



# The Guardian

JANUARY 2017

## FROM THE RECTORY

*May he exalt you, O Lord, in the midst of your people; offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; boldly proclaim the gospel of salvation; and rightly administer the sacraments of the New Covenant. Make him a faithful pastor, a patient teacher, and a wise councilor. Grant that in all things he may serve without reproach, so that your people may be strengthened and your Name glorified in all the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.*

This year, on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, St. Michael's will be hosting a very special event – the Ordination of a Priest, Duncan Hilton. For this ordination, we will host two bishops, the Right Reverend Alan M. Gates, Bishop of Massachusetts, and the Right Reverend Thomas C. Ely, Bishop of Vermont. The Reverend Tom Kinder, a UCC minister in Stratford, Vermont and a longtime friend and mentor of Duncan's, will be the preacher.

As wonderful as it will be to host these special guests in our church and as important as it is for us to support Duncan in his vocation, ordinations are not so much about bishops or special guests or even about Duncan himself. Ordinations are really about God - Creator, Son and Holy Spirit - and the amazing things God does in our lives - calling us to many different ministries, some ordained, some not, but wherever God is the agent of the calling, all holy callings.

So I invite you to come to church on Saturday, January 6 at 10:30 am, the Feast of the Epiphany. Come and celebrate what God is doing in Duncan's life and in our own lives and invite the Holy Spirit to continue to lead and guide us. I guarantee that you will be inspired and your faith will be strengthened and your loyalties confirmed.



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT



Dear St Michael's,

It has been a full month with the discernment and discipleship ministry. More than 20 people attended the discernment workshop on Saturday December 2, the six small groups continue to meet, the leadership team initiated an Advent compline service with the help of Valerie Abrahamsen as cantor, and we've been preparing for the ordination service on January 6. Here are answers to a few questions folks have asked:

**Will your job at St Michael's change after ordination?**

"No" is the short answer. My job description remains the same, working part-time at St Michael's while also teaching at CCV in the afternoons. I'll be able to preside at the Eucharist, of course, but I'll still be alternating weeks between attending the 8 am and 10:15 am services on Sundays. That said, as a new ministry the focus of my work will likely continue to evolve but that will be because of the Spirit's leading and not because of my ordination.

**What then is your focus for the winter?**

The discipleship groups will continue to meet through early January and then all the participants will gather at the Church on the evening of Wednesday, January 24 to reflect on their experience and to discuss continuing with the groups. We'll eat, pray, share our reflections across groups, and plan how to move forward with the small groups. It may be that some groups continue meeting as they are currently configured, others may end, and others may open to new

members. We'll also discuss possible changes to the small group format. At the February 11 Adult Forum, members from the small groups can share their experiences with the wider congregation. In that Forum, we may also discuss how to move forward with the more missional, outward-focused efforts of the ministry.

**What does the Centering Prayer and Welcoming Practice Retreat on January 19-20 have to do with all of this?**

Prayer is one of the spiritual disciplines that participants have been trying on more deeply in the discipleship groups. We wanted to offer further teaching and practice space for those who want to practice silent prayer in the Christian tradition. This retreat is a chance to receive a teaching from Fr. Bill Sheehan, a nationally acclaimed teacher and also a former priest at St Michael's Catholic Church in Brattleboro.

*Duncan*

**THE INTERFAITH YOUTH GROUP  
TO SERVE AT THE OVERFLOW SHELTER ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

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, January 7. St. Michael's will be hosting this time, so we will be cooking at St. Michael's, meeting at 3:45pm. We will drive to the Overflow Shelter to serve the meal and return to St. Michael's by 7:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lindquist at [mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org)

