



# The Guardian

AUGUST 2017

FROM THE RECTORY

## Summer Update

As I write to you, it is July 16, a Sunday, but I am not at St. Michael's, but at Rock Point in Burlington for the weekend. The sun is shining over beautiful Lake Champlain and the only thing that keeps this place from being completely paradisiacal are the mosquitos, the largest and healthiest looking mosquitos I've ever seen! We are in between camps: Jonah just finished Jr. High Camp and both he and Nathaniel are starting Intermediate Camp this afternoon. I am grateful that St. Michael's is sending 13 kids to this magical place this summer participating in Jr. High, Intermediate and Elementary camps.

Rock Point was a gift to the Diocese of Vermont by the son of Vermont's first bishop, John Henry Hopkins, in 1854. As a brochure I found in the Bishop Booth Conference Center states, "In accepting this property, the diocese received a unique landscape characterized by cedar bluffs, meso-oak-hickory forests, and the finest visible example of the Champlain overthrust geological formation. The property has grown in environmental and historical importance, acquiring an abiding spiritual significance as the city of Burlington has grown up around it." Bishop Ely and the good people of the Episcopal Church in Vermont have done a great job creating a place that welcomes everyone, is a model of environmental stewardship, and preserves a sanctuary of creation for all to enjoy. I'm glad that so many of our children and youth have the opportunity to experience this sacred space!

I am also grateful for Duncan Hilton joining St. Michael's as our first ever Minister for Discernment and Discipleship. He began his time at St. Michael's only two weeks ago, but has jumped right into setting up his office, serving as a deacon in our Sunday worship and getting to know both parishioners and those in our community. We have spent many hours together sharing our own experience of discernment, faith and discipleship, our respective specialized training (his in faith-based community organizing and mine in missional church theology), and our shared appreciation of contemplative practices and prayer. In addition to sharing our own backgrounds and knowledge, we have been reading books and articles and researching resources that will inform this ministry.

It is important and interesting work and vital for us to be on the same page as we move forward into setting up a structure for a ministry of experimentation and innovation, a ministry in which we will need your gifts, discernment and participation. Stay tuned! And in the meantime, I hope you are enjoying a time of communion with God, with others and with creation during these beautiful summer months.

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

**SPECIAL SUMMER FORUM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 6  
REFUGEE DISLOCATION, FLIGHT AND MIGRATION  
IN AN INCREASINGLY UNWELCOMING WORLD**

On August 6 from 9:00-10:00, Dr. Laura Hammond of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London will present and lead a discussion on the above. Displacement has happened as a result of natural causes such as drought and demographic shifts, but also because of human created causes, such as civil wars, deforestation, famine, governmental neglect and oppression, racism, religious fundamentalism, intolerance and ethnic cleansing, genocidal policies and even climate change. Millions of people throughout the world from Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia are uprooted and homeless; yet risking their very lives, they search our world for a home. Laura will speak of all this, but also of humane societies and countries where hope persists, of efforts within our international community to provide new homes at last, and of the young and old who do create new lives for themselves against all odds. Her experience is rooted in the Horn of Africa – particularly Ethiopia and Somalia – where she has worked for the past 25 years.

And yes, Laura is my daughter. It's a delight to have been asked by our parish Outreach Ministry Team to ask her to lead a discussion such as this when she is here from London next, and August it is. She is an anthropologist and professor of international development, and she teaches and works with everyone from refugees to religious communities to governments on these very issues. She's also a runner, a mom who's the biggest fan of her 12-year old son's rock and roll guitar playing, her 8-year old son's endless questions, and her British husband's love of pasties, bangers and mash. Please join us on August 6.

*Craig Hammond*



**aWALKening in the Moment**

*Walking in nature awakens our sense of connectedness*

August 26, 2017; 12:30-4:00 pm

St. Michaels Episcopal Church, 16 Bradley Avenue, Brattleboro, VT. We will meet between 12:15-12:30 pm

**By donation. Pre-registration requested – space is limited.** Email: [info@awalkening.com](mailto:info@awalkening.com).

