

JUNE 2014



FROM THE RECTORY

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:42-47

Last Sunday, I preached about this passage from the Acts of the Apostles. Though I've read this passage before, what struck me this time was how the early Christians, who were not yet called "Christians," but the people of "the Way," approached their faith as a true *way of life*.

Last fall, St. Michael's undertook a series of conversations about our life and faith called "Dream-catching 2.0." The Vestry and I have been studying the results of these conversations as a way of discerning where God is leading St. Michael's in the next few years.

When asked, "What are you grateful for in your life at St. Michael's?" the three most mentioned answers were:

- the beauty of holiness in worship, especially as experienced in liturgy and music
- the sense of belonging in an inclusive, warm, and open community
- the growing opportunities for children and youth

When asked, "What is your dream for St. Michael's?" many people mentioned a desire for:

- more opportunities to serve our community through local outreach
- more opportunities to get to know one another and share our lives
- greater varieties for experiencing prayer, study, and worship
- more tools to integrate one's faith into one's day-to-day life

As I thought about the dream-catching results in relationship to the scripture passage from Acts, it occurred to me that part of our call at St. Michael's seems to be to

Continued next page



FROM THE RECTORY

assist people in making their faith *an integrated way of life*, like the early Christians. Put in more contemporary language, St. Michael's may be called to become a *Christ-centered community of practice*.

- Christ-centered-rooted and grounded in the teachings of Jesus
- Community—people gathered to share a common purpose
- Practice—actions performed to enact change and growth

This vision of our life together assumes:

- being a Christian is a life-long practice
- Christians are called to ever-deepening change, growth, and commitment of life
- our faith is a way of life, not just a part of life

Some of the practices we might choose to focus on based on our dream-catching are the practice of prayer (training, support, retreats, etc.), service (meaningful outreach), study (varied opportunities for learning), *koinonia* (connection/ relationship), and worship (varieties of thoughtful opportunities to worship).

The Vestry and Staff of St. Michael's are beginning to think about *St. Michael's: A Christ-Centered Community of Practice* as a possible vision for our future over the next few years. But we want to hear from you. Does this vision make sense to you? Can you get excited about it? We are also discerning just which practices we feel called to focus on in the next few years.

Please let me or one of the members of St. Michael's Vestry or staff know what you think. We hope to cast a vision that will really articulate where we feel God is calling us as the Body of Christ at this time.

Yours in Christ, Mary

UPDATING THE LORD'S PRAYER IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

Starting on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, we will start using the ecumenical version of the Lord's Prayer as it is found on page 364 of our Book of Common Prayer. Many people mistakenly think this is the "modern version" of the Lord's Prayer. But as we discovered during an Adult Forum in April, it is actually the result of almost 30 years of research, study, translation, and theological work that has tried to reproduce "what Jesus actually said." The Bible gives us two versions of the Prayer (Luke 11:2–4 and Matthew 6:9–13), and the records of the early church also give us some hints. The result is the prayer that most denominations are currently using for public liturgy.

Want to know more? Please search online for the International Consultation on English Texts (ICET) or English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC).



NEWS OF THE PARISH

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST JUNE 8

June 8 is Pentecost, the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. Don't forget to wear red in honor of this great feast!



New Attenders Lunch June 8

Whether you have been at St. Michael's one day, one week, or one year, we want to let you know what a difference your presence makes in the life of our community. If you consider yourself new to St. Michael's, join members of the clergy, lay leaders, and members of the Welcome Team for a picnic lunch at noon on Sunday, June 8, on the Rectory lawn. Make new friends, ask questions, and find out how you can get involved in our diverse and energetic ministries, programs, and community life. Children are very welcome! Please sign up in the Common Room if you plan to attend.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC JUNE 22

All students, teachers, and helpers in Sunday School at St. Michael's (Godly Play, Workshop Rotation, Youth Forum) are invited to a lunch in your honor on Sunday, June 22, at noon on the Rectory lawn. Please come and help us celebrate a wonderful year together!



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUMMER SCHEDULE

Workshop Rotation and the Youth Forum (which both meet from 9:00–10:00 a.m. on Sundays) will be taking a break for the summer beginning on June 1.

Godly Play (which meets during the first part of church) will be taking a break for the summer beginning on June 22.

