

The Guardian

SEPTEMBER 2015



FROM THE RECTORY

REFLECTIONS ON ST. MICHAEL'S SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS

Last May, 65 St. Michael's parishioners participated in 12 different small group conversations. The conversations were highly structured and facilitated by trained leaders from St. Michael's. These conversations were "research" for the Missional Leadership Program of which I am a part. The Missional Leadership Program is a two-year program for Episcopal priests around the nation to study, share, and develop church leadership in the rapidly changing culture of the 21st century.

I will be sharing the findings from these conversations in more detail at the Adult Forum on September 20, but here are some of the interesting points that stood out to me in the conversations.

- In many ways, the Small Group Conversations confirmed what I already knew: St. Michael's is a church that values openness, inclusivity, and acceptance and is a congregation full of people who are serious and thoughtful about their spirituality and their faith. We, as a community of faith, have a shared and clear sense of our identity as a congregation.
- There is a desire to deepen our relationships with one another, perhaps through more small groups. People really valued having a space to speak about their faith, their questions, their hopes, and their struggles.
- There is tension with regard to how we worship. While some people love the traditional liturgy, others find it (or parts of it) to be an obstacle.
- Many people who were asked what they were looking for when they first came to St. Michael's really did not know. It was as if one day they found themselves in church for some unexplainable reason. Over time, they found what they didn't know they were looking for!

Continued next page



FROM THE RECTORY

- There were several people who are deeply concerned about world events and want to make more of a connection between what is happening in the world and their faith in a church context. In addition, several people wished St. Michael's was more active with local community challenges like homelessness and addictions (particularly heroin).
- Prayer, spirituality, and St. Michael's contemplative ministries were very important to many, even if they didn't necessarily participate regularly in these programs. To know that there is a path and a process for deepening our relationship with God was meaningful.
- The majority of people understood the importance of integrating their faith into their daily life even when they were not able to do it to the extent that they wanted to.
- Having a place to belong, to call home, to know and be known, and to be accepted was very important to most people.

The bullet points above represent just a few of the important parts of the conversations. At the Forum, I will hand out my report, which not only includes some important themes from the conversations, but also some wonderful quotes. If anyone would like a copy of the full report, please let me or Jeanie know and we will provide you with a copy.

I will be sharing this report with my Missional Leadership Cohort in Minnesota September 21–23. It will be interesting to compare St. Michael's results with other churches around the country. The next step in the program is to come up with some "experiments" to try in our ministry contexts. Stay tuned for that!

Yours in Christ, Mary

NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 13

September 13 marks the beginning of our program year at St. Michael's. On that day between 9:15 and 10:00 a.m., there will be a Sunday School Open



House for parishioners, kids, parents, and all who are interested. Come check out St. Michael's great opportunities for kids—Godly Play, Workshop Rotation, Youth Forum, Choir School, and more! There will be food, play, a bouncy house, and balloons. Invite your friends who have children

to come and check out St. Michael's. We will also be commissioning the teachers during the 10:15 a.m. liturgy. Please join us for this special day!



ADULT CHOIR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 13

St. Michael's Adult Choir will be officially back on duty Sunday, September 13. I know you will all be glad to see the flock of red robes once again! If you are interested in participating in the choir, please do speak to Susan, either after church on Sunday a.m. or via phone (348-7735); or email (sdedell@sover.net). I'm always happy to talk to you! Although no audition is required for the choir, some level of musical experience/literacy is recommended.



CHOIR SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 15

Choir School will begin on Tuesday, September 15, from 3:45–4:45 p.m. We welcome all children who love to sing and want to learn more, ages 8–14. We have an exciting year ahead of us! First, the Choir School will be learning the children's part of Paul Winter's Missa Gaia, which will be presented on the Feast of St. Francis, October 4. This is the piece that is done at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine every year, and it is a truly joyful and soulful celebration of Creation. Then on to the preparations for the December Festival of Lights, a Lessons and Carolstype service that we originated last year (and it was magical!). A new mystery play is in store for them next, based on the story of Jonah (and of course, that famous whale). This will be presented in Lent, and we know it will be a rich experience for them. The Choir School will then end the year with a program of music composed by our own Paul Dedell, using poetry that they will be writing throughout the fall reflecting their own experiences of the sacred. I am very excited about this particular project, as they will be part of a poetic/musical process that is at the core of creative expression.

