



# The Guardian

JANUARY 2016



## FROM THE RECTORY

The speed with which January follows December is always surprising to me. I think it must be the magnetic pull of Christmas—both within the season of Advent and within our culture—that makes it seem like time should slow down before the new year comes. Then again, the Christmas season actually lasts until the Feast of Epiphany on January 6, but have you ever wished someone “Merry Christmas” on January 5? Or “Happy Epiphany” on January 6? I invite you to try it this year and see how many confused looks you get!

This January we are offering some new things at St. Michael’s, which you will read about in this issue of the *Guardian*. These new things are not big new programs, but rather experiments brought about by promptings of the Spirit. The good thing about experiments is that we approach them with curiosity and a “let’s see what happens” attitude. We also know that some things will work well and some things won’t; such is the nature of experiments! There is always refining to be done.

One of our experiments will be a *Parish Breakfast* offered from 9:00–10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 24. This experiment came out of a desire to know one another better, beyond the chatting of Coffee Hour, and to give an opportunity for long-time parishioners to meet people who are new to St. Michael’s.

Another experiment is the *St. Michael’s Women’s Retreat* planned for the first weekend in February. I have been meeting with a few women from St. Michael’s to plan this retreat, which we hope will be a time of deep communion and great fun. We wonder if anyone will sign up? It is an experiment!

Finally, we will be webcasting the *Trinity Institute Conference*. This is a conference that will take place in New York City January 21–23. Through the wonders of technology, we can take part in this conference without having to travel to New York.

We hope you can participate in one or all of these experiments and give us feedback!

*Yours in Christ,  
Mary*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

### PARISH ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 24

All members of St. Michael's are invited to attend our Parish Annual Meeting following the 10:15 a.m. service on January 24. The meeting will take place in the church Sanctuary after the service ends.

We will elect three new members of the Vestry (each for a three-year term), adopt a budget for 2016, and receive reports of St. Michael's various ministries. In addition, we will view our *annual slide show* highlighting life at St. Michael's in 2015.



### KICK-OFF FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST JANUARY 24

The first Fellowship Breakfast of 2016 at St. Michael's will be held between the services on January 24, also the day of our Annual Meeting. The committee is actively planning this event and will distribute RSVP information in the New Year. We hope this meal will be enjoyed by many as a way to get to know each other better! Our next planning meeting will be Sunday, January 10. For more information, please contact Deb Jones (deborele@gmail.com or 257-4582) or Chris Landin (289-3836 or 289-3833).



### BUDGET REVIEW MEETING JANUARY 17

Those of you who would like the opportunity to review St. Michael's budget for 2016 and ask questions prior to the Annual Meeting are invited to a choice of two budget meetings on Sunday, January 17. The first meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. in the Undercroft. A second budget meeting will be offered following the 10:15 a.m. service in the Meeting Room.



### ST. MICHAEL'S WOMEN'S RETREAT FEB. 5-7

*Awakening to the Sacred in Daily Life  
Hallelujah Farm, Chesterfield, New Hampshire*

Women of St. Michael's! You are invited to come away for a time of story-telling, prayer, play, conversation, nurture, and rest in a beautiful, sacred setting. This is the first time in recent history that St. Michael's has offered a women's retreat. The idea arose out of a desire of many of us to deepen our relationships with the women at St. Michael's in a prayerful and spacious setting where we weren't "doing" but just "being" together. The setting of the retreat is the Lower Farm, a beautifully restored farmhouse from the 1700s. You can check out the Lower Farm at [www.hallelujahfarm.com/new-the-lower-farm](http://www.hallelujahfarm.com/new-the-lower-farm).

We have planned the retreat around the theme of "Awakening to the Sacred in Daily Life." To this end, we will explore questions about ways of approaching our daily life and work with an awareness of God's presence in the midst of all we do. Between more focused times of learning, there will be time for rest, conversation, hiking, eating, and basking in the warmth of the fireplace.

If you are interested in attending this retreat, please fill out the registration form on St. Michael's website under "News" [www.stmichaelsvermont.org](http://www.stmichaelsvermont.org), or contact Jeanie Crosby and she will send you a form. The retreat will begin on Friday evening, February 5, and end after lunch on Sunday, February 7. *Space is limited, so please sign up as soon as possible.* If you have questions about the retreat, please feel free to ask one of us, or email Mary Lindquist at [mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org).

The suggested donation to help us cover the costs of our time together is \$200. However, we do not want finances to prohibit anyone from attending, so we ask those for whom financial resources are a challenge just to pay what they can. *In addition, if you can only come for Saturday during the day, you are still welcome to attend.* Please see one of the planning team members if that day schedule might be what works best for you.

