



The Guardian

FEBRUARY 2013

FROM THE RECTORY

Then you will know the truth and the truth shall set you free. — John 8:32

We begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 13 this year) by hearing the words, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” This is not a religious or faith-based statement; it is a statement of the existential truth (and scientifically proven fact) that we are mortal. If we were to ask people on the street, “Are you aware that one day you are going to die?” people would say, “Yes, of course.” And yet, as much as our own mortality is a reality we live with, it is not a reality we or our culture would like to face.

Lent is a time of preparation, reflection, and penitence. Lent is a time when we are given permission and support to face truths about ourselves and about our world that we would rather ignore, deny, or block out of our minds. Yet we are called to do this; we are called to face these truths, knowing that we will not face them alone, knowing that facing them is the first step toward reconciliation with God and with those around us.

This year, the theme of our evening Lenten study is called “Living Faithfully in a Culture of Violence.” I know that this is neither a light nor an easy subject to address. I know that this subject is probably way too broad and political and difficult. And yet I feel compelled (as many of you do) to face the truth of our broken world and ask: “What does it mean to live as a person of faith in a culture of violence?” Is there any light, hope, or direction our faith in Christ can bring to the violence we encounter in our hearts, our schools, our places of work, our nation? Can we agree to face the reality of the violence of our world together, prayerfully, and honestly, that we may be led to real and small ways of healing this broken world?

I invite you to join us on Tuesday nights to study, reflect, and pray. We will begin with a light supper at 5:30 p.m. We hope the supper will be a time for us to get to know one another better and deepen our relationships. We will have an hour-long program from 6:15–7:15 p.m., then end with a time of worship in the church. You are welcome to join us for any or all parts of the evenings. Children are welcome to join us for supper; childcare will be provided from 6:15–7:35 p.m.

*Yours in Christ,
Mary*



NEWS OF THE PARISH

ST. MICHAEL'S TABLE

**“LIVING FAITHFULLY
IN A CULTURE OF VIOLENCE”**

**A TUESDAY EVENING LENTEN SERIES, 5:30–7:35 P.M.
FEBRUARY 19 THROUGH MARCH 19
ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

February 19—Violence in our Hearts:
Violence and our Biblical Witness

February 26—Violence in our Schools:
Bullying and Aggression within Institutions

March 5—Violence in the Home: Domestic Violence

March 12—Violence in the Media

March 19—What Shall We Do Now?

Schedule (please come to any or all parts of the evening!)

5:30 Light supper

6:15 Program

7:15 Worship

Children are welcome to join us for supper. Childcare will be provided from 6:00–7:35 p.m.



YOUR FURNISHING AND FINISHING TEAM HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK! Watch over the next couple of weeks for a furnishing plan in the Meeting Room and a “furnishings wish list.”

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 13

Services at St. Michael's will be at 7:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.



SPECIAL ECW BREAKFAST FEBRUARY 9

The Episcopal Church Women invite all women of the parish for a breakfast meeting on Saturday, February 9, at 8:30 a.m.

By definition all women of the parish are members of ECW, and whether or not you regularly attend the meetings you are especially welcome for this shared meal and conversation. Breakfast will be provided, and we ask you to sign up on the sheet in the Common Room if you can come.

ECW provides hospitality and addresses special financial needs of our own congregation, as well as providing funding assistance to local and global community organizations.

We are at a crossroads in terms of leadership and ministry and look forward to a prayerful conversation with Mary about the way forward.



**ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL TRIP
TO GRAFTON PONDS FEBRUARY 10**

We leave after the 10:15 service for a great afternoon of cross-country skiing, tubing, snowshoeing, hot chocolate, and lots of fun for the whole family. Rentals are available. Please contact Betsy Bates at 257-0734 for further information.



**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
FEBRUARY 12**

Our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be held this year, along with the extremely popular silent auction, on February 12 at the church. The auction will feature



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lots of wonderful items, including a kids' table as the kids had so much fun last year bidding on small, kid-appropriate items. We are looking for donations for the auction large, small, hand-made, service, or even food items would be wonderful. If you would like to help us out for a great cause, please let Shirley Hodgdon (shirls72@yahoo.com) or Betsy Bates (betsy3@sover.net) know, or you can drop off items in Joel's office. This year's supper and auction proceeds will go to the Disaster Relief fund of the Outreach Ministries. We will be sending a group or groups this coming spring to New Jersey to help with the rebuilding of churches and homes in New Jersey. A big thank-you in advance to anyone who would like to donate.



