

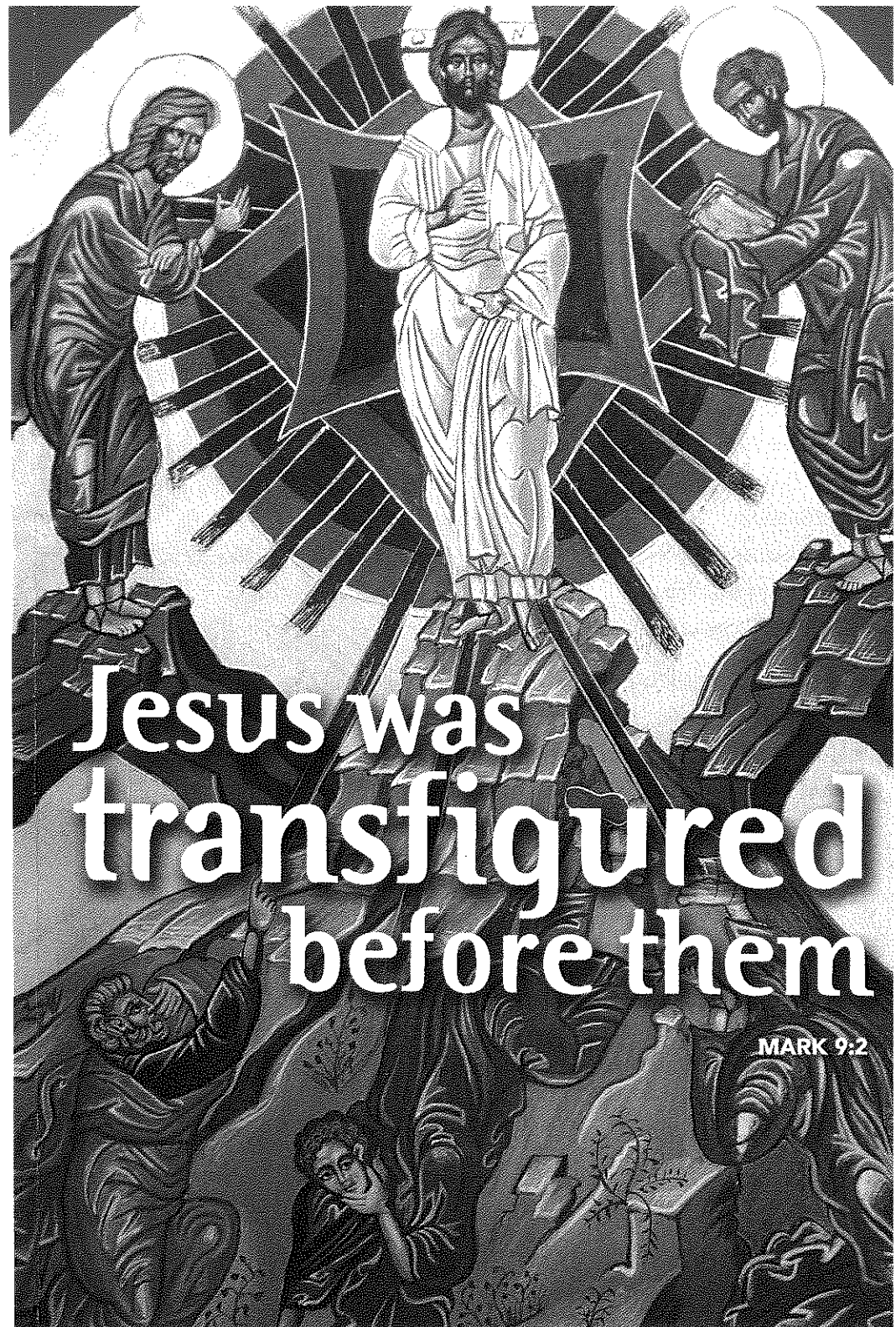
How Good to Be Here

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to a mountaintop. “Rabbi,” Peter says, “it is good for us to be here.” Don’t you love Peter? Even when, as Mark writes, Peter “did not know what to say,” he blurts out something (Mark 9:5-6).

Actually, Peter was right. It was good for the three disciples to witness the exhilarating, terrifying mountaintop events. They were given a preview of Jesus, the resurrected Christ. As it was happening, they couldn’t possibly understand—or stand—the fullness of what they were witnessing. On the mountaintop, it was time to experience. Later, on the way down the mountain, there was time to ponder the meaning of what had just happened.

