



# The Guardian

DECEMBER 2017

## A BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

**Sunday, December 3**  
*First Sunday of Advent,  
St. Nicholas Fair*

**Tuesday, December 5**  
*Compline, 7:30 pm*

**Saturday, December 9**  
*The Greening of the Church, 9:00 a.m.*

**Sunday, December 10**  
*Second Sunday of Advent  
Advent Lessons and Carols, 4:00 p.m.,  
reception following*

**Tuesday, December 12**  
*Compline, 7:30 pm*

**Saturday, December 16**  
*Festival of Lights with St. Michael's  
Choir School, 4 p.m.*

**Sunday, December 17**  
*Third Sunday of Advent  
The Longest Night Service, 4:00 p.m.*



**Tuesday, December 19**  
*Compline, 7:30 pm*

**Sunday, December 24 (morning)**  
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**Sunday, December 24 (evening)**  
*Christmas Eve  
Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist,  
4:00 p.m.  
Festival Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
with Holy Eucharist, 8:00 p.m. (note new  
time!)*

**Christmas Day, Monday, December 25**  
*Festival Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m.*

**Sunday, December 31**  
*Holy Eucharist, 8 a.m.  
Christmas Lessons and Carols (no  
Eucharist), 10:15 a.m.*

**Saturday, January 6**  
*The Feast of the Epiphany  
Ordination to the Priesthood (Duncan  
Hilton), 10:30 am*

*Please note! Our "late" Christmas Eve Service is now scheduled for 8 pm (not 9 pm as it has been in past years).*

## FROM THE RECTORY

*What we dare not hope for, that is what He gives you.*

- Brother Roger, The Taizé Community

This quote from Brother Roger was one I read soon after I was called to be St. Michael's rector in 2011. Brother Roger's words express deeply what I felt about the call to move to Brattleboro and begin this ministry with you. The process of finding, interviewing and discerning our ministry together felt so Spirit-led. More, as Brother Roger says, than I dared to hope for.

These words have surfaced in my consciousness again these last few months. There are moments when the Kingdom of God seems palpably in our midst. Many of these moments happen on Sunday mornings. Many of these moments happen in noticing the abundance of gifts so freely offered by you in our common ministry. Many of these moments happen in times of struggle, knowing that we not only have company but communion in our struggle.

In addition to these moments, the Discernment and Discipleship ministry initiative that we began this fall has the same feeling to me of alignment with our call as a congregation. It is a ministry that is very much like what we dared not hope for, but what God has given us anyway.

When we committed in earnest to this ministry initiative by hiring Duncan Hilton to be our half-time Minister of Discernment and Discipleship, we did not know exactly how we would fund it. We made a three-year commitment to Duncan, knowing we would apply for grants to help us, but we knew there were no guarantees. We made a leap of faith.

I am happy to report that St. Michael's has applied for and received two grants to support this ministry initiative. We received a \$15,000 grant from the Episcopal Church in Vermont (Diocese) and a \$25,000 grant from the Narthex Project. These grants will cover about 40% of the costs over the next 2.5 years of our initial commitment to this ministry initiative. We also have the option of applying for another grant from the Episcopal Church in Vermont for 2019.

While we are thrilled to have the financial support from these organizations, what is even more exciting is that the grantors understand, support and believe in the importance of this ministry to our ever-changing world and our ever-changing church. They too are able to see the Spirits leading in this initiative. What a blessing! What a gift! More than we dared to hope for. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,  
*Mary*

### Stewardship Update

We are very grateful for the pledges St. Michael's has received for our ministry for 2018. As of November 15, we have received 116 pledges which total \$ 231,123. This is wonderful news and we are so grateful for the generosity of our community!

Our goal this year to support our ministry in 2018 is to receive 135 pledges for a total of \$270,000. This goal is a stretch, but we know it is attainable. If you have not had a chance to turn in your pledge card yet, please do so soon! You may put your pledge card in the offering plate at a Sunday service or mail it to St. Michael's. If you did not receive a pledge card, there are extras at the back of the church, or you may contact the church office and we will send one to you (802-254-6048). Thank you for your love and commitment to our ministry together.



### I Witness: Living Inside The Stories Of Advent And Christmas

Many of us have heard the story of Jesus' birth, but have we lived inside it? For the Adult Forums during Advent (December 3, 10, 17), Annamarie Pluhar and Mary Lindquist will be helping us to reflect on the Advent and Christmas stories.



