

May 2013

FROM THE RECTORY

There is one Body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us. One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism. One God and Father of all. *From the service of Baptism in the Book of Common Prayer*

I write to you from the Rectory backyard as I watch my children playing in the mud. Mud play is something that they brought with them from Hawaii, a practice quite well suited to Vermont. Today it is finally warm enough for them to wear their swim suits and get really dirty.

Yesterday, I got a voicemail message from Corky Elwell, St. Michael's Junior Warden. Corky called to check on me and acknowledge that it had been a particularly hard week for our church and our nation. Even though yesterday seemed like a continuation of winter (it even snowed a bit!), Corky ended his message by saying, "Spring is coming!"

Two weeks ago, we had a very joyous worship service, as we baptized three babies and welcomed them into the Body of Christ and the family of the church. I shared with the congregation what a privilege it was as a priest to be invited into significant and deep milestones in peoples' lives. When I anoint a baby for baptism and say, "You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's own forever," I can't help but remember all the people I have baptized *and* buried in Christ's name. That mark of Christ is always with us, in the beginning of our lives, in the trials and joys of our lives and in the end of our lives. As it says in our Burial Office, "Whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's possession."

What I didn't realize at that Sunday service was how soon I would be called to reflect on these words in the deaths of two of our cherished parishioners: Carey Lane and Dorothy Hutchins.

A wise person once said, "Water is thicker than blood." What this means is that we are connected to one another in baptism in such a deep and abiding way that it transcends the ties we have to our own family. And when we lose someone in this Body of Christ it truly feels like an amputation a part of Christ's Body is missing.

At times like this, I take comfort in the words of the Baptismal liturgy. *There is one Body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.* May we continue in our faith together, thankful for Carey and Dorothy and their particular witnesses of Christ's love in our midst.

Spring is coming, indeed.

Yours in Christ, Mary

ANOTHER CENTERFOLD?!

You bet! Check out the centerfold in this Guardian for confirmation that spring is really here.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

Come and Celebrate Pentecost on May 19

On Sunday, May 19, we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit with the Feast of Pentecost. This is a major celebration in the liturgical year and a very joyous day. In keeping with the feast, we hope you will wear red to church, symbolic of the fire of the Holy Spirit. The children will be singing and processing with streamers. There will be balloons and a reception after the 10:15 a.m. service. Don't miss this great celebration!

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SPRING TAG SALE MAY 3 & 4

Our Spring Tag Sale will be May 3 and 4, back at St. Michael's. We can always use your help during the week prior to the sale. Thank you!

Susan Wilmott



GRAND INDEED!

By now you will have all noticed that the church has acquired a grand piano. This lovely 6'3" Mason and Hamlin was a generous gift from Helen Daly, who bequeathed it to the church along with substantial funds in order that it might be restored to its prime. John Dwyer, master technician for the Marlboro Music Festival, has completed the work, and the piano is back in the sanctuary. John has done a wonderful job with the piano, giving it all new strings, hammers, pins, felts, and more. He then worked for a week getting the voicing and regulation completed. John is a real artist, and has given us a lovely instrument!

As I played it this past week, I was struck by the potential and possibilities that this piano provides for our church. In addition to regular use on Sundays, festivals, weddings, and memorial services, we will be able to use it for recitals and concerts since our church's newly improved accoustics and beautiful finish create a lovely, inspiring place to hear music. Given its proximity to the chapel, the piano will also be useful for those times when music is desired for chapel use. The piano is to be mounted on a sleek, high-quality piano dolly so that it can be easily moved within the front space.

We will dedicate the piano with a chamber-music program in the upcoming weeks. And you can plan on hearing it in church by the time you read this article!

Susan Dedell



UPDATE FROM THE FINISHING AND FURNISHING COMMITTEE

We're almost there! Thanks to all of your generosity, we have almost completed funding for our new furnishing needs. All we now need is five Windsor Chairs and seven bookcases. Prices for these are listed on the furnishing display in the Undercroft. Please take a look and see if you might be interested in giving one of these last items. They're going fast!