Nursery care will continue through the summer. Kids who find it difficult to sit through a whole church service are welcome to play in the nursery during the summer months when Godly Play is on hiatus.

NOTES FROM THE MAY VESTRY MEETING

We began with an update from Mary regarding her recent pastoral care with several very ill and valued members of our community.

A review of the budget showed that, while we have had some "dips," we are where we should be for income. Expenses were shown to be higher than normal in some areas but this is due to the fact that April was the beginning of the second quarter and many accounts are paid on a quarterly basis.

Mary reported on the workings of a committee attempting to pull together all the ideas and desires from the Dreamcatching 2.0 sessions last fall. She will be doing a summary write-up for the *Guardian* [see page 1].

The implementation of a "Start a Ministry Form" was approved. The form will be placed on our website. We discussed at length the fact that this form is not meant for the Vestry or staff to micromanage programs, but rather to help an individual or group bring an idea to fruition within the overarching philosophy of St. Michael's.

There were also discussions of the upcoming Newcomer's Picnic and other summer events.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Rice



PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE: Operating Income/Expenses for January-April

Total Pledges Received: \$72,054 vs. Budget of \$73,328 (98.3% of Budget)

of which: Total Pledges Received for April: \$13,007 vs. Budget of \$18,334 (70.9%)

Total Operating Income: \$111,183 vs. Budget of \$111,557 (99.7%)

Total Operating Expenses: \$104,786 vs. Budget of \$118,829 (88.2%)



CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK









Our Altar Guild preparing for Holy Week



St. Michael's Choir School preparing for Palm Sunday

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Our "Adult Education Hour" on Sundays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room is winding down for the summer. By the time you read this issue, you may already have attended the Forums on May 25 and June 1 entitled "Honoring the Voices of our Elders" and "Don't Let Me Lose My Mind." Below are the remaining Forums for the summer.

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in this Forum year! We will be planning sessions for September and October over the summer. If you have ideas for topics, please do be in touch with any one of us.

Bill Ames, Nancy Barber, Joel Hill, Mary Lindquist, Annamarie Pluhar, Ruth Tilghman, Phillip Wilson

June 8, "River of Spirit Odyssey"-From April 24-30, the Hilltop Montessori Middle School embarked on a journey to explore the realms of religion, faith,



ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

and spirit. Twenty-three middle school students spent the week in the Boston area engaging with numerous different faith communities in both worship and conversation. In preparation for their journey the students were immersed in a six-week study of comparative religion through lecture, literature, scripture, and guest speakers (including Mary!). Join their teacher and designer of the River of Spirit Odyssey, Paul Dedell, and a group of Hilltop students in a discussion about their collective experience immersing in varied communities of faith and their own individual journeys of spirit.

June 15 and 22, no Forums

June 29, Pride Sunday, "Sexuality and Spirituality: Celebrate the Link II"-Last year's first formal celebration of Pride Sunday at St. Michael's included an Adult Forum session entitled Sexuality and Spirituality: Celebrate the Link. The discussion was lively and included not just the stories and insights of gay and lesbian members of the congregation, but of many other members as well. This year we will again defy the New England dictum that one does not discuss sex, religion, or politics in polite company. Join the Rev. Thad Bennett as he helps to facilitate a conversation about the changing ways we see and experience the link between being the sexual person in a human body and the spiritual person in that same body, all of whom God created and inspires. Participants will be invited to share only what they feel comfortable sharing and we hope we might learn together.

PRIDE SUNDAY JUNE 29

St. Michael's invites you to join us for our own celebration of June as Pride month. On Sunday, June 29, we are inviting the community to be with us as St. Michael's celebrates Pride Sunday. At both the 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. services our worship and liturgy will reflect the joy of our diversity as human beings, and the sermon will include reflections and witness from church members about the connection between our spirituality and our sexuality. This year, we will hear from Ricky Davidson and Deb Jones.

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STATE OF THE CHURCH

RESURRECTION

by Brother Scott Borden, Prior of Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, New York

[Editor's note: This article appeared in the May 2014 issue of Crux Est Mundi Medicina, the newsletter of Holy Cross Monastery. Its perspective on the state of "the church" is well worth pondering as we think about our own exciting future at St. Michael's.]

