



The Guardian

JUNE 2016

FROM THE RECTORY

THE SPIRIT GOES BEFORE US

As I write this newsletter article, I am on a plane headed to Minneapolis for my final Missional Leadership Cohort program. I have participated in this program for the last eighteen months, during which I have met four times with a small group of Episcopal priests who serve in congregations all over the country. In between our gathering times (mostly in Minnesota, one time in Texas), we have worked on projects that we would bring back to the group for reflection and study. You all have at times been a part of these projects, like the small group conversations we offered last spring.

The Missional Leadership Cohort has been an experiment aimed at supporting, forming, and offering spaces for reflection for those who lead Episcopal congregations at this particular time in our history. And as many of us are aware, this particular time in history is one marked by rapid decline in the institutional church.

What marks the “missional” perspective as different from other approaches to this institutional decline is that it is not a program or strategy about how to save the institutional church. Instead, this missional perspective is one based on the belief that God’s Spirit *goes ahead of us* as it did in the Early Church accounts that we have in scripture so that even in the midst of church decline, our call as followers of Jesus is to turn from fear of loss to curiosity about what the Spirit is doing. We do not know the future of the church as we have come to know it (with organization, structure, and denominational differences), but what we do believe is that God’s Spirit is at work in the midst of it—both within existing church structure and in the neighborhood and world around us.

If we look at our faith from this perspective, we move from a fearful grasping of old structures to a life-giving curiosity and commitment to discerning what God’s Spirit is doing in the world around us and how we might open ourselves to new ways of participating in God’s love for the world. This may mean that “the church” (the Body of Christ) will look very different in a few years, and we can approach this future with trust, joy, and courage.

I am very thankful for the opportunity I have had to be a part of this Missional Leadership Cohort these last many months. St. Michael’s is a wonderfully open and innovative community in which to bring this missional perspective. I look forward to continuing to discern the Spirit’s call with you all in the years to come.

*Yours in Christ,
Mary*



NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC JUNE 12 ON THE RECTORY LAWN

All kids, parents, participants, teachers, and helpers in Sunday School at St. Michael's (Godly Play, Workshop Rotation, and Youth Forum) are invited to a picnic in your honor on Sunday, June 12, following the 10:15 a.m. service on the Rectory Lawn. Please come and help us celebrate a wonderful year together!



ANNUAL STRAWBERRY SPECTACULAR JUNE 19



Our annual Strawberry Spectacular will be celebrated on June 19. Watch in the bulletins for all the particulars and reminders. Deb Jones and Lucia Osiecki will be making their fabulous strawberry shortcake (with their homemade scones) again this year and we will enjoy strawberry milkshakes and other strawberry delights. Also, we are making plans for our Silent Auction, so if anyone has anything—homemade goodies, handmade crafts, services that you can provide, or plants (plants went very well last year)—we would love to hear from you. Please call Shirley Hodgdon at 257-3040 or Lori Palmer at 258-4996 and let us know what you can donate. Children's toys would be great for the kids' table also. Thank you in advance.



PASTORAL CARE CONVERSATION JUNE 25

Jane Sbardella, who has done an extraordinary job of overseeing and organizing pastoral care at St. Michael's for the last eight years, is stepping down from this role to pursue other ministry passions. She will still be very active at St. Michael's, but not in the capacity of head of pastoral care and health ministries.

In conversation with the Pastoral Care Team (who help parishioners with transportation, food, visitation, intercessory prayer, and general support in times of need), we feel led to re-vision this ministry at St.

Michael's and we want your input and discernment in this process!

We invite all who are interested and/or curious to an open conversation about pastoral care at St. Michael's on Saturday, June 25, from 10:00 a.m.–noon. During this conversation, we will entertain questions such as:

- What is pastoral care?
- How has it functioned at St. Michael's?
- How may God be calling us to new understandings of this ministry?
- How do we care for one another both inside and outside of our church community?
- How can we equip people to participate in this ministry with support, grace, and love?



ST. MICHAEL'S PRIDE SERVICE JUNE 26

St. Michael's invites you to join us for our own celebration of June as Pride month. On Sunday, June 26, we are inviting the community to be with us as St. Michael's celebrates Pride Sunday. At both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services, our worship and liturgy will reflect the joy of our diversity as human beings and the sermon will include reflection and witness from Nate Kohlmeier from his own story of faith, identity, and sexuality. In addition we will host a special 9:00 a.m. Forum led by David Carr.