> Your grateful committee, Jane Riedel, Zachary Roesemann, Mary Lindquist



THREE THANK-YOUS

FROM BILL AMES

I would like to thank the St. Michael's parishioners who have prayed for me, and/or sent me a card or a small get-well gift. The support has been amazing and very much appreciated. My health is improving and my recovery is on the right path. I hope to be able to rejoin the parish in a week or two for an 8:00 a.m. service and am very much looking forward to it. So many people have called, and I am grateful to be on the prayer list. I was in the hospital 16 days on two separate visits, returning for an additional procedure, so my recovery has been slowed down. However, all is well and I am on the mend and looking forward to being a regular once again. I have been speechless with all the support I have received from St. Michael's; it



NEWS OF THE PARISH

has been a big help in seeing me through everything. Nancy joins me in thanking everyone for their thought and prayers.

FROM JANET AND AL CRAMER

Dear People of St. Michael's,

We have been so blessed by your celebration of Al's 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood, and your prayers, transportation, food, and enthusiasm for Janet's recovery from her hip replacement the day after Al's party. Living with the beautiful icon of Thomas Cranmer is inspiring for Al; his trembling hands keep him from celebrating Eucharist but not from continuing to pray every day for all in the parish. And Janet is now walking free of her cane.

With love and gratitude, Janet and Al Cramer

FROM THE VAN WAGENINGEN FAMILY

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our families, we want to thank the St. Michael's community for its support, prayers, and love at the time of our beloved Alan's tragic death on December 5, 2012. Your prayers, cards, visits, calls, nourishing meals, and prayer shawls carried us during a devastating time in our lives. We are forever grateful to the love and generosity of this congregation. Your compassion means more to us than words can ever express.

> With deep appreciation, Noelle Young Ellis, sister Alexis Briley, fiancée Peter and Judy Young van Wageningen and our families



DONNA REIDT INSTALLED IN WILMINGTON

Almost a dozen members of St. Michael's joined the congregation of St. Mary's in the Mountains in Wilmington for the festive installation of the Rev. Donna Reidt as Priest-in-Partnership. Bishop Tom Ely presided and the Rev. Jean Jersey, our former interim and associate priest, was the preacher. The parish's new space (they have bought the former Congregational church since St. Mary's former building was irreparably damaged in Tropical Storm Irene) glowed in the brilliant sunlight coming through the stainedglass windows. As the saying goes, a wonderful time was had by all. Congratulations, Donna and St. Mary's!

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN NOTES

About 20 women have been meeting for a breakfast meeting on the first Saturday of the month for three months. At our last meeting, we began to organize ourselves into committees. Receptions for funerals and special events will be coordinated by Laurie Chiperfield, Betty Elwell, and Susan Wilmott. The Program and Leadership Committee will be Irene Burtis, Pat Cameron, Hollis Carlisle, and Ruth Tilghman, with the leadership rotating over time so other members can lead.

In the honored tradition of ECW's past, the group heard that ECW had been a provider of furnishings, including items for the Dunham Room, a lawn mower, and tables and chairs for the Undercroft. In honoring our past we decided to provide \$12,000 for new furnishings in our refurbished church, mainly for the upholstered furniture.

Also in honor of ECW's tradition of helping local agencies, we decided to give \$3,000 to Save Our Homes, an agency that helps tenants get into housing by providing a loan to help cover the deposit and the first and last month's rent. These loans are paid back to SOH in small increments.

There will be no meeting in May. The women present did not want to meet until fall.

Ruth Tilghman



NEWS OF THE PARISH

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED St. MICHAEL'S IN YOUR WILL?

"Nothing worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime. Nothing that we do can be accomplished alone; therefore we are saved by love." Reinhold Niebuhr

What will your legacy be? Please join those generous souls who have included St. Michael's in their planned giving. Become a member of our Legacy Society and help ensure Christ's work through St. Michael's for years to come. Please contact the church office for information about our planned giving program. No amount is too large and no amount is too small. Thank you!

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE

Pledge payments received, Jan.–Mar.:	\$14,937
Pledge payments received as a percentage of expected amount (as budgeted):	85%
Total income, Jan.–Mar.:	\$30,411
Total income as a percentage of expected amount:	123%
Total expenses, Jan.–Mar.:	\$29,615
Total expense as a percentage of expected amount:	116%
Net income, Jan.–Mar.:	\$796
Net income as a percentage of expected amount:	NA

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DID YOU KNOW?