Nowadays our reliance on technology and the quickening pace of our world -- the disconnection to ourselves, relationships, nature and our bodies -- threatens the quality of our lives. Come take a three-mile walk, tune into the natural environment and enjoy an experience of greater mindfulness. Spend precious time with yourself in a supportive small group and explore connectedness to a full range of being. (We will walk rain or shine. There may be some uneven terrain on the Retreat trails. Bring drinking water and a snack. A journal and pen are recommended.)

The **aWALKening** workshop is led by members of Leadership 'N Motion, an international movement expanding conscious and collaborative leadership. Kate Lampel Link (who is one of St. Michael's across-the-street neighbors) has advanced studies and experience in human development, neuroscience and learning, and leadership. Lauren Puzen is a long-term promoter of movement – physical, mental and spiritual. She is personally and professionally devoted to wellness and social justice.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

**CONTINUING CONVERSATION ON AGING,  
AUGUST 27**

Janet Cramer and Annamarie Pluhar invite parishioners to a conversation August 27 at 9AM (the usual Adult Forum meeting time.) We had one conversation in April. This is a listening session. Ageism is the one “ism” we will all deal with. How and what should our church be doing?



**FRAN NEVINS SERVICE,  
SATURDAY AUGUST 19, 10:30 AM**

A memorial service for Fran Nevins, parishioner of St. Michael’s, will be held here on Saturday August 19, beginning at 10:30 am. All of St. Michael’s are invited to join Fran’s family for this service.



**EVENSONG ON AUGUST 13, 5 PM**

We will have Evensong in the Chapel beginning at 5 pm on Sunday, August 13. This evening prayer service is a beautiful way to end your weekend and prepare for the coming week. This calming service of thanksgiving lasts about 25 minutes. Meant to be sung at dusk, Evensong has lots of singing and chanting -- no sermon -- and a beautiful sense of gratefulness for the day past and the evening to come. All are welcome!

**PARISH PICNIC AT SPOFFORD LAKE, SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 20**

All are invited to St. Michael’s Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 20 (rain date, August 27) from noon to 4 pm at 29 Barn Road, Spofford Lake, New Hampshire (about a 15-minute drive from St. Michael’s). Kate and Dana McGinn have generously agreed to host the picnic at their place, which is right next to the lake, with a great porch for sitting, wonderful grounds for playing and great access to the lake for swimming, kayaking, etc. There will be games, swimming and a chance to sit and visit with those (both old and new) from our St. Michael’s Community. Drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers will be provided by the church. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. And don’t forget your bathing suits!

**Parking is limited at Spofford Lake, so PLEASE carpool with others to the picnic.** Parking maps will be available at St. Michael’s so you know where you can park safely. If you are able, please sign up and let us know you are coming so we can have an idea of how much food to buy and/or if you want to find someone to carpool with. You may sign up in the Common Room at St. Michael’s or by emailing Jeanie Crosby at [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org)



NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF JUNE VESTRY MEETING

As usual, we started the the meeting with prayer and a thoughtful bible reading reflection.

We heard from Wayne Cook, the Treasurer, that income had been disappointing as less pledges had come in at this point than we had expected. (Hint hint - we need to keep our pledges up!) Wayne also explained that draws from the Endowment Fund shown in the Operating Performance Reports are taken from the interest and not the principal. We were concerned that members of the congregation understand that distinction.

Details of Duncan Hilton’s appointment were discussed and how we would welcome him. We decided to offer a special coffee hour between services on the day that Duncan was preaching. (It was well attended and there were many very positive comments about Duncan and his first sermon.)

Mary spoke positively about the recent retreat she attended with Cynthia Bourgeault.

Bruce Lawrence reminded us of follow up from the Vestry Retreat. We’re planning to work on ways for church ministries, and their activities, to be better known and understood. This is especially important for newer members and for those who may wish to participate. Our ministries really do such wonderful work.

We also talked about having Vestry members stand with Mary in the receiving line after services. I was a bit wary of this, but stood with the ever confident Deb Jones, and found it a really good way to connect with newcomers and engage with others. Thank you Deb! I think it’s a friendly way to end the service especially for those who don’t stay for lemonade.

Peace and blessings,  
*Janet Brocklehurst*

VESTRY OF ST. MICHAEL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH	
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Judith McBean	jmcbbean1959@gmail.com   802-254-6975
Joanne Patalano, Clerk	Wayne Cook, Treasurer



DID YOU KNOW?