This event is a great opportunity to invite friends and people from the community!



SPRING TAG SALE REPORT

Now that the dust has settled, literally, and I have had a chance to breathe, I wish to send out my sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the Spring Tag Sale a great success. As I announced on May 8, this is not *my* Tag Sale, it is *our* Tag Sale, and through our hard work we raised just over \$6,900. I expect there will be a few dollars added with final consignment



NEWS OF THE PARISH



payments as well as donations for the remaining books. These dollars go a long way in supporting our church and local outreach.

There are so many to thank—Lucia Osiecki for once again agreeing to co-chair the event; Susan Wilmott for her continued guidance and support; the leaders of the various “departments” for making sure everything was ready; and the workers who made me laugh, kept me on track, and even made sure I ate so I wouldn’t pass out. I especially want to thank all the new volunteers who assisted this time around. It is my sincere hope that you had some fun, met a few new people, and will want to help again in the fall. It was very true this time around that many hands made the work lighter, and no task was too small or unimportant. Whether you donated articles to be sold, baked goodies for the “food booth,” worked to sort, fold, display, and price the items for sale, or worked at the sale greeting, assisting, and checking out our customers, your time and efforts are invaluable. This sale does not happen without you. Again a huge Thank You to everyone involved.

Anne Cook



CHOIR WRAP-UPS

As we come to the end of the formal singing season, I’d like to extend my personal and heartfelt thanks to the choir members of all ages who enrich our common life at St. Michael’s and who make my job a

pleasure. The adult choir is joyfully present for 40 Sundays, arriving at 8:45 a.m. and usually not done until 11:30. They lead and organize additional services apart from that, and many individuals in the choir also participate in other church ministries. What a great gang! Even though they officially have no summer “duties,” the truth is that most of them miss singing, and so our summer months are also blessed with wonderful music. Thank you, choir!

The Choir School is also wrapping up a wonderful year, having just returned from taking their latest mystery play on the road to Tom Mousin’s church in Charlestown. They have rehearsed steadily since September, meeting every Tuesday—singing, learning, playing, and being enriched with the joy that comes from worshiping God through song. Working with them is a high point in my week. Thank you, choir school!

And thank you, congregation!—for your support and encouragement, and for all that each of you do to make our parish vibrant.

Susan Dedell



NEW GREEN!

Many thanks to parishioner Lori Palmer, who created new green vestments and liturgical hangings for St. Michael’s. They are absolutely beautiful! We will be using the new green for the whole season after Pentecost





NEWS OF THE PARISH

(which lasts until November). It is so special to have liturgical hangings and vestments that were created with such love, attention, and care from one of our own parishioners. Please thank Lori when you see her!



SUMMER AT CHRIST CHURCH, GUILFORD

St. Michael's 8:00 a.m. service will again take place at Christ Church, Guilford, on the first Sundays of July, August, and September. Christ Church is St. Michael's "Mother Church" and was founded in 1817, the first Episcopal Church in Vermont. While Christ Church no longer hosts a weekly congregation, it is used for concerts, weddings, and occasional worship by the St. Michael's congregation. Mark your calendars to take part in worshipping at this wonderful, sacred place!



PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE: OPERATING INCOME/EXPENSES FOR JANUARY–APRIL

Total Pledges Received: \$88,139 vs. Budget of \$79,333 (111% of Budget)

of which for the month of April: \$11,882 vs. Budget of \$19,333 (60% of Budget)

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

Total Operating Income: \$123,792 vs. Budget of \$111,017 (112% 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 as well as pledges.

Total Operating Expenses: \$117,332 vs. Budget of \$110,661 (106%)

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.