It was especially good for Jesus to be there. He had tried to prepare the disciples for what was ahead, but they weren’t getting it. Jesus understood all too well. Did Jesus wonder if he himself could stand the fullness of what was ahead? How good it must have been for Jesus to talk with Elijah and Moses. Did Jesus ask questions? Was he given advice? How good it must have been for Jesus to hear the Father call him “my Son, the Beloved” (Mark 9:7). Jesus had heard those very words before, following his baptism by John and right before his wilderness test (Mark 1:9-12). This affirmation of his identity fed Jesus in the wilderness and sustained him as he journeyed to the cross.

We can take heart from the lessons Peter, James, and John remembered as they came down from the mountain. It is good to have a mountaintop faith experience. Ask anyone who has sung hymns in four-part harmony at a large gathering of Lutherans. Ask anyone who has global neighbors as a missionary or faithful traveler. The blessing of the moment is to experience. The blessing of reflection is to understand. The take-away blessing of the mountaintop is sustenance for journey in the valley.



"God's love with feet on / Caminando con el amor de Dios."

St. John's Episcopal Church

The Last Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 19, 2012

8:00 am ~ Holy Eucharist

9:05 am ~ Coffee and Christian Education

10:00 am ~ Sung Holy Eucharist

11:15 am ~ Coffee, Conversation

Liturgy Booklet

Hymn #7: *Christ whose glory fills the skies*

Greeting and Penitential Rite

Liturgy Booklet p. 2

Hymn #S236: *Benedictus es, domine* (10 am)

Liturgy Booklet p. 4

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

(Readings Insert)

First Reading, **Psalm** (*sung*), and Second Reading

The Gospel **Acclamation:**

Liturgy Booklet p. 6

The Holy Gospel

(Readings Insert)

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

Liturgy Booklet p. 7 or (LOC pg. 145)

Prayers of the People

Liturgy Booklet p. 8 or (LOC pg. 203)

The Exchange of Peace (Announcements)

Offertory *The Offering is collected before the Hymn at the Offertory.*

Hymn #516: *Come down, O Love Divine*

Great Thanksgiving Prayer (B) *Liturgy Booklet p. 10 or (LOC pg. 163)*

Sanctus (10 am): Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

...at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, the people respond: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Liturgy Booklet p. 14

The Breaking of the Bread and **Fraction Anthems:**

Healing prayer is offered in the Baptistry during Communion.

Hymn #508: *Breathe on me breath of God*

Going Forth Prayer (*stand*)

Liturgy Booklet p. 16 or (LOC pg. 161)

Hymn #468: *Alleluia, sing to Jesus* (*omit**)

Dismissal

Response: **Thanks be to God!**

The Priesthood of All Believers

Jesus Christ is the only Priest of the Church, but as his living Body, we become the Priesthood of all believers. We hold the priesthood in our community, and together we become the Sacrament of Christ to the world. We all participate in the diaconate (the servant ministry) of the church as well. We are each a part of God's great plan of redemption for the world, and we are each given gifts by the Holy Spirit for the good of the Church.

Standing for the Gospel and for the Going-forth Prayer

The presider of the liturgy asks the congregation to participate as a community in corporate actions which signify particular meaning. Traditionally, Christians have stood for the reading of the Gospel during a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We also are asked to stand for the Prayer before the Blessing and Dismissal, because this is a Gospel moment. This is when we prepare us to go forth into the world as the living Gospel. The final prayer is not so much a prayer of private devotion, as a prayer of corporate commitment. When we pray: "Send us now into the world in peace," or "Send us out to do the work you have given us to do," standing is the preferred posture because we are then ready to go forth, as the fed and empowered Body of Christ. The Bishop of this Diocese, as the chief liturgist, has indicated that this posture of readiness is his preference for congregations as well.

Praying the Daily Office, making a private confession, fasting, and other devotional practices

Other important Christian practices include private prayer and meditation, praying the Daily Morning or Evening Prayer, fasting (abstaining from particular foods or from food on particular occasions), studying scripture alone in a Bible Study Group, praying the Rosary (Anglican or Catholic), making a private confession, meeting with a Spiritual Director, participating in Retreats or Cursillo, meeting in a small Christian prayer and share Group. All of these can support our spiritual growth. The Daily Office, Psalms and Scripture have been a part of the Anglican tradition since the establishment of the Reformed Catholic Church in England (known as the Anglican Church or the Episcopal Church throughout the world). As Episcopalians in the United States we are inheritors of this tradition and practice.

What we believe

The Episcopal Church upholds the traditional Creeds and Statements of Faith, but always allows for our conscience, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and the intelligent interpretation of scripture to inform our personal understandings.

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

JESUS TOOK WITH HIM Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Offertory Sentence—Beloved, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Or this

Beloved, we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed: that Christ Jesus is the beloved Son of God, and our own Lord and Savior.

Proper Preface—It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you have revealed to us the brightness of your face in the face of your own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and you have commanded us to listen to him, so that we might live our lives as his disciples and in praise and service to you. Therefore . . .