- On Sunday mornings during the 10:15 service, child care is available.
- We have hearing assistance devices available at the back of the church. Please talk with an usher if you would like to try one.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## SUMMARY OF JULY 20 VESTRY MEETING

Absent: Janet Brocklehurst and John Byrnes

Items discussed:

1. Summer check in in lieu of the Dwelling in the Word, which will resume in August.
2. Discussion of the need to publicize the availability of the nursery for the newer members of the parish.
3. Discussion of the current financial report presented by Wayne. Although contributions have been low, as is expected during the summer, expenses have also been low. Wayne discussed that a mailing reflecting individual pledge amounts and contributions should be mailed soon.
4. The Endowment Committee will be reviewing the church's investment in terms of opportunities for higher returns on the investments.
5. Mary shared that Thad Bennett, who currently is filling in temporarily at a different church, will be moving to Conway, MA. We will find out if he will continue to serve in the ministry of St. Michael's.
6. As a follow-up to the Vestry retreat, we discussed the Ministry of the Month program that will commence in September. Leaders of the various ministries will be contacted about this program.
7. The parking lot will be re-paved during the first part of August.

Closing prayer offered by Deb.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeanette Landin*

## DEACON'S UPDATE

Greetings from my church office, formerly Mary's office, next door to the library. Mary and the staff have been incredibly helpful setting me up with a desk, computer, and telephone (It's the first time I've had a landline telephone since 2002!). That said, these first few weeks have been such a delightful flurry of meetings, worship, and sermon-writing that I haven't yet had time to unpack my boxes of books or decorate the bare white walls. Meetings have been with staff, parishioners, and community members ranging in subjects from the choice of a diocesan health insurance plan, to one-to-one discernment conversations, to where the grape juice chalice goes on the communion table, to beginning to develop a strategy and structure for my ministry here. When I notice myself impatient or overwhelmed, I sense God's wisdom and presence in the words of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin\* to "Above all, trust in the slow work of God." I'm looking forward to the remaining summer weeks as a time to continue to meet one-to-one with members of the parish and folks in the community in order to slowly discern God's slow work in their lives and in this town, and hopefully to even unpack those boxes of books.

\* <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/8078/prayer-of-theilhard-de-chardin>

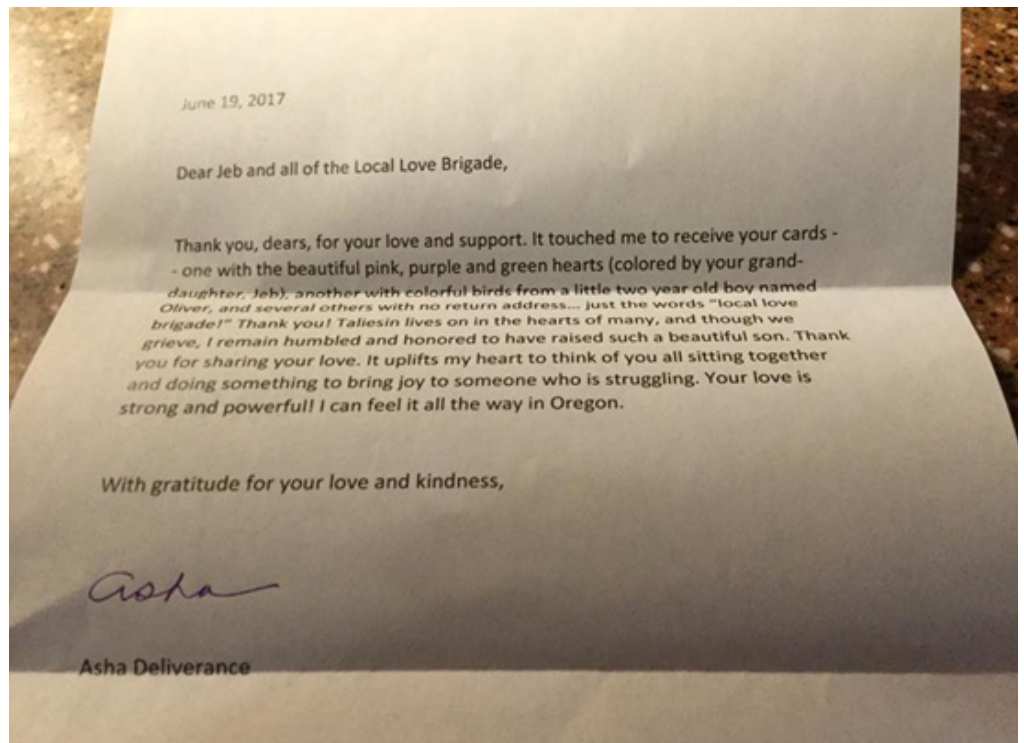
## STANDING WITH THE LOCAL LOVE BRIGADE -- AN UPDATE

