

The Guardian

FEBRUARY 2017

FROM THE RECTORY

THE AGILE CHURCH

The word “agile” means “marked by a ready ability to move with a quick and easy grace.” Other definitions include “nimble,” “adaptable,” “flexible,” “responsive,” and “alert.” The root comes from the Latin verb agere, to act. It suggests agency, participation, dynamism. – Dwight Zscheile, The Agile Church

As I prepare for our Annual Meeting on January 29 and look back on our life together at St. Michael’s in 2016, the thing that strikes me most strongly is not so much a change in the content of our ministry but rather a shift in the way we do ministry. Much of our most important ministry in 2016 was not planned ahead of time, but arose spontaneously in response to events in our nation and in our world.

For instance, in June after the attacks in Orlando, we opened the church for a “Prayers for Orlando” service the next day. In November, in response to the Presiding Bishop’s call to support the protests at Standing Rock, many of us came together to make signs and stand on Putney Road with our “Standing with Standing Rock” signs as a show of solidarity. Later in November, we opened the church for another unplanned event – prayers and support for all who were upset and/or concerned after the presidential election.

In my experience, this is a marked change in the way the church carries out ministry. While churches used to produce long-term strategic plans, it is no longer realistic to believe that we can actually plan five years into the future. The rate at which the world changes demands a different kind of engagement.

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And this engagement often needs to be spontaneous, prayerful, agile and innovative. We need to be able to respond to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst unencumbered by plans and norms that are set in stone and do not serve our call to follow Christ. This does not mean that we don’t make plans and set goals, but rather that we hold these plans loosely, knowing that we may be called upon to at any moment to change plans and shift direction.

As we begin 2017, may we continue to be committed to listen closely to the Spirit as manifested not only in our church but in our community and in the world. May we have the courage and the ready ability “to move with a quick and easy grace” in response what we are called to do.

Yours in Christ,

Mary



to

EXPLORING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH JANUARY 31, FEBRUARY 7, 14, 21 & 28

The Rev. Mary Lindquist will offer a five-session class about the Episcopal Church. The class meets on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 6:15p.m. in the Meeting Room. In this class, we will explore the history, theology and spirituality of the Episcopal Church and the Christian faith in general.

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 open to all 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.

LENTEN STUDY SERIES AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE

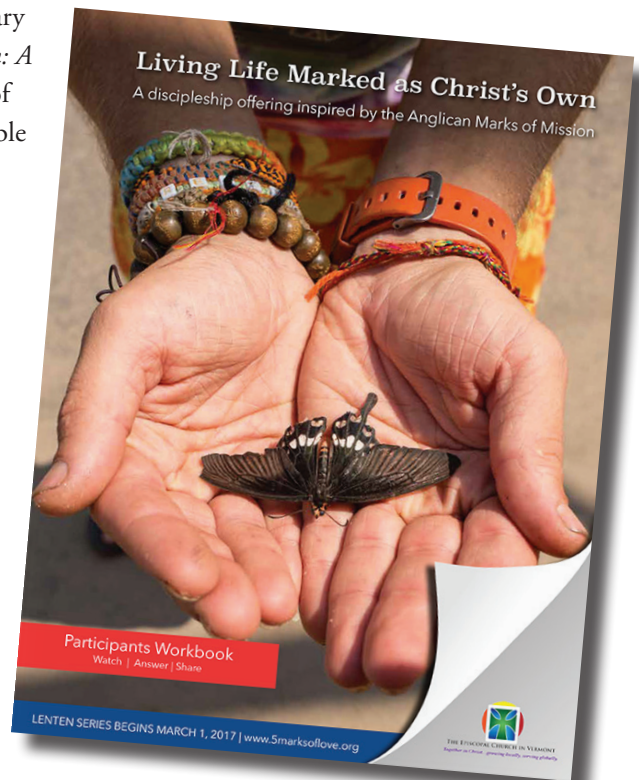
The Society of Saint John the Evangelist and Virginia Theological Seminary recently released a Lenten study series, *Living Life Marked as Christ's Own: A Discipleship Offering Inspired by the Anglican Marks of Mission*. Courtesy of our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely, a limited supply of books are available free-of-charge to individuals (and congregations) who request them.

Introduced at the 2016 Diocesan Convention, *Living Life Marked as Christ's Own* has been met with great enthusiasm.

In the book's introduction, Bishop Ely explains, "Many people assume that the season of Lent is mostly about fasting—giving something up... Lent is also a season of self-examination. And that can be a very filling experience."

Living Life Marked as Christ's Own invites participants to "fill up" on what it means to bear the mark of Christ and share in the glory of His resurrection by addressing the question, "If we are 'marked as Christ's own,' what are the 'marks of love' that characterize the Divine Life abiding and at work within us?"