### St. Nicholas Day Fair, December 3

Did you know that Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.342, was generous to seafarers and to sailors, and more especially to children? This year at St. Michael's we will celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Sunday, December 3 immediately following the 10:15 service. At the Fair, we create ornaments for our trees, door swags for our doors, goodies from the kitchen, and gifts for members of the family. If you would like to help with this wonderful parish event, please contact Lydia Taggart at (413) 773-5554 or [lydiafin@comcast.net](mailto:lydiafin@comcast.net)

### Compline Service December 5, 12 and 19

All are invited to come to a sung Compline Service (or Office) at 7:30 pm in the Chapel on the three Tuesdays during Advent: December 5, 12, and 19. Compline is also known as "Night Prayer" and we will sing the prayers by candlelight. One of the Ministry of Discipleship disciplines is offering ourselves, and receiving God's love and blessings, with our community in worship. In this season of darkness, we look forward to gathering together by candlelight to offer and receive those blessings.

Compline emerged in the life of the church in the fourth century as bedtime prayers for monks in their dormitories. In the late middle ages, Compline was said daily in churches. Following similar moves by other provinces of the Anglican Communion in the early twentieth century, Compline was restored to the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church in 1979. It is a service filled with tranquility and peace. We offer this worship opportunity during Advent so that we may deepen our connection to God and renew our hearts in preparation for the return of the light and the birth of Jesus.



### Advent Lessons And Carols Reception

The reception after the Lessons and Carols Service on December 10 is a St. Michael's tradition and is a wonderful way to thank our choir and to provide hospitality to visitors to our church. We are asking the congregation to help by bringing food. If you are able to help, please bring snacks such as sweet finger foods, fruit, or cheese and crackers.

In order not to have too much of one thing, we ask those with last names A-J to bring sweet finger food and those with last names K-Z to bring cheese & crackers or fruit. Please offer treats that don't require plates! Food may be dropped off at Coffee Hour on December 10 or before the Lessons and Carols service later that day. Thank you ahead of time for your help!

### The Interfaith Youth Group To Serve At The Overflow Shelter On Sunday, December 3

All kids ages 11-15 are invited to join with other youth from different faith communities to prepare and serve a meal for the Brattleboro Overflow Shelter on Sunday, December 3. We will meet at St. Michael's to carpool to the Guilford Church at 3:40pm. The kids will return to St. Michael's at 7:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lindquist at [mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org)



### The Greening Of The Church, December 9

All are invited to participate in the greening of the church on Saturday, December 9 at 9 am. This is a festive time when parishioners of all ages are invited to adorn the church with greens and decorate the Christmas tree. Please join us for this festive gathering!



### Altar Guild Ministry

Liturgy begins and ends with the work of the Altar Guild. It is a behind-the-scenes ministry which involves caring for the sacred vessels, the bread and the wine, the fair linens, hangings, candles, torches, and flowers.

Members prepare for Sunday and Wednesday services, funerals, weddings, baptisms, musical events, and special services. Duties include flower arranging, silver and brass polishing, washing, ironing, dusting, watering plants, filling candles, marking the Bible lessons, posting hymn numbers and mending. We have teams that consist of 3-4 people serving a 2-week stint every 8 weeks. We have 4 business meetings a year. Two of them include workbees. These involve cleaning, polishing and readying the church for Christmas and Easter.

We welcome Ken Jacobs to the Altar Guild and have thus doubled our male Altar Guilders! Our members range from 11 to 100 years old.

We invite the parish to join us on December 17th for coffee hour hosted by the Altar Guilders. If you have any questions, this would be a good time to ask Carol Hesselbach, Lynn Billington, Judy Walker, Susan Dyer, Elise Burrows, Pat Laubach, Laurie Chipfield, Lucia Osiecki, Kiersten McKenney, Irene Burtis, Judith Hildreth, Sherry Stimmel, Mary Carnahan, Charlene Kemp, Rebecca Olmstead, Zadie Olmstead, Marie Lawrence, Betty Elwell, Laura Lewis, or Craig Newbert and Jane Sbardella. The Altar Guild welcomes new members. Share your talents in the decoration and housekeeping of God's house—a gift in time and talent. You will be gladly welcomed.



### Christmas Dinner At St. Michael's

We will be having our annual Christmas Dinner at noon on Christmas Day in the Undercroft. Everyone is invited. Sissi and Janet will provide turkey and the fixings. You may bring a dish to share if you want. Sign up sheets are in the Common Room. Any questions, [sissiloftin@hotmail.com](mailto:sissiloftin@hotmail.com), 254-9509. Please join us for Food and Fellowship.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Photos from Newcomer's Tea



Photos from All Saints' Brunch



## Developments from the Minister of Discipleship and Discernment

Dear St Michael's,

Some of you have asked me some excellent questions in person. I wanted to answer them more thoroughly in writing with everyone.

### **What's your focus over the next few months? What's unfolding now? Where is the Spirit leading?**

During divinity school, I worked summers for a timber-frame construction crew based in Londonderry. I loved it but sadly have forgotten most of what I learned. However, it's been helpful for thinking about the process of building this ministry. The past few months have been about building the foundation for the Ministry of Discernment and Discipleship. Six discipleship small groups are up and running with about 40 people in groups. The leadership team of the ministry (Megan Buchanan, Christy Fritz, Jeff Hiam, Darcey Mercier) had an afternoon retreat to discuss the mission of the ministry and how to share the work in different roles. I've been developing the discernment materials for the December 2 workshop so that we can all speak a common language and have tools for exploring the question, "Of the many voices in my life, which is the voice of the Spirit? Where is Spirit leading me?"

With the foundation in place and the framing done for the discipleship groups and the discernment practices, I sense that the Spirit is leading us to both keep going with the construction of the house and begin focusing on mission beyond the walls of the church. The discipleship groups will continue to meet through early January and then all the participants will gather to reflect on their experience and to decide if and how to continue with the groups. I'll then turn my attention to the missional element of the ministry by meeting with people in the local community, researching inspiring missional ministries with the leadership team and others in the parish, and developing a process for the wider community to explore what it means for us both individually and collectively to be agents of the Spirit's renewal and reconciliation in the wider community.

### **What's happening with your ordination?**

I've been approved for priestly ordination on January 6 at St Michael's. The Bishop of Massachusetts will be presiding. I'm excited for people from many different chapters of my formation – friends and family, the Episcopal Service Corps program in Boston, Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown, and Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, MA - to gather at St Michael's and to meet this community. The next day, January 7, I'll celebrate communion for the first time. Thank you all for nurturing my vocation as a priest!

### **How come I've seen you less on Sundays?**

Mary and I are exploring how best to focus my time on the Discipleship and Discernment Ministry and also honor the half-time scope of the job and the demands of my other job teaching at CCV. In the first few months at St Michael's, it seemed important to be at both the 8:00 and 10:15 services in order to get to know everyone in the parish. Over the coming months, we're experimenting with my alternating attending the 8:00 and 10:15 services each week so that I can spend more time building relationships and teachings related to the Discipleship and Discernment Ministry. I trust as the ministry unfolds the right rhythm will emerge that allows me to stay connected to everyone in the parish and continue to focus on discipleship and discernment.

*Duncan*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**Mark Your Calendars For Duncan's Ordination!**

Saturday, January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany and the Ordination of Duncan Hilton to the Priesthood at 10:30am. It is super-special for a parish to host someone's ordination and we are honored to have the privilege at St. Michael's. If you have never been to an ordination, you have not experienced one of the most meaningful experiences of liturgy and worship ever. As weddings remind us of and help us renew our own marriage vows and promises, ordinations remind us of our own callings and how God has participated and continues to lead us forth in our lives. You do not want to miss this special event!

**Share in the Festivities at Duncan's Ordination Celebration!**

Though there are many wonderful events in the coming weeks leading up to Christmas, St. Michael's is thrilled to begin 2018 with a very special occasion on January 6: the Feast of the Epiphany and Duncan Hilton's Ordination. We will host a festive, potluck-style luncheon reception following the ceremony and we invite parishioners to contribute food of all kinds. Please contact Megan Buchanan 802.258.9052 or mbuchanan@hotmail.com if you would like to support this event by bringing a dish or plate of something delicious. Thanks to all!

**St. Michael's Women's Retreat Weekend, Feb 3-4, 2018**

This year we're trying something new at the St. Michael's Women's Retreat at Hallelujah Farm. Diane Clouet, Mary and I are working together to present a 2-day exploration of the book "The Source of Miracles: Transforming Your Life Through the Lord's Prayer" by Kathleen McGowan. The book is rich with legendary teachings that arose in the medieval mystery school of Mary Magdalene in the South of France. On the floor of the nave of the Chartres Cathedral lies an extensive labyrinth with a 6-petaled rose mosaic at its center. The author draws us into powerful teachings on reciting the Lord's Prayer, a section at a time, while walking around the 6 petals at the center of the labyrinth path.

I began using this teaching in my own spiritual practice several months ago. I constructed a path of stones, loosely based on the rose pattern of the Chartres mosaic, in the sand along my Rock River property. Digging and moving hundreds of rocks before I could begin to create the path became a meditation in itself. My goal was to complete the prayer path before a surgery I had scheduled for late June, so that I'd have it to return to, and use the Lord's Prayer while walking the path as a part of my recovery. Interestingly, just as I was about to take a photo of it to submit along with this article, the stones of my prayer path washed away in heavy rain – a perfect lesson on "surrender", the teaching of the 2nd petal of the path.

We invite all women of the Parish to attend the Retreat this year, held on Feb 3-4 at Hallelujah Farm. We'll be exploring ways to construct our own prayer paths, and using the Lord's Prayer, delve into the powerful spiritual disciplines held within it as we walk around the 6 petals of the path. Faith, Surrender, Service, Gratitude, Forgiveness, and Freedom, all centered in Love, are the teachings at the heart of this practice – a lifetime's worth of lessons to immerse ourselves in over one short weekend! We ask that all who attend the Retreat commit to the full 2 days and Saturday overnight stay, so we can keep our energy, learning and sharing together through the weekend.

There are five copies of the book, "The Source of Miracles: Transforming Your Life Through the Lord's Prayer" by Kathleen McGowan in the church library if you would like to read the book ahead of time. Please return it to the church library when you are finished so others can read it. You can register for the retreat on St. Michael's website. Go to [www.stmichaelsvermont.org](http://www.stmichaelsvermont.org), click on "News" and there you will find a link to a registration form. We hope to see many of you there!

*Chris Triebert and Diane Clouet*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**SUMMARY OF VESTRY MEETING: OCTOBER 19, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm. Mark Horton led the Dwelling in the Word bible study. Absent from the meeting were: Deb Jones and Jeanette Landin.

- Minutes of the September Vestry meeting were received and approved.
- Thank you cards included the leaders and organizers of the Tag Sale: Lucia and Judith, to Deb Jones for organizing the House Blessing, to Steve Harrison for the stewardship reflection and to the Wardsboro Yoked Parish for lending their tent for the tag sale.
- Treasurer's report by Wayne Cook: Pledge income is down with September being the lowest of the year at 50%. Year-to-date pledge income is 87.9% of expected. Overall year-to-date income is 88.7% of expected. Expenses are on track at 92.4% of budget.
- Building for the Future Update: The loan to the Diocese has been paid in full. The church received \$1500 in October. This along with the remaining \$5000 in pledges will be saved for future capital projects.
- Wayne Cook suggested that we purchase our own tent for use at church functions and for the Tag Sale. The tent that we currently use is borrowed from the Wardsboro Yoked Parish. Purchase price up to \$700 was approved.
- Rector's Report: included updates on plans for her sabbatical, the Rock Point Capital Campaign and discussion of the Narthex grant (\$25,000) to be used for the Ministry for Discipleship and Discernment. She also reported on the Overflow shelter plans (organized by Liz Vick) and discussed the importance of the hospitality ministry as well as the need to rethink the organization as some of the members who have provided such long and faithful leadership are stepping back. Duncan continues to focus on the discipleship groups.
- Note: Duncan's ordination is scheduled for 1/6/18.
- Buildings and Grounds report: Vince has met with the neighbor and discussed the proposed tree work that she will be paying for; John reported on the new signage, discussions with the Nursery School and plans for fall clean up and sealing the driveway.
- The meeting ended promptly at 8pm with a prayer offered by Mark Horton.
- The next vestry meeting will be November 16, 2017 at 6 pm

Prayerfully submitted,

*Judith McBean*

**SUMMARY OF VESTRY MEETING: NOVEMBER 16, 2017**

The Vestry of Saint Michael's Episcopal Church met on Thursday, November 16, 2017.

- Following the opening prayer, some members of the Social Justice Committee led a conversation regarding the progress of the committee and their future plans. The Vestry members pledged their support for these plans and will work closely with the group.
- Minutes of the October meeting were approved as written.
- The Financial report was presented by Wayne who stated that the pledged income was still lower than the budget for the month, but he believes that everyone will catch up so that by the end of the year we will meet the budget in this area. Most other income and expenses are on track.
- During the Rector's Report Mary passed out a "List of Important Dates" to the Vestry showing upcoming events, meetings and milestones to meet for the future. She discussed with the Vestry her plans and timeline for her upcoming Sabbatical. The All Saints Day brunch was very well attended and received by all. The Newcomer's Tea also was enjoyed at the Hallelujah Farm. Much Fellowship was shared at each of these events. A grant was received from the Diocese to be used to help support the work of the MDD. Mary will provide more details in her letters, reports and talks.
- The Hospitality Ministry needs your help. Please contact Deb Jones to find out more about this newly emerging group and how you can be of assistance.
- To date the Stewardship drive has received 116 pledges amounting to \$231,000 towards the goal of \$270,000 with 135 pledges. If you have not yet sent in your pledge card, please do so and help meet these important goals.
- The report of the Nominating Committee was discussed.
- Buildings and Grounds reported that even though the clean up day was sparsely attended, the work got done in a timely manner. Please consider helping at the next fun-filled event in the spring. Coffee and donuts will be provided. The chimneys at the Rectory are in need of having some maintenance done on them. The Vestry approved a proposal from "The Chimney Doctor" to perform this maintenance.

The closing prayer was offered by Janet.

*Bruce Lawrence*  
Junior Warden



**THE HYMNAL**  
**of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America 1940**  
**published by The Church Pension Fund New York**  
**673 pages**

“By the light of burning martyrs/ Jesus’ bleeding feet I track.”

It is this reviewer’s suspicion that, when we rise to sing a hymn, rarely are we aware of the words we sing as we are too involved in attempting to carry the tune or finding sufficient oxygen to complete the several verses (or we do not like the melody or the sentiment and return the hymnal to the rack in reverent disgust and stand in silent repudiation until its conclusion). However, these gruesome words of the poet James Russell Lowell begin the third verse of “Once to every Man and Nation, etc.” and it was the rare Episcopalian who sang that dirge who did not recall that hairy-chested image of a particularly unusual form of illumination with a smile (or a smirk). In the sanitized 1982 Hymnal that we now employ, that hymn is not to be found although the music by T. J. Williams has been retained for hymns 381 and 527.

As a relief from a boring sermon (in the unlikely possibility that one might ever occur at St. Michael’s), the parishioner, rather than sit slumped in the pew calling down heavenly curses upon the perpetrator, instead can leaf through the back of the hymnal. Therein are lists—composers, authors, and first lines (hymns do not have titles and, thus, are identified by their first lines). A casual page-thumbing will reveal a number of interesting and little known facts: J. S. Bach wrote the music for nineteen hymns; Beethoven wrote “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee (#376 in the current hymnal); Hayden wrote four hymns; and Mendelssohn six. However, the champion is the early twentieth-century English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams with 27 citations including the vigorous “For all the saints, who from their labors rest.” Its eight rampaging verses, possibly a record, may leave the poorly conditioned parishioner in a state of oxygen debt and feeling a touch light-headed at its conclusion.

The 1940 Hymnal (and the 1982 as well) contains what is possibly the all-time favorite Episcopal hymn:

“Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war.” It has been sometime since this bellicose and lusty hymn has resounded within the walls of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, Brattleboro. The parishioner may ask “why?” Does manly blood now flow through weaker veins?

The first Vermont bishop, John Henry Hopkins, wrote the words and music of the carol “We three kings of Orient are,” in 1857. Bishop Hopkins consecrated our newly-built church in 1857. Curiously, the bishop was “a strong defender of states rights during the Civil War and who had furthermore written pamphlets showing that on various occasions the Bible sanctioned slavery” (quoted from our church history by Paul Carnahan, published in 1982).

“How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,” was the favorite hymn of the currently much-maligned Robert E. Lee. What the ignorant overlook is that Lee, a demi-deity in the post-war South, by his words and example reunited those seceded states to the Union (and, little-known, as president of tiny rural Washington College developed the broad, rather than classical, curriculum that colleges employ today).

The same bored parishioner might pass the time reading the verses for sense. Although most do make somewhat oblique sense, others’ grasp is tenuous, and some simply mystifying: “The lamb is the light of the city of God.”

Fascinating information lies between the covers of a book that we take for granted as merely a working book. As we once again rise to make a joyful noise unto Our Lord, let us recall that, contrary to current practice, true Episcopalians stand to sing, sit to listen, and kneel to pray. That is why there are kneelers in the pews!

*Robert R. Anderson*

## HOW TO FIND THE GUARDIAN IN YOUR EMAIL

When the Guardian became available electronically, I happily agreed to have it sent to me by email. It saves trees, effort, and the cost of paper and postage. BUT I don't always notice it in my Inbox. It gets lost. In recent conversation with Jean Smith, I discovered she has the same issue. Maybe you do too?

There is an answer. Use the computer to help you see the Guardian in your mailbox when it arrives. All email programs have a way to grab the email and do something with it to help you see it. The names are different for this function depending on which program you are using. For example, in Apple Mail and Outlook it is "Rules." Gmail uses "filters."

When you create a rule, you have to tell the computer what to look for – these are called conditions. To create a rule for the Guardian, there are two conditions. The email always comes from [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org) AND it always has an Attachment with the word "Guardian" in it.

And then you tell your computer what you want to do with the email. Put it in a special folder? Give it a flag? The choices are up to you.

Now you know the concept. Find instructions for the actual program you use by googling "how to create rule for [name of your program]". It is certain that someone has written a decent tutorial that you can follow.

Good luck, have fun, and enjoy this wonderful publication.

*Annamarie Pluhar*

### IMPORTANT DATES

- December 2 (Saturday) – "Listening for God through the Heart, Soul, and Spirit": an Advent Workshop on Discernment and Decision-making
- December 3 – First Sunday of Advent; St. Nicholas Day Fair
- December 9 (Saturday) – Greening of the Church
- December 10– Advent Lessons and Carols
- December 16 (Saturday) – Choir School Festival of Lights, 4 pm
- December 17 – Longest Night Service, 4 pm
- December 24 – Advent IV and Christmas Eve
- December 25 (Monday) – Christmas Day
- December 31 – Christmas Lessons and Carols / New Year's Eve
- January 6 – Ordination to the Priesthood, Duncan Hilton
- January 20-21 – Workshop of Centering Prayer and Welcoming Prayer by Father Bill Sheehan
- January 28 – Annual Meeting
- February 3-4 – Women's Retreat

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## DECEMBER LECTIONARY

**December 3**

Isaiah 64: 1-9; Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18;  
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37

**December 10**

Isaiah 40: 1-11; Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13;  
2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

**December 17**

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;  
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

**December 24**

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16; Canticle 15;  
Romans 16: 25-27; Luke 1: 26-38

**December 31**

Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3; Psalm 147;  
Galatians 3: 23-25 + 4: 4-7; John 1: 1-18

## CELEBRATIONS

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1 Liz Vick, Cindy Bacigalupo  
December 3 Jonah Siegel  
December 6 Ramon Escalera Jr.  
December 7 Chris Mattson  
December 8 Julia Fedoruk, Paul Dyer  
December 9 Jeanette Perry  
December 10 Clara Fritz  
December 12 Jenny Karstad, Hailey Cogliano,  
Rebecca Mayer, Holly MacLean  
December 14 Paula Ryan,  
Robin White-Diamondstone  
December 15 Carol Hesselbach  
December 17 Jessica Bennett  
December 20 Merribelle Coles,  
Annabel Horton  
December 22 Susan Avery, Ann Bonneville  
December 23 Jean Smith  
December 25 Joyce Vining Morgan  
December 26 Jeanette Landin, Hugo Taggart  
December 28 MJ Woodburn, Christine Gauthier,  
Stephanie Diamondstone  
December 30 Annamarie Pluhar

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

December 5 Brian & Joyce Vining Morgan  
December 7 Michael & Susan Wilmott  
December 21 Lucia Osiecki & Deb Jones  
December 27 Bruce & Kerry Capponcelli



*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.

*printed on recycled paper 100% post consumer, PCF*



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EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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