A number of parishioners, old and young and very young, have been standing with the Local Love Brigade to send handmade postcards to support victims of hatred. So far, we have sent 178 of them. Since the postcards are often minimally signed, or not signed at all, it's a wonder that some of their recipients have managed to respond to the Local Love Brigade.

One of the first to do so was Temple De Hirsch in Seattle: "After we found hateful graffiti on the walls of our old sanctuary, it was hard to keep our spirits up. But soon postcards and notes started arriving from Brattleboro, Vermont: first a trickle, and then a paper tsunami of warm and loving greetings. At the risk of sounding trite, our spirits lifted (especially when we saw the child-drawn hearts and words)... It made a palpable difference to us and to our community to have received such warm and loving communications from you and your group. Please extend our heartfelt thanks and friendship to one and all."

When Romulo Avelica Gonzalez was detained by ICE as he dropped off his children at the Los Angeles-based charter school Academia Avance, the Local Love Brigade sent postcards. The educator who received the postcards to pass on to the family later wrote, "Thank you all so much for these postcards! The school staff and family received all of your messages with awe and joy and plenty of joyful tears for the support. This has been a really crazy experience as an educator, and the family is so moved by all of the support from everyone!" The whole school community was so moved that, when 37 graduating seniors and their chaperones came East to a science conference in upstate NY, they also made a side trip to Brattleboro to make postcards to support others.

And last week, one member of the Local Love Brigade received the following letter from the mother of 23-year-old Taliesin Myrddin Namkai Meche, who was one of two men murdered while defending two young women from the harassment of a white supremacist in Portland, Oregon. Some of the postcards she mentions originated from St. Michael's – and one was drawn by our youngest postcard-artist.



As Martin Luther King said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." And our postcards help.



## FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

“In the Steps of St. Paul”

by H. V. Morton

published by Dodd, Mead & Company, New York 1936

5 ½ x 8 inches, 499 pages

H. V. Morton was the premier travel writer of his day. Curious as to how the lands that Paul had visited twenty centuries previous had survived and changed, he set out in the steps of the saint to follow his travels. Morton's route included the Holy Land, Syria (including today's poor blasted Aleppo), Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, and Rome. His travels were complicated by the partition following World War I: France controlled Syria and England controlled Palestine. Furthermore, primitive Turkey had become modernized under Ataturk, Athens was then an inconsequential backwater, and Cyprus was still primitive. The great harbor of Antioch had disappeared to silt and Ephesus became a nesting place for storks.

Paul's epistles are the oldest Christian documents. He was contemporary with Jesus. Although he never saw him, he had encountered those who had claimed to have both seen the crucifixion and the resurrection. Not all the epistles attributed to Paul are considered authentic, a subject of scholarly dispute.

When Rome controlled the lands of Paul's travels, these lands were advanced and prosperous unlike the squalid remnants Morton encountered in his travels, the consequence of changing trade routes and earthquakes. Then the cities were built in the Roman manner, laid out in the typical Roman grid, had running water and decent sanitation, and had superb paved roads all of which led to Rome. It was over these roads that St. Paul, a Roman citizen as well as a Jew, journeyed.

Travelling from port to port by coastal ships, Morton saw from shipboard the world just as St. Paul had seen it. By train and motor, however, the former Pauline world that Morton encountered was a crumbling shambles. The glory that was Rome had sunk in the mud of indifference and incompetence. But Morton is a charming travelling companion despite the adversities endured, and, though no Biblical scholar, well-read and informed about the saint. His account is a delight.

