



The Guardian

JULY 2014

FROM THE RECTORY

MORE SILENCE

*My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.*

Psalm 130:6

Probably more than ever, because of iPads, cell phones, billboards, TVs, and iPods, we are a toxically overstimulated people. Only time will tell the deep effects of this on emotional maturity, relationships, communication, conversation, and religion itself. Silence now seems like a luxury, but it is not so much a luxury as it is a choice and decision at the heart of every spiritual discipline and growth. Without it, most liturgies, Bible studies, devotions, “holy” practices, sermons, and religious conversations might be good and fine, but they will never be truly great or life-changing—for ourselves or for others. They can only represent the surface; God is always found at the depths, even the depths of our sin and brokenness. And in the depths, it is silent.

—Richard Rohr

During the season of Lent, 2013, the staff and I decided to try an experiment. At the beginning of each of the 10:15 a.m. services, we would begin with a period of silence. Although the silence was short (1–2 minutes), it seemed to have a profound effect on our worship. We received so much good feedback about the silence during Lent that we decided to keep it for the season of Easter and beyond. A year-and-a-half later, it continues to feel like a very important and necessary part of our liturgy, a chance to bring ourselves from our busy and distracted lives to a place where we may focus on the presence of God.

This summer, our liturgy will be pared down, with one fewer Scripture readings and a shorter Eucharistic Prayer. We will also be experimenting with a bit more silence during the liturgy. Again, this is an experiment. We hope that this silence will allow us to continue to deepen our awareness of God’s presence in our worship together. Please give us feedback on what you notice about the integration of more silence in the worship. And thanks for your willingness to try this!

*Yours in Christ,
Mary*



MARY MAGDALENE CELEBRATION

MARY MAGDALENE WEEKEND CELEBRATION

JULY 26–27, 2014

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT



Although St. Michael's finished its construction and renovation last fall, there is still one piece left to the completion of the Chapel of Mary Magdalene: the Triptych Icon that Zachary Roesemann has been creating. In honor of the completion of the icon (and our building project), St. Michael's is hosting a special weekend of events in honor of Mary Magdalene. Elizabeth Broyles and Shane Phelan, founders of a new religious order called the Companions of Mary the Apostle (see description on page 3), will be with us for all the events. Participants are welcome stay for any or all of the weekend activities. Everyone is welcome to share in this celebration!

SATURDAY, JULY 26

8:00–9:00—Centering Prayer

9:15–9:45—Contemplative Worship

9:45–10:10—*Mary Magdalene and the Scriptures*, Elizabeth Broyles and Shane Phelan, founders of The Companions of Mary the Apostle

10:10–10:30—Break with food

10:30–11:15—*The Making of the Mary Magdalene Triptych Icon*, Zachary Roesemann, Parish Iconographer

11:15–12:15—*Mary Magdalene as a Lens: Myth and Media*, Elizabeth Broyles and Shane Phelan

12:15–12:30—Closing Worship

SUNDAY, JULY 27

9:00–10:00—Adult Forum, *The Story of the Companions of Mary the Apostle*

10:15—Worship with the Blessing of the Icon of Mary Magdalene



MARY MAGDALENE CELEBRATION

WHO ARE THE COMPANIONS OF MARY THE APOSTLE?

The Companions of Mary the Apostle (CMA) are an emerging community rooted in the Episcopal Church but spilling beyond its borders. At this time the residential community is limited to women, but we invite men as well as women to join us as Companions of CMA.

The mission of the Companions of Mary the Apostle is to enable all people to experience the presence of God through a common life of prayer, worship, study, and service. We do that through:

- supporting the spiritual journeys of all people;
- helping people to access the feminine at the heart of God by fostering the use of inclusive, diverse language and images of God in worship and prayer;
- supporting women as leaders within and beyond the Church.

Through shared prayer and worship, retreats and spiritual direction, writing, and in any other ways that God calls us, we aim to bring the Gospel to a new world.

We are currently living on the grounds of Holy Cross Monastery, a men's community based in West Park, New York. We look forward to outgrowing our current space!