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LAST SUNDAY
AFTER THE EPIPHANY

RCL

COLLECT

February 19, 2012

Traditional

O GOD, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son didst reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Contemporary

O GOD, who before the passion of your only-begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

NOW WHEN THE LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and
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as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.” Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Psalm 50:1-6 *from BCP*

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|--|--|
| <p>1 The LORD, the God of gods,
has <u>spoken</u>; * he has called
the earth from the rising of
the sun to its <u>setting</u>.</p> | <p>4 He calls the heavens and
the earth from <u>above</u> * to
witness the judgment of
his <u>people</u>.</p> |
| <p>2 Out of Zion, perfect in
its <u>beauty</u>, * God reveals
himself in <u>glory</u>.</p> | <p>5 “Gather before me my
loyal <u>followers</u>, * those
who have made a covenant
with me and sealed it with
<u>sacrifice</u>.”</p> |
| <p>3 Our God will come and will
not keep <u>silence</u>; * before
him there is a consuming
flame, and round about him
a raging <u>storm</u>.</p> | <p>6 Let the heavens declare the
rightness of his <u>cause</u>; * for
God himself is <u>judge</u>.</p> |

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

IF OUR GOSPEL IS VEILED, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Refrain

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken.

STURGIS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

LENTEN OFFERINGS

**THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS:
KNOWING THE GOD OF LOVE, HOPE AND PURPOSE
BY BISHOP RUEBEN P. JOB**

(Books are available in the church office and at each class. The Study will focus on Who is God? Who are We? Who are we in relationship to God?)

Sunday Classes: 9:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Monday Morning Men's Study: 8:00 a.m.

Monday Evening Study: 7:00 p.m.

Classes Begin the Week of February 19th

SUNDAY, Feb. 26, 6:00 P.M. - SANCTUARY
FULLY ALIVE CONCERT (Youth for Christ)

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 5:00 P.M. FELLOWSHIP HALL
MOVIE NIGHT: COURAGEOUS

"God's love with feet on / Caminando con el amor de Dios."
The Last Sunday after Epiphany ~ February 19, 2012

Sunday 2/19	8 & 10 am 9:05 am 6 & 7:30 pm 6:45 pm	The Last Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Eucharist followed by Fellowship Christian Education NA Meeting & Alanon Meeting Contemplative Prayer (Library)
Monday	9 am & 7 pm	Yoga Class & Alanon Meeting & NA Meeting
Tuesday	7 & 11 am 6 pm 6:30 & 7 & 8 pm	BNI Meeting & Alanon Meeting Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper AA Meeting & NA Bus Meeting & NA Meeting
Wednesday	7 am & Noon & 7 pm 9 am & Noon 10:30 am 7 & 8 pm	~ ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES Yoga Class & NA Meeting Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Men's Bible Study & Reunion Group
Thursday	9:30 am & 4:30 pm 6 pm	Tai Chi Class & Group Reunion NA Meeting
Friday	11:30 am & 8 pm 8 pm	Friday Friendship Meal & Movie Night NA Meeting
Saturday	Noon & 6:30 pm	NA Meeting & AA Study Meeting
Sunday 2/26	5 pm 6 pm 6:45 pm	The First Sunday in Lent Lenten Series with Potluck Fully Alive Concert (United Methodist) Contemplative Prayer (Library)

Rector.....	The Reverend Canon Meredith Hunt
Deacon.....	The Reverend Deacon Floyd Kunce
Supply Organist.....	Lucy Zimmerman
8 a.m. Acolyte.....	Bill Martindale (L2)
Lector 1.....	Jane Boyden
Prayers.....	Bryan Boughton
Usher.....	Jane Boyden
Breakfast Host.....	
10 a.m.	
Sub-Deacon/L2/MC/Chalice.....	Rob Kinsey (L2)
Thurifer.....	Steven Griffith
Crucifer.....	Noah Kinsey
Server 1.....	John Griffith
Server 2.....	Nancy Nusbaum
Lector 1.....	Mary Sutter
Prayers.....	Tom Soper
Usher.....	Kelly Murphy
Breakfast Hosts.....	John and Connie Griffith
Nursery.....	Rose Rudinski and Emma Cook

Altar Guild (January 29 - February 25)
Mary Sutter, Bobi Melchi, Judy Burnham, Joanne Roe,
Rose Rudinski, Diane Warnement

St. John's Episcopal Church
110 S. Clay Street, Sturgis, MI 49091
(269) 651-5811 <http://www.stjohnssturgis.org>

~ Announcements ~

COMTEMPLATIVE PRAYER in the Library at 6:45 pm.
Learn contemplative prayer by experiencing various approaches to meditation/contemplation.