In addition to the workbook, the series includes access to online videos, downloads, and a social media community to enrich the experience. To place an order, please contact Maurice Harris, diocesan minister of communications, at mharris@dioceseofvermont.org.



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NEWS OF THE PARISH

PHOTOS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



PHOTOS FROM ORDINATION OF PAUL MOBERLY

Congrats to Paul Moberly, ordained at St. Michael's as a deacon on Saturday, January 7!



NEWS OF THE PARISH

**NEW LEADERSHIP FOR
THE GUARDIAN NEWSLETTER**

As many of you know, Susan Kochinkas and Clark Anderson stepped down from their newsletter ministry at the end of 2016 after many years of faithful service. We are blessed that William Stearns (editor) and Maurice Harris (graphic design) have agreed to step into this ministry in 2017.

William said, "I have worked for 20 years in the Editorial Department of the Readex Division of Newsbank, Inc. in Chester, VT. Currently, I serve as the Senior Editor for historical products. We produce digitized versions of many data base collections of American historical imprints which are produced for colleges, universities, and libraries. Happily, I work from home which is next door to Saint Michael's. I love my work and warn you, if asked about it, I may talk your ear off!"

Maurice moved to Brattleboro last summer as Communications Minister for the diocese. He and his husband, Might, have attended St. Michael's since their move. Maurice's work includes the redesign of the diocesan website at diovermont.org, upgrade of the Rock Point website at rockpointvt.org, and production of *The Mountain*, our diocesan newsletter.

**THE GUARDIAN SEEKS
GRAPHIC DESIGN TRAINEE**

The Guardian continues to be a valuable source of information about St. Michael's thanks to our talented and willing members. In the spirit of "the Agile Church" (see page 1), we would like to remind all of our readers that opportunities to contribute to the publication are always available.

As previously announced, Maurice Harris is fulfilling the role of graphic designer presently, however, his role within the diocese frequently calls him to the aid of other parishes. So, in conjunction with his diocesan role, Maurice has offered to train or coach anyone who may feel called to serve as our graphic designer on a longer-term basis. Previous experience is not required.

Please contact Maurice at mharris@dioceseofvermont.org or (513) 704-8395 to learn more about this opportunity.

*Opportunities to contribute to The Guardian
are always available!*

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to everyone from St. Michael's who have been so generous in supporting our common ministry. We are pleased to announce that we have exceeded both of our stewardship goals (130 pledges & \$245,000) for 2017. As of January 11, we have received 133 pledges for a total of \$262,282. While we listed the names of people who made pledges in the January newsletter, below are the names of others who have pledged that were not included in the January newsletter:

Anonymous (x2)
Mary Abell and Don Erwin
Julie and Patrick Ackerman-Houis
Gerard Benoit and Matthew Barone
Elaine & Charlie Curry-Smithson
Judy Davidson
Larry and Christina Doucette
Chris Hart
Jack Karn
Anne Montgomery
Ladd and Lifei Osborne
Jane Riedel

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

ADULT EDUCATION FORUMS FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Our forums are held most Sundays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the upstairs meeting room. Everyone is invited, and visitors are especially welcome.

February 5: "Looking at the World through Male Eyes – Challenges and Privileges" A panel of 3 men is being selected, along with a moderator, to consider a prepared list of questions about men's lives.

February 12: A Time for War: The Other Story of Martin Luther King. Nonviolent resistance may be the hallmark of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's leadership, but a closer look at his hands reveals knuckles bloodied by battles unseen. What can we learn from a true pacifist about waging war on the unenlightened self in the interest of social change? This presentation by Maurice Harris, Diocesan Communications Minister for the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, will explore King's untold story. Maurice holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Mount Saint Joseph University and is currently working on a PhD in Ethical & Creative Leadership with a specialization in MLK Studies and Social Change from the Union Institute & University. He and his husband, Might, are members of St. Michael's and reside in Brattleboro.

February 19: St. Michael's Prison Ministry. Come one come all, to our third prison ministry forum on this date at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room. Instead of going into all we'll talk about at the forum, let this be your invitation, a letter Jim and I received from one of the inmates after a Holiday Carol Sing at Southern State Correctional Facility (SSCF) in Springfield, Vt., just before Christmas less than one month ago. – Craig Hammond

February 26: How Do We Talk to Each Other When We Strongly Disagree? To be led by Phillip Wilson. More information to come!

ASH WEDNESDAY OBSERVED ON MARCH 1

The Season of Lent starts a little later than usual this year, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 1. The liturgy, which includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist, will be offered at three different times at St. Michael's on Wednesday, March 1: 7:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.



Dr. Dottie Morris, Chief Officer for Diversity and Multiculturalism at Keene College, led a forum on Martin Luther King's dream and vision on Sunday, January 15.