We are very excited about this opportunity for us to come together for this special time.

*The 2015 Women's Retreat Planning Team  
(Mary Lindquist, Leigh Marthe, Liz Vick,  
Karen Guthrie and Jean Smith)*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

### PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE: OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSES FOR JANUARY–NOVEMBER

**Total Pledges Received:** \$205,307 vs. Budget of \$197,888 (104% of Budget)

**of which: Total Pledges Received in November:** \$15,142 vs. Budget of \$17,990 (84%)

This is the amount of income from pledges alone that we have received. The first line shows the amount so far this year; the second line shows the amount for just the month noted.

**Total Operating Income:** \$308,379 vs. Budget of \$298,524 (103% of Budget)

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

**Total Operating Expenses:** \$299,992 vs. Budget of \$301,442 (100%)

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.



### NOVEMBER VESTRY REPORT

We began the meeting with a discussion about our feelings surrounding the recent terrorist attacks. Following that, we had a presentation and discussion regarding the state of the roof of the church as part of the development of a five-year plan for building maintenance. We learned that some repairs to the roof have been made but more are needed.

The Treasurer's report followed. Essentially pledges are down and expenses are up. A plea was made for more young people to help with the tag sale.

The Rector's report followed with discussion of stewardship, the missional conversation group, the Diocesan convention, Black Lives Matter, and the newcomer's tea.

Questions were discussed regarding new financing for

the prison ministry and justice and refugees on the run.

The hopeful beginning of a men's breakfast group was brought up. Plans are to get started in January 2016.

The Building & Grounds Committee reported they had a good clean-up day and the new red maple was successfully planted.

Lastly, discussion was carried out regarding new vestry candidates.

*Doug Lilly, Vestry Member St. Michael's Vestry*



### THANK YOU!

- To Gwen Mousin and Betsy Bates, who organized a fabulous St. Nicholas Day Fair.
- To Kate McGinn, Ray and Rae Egan, Ross Kinney, and all who helped organize and decorate the church with beautiful, fragrant greens.
- To St. Michael's Choir, Bruce Griffin, and Susan Dedell, who provided such beautiful music for our Advent Lessons and Carols Service.
- To Dodo Rice and Jane Sbardella and the members of the Health Ministry Team, who created beautiful Christmas gifts for our members who are not able to come to church.
- To Betsy Bates and all who contributed to the lovely reception after the Advent Lessons and Carols service.
- To the kids of The Choir School, who sang and led the Festival of Lights service.
- To Devin Starlanyl, Sherri Stimmel, Bruce Griffin, MJ Woodburn, Whitney Nichols, and Phillip Wilson who helped create and lead our first-ever Longest Night service.
- To Annie Landenberger, Miranda Smith, and the kids and parents who offered another wonderful Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.
- To the tireless and devoted members of St. Michael's Altar Guild (led by Judy Walker and Sue Dyer), who polished and ironed and washed and made all our services beautiful.
- To Sissi Loftin and Janet Brocklehurst, who helped organize and provide food for the annual Christmas lunch on Christmas Day (Janet and Sissi's own creation).



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

- To St. Michael's Choir and Susan Dedell, who offered their amazing voices for the glory of God in all our services.
- To Jeanie Crosby, John Laamanen, Susan Dedell, Darlene Rutnick, and Jane Sbardella, who work extra hard during this holy season.



### FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Bearing in mind Joel Hill's philosophy of "giving from our abundance," the Outreach Committee has requested that the Vestry consider a form of parish tithing: that for 2016, 10% of the total amount of pledges be allocated to parish outreach. We shall maintain our policy of disbursing the Vestry allocation

equally across three areas: international, national, and local. We hope and pray that the Finance Committee and the Vestry can accede to this request. Although we still count on 50% of the proceeds of the two annual Tag Sales, as well as proceeds from occasional fundraising efforts, the amount at our disposal is never enough to fulfill every need. Consequently, we have committed to the policy that funds will be disbursed according to priorities of heat/shelter, food insecurity, and health. We shall also strive to keep parishioners better informed about our activities via regular announcements in the *Guardian* and the bulletins.

*The Parish Outreach Team: Janet Cramer, Jim Crosson, Craig Hammond, Shirley Hodgdon, Jeanette Landin, Laura Lewis, Brian Morgan, Lori Palmer, Susan Wilson, Joyce Vining Morgan*

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: WE DID IT!