LENTEN MATERIALS are located in the Lobby and Narthex.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER on Feb 21 at 6 pm. Liz Kinsey and Steve Wilson are coordinators. Invite your friends. Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex and Great Hall.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES: 7 AM, 12 NOON and 7 PM.

MOVIE NIGHT on Friday, February 24, at 7 pm in the Conference Room. The film is "What I Want My Words To Do To You." Connie Griffith will lead the discussion.

The MILLENNIUM PROJECT is really coming along. Check it out anytime.

The HOPE FREE STORE in Centreville is in need of clothing (men's, women's, and children), non-electrical kitchen items, and bedding. If you would like to donate items, please contact Steve Wilson or drop them off at the church office and Steve will pick them up.

FEB SPECIAL OFFERING—Episcopal Seminary Education. Envelopes are in the pews.

The PENNIES FROM SUMMER CAMP OUTREACH would like to send cards to our military to show we care and support them. Please email the addresses of cousins, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, and friends of the parish to Christine.tillman@sbcglobal.net.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE on March 31—April 1 from Noon to 5 pm at the AMF Sturgis Bowling Alley. See Bulletin Board for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ryan and Katharine Taylor on the birth of their daughter, Lena Joanne Taylor, on Valentine's Day, 8 lbs. 1 oz. and 21 inches.

CONGRATULATIONS to Steve and Diana Wilson, whose daughter, Sarah Wilson is marrying Jason Ferry in Orlando, Florida this weekend.

Please Pray for the Following Persons during the Week.

- The Most Rev Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, Rt Rev Katharine Jefferts-Schori, Presiding Bishop, Rt Rev Wendell Gibbs, Diocese of Michigan, Rt Rev Todd Ousley, Diocese of Eastern Michigan, Bishop John David Schleicher, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) North/West Lower Michigan Synod, and Rt Rev Julio Cesar Holguin, Episcopal Diocese of Dominican Republic.
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Most Revd Armando Guerra Soria, Primate of IARCA and Bishop of Guatemala.
- Diocese: Emmanuel Church, Hastings.
- Sturgis: Living Hope Foursquare Church.
- President Barack Obama, Governor Rick Snyder, Mayor of Sturgis Ken Malone.
- Persons in need: Edna, Pat, Cameron, David, Nancy, Kathryn, David John, Judy, Audra, Dan, Jim B., Douglas, Tim, Blanca, Marta, Celia, Joaquina, Cassie, Father Bill Fleener, Halcyon, Jim C., Robert D., Josh, Bob, Elizabeth, Tom, Mother Beth, Pastor Methius, and Father David Pike.
- Birthdays: Joanne Roe, Austin Nusbaum, John Hunt, Tom Krzemienski, Dan Schuler.
- Anniversaries: Konrad and Kathleen Holzworth.
- Flowers at the Altar, given by: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Andrews in memory of Marvin Book and loved ones.
- Eucharistic Visitors: Connie & Bill Martindale to Thurston, John Griffith to Billie Reeg.

Growing Together in Christ 2012

Feb 21 at 6 pm ~ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

at St. John's Episcopal Church on
Tuesday, February 21 at 6 pm

Feb 22 ~ Ash Wednesday Services

at St. John's Episcopal Church on
Wednesday, February 22 at 7 am, Noon, 7 pm

5 Sundays in Lent at St. John's Episcopal Church

Potluck 5 pm followed by Program
Contemplative Prayer at 6:45 pm in Library

Feb 26 – Fully Alive Concert (United Methodist Church @ 6pm)

Mar 4 – Healing Prayer (The Healing Ministry of Jesus)

Mar 11 – Healing Prayer (Healing & the Great Commission)

Mar 18 – Healing Prayer (Healing, Cure, and God's Love)

Mar 25 – Healing Prayer (Courage to Pray)

Feb 24 at 7 pm ~ Mission Forward Movie Night

Movie: *"What I want my words to do to you."*
Friday Night ~ Facilitator: Connie Griffith

Mar 3 at 10 am ~ Trinity Episcopal Church, Three Rivers Spirituality Workshop on Grief and Loss

"When they go and you do not." Actress Susan Merson
(<http://www.susanmerson.com/>)

Meltdown; Grey's Anatomy; The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio;
NYPD Blue; True Blood; The Ellen Gonzolez Story, Monk;
Lost in Yonkers; Things to Do in Denver When You are Dead.

Saturday, March 3, 10 am—1pm

Registration: 269-273-3795

Mar 23 at 7:30 pm ~ Pianist: Sam Rotman

Mr. Sam Rotman, renowned international concert pianist, will be giving a performance on Friday, March 23, in the Great Hall of St. John's Episcopal Church, 110 S. Clay Street, at 7:30 pm.