



The Guardian

MAY 2014

FROM THE RECTORY

A blessed Easter season to you all! As I write this, we have just finished a wonderful Holy Week. In addition to the very meaningful evening liturgies that we experienced daily during Holy Week, Winged Productions put on an original mystery play, "Three in the Wilderness," during the week proceeding Holy Week that was truly beautiful and thought-provoking. On Palm Sunday, St. Michael's Choir School (children ages 7-11) offered an inspired service of prayer and song called "Thanksgiving for Spring." It truly has been a rich time at St. Michael's, where both traditional and emerging models of worship were held together over two amazing weeks!

Speaking of the new and the not-so-new, the Johnson/Lindquist household has added a new member! As many of you know, our beloved dog, Gertie, died last fall and we have missed having a canine presence in our lives. After some searching, we were fortunate to find a seven-year-old Standard Poodle named Dagmar who was looking for a retirement home after her life as a breeding dog. Dagmar came for a "one week trial" during Holy Week. Although she was a bit nervous at our home for the first few days, she has settled in beautifully and we have now made the adoption official!

Dagmar really likes to go where her humans go, so you might just find her in my office during the week, or in the car as we drive around. Meanwhile, I hope you are enjoying the sun, the flowers, and all the signs of new life that are blessing us after a long winter.

*May the joy of Christ's resurrection
be with you this season,
Mary*

GOD'S GARDEN

In the morning
when my feet are naked,
cold and unattractive--

when my feet are nowhere near the softness
of a green and growing lawn
wet with dew,

let me admire
basil and dill seeds
that were given
as a gift of hope.

Let me dream about purple cabbage
and leeks, forget-me-nots
and marigolds,
that send delicate tongues
from the earth
to suckle the sun

like love at the breast
and love that is only understood
by touching the heart
that is cultivated
in God's garden.

THE FIRST HERON

The first heron
has flown across my path today,

the tumbling gray clouds
shook the dust of the winter
out of their cloak

and there he flew
like a slow moth
drunk before the flame.

I stood quiet
as he flapped his inching magic,
cutting the cords of cold,

steady as the tailor
slicing steel blades
through light blue silk.

Leigh Marthe



NEWS OF THE PARISH

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: HELP NEEDED!

The Buildings and Grounds Committee serves the ministry of caring for St. Michael's physical plant and surrounding grounds. We have many dedicated volunteers who help with this ministry; however, we could use some new people to help with leadership, planning, and execution. On Tuesday, May 13, at 5:30 p.m., there will be a meeting of the Building and Grounds Committee. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please try to attend this meeting; or you may contact Alan McBean at amcbean57@gmail.com



ARE YOU IN A TIME OF DISCERNMENT?

During our lives, we experience times of stability when we feel content and settled, and times of discernment, when we feel called to make changes in our lives. Times of discernment are often about vocation and identity. Who am I called to be at this time of my life? And what am I called to do?

At any given point, there are many people in times of discernment in their lives in any faith community. Since I often hear from individuals who are seeking and discerning changes in their lives, I think it might be helpful to create a small group where individuals could share their questions and insights in the process of discerning God's will for their lives.

Might you be interested in participating in a group such as this? *Listening Hearts: Discerning Call in Community* is a book that has been helpful to many people and would be a good resource to draw from in a group setting.

Instead of setting dates and times and stating exactly how this group would be structured, I invite you to contact me if this sounds like something that may help you. If there is enough interest, I will set a meeting time to discuss how the group might proceed (structure, dates and times, leadership, etc.). At that point, those who think the group would be helpful to them would make a commitment to meet together over the course of the next few months.

You may contact me at : mary@stmichaelsvermont.org or 254-6048, x102, if you are interested in learning more.

Mary



PLEASE SAY "Hi" TO . . .

