



The Guardian

SEPTEMBER 2017

FROM THE RECTORY

What we are celebrating

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. - John 1:16

As I write this it is mid-August and I am savoring the last days of summer: the kids are home, the weather is sunny and beautiful, many from our congregation are enjoying travel and/or time with family.

As I give thanks for these days, I am also aware of how many things we have to celebrate and give thanks for in our St. Michael's community. Here are a few things that come to mind:

- On August 8th, parishioner Janet Brocklehurst became an American Citizen in a ceremony in Rutland, Vermont. She was even featured on the local news!
- On that same day, Duncan Hilton, Cary Gaunt and I visited Church of the Woods in Canterbury, New Hampshire and had a wonderful visit with Steve Blackmer, the founder and priest of this church innovation. This day was one among many since Duncan has joined our staff where we have been able to think about what it means to be a follower of Jesus at this time and in the future. It is exciting to connect with people like Steve who are asking the same question.
- Paul Moberly, who St. Michael's sponsored for ordination just over three years ago, started his new call at St. Alban's in Annandale, Virginia and will be ordained as a priest on September 6.
- On August 6, St. Michael's Endowment Committee voted to pay off the balance of our loan from the Diocese of Vermont (see article in this issue). This frees us to give more attention and energy to our current and future ministries.
- On August 11, we found out that St. Michael's was awarded a Sabbatical Clergy Renewal grant from the Lilly Foundation. Not only does this mean that all the expenses for the sabbatical in 2018 will be covered, but that the church will have funds to use to for programs to support its own renewal during my time away next year (late April to late August). More to come about this in the next months!



Glory to God for these abundant blessings!

Yours in Christ,
Mary

Early Butterfield Loan Payoff Made Possible by Endowment Fund Growth

The Endowment Committee of St. Michael's is pleased to announce that the Butterfield Loan from the Diocese for the renovations has now been paid in full. On the advice of the manager of the investments and after consultation with other experts, the Endowment Committee unanimously voted to pay off the loan early. Recent market gains meant that the Endowment funds used to pay off the loan were less than the increase in the Endowment realized from January-July 2017. There is a great sense of accomplishment in paying off the loan ahead of schedule, in saving interest charges for the 20 months which were remaining on the loan, and in being free of debt. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the bequests, gifts and investment of previous generations of St. Michael's parishioners that created Endowment Funds. It is the mission of the Committee to manage them wisely and to encourage current parishioners to add to these resources for St Michael's in the future. We are truly grateful for the freedom to give our full attention and support to the ministries God is calling us to do now and in the future.

STM

Sunday School Open House, Sunday September 10

September 10th marks the beginning of our program year at St. Michael's! On that day between 9:15-10 am, there will be an Open House for parishioners, kids, parents and all who are interested in supporting and participating in St. Michael's ministry for children and youth. Come check out Godly Play, Workshop Rotation, Youth Forum, Choir School & more! There will be food, an art project for kids, play, bouncy house and balloons. Invite your friends who have children to come and check it out. We will also be commissioning/praying for the teachers and leaders during the 10:15 am liturgy. Please join us for this special day!



Update from Duncan

It has been summer full of research: meeting 1:1 with folks from inside and outside the parish to hear about your passions, losses, longings, questions; reading about the theology and practice of discipleship in the Episcopal Church and beyond; learning about the history of St Michael's and Brattleboro and the abundance of ministries that have happened and are happening here; and connecting with others locally and nationally who are building ministries of discipleship and formation.



As summer turns to fall, my focus is turning to distilling that research. My hope is to establish a shared understanding and vision with the parish for what it means to be disciples of Jesus in the Episcopal tradition in Brattleboro in 2017. That will first involve working with parishioners to help hone and hold that vision for further discussion in the Forums of September 17 and 24.

I am grateful for the opportunity to develop this ministry alongside the people of St Michael's. My prayer is to honor the wisdom of the parish and 2000 years of church history in forming disciples, while also honoring that the practices of discipleship and forms of community must continually adapt as the culture changes.

I hope to see you on the 17th of September in the adult forum to be in deeper conversation about what it means to be a disciple here and now and how God is calling you to be involved.

STM

Men's Breakfast, Saturday September 9

All men of St. Michael's are invited to meet for breakfast and discussion. We usually meet on the second Saturday of the month. Please join us in the Undercroft at 8:30 am on Saturday, September 9.



Coming soon: The Gratitude Jar

Looking behind, I feel gratitude
Looking ahead, I am filled with vision
Looking upward, I am filled with strength
Looking within, I feel peace
-Q'ero Indian Prayer

Here in New England, we have many reasons to be grateful: clean air, green mountains, peaceful settings, and welcoming communities. Expressing gratitude is a powerful form of medicine because it connects us with each other. You will soon see a display with a jar where you are invited to deposit your spare change and post a note about what you are grateful for. The money in the jar will be collected periodically to support international refugee groups on an ongoing basis. We invite you to take a few moments to express your gratitude and to ease the suffering of those in need.



A Letter from Thad Bennett

Friends in Christ:
I wanted the St. Michael's community to know that George and I are moving as of Sept. 1, 2017 to a new home in Conway, MA. We discerned last year that our Newfane house was simply too big and the upkeep too much. We've been there 13 years, brought his parents to live and die with us and loved this part of VT. We also discerned that we ought to plan ahead. So, we are moving to a smaller house by 50%, to a one-level-living home and to be closer to some old friends and family.

As you may know I've been spending the 12 weeks of this summer helping out at Trinity Lutheran Church. I look forward to being back at St. Michaels.... but I just do not know what that will look like right now. So, after the move, getting settled, etc. I'll know better about plans for church-where-what-how-when-and-how-far-away. But you'll see me again, I promise.

With God's peace,

Thad

Mark Your Calendars: Fall Tag Sale October 6 & 7

Our fall tag sale is fast approaching. Judith Hildreth and Lucia Osiecki will work to coordinate the event which is set for Friday October 6 and Saturday October 7, with prep week beginning on October 1. Watch the weekly bulletins for more information. There will be plenty of opportunity for anyone interested in helping. If you wish to help at the sale, there will be sign up sheets in the Common Room during September.

Donations for the sale may be placed in the downstairs closets. We accept housewares, linens, jewelry and adult and children's clothing in clean and good condition. We are also happy to receive kids' toys and games, seasonal decorations and books. We will not accept magazines, encyclopedias/reference books, desktop computers, televisions, mattresses or box springs.

You may bring any furniture donations to the church during the week of October 1. If you have furniture to donate which you cannot get to the church, there will be one pick up on Saturday morning, September 30. Please call Lucia @ 251-7404 to schedule a September 30 am pick up.

Please hold any spring and summer items until after the sale.

Let's all work together to make this another successful tag sale.

Thanks so much!

Lucia Osiecki



**Introduction to Discipleship and Small Groups -
Saturday 9/30, 9 am - noon**

Come reflect on the meaning of discipleship in the Episcopal tradition and share some of your stories about being a follower of Jesus. Learn about a vibrant small group ministry flourishing across the country in Episcopal Churches and discern whether you feel drawn to being a member of a St Michael's group for a season.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF THE JULY 20 VESTRY MEETING

Absent: Janet Brocklehurst and John Byrnes

Items discussed:

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

Closing prayer offered by Deb.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Landin

Table with 10 rows listing vestry members: Deb Jones, Bruce Lawrence, Lynn Billington, Janet Brocklehurst, John Byrnes, Mark Horton, Jeanette Landin, Doug Lilly, Judith McBean, Joanne Patalano, Wayne Cook.



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.

SUMMARY OF AUGUST 17 VESTRY MEETING

Your Vestry remains focused, active and prayerful! The summer has been a very busy time for St. Michael's indeed. Here are some highlights from our last meeting.

- We heard from Nancy Barber on behalf of Jack Karn's Discernment Committee at St. Michael's. He is very qualified as a candidate for the Diaconate and we recommended he be advanced signing the letter of Support for Nomination to Postulancy. We want to thank the members of this committee including Nancy as well as Ruth Tilghman and Gregory Lesch for their time and efforts.
- We heard a report from our Treasurer Wayne Cook who has put in many extra hours this summer!
 1. The Annual Audit has been completed and approved. This year's audit committee participants were Valerie Abrahamsen, Brian Morgan and Diana Bingham. They worked tirelessly on this fact finding mission! Thank you, we are truly grateful!
 2. As part of the Audit Report Wayne mentioned we do not have an inventory of material goods recorded as suggested by the Diocese. Your Vestry members will gather on October 29 to complete this task with lists and photographic evidence.
 3. We rejoiced that the Lilly Grant was approved to fund Mary's 2018 Sabbatical and we will receive the full amount requested.
 4. Wayne also reported that the Endowment Committee had after much prayerful discussion approved the complete pay off the Butterfield Loan to the Diocese. Please see separate article in this issue for details!
 5. While we have done a good job of keeping expenses below budget the pledges remained below budget in July. This is not uncommon in the summer months.
- Ministry of the Month celebration will begin with the Education Committee in September.
- Building and Grounds Report
 1. New signs on the back door and front to mark the location of the office to offer more direction to visitors. This should also lessen traffic coming in by the nursery school.
 2. Sadly, our big Maple tree out front is suffering very poor health and needs to come down. On a recent Sunday during Lemonade on the Lawn, Newton's Theory of Gravity was again proven (no injuries) when another big branch let go. This will be expedited as a bid was approved tonite. The committee will search for a replacement tree!!
 3. Weather permitting, the driveway will be recoated on Saturday September 3. The driveway will be closed on that day. Please plan accordingly.

The next Vestry Meeting is set for September 21, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Jones
Senior Warden

LETTER FROM PAUL MOBERLY TO ST. MICHAEL'S

On August 2, I realized that it had been exactly three years since I packed up my little car with all of my worldly belongings and left Brattleboro for seminary. I remember the feeling of a bittersweet farewell, leaving my little apartment on Willow Street, the friends I'd made in town, and the parish church that had grown to be my family -- St. Michael's had been so good to me since I arrived in Brattleboro back in January of 2010. So good, I guess, that it had empowered me to think about a call to ordained ministry for the first time in a serious way. Setting off toward an uncertain future is never easy, and leaving Brattleboro and St. Michael's was particularly hard.

Three years later, as I write this, I am reflecting on how much has changed in my life -- I write this in my new office at my first parish, St. Alban's in Annandale, Virginia, which has a large window overlooking the wildflowers and stone pathway of the memorial garden. I've been called to St. Alban's to work with Christian education, with the youth group (6th to 12th graders), and the ministry to young families. If you'd told me how all of this would work out three years ago, I couldn't possibly have believed you. I didn't know, early on, that parish ministry would be for me -- with my complicated and at times troubled history, I thought sure I would be doing ministry on the margins in some kind of innovative capacity. And here I am, working in a suburban parish, and finding that -- quite unexpectedly -- my gifts and talents are well suited to this context as well. My intention is, now, to settle into the life and habit of priesthood, which is its own kind of adjustment, and, as time goes on, my call to ministry will (I pray) grow and evolve. Who knows what surprises the Holy Spirit has in store?

So much has happened just this year, it's been hard to keep up. The year began with such a memorable and beautiful service at St. Michael's on the Epiphany, when I was honored to be ordained to the diaconate there at my sending parish -- a place that, in many ways, will always be a place of spiritual homecoming for me. In April, as many of you know, I was married to my now-husband, the love of my life, Gerardo Mazariegos (who I met for the first time just days after arriving at seminary...and who became a constant support and companion through the whole of the three years.) The next month, graduation. Then, a couple of uncertain and intense months searching for the right first "call" -- culminating in finding St. Alban's and the marvelous community here.

St. Alban's reminds me a lot of St. Michael's in many ways -- a vibrant parish full of interesting and funny and unique and approachable people, where I feel right at home. So far, I'm absolutely in love with my job and the people I get to work with -- actually, I keep waiting for it to feel like work, but that hasn't happened yet. I'm hoping that mostly, it won't. I'm deeply grateful to St. Michael's and the people there for surrounding me with love, for supporting me and praying for me while in seminary, and for continuing to befriend and love me from afar. I plan to come back and visit as often as I can, though of course it's never as often as I'd like. I wish you grace and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

“Jesus and Paul: Places They Knew”

by F. F. Bruce

Thomas Nelson Publishers

Nashville 1984 9x12 128 pages

A gift of the Reverend Richmond and Dorothy Hutchins

Last month the travel writer H. V. Morton's *In the Steps of St. Paul* was the subject of this column. The 1938 book traced Paul's perambulations spreading the Good News to Jew and Gentile and revealed what remained two centuries later of the places he visited. Morton was a superb writer and his prose descriptions are vivid.

F. F. Bruce accomplished in this book photographically and by means of maps much of what Morton saw and reported in prose. Pages 2-63 are devoted to the places Jesus knew: Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Capernaum, Caesarea Phillipi, Jericho, Bethany, and Jerusalem. At one point in the past, our library contained Morton's *In the Steps of The Master*, a parallel volume to *In the Steps of St. Paul*, which would be companionable to Bruce's section on Jesus' visits to these places. Sadly, Morton's book has disappeared from our shelves.

The second part of the book, pages 66-128, is devoted to Paul's travels and includes his home town of Tarsus, Damascus where the scales fell from his eyes, Antioch (Syria), Galatia, Macedonia, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Caesarea, and Rome where he was executed.

This volume is no triumph of the photographers or printers craft, but the accompanying text is illuminating. The arid, over-grazed and deforested landscapes shown in these pages leaves the reader wondering about the generations of inhabitants who devastated their countryside by rapacious malpractice. Add to this the uninteresting, colorless and depressing architecture—the sum total of which left this reviewer longing for the lush foliage and floral scents of the bikini-clad Riviera and other more cheerful Mediterranean climes.

RRA

ADULT FORUMS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 17

Discipleship Here and Now, September 17 & 24 – Come hear a bit about what Duncan and Mary have been thinking/wondering/praying about these last couple of months as they have pondered a vision of our ministry now and in the future. Share your thoughts, questions or promptings of the Spirit as we move forward as a community of faith. Duncan will lead the forum on September 17 and Mary will lead the forum on September 24.

Ending Homelessness, October 1 -- Parishioner Whitney Nichols, Consumer Advocate/Recovery Educator and part of the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness, leads 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.” Please join us to look at this continuing problem in our communities.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH: EDUCATION

In an effort to lift up, bless, thank and communicate the many different and important ministries of St. Michael's, the Vestry had the idea of featuring a new ministry every month of the program year (September-May). This month we are featuring Education and Formation Ministries at St. Michael's. Below is some information about what is happening for children, youth and adults at St. Michael's.

Sunday School Programs

St. Michael's Sunday School classes officially begin on September 17th. We can always use help from parishioners to fully support our children in the programs listed below! Please contact the church office (Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org) or come to the Sunday School Open House on Sept. 10th to check it out!

Nursery Care is offered every Sunday from 10:00-11:45 am for infants and young children. Two experienced adult childcare-providers are available to care for and nurture your children.

Godly Play (ages 3-7 & 8-13) meets Sundays at 10:10 am during the first half of the 10:15 am worship service. Right now we have two sections of Godly Play, one for younger kids and one for older kids. Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired Christian formation program based on the recognition that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that enhances the child's authentic experience of God so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world. Children then join their parents during the Peace so that they may participate in Holy Communion with the rest of the congregation.

Workshop Rotation, a Christian formation program for children and youth ages 3-10 years old, is offered from 9:00-10:00 am every Sunday. We explore one biblical story for each four-week cycle, using a different learning approach each week (art, drama, video, story, science, dance, music, computer, or cooking). Our hope is to provide a time of active engagement with the stories of the Bible and with one another.

Youth Forum (for kids 11 years old and up) is held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 11:45 am- 12:45 pm downstairs in the Small Meeting Room. The Youth Forum provides an opportunity for youth to learn more about

faith through service, study, conversation, and exploration.

Educational Opportunities for Adults

Adult Forums are held each Sunday from 9-10 am in the Program Year in the Meeting Room. All are welcome. The Adult Forums offer diverse topics including interests such as outreach, scripture, contemplative Christianity, spirituality, tradition and community interests; experiences of faith; the basics of Christianity and the Episcopal Church, for both those new to the church and those who want to rediscover their roots; and specialized topics for deeper understanding.

The Forum Committee schedules forums for the church year that starts in September. The committee meets over breakfast on the first Wednesday of the month. If you want to come to a meeting or join the Committee, please contact Nancy Barber at nbarber38@comcast.net for the date and time.

Education for Ministry (EfM) offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service. Sessions meet weekly during the academic year. While the full program is a 4-year one, a person registers one year at a time. The first year of study is the Old Testament or Hebrew scriptures, the second is the New Testament, the third year is early church history, and the fourth year explores 20th- and 21st-century church happenings. Each class seminar focuses on some relevant issue from our culture, our personal lives, or scripture through a process called theological reflection. In the process of our meetings, we ask the "So what?" question: what difference does our faith make as we engage in the world? If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Linda Rice at lindariceaprn@gmail.com

Seasonal and Book Studies are offered during Lent and other seasons of the year. Please check upcoming events for more information.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY

Sunday, September 3

Jeremiah 15: 15-21,
Psalm 26: 1-8,
Romans 12: 9-21,
Matthew 16: 21-28

Sunday, September 10

Ezekiel 33: 7-11,
Psalm 119: 33-40,
Romans 13: 8-14,
Matthew 18: 15-20

**Sunday, September 17**

Genesis 50: 15-21,
Psalm 103: 8-13,
Romans 14: 1-112,
Matthew 18: 21-35

Sunday, September 24

Jonah 3:10-4:11,
Psalm 145: 1-8,
Philippians 1: 21-30,
Matthew 20: 1-16

CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3 Aaron Sharff, Thad Bennett
September 4 Jacki Capponcelli
September 6 Ricky Davidson
September 9 Sarah Benton
September 11 Grace Xinqi Willingham
September 12 Margit Lilly
September 13 Iris Mayer
September 14 Kyle Capponcelli
September 15 Calvin Ronconi
September 16 Eleanor Horton
September 18 KJ White
September 19 Skyla Ragle, Elise Burrows
September 20 Krista Burtis, Ainsley Meyer,
Christian Olmstead, Laura Panzer
September 21 Avery Bennett
September 22 Anne Montgomery, Alix Fedoruk
September 23 Jordan Vslega
September 25 Scott McElhinney
September 28 Corky Elwell
September 30 Mary McCarthy



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

September 1 Samantha & Aaron Sharff
September 3 Christine Triebert & Carol Ross
September 4 Becky & Robert Anderson
September 5 Alix & Michael Fedoruk
September 10 Betsy Bates & Neil Quinn,
Kate & Andrew LeBlanc
September 11 Julie & Richard Cogliano
September 12 Ron & Michael Doty-Tolaro
September 16 Margit & Jack Lilly
September 20 Marie & Bruce Lawrence
September 28 Judy & Bob Walker



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***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 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