Virtually nothing of Paul's world remains as he knew it. But the market place in Athens that he would have known intimately has been long excavated and restored. Here, like this reviewer, he had trod its stone flaggings.

*RRA*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

### YOUR DONATION STATEMENT FROM ST. MICHAEL'S

We recently sent via email or postal mail a statement of your donations to St. Michael's during the period of January 1 - July 16, 2017. If you donated toward your 2017 pledge during 2016, you also will have received a statement of that donation. Please review the statement and contact the administrative office with any questions -- 254-6048 or [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org). Thank you for all that you provide in time, talent and financial resources to the ministries of St. Michael's.

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### TIME TO UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Your family may be changing, your children are growing, your contact information may be different! Please send us any of these changes for our membership database and the online directory. All of these changes can be sent to [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org). New photos are especially welcome and can be sent to Jeanie or to the directory at <http://goo.gl/JGEs79>

### PHOTOS FROM THE RECEPTION TO WELCOME DUNCAN ON JULY 9





### ST. MICHAEL'S PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

St. Michael's has a long and deep history of people caring for one another in our church family. However, not everyone knows about the pastoral care services that are available! Therefore, those of us involved in Pastoral Care at St. Michael's are trying to work on communication to 1) let you know what services are available and 2) give you the opportunity to volunteer if you feel called to help! Below is a description of the various ministries that come under the umbrella of "Pastoral Care." If you need or would like any of these service OR if you would like to volunteer, please contact the person specified.

**Pastoral Care Visitation** – Pastoral visitors are parishioners or clergy who are available to visit those who are homebound, in the hospital or just in need of a visit and prayers. Some Pastoral Visitors may also bring the Eucharist to share. The Pastoral Care Visitation Team meets every 6-8 weeks for study, sharing, prayer and support.

- If you are or someone you know would like a visit, please contact Jeanie Crosby, Parish Administrator, at 802-254-6048 or [Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org)
- If you are interested in the possibility of becoming a Pastoral Visitor, please contact Jenny Karstad, [artemisiamt@yahoo.com](mailto:artemisiamt@yahoo.com) or Darcey Mercier, [dorram@sover.net](mailto:dorram@sover.net)

**Intercessory Prayer** – The Intercessory Prayer Team meets on the first Monday of the month at 3 pm in the Chapel. Those involved in the Intercessory Prayer Team commit to praying for certain individuals every day for three months (this time can be renewed as long as the prayers are needed).

- If you or someone you know are in need of Intercessory Prayers, please contact Jeanie Crosby, Parish Administrator, at 802-254-6048 or [Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org)
- If you are interested in becoming part of the Intercessory Prayer Team, please contact Anita Crosson at [jimandanita@svcable.net](mailto:jimandanita@svcable.net)

**Prayer Shawls** – The Prayer Shawl Team knits prayer shawls and baby blankets for people who are sick or recovering from surgery and for those who have welcomed a new baby. The team meets on the second Thursday of the month from 10:30am-12:00pm.

- If you are interested in knitting with the Prayer Shawl Team, come and join them any Thursday, or contact Joan Pinilla for more information at [pinmoon58@gmail.com](mailto:pinmoon58@gmail.com) or 802-254-8003.
- If you or someone you know could benefit from a prayer shawl, please let Joan Pinilla know.

**Transportation** – The Transportation ministry involves connecting people who are willing to offer transportation with those who need help with transportation. Often, volunteers help bring people to church or to medical appointments.

- If you or someone you know are in need of transportation to church or medical appointments, please contact Jeanie Crosby, Parish Administrator, at 802-254-6048 or [Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org)
- If you are interested in becoming part of the Transportation Team, please contact Lynn Billington at [billington\\_l@yahoo.com](mailto:billington_l@yahoo.com)

**Meals** – When someone is sick or recovering from surgery, we provide meals to help support them. We will be using Mealtrain, an online tool where people can sign-up to help with this ministry.