. . .newcomers Rebecca and Mark Mayer and their three children, Iris (age 4), Opal (age 2½), and Sylvester (10 months). Originally from Ithaca, New York, where they met while both working at the same restaurant, Mark and Rebecca have lived in Brattleboro for seven years and visited St. Michael's from time to time. Since last fall, when Iris joined Godly Play (and when they could reliably mobilize the three children to make it to church Sunday morning), the Mayers have made St. Michael's their parish home.

Mark is a production baker at Against the Grain. Rebecca has recently completed her bachelor's degree and aspires to a career in library science. You may have seen her volunteering at Brooks Memorial Library or working part-time at the Co-op. Opal likes to put on dance shows, Iris is a student at Hilltop Montessori and enjoys gymnastics, and the family plays together by riding bikes, taking nature walks and reading. Welcome, Mayers!



NEWS OF THE PARISH

CHRIST CHURCH FUNDRAISER

Christ Church Guilford is our mother church and the oldest church building in the Vermont Diocese. This is the white church building that is in the crook of St Michael's arm in Zachary Roesemann's beautiful icon on our south wall. The parish moved from Guilford to St. Michael's in Brattleboro in 1853, but Christ Church is still a historical site that is used for occasional services, weddings, baptisms, musical programs, and other events. It is supported for its costs of electricity, heating, insurance, maintenance, and repairs by church and individual contributions (last year \$837.41) and by two fundraisers.

The first of these will be a "Welcome Center" day on June 6 when we will offer food and drinks to people who come through the Welcome Center on I-91. The Christ Church board is very happy that we were given this date, the Friday of "Strolling of the Heifers" weekend—and a little apprehensive. Last year 3,000 people came through the Welcome Center on that date!

We know that not all of the people will come over to our booth, but we hope that many will. We have already asked for contributions from local businesses and hope that they will be able to help with supplies, but we need a great many baked goods and other food items for this very large number of visitors.

Will you help? Please save the date and either sign up on the sheets in the Common Room or contact Laura Lewis at 254-4839. It is a big job, but we have the opportunity to provide especially well for Christ Church's needs at this year's event.

Thank you, Laura Lewis



SHELTER SUPPER THANK YOU

The Overflow Shelter at the Baptist Church will close at the end of April. St. Michael's last turn to provide supper there was on April 21. Forty-five parishioners have put on 10 suppers over the fall, winter, and spring, with some helping several times. Parishioners report that they enjoyed meeting new people and being able to lend a hand with this project. Thank you all!

Laura Lewis



PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE: OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSES JANUARY–MARCH

Total Pledges Received: \$58,972 vs. Budget of \$54,994 (107.2% of Budget)

of which: Total Pledges Received for March: \$18,964 vs. Budget of \$18,333 (103.4%)

Total Operating Income: \$65,067 vs. Budget of \$60,113 (108.2% of Budget)

Total Operating Expenses: \$72,293 vs. Budget of \$91,728 (78.8%)



VESTRY OF ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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



AIDS WALK FOR LIFE MAY 17

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 high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.

AIDS Project of Southern Vermont's vision statement

On Saturday, May 17, 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 27th Walk for Life.

Each year in May we take a walk through Brattleboro to remember our friends who have died from HIV-related 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 Shirley Squires, a long-time advocate and supporter of the AIDS Project. She walks every year in honor of her son, Ron Squires, and has raised over \$250,000 for this worthy cause.

We will gather at the River Garden in downtown Brattleboro 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 River Garden 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 May 5 in the Undercroft. You can also create an online fundraising page at <http://www.firstgiving.com/AIDSPROJECT/27th-annual-aids-walk-for-life>. A page for St. Michael's has been set up.

St. Michael's has been a wonderful supporter financially and through its presence at the Walk. Currently Phillip Wilson, Ricky Davidson, and I are members of the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont board. To sign up, get a donation form, make a donation to the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, or if you would like more information, please contact Sarah Benton at sarah.benton@comcast.net.