A huge Thank You to all who have contributed to the 2016 Stewardship Campaign! In October, we set a stretch goal of raising \$225,000 and receiving 125 pledges. On December 9, we met both of our goals! We have received 125 pledges for a total of \$227,264. About 50% of the pledges were increased from last year, and we received 12 new pledges. Meeting our pledge goal allows St. Michael's to fund the current ministries of our church. Surpassing our goal will allow St. Michael's to depend less on its endowment draw (which was 5%) in 2015 to save more for St. Michael's future *and* give St. Michael's the means to grow new ministries. We are so grateful for your generosity and your support.

### 2016 PLEDGERS

Anonymous (x10)	Richard & Irene Burtis	Steve & Laurel Harrison	Jack & Margit Lilly	Jared Rediske
Valerie Abrahamsen	Tom & Nancy Cain	Christine Hart	Mary Lindquist &	Dodo Rice
Greg & Kelli Allen	Pat Cameron	Susan Heimer	Kurt Johnson	Linda Rice
Clark Anderson &	John & Mary Carnahan	Bruce & Carol Hesselbach	Leigh Marthe	Paula Ryan
Zachary Roesemann	Pam & David Carr	Judith Hildreth	David Mattocks	Edward & Jane Sbardella
Bill & Nancy Ames	Chris Chapman	Shirley Hodgdon	Alan & Judy McBean	Jean & Peter Smith
Robert & Becky Anderson	Laurie Chipfield	Mark & Heather Horten	Margery McCrum	Devin Starlanyl
Susan Avery	Wayne & Anne Cook	Wendell & Madelyn Howard	Lauren & Drew McDowell	Marcia Steckler
Nancy Barber	Richard & Julie Cogliano	Judy & Phil Hueber	Judith McGee	Cherolyn Stimmel
Betsy Bates & Neil Quinn	Al & Janet Cramer	Kenneth Jacobs II	Kate & Dana McGinn	Elizabeth Swift
Thad Bennett &	Lawrin & Pam Crispe	Ronny Johnson	Herbert Meyer	Doug & Ann Switzer
George Connell	James & Anita Crosson	Deb Jones & Lucia Osiecki	Steven & Karren Meyer	Lydia & Eben Taggart
Sarah Benton	John Daly	Jack Karn	Martha Moravec	Carolyn Taylor-Olson
Lynn Billington	Ricky Davidson	Jenny Karstad & Jodi Clark	Brian & Joyce Morgan	Ruth Tilghman
Diana Bingham	Paul & Susan Dedell	Charlene Kemp	Gwen Mousin	Christine Triebert
Karin Blecker	Cliff Dempster	Susan Kochinskas	Ken & Linda Neilson	Carol and Fred Turner
Melanie Boese	Larry & Chris Doucette	Chris & Jeanette Landin	Susan Nichols	Judy Walker
Joanne Brickley	Dan Drish & Ron Lenker	Annie Landenberger	Whitney Nichols	Christopher Wesolowski
Janet Brocklehurst &	Susan & Paul Dyer	Pat Laubach	Rebecca Olmstead	Robin White-Diamondstone
Sissi Loftin	Corwin & Betty Elwell	Marie & Bruce Lawrence	Joanne Patalano	Norma Willingham
Anne Wilmott Brown	Paul & Pam Gallagher	Deborah & Martin Leggott	Joan Pinilla	J. Michael & Susan Wilmott
John Brynes &	Lloyd Graf	Gregory Lesch	Annamarie Pluhar	Phillip & Susan Wilson
Kiersten Mckenney	Luke & Laura Goodridge	George & Laura Lewis	Heddy and Zsolt Pomazi	Matt & Rosie Wojcik
Megan Buchanan	Karen Guthrie	Jeffrey Lewis	Dorothy & Nicholas Porter	MJ Woodburn &
Fred Bump	Craig Hammond & Liz Vick	Doug & Mimi Lilly	Gayle Potter	Vince Johnson
Andy & Elise Burrows				





## OUR MISSION & WORK . . . AND HOW YOU CAN HELP

### TRINITY INSTITUTE: LISTEN FOR A CHANGE

*An annual theological conference, simulcast at St. Michael's*

*January 22–23*

Racial justice is a matter of life or death; we can't afford to stay silent and tacitly accept the (mostly) invisible systems that support inequalities, create suffering, and deny human dignity. Rather, we need to have an open dialogue—a process that starts with listening.