LAUNCH OF PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FEBRUARY 24

You are warmly invited to attend the launch of St. Michael's Planned Giving program on Sunday, February 24, at a special lunch following the 10:15 a.m. service. An anonymous donor is providing a catered hot lunch, to be followed by a brief introduction to the program, how it works, and how you can participate.

In general planned gifts are made in three forms: a bequest in a will, a life-income gift, or a gift of special assets. Planned giving provides us with opportunities to give to the church from our accumulated resources both during and after our lifetimes. Planned giving is a means by which anyone can make a considered choice about the ultimate disposition of his or her personal resources. Planned giving establishes a way for a donor to provide for family members while remembering the church as well. Planned gifts can be designated for the church's general funds, its endowment, or for a particular purpose. Planned gifts can be given now or deferred.

Come and hear more about all of this on February 24. We hope very much you will participate, since planned giving is an important part of how we all can support St. Michael's and its mission in the years to come.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN NOTES

At the January 9 meeting it was voted to give the Capital Campaign \$3,000 for kitchen furnishings not covered in the original budget. We are also giving ERD \$2,000 for relief in New York and New Jersey after Sandy. Locally, we are donating \$500 to the Overflow Shelter and \$500 to the Boys' and Girls' Club.

Some of the group will be organizing a kitchen work bee with the hopes that many will help. More information to follow.

There will be a breakfast meeting for all women of the parish on February 9 (please see the notice above).

The Spring Tag Sale will be on May 3 and 4.

Mary Carnahan, Secretary



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW ST. MICHAEL'S WEBSITE

St. Michael's has a new website! Mary and others have worked with local website designer Meg McCarthy to create a beautiful, informative, and inviting website for the parish. We also have a new website address (though the old one will continue to work for a while).

Check it out: www.stmichaelsvermont.org

Even better, send it to all your friends and neighbors!





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ABOUT ST. MICHAEL'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

The St. Michael's Memorial Garden came into being in 2000 after meetings to discuss its creation started in 1995, halted in 1996, and were revisited in 1999. Jean Snell had left \$1,000 in her will to start the process of establishing a Memorial Garden. A committee worked with a surveyor and a landscape designer and held many committee meetings to bring the Garden into reality in 2000.

What is the Memorial Garden? The Garden is a natural, sacred place for the scattering of cremains (ashes). The cremains are scattered in the ground cover. There is no digging, and there are no monuments. The Garden can be accessed from both the church driveway and Harris Avenue. The walls are a sitting height so that people may go there to meditate, pray, or simply peacefully rest.

There are cremains of 11 people in the Garden. Their names and significant data are recorded in a special book kept in the sacristy. Bob Michalke made a wooden stand for the recording book; Tom Mousin inscribed it. Lima Pauliukonis crafted a large pottery

dish incorporating an angel with encircling wings to hold the cremains during the committal service.

On a very rainy Fifth Sunday after Easter, April 28, 2002, Bishop Ely consecrated the Memorial Garden with these words: "In the name if the Triune God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, I consecrate this Memorial Garden. May it be a place of rest for those who have gone before us, a garden of comfort for those who come to pray, and a continual source of creation's beauty for those who come after us, we pray in your holy and undivided name."

The Garden is for Parish members and their immediate family. Former members of the Parish may be interred with the approval of the rector and vestry. There is a fee of \$150 for each person who has a prior reservation. If there is no prior reservation the fee is \$200. The fee may be waived on the recommendation of the rector. The Garden's regulations and reservation forms are available from the parish administrator .

I am happy to answer any questions parishioners may have.

Mary Carnahan

OUR MISSION & WORK. . .AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

MISSION TRIP TO NEW JERSEY FOR REBUILDING PLANNED

This spring (date to be announced) we will be sending a group to New Jersey to help with the rebuilding of three churches or homes that were hit hard by Hurricane Sandy. We will drive and plan to work for a week. But if you would like to join us and can't give up a week, you are welcome to join us for a couple of days. There is

much to be done with rebuilding. There is also a need to cook and deliver food to volunteers and construction workers. It isn't as hard as one might think. Think about it. More information will follow in the March *Guardian* and in church. Stay tuned.

CHABHA: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

This year marks the 10th anniversary of CHABHA, Children Affected By HIV/AIDS in Rwanda and Burundi. Its founder, Susanna Grannis, and the Outreach team will be planning a celebration for the parish sometime this spring. Stay tuned. Much more information will follow.

Our CHABHA coin roll on Sunday, January 13, was a great success. Three generations of enthusiastic counters rolled \$453.00 in coins to help fund school fees for many children in Rwanda and Burundi. We will hold another coin roll in the late spring, so start filling your CHABHA jars.