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

**CHARLES MAYS, JR. SPEAKS ON  
MARTIN LUTHER KING  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

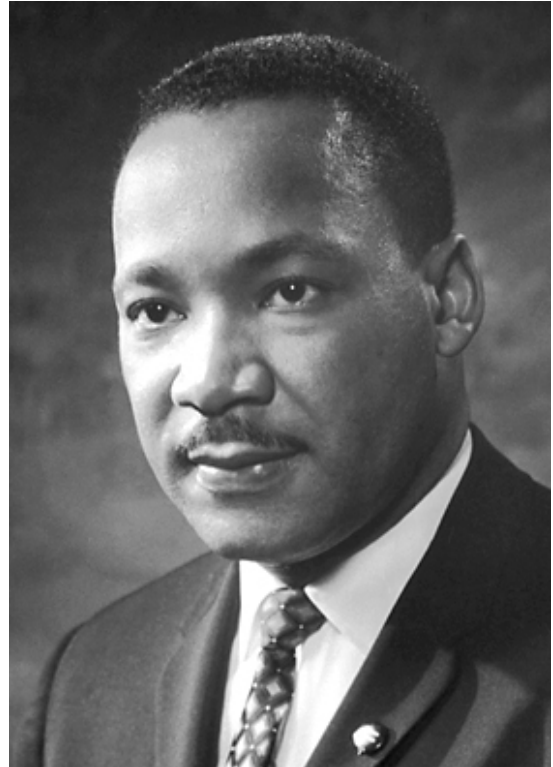
Charles Mays, Jr. will lead the Forum and preach on January 14 at the 10:15 Martin Luther King service. In anticipation of his visit with us the Social Justice Committee asked Mr. Mays several questions:

- “What does a black man have to say to a predominantly white congregation on MLK Sunday?”
- “What can white allies offer African Americans?” and
- “Do you see signs of hope?”

When he accepted the invitation to spend the morning with us, Mr. Mays wrote: “I will hope I can offer something to challenge and inspire the congregation to introspection resulting in outward action.”

Mr. Mays was brought up and nurtured in the Southern Baptist tradition of singing and piano playing, going on to study voice, leading finally to doctoral studies at the Hartt School of Music, where his dissertation topic was the Middle Passage development of the spiritual. His ties to the Brattleboro community began when he was invited to be a participant at the Marlboro Music Festival, where he was in residence for 3 seasons. He was selected to be a touring member of Marlboro Festival. Following that, Charles won the Metropolitan Opera Young Artist Award. He has appeared as soloist with countless choruses and orchestras, but his particular tie to the Brattleboro Community comes through his association and friendship with Susan Dedell, with whom he has worked musically for over 15 years. Charles has a passion for sharing the history of black music in America, and frequently does presentations, master classes, and workshops in schools. He currently lives in New Haven, CT with his partner, Patrick.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join the conversation with Mr. Mays on January 14.



**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
CELEBRATION AND COMMUNITY EVENT**

On Monday January 15 at 4:00, there will be a celebration in honor of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St. in Brattleboro. The service will include readings from Dr. King and spirituals by local musicians and a community choir and it will end with the traditional lighting of a candle by everyone in attendance. Singers of all ages and abilities are encouraged to come to the church at 3:00 to rehearse songs for the service.

This event is sponsored by the Brattleboro Area Inter-faith Leaders Association.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**PARISH ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**

All members of St. Michael's are invited to attend our Parish Annual Meeting following the 10:15 am service on January 28. The meeting will take place in the church sanctuary, after the 10:15 service ends and all have had a chance to get something to eat in the Undercroft.

We will elect three new members of the Vestry (each for a three-year term, see below), adopt a budget for 2018, and receive reports of St. Michael's various ministries. In addition, we will view our annual slide show highlighting life at St. Michael's in 2017.

This year, we will hear some special reports about:

- Mary's upcoming sabbatical
- Plans the Sabbatical Planning Team has for St. Michael's to have its own time of renewal while Mary is away.
- The Ministry of Discernment and Discipleship Leadership Team.
- Plans to support Rock Point.

**BUDGET REVIEW MEETING, JANUARY 21**

Those of you who would like the opportunity to review St. Michael's budget for 2018 and ask questions prior to the Annual Meeting are invited to a choice of two budget meetings on Sunday, January 21. The first meeting will be at 9 am in the Undercroft (especially for 8 am folks and anyone else able to attend at this time). A second budget meeting will be offered following the 10:15 am service in the Meeting Room.

**ST MICHAEL'S OUTDOORS  
SATURDAY JANUARY 27 FROM 10-3**

People from St. Michael's can participate in the free day at Grafton Ponds, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont. Trail passes, rentals, tubing and snowshoeing will all be free. Join the St. Michael's Family and have a wonderful time in the snow! Watch the weekly blast and Sunday bulletins for additional information. You can contact Betsy Bates at 257-0734 with questions.

**Bishop Ely Announces His Retirement**

The Right Reverend Thomas C. Ely, tenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, recently announced his intention to retire and resign his ministry, no later than September 30, 2019. He has agreed to remain in his position until a successor is chosen and is in place.

Ely, 65, was consecrated as bishop of the Vermont diocese in 2001, having previously served as a priest in the Diocese of Connecticut for 20 years. In a message to the people of the Diocese of Vermont, Ely said that by the time of his retirement he will have served in the priesthood for nearly 39 years.

"There are other interests and ministries to which I am feeling called to devote my time and energy while my health and stamina are still good," Ely said, "including family, community theatre, various justice ministries and a bit more golf."

During his episcopate, Ely has been a leader both within the diocese and throughout the wider Episcopal Church on such controversial issues as marriage equality, the ordination of LGBT clergy, increased gun safety and racial justice. He is also a leading voice on matters of environmental and economic justice.

— *From the Episcopal News Service*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

CANDIDATES FOR THREE-YEAR TERMS  
ON THE VESTRY**Imogene Drakes**

Hi Church, I moved to Brattleboro two years ago to work at the hospital and I am delighted to be welcomed at St. Michael's and to be considered as a member of the vestry. I am the mother of two wonderful sons and I am grandma to three handsome young men. I was born into the Anglican family and love this way of serving God!

**Carolyn Taylor-Olson**

Worshipping with the St. Michael's Church family for the past 20 years has been a significant part of my spiritual journey. I am thankful to have made this journey with the love and strength of our parish and clergy. It is an honor to be considered for a position on the new Vestry. I have served on the Vestry in the past during Father Brown's tenure. I chaired the original Building for the Future Committee with the realization of many of the "dream" ideas forwarded by the parish members. I am an active member of the Sacramental Healing Team. It is our faith that gives us the support to go forward in the ways of Christ. "Who shall I send.....send me, Lord".

**Christopher Wesolowski**

I came to St. Michael's the first week I moved to Brattleboro for my first job out of graduate school in 1988. My introduction to the Episcopal Church was in 1986 when the bishop of New York, Paul Moore, invited me to "Come to Canterbury, Christopher!" after I no longer felt welcome in the church of my youth.

The St. Michael's community welcomed and loved me and it has become my spiritual home. I pray that I continue to be the welcoming face and hands of Christ to all in the wider community of Vermont and the world. The call to serve is an honor and blessing for which I am deeply grateful.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## A THANK YOU FROM LYDIA TAGGERT, ORGANIZER OF THE ST. NICHOLAS DAY FAIR

I just wanted to send out a belated, but nonetheless heartfelt THANK YOU for the many ways in which you each contributed to the success of the St. Nicholas Fair 2017!!

It was a wonderful event and we received so many compliments on the array of crafts and foods for the parishioners. The fair was a warm afternoon of fellowship for all generations of our church!

Thank you to those who contributed supplies for crafts and supervised craft tables: **Gwen Mousin, Joanne Patalano, Diane Clouet, Judith Hildreth, Leigh Marthe, Kate McGinn, The Fritz Family, Judy Walker, Ruth Tilghman, Miranda Smith, Jane Sbardella, Rebecca Olmstead, Alix Fedoruk.** We had an amazing assortment of fun, festive, and stimulating activities for all ages!

Thank you to those who contributed foods: **Rosie Wojcik, Leigh Marthe, Jane and Rebecca Sbardella, Laura Mansfield, Joyce Morgan, and Gwen Mousin.** You helped feed our hungry masses with delicious and nutritious treats!!

Thank you to our **coffee crew** for keeping everyone sustained with beverages!

Thank you to **Brian Morgan** for yet another stellar performance as St. Nick!

Thank you to **Lucia Osiecki** for doing such a great job organizing the Christmas Store!

And thank you to **Rosie Wojcik** for her hard work helping in the kitchen! And to all those who did such an amazing job to make it a surprisingly easy and speedy clean-up!

I know my family enjoyed themselves immensely and we look forward to putting on another St. Nicholas Day fair for all next year!

My sincere apologies if there is anyone whom I have missed in this list of Thank You's... please know that we are all so appreciative of your help and hard work to put on this festive event!

With gratitude,

*Lydia Taggert*

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A huge THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the 2018 Stewardship Campaign. In October, we set stretch goals of receiving 135 pledges and raising \$270,000.. As of December 20, we met our first goal We have received 138 pledges, 15% more pledges than at this time last year last year, for a total of \$253,307.. We also have received 13 new pledges, which is more than we have received in the last few years. We are still hoping to reach our pledge monetary goal and hope that if you haven't pledged, you will do so soon. We are so grateful for your generosity and your support.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## 2018 PLEDGERS

Anonymous (x 11)  
 Valerie Abrahamsen  
 Patrick & Julie Ackerman-Hovis  
 Greg & Kelli Allen  
 William & Nancy Ames  
 Robert & Becky Anderson  
 Laura Andrews  
 Susan Avery  
 Nancy Barber  
 Betsy Bates & Neil Quinn  
 Thaddeus Bennett  
 Matthew Bickford  
 Lynn Billington  
 Diana Bingham  
 Karin Bleecker  
 Benson Bobrick  
 Janet Brocklehurst & Sissi Loftin  
 Anne Wilmott Brown  
 John Byrnes & Kiersten McKenney  
 Megan Buchanan  
 Fred Bump  
 Andy & Elise Burrows  
 Richard & Irene Burtis  
 Tom & Nancy Cain  
 Pat Cameron  
 John & Mary Carnahan  
 Pam & David Carr  
 Chris Chapman  
 Laurie Chipperfield  
 Dianne Clouet  
 Noah Coburn & Beth Ruane  
 Richard & Julie Cogliano  
 Wayne & Anne Cook  
 Al & Janet Cramer  
 Lawrin & Pam Crispe  
 James & Anita Crosson  
 Joao d'Alcaravela & Carol  
 Blanchard  
 John Daly  
 Judy Davidson  
 Ricky Davidson  
 Paul & Susan Dedell

Imogene Drakes  
 Dan Drish & Ron Lenker  
 Susan & Paul Dyer  
 Corwin & Betty Elwell  
 Katra Faust  
 The Fritz Family  
 Paul & Pam Gallagher  
 Luke & Laura Goodridge  
 Lloyd Graf  
 Karen Guthrie  
 Craig Hammond & Liz Vick  
 Steve & Laurel Harrison  
 Susan Heimer  
 Bruce & Carol Hesselbach  
 Judith Hildreth  
 Duncan Hilton  
 Shirley Hodgdon  
 Mark & Heather Horton  
 Wendell & Madelyn Howard  
 Parker Huber  
 Judy Hueber  
 Kenneth Jacobs II  
 Deb Jones & Lucia Osiecki  
 Jack Karn  
 Jenny Karstad & Jodi Clark  
 Charlene Kemp  
 Susan Kochinskas  
 Annie Landenberger  
 Jeanette Landin  
 Pat Laubach  
 Marie & Bruce Lawrence  
 Marcia Leader  
 Gregory Lesch  
 Laura Lewis  
 Doug & Mimi Lilly  
 Jack & Margit Lilly  
 Mary Lindquist & Kurt Johnson  
 Sharry Manning  
 Leigh Marthe  
 Alan & Judith McBean  
 Margery McCrum  
 Lauren & Andrew McDowell

Judith McGee  
 Kate McGinn  
 Steven & Karren Meyer  
 Anne Montgomery  
 Martha Moravec  
 Brian & Joyce Vining Morgan  
 Gwen Mousin  
 Susan Nichols  
 Whitney Nichols  
 Joanne Patalano  
 Robert Peeples  
 Joan Pinilla  
 Annamarie Pluhar  
 Dorothy & Nicholas Porter  
 Jared Redisce  
 Linda Rice  
 Jesse Ridgway  
 Teri Robinson & Ross Kinney  
 Ed & Jane Sbardella  
 Renee Skwirz  
 Jean & Peter Smith  
 Miranda Smith  
 Devin Starlanyl  
 William Stearns  
 Marcia Steckler  
 Cherolyn Stimmel  
 Elizabeth Swift  
 Doug & Ann Switzer  
 Lydia & Eben Taggart  
 Carolyn Taylor-Olson  
 Ruth Tilghman  
 Christine Triebert  
 Carol & Fred Turner  
 Judy Walker  
 Laurie Webb  
 Christopher Wesolowski  
 Robin White  
 Michael & Susan Wilmott  
 Phillip & Susan Wilson  
 MJ Woodburn & Vince Johnson

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## JANUARY FORUMS

**January 7: “The New American Bible”**

The first American Bible of 1663 is the most ambitious publishing project ever attempted in this country and, possibly, the most ambitious ever attempted in the history of Christian publishing. For sheer audacity, nothing matches it. The Luther-inspired translating and printing of the Bible from the Latin into the common spoken languages one hundred and fifty years previous compares rather poorly. This 1663 Bible is considered the second most valuable American book. The 1640 Bay Psalm Book is the first because of scarcity and recently sold at auction for fourteen and a half million dollars. Bob Anderson leads.

**January 14, Martin Luther King Sunday: “A Black Man Looking at Life.”**

Charles Mays, the 10:15 am Martin Luther King Sunday preacher, will lead the Forum discussion about what it is like growing up as an African-American in today’s polarized nation. Mr. Mays was brought up in the South in the Baptist tradition. He committed himself to an intense study of vocal music, leading to winning the Metropolitan Opera Young Artist Award. Charles has sung at the Marlboro Festival, at the Brattleboro Concert Choir and around the nation. He has a passion for the performance and development of black music.

**January 21: Centering Prayer: A History and a Conversation about Current Organizational Trends**

Join Father Bill Sheehan and others to talk about how Centering Prayer and Christian Meditation were rediscovered in the Christian Tradition and what organizations have been created to support these practices, such as Contemplative Outreach International, The World Community for Christian Meditation, Wisdom School and Northeast Wisdom.

**January 28: “Voices from Inside”**

The January 28 Forum is an inspiring presentation by women from Voices from inside (VFI) – a creative writing program that supports women in the Springfield-Greenfield area who are or have been incarcerated, or who are recovering from addiction. Since 1999 VFI has been making a difference in the lives of incarcerated women by giving them the opportunity to find their voices through writing, the power to imagine new possibilities for themselves, and the ability to return to their communities with success. Sharing their stories with the public through performances and readings is an important aspect of VFI’s mission. Come listen as each story is told through the unique viewpoint and voice of the writer. A time for questions and interaction with participants will be given at the end of the presentation. In this season of Epiphany we are thankful for the women and the work of Voices from Inside, which truly serves as a light shining in the darkness of our times, and we are honored to host them at St. Michael’s. Chris Triebert leads.



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**MINISTRY FOR VETERANS:  
ARE YOU INTERESTED?**

From Parishioner Bill Ames: "In years past, St. Michael's has been involved in veterans' affairs, providing a ministry of service and support to veterans. As a veteran myself (fighter pilot, US Air Force), and father to a son who has served 22 years in the US Marine Corp. and is now disabled, I am called to this ministry and would like to meet with other veterans or volunteers at St. Michael's who would be interested.

I see my role as instigator, and should we have enough parishioners interested in this ministry, then I would happily have leaders step forward to guide the direction and shape of the group interests. If you would like to participate in this ministry (and you don't have to be a veteran to do so), then please let us know. You can send an email to [williamsames@comcast.net](mailto:williamsames@comcast.net), or call and leave a message at our home phone (413-498-5088), or call me on my cell (617-733-1888), or let Mary or Jeanie in the church office know of your interest. Thanks, and let's see what happens, Bill."

**LETTER OF THANKS**

Dear St. Michael's Friends,

I wish I could thank each of you individually for the prayers, visits, notes and flowers I received during my hospitalization, rehab at Thompson House, and move from my home in West Brattleboro to Bradley House Assisted Living...in the St. Michael's neighborhood. I'm reminded once again of how blessed I am to be a member of such a loving, supportive church family.

Wishing you peace and joy,  
Betsy Swift

**EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER****THE 6-PETALED ROSE: FAITH, SURRENDER, SERVICE, GRATITUDE, FORGIVENESS, AND FREEDOM  
ST. MICHAEL'S WOMEN'S RETREAT, FEBRUARY 3-4**

Feeling exhausted from the busyness of the holidays? Join us for a time of rest, renewal and prayer. St. Michael's Women's Retreat will take place on Saturday, February 3 through Sunday, February 4. This year, the retreat will be led by Chris Triebert and Dianne Clouet and focus on themes from the book *Transforming Your Life Through the Lord's Prayer* by Kathleen McGowan. Copies of the book are available for loan in St. Michael's Library if you'd like to explore the topic before the retreat. You may sign up either by filling on the Registration Form on St. Michael's website (go to [www.stmichaelsvermont.org](http://www.stmichaelsvermont.org) click on "news," the "announcements," then click on the link to the registration form) or pick up a registration form in the Common Room.

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

**A Common Life: The Wedding Story**

by Jan Karon

Viking New York 2001

6"x9" 186 pages

"Depend upon it (Watson), there is nothing so unnatural as the commonplace.... This is the Dundas separation case.... The husband was a teetotaler, there was no other woman, and the conduct complained of was that he drifted into the habit of winding up every meal by taking out his false teeth and hurling them at his wife,"  
[Sherlock Holmes quoted in "A Case of Identity"].

In this vale of toil and strife, there is something comforting about the commonplace (less the flying choppers) in which people of goodwill contest life's daily vicissitudes with good humor and charity for all. This is the sixth volume of a series about Father Tim Kavanagh, the balding, diabetic, elderly bachelor vicar who ministers to the Episcopal congregation of Lord's Chapel in Mitford, North Carolina. Mitford, not to be confused with Mayberry, appears to be proximate to Brattleboro in size.

From volume one romance rears its ugly head and this theme follows through succeeding volumes until the publication of this title when the poor vicar is finally worn down, abruptly loses the last vestige of self-control and reason, and hysterically proposes marriage to his long patient parishioner and next door neighbor Cynthia Coppersmith who has had a five volume crush upon him. Overlooking the rector's histrionics that would make a lesser woman quail, she accepts. The convolutions and intrigues of wedding planning constitute the plot and everyone lives happily ever after. There is, of course and mercifully, no sex prior to the wedding night (what, if anything, occurs thereafter is anybody's guess).

In Kingsley Amis' hilarious post-war novel of English academia "Lucky Jim," the long suffering and much maligned main character Jim Dixon in exasperation philosophically concludes, "Nice things are nicer than nasty ones." That also could be said of Jan Karon's charming stories which steer just clear of sappy.

Although her books fit the book publisher's category "Books for Old Ladies," the characters are believable, the situations plausible, and the dialogue rings true. The publisher in previous volumes kindly added a map of downtown Mitford so the reader might follow the comings and goings of the faithful and the friendly (for there are no indifferent, uncaring, or hostile characters). And, apparently feeling magnanimous, the publisher Viking paid for both an illustrator and a second text color for this attractive volume.

The aspiring reader should begin with the first volume "At Home in Mitford" and proceed through the successive volumes in order. Our library shelf contains fifteen! The author, though not prolix, is fecund.

Although some might suspect the corn is as high as an elephant's eye, other more contemplative and reflective souls, given to bouts of day-dreaming and wanting relief from this troublous world that daily besets us and the neurotic introspection that too commonly constitutes contemporary fiction and poetry, could do far worse than to escape to placid Mitford and the kindly folk therein. Mark Twain noted that man is the only animal that blushes—or needs to. It appears that there is little need to blush in Mitford.