In this season of Eastertide, it's hard not to think about resurrection. Surely that is good. It is not just that we have the image of Jesus resurrected from the grave fresh in our minds, but all of nature seems to be echoing that message. After a cold and snowy winter, flowers and plants resurrect. After being stuck indoors, our spirits begin to emerge and resurrect as well. New life comes. All of nature sings this story because all of nature is God's creation. And here we are, part of the chorus.

I have had a number of conversations lately with folks who are, frankly, discouraged about the present state of "the church." I put that in quotes because people mean many different things when they say "the church"-it could mean their local congregation, their diocese, a denomination, or the entire universal church. But the sense of discouragement seems to be the same-the church is declining, struggling to stay alive, aging, or fading away.

A number of other stories in this edition of *The Mundi* focus on work and ministry that we do with folks who live in poverty. It is possible and perhaps even tempting to mistake the transition that is taking place in the church for a type of poverty. We don't have the attendance we used to have. We don't have the finances we used to have. If we surrender to the notion that the church is increasingly impoverished, then we forsake the stewardship to which God calls us.

"The church," whatever we mean by that, is no doubt changing. The church has always been changing. Living things change. So rather than being discouraged by the changing face of the church, we can be encouraged that this change is a sure sign that the church is alive.

So what? The final change in life as we know it is death. Could my optimism be misplaced? Could the

change we see be a sign of death rather than of life? We have just been through our annual re-living of Easter, of Jesus' death and resurrection. Death is part of our story, but not the end of our story. It is not that I think the church could die and then be resurrected.

I BELIEVE THE CHURCH WILL RESURRECT INTO A BODY THAT DISCOVERS VAST NEW WAYS TO FOSTER AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES.

It is that I think the church is always dying and always resurrecting.

What might a resurrected church look like? I can only approach that question by way of a resurrected monastery-Holy Cross Monastery. From outward appearances this monastery has been a consistent presence in the mid-Hudson Valley for more than 100 years, and at the same time, life as we know it within this monastery has ended and begun anew any number of times. Each state of death has no doubt been painful, but I can vouch for the joyful resurrection we live.

I believe the various resurrections that have taken place within Holy Cross Monastery are particularly relevant to the process unfolding in the wider church. From my point of view, each time life in the monastery has been reborn, it has been distinguished by a growth and deepening of our understanding of community. I am quite convinced that the movement within the church unfolding now is an awakening of a deeper sense of community than the church has



STATE OF THE CHURCH

known in a very long time-and by long time I mean hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

A few years ago we would encounter several people each year who were particularly interested in community-not necessarily celibate monastic community, but some form of shared life built around a core of Christian values. Now we see this type of person several times a month. Their questions are often vague, which tells me that the questions are the work of the Spirit rather than the work of the mind.

A vision of what the church is becoming is starting to clarify for some of us inside and outside the monastery. I believe the church will resurrect into a body that



discovers vast new ways to foster and strengthen communities. We will use our tradition in ways we never thought of. We will use our resources, especially our vast real estate holdings, in ways that will startle us. Scripture reminds us that our common life depends upon each others' toil and we will come to understand this as never before.

Scripture also shows us, time and again, that God works through human agency, through us. I believe this is an invitation. Those of us who live at Holy Cross Monastery and other monastic communities are being invited to share with the wider church the particular knowledge and experience we have gained. And all of us who want to follow Jesus are being invited to be stewards of this transitional time for the church.

In this season of resurrection and new life I ask you to consider how God may be calling you, and calling your definition of "the church," to new life.







OUR MISSION & WORK...

LAMBS FOR THE HOLIDAYS AT LOAVES & FISHES

We have nine 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

VESTRY OF ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Richard Cogliano and new daughter Hailey



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!



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

PILGRIMAGE FOR EARTH: FROM LOSS TO HOPE

Dear St. Michael's folks: This looks like it will be a wonderful event! There is a website devoted to this event at http://www.pilgrimageforearth.org. For those who are interested, let's try to carpool. There will be sign-ups for carpooling in the Common Room.

Mary

This four-day event will constitute a variation on the themes of the Triduum, the end of Holy Week, with a focus on lament for the losses God's earth has suffered through human hands, and moving to claim the hope that God's ongoing creative presence in the world offers. In a Thursday through Sunday movement, we will build on the themes of Holy Week from the Last Supper to the Resurrection. The program will begin the evening of June 26 in Canterbury, New Hampshire, and will inaugurate the Church of the Woods, a ministry of Kairos Earth (kairosearth.net). This new organization was founded by the Rev. Stephen Blackmer of the Diocese of New Hampshire, recently ordained to the priesthood after a career in conservation.