That you can see this issue of the *Guardian* in beautiful color on our new 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

SERVING AT CATHEDRAL IN THE NIGHT MAY 26

Cathedral in the Night is an outdoor Christian community in Northampton, Massachusetts, that seeks to create a safe place for all people, a place where the homeless, the housed, the church-less, the churched, the student, and the resident can explore, question, and live out their spiritual beliefs; gather for a meal; and empower one another to engage in issues of social justice by working to fight the causes of inequality and homelessness. The worship space is accessible to all, a setting reminiscent of the way Jesus moved and taught among the people. Check out their website at http://cathedralinthenight.com.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Brattleboro is providing dinner for the Cathedral community on Sunday, May 26, and has invited those who are interested from St. Michael's to join them! We'll leave St. Michael's parking lot around at 3:45 p.m. and will be back by 7:30 p.m. Please contact Mary Lindquist if you would like to attend (mary@stmichaels-vt.org or 254-6048, x102).



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

26TH AIDS WALK FOR LIFE ON MAY 18

Our community will become a place where new HIV infections are rare and when they do occur, every person, regardless of age, gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic circumstance, will have unfettered access to highquality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.

> AIDS Project of Southern Vermont's vision statement

On Saturday, May 18, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, St. Michael's will team up with others in our community to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS with the 26th Walk for Life. In 2013, the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont is honoring over a quarter century of effort by community members to support those living with HIV/AIDS and to reduce the risk of HIV transmission in Southern Vermont.

Each year in May we take a walk through Brattleboro to remember our friends who have died from HIVrelated illnesses, to call attention to the effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in our community, and to honor those who make a difference in this challenging work. This year the Walk for Life is dedicated to Susan Bell, who is retiring as Executive Director after 23 years of leadership in our community's fight against HIV/AIDS.

We will gather at the American Legion Hall at 32 Linden Street for a brief ceremony to reflect on the



memory of those we have lost. After a 20-minute walk through town, we will gather again at the Legion for music, prizes for fundraising, and a light lunch.

Please consider becoming part of the St. Michael's team to walk, to gather donations, or both! There will be an information table and donation forms beginning April 28 in the Undercroft. You can also create an online fundraising page at http://www.firstgiving.com/AIDSProject. A team page for St. Michael's has been set up.

To sign up, get a donation form, make a donation to the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, or if would like more information, please contact Sarah Benton at sarah.benton@comcast.net or Paul Moberly at paul.b.moberly@gmail.com.

> Sarah Benton Paul Moberly Team Leaders for the St. Michael's AIDS Walk Team



Now that May is here, we can turn our attention to the outside of our wonderfully refurbished church. You will recall that virtually all of our landscaping had to be removed or destroyed in the building project. Now it is time to think about re-beautifying our grounds.

We are delighted to tell you that Marina Coneeny, a good friend of St. Michael's and of many of you, has agreed to help us with our landscaping design. Marina's own two acres of show garden in Walpole



are a local legend. Even better, she is an expert and enthusiastic garden designer. Thank you, Marina! A more detailed version of the plan is on display in the Undercroft, including a list of needed plants and materials.

Alan McBean for the Building and Grounds Committee



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

OUR NEW ST. MICHAEL'S GARDEN STEWARDS

Would you like to be a St. Michael's Garden Steward? We are setting up a team of people willing to help with the initial planting and then with watering and maintenance of the new landscaping. *We will plant only what we can take care of*, so please tell us if you are willing to help and how much time you might be willing to give. We will then plan accordingly. Even if you can only stop by once a week to turn on the drip hoses, that would be helpful!

PLANTS AND MATERIALS As with the furnishings, *there is no budget for the new garden* other than for the grass re-seeding. So we invite you to consider donating one or more of these items. Here is a general list of what we will need; a more detailed list will be on display in the Undercroft with the garden plans.

TREES AND SHRUBS. Trees especially make wonderful memorials in memory of loved ones.