NEWS OF THE PARISH

THAD BENNETT TO SERVE IN CHESTER

Thad Bennett, one of our associate priests at St. Michael's, has been called to be the part-time Interim Pastor for St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Chester. He will be with them for about six months, starting in July, as they finish up their search for a new rector. Obviously, this means we will not be seeing Thad here at St. Michael's for that time. He writes:

Being associated with St. Michael's has been such a blessing as I have entered into retirement over these last 3+ years. I look forward to continuing that relationship even as I start this short-term interim work with St. Luke's. One of the joys about being a Christian and being in the Episcopal Church is that we are so clear that God is at work in our lives all the time. Thus, things are rarely static and God might nudge us to try some new and different things. This opportunity to return to "parish ministry as a parish priest" is one of those nudges. AND I look forward to returning to "retirement" and worship at St. Michael's after the New Year.

Please keep Thad and St. Luke's in your prayers as they walk this faithful journey together.



NEWS FROM MARK GENSZLER

Hello dear friends in Vermont,

I have a job! (My Aunt Phyllis is relieved!) With great gratitude, I have accepted the call to become priest-in-charge (or, "clergy-in-charge" for the moment) at a very interesting parish in the Diocese of Long Island called St. Francis. It is a "new" congregation in Bellmore and East Meadow that is the result of a combination of two very small parishes in the area—St. Mark's and Christ the King—that decided to combine and rename themselves with St. Francis as patron. This is a fitting name, as the St. Mark's people had begun a few years earlier what is now a large organic vegetable garden, and Christ the King has run a small drop-in pre-school for years. New life, indeed. The parish farmstand supports the garden ministry and much of the produce goes to the local food bank.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

Oh, and they want to build a new, small church building at the site where the garden is! Yikes! I'll start being with them on Sunday, June 15. I already have that beautiful stole Lori Palmer made for me.

I know; you're shaking your heads in astonishment, even as I was. The Spirit does indeed move in interesting ways. There will be many challenges—the combination of cultures, the deepening of our prayer life, the discerning of the many gifts in this brave band of people led by the Spirit—but these feel like challenges I need and want at this point in my life. And, I share this little narrative with you as you have been my teachers, collectively and individually, in many of these lessons in Life Together (as Bonhoeffer puts it) over the past number of years. Thank you, and bless you for that.

No sense of when an ordination (priestly) will be; I'm guessing early September. I'll share details with Mary and Clark-the-editor when I know.

With gratitude, and in hope,
Mark



A LETTER FROM SUSAN WILMOTT

Dear friends,

After the May Tag Sale this year, I told Mary I was retiring as organizer of the twice-yearly event, a position I've held for more than a decade.

The St. Michael's Tag Sale is an amazing event for many reasons: it brings parishioners together to work for a common cause, it provides the greater Brattleboro community an opportunity to purchase high-quality items at low cost, and it generates substantial income for St. Michael's, most of which has gone back to the community.

Michael and I have loved our involvement with the tag sale, which has expanded to year-round work for us in the last few years. But the commitment and physical demands of running the tag sales have exceeded our ability to comfortably handle them and also continue our other volunteer work.

It is time for new leadership to carry this wonderful St. Michael's outreach into the future.

Thank you to all who have devoted so many hours and so much care into making every tag sale a real community-wide celebration.

Susan



We are so thankful for Susan and Michael Wilmott and their tremendous ministry with the St. Michael's Tag Sale. While Susan is still willing to advise, we will need to do some organizing to figure out how we want to move forward with the Tag Sale ministry. Stay tuned for a date for a community meeting in the near future, as well as a celebration in honor of the Wilmotts' amazing service to St. Michael's. And please prayerfully consider whether you feel called to take a leadership position in this ministry.

Blessings, Mary



SAY HELLO TO...