The Maundy Thursday-inspired liturgy in Canterbury will be followed on Friday by a late afternoon event by the Connecticut River where the Rev. Thomas Troeger, Lantz Professor of Christian Communication at Yale Divinity School (http://divinity.yale.edu/troeger), will lead a service based on the Good Friday Meditations on the Seven Last Words. Prof. Troeger will focus his meditations on the earth's trauma through the lens of Jesus' words on the Cross. These "Words" will be accompanied by singing and instrumental music, perhaps drums, brass, and bagpipes.

We will conclude that day at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Norwich, Vermont, with a version of Tenebrae, a traditional Holy Week service featuring polyphonal Renaissance a *cappella* settings. Traditional spoken passages from the Psalms and the book of Lamentations will be joined by contemporary writings on the earth's distress.

On Saturday, June 28, there will be workshops, meditations, hikes, music, and worship experiences

centered on the theme of lament, in the spirit of Holy Saturday, the day of Christ in the tomb. Prof. Troeger, whose presence and gift for preaching will be a golden thread throughout the Pilgrimage, will lead liturgies of lament, with singing and instrumental music, for the suffering of the earth and the death of species by human hands. This will take place at Mission Farm and Church of Our Savior, Killington, Vermont, a 170-acre site with trails, a 19th-century stone church, and a retreat house. The late afternoon may include an opportunity to discuss action for care of the earth as we look ahead to the time beyond this Pilgrimage.

On the Saturday night, June 28, the Pilgrimage for Earth will create a liturgy inspired by the Great Vigil of Easter, celebrating God's presence in the world as a source of hope and new life in the face of loss. The service will meld traditional elements of the Vigil with readings and a homily reflecting on the ways humanity recognizes the glory of God in Creation and already has planted the seeds of work which can bring new life to the planet. Music will come from a variety of sources. This will take place at Church of Our Savior at Mission Farm.

On Sunday, June 29, the 10:00 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Hanover, New Hampshire, will feature a liturgy focusing on the Easter hope we bring to our work in nurturing God's Earth.

The 2014 Liturgy Festival of St. James Episcopal Church, Woodstock, Vermont, is a cooperative program with Church of the Woods, Canterbury, New Hampshire, and the Episcopal Dioceses of Vermont and New Hampshire, with support from Province I (New England) of the Episcopal Church.



ROTA FOR JUNE

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

POSITION	JUNE I	JUNE 8	JUNE 15	JUNE 22	JUNE 29
	I	8:00 A.M.	SERVICE	1	I
Lay Assistant	Wayne Cook	Anita Crosson	Kate McGinn	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook
Intercessor	Laura Lewis	Joanne Patalano	Kiersten McKenney	Doug Switzer	Bill Ames
Healing Minister	Janet Cramer	Janet Cramer	MJ Woodburn	Janet Cramer	Trudy Crites
Usher	Judy McGee	Anne Coook	Judy McGee	Judy McGee	Anne Cook
	I	10:15 A.M	. SERVICE	1	I
Crucifer	Jessica Bennett	Annie Landenberger	Dawn Kotapish	Ken Neilson	Mikael Mattson
Torch Bearers	Brian White Ken Neilson	Thea Porter Rebecca Porter	Kiersten Landin Jonah Johnson	Liz Vick Brian White	Jake Mattson KC Mattson
Lay Assistant	Brian Morgan	Annamarie Pluhar	Greg Lesch	Miranda Smith	Sarah Benton
Lector	Joyce Vining Morgan	Sarah Rich	Craig Hammond	Joe Grannis	Susan Heimer
Intercessor	Sue Dyer	Joe Grannis	Jen Karstad	Susanna Grannis	Linda Rice
Ushers	Michael Doty-Tolaro Ron Doty-Tolaro	Janet Brocklehurst & Sissi Loftin	Corky Elwell Ken Jacobs	Alan & Judith McBean	Michael & Susan Wilmott
Element Bearers	Susan & Michael Wilmot	Mattocks Family	Linda Rice Sherry Stimmel	Craig Hammond & Liz Vick	John Daly Betsy Bates
Altar Guild	Madelyn Howard Carol Hesselbach Lynn Billington	Madelyn Howard Carol Hesselbach Lynn Billington	Susan Dyer Elise Burrows Pat Laubach Judy Walker Laurie Chiperfield	Susan Dyer Elise Burrows Pat Laubach Judy Walker Laurie Chiperfield	Jane Sbardella Christine Gauthier Lucia Osiecki
Healing Team	Trudy Crites Robin White-Diamondstone	Margit Lilly MJ Woodburn	Robin White-Diamondstone Betsy Bates	Sarah Benton Jean Smith	Trudy Crites Robin White-Diamondston
Coffee Hour	Michael & Ron Doty-Tolaro	MJ Woodburn Marth Moravec	Landenberger Family	Lemonade on the Lawn	Lemonade on the Law
Counters	Anne Cook Judy McGee	Wayne Cook Vince Johnson	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Sherry Stimmel Judith Hildreth	Doug Switzer Gwen Mousin
Flowers	Laurie Chiperfield	George & Laura Lewis		Lucia Osiecki & Deb Jones	