Dear Craig and Jim,

Glory hallelujah and thank you for the gift of song. Can't begin to tell you how good it makes me feel to revive my ancient Cathological and apostolic roots in the presence of so many kind hearts and smiling faces. The true spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood could have raised the Pentagon and certainly SSCF. Thanks to you both and all the singers and helpers who came together and helped lift the spirits of all the boys in blue. The brownies hit the spot, and I hope you could feel the love rolling back in your direction. Yes, beauty is not easy to find in here, but when we do try it is abundantly clear there is so much goodness and truth in our individual and collective humanity, a deep, fulfillingly real beauty which can't ever be denied. Thanks again to everyone there, in body and in spirit.

Much love and thanks,

Peace Always!

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

Sunday, February 5

Isaiah 58:1-9a
 Psalm 112:1-9
 1 Corinthians 2:1-12
 Matthew 5:13-20



Sunday, February 19

Leviticus 19:1-2 and 9-18
 Psalm 119: 33-40
 1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23
 Matthew 5:38-48

Sunday, February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or Sirach 15:15-20
 Psalm 119: 1-8
 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9
 Matthew 5: 21-37

Sunday, February 26


Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9

CELEBRATIONS


FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 1 | Steven Meyer |
| February 5 | Andy Burrows |
| February 7 | Douglas Lilly, Chris Landin |
| February 8 | Emma Allen, James Landenberger,
Gordon Landenberger |
| February 9 | Richard Burtis, Susan Wilson |
| February 10 | Sissi Loftin |
| February 11 | Alan McBean, Jayne Fritz |
| February 12 | Robert Anderson, Lucia Osiecki |
| February 16 | Greg Allen |
| February 19 | Ross Kinney |
| February 20 | Judy Wagenbach |
| February 24 | Kirsten Mattson, Steven Perrin |
| February 25 | Anne Cook, Ron Doty-Tolaro |
| February 26 | Paul Love, Charlene Kemp |
| February 28 | Joseph Garofalo, Leigh Marthe |
| February 29 | Asa Taggert |

VESTRY OF ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Joanne Patalano, Clerk Wayne Cook, Treasurer

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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. jeaniec@stmichaels-vt.org or 802-254-6048.

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FEBRUARY ROTA

Liturgical Rota for February 2017 · 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Sunday Services unless otherwise noted.

POSITION	FEBRUARY 5	FEBRUARY 12	FEBRUARY 19	FEBRUARY 26
8:00 A.M. SERVICE				
Lay Assistant	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook	Wayne Cook	Kate McGinn
Lector		Jeff Lewis		Jeff Lewis
Intercessor	Kiersten McKenney	Doug Switzer	Doug Lilly	Joanne Patalano
Sacramental Healing	Jeff Lewis	Janet Cramer	Jeff Lewis	Janet Cramer
Usher	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Judy McGee	Anne Cook
10:15 A.M. SERVICE				
Crucifer	Jeff Hiam	Miranda Smith	Ricky Davidson	Peter Johnson
Torch Bearers	Jesse Ackerman-Houis Miles Ackerman-Houis	Andachew Mousin Nathaniel Johnson	Ken Neilson Liz Vick	Caleb Fritz Clara Fritz
Element Bearers	Ken Jacobs Ricky Davidson	Susan Nichols Darcey Mercier	Judith & Alan McBean	Jeff Hiam Dick Burtis
Lay assistant	Greg Lesch	Jeff Hiam	Sarah Benton	Miranda Smith
Lector	Caleb Fritz	William Stearns	Sherry Stimmel	Margery McCrum
Intercessor	Carolyn Taylor-Olson	Judith Hildreth	Craig Hammond	David Mattocks
Ushers	Sarah Benton Megan Buchanan	Andy & Elise Burrows	John Daly & Leigh Marthe	Nancy Barber Elaine Curry-Smithson
Sacramental Healing	Betsy Bates	Judith Hildreth	Megan Buchanan	Robin White- Diamondstone
Altar Guild	Carol Hesselbach Lynn Billington Judy Walker	Carol Hesselbach Lynn Billington Judy Walker	Susan Dyer Elise Burrows Pat Laubach Laurie Chiperfield	Susan Dyer Elise Burrows Pat Laubach Laurie Chiperfield
Coffee Hour	Deb Jones Jeanette Landin	Rich Cogliano	Ken Jacobs	Laurie Chiperfield
Counters	Anne Cook Judy McGee	Wayne Cook Judith Hildreth	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Jeanette Landin Sherry Stimmel

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



ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-8429

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The Guardian

a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to the abiding presence of God



Our Worship Together

- SUNDAYS 8:00 a.m., Quiet service of prayer and Holy Communion
10:15 a.m., Prayer, music, and Holy Communion, with childcare
- WEEKDAY MORNINGS 6:00 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