...newcomers Mary and Clark Barber, two lifelong Vermonters (well, almost) who have recently made St.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

Michael's their parish home. Clark is a former Bellows Falls Village president and trustee who worked as a mechanic at St. Johnsbury Trucking Co., Bellows Falls Terminal, for 26 years. He's now semi-retired, still driving trucks but also managing to enjoy quality time on his motorcycle and playing golf. Mary, a justice of the peace and board member of the Bellows Falls Historical Society, worked as a journalist for the Reformer, Rutland Herald, and other media before changing careers to become an elementary-school reading specialist. She served two terms on the Rockingham and Windham Northeast Supervisory Union school boards. Clark and Mary met in high school in Bellows Falls but only reconnected years later. Now, after 33 years together, they have four grown daughters and five grandchildren. With so much family, travel is a big part of their lives. Mary has been to 43 states and hopes to see all 50. Welcome, Clark and Mary!



SUMMER STEWARDSHIP: A GREAT TIME TO START ELECTRONIC GIVING

Thanks to you all who faithfully support St. Michael's with your generosity of time and treasure. We know many of you are away for many weeks of the summer, but St. Michael's continues to pay bills to support our mission.

For this reason, we encourage you to set up a schedule of recurring contributions through our electronic giving program. It's convenient for you and provides much-needed consistency for St. Michael's. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. Even when travel, illness, or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, our church will continue to receive your contributions on an uninterrupted basis.

To become an electronic giver, visit St. Michael's website, www.stmichaelsvermont.org or visit the church office for instructions. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support of our mission and ministry!



VACATION SCHEDULE

Mary Lindquist and her family will be visiting family in Oregon June 30-July 9. Please keep the Lindquist/Johnson family in your prayers as they travel.



PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE: OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSES FOR JANUARY-MAY

Total Pledges Received: \$86,936 vs. Budget of \$91,662 (94.8% of Budget)

of which: Total Pledges Received for May: \$12,128 vs. Budget of \$18,334 (66.1%)

Total Operating Income: \$136,879 vs. Budget of \$137,703 (99.4% of Budget)

Total Operating Expenses: \$128,389 vs. Budget of \$148,158 (89.7% of Budget)

VESTRY OF ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Janet Cramer, Senior Warden
jfcvermont@gmail.com | 802-257-4750

Sarah Benton, Junior Warden
sarah.benton@comcast.net | 802-254-8772

Richard Cogliano
rcogliano@svcable.net | 802-558-2195

Wayne Cook
wecooksalot@gmail.com | 802-896-9446

Karen Guthrie
kguthrie@nmhschool.org | 413-773-7502

Ronny Johnson
ronjohns@sover.net | 802-257-7143

Jenny Karstad
artemisiamt@yahoo.com | 802-257-7705

David G. Mattocks
dgm63@cornell.edu | 802-254-2518

Linda Rice
lindariceaprn@gmail.com | 802-257-7982



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

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN SACRED PLACES

St. Michael's has been invited to participate in a joint initiative of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont and the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ. Through a generous donation from the Lilly Foundation, St. Michael's is one of five Episcopal Churches in Vermont that will work with an organization called "Partners for Sacred Places" (www.sacredplaces.org) over the next two years.

Partners for Sacred Places is a non-profit organization which offers a holistic approach for supporting a congregation's spiritual and material resources to strengthen its presence in the community. Partners will document and analyze information related to St. Michael's to help identify our strengths and potential. Some of the factors that will be explored include:

- **Critical Economic Impact**, including spending that supports the local economy and family-sustaining jobs, and incubation of small nonprofits and businesses;
- **Significant, Flexible Space**, such as auditoriums,

kitchens, and classrooms that can provide a home for arts and social-service organizations;

- **Cultural Importance**, including architectural value and artistic legacy;
- **Demographic and Economic Trends**, including population changes, housing values, commercial development, public safety, and other community data;
- **Location**, how the physical location of the church relates to commercial or economic development projects, and other neighborhood assets or anchors.

A team from St. Michael's made up of Sarah Benton, Chris Hart, Bruce Landenberger, and Mary Lindquist will be working with consultants from Partners for Sacred Places over the next two years. We hope that our work with this organization will help us align our recently renewed building with our vision, as well as facilitate partnerships between St. Michael's and other community organizations. Stay tuned!



VOLUNTEER AT KIDS4PEACE LEADERSHIP CAMP

This camp for Palestinian, Israeli, and American teens run by Nicholas and Dorothy Porter is held from August 1-10 and August 13-24 at 1635 Hinesburg Road in Brattleboro. We invite you to participate by volunteering to help prepare lunch for our campers. Volunteers are welcome to sit in on morning or afternoon camper dialogues. For further information, contact Dorothy Porter at 254-0068 or dmpinvt@yahoo.com.



LAMBS FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT LOAVES & FISHES

We have a few openings left for those who might want to donate meat to the Loaves & Fishes twice-weekly lunch service in Brattleboro. A donation of \$125 (with tax deduction to the donor) provides a lamb to be raised by us at our farm, to be butchered and delivered in December for holiday meals. Lambs will be bought in August. Please make out a check to Loaves & Fishes in Brattleboro and mail it to Ruth Tilghman, 603 Upper Dummerston Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Thanks,
Bill and Nancy Ames





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

GLEANING HAS BEGUN!

A number of St. Michael's parishioners have joined the Vermont Foodbank volunteers who are invited by local farmers to pick the vegetables and fruit that remain after all saleable produce has been harvested (and, for vegetables, before everything is ploughed under for the next planting). The farmers inform the Foodbank as to day, time, and location of the field(s); the Foodbank emails the details to all volunteers; those available to glean meet at the designated field(s) and glean (pick) as much produce as possible, pack it into plastic bags or paper boxes and put it into the Foodbank truck for transportation to the Foodbank, whence it is all distributed to local Food Shelves. One recipient familiar to us at St. Michael's is Loaves & Fishes.

Last year, Windham County gleaners picked almost 54,000 pounds of fresh vegetables and fruit, with volunteers contributing over 580 hours of service. The volunteers came from everywhere in the county, including many of the schools in our area and two of the colleges. Nine farms and five orchards contributed produce. So far this year, Windham County volunteers have picked lettuce and spinach. For many working adults, weekday gleaning is not an option,

but gleaning is also done on weekends; it all depends on the farmers' needs. And, as local schools can attest, gleaning is a suitable activity for school-aged children.

What is it like? Hannah Pick, the gleaning coordinator at the Foodbank, wrote about the first gleaning of the year: "Six of us were out in the fields this morning picking lettuce and spinach. Dramatic clouds were rolling across the sky, and the red and green lettuce was striping the fields. It felt good to be back. We cleaned up the lettuce field, but hardly made a noticeable mark in the lush rows of spinach. So we'll return to the forest of spinach. Harlow Farm says it's all for us, so there's a lot for us to do." And then Harlow Farm called the volunteers back for another field of lettuce the following Friday.

Outreach is about more than money; it's also about hands and heart. Gleaning is all hands and heart, and nourishes the soul of the gleaners while it nourishes those among us who depend on the Vermont Food Bank to eat. If you would like to join the gleaning volunteers, please contact hpick@vtfoodbank.org; Hannah will email you about dates, times, and locations so that you can glean when you are able.

REPORT FROM THE OUTREACH MINISTRIES TEAM

Our last meeting was June 2.

Laura Lewis again took charge of the food sale held at the Welcome Center going north-bound on Interstate 91. Members of the church provided food, which was given by donation to anyone who stopped by the Welcome Center. We raised \$1,200 for the benefit of Christ Church in Guilford.

Parking for the Heifer parade was held in our new expanded parking lot on June 7. Members of the Outreach Team worked to squeeze in 55 cars (10 more than last year), which yielded \$550. Thank you to all who helped park cars. It is always a quick way to raise funds for outreach.