PLANTS AND BULBS. We are planning to purchase most of these, but some of you may have plants or bulbs from your own garden you'd like to donate (please see the plant list).

BENCHES. We would like to put two benches in the garden (please see the plan).

MATERIALS. We will need materials for planting and maintenance, especially a new drip-hose system for environmentally friendly watering.

Let us know if you'd like to help! Please talk to me, sign up in the Undercroft by the garden display, or tell Jeanie in the office.

> Thank you! Alan McBean

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Adult Forum Schedule for May and June

May 5, Spirituality and Mental Health Recovery— Mental-health recovery as a journey of healing and transformation leading to a meaningful life. Led by Whitney Nichols and Janet Cramer.

May 12, The St. Michael's Memorial Garden—Can a garden exist outside of time? Peaceful, practical and sanctified, St. Michael's Memorial Garden has quietly flourished since 2000. Parishioners who have chosen cremation are invited to rest in this Garden. Stone walls form benches for contemplation and conversation with our saints. Come to the Forum to learn about the charter, the people, the history, and how we as a parish tend this sacred spot. If you have questions, or stories to share, please come as well. Led by the Memorial Garden Committee.

May 19, Pentecost: Day of the Spirit—Led by Paul Moberly.

May 26, An Interview with Trudy Crites—Led by Janet Brocklehurst & Sissi Loftin.

June 2, A Report from Seminary—What does the church seem to consider useful for a seminary student to learn these days? How are we forming priests? Christians? Mark Genszler will outline what he's studying and where it intersects with his life and with the life of the church.

June 9, EfM Demonstration and Discussion—Led by Joel Hill and 2013 EfM graduates.



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM) MOVES INTO THE FUTURE

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique experiential theological education for laity. Developed by the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, the program began in 1975 and over the years has graduated thousands of individuals, many of whom have gone on to do ministry according to what Jesus calls us to do ministry to the lost, the least, and the lonely.

In addition to EfM groups throughout the U.S., EfM can be found in Germany, Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the Bahamas, Hong Kong, Italy, and Switzerland. More than 70,000 persons have participated in the program. In the United States more than 22,000 have completed the full four years. And now the program is changing. There will be a new look which includes new texts (no more big red books!), new technology (the texts often invite the enrollee to explore online sources), and new resources, all to support the ministry of all people.

The primary focus of EfM (study, theological reflection, worship, and community-building) will continue. What is different, new, and exciting are the texts and the additional resources. Year One will read the Hebrew Bible and *A Short Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* by John J. Collins. Year Two will read the New Testament along with Introducing the New Testament by Mark Allen Powell, who says in the preface, "the goal of this book is engagement, not indoctrination." In Year Three, participants will read Diarmaid MacCulloch's *Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years.* It is described as a definitive history of Christianity for our times. Year Four, the readings will

focus on theology from a more experiential perspective, ethics, and issues in interfaith dialogue. We will read Diogenes Allen's *Theology for a Troubled Believer*, Timothy Sedgwick's *The Christian Moral Life*, and *My Neighbor's Faith* by Jennifer Howe Peace, Or N. Rose, and Gregory Mobley.

All of this will be rolled out over the next few months for Mentors, and on the evening of May 21 you are invited to come and see, come and explore, come and feast on the many possibilities for learning. Karen Meredith, Executive Director of EfM, promised four years ago that the curriculum in EfM would change and she has followed through on that. It is an exciting time to consider engaging in the study.

Finally, while it does not impact St. Michael's at this time, it is important to note that the Henry Luce Foundation has granted funds to the School of Theology to develop EfM materials in Spanish. So those dioceses that currently have Spanish-speaking congregations or portions of their congregations will have a Latino/Hispanic version of EfM.

On June 9, five people will graduate from the EfM program here at St. Michael's. Three are members of St. Michaels, one is from St. Luke's in Chester and the fifth is a member of St. Mary's in the Mountains in Wilmington. They will tell a bit of their stories in the next *Guardian*. And before that, mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 21, and come and explore the materials first-hand. Is should be an exciting year beginning in September.

Joel Hill





Future EfMers? +≒ 9 ⊨+



ROTA FOR MAY

Liturgical Position	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
		8:00 A.M. SERVIC	E	
Lay Assistant	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook	Bill Boggess	Kate McGinn
Intercessor	Doug Switzer	Laura Lewis	Anne Brown	Bill Ames
Sacramental Healing	Jean Smith	Jean Smith	Trudy Crites	Janet Cramer
Usher	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Anne Cook	Anne Cook
		0:15 A.M. SERVIC	E	•
Crucifer	Miranda Smith	Annamarie Pluhar	Greg Lesch	Joyce Vining Morgan
Torch Bearers	Liz Vick Paul Moberly	Jessica Bennett Caleb Fritz	Miranda Smith Dawn Kotapish	Nancy Barber Whitney Nichols
Element Bearers	Alan & Judith McBean	Ken Jacobs Sherry Stimmel	Liz Vick & Craig Hammond	Corky & Betty Elwell
Lay Assistant	Sarah Benton	Ricky Davidson	Annie Landenberger	Brian Morgan
Lector	Dan Herres	Joe Grannis	Andy Burrows	Jenny Karstad
Intercessor	Mary Carnahan	Chris Chapman	Nancy Barber	Sarah Rich
Ushers	Chris Hart Dick Burtis	Sarah Benton Nancy Barber	Michael & Susan Wilmott	Ricky Davidson Sue Dyer
Sacramental Healing	Trudy Crites Janet Cramer	MJ Woodburn Trudy Crites	Robin White-Diamondstone Sarah Benton	Robin White-Diamondstor Sarah Benton
Altar Guild	Jane Sbardella Christine Gauthier	Jane Sbardella Christine Gauthier	Ruth Struthers Irene Burtis Craig Newbert Judith Hildreth	Ruth Struthers Irene Burtis Craig Newbert Judith Hildreth
Coffee Hour	Judy Walker Sue Dyer Lynne Lewandowski	Annamarie Pluhar Liz Vick Craig Hammond	Joanne Patalano Sarah Gagnon	Jane Sbardella Rebecca Olmstead
Counters	Anne Cook Judy McGee	Wayne Cook Vince Johnson	Ricky Davidson Eden Terrell	Eden Terrell 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.

MAY LECTIONARY

SUNDAY, MAY 5: Acts 16: 9–15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22–22.5; John 14:23–29

SUNDAY, MAY 12: Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26

SUNDAY, MAY 19: Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 104:25-35, 37; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17

SUNDAY, MAY 26: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Canticle 13; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

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CELEBRATIONS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Mary 2.	Deh Maymand Sanah Calcon
May 2:	Deb Maynard, Sarah Colson
May 4:	Bruce Landenberger, Deborah Leggott,
	Carol Beninati
May 5:	Bill Ames
May 7:	Beatrice Johnson, Diane Pitcher,
	Ryan Astley
May 8:	Derek Daigneault, Crosby Terrell,
	Harper Terrell
May 11:	Diana Bingham, Brian Morgan
May 12:	Roger Nastou
May 14:	Lynne Lewandowski
May 15:	Daniel Brown
May 16:	Elizabeth Wilkins-McKee
May 17:	Brian White
May 19:	Sue Dyer
May 21:	Ruth Struthers
May 22:	Oliver Pomazi, Lawrence Smith
May 23:	Chloe Avery
May 25:	Serina Keppel
May 25:	James Crosson, Trudy LaPlante
May 27:	Desiree Roff
May 28:	Evan Daigneault
May 29:	Colby McGinn
May 31:	Andrew LeBlanc

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 2	Steven & Karren Meyer
May 19	Sarah Colson & Cliff Dempster
May 24	Janet Brocklehurst & Sissi Loftin
May 27	Teri Robinson & Ross Kinney,
	Douglas & Ann Switzer
May 29	Richard & AJ Revilla
May 30	Paul Love & Hollie Bowen,
	Chris Chapman & Allison Hale



VESTRY OF ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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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Department on recycled paper 100% post consumer, PCF



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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.

This Month At St. Michael's Episcopal

MAY 3 & 4—Spring Tag Sale MAY 18—AIDS Walk for Life MAY 19—Feast of Pentecost MAY 21—EfM Open House