REPORT ON MAY 19 VESTRY MEETING

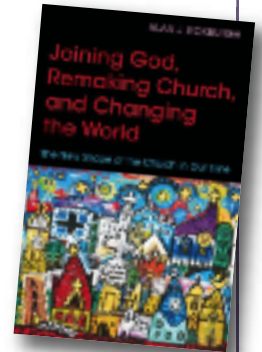
Our May meeting began with prayer and we began our discussion of the book, *Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World*, by Alan J. Roxburgh. We look forward to exploring and discussing these ideas in the coming months. Highlights from the meeting:

- Appointed Jeannette Landin as Treasurer, and Wayne Cook and Doug Switzer as Assistant Treasurers, beginning June 1, 2016
- Reviewed the Building for the Future financial report led by Wayne Cook
- Reviewed Vestry goals from the retreat—reimagining pastoral care, integrating new people into the life of St. Michael's, and supporting/recognizing current ministries and ministers

Also, I talked about the recent four-week Racism 101 sessions and the ideas shared at the last session, including the formation of a social justice ministry at St. Michael's.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Benton
St. Michael's Vestry





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

ST. MICHAEL'S MEMBERS CONCERNED ABOUT RACISM

On four Mondays in April about 15 people gathered to continue the conversation begun in January during the Trinity Institute lectures about race in this nation and in our lives. With the Baptismal Covenant as our foundation, a small planning group met regularly to create a program we called Racism 101. The goals of Racism 101 were to define racism, to see its presence throughout American history, to name the privilege white people enjoy at the expense of black people, and to identify how racism has become imbedded in the legal and economic fabric of our lives. With Mary Lindquist, the Rector, joining us at the end, all of us at the session began to dream of ways we could make a difference, combating racism personally, as part of St. Michael's, in Brattleboro, the Diocese of Vermont, and the world. Our dreams were grandiose. But we took our model from Jesus and his grandiose dream of the rule of God on earth. The hope of the people meeting those four nights was to figure out how we could keep the conversation going. We want to create structure, a group of people to implement some of those dreams we wrote down on the flip chart that last evening.

Looking at the history and continued presence of racism in our common life was sobering and painful. But dreaming of ways to name and fight the sin of racism all around us was exciting and energizing. We want to share this energy with the parish as we continue this work and ministry.

What follows are some short reflections from some people who attended Racism 101:

Sherry Stimmel: I came away from these sessions astonished at how little I knew or understood about the origin and insidious pervasiveness of racism in our country. As a Christian and in light of my baptismal covenant, I must now find a way to act in some concrete way for racial justice and reconciliation in all areas of our lives. It's time I stopped waiting for it to "happen."

Jeff Hiam: We came away from these sessions having faced difficult truths about systemic racism in our society, and with a new enthusiasm about our role as Christians to work together for racial justice and

reconciliation in ourselves, our church, our communities, and in God's world.

Jean Smith: In four 90-minute sessions we have only begun this all-important study and work, but even in this short time we were able to get at some of our misunderstandings about how and why things have and have not changed since the civil rights struggles of the sixties. We shared gleanings from selected videos, books, and even Ted Talks, and recognized how much re-learning we have to do. We didn't always agree but listened to the presented material and to our shared stories and asked one another questions, sometimes the hard questions to which we have no answers.

Brian Morgan: As one of my Facebook friends introduces factoids of African-American history online, "The More We Know..." I am now better informed than I ever was. The four sessions have also brought more clarity to what the Kingdom of God should and could look like on this earth.

*Members of the Racism 101 planning committee:
Sarah Benton, David Carr, Jean Smith, Jeff Hiam,
Brian Morgan, and Phillip Wilson*



CHABHA COIN ROLL JUNE 5



Meet Anitha Veronica of CHABHA. Thanks to your support of CHABHA, Anitha has been helped for years with school fees and health cards. Now, CHABHA (Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in Rwanda) is helping her with her dream of cosmetology school. Although HIV-positive and not well supported by her family, she is doing very well in school and is very excited about opening a salon and about someday getting a degree in finance.

Please continue to support Anitha and hundreds of others hopeful for their futures by bringing your CHABHA coin jars with spare change to church on June 5 for our coin roll during coffee hour.

Jars are available in the Common Room.