*Robert R. Anderson*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## VESTRY NOTES DECEMBER 2017

The December Vestry meeting opened with a prayer by Mary followed by a round table conversation with each person answering the question "How is your Christmas season going so far?"

Duncan was in attendance and gave a brief update on his progress up until now. He described the work on "settling in," the Leadership Teams, and his efforts in the community. When Wayne asked him "Are you having fun?" he replied, "I have fun watching the Patriots. This is deeper than fun."

Deb did an excellent job organizing the creation of an inventory of the contents of the building. This living document currently is in a 2-inch, three-ring binder and contains lists, photos and other supporting documentation. When it is complete, it will be maintained by the Junior Warden. This will be the first time in many years that the question on the annual report to the Diocese can be answered YES!

Wayne reported that it looks like we will close the budget year in good shape as far as income and expenses. He did caution though to not expend funds needlessly.

Mary gave her report and mentioned many dates of upcoming events. They are too numerous to list here, so watch your emails and the Guardian for them. The one that is not to be missed is January 6, 2018. This is the date of Duncan's ordination into the Priesthood. It will take place at St. Michael's. She also mentioned her upcoming sabbatical plans which are going to be presented at the ANNUAL MEETING on January 28. Please plan to attend to hear all about this exciting time for Mary, her family and the Congregation.

Thanks to all of you, the pledge drive is coming to a successful conclusion. There were 139 pledges exceeding the goal of 133. Thirteen of these pledges were new pledgers. We did come in slightly low on the income side but there is still time....

The nominating committee of off-going Vestry members Doug Lilly, Bruce Lawrence and Deb Jones have

presented the names of three very capable people for nomination to the Vestry. These will appear in the Guardian with a brief biography of each.

Buildings and Grounds accomplished a number of maintenance and repair items in the past month. The dying Maple tree in front of the Chapel was removed and will be replaced in the proper planting season.

Deb closed the meeting with prayer.

*Bruce Lawrence*  
Vestry member

STM

## Photos from Greening of the Church





## Introduction to Contemplative Prayer: Centering Prayer and Welcoming Prayer

These methods of Christian prayer and meditation are contemporary forms that have been developed from ancient Christian traditions by Trappist monk Fr. Thomas Keating in order to “experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself.”



**Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI** will lead the retreat. He is an experienced and beloved retreat director. Fr. Bill has been involved with Contemplative Outreach since 1983 and continues to serve the Centering Prayer communities. He has a rich background as a Pastor and Director of Ministry to Priests. A nationally renowned retreat leader, he served as a priest at St Michael's Catholic Church in Brattleboro in the late 1970's.

**When:** Friday, January 19, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
AND Saturday, January 20 8:30 am – Noon  
**Where:** St Michael's Episcopal Church, 16 Bradley Ave, Brattleboro, VT  
**Cost:** good-will donations welcome  
**Food:** simple dinner and light breakfast provided  
**RSVP:** call the church office at (802) 254-6048 or email [duncan@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:duncan@stmichaelsvermont.org)

### Photos from St. Nicholas Day



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## JANUARY LECTIONARY

**Sunday, January 7**

Genesis 1: 1-5, Psalm 29,  
Acts 19: 1-7, Mark 1: 4-11

**Sunday, January 14**

1 Samuel 3: 1-10; Psalm 139:  
1-5, 12-17; 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20;  
John 1: 43-51

**Sunday, January 21**

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; Psalm 62: 6-14;  
1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20

**Sunday, January 28**

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20,  
Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13,  
Mark 1: 21-28

## CELEBRATIONS

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2	Robert Peeples
January 4	Maria Escalera
January 5	Andy Burrows
January 6	Cory Nohl
January 10	Pat Cameron
January 15	Bruce Griffin
January 18	David Mattocks
January 19	Pam Carr
January 20	Miranda Smith
January 21	Linda Neilson, Lily DeLeon
January 22	John Carnahan
January 23	Julie Cogliano
January 24	Melia Allen
January 26	Rebecca Olmstead, Andachew Mousin
January 28	Gwen Mousin
January 29	Paul Dedell
January 30	Megan Buchanan

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 25 Neil & Anne Montgomery



*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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# 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