



# The Guardian

OCTOBER 2017

## FROM THE RECTORY

### Deep Hope

*Deep Hope* is the theme of our stewardship season this year. This theme comes out of a recognition that we are living in a time when we need hope that is not superficial, but the kind of hope that we have access to through being part of a community of deep and abiding faith, a community where God gives us the courage to struggle with the hard and important questions of our time.

If you have been supported in your life in Christ at St. Michael's, if you are nourished by people willing to struggle together, if you are excited by the direction we are called to go as a community of faith, we ask for your financial support. In this Body of Christ called St. Michael's, we are dependent on one another's help, offerings and contributions to continue to thrive, to dig deeply, to reflect Christ's love in this place and time.

On October 15, 22 and 29 at the 8 and 10:15 am services, we will hear from parishioners (Sarah & Cory Nohl, Steven Harrison and Janet Cramer) about what

St. Michael's means to them. We hope their sharing will help you to think about this question also. What does St. Michael's mean to you?

In the middle of October, you will be sent a packet of materials asking you to prayerfully make a pledge to St. Michael's for 2017. Sunday, October 29 will be our Commitment Sunday & the Ingathering of pledges. We ask you to return your pledge card to St. Michael's on that Sunday during the 8 am or 10:15 am service, or to mail your pledge card to St. Michael's if you cannot attend these services.

We thank you for your generosity to our common ministry. May we continue to deepen our love for God, for one another and for this world through our commitment to the ministry that God has given us.

Yours in Christ,  
*Mary*

### October Calendar

- Saturday, September 30 – Exploring Discipleship Groups, 9am-12pm
- Monday, October 1 – Exploring Discipleship Groups, 5-8pm
- Tuesday, October 2 – Level 2 Choir School begins, 3:45-4:45pm
- Thursday, October 4 – Level 1 Choir School begins, 3:45-4:40pm
- Friday, October 6 – Fall Tag Sale, 5-7:30pm
- Saturday, October 7 – Fall Tag Sale, 9am-12pm
- Sunday, October 8 – Susan Dedell returns from sabbatical, Adult Choir begins, Missa Gaia (Earth Mass) celebrated at 10:15 am service; St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals, 4 pm on the Brattleboro Common
- Sunday, October 15 – Stewardship reflection by Sarah & Cory Nohl
- Sunday, October 15 – Open House & House Blessings, 4 pm, 191 Clark Ave.
- Sunday, October 22 – Stewardship reflection by Steve Harrison
- Sunday, October 29 – Stewardship Ingathering of pledges; reflection by Janet Cramer

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

**Discipleship, Faith, and Family***A sermon given by Duncan Hilton on September 10*

I bumped into Laura Lewis at the Guilford Country Store last month while I was waiting for my car to get fixed. As the newly hired Minister of Discipleship here at St Michael's, I had brought with me to the country store a pile of books about discipleship to read while I waited. Laura asked me very straightforwardly, "So, what is discipleship?" I gave her an answer that had something to do with the word's Latin origin, "discipulus" meaning "learner," and that said that discipleship is about learning to be more like Jesus, or in the words of today's scripture, it's about "putting on Jesus Christ." Although my answer was right, I knew that it wasn't complete. As I read this week's scripture readings, I can see that there are two deeper truths about discipleship that I left out.

I read a great story this past week from the professor and pastor Fred Craddock. The story was about a man who was driving home from work past a used car lot and spotted a beautiful car in the lot. On the windshield it was written that the car was selling for \$300. The man did a U-turn to take another look. He found the salesman in the lot and said, "That car there, there must be a mistake. It looks like it's in great shape. It must be selling for \$3000, not \$300, right?" The salesman answered, "No, \$300 is the price." "Well what's wrong with it?" "Nothing. Go take a look." So the man goes over and opens the hood. No rust, nothing cracked or broken. He looks in the window and sits in the seat. Everything seems normal. So he goes back over to the salesman and says, "I don't get it; there must be something wrong with it. Can I test drive it?" "Well, that's the thing. It drives fine but no one wants it because instead of taking you where you want to go, it takes you where God wants you to go." The man walks away from the car.

The first deeper truth about discipleship is that it's about faith. It's less about learning about Jesus and more about

learning the willingness to get into that God-driven car. I think that faith is what Paul is getting at in his letter to the Romans today when he encourages them to "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. . . the armor of light." And then he adds, "Make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." As one commentator points out, "flesh does not simply mean the usual suspects: gluttony, drunkenness and selfish sexuality... Flesh represents all the devices and desires by which we try to fortify ourselves – not with Jesus, but against Jesus and our neighbor."

I wonder if, when Paul writes this to the Romans, he is recalling his own experience as Saul, as a zealous Pharisee fortifying his community on behalf of the High Priest and persecuting Christians, of the armor he wore of self-righteousness, power and control. I wonder if he is recalling the light that, despite his armor, knocked him to the ground on the Road to Damascus and asked him tenderly, "Why do you persecute me?" and whose direction he heeded to set an entirely new course for his life.

Into my early 30s, my armor was a blue blazer. I was competent and responsible and hard-working. They are good qualities but they also were my attempt at fortifying myself from my own insecurities about have fallen behind at our culture's traditional markers of adulthood – marriage, children, and a mortgage. I compared myself to my older brothers and felt like a failure. The loneliness beneath the blazer got bad enough that I was willing to try church again despite having left it in disappointment years earlier. When I first went to an Episcopal service, I liked hearing the communion liturgy sung and I appreciated the parish's hospitality to invite me to play music with their rag-tag folk ensemble. But what felt like God's light getting through my armor was Dean, the blind man from the local group home, who sat in the back and croaked the unison prayers a few seconds behind the congregation. He was always behind pace every prayer and every hymn ended with him having a solo on "Amen." I loved watching parishioners accompany Dean up front to receive the Eucharist and witnessing the gentleness of the



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

### *Duncan Hilton's sermon continued*

silver-haired chalice bearer with shaky hands trying to connect the wine to the lips of a blind man. It wasn't clear if Dean got any wine or if he just gnashed his teeth against the chalice. Paul says in the reading, "put on the armor of light." For me that decision felt less like "putting on" and more like "drawing closer," like drawing my chair closer to the kitchen wood stove on a winter morning, like letting the warmth of God's Spirit thaw a frozen heart.

I kept going back to that church and discovered what I think is the second deeper truth about discipleship. It's about faith but it's also about family. A few months later I'm in church and I get a call from my parents just as the 10 am service is about to start. I let the phone go to voicemail because I'm in the sanctuary but I listen to the voicemail as I walk out to the side entrance to listen to the message. They don't usually call Sunday mornings so before I can even check the message, I'm rehearsing in my mind a good-bye, the words I might have to say in that moment or in the not too distant future. Above me there's a blue sky, geese flying overhead, and I think of the closing words to Mary Oliver's poem "Wild Geese" ". . . Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again, whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese harsh and exciting, over and over announcing your place in the family of things. . ."

The words that come to my mind are, "No need to worry anymore; I'm well back here. I've got a good home now." Those last words catch me by surprise: "I've got a good home." I start tearing up there on the steps of the church. When I listen to their voicemail, it turns out that they're at the airport waiting for a flight and just wanted to say hello. What's more important is that, without any effort on my part, something has happened to me by coming to church. I haven't yet succeeded to live out the story I inherited from the culture about the good life, but in church I've found a new story and a bigger family. It's a story about measuring the good life by faith, hope, and love. It's about becoming part of a family that extends beyond the bonds of blood, a family whose members sing out of tune and accompany one another to the commu-

nion table. I think this second truth is what Paul is getting at in his command to love neighbors. Following Jesus inevitably expands our sphere of concern and love. Strangers become neighbors and loving our neighbors counts as much as loving our family.

Discipleship is about faith and it's about discovering belonging to a bigger family, but it's also about much more. On September 17 and 24, Mary and I are hosting Forums about the discipleship ministry. Following that will be workshops on September 30 and October 2 to explore actually being a member of a discipleship small group. There's a lot more to be said about discipleship and small groups than can be said in a sermon. However, the Forums are less the unveiling of a plan than the start of a joint exploration. I'm aware from the many conversations I've gotten to have over the summer that this community already knows a lot about discipleship. When Laura asked me "What is discipleship?" I should've answered, "It's like this. . . It's like back a few weeks ago when I met a man who lived in Brattleboro many years ago but moved away. He told me how many years ago his adopted daughter was struggling to find her place in the world and at Brattleboro Union High School. And how the librarian there, Laura Lewis, took her under her wing and made her feel loved and, with tears in his eyes, how he still hasn't forgotten that.

I want to close with the words of a man named Eddie Atkins, someone who inspires me as a disciple. One of the ministries I was connected to after I found the Episcopal Church was a ministry for homeless folks based out of the cathedral in Boston. They print a quarterly journal of homeless folks' writing. Eddie is a regular contributor. For my ordination Eddie gave me a compilation of his poetry. In the preface he writes:

*I was born in Jersey City. I'll be 57 in June. When I was homeless living on the streets I did bad drugs. Then I came to this church and found the holiness. Now I sing the Alleluia in church. It took me a while to get it right. When I sing I feel the Spirit – it's strong, the words come out of my heart because God is so wonderful in the world*

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

*Duncan Hilton's sermon continued*

*and the angels watch over everybody. When I meditate, I see palm trees swaying in the breeze. It clears me right out. My family is the church now. Being homeless, I feel like I fell in a black hole and I can't get out of it. Lots of people got lost in that hole.*

When I first read Fred's Craddock's story about the \$300 car, my immediate thought was that I would walk away from that car, get right back in my own car. After all, Jesus went to the margins of society. He challenged power structures. And it cost him. There are so many good reasons to run the other way from that car. Then I read Eddie's writing about singing and the Spirit and I imagined getting in the car and turning on the radio and hearing Eddie and the angels singing Alleluia coming out of the car speakers. And I read what Eddie writes about the church becoming a family and remembered that no matter where the car goes, you're not going there alone; it's packed with a big new family. And all of a sudden discipleship seemed a lot more doable.

**EXPLORING DISCIPLESHIP**

EXPLORE JOINING A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP, SATURDAY 9/30, 9 AM-NOON IN THE MEETING ROOM OR MONDAY 10/2, 5 PM- 8 PM IN THE DUNHAM ROOM: Come reflect on the meaning of discipleship in the Episcopal tradition and share some of your stories about what following Jesus has meant in your life. Learn about a vibrant small group discipleship ministry flourishing across the country in Episcopal Churches that includes a format for prayer, sharing from the heart, and exploring calls to ministry in the community. Discern whether you feel drawn to being a member of a St Michael's small group for a season and learn the next steps for joining a group. The 9/30 and 10/2 meetings will be a time of prayer, a time of sharing, and a time of learning. Anyone should attend who's interested in being part of a small group. It is NOT necessary to attend the introductions on both days; we wanted to offer a weekday and a weekend option so as many people as possible could explore being part of a group.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Photos are from the Annual Parish Picnic on Spofford Lake, August 20.





NEWS OF THE PARISH



*Don't forget...*

Susan Dedell is returning from sabbatical on Sunday, October 8 - please join us that day to welcome her home!



**MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO SING**

Singing: makes you healthier and happier! it lowers your blood pressure, enhances the immune system, and elevates "happy" brain chemicals.

Singing: makes you more connected to others! people who sing together experience a sense of community and common purpose. Our hearts actually do "beat as one"

Is one of these opportunities right for you?!

**ST MICHAEL'S ADULT CHOIR** is a great place to make the sacred experience part of your life. Our choir sings a variety of musical styles and service music with the goal of making our group worship experience deeper and more emotionally engaged. We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 8:45 and sing regularly at the 10:15 service, as well as at special occasions and festivals. There is no audition for the choir, however, prior musical experience is recommended. If you have an interest, please DO speak to Susan to get more information and answer any of your questions.

**THE CHOIR SCHOOL** enters its 4th year with two levels for young people to sing. Choral singing is great for young people because it helps foster poise, respect of self and others, commitment, leadership, and teamwork. Plus it is fun!!

- **LEVEL ONE CHOIR:** For children ages 8-11. THURSDAYS, 3:45-4:30. Students in this group will learn basic concepts of rhythm, pitch and "choir-craft" in addition to singing some wonderful music. Little or no prior musical experience is required. STARTING DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

- **LEVEL TWO CHOIR:** For singers aged 11-16. TUESDAYS, 3:45-4:45. Singers extend their skills in music literacy, vocal technique, and harmony singing. Students in Level Two generally offer 3 or 4 individual programs per year, including the spring "Mystery Play". STARTING DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

**SINGING STRONG** is not a church program, but it is a great place for people who want to sing in a fun, healthy, non-performing group and many from St. Michael's have participated. Susan leads everyone in songs chosen from a variety of musical styles including musicals and popular songs, as well as spirituals, rounds, and traditional folk music. No prior singing experience or music reading skills is necessary. Singing Strong is a program of the Brattleboro Music Center, and meets on Tuesdays for 7 weeks beginning on Oct. 3 at 1:30 in the new BMC facility. For more information or to register, contact the BMC at 257-4523.

### MISSA GAIA ON ST. FRANCIS' DAY

On St. Francis' Day, October 8, St. Michael's Choir and additional musicians will integrate the Missa Gaia (Earth Mass) in the 10:15 service. The unique idea for the Missa Gaia came in 1981 from Dean James Parks Morton of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. He suggested to saxophonist Paul Winter, who was artist-in-residence at the Cathedral, and cathedral organist Paul Halley that they create contemporary music for the mass. Paul Winter recalls the following:

*Sitting in the Cathedral, alongside the choir, experiencing for the first time the High Mass of the Episcopal Church, I began to imagine what I would want to hear in a truly contemporary mass. I envisioned a celebration that was both ecumenical and ecological, one that would embrace all the voices of the Earth. I wanted to feel the earth-power of African and Brazilian percussion as a complement to the serene voices of the choir, and to share with the congregation that spirit of celebration we experience with our concert audiences. As I listened to the sermon (which was on our responsibility to the environment), the title came to me: 'Earth Mass'. I wondered, could a mass celebrate the whole Earth as a sacred place? Dean Morton assured me it could. Could the voices of our animal musician colleagues be interwoven in the music, and could the music for the mass texts be based on seed-themes from the whale and the wolf? "You could write a mass on anything," the Dean said.*

Come be with us at 10:15 on October 8 as the wolf, whale and loon join with our voices and instruments to celebrate this earth, this gaia, in the liturgy.

STM

#### 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.

### ST. FRANCIS' DAY BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

All people, creatures and critters are invited to a special celebration in thanksgiving of our pets and animals!

**When:** Sunday, October 8, 2017, 4 pm

**Where:** The Brattleboro Common (Rain venue: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 16 Bradley Avenue)

**What:** The Choir School children will lead us in a brief time of music, readings and prayer, followed by a time of blessing each pet individually.

**Who:** You, your pet or a picture of your pet, or a stuffed animal, plus your animal-loving friends and neighbors!

STM

### MEN'S BREAKFAST, OCTOBER 14

There will be a breakfast for the men of St. Michael's on October 14, the second Saturday of the month, beginning at 8:30 in the Undercroft. We are planning for a special visitor so come if you can and add to the enjoyment!

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### OPEN HOUSE & HOUSE BLESSING, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 4 PM

There is a long tradition in the church of blessing a new home. Parishioner Dr. John Daly has generously donated to St Michael's the use of a small apartment in his former office building at 191 Clark Avenue in Brattleboro in order to house the new Minister of Discernment and Discipleship, Duncan Hilton. Beginning in September the first floor office space also now houses Brattleboro's Free Walk-in Clinic. As a way of welcoming Duncan and recognizing the important ministry of the Walk-in Clinic, we will be celebrating a House Blessing and Open House on Sunday, October 15 at 4 pm. There will be light refreshments available from 4 - 4:30, then the house/clinic blessing at 4:30pm. All are invited to join us for this festive occasion!



Photos from Paul Moberley's Ordination to the Priesthood, September 6, Annandale, Virginia.



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

### OCTOBER FORUMS

**10/1: Ending Homelessness:** Whitney Nichols, Consumer Advocate/Recovery Educator and part of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, will lead the forum. He has a powerful voice in this arena in Vermont and nationally, having attended the 2017 National Conference on Ending Homelessness where he was a featured speaker. Whitney writes, "Peer support is a valuable tool for homeless services systems to use to improve overall service delivery, provide meaningful connections, support people experiencing homelessness and improve outcomes."

**10/8: Is Jesus a Stumbling Block to Experiencing God?** Phillip Wilson and Chris Triebert lead.

**10/15: What a Group of Potters can Teach America about Peace in Afghanistan:** Parishioner Noah Colburn discusses some of his research among a group of potters in a small Afghan town in the mountains of the Hindu Kush. A political anthropologist, Noah looks at how some of the social structures in town -- the relationships between religious leaders, tribal figures and war-

lords -- meant that while insurgency spread across much of the country, delicate negotiations maintained peace in the town. Noah, who teaches at Bennington College, spent five years living in Afghanistan and continues to conduct research there, as well as in Nepal, India and South Asia more broadly.

**10/22: For Every Adult – Why Advance Care Planning is for You.** Whether you're 18 or 98, and whether a health crisis is unexpected or anticipated, these experiences tend to go better when you've made your care goals and wishes known and have chosen someone to speak for you if you're unable. Begin (or continue) thinking about advance care planning with Suzanne Weinberg, a volunteer with the Taking Steps program. If you've begun this process, and are either going full steam or have stalled out, feel free to bring any materials for reference.

**10/29: To be determined**

**HELP NEEDED FOR THE TAG SALE DURING FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER**

The actual Tag Sale on Friday October 6 and Saturday October 7 is the culmination of many months of work by many volunteers. The following help is needed for this last week of preparation:

- **Sunday October 1** after church: help haul out the bags and boxes and set up the Undercroft
- **Monday – Thursday, October 2 – 5, from 9 am – 4 pm:** open bags and boxes and place items on tables and shelves. Sort, arrange and fold. Any time you can give is appreciated.
- **Friday October 6, 12 – 2 pm:** people with trucks to unpack garages and bring items for sale to the tent on the lawn.
- **Friday October 6, 5 – 7:30 pm:** assist guests or work as cashiers
- **Saturday October 7, 9 am – 12 noon:** assist guests or work as cashiers
- **Saturday October 7, 12 noon – 2 pm:** bag and box unsold items. People with trucks needed to distribute leftovers.



Photo of postcards for the Local Love Brigade.

Sign up in the Common Room or drop in to help at any of the designated times from Sunday October 1 through Thursday October 5.

Thank you,  
*Lucia and Judith*



Photo of the newsletter compilation team





NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 21 MEETING OF THE VESTRY

The Vestry met on Thursday September 21, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6 PM, and Jeanette Landin led Bible reflection through our Dwelling in the Word study. Absent from the meeting were John Byrne and Judith McBean.

- Duncan Hilton shared his report on the Ministry of Discipleship and Discernment
  - He has submitted his application to the priesthood for ordination which is anticipated in January 2018
  - Duncan and Mary have submitted 2 applications for grants which were approved by the Vestry in mid-September to help support the ongoing Ministry
  - Focus of the Ministry will shift from acclimation to St. Michael's toward teaching and training through discipleship small groups, missional workshops, and leadership training
- Thank you cards
  - Dana and Kate McGinn for hosting the parish picnic. Thank You!
  - Duncan Hilton for his hard work and great start at St. Michael's. Thank You!
- Previous meeting minutes approved
- Treasurer's report shared by Wayne Cook
  - Pledge income is down over the summer months which is often expected
  - Year-to-date pledge income is 92.8% of expected. Year-to-date overall income is 93.4%.
  - Year-to-date expenses are 99.7% of budget
- Mary led discussion of the Episcopal Church of Vermont Rock Point campaign
  - The campaign is meant to protect and provide public access to the beautiful land on Lake Champlain, preserve and improve facilities, and invest in spiritual and educational programs
- Mary shared the Rector's report
  - There will be an open house and house blessing Sunday October 15th at 4 PM for the Brattleboro Free Walk-in Clinic and the apartment donated by Dr. John Daly for housing Duncan at 191 Clark Avenue.
- New Vestry candidates will be considered for 2018 as Deb Jones, Bruce Lawrence, and Doug Lilly prepare to end their 3-year terms. We thank them for their dedicated service!
- Buildings and Grounds report
  - Discussion was held regarding trimming Locust trees bordering a Church neighbor's property. This decision will return to the Buildings and Grounds committee with a recommendation for further evaluation by an arborist.

VESTRY OF ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH	
Deb Jones, Senior Warden	deborele@gmail.com   802-251-7404
Bruce Lawrence, Junior Warden	brattvt@yahoo.com   802-257-1494
Lynn Billington	billington_l@yahoo.com   802-380-4309
Janet Brocklehurst	janetbrocklehurst@gmail.com   802-254-9509
John Byrnes	john.byrnes@webbersupply.com   802-254-6457
Mark Horton	markhorton078@gmail.com   802-251-0565
Jeanette Landin	renplus2002@yahoo.com   802-289-3836
Doug Lilly	mimililly595@gmail.com   802-257-5221
Judith McBean	jmcbean1959@gmail.com   802-254-6975
Joanne Patalano, Clerk	
Wayne Cook, Treasurer	

The meeting was closed at 8 PM with a prayer offered by Jeanette.

God Bless,  
*Mark Horton*

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

## “The Jerusalem Bible”

Illustrations by Salvador Dali

Published by Doubleday &amp; Company, New York 1970

8”x 12”

Apparently, the publisher intended this big Bible to be both a lectern Bible as well as a family Bible. It includes a generational section to record births, marriages, and deaths. Further, to assist the general reader, there is a section of maps of the Holy Land. Family Bibles were long out of use by the general public when this Bible was published, but seemingly that did not deter Doubleday’s marketing decision. It appears to be an imposing effort, but closer scrutiny reveals that, despite a satin ribbon page marker, the marbled endpapers are actually printed and the morocco hide binding is actually leatherette.

The scholars who wrote the text used original sources and their commendable intent was to translate ancient language into a text that was accurate to the original texts but in our everyday language. The result, though accurate, is, unlike the King James Version, notably lacking in grace, artistry, and majesty.

The books of the Bible, with their numbered chapters and verses, present a typographic challenge. In this case, the verse numbers are omitted and replaced by boldface

bullets presumably to avoid the interruption of the text by verse numbers. These are printed in the margin appropriate to the line. The cure is worse than the disease. Further, the text line is exhaustingly long and the space between lines is displeasingly scant. Headache and eye-strain await the devout.

But the most astonishing publishing decision was to employ the Spaniard Salvador Dali (1894-1989) to provide illustrations. Dali is remembered, in addition to his astonishing moustaches, as the leading proponent of the artistic movement called Surrealism which attempted to depict sub-conscious imaginings and dreams onto canvas. Those of Sr. Dali were particularly peculiar and bizarre. He was late in life when he created the sixteen Old Testament and sixteen New Testament plates (with texts on the verso) for this Bible. Whether he succeeded admirably the reader must decide after pondering the reproductions in the text.

*Robert R. Anderson*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## REPORT ON OUR DISCUSSION ON AGING AT THE ADULT FORUMS

“Where can we go as a parish with and for our aging members?” At two Adult Forums in April and August, participants developed important themes on which St Michael’s may build.

One idea was to become a liaison for information and organizations, such as the Brattleboro Senior Center, sources for needed services. Perhaps the Guardian could have a section for want/need ads!

Another idea, perhaps through small groups, was to address questions of meaning and spirituality of aging

such as “how to let go of shame about needing help?” and “how to help older people and caregivers feel they are not alone?” Ritual/liturgy and blessings matter to all of us. The one-to-one relationships through the Pastoral Care group have often bloomed into truly getting to know each other.

Some suggested an organized outreach to older people who no longer come to church regularly. We might take inspiration from the “love brigade” and pen post-cards after church to people we miss seeing.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

REPORT ON OUR DISCUSSION ON AGING AT THE ADULT FORUMS continued

Intergenerational activities included a suggestion that each young person in the confirmation class be connected to a long time member of St. Michael's for their perspective on commitment and spirituality. Certainly older persons would grow in understanding of newer generations as they witness the questions and cares young people bring to St. Michael's.

Stuff! Treasures! There were many comments on how burdened people felt by accumulations from one or more generations. "Make a habit of letting go - let the stuff serve others" was the sentiment as the group appreciated St. Michael's Terrific Tag Sale as a resource. Some said it was hard to let go of things on their own, but with support and encouragement for each other, much would be possible. And helpers would become

witnesses to the meaning and relationship the "stuff" holds for us.

Life Planning is a formalized process for people and parishes to think about the resources, both money and talent, that make the parish what it is. How might we gather important documents needed when we are ill or no longer alive? How might we contribute to the future of this parish when we are no longer annual contributors to stewardship? How might we leave a legacy of history and meaning as wealth for the parishioners who follow us? Janet Cramer, with the encouragement of Bill Ames, is gathering a small group to work on these questions. Please consider joining the group by contacting Janet or letting Jeanie Crosby at the church office know of your interest.



Photos from Sunday School Open house.



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FALL SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH SCHEDULE

St. Michael's children and youth programs are in full swing! Below is a schedule of classes for your fall planning. Please contact Mary Lindquist if you have any questions!

<b>Date</b>	<b>Workshop Rotation, 9-10 am, Sunday School Room</b>	<b>Godly Play, 10:10-10:40am, Godly Play Room</b>	<b>Youth Forum, 11:45am -12:45pm, Small Meeting Room</b>
September 24	Creation/St. Francis	The Flood & the Ark	Class
October 1	Creation/St. Francis	The Story of St. Michael	No Class
October 8	Creation/St. Francis	No Godly Play because of Earth Mass (Missa Gaia)	Class
October 15	Woman at the Well	The Great Family	No Class
October 22	Woman at the Well	Sarah	Class
October 29	Woman at the Well	Exodus	No Class
November 5	Woman at the Well	Ruth	No Class
November 12	Woman at the Well	Jonah	Class
November 19	What is Advent?	The Ark & the Tent	No Class
November 26	Pageant Practice	The Ark & the Temple	No Class
December 3	Pageant Practice	St. Nicholas	Interfaith Youth Group, 4:00-7:00pm
December 10	Pageant Practice	Advent 1 & 2	Class
December 17	Pageant Practice	Advent 3 & 4	No Class

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## OCTOBER LECTIONARY

**Sunday, October 1**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-8;  
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

**Sunday, October 8**

Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-14;  
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

**Sunday, October 15**

Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23;  
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

**Sunday, October 22**

Isaiah 45:1-7;  
Psalm 96:1-9;  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10;  
Matthew 22:15-22

**Sunday October 29**

Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18;  
Psalm 1;  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8;  
Matthew 22:34-46

## CELEBRATIONS

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 4	Nancy Ames
October 5	Valerie Abrahamsen
October 6	Nathaniel Johnson
October 9	Keira Caponcelli
October 10	Janet Cramer
October 11	Jace Rose, Brendan McElhinney
October 14	Ronny Johnson
October 15	Joanna Brown
October 16	Judith Hildreth
October 17	Dana McGinn, Jack Lilly
October 18	Emily Nohl
October 21	Mary Lindquist, Gayle Potter, Ed Sbardella
October 23	Sammy Panzer
October 25	Karren Meyer
October 28	Clark Anderson
October 30	Melanie Boese



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

October 1	Christine & Richard Gauthier
October 4	Rebecca & Nathan Olmstead
October 8	Thad Bennett & George Connell
October 9	Heddy & Zsolt Pomazi
October 16	Anne & Wayne Cook
October 22	Anita & Jim Crosson



*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