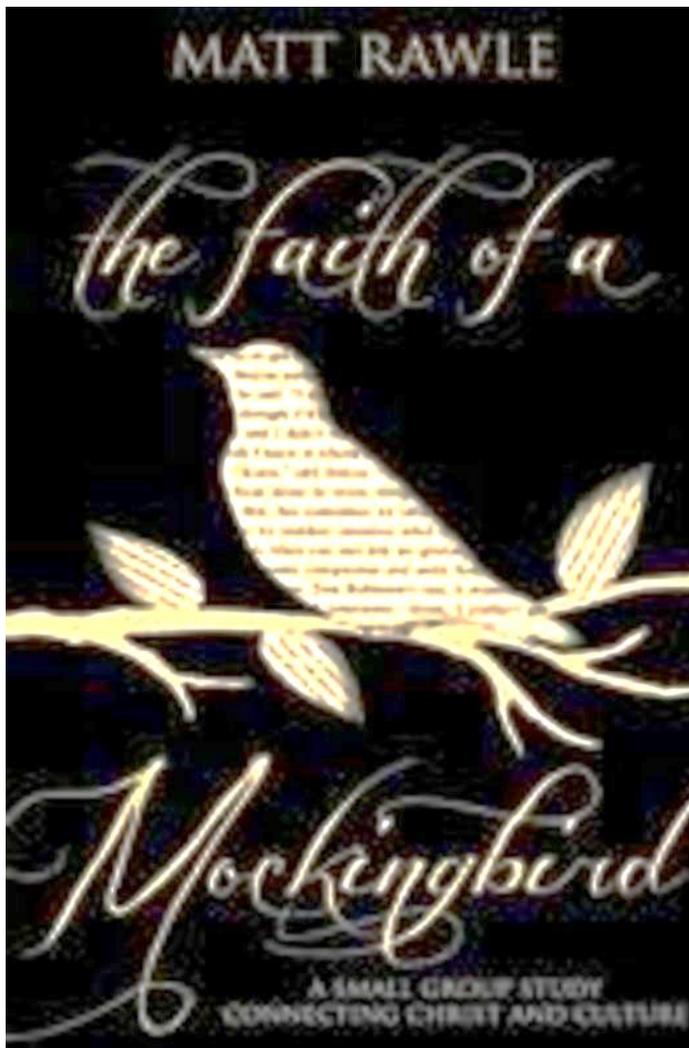
**Beginning at 10:30 in the  
Parish Hall**

**COME AND JOIN US!!!!**

*“When Jesus then is with the multitudes, He is not in His house, for the multitudes are outside of the house, and it is an act which springs from His love of men to leave the house and to go away to those who are not able to come to Him.”*

*Origen*

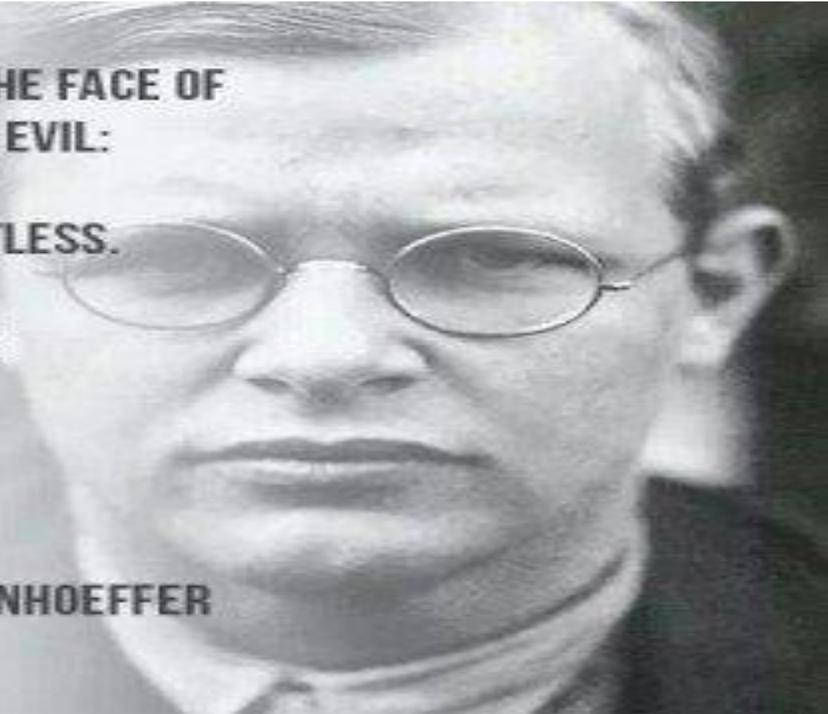
# February Adult Christian Formation



Pastor and author Matt Rawle is on a mission. He sees Christ all around him—in books, movies, TV shows, rock music—and he wants to share what he sees. As Matt says, "God offers the raw ingredients, and 'culture' is whatever we cook up."

In *The Faith of a Mockingbird*, based on Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, pastor and author Matt Rawle uses Lee's beloved characters to explore Christian faith, theology, and ethics. Join Scout, Atticus Finch, Boo Radley, and Tom Robinson in this four-week study considering God's world and what it all means.

*The Faith of a Mockingbird* is part of The Pop in Culture Series of Bible studies in which Matt Rawle stirs up a tasty gumbo of insight, humor, and inspiration based on some of your favorite pop culture classics.



**"SILENCE IN THE FACE OF  
EVIL IS ITSELF EVIL:  
GOD WILL NOT  
HOLD US GUILTLSS.**

**NOT TO SPEAK  
IS TO SPEAK.  
NOT TO ACT  
IS TO ACT."**

**- DEITRICH BONHOEFFER**