*Sarah Benton
Team Leader for
the St. Michael's AIDS Walk Team*



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE FOR MAY

May 4, *Restorative Justice in Brattleboro*—Mark Loevy-Reyes, an educator and lawyer, is the Director of Restorative Justice at Youth Services. He will speak about Youth Services' court diversion programs, which are designed to provide alternative methods of dealing with violations of the law so that the community, offender, and victims can move forward productively. He will lead a discussion about the principles of restorative justice, focusing on the role of the community in creating effective interventions to repair harm done as a result of a criminal offense and to reduce the risk of re-offending.

May 11, *A Bible for the Algonquin*—"Thou shall not be dismaide with feare/for terrour by the night/Nor for the arrow that with speed/Flieth in the daylight/Nor for the Pestilence/that doth/Walk in the darkness fast." In 1663, the Reverend John Eliot of the Massachusetts Bay Company translated the English Bible into the Algonquin language to fulfill the commission of the Crown to spread the Gospel into heathen lands. It was a prodigious and astonishing scholarly undertaking and, in the end, like so many good intentions, utterly futile. Lest you think that this will be a dry, dismal dissertation about dusty bibliography, dreary theology, and pointless evangelizing, permit me to re-assure you. There will be plenty of violence, blood-letting, and all-out warfare, out of which emerges the first vestige of what we know as New England. Bob Anderson leads.

May 18, *Millennium Development Goals and Us*—Craig Hammond will help us take a look at the progress we have made as a nation and as a people of faith in reducing suffering in the world. Several years

ago, the United Nations established eight Millennium Development Goals with the intent of galvanizing unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest and most ravaged people. The UN formed a blueprint agreed to by approximately 193 of the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. These eight goals are not modest! Come and hear about progress so far.

May 25, *Listening to the Voices of our Elders*—One of the ironies of aging is that while we expect elders to have difficulty hearing and, sometimes, seeing, we do not expect younger people and, indeed, other elders to have difficulty truly hearing the words and experiences of the elders in our midst. But that is often true. To help our parish listen to elders 80 and older, the Adult Forum on May 25 will feature video interviews by Janet Cramer and Linda Rice with elders about their life experiences, spirituality, the meaning of aging, and illness. Recently when a parishioner became ill during a church service, a friend whispered "if that happens to me let me get out the door first." Learning how to honor those feelings while encouraging people of all ages to be part of Sunday worship is a challenge. Come Sunday May 25 to listen, share your ideas and help us be a community for all ages.

Do you know anyone in the community who might like to attend our Forums? Have you just met a person or persons who have come to St. Michael's for the first time? Invite them! You do not have to be a member of St. Michael's to attend.

For the Committee: Bill Ames, Nancy Barber, Joel Hill, Mary Lindquist, Annamarie Pluhar, Ruth Tilghman, and Phillip Wilson

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: ADULT CLASS ON MERE CHRISTIANITY CONTINUES

It's not too late! Our class discussing the C.S. Lewis classic *Mere Christianity* continues this month May 7, 14, 21, and 28 from 5:30–6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. If you are interested in joining please come even if you missed the first session. For those of you who enjoy lively discussion, there will be plenty of opportunity. And for those of you who prefer just to listen and take it all in, no participation is ever required. (Though there may be pop quizzes....oh, just kidding.) Please contact me if you have any questions.