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

SOME THOUGHTS ON MUSIC

Having just come out of a series of choral concerts, I have received many comments that lead me to ponder once again the power that music has to evoke deep feelings. And as I head off to a conference sponsored by the All Saints Foundation (an Episcopalian-founded organization) entitled “Music Makes Community,” I find myself thinking about both how music can potentially uplift our spirits and touch our hearts. But I also find myself thinking that if this is true (which I believe it is), then the reverse must also be true. That is, music might well inspire us to actions that are destructive, whether intentional or not. The ancient Greeks certainly believed this: they divided their music into categories specifically designed to promote or enhance particular actions, ranging from spiritual worship to sensual pleasures to warfare. We all know that music can effectively enhance a sense of calm, romance, or more energetic exercise. We also know that music can be and is used to pump up soldiers in combat and fuel hate rallies. Without going too deeply into the musicological aspects of this concept, I find myself simply asking this question: if we are “moved” by music, how can we be sure that we use the gift of music in a way that is life-affirming? Is all “religious” music good and all non-religious music suspect?

I believe the answer to that last question is No, and I recently read an observation by poet/hymn author Brian Wren that I found really insightful and helpful. He writes, “My feelings alone, stirred by music, do not guarantee that I am meeting the living God.

Community spirit can give a sense of safety and belonging, and the spirit of music can take us out of ourselves, but one of the earlier Christian writings cautions us to ‘test the spirits, to see whether they are from God’ (1 John 4:1). So we must test the spirit: to what action does it lead? Does it move us to love one another, welcome strangers, love our enemies, treat family members with care and respect, stand with the downtrodden, and spread the good news of Jesus Christ?”

I find that last bit particularly helpful to contemplate. Do we find ourselves strengthened not only in immediate feeling/sensation, but also in how we are actually able to love on a longer-term basis? Can music not only uplift us on a temporary basis, but can we also learn to recognize that which helps us reach the higher ground of compassion and contentment?

I end with these thoughts:

Wouldst thou know if a people be well governed,
or if its laws be good or bad, examine the music it
practices. —*Confucius*

All true and deeply felt music, whether secular or
sacred, has its home on the heights where art and
religion dwell. —*Albert Schweitzer*

Which of these two powers, love or music, can
elevate man to the most sublime heights? Why
separate them? They are the two wings of the
soul. —*Hector Berlioz*

—*Susan Dedell*

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3: Jeremiah 1:410; Psalm 71:1–6; 1 Corinthians 13:1–13; Luke 4:21–30

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10: Exodus 34:29–35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2; Luke 9:28–36

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17: Deuteronomy 26:1–11; Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16; Romans 10:8b–13; Luke 4:1–13

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24: Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17–4:1; Luke 13:31–35



ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

LITURGICAL ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2013 • 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM SUNDAY SERVICES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Liturgical Position	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
8:00 A.M. SERVICE				
Crucifer/Lay Assistant	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook	Bill Boggess	Kate McGinn
Intercessor	Doug Switzer	Laura Lewis	Anne Brown	Bill Ames
Sacramental Healing	Jean Smith	Betsy Bates	MJ Woodburn	Janet Cramer
Usher	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Anne Cook	Anne Cook
10:15 A.M. SERVICE				
Crucifer	Peter Johnson	Miranda Smith	Ricky Davidson	Paul Moberly
Torch Bearers	Betsy Bates Ken Neilson	Annamarie Pluhar Nancy Barber	Jessica Bennett Brain White	Fred Bump Miranda Smith
Element Bearers	Lori Palmer Rich Melanson	Linda Rice Lynne Lewandowski	Andy & Elise Burrows	Shirley Hodgdon Sherry Stimmel
Lay Assistant	Brian Morgan	Greg Lesch	Sarah Benton	Joyce Vining Morgan
Lector	Sarah Rich	Sarah Warren	Barbara Hoag	Annie Landenberger
Intercessor	Jenny Karstad	Elise Burrows	Joe Grannis	Chris Chapman
Ushers	Ricky Davidson Ken Jacobs	Dick Burtis Diana Bingham	Greg & Kelli Allen	Alan & Judith McBean
Sacramental Healing	Sarah Benton Robin White-Diamondstone	Trudy Crites Sarah Benton	Jean Smith Robin White-Diamondstone	Betsy Bates MJ Woodburn
Welcome Ministry	Betsy Bates Sue Dyer	Paul Moberly	Sherry Stimmel Shirley Hodgdon	MJ Woodburn Ken Jacobs
Altar Guild	Madelyn Howard Carol Hesselbach Lynn Billington	Sue Dyer Elise Burrows Pat Laubach Judy Walker	Sue Dyer Elise Burrows Pat Laubach Judy Walker	Carey Lane Jane Sbardella Karen Fontaine Christine Gauthier
Counters	Anne Cook Judy McGee	Wayne Cook Vince Johnson	Sherry Stimmel Jared Rediske	Jared Rediske Sherry Stimmel