In addition to learning a lot of music, the Choir School teaches children basic musicianship skills, literacy, and vocal technique. I believe that it is also a wonderful way to foster poise, respect of self and others, commitment, leadership, and teamwork. And of course, the gift of music offers everyone a way to connect with God. Talk to Susan if you have any questions or need more info! Contact her at sdedell@sover.net, or call her at 802-348-7735, or leave a message at the church office.



ALL-BEETHOVEN CONCERT SEPTEMBER 20 AT ST. MICHAEL'S

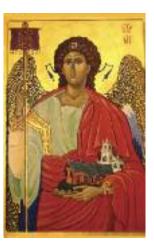
A special treat is in store for us: an all-Beethoven program featuring Moby Pearson, violin; Paul Cohen, cello; and Bruce Griffin, piano. The concert will be here at St. Michael's on Sunday, September 20, at 4:00 p.m. The program will include sonatas for violin and

cello, and the famous "Ghost" piano trio. These are all wonderful musicians, who are donating the proceeds of their work to the music programs at St. Michael's. Please come for a memorable afternoon of great music!



St. Michael's Feast Day September 27

We will be celebrating St. Michael's Feast Day on Sunday, September 27. This is a wonderful day to celebrate our patron saint and our community. We will also be baptizing (at least) one child that day at the 10:15 a.m. service. You won't want to miss this special day!





ARE YOU NEW TO ST. MICHAEL'S?

Please share with us a picture of yourself and/or your family to put on our bulletin board in the Common Room. Also, please let us know the dates of your birthday and anniversary so that we can pray for you in our Sunday prayers. Pictures and important dates may be sent to Jeanie Crosby, our Parish Administrator at Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org.



CHANGES FOR THE YOUTH FORUM

This year, the Youth Forum will be happening, but with some changes we hope will make the program even better.

Instead of meeting from 9:00–10:00 a.m. on Sundays, the Youth Forum will meet from 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. We changed the time because of feedback we received from kids and parents. So kids can participate in Sunday worship, grab some food at Coffee Hour, then meet in the Library.



The Youth Forum is open to kids who are in 6th grade and up, no exceptions. The Youth Forum will not meet every Sunday, but will send out a schedule in the beginning of the year to let you know which Sundays are meeting Sundays and which Sundays are off.

We now have a St. Michael's Youth Group Facebook page. If you would like to be invited to participate on the Facebook page, please email Ricky Davidson at rickybratt@gmail.com. We hope this will help with communication between kids and leaders and parents.

We are planning a trip to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine for their famous "Night Watch" program, October 9–10 in New York City. Mark your calendars!



EFM BEGINS AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER

We are often faced with the difficult and subtle task of interpreting the richness of our faith in an increasingly complex and confusing world. At the end of the Eucharist we pray, "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord." But how do we do this in today's world?

The group is the core of EfM. We read, and then through discussion we deepen our understanding of what we have read. We develop skills in theological reflection with the goal of learning to think theologically. By examining our own beliefs and their relationship to today's culture and the tradition of our faith, we learn that everything we do has potential for manifesting the love of Christ, and we discover that the opportunity for ministry is at hand wherever we turn.

We are hoping to have new folks joining us this year. If you think you might be interested, there are informational materials in the Common Room. We will be having informational sessions late August/early September. You can also contact either Linda Rice (lindariceaprn@gmail.com) or David Mattocks (davidvermont@gmail.com) for further information or questions.





SAY HELLO TO THE GOODRIDGES!

When St. Michael's newcomer Laura Manfield was growing up in Forest Hills, New York, she remembers watching her many Jewish neighbors walking together to the synagogue. "I wanted to have that feeling of community," she says. As immigrants from communist Romania, where open worship was suppressed, her parents didn't have a religious tradition. Laura eventually went to med school, spent a year in Sydney, Australia, on a Fulbright scholarship, and worked at Mt. Ascutney Hospital, where she met husband Luke Goodridge. When baby Andrew was born, the couple began searching for a church where they could all worship together and raise their son in the kind of extended community Laura remembered from her childhood. "St. Michael's was the first church we visited, and that was it. We never went elsewhere," she says. "I know I'm in the right place because I get chills in church."

Not that little Andrew, 13 months old, needed more family. Luke, a partner in a Greenfield law firm, grew up in nearby Whately, Massachusetts, where his parents still live. Grandparent care comes in handy while Luke and Laura are at work. From their home in Leyden, Massachusetts, Laura travels to three hospital locations in her role as a part-time osteopathic physiatrist—a rehab doctor—for Baystate Health System. Also part of the family are two dogs, Max (a bichon/poodle mix) and Boomer, a pitbull mix Luke rescued from a construction site.

With so much going on, it's hard to believe the Goodridges do anything but sleep in their spare time, but somehow they also make time for music. Luke plays cello, while Laura is honing her piano skills as





a student of Susan Dedell. If you see them at coffee hour—he's 6'4", she's 5'2", and Andrew is already promising to be tall like his dad—welcome them to the extended family!



Parish Financial Update: Operating Income/Expenses FOR January—July

Total Pledges Received: \$129,777 vs. Budget of \$125,929 (103% of Budget)

of which: Total Pledges Received in June: \$16,473 vs. Budget of \$17,990 (92%)

This is the percent of pledge dollars received for the month compared to what we expected in the budget. A figure below 100% means we didn't meet the budget amount needed for that month.

Total Operating Income: \$198,729 vs. Budget of \$189,970 (105% 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: \$192,858 vs. Budget of \$194,788 (99%)

This is the dollars needed to run the church, such as 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.



AUGUST VESTRY REPORT

The Vestry meeting started with an open discussion regarding placing a "Black Lives Matter" sign on the Church lawn. Members of the congregation as well as Vestry members spoke openly and honestly about their feelings regarding this matter. Following the discussion period, the Vestry supported putting this sign up. It is planned to be placed in the ground on Sunday morning between services and everyone is welcome to be present to assist in this.

Treasurer Wayne Cook presented his reports and mentioned that the quarterly statements will continue to be sent out. We discussed the bookkeeper's schedule and changes to Mary's health insurance.

Mary's report demonstrated how busy she is and how lucky we are to have her at St. Michael's. Everyone is getting ready for the upcoming school year with many exciting events and activities being brainstormed. The stewardship committee is gearing up for the upcoming stewardship drive, and Bill and Sandy Maclean have suggested having a fundraising dinner of some sort. Vestry was excited about this and Bill and Sandy will be needing much help to get this off the ground.

Vestry approved paying for the Priest Associates attending the Convention. There is money available in the budget for this.

Plans were finalized for the Parish picnic on August 23 with the possibility of a rain date mentioned.

Buildings and Grounds have been busy with building maintenance and repairs. The trim and door thresholds in the Dunham Room has been finished, treads have been installed on the east stairs, a new door installed in the Nursery school, and the paved area of the drive is scheduled to be resealed before fall. A long-range capital improvement plan and budget is being developed.

Bruce Lawrence, Member, St. Michael's Vestry









CONGRATULATIONS, CHRIS!

On Sunday, August 16, many St. Michael's parishioners gathered at the West River Park to witness and celebrate the baptism of Christina Doucette. Luckily, it was a hot day and the river was calm and cool. It was a first for me (and perhaps for St. Michael's) to baptize someone in the river just like Jesus was baptized. What a blessing it was to celebrate this sacrament of new life amidst the beauty of God's creation.

Mary



TO THE CONGREGATION OF ST. MICHAEL'S,

I would like to thank you all for allowing me to shadow your congregation, while also welcoming me with respect and curiosity. Thank you for caring and talking to me, for opening my soul with beautiful and inspiring music, sermons, and prayers, along with simple compassion. Thank you for silently guiding me to a deeper understanding of our Lord, though I have been acquainted with

Though I am a cradle Episcopalian, it was not until I was able to attend St. Michael's that I came to understand my faith and what drew me to spend Sunday mornings reciting words I had grown up hearing. You all have a stunning community, unlike any other congregation I've had the pleasure to partake in. You have an alive and full congregation that is active and engaged. From the elderly to the young, everyone has a voice, a role, and a presence in your community. I was especially impressed by the creativity with which you live your mission! I confess I have shared a few of my favorite ones with my own church.

It was my last Sunday at St. Michael's that I suddenly understood (a sensation I had come to expect during many of your services) an act I had completed my whole life: the passing of the peace. The meaning of the action shines in your faces, that as individuals of faith we bid each other well, be you stranger or family; with the clasping of hands or arms, you acknowledge the other as your fellow in God's house and wish them, warmly and simply, peace. You are a community of healers and seekers, friends and co-workers, and it is clear you gather regardless of differences, with the

The time I spent at St. Michael's opened my heart, mind, and voice to the community of God's love and my own need for His presence in my life. It was at St. Michael's that I found the Lord and His love with your help, when I needed it most. I give thanks to Him and to you.

Thank you for enlightening my life. You are a powerful force. I will not forget that it was at St. Michael's that I first understood the word of the Lord. I welcome you all, should you ever be passing through Virginia, to join us at Ware Episcopal Church in Gloucester.

> I walk willing, Mollie Montague

Mollie Montague attended St. Michaels this last year, when she was a high school senior at The Putney School. Mollie is off to college this fall. We will miss her!



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



FALL TAG SALE OCTOBER 3–4

Our Fall Tag sale is fast approaching. Anne Cook and Lucia Osiecki will work together to coordinate the event which is set for Friday, October 2, and Saturday, October 3, with prep week starting on Sunday, September 27, after the 10:15 a.m. service. Watch your weekly bulletin and email for additional information. There will be ample opportunity (and plenty of work) for everyone interested in helping. If you wish to help with the prep/sale and do not receive a call during early September please contact Anne Cook at 802-896-9446 or anek.cook@gmail.com. There will also be sign-up sheets in the Common Room during that month.

Donations for the tag sale should be placed in the downstairs closets. We accept housewares, linens, jewelry, adult and children's fall and winter clothing (clean and in good condition), kids' toys and games, seasonal décor items (especially Thanksgiving and Christmas), and books. Please no magazines, old encyclopedias/reference books, desktop computers, or old-style TVs. If you have larger items such as furniture, please hold them until the week of September 27. If you are unable to hold these items, we will try to have additional storage space and pick-up assistance beginning in September.

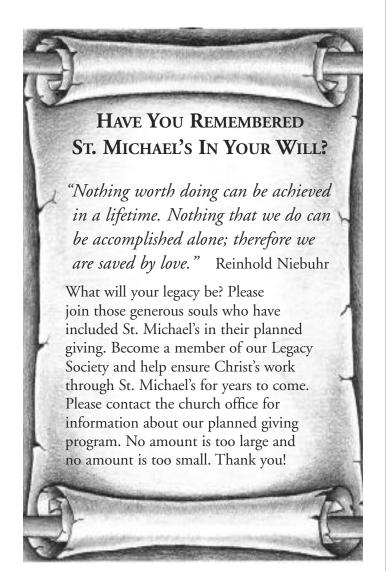
Remember, this event raises vital funds that support both our church and local outreach ministry. Together, we can make this a great success.

Anne Cook

WE NEED A TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR

The person who volunteers for this ministry will coordinate the transportation needs of our faith community. We need a coordinator to match drivers to the needs of our congregation. This may include rides to church services, church functions, or medical appointments. Please consider joining this ministry as a coordinator or a driver. We have drivers, but we need more resources. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. Please consider this ministry.

For transportation needs at this time please call the office 254-6048 Ext. 104 and leave a message. Contact Jane Sbardella for more information at 254-4116 or jane.sbardella@gmail.com.





EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

YOUR FAITH, YOUR LIFE: FAITH EXPLORATION FOR TEENS

This year, Mary Lindquist is offering a class for high-school age students who are interested in exploring the Christian faith. Those who complete the class may decide to be confirmed by the Bishop later this year. The class will meet probably once a month and continue though May 2016. Although there will be some structure to the class, the kids who are involved will have a lot of input as to what we study and how we study. Our first gathering will be on Sunday September 13, from 11:45–12:45 in the Meeting Room. The next dates will be planned after our first meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Mary (mary@stmichaelsvermont.org).

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY

Sunday, September 6:

Isaiah 35: 4–7a; Psalm 146; James 2: 1–10, 14–17; Mark 7: 24–37

Sunday, September 13:

Isaiah 50: 4–9a; Psalm 116: 1–8; James 3: 1–12; Mark 8: 27–38

Sunday, September 20:

Wisdom of Solomon