- If you or someone you know needs help with meals OR if you would like to be on the list of volunteers to be contacted, please contact Deb Jones at [deborele@gmail.com](mailto:deborele@gmail.com)

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## AUGUST LECTIONARY

**Sunday, August 6**

Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99 or 99:5-9, 2  
Peter 1:13-21, Luke 9:28-36

**Sunday, August 13**

1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13,  
Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

**Sunday, August 20**

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67;  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32;  
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

**Sunday, August 27**

Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8,  
Matthew 16:13-20

## CELEBRATIONS

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2 Caleb Fritz  
August 8 Julie Laamanen  
August 9 Pat Laubach  
August 11 Christine Triebert  
August 13 Paul Moberly  
August 14 Amy Walker  
August 16 Louis Ronconi  
August 17 Gregory Lesch  
August 18 Avery Buchanan, Mary Carnahan  
August 19 Emmanuel Keppel  
August 21 Judith McBean  
August 22 Janet Brocklehurst  
August 25 Meghan Mattocks  
August 26 Susan Dedell, Betty Elwell,  
Grainne Buchanan  
August 28 Fred Bump, Samantha Sharff  
August 31 Ronda Burgess



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 5 Bill & Nancy Ames  
August 10 Andy & Elise Burrows  
August 19 Jodi Clark & Jenny Karstad,  
Renny & Mary Widrew  
August 20 John & Mary Carnahan,  
Lawrin & Pam Crispe  
August 22 Alan & Judith McBean  
August 24 Susan & Paul Dyer  
August 25 Christine Hart & Bill Morlock  
August 27 Martin & Deborah Leggott  
August 30 Vince Johnson & MJ Woodburn  
August 31 Ed & Jane Sbardella,  
Robert & Susan Kochinskas



*The Guardian* is published monthly by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. News items, announcements, articles, etc., should be submitted to [jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for consideration.

***The 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](mailto:jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org) or 802-254-6048.

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NEWS OF THE PARISH

August 2017 Rota

Position	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
<b>8 AM</b>				
<b>Lay assistant</b>	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook	Kate McGinn	Wayne Cook
<b>Lector</b>		Jeff Lewis		
<b>Intercessor</b>	Kiersten McKinney	Doug Switzer	Doug Switzer	Joanne Patalano
<b>Usher</b>	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Linda Rice	Anne Cook
<b>Sacramental Healing</b>	Janet Cramer	Jeff Lewis	Janet Cramer	Jeff Lewis
<b>10:15 AM</b>				
<b>Crucifer</b>	Jeff Hiam	Betsy Bates	Ricky Davidson	Peter Johnson
<b>Torch Bearers</b>	Jesse Ackerman-Hovis Miles Ackerman-Hovis	Nathaniel Johnson Kierstan Landin	Fred Bump Whitney Nichols	Caleb Fritz Clara Fritz
<b>Element Bearers</b>	Ken Jacobs Ricky Davidson	Susan Nichols Darcey Mercier	Judith & Alan McBean	Jeff Hiam Dick Burtis
<b>Lay assistant</b>	Greg Lesch	Jeff Hiam	Nancy Barber	Miranda Smith
<b>Lector</b>	Carolyn Taylor-Olson	Greg Lesch	Susan Heimer	Margery McCrum
<b>Intercessor</b>	Mary Carnahan	Annie Landenberger	Brian Morgan	David Mattocks
<b>Ushers</b>	Nancy Barber Ken Jacobs	Andy & Elise Burrows	Susan Nichols Darcey Mercier	Nancy Barber Elaine Smithson-Curry
<b>Sacramental Healing</b>	Megan Buchanan	Margit Lilly	Judy Hildreth	Carolyn Taylor-Olson
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel Craig Newbert	Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel Craig Newbert	Mary Carnahan Charlene Kemp Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead	Mary Carnahan Charlene Kemp Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead
<b>Lemonade</b>	Carol Hesselbach	Sissi Loftin & Janet Brocklehurst		
<b>Counters</b>	Anne Cook Judy McGee	Wayne Cook Gwen Mousin	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Jeanette Landin Sherry Stimmel



ST. MICHAEL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

16 Bradley Avenue  
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-8429

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# The Guardian

a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to the abiding presence of God



## 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 childcare

WEEKDAY MORNINGS 6:00–7:00 a.m., Silent hour in chapel

WEDNESDAYS 12:00–12:30 p.m., Brief service of prayer and Holy Communion

THURSDAYS 5:30–6:30 p.m. Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer

SATURDAYS 8:00 a.m., Centering Prayer