The annual Barn Dance will be held on July 7 for the SIT Peace Camp attendees from the Governor's

Institute on Social Justice in Vermont and different countries. (We won't know the different countries until they get here.) It is a lively contra dance, called by Andy Davis, that the young people and attending adults enjoy every year. There are maps to the barn on the table in the back of the church and everyone is invited. It will start at 7:30 p.m. and there will be plenty of drinks and watermelon available.

We have financially supported the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen so that they could purchase a CSA vegetable share to be used to feed people who eat at the kitchen. Likewise we have donated funds to purchase hall furniture for the residents of Hilltop House, and to the Gathering Place, the local adult day center, to purchase a much-needed alarm system.



OUR MISSION & WORK. . .

MINISTRY VS. JOB

Some people have a job in the church.

Others invite themselves into a ministry.

What's the difference, you ask?

If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a job.

If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you quit because someone criticized you, it's a job.

If you keep on serving, it's a ministry.

If you'll do it as long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a job.

If you are committed to staying even if it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you quit because no one thanked you or praised you, it's a job.

If you stick with it even though no one recognized your efforts, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job.

It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.

If your concern is success, it's a job.

If your concern is faithfulness and service, it's a ministry.

If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job!

Lord, strengthen your servants and move us to a true sense of ministry and service, through your grace and mercy. Amen.

Submitted by Jane Sbardella

Thank you to St. Michael's Buildings and Grounds Crew for making St. Michael's grounds look beautiful!



DID YOU KNOW?

That you can see this issue of the *Guardian* in beautiful color on our website? That you can find the Rota? That you can check for the latest on events and services? Go to www.stmichaelsvermont.org and see for yourself!





EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER



Kids lining up for Pentecost procession



St. Michael's Choir School

ADULT EDUCATION FOR THE FALL

The Forum Committee Bill Ames, Nancy Barber, Karen Guthrie (Vestry Liaison), Joel Hill, Mary Lindquist, Annamarie Pluhar, Ruth Tilghman is on hiatus for the summer. When we re-convene in August we will continue to plan forums for September and October. While forums led by clergy are very popular, we realize we have an untapped resource in our own parishioners (remember the stories of the birth mothers, the videos of the elder interviews, the report from Hilltop Montessori students?). We invite you to come forward with your suggestions for the 2014-2015 forum year, either as presenters or just to suggest topics. To guide you, see below our mission statement, which we use to guide us. Thank you for your interest and attendance this past year, and thank you for your continuing participation!

ADULT FORUM MISSION STATEMENT

The Adult Forums will offer a diversity of topics covering:

- different interests (outreach, scripture, contemplative Christianity, spirituality, tradition, community interests, etc.);
- experiences of faith;
- the basics of Christianity and the Episcopal Church (for both those new to the church and those who want to rediscover their roots) and
- specialized topics (for deeper understanding)

In the context of:

- small, high-commitment/confidential small-group offerings,
- open, low-commitment offerings (forums), and
- a balance between content and discussion.

All offerings are to be connected to our context (Christian, faith community); all topics should ask the question, “How does this connect to our faith?” or “So what?”.