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

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Pledge payments received, January–December:	\$191,286
Pledge payments received as a percentage of expected amount (as budgeted):	94%
Total income, January–December:	\$311,715
Total income as a percentage of expected amount:	100%
Total expenses, January–December:	\$297,835
Total expense as a percentage of expected amount:	95%
Net income, January–December:	\$13,880
Net income as a percentage of expected amount:	3,899%



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

February 3, *The Growing Income Gap in the U.S.* Most of an entire afternoon at this past fall's Diocesan Convention in Burlington addressed the huge and increasing income chasm between the wealthy and the poor in our country. Over the past 40+ years the top 1% have represented over 52% of all U.S. income gains and control over 40% of all wealth in the U.S. Since 1979 incomes for all but the top 1% have remained flat, while the incomes of the top 1% have nearly quadrupled. How does this impact us here in Vermont? Why has this been named a priority for work in our diocese? What is our role here, as Christians, as people of compassion, as advocates and activists for social justice and equity? What have we learned from scripture? Where can we begin and what can we do, if this is ever to change? How can this be a ministry of joy? Led by Craig Hammond.

February 10, *The Faces of Poverty*—A lively discussion to explore local poverty in Brattleboro and Windham County. Through photos and stories we will look at the reality of poverty around us and perhaps challenge our own “lenses” as we look about our communities. Led by Sue Dyer and Chris Hart.

February 17, *Commandments 1-3*—The Forums during Lent will focus on the Ten Commandments. This first Sunday in Lent, Thad Bennett will lead a discussion on the first three commandments: “You shall have no other gods before me.” “You shall not make for yourself an idol. . .” “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God. . .”

February 24, *Commandment 4*—“Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. . .” Led by Mary Lindquist.

We strongly believe that our forum leaders should not be limited to the clergy. We invite any member of the laity to take on this role. If you would like to lead, please contact any member of the Committee: Bill Ames, Nancy Barber (chair), Joel Hill, Mary Lindquist, Annamarie Pluhar, Ruth Tilghman, Phillip Wilson.



AROUND THE PARISH

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1	Steven Meyer
February 5	Andy Burrows
February 7	Douglas Lilly
February 8	Emma Allen, James Landenberger, Gordon Landenberger
February 9	Richard Burtis, Susan Wilson
February 10	Sissi Loftin
February 11	Alan McBean
February 12	Robert Anderson, Lucia Osiecki, Dorothy Hutchins
February 14	Stephen Hill, John Judge, Jr.
February 16	Greg Allen, Doug Williams
February 19	Ross Kinney
February 20	Judy Wagenbach
February 25	Anne Cook
February 26	Paul Love, Charlene Kemp
February 28	Joseph Garofalo

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 21	Stephen & Joel Hill
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WHAT DO WE CALL THAT ROOM?

The Meeting Room—This is the name of our new large room in the Bradley Wing. We originally thought of moving the library books into this room and naming it the Library, but we are going to keep the books, and the Library, where they were. Since the Holbrook Room has literally disappeared, we are retiring that name from the building.

The Library—This room will revert to being the library and a small meeting room once Jeanie and her office move to their new space at the front.

The Dunham Room—This room will continue to be called the Dunham Room. It will be an important multi-purpose space for us and our second large meeting room.

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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Guardian Mailing List: contact Jeanie Crosby with address changes or requests to be added or removed from *The Guardian* mailing list. jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org or 802-254-6048.

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The Guardian

Progressive, Prayerful, and Seeking to Follow Jesus in All Aspects of Our Lives



Our Worship Together

SUNDAYS—Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. (Rite II) &
10:15 a.m. (Rite II with music)

WEDNESDAYS—Holy Eucharist at noon (Rite II)

THURSDAYS—Contemplative Prayer at 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 13—Ash Wednesday: 7:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.,
and 7:00 p.m.

This Month At St. Michael's Episcopal

FEBRUARY 9—ECW Breakfast

FEBRUARY 10—Grafton Ponds

FEBRUARY 12—Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
and Silent Auction