Thank you! *Susan Wilson*



ROTA FOR JUNE

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

Position	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
8:00 A.M. SERVICE				
Lay Assistant	Anita Crosson	Kate McGinn	Wayne Cook	Kate McGinn
Intercessor	Kiersten McKenney	Anne Brown	Doug Lilly	Doug Switzer
Sacramental Healing	Janet Cramer	Janet Cramer	Carolyn Taylor-Olson	Carolyn Taylor-Olson
Usher	Judy McGee	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Judy McGee
10:15 A.M. SERVICE				
Crucifer	Ken Neilson	Peter Johnson	Mikael Mattson	Jeff Hiam
Torch Bearers	Julian Siegel Nathaniel Johnson	Marion Wojcik Jonah Johnson	KC Mattson Jake Mattson	Clara Fritz Caleb Fritz
Element Bearers	Judith Hildreth Sue Dyer	Ken Jacobs Ricky Davidson	Betsy Bates Nancy Barber	Chris Hart Darcey Mercier
Lay Assistant	Jeff Hiam	Annie Landenberger	Greg Lesch	Miranda Smith
Lector	Annie Landenberger	Elise Burrows	Caleb Fritz	Joyce Vining Morgan
Intercessor	Mary Carnahan	Carolyn Taylor-Olson	Betsy Bates	Sue Dyer
Ushers	John Daly & Leigh Marthe	Andy & Elise Burrows	Alan & Judith McBean	Sarah Benton Betsy Bates
Sacramental Healing	Betsy Bates	Margit Lilly	Judith Hildreth	Robin White-Diamondstone
Altar Guild	Jane Sbardella Lucia Osiecki	Craig Newbert Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel	Craig Newbert Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel	Mary Carnahan Charlene Kemp Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead
Coffee Hour	Bill & Nancy Ames	St. Michael's Choir	Sarah Benton and Lynn Billington	Lemonade on Lawn
Counters	Jeanette Landin Judith Hildreth	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Anne Cook Judy McGee	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.



The Parish Breakfast on May 22



CELEBRATIONS

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

June 1	Madelyn Howard
June 2	Laura Lewis, Cary Gaunt, Jane Sbardella
June 3	Lynn Billington, Caroline Wojcik
June 4	Phillip Stimmel
June 5	Jonah Johnson, Deborah Jones
June 7	Conor Landenberger
June 11	Martha Moravec
June 12	Betsy Bates
June 13	John Byrnes
June 16	Jake Mattson
June 17	Jean Jersey, Herb Meyer
June 18	Lucas Woods
June 19	Elisabeth Swift
June 20	Jared Rediske
June 21	Nye Ffarabas
June 23	Craig Hammond
June 25	Whitney Nichols, Kevin McElhinney, Michael Fedoruk
June 27	Carolyn Taylor-Olson
June 28	Judy Hueber, Oren Hesselbach
June 29	Vince Johnson

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

June 1	Ramon & Maria Escalera, William & Sandra MacLean
June 3	Bruce & Carol Hesselbach
June 10	Greg & Kelli Allen, George & Laura Lewis, Douglas & Ann Bonneville
June 15	Peter & Jean Smith
June 16	Doug & Mimi Lilly
June 18	Al & Janet Cramer
June 21	Ron Bell & Gwen Mousin
June 22	Kevin McElhinney & Carol Beninati
June 24	Philip & Cherolyn Stimmel



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LOVE SONG

Jim Crosson

Heaven yet holds her boundless scope intact,
Old Terra glides along her silent track,
Nature still sits ensconced upon her throne,
Man still exists in bonds of flesh and bone.

Here in my tiny corner of it all,
I watch the swirling crystals gently fall
And lay their saintly blanket over Earth,
Which yesterday was Autumn's faded turf.

As by some magic then, my eyes are drawn,
Like one awakened to a bright'ning dawn,
To gaze in awe upon Creation's face,
Now seemingly aglow with God's Own Grace

And once again I sense the vital force,
uniting Earth and Heaven in its course;
Power unknowable, yet — like a dove —
nesting here among us, filling love.

JUNE LECTIONARY

Sunday, June 5:

1 Kings 17:17–24, Psalm 30,
Galatians 1:11–24, Luke 7:11–17

Sunday, June 12:

2 Samuel 11:26–12:10, 13–15; Psalm 32;
Galatians 2:15–21; Luke 7:36–8:3

Sunday, June 19:

Isaiah 65:1–9, Psalm 22:18–27,
Galatians 3:23–29, Luke 8:26–39

Sunday, June 26:

1 Kings 19:15–16, 19–21; Psalm 16;
Galatians 5:1,13–25; Luke 9:51–62



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 Sunday School and 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

JUNE 12: Sunday School Picnic

JUNE 19: Strawberry Spectacular

JUNE 25: Pastoral care conversation

JUNE 26: Pride Sunday

JULY 3, AUGUST 7, SEPTEMBER 4:
8:00 A.M. worship at Christ Church, Guilford