Nancy Barber, for the Committee



ROTA FOR JULY

LITURGICAL ROTA FOR JULY 2014 · 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM SUNDAY SERVICES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Position	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
8:00 A.M. SERVICE				
Service at Christ Church, Guilford on July 6, August 3 & September 7				
Lay Assistant	Kate McGinn	Wayne Cook	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook
Intercessor	Laura Lewis	Joanne Patalano	Kiersten McKenney	Doug Switzer
Sacramental Healing	MJ Woodburn	Jean Smith		Sarah Benton
Usher	Judy McGee & Bill Ames	Judy McGee & Bill Ames	Anne Cook	Anne Cook
10:15 A.M. SERVICE				
Crucifer	Leigh Marthe	Ken Neilson	Jessica Bennett	Ricky Davidson
Torch Bearers	Julian Siegel Andachew Mousin	Annamarie Pluhar Miranda Smith	Caleb Fritz Clara Fritz	Jonah Johnson Julia Fedoruk
Element Bearers	Michael Doty-Tolaro Ron Doty-Tolaro	Sherry Stimmel Ken Jacobs	The Mattocks Family	Andy & Elise Burrows
Lay Assistant	Nancy Barber	Ricky Davidson	Sarah Benton	Annie Landenberger
Lector	Ronny Johnson	Martin Leggott	Karin Bleeker	Paul Moberly
Intercessor	Sarah Rich	Susanna Grannis	Susan Heimer	Craig Hammond
Ushers	Sissi Loftin & Janet Brocklehurst	Sarah Benton Corky Elwell	Chris Hart Sue Dyer	John Daly Leigh Marthe
Sacramental Healing	Sarah Benton Trudy Crites	Sarah Benton Trudy Crites	Margit Lilly Robin White-Diamondstone	Janet Cramer MJ Woodburn
Altar Guild	Jane Sbardella Christine Gauthier Lucia Osiecki	Craig Newbert Ruth Struthers Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel	Craig Newbert Ruth Struthers Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel	Mary Carnahan Betty Elwell Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead
Lemonade	Choir			
Counters	Judy McGee Anne Cook	Vince Johnson Wayne Cook	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Judy McGee Anne Cook

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





MILESTONES & TRANSITIONS

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Meaghan Landin
July 2	Caroline Womack, Addison Weaver
July 3	Rosie Wojcik
July 4	Matthew Wojcik
July 5	Thea Porter, Rebecca Porter
July 7	Lori Palmer
July 8	Judith McGee
July 9	Anita Crosson, Irene Burtis
July 12	Ann Switzer
July 13	Jeffrey Duborow, Jessica Mattson
July 14	Marian Wojcik
July 16	Matt LeBlanc, Olivia Capponcelli
July 20	Richard Gauthier
July 22	Susan Wilmott, Kemp Wagenbach
July 25	Phillip Wilson
July 26	Barbara Hoag
July 27	Kerry Capponcelli
July 30	Shirley Hodgdon
July 31	Nancy Barber, Debra Collins

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

July 13	Susan & Paul Dedell, Pat LaBelle & Brenda Gilfillan
July 20	Susan & Phillip Wilson
July 23	Mary Lindquist & Kurt Johnson
July 27	Ann & Douglas Switzer
July 29	Betty & Corwin Elwell



WISDOM FROM THE TRADITION

ST. JEROME (347–420) ON ST. MARY MAGDALENE:

The unbelieving reader may perhaps laugh at me for dwelling so long on the praises of mere women; yet if he will but remember how holy women followed our Lord and Savior and ministered to Him out of their substance, and how the three Marys stood before the cross, and especially how Mary Magdalene—called “the tower” from the earnestness and glow of her faith—was privileged to see the risen Christ first of all before the very apostles, he will convict himself of pride sooner than me of folly. For we judge people’s virtue not by their sex but by their character.

JULY LECTIONARY

Sunday July 6: Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67; Psalm 45:11–18; Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

Sunday July 13: Genesis 25:19–34; Psalm 119:105–112; Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Sunday July 20: Genesis 28:10–19a; Psalm 139:1–11, 22–23; Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

Sunday July 27: Genesis 29:15–28; Psalm 105:1–11; Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52



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.

Clark Anderson, editor • 802-257-1409
bodyinthelibrary@mac.com

Susan Kochinskas, designer • 802-387-2732, flockshm@sover.net

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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Saint Michael's Episcopal Church

16 Bradley Avenue, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-3429
802-254-6048 • info@stmichaels-vt.org • www.stmichaelsvermont.org

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The Guardian

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



Our Worship Together

SUNDAYS—8:00 a.m., Quiet service of prayer and Holy Communion
8:00 a.m. Service will be at Christ Church in Guilford on
July 6, August 3 & September 7
10:15 a.m., Prayer, music, and Holy Communion, with childcare
WEEKDAY MORNINGS—6:00 a.m., Silent hour in chapel
WEDNESDAYS—Noon, Brief service of prayer and
Holy Communion
THURSDAYS—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

JULY 26–27, MARY MAGDALENE CELEBRATION