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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- June 1 Bob Chiperfield, Nancy Duborow,
 - Madelyn Howard, Danny Houder
- June 2 Laura Lewis, Cary Gaunt, Jane Sbardella
- June 3 Lynne Billington, Caroline Wojcik
- June 4 Phillip Stimmel
- June 5 Jonah Johnson
- June 6 Janice Scherer
- June 7 Conor Landenberger
- June 11 Martha Moravec
- June 12 Betsy Bates
- June 16 Jake Mattson
- June 17 Jean Jersey, Herb Meyer
- June 18 Judith van Wageningen
- June 19 Elisabeth Swift
- June 20 Jared Rediske
- June 21 Nye Ffarabas
- June 22 Tracy Binet-Perrin
- June 23 Theodore Kramer, Craig Hammond
- June 25 Whitney Nicols, Kevin McElhinney
- June 27 Carolyn Taylor-Olson
- June 28 Judy Hueber
- June 29 Vince Johnson

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- June 3 Bruce & Carol Hesselbach
- June 10 Greg & Kelli Allen, George & Laura Lewis, Douglas & Ann Bonneville
- June 15 Peter & Jean Smith
- June 18 Al & Janet Cramer
- June 21 Patrick & Serina Keppel, Ron Bell & Gwen Mousin
- June 22 Kevin McElhinney & Carol Beninati
- June 24 Philip & Cherolyn Stimmel
- June 26 Jim & Donna Reidt
- June 29 Peter & Judith van Wageningen

WISDOM FROM THE TRADITION

The feast of the Holy Trinity is the triumphant celebration of the fact that God is One in spite of everything. Neither the diversity of his manifestation nor the threeness of the divine Persons makes him into three gods. And this paradox underpins the possibility of real, exhilarating unity in creation in spite of the immense, seemingly irreconcilable, diversity in its parts. The celebration of God's unity is the celebration of our own hope of total fulfillment, in which nothing is lost and nothing is left hanging without total integration into the whole.

Simon Tugwell, O.P. (1980)

JUNE LECTIONARY

Sunday, June 1: Acts 1:6–14; Psalm 68:1–10, 33–36; 1 Peter 4:12–14, 5:6–11; John 17:1–11

Sunday, June 8, Feast of Pentecost: Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30; Psalm 104:25–35, 37; 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13 or Acts 2:1–21; John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39

Sunday, June 15, Trinity Sunday: Genesis 1:1–2:4a; Psalm 8 or Canticle 2 or 13; 2 Corinthians 13:11–13; Matthew 28:16–20

Sunday, June 22: Jeremiah 20:7–13; Psalm 69:8–11, 18–20; Romans 6:1b–11; Matthew 10:24–39

Sunday, June 29: Jeremiah 28:5–9; Psalm 89:1–4, 15–18; Romans 6:12–23; Matthew 10:40–42



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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
- 10:15 a.m., Prayer, music, and Holy Communion, with Sunday School and childcare
- WEEKDAY MORNINGS-6:00 a.m., Silent hour in chapel
- WEDNESDAYS—Noon, Brief service of prayer and Holy Communion
- THURSDAYS—9:00 a.m., Rite I service; 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

JUNE 8—NEW ATTENDERS LUNCH

JUNE 22—SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC