



The Guardian

AUGUST 2016

FROM THE RECTORY

MID-SUMMER MUSINGS

It is a human providence that scatters the holidays around so conveniently on the calendar. The American summer has three days to mark its phases—Memorial Day to signal its beginning, the Fourth of July to mark the start of high summer, and Labor Day to bring it to a gentle close.

John Updike

It has been an unusual summer for the Johnson/Lindquist family. With Kurt in Montreal learning French and the kids shuttling between Brattleboro and Burlington to attend Rock Point Camp, I have experienced many different configurations of family life: one week with four of us (all the kids and me), one week with three of us (Nathaniel, Bibi, and me) and one week with two of us (Jonah and me).

My learnings? It is not easy to be a single parent. I miss Kurt's presence as well as the division of labor that has become our family norm. Kurt usually does the grocery shopping and much of the cooking, so it has been interesting to be the cook and grocery shopper. While I can't say that I've cooked much more than pizza, mac-and-cheese, and fruit smoothies, I have learned (finally) to remember to bring my re-useable bags to the grocery store.

Another learning: different family configurations change the family dynamic. In the absence of Jonah, Bibi and Nathaniel get along much better. I expect this has nothing to do with Jonah (who is by nature a wonderful mediator) but because they only had one another to play with, so they have to make it work.

I suppose if we are to use John Updike's timeline, we find ourselves now somewhere between the height of summer and its gentle close. I find every summer there is a shift forward at this time when I start thinking about fall planning for St. Michael's. I admit it is hard to go from a relaxed, in-the-moment summer mode to planning mode, but I am always amazed that by September I usually feel quite ready for a return to normalcy—not only a return to many of the programs of the church, but a return to the regular rhythms of school and family life, perhaps this year to include a little more cooking and grocery shopping!

*Yours in Christ,
Mary*



NEWS OF THE PARISH

PARISH PICNIC AT SPOFFORD LAKE AUGUST 21

All are invited to St. Michael's Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 21 (rain date August 28) from noon to 4:00 p.m. at 29 Barn Road, Spofford Lake, New Hampshire (about a 15-minute drive from St. Michael's). Kate and Dana McGinn have generously agreed to host the picnic at their place, which is right next to the lake, with a great porch for sitting, wonderful grounds for playing, and great access to the lake for swimming, kayaking, etc. There will be games, swimming, and a chance to sit and visit with those (both old and new) from our St. Michael's community. Drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers will be provided by the church. If you are able, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. And don't forget your bathing suits!

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Bishop Ely to Celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels September 25



CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION, AND REAFFIRMATION SEPTEMBER 25

Bishop of Vermont Thomas Ely will visit St. Michael's on Sunday, September 25. At that time, he will offer the sacramental rite of Confirmation. If you are interested in being confirmed or received, or in

reaffirming your baptismal vows, please enroll in the class "Exploring the Episcopal Church".

What is the difference between Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation?

Confirmation: Baptism is the ancient entry rite into the Church, which is also called "the Body of Christ." In Baptism, we affirm that we belong to the God who is made known to us in Jesus, and we promise (or promises are made for us if we are infants) to live our lives in accordance with this deepest truth about who we are and whose we are. Confirmation in the Episcopal Church is a sacramental rite in which a baptized person makes a mature and public affirmation of the promises that are normally made at Baptism. After making these affirmations, the Bishop lays hands on the candidate and prays a prayer of confirmation.

Reception: Reception is a formal welcome into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop for those who have already been confirmed in the Roman Catholic or Orthodox Church.

Reaffirmation: Reaffirmation is for people who are already confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Some people presented to the bishop during the service of Confirmation are there to "reaffirm" their Christian vows. These might be people who have been away from the church for a period of time and want to make a new beginning. Others might be people who sense that they are at a new stage in their spiritual life and want to affirm this in ritual. Periodically, a spouse or fiancé who is already a confirmed Episcopalian will go through Reaffirmation, as a way of honoring his or her partner's decision to become a confirmed Episcopalian, saying in effect, "We are in this together." We all go through many changes in our life's journey, and Reaffirmation provides a rite for those who want to take stock of their religious and spiritual life anew.





NEWS OF THE PARISH

NEWS FROM SARI BROWN

Below is a letter St. Michael's received from a former parishioner, Sari Brown, who wanted to share what has been happening in her life since she moved in 2011.

Dear St. Michael's,

I used to attend St. Michael's from 2008 to 2011, when I was a student at Marlboro College. I am a Methodist and expected to go to the Methodist Church down the road, but only went once before a friend from Marlboro invited me to go with her to St. Michael's, and I felt I just had to be a part of what was happening there. I just came back to visit old professors and other friends from Marlboro at the end of this past May, and went through some lengths to time my trip so that I could go to St. Michael's on a Sunday morning. It was wonderful and deeply moving for me to be back in that place, and in fact was moved to tears during the choral anthem (Susan and the choir always do something very right) as I realized how grateful I am to this community for supporting me and helping me grow in my faith during my college years. I have never before or since felt such a deep sense of spirituality and prayerfulness combined with a sense of outreach and mission to the world in a congregation. I grew a lot in my contemplative life there because of the contemplative group that Helen Daly used to lead. I was so sad to hear of her passing—but the way Amer Latif broke the news to me, when I asked “How is Helen?” was to say, “She is great. She is singing with the saints in heaven,”—and I am sure this is true. I also was converted to Anglican liturgy through my time with you all, and still hope to gradually implement various elements of it in the Methodist churches where I serve. It was the first church I went to with an openly gay pastor, and this was a wonderful witness for me as well.

So I wanted to write all of this and share it with you, since I thought you all should know how much your community meant to this wayfaring Methodist who always planned to become a pastor since she was in college, but may not have made it if it hadn't been for how your church strengthened and nourished my faith. Also, since a few members of your congregation asked me to keep in touch and send updates and I never did, I am finally trying to make up for it by sending a note about what I have been up to for the past five years.

Since graduating from Marlboro in 2011, I went on to receive my Master of Divinity from Candler School of

Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. During my seminary studies, I worked with a Latino/a congregation in the greater Atlanta area, as well as doing a semester abroad at the Universidade Metodista in São Paulo, Brazil and a summer internship with a Methodist congregation in Medellín, Colombia, where I focused on congregational development through the arts, as well as learning and facilitating the Popular and Communal Bible Reading method (which sometimes shares common ground with Lectio Divina, but comes out of a specifically Liberation Theology tradition). I also spent a Christmas season in La Paz, Bolivia, where I had carried out ethnographic research for my Marlboro thesis work in 2010, to finally bring back a Spanish version of my Plan work to share with the people of the Bolivian Methodist Church who were so key in helping me elaborate it. At some point in there, I found myself in Peru again (I taught English in Peru for a summer while I was at Marlboro) for a seminar, and there I met Ricardo Angarita, a Colombian Methodist pastor, social worker, community organizer and insatiable enjoyer of life who is now my husband. Our marriage has also brought three wonderful stepchildren into my life: Mayerly (24), Lesly (20) and Richard (10). Since graduating from Emory in December of 2014, I was living with Ricardo in Bogotá, Colombia and working odd jobs while I went through various hoops in the ordination process. In March of 2016, I was approved to be commissioned as a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church. Starting July 1, I began my first appointment as Associate Pastor of Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church in the Detroit, Michigan area. My work at this congregation will focus on youth, missions and outreach, all things I think I will use my gifts fruitfully. I am still waiting for Ricardo, Lesly and Richard to join me here in Michigan. I would humbly request prayers for their visa process—it's always a little harrowing to go through that waiting and uncertainty.

I hope to visit St. Michael's again before too long has passed.

*Grace and peace to all of you,
Sari Brown*



NEWS OF THE PARISH

EXPLORING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CLASS BEGINS AUGUST 30

Beginning Tuesday, August 30, Mary Lindquist will offer a four-session class about the Episcopal Church. The class will meet Tuesday evenings from 5:00–6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room on August 30 and September 6, 13, and 20. In this class, we will explore the history, theology, and spirituality of the Episcopal Church.

The class is open to anyone interested in learning more about how the Episcopal Church lives out its Christian faith. Although the class is especially suited for those seeking to be baptized, confirmed, or received in the Episcopal Church, it is also open to those who want to brush up on their knowledge or those who are just curious.

Please email Mary if you are interested in attending at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org or call the church office at 254-6048 or sign up in the Meeting Room. Also, let Mary know if you are interested in this class but the timing does not work for you, as we may be able to change the day or time.



HOSPITALITY RECEIVED—AN APPRECIATION

Living with the myth of being self-sufficient breaks down when one cannot drive and needs help to recover from surgery or an accident. I discovered the gift of receiving over this last month when Al and I were supported by so many members of St. Michael's who provided meals after my three days in hospital for a knee replacement, drove me to PT and, most of all, each morning faithfully delivered the NY Times and Boston Globe for Al.

In the past we might have turned to Jane Sbardella, our volunteer Parish Health Nurse who, figuratively, has felt the pulse of the parish, helped diagnose the needs, and call on members of the Parish Health Committee for transportation, food, prayer shawls, and intercessory prayer. Now, as we are in transition with Jane's focus moving to Altar Guild, we have an evolving Pastoral Care Committee exploring ways to

identify and respond to the care needs of people in the Parish. From my experience we might name it a "parish care committee." Anyone on the committee can bring needs to the attention of the Rector and the committee, while being sensitive to confidentiality and privacy. Linda Rice helped arrange the newspaper delivery with David Mattocks, who has been a faithful, supportive early morning visitor; Lynn Billington recruited drivers for PT (after a PT session it is special to have a supportive presence); Mary Carnahan had meals delivered to us. One person understood that I might be eating alone, as Al was hospitalized overnight, so she set my place at the table and arranged the meal on my plate so I might have the nurture of eating well. These are mutual gifts—these givings and receivings—that connect us in Christ's name with each other.

Janet Cramer



VESTRY MEETING NOTES FOR JULY

- The annual report from the auditors was presented to the Vestry at their meeting on July 21. This report showed no major problems with the financial records of the Church. Thanks to all involved for a job well done.
- The Vestry also discussed Chapter 2 of the book *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World*.
- The Treasurer's report from Janette Landon showed income for the month was down from budget but she stated that this is a normal downturn which occurs every year. Everyone is reminded to please keep their pledge coming in.
- Mary gave the Rector's report and filled the Vestry in on meetings that were held, upcoming events, and her vacation and time away. The new electronic version of the Parish Directory is on schedule for September.
- A few members of St. Michael's will be trained in the skill of leading a Pastoral Care group.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

- The Nursery School transition is going well. A lease has been signed, and renovations will be completed to allow the new tenant to start using the space on August 1.
- Hosts and helpers are needed for coffee hour. Please contact Deb Jones to see how you can help.
- The Men's Group is working on purchasing and installing a plaque listing the names of those resting in the Memorial Garden.
- A policy for displaying of temporary signs is being worked on by the Vestry.
- The Social Justice Ministry Group has been well represented at recent Social Justice events. They are planning to start meeting regularly this fall with Parish-wide discussions on social issues planned.
- The Annual Picnic will be held August 21 at the McGinn's house on Spofford Lake.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Lawrence*

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE: OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSES FOR JANUARY- JUNE

Total Pledges Received: \$122,231 vs. Budget of \$119,000 (103% of Budget)

of which for the month of June: \$14,612 vs. Budget of \$19,833 (74% of Budget)

This is the amount of income from pledges alone that we have received.

Total Operating Income: \$175,384 vs. Budget of \$166,525 (105% of Budget)

This is our total income and includes rental income, fund raising (including pledges), memorial gifts, altar guild flower income, hospitality, tag sale, and other miscellaneous income.

Total Operating Expenses: \$177,256 vs. Budget of \$165,391 (107%)

This is the dollars needed to run the church, including salaries, utilities, repaying our building loan from the Diocese, outreach, rectory expenses, administrative expenses, mission and ministry, worship and music, congregation development, grounds upkeep, and snow removal.

Summer at Christ Church, Guilford

AUGUST 7:

8:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship

AUGUST 21:

5:00 p.m. Sung Evening Prayer

SEPTEMBER 4:

8:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship



Members of St. Michael's Episcopal Church participating at the Black Lives Matter rally July 13th



ROTA FOR AUGUST

LITURGICAL ROTA FOR AUGUST 2016 • 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM SUNDAY SERVICES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Position	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
8 A.M. Service at Christ Church				
8:00 A.M. SERVICE				
Lay Assistant	Wayne Cook	Wayne Cook	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook
Lector				Jeff Lewis
Intercessor	Kiersten McKenney	Doug Switzer	Doug Lilly	Joanne Patalano
Sacramental Healing	Carolyn Taylor-Olson	Janet Cramer	Jeff Lewis	Megan Buchanan
Usher	Anne Cook	Anne Cook	Anne Cook	Anne Cook
10:15 A.M. SERVICE				
Crucifer	Fred Bump	Darcey Mercier	Ricky Davidson	Jessica Bennett
Torch Bearers	Nathaniel Johnson Jonah Johnson	Andachew Mousin Marian Wojcik	Ken Neilson Liz Vick	Caleb Fritz Avery Bennett
Element Bearers	Susan Nichols Darcey Mercier	Ricky Davidson Dick Burtis	Judith & Alan McBean	Jeff Hiam Dick Burtis
Lay Assistant	Greg Lesch	Jeff Hiam	Sarah Benton	Miranda Smith
Lector	Matt Wojcik	Margery McCrum	Sherry Stimmel	Caleb Fritz
Intercessor	Jeanette Landin	Judith Hildreth	Craig Hammond	David Mattocks
Ushers	Sarah Benton Megan Buchanan	Nancy Barber Elaine Curry-Smithson	John Daly Leigh Marthe	Andy & Elise Burrows
Sacramental Healing	Judith Hildreth	Margit Lilly	Janet Cramer	Robin White-Diamondstone
Altar Guild	Jane Sbardella Lucia Osiecki	Jane Sbardella Lucia Osiecki	Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel	Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel
Lemonade	Julie & John Laamanen	Men's Group		
Counters	Anne Cook Sherry Stimmel	Wayne Cook Judith Hildreth	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Jeanette Landin Wayne Cook

If you cannot make it, please find your own replacement; then call Jeanie in the Office at 802-254-6048, ext. 104. Thank you.



Rock Point Camp



Rock Point Camp



CELEBRATIONS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2	Caleb Fritz
August 9	Pat Laubach
August 11	Christine Triebert
August 13	Paul Moberly
August 14	Amy Walker
August 16	Louis Ronconi
August 17	Gregory Lesch
August 18	Avery Buchanan, Mary Carnahan
August 19	Samuel David Mattocks
August 20	Emmanuel Keppel
August 21	Judith McBean
August 22	Janet Brocklehurst
August 25	Meghan Mattocks
August 26	Susan Dedell, Betty Elwell, Grainne Buchanan
August 28	Fred Bump
August 30	Chilton Williamson
August 31	Ronda Burgess

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

August 5	Bill & Nancy Ames
August 10	Andy & Elise Burrows
August 15	Teri Robinson & Ross Kinney
August 19	Jodi Clark & Jenny Karstad, Renny & Mary Widrew
August 20	John & Mary Carnahan, Lawrin & Pam Crispe
August 22	Alan & Judith McBean
August 24	Susan & Paul Dyer
August 25	Christine Hart & Bill Morlock
August 27	Martin & Deborah Leggott
August 30	Vince Johnson & MJ Woodburn
August 31	Ed & Jane Sbardella, Robert & Susan Kochinskas



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AUGUST LECTIONARY

Sunday, August 7:
Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33:12-22,
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 14:
Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82,
Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 21:
Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8,
Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, August 28:
Sirach 10:12-18 or Proverbs 25:6-7, Psalm 112,
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14



Saint Michael's Episcopal Church

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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 a.m., Silent hour in chapel

WEDNESDAYS Noon, Brief service of prayer and Holy Communion

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

SATURDAYS 8:00 a.m., Centering Prayer

Coming Up at St. Michael's Episcopal

AUGUST 7: 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship at Christ Church

AUGUST 21: Parish Picnic

AUGUST 30: Exploring the Episcopal Church class begins

SEPTEMBER 25: Feast of St. Michael and All Angels with Bishop Ely