Trinity Institute 2016 (TI2016) recognizes that many of us avoid conversations about race because they're difficult, uncomfortable, or could risk being perceived as prejudiced. The conversations in TI2016 will be learning opportunities: chances to talk skillfully in theological reflection groups about charged issues with people who might have differing perspectives, with less apprehension. These life-giving conversations will teach us more about the racial issues of our time, including structural racism, mass incarceration, and policy change.

In the words of theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez, "All injustice is a breach with God." TI2016 brings action-oriented theologians and thought leaders together to provide better understanding, inspiration, and ideas you can use in your community to make a positive impact.

St. Michael's will be a hosting partner for TI2016. We will be webcasting the conference in the Meeting Room. You are welcome to attend one session or the entire conference. The schedule is below.

#### **JANUARY 22**

*9:30 a.m.*

##### ***Session 1: What Is Race, Anyway?***

Science tells us that race has no basis in biology or genetics. So is race real? Surveys show how racist attitudes that were widespread 50 years ago are swiftly disappearing. So how can our society be racist? And why did it cause such a stir when a university offered a class on "The Problem of Whiteness"? TI2016's distinguished speakers will bring a sharp focus on what we talk about when we talk about race. Speakers include Nicholas Kristof (New York Times Columnist), Emilie Townes (Vanderbilt Divinity School) and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (Duke University).

*2:00 p.m.*

##### ***Session 2: A People's History of Race***

Even as we make strides toward overcoming racism in individuals, we need to take a closer look at the way our society's systems developed to perpetuate inequality. Insightful performance and probing conversation will help to ensure that when we talk about the future, we are conscious of a past that still clings to the present. Speakers include Emilie Townes (Vanderbilt Divinity School), Gary Dorrien (Union Theological Seminary), Janine Tinsley-Roe, T. James Koderia (Wellesley College).

#### **JANUARY 23**

*9:30 a.m.*

##### ***Session 3: Soul Searching in a Culture of Control***

As Michelle Alexander argues in *The New Jim Crow*, "our prison system is a unique form of social control, much like slavery and Jim Crow, the systems it has replaced." Churches are waking up in great numbers to the importance of challenging this systemic injustice. Other speakers include Victor Rios (University of California) and Kelly Brown Douglas (Goucher University).

*2:00 p.m.*

##### ***Session 4: Listen for a Change***

Featuring Anna Deavere Smith "Standing Shoulder to Shoulder"

*3:30 p.m.*

##### ***Session 5: What Can We Do Together?***

Following up on the presentations and small group work, participants will reflect on what they've heard in the past few days in order to discern the implications for action, both in our local contexts and through larger partnerships. Trinity's Rector and senior leadership will speak about Trinity's commitments and invite partnerships.



## ROTA FOR JANUARY

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

POSITION	JANUARY 3	JANUARY 10	JANUARY 17	JANUARY 24	JANUARY 31
<b>8:00 A.M. SERVICE</b>					
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook	Kate McGinn	Wayne Cook	Kate McGinn
<b>Prayers</b>	Kiersten McKenney	Bill Ames	Anne Brown	Doug Switzer	Doug Lilly
<b>Healing Team</b>	Janet Cramer		Janet Cramer	Janet Cramer	Janet Cramer
<b>Usher</b>	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Anne Cook
<b>10:15 A.M. SERVICE</b>					
<b>Crucifer</b>	Mikael Mattson	Peter Johnson	Jeff Hiam	Jessica Bennett	Miranda Smith
<b>Acolytes</b>	KC Mattson Jake Mattson	Marian Wojcik Jonah Johnson	Ken Neilson Brian White	Avery Bennett Annalise Fedoruk	Julian Siegel Kierstan Landin
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Miranda Smith	Sarah Benton	Liz Vick	Nancy Barber	Annamarie Pluhar
<b>Lector</b>	Carolyn Taylor-Olson	Annie Landenberger	Val Abrahamsen	Jen Karstad	Jeanette Landin
<b>Intercessor</b>	Joyce Vining Morgan	Sue Dyer	Martin Leggott	Diana Bingham	Annie Landenberger
<b>Ushers</b>	Judith & Alan McBean	Ricky Davidson Holly MacLean	Fritz Family	Craig Hammond & Liz Vick	Jeff Hiam Linda Rice
<b>Element Bearers</b>	Fritz Family	Sherry Stimmel Sue Dyer	Bill & Sandy Maclean	Chris Hart Elaine Curry-Smithson	Craig Hammond & Liz Vick
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Susan Dyer Elise Burrows Pat Laubach Judy Walker Laurie Chipfield	Jane Sbardella Lucia Osiecki	Jane Sbardella Lucia Osiecki	Craig Newbert Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel	Craig Newbert Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel
<b>Healing Team</b>	Carolyn Taylor-Olson Robin White- Diamondstone	Margit Lily Betsy Bates	Carolyn Taylor-Olson Robin White- Diamondstone	Margit Lily Betsy Bates	Carolyn Taylor-Olson Judith Hildreth
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Susan Avery Craig Hammond & Liz Vick	Lucia Osiecki & Deb Jones	Sherry Stimmel The Porter Family	Breakfast between services	Chris Triebert Jean Smith
<b>Counters</b>	Anne Cook Judy McGee	Sherry Stimmel Judith Hildreth	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Wayne Cook Jeanette Landin	Wayne Cook Gwen Mousin