Clark Anderson



ROTA FOR MAY

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

Position	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
8:00 A.M. SERVICE				
Lay Assistant	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook	Kate McGinn	Anita Crosson
Intercessor	Laura Lewis	Joanne Patalano	Kierstan McKenney	Doug Switzer
Sacramental Healing				
Usher	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Anne Cook	Anne Cook
10:15 A.M. SERVICE				
Crucifer	Fred Bump	Leigh Marthe	Jessica Bennett	Mikael Mattson
Torch Bearers	Thea Porter Rebecca Porter	Julian Siegal Samuel Mattocks	Jonah Johnson Clara Fritz	K.C. Mattson Jake Mattson
Element Bearers	Craig Hammond Liz Vick	Ken Jacob Dick Burtis	Betsy Bates Nancy Barber	John Daly Leigh Marthe
Lay Assistant	Nate Kohlmeier	Greg Lesch	Annie Landenberger	Miranda Smith
Lector	Elise Burrows	Martin Leggott	Sarah Warren	Paul Moberly
Intercessor	Brian Morgan	Mary Carnahan	Diana Bingham	Dawn Kotapish
Ushers	Ricky Davidson Sherri Stimmel	Sarah Benton Linda Rice	The Fritz Family	The Allen Family
Sacramental Healing				
Altar Guild	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	Mary Carnahan Betty Elwell Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead
Coffee Hour	Megan Buchanan	Mattson Family	Dorothy Porter	Ron & Michael Doty-Tolaro
Counters	Judy McGee Anne Cook	Vince Johnson Wayne Cook	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Sherry Stimmel Judith Hildreth
Flowers	Dorrie DeGutis	Anne & Wayne Cook	Geo Hizny & Doug Williams	Diana Bingham

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

Sunday, May 11: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19–25; John 10:1–10

Sunday, May 18: Acts 7:55–60; Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16; 1 Peter 2:2–10; John 14:1–14

Sunday, May 25: Acts 17:22–31; Psalm 66:7–18; 1 Peter 3:13–22; John 14:15–21



MILESTONES & TRANSITIONS

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Holden McDowell
May 2	Sarah Colson, Deb Maynard
May 4	Deborah Leggott, Carol Beninati, Bruce Landenberger
May 5	Bill Ames
May 7	Diane Pitcher, Beatrice Johnson
May 11	Brian Morgan, Diana Bingham, Julian Siegel
May 12	K.C. Mattson
May 17	Brian White
May 19	Susan Dyer
May 21	Ruth Struthers
May 22	Oliver Pomazi, Lawrence Smith
May 23	Chloe Hull
May 25	Serina Keppel
May 26	James Crosson
May 29	Colby McGinn

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 2	Karren & Steven Meyer
May 19	Sarah Colson & Cliff Dempster
May 24	Janet Brocklehurst & Sissi Loftin
May 27	Ann & Douglas Switzer, Teri Robinson & Ross Kinney
May 30	Alison Hale & Christopher Chapman, Holly Bowen & Paul Love
May 31	Jean & Peter Smith



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WISDOM FROM THE TRADITION

Consider, beloved, how the Lord keeps reminding us of the resurrection that is to come, of which he has made the Lord Jesus Christ the first fruits by raising him from the dead. Let us look, beloved, at the resurrection that occurs at its appointed time. Day and night show us a resurrection; the night lies in sleep, day rises again; the day departs, night takes its place. Let us think about the harvest; how does the sowing take place, and in what manner? The sower goes out and casts each seed onto the ground. Dry and bare, they fall into the earth and decay. Then the greatness of the Lord's providence raises them up again from decay, and out of one many are produced and yield fruit. In this hope, then, let our hearts be bound fast to him who is faithful in his promises and just in his judgments.

St. Clement, Bishop of Rome 92–99 A.D.

LENT: VIRGIN MOTHER

Weary ... so weary ... the throngs; for days now.
Kings! Even so, and shepherds: simple folk, and grand.
But now for blessed moments we are alone: Precious
stolen moments for our child and I.

Our Child! My God, can it truly be?

Look: the star!
That star brings them all to Him; how bright!
Brightening ... oh! It pains my eyes; cannot I turn aside?

What? Look! Blood red ... glowing, brighter even than
the star!
And there: a cup? Goblet? Chalice? Itself a burning light,
Brightest of all!

A sign? Yes, surely that.
Portending what?

I cannot ... I cannot ...

I cannot ...

Think

Jim Crosson



Saint Michael's Episcopal Church

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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

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

MAY 6, 13, 20, 27—"Exploring the Episcopal Church" class continues

MAY 7, 14, 21, 28—*Mere Christianity* class continues

MAY 17—AIDS Walk for Life