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

## JANUARY LECTIONARY

**Sunday, January 3:** Jeremiah 31:7–14, Psalm 84 or 84:1–8, Ephesians 1:3–6, 15–19a,  
Matthew 2:13–15, 19–23 or Luke 2:41–52 or Matthew 2:1–12

**Sunday, January 10:** Isaiah 43:1–7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14–17, Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

**Sunday, January 17:** Isaiah 62:1–5, Psalm 36:5–10, 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, John 2:1–11

**Sunday, January 24:** Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a, Luke 4:14–21

**Sunday, January 31:** Jeremiah 1:4–10, Psalm 71:1–6, 1 Corinthians 13:1–13, Luke 4:21–30



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

### ADULT FORUMS FOR JANUARY

**January 3, “A Year Into Our Prison Ministry”**—A year ago this past October Rabbi Jim Levinson and I were asked if we would like to try out leading worship for the inmates at Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield, Vermont. As friends and as strong believers in a deep level of mutuality within the Abrahamic tradition for Christians, Muslims, and Jews, we decided to dive in and see what might happen. We were both amazed, almost transformed, by what happened. We have been leading worship at this prison each month ever since. Everyone is welcome, and regularly we are joined by Christians, Jews, Muslims, and questioning unbelievers. We have gone deeper, and now meet with inmates individually, and when we can get permission, host special celebrations such as Bar Mitzvahs, a Seder, a Christmas Carol sing, and special Eucharists, as we did in August with our own rector, Mary. We also work in our community to support released prisoners and their families. Opportunities open up very slowly within this tightly controlled prison system; however, members of our parish are able to join in this ministry. Come hear more, how you might join us, and why this may well be growing into a true ministry of our parish. Led by Craig Hammond.

**January 10 and 17, Exploring Biblical Literacy as Opposed to Biblical Literalism**—Join us for a two-part educational program that will explore Biblical literacy as opposed to Biblical literalism. Using a case study on the use of scripture to support slavery in the 1800s, we will explore how the Bible has been and is still used to oppress people. Participants will be asked to grapple with scriptural passages about slavery, homosexuality, and same-gender relationships. Join the Reverend Thad Bennett for either session as he leads us in a discussion about how to “take back the Bible” from fundamentalist and literalist interpretations.

**January 24**—No Forum: Parish breakfast and Annual Meeting

**January 31**—To be determined

## CELEBRATIONS

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1	Dorothy Rice
January 3	Frances Nevins, Tom Mousin
January 4	Maria Escalera
January 5	Andy Burrows
January 6	Cory Nohl
January 10	Pat Cameron
January 15	Bruce Griffin
January 17	Cordelia Garofalo
January 18	David Mattocks
January 19	Pam Carr
January 20	Miranda Smith
January 21	Linda Neilson
January 22	John Carnahan, Bill Morlock
January 24	Melia Allen
January 26	Rebecca Olmstead, Andachew Mousin
January 28	Gwen Mousin
January 29	Paul Dedell, Peter van Wageningen
January 30	Megan Buchanan, Mark Genszler

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 25	Neil & Anne Montgomery
January 27	Joe & Susanna Grannis



*The Guardian* is published monthly by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. News items, announcements, articles, etc., should be submitted to Clark Anderson, *editor*, by the 15th of the month for consideration.

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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 Sunday School and childcare  
**WEEKDAY MORNINGS**—6:00 a.m., Silent hour in chapel  
**WEDNESDAYS**—Noon, Brief service of prayer and Holy Communion  
**THURSDAYS**—9:00 a.m., Morning Prayer Rite I  
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

**JANUARY 17:** Budget information meetings  
**JANUARY 22–23:** Trinity conference on race simulcast  
**JANUARY 24:** Annual Meeting, Fellowship Breakfast  
**FEBRUARY 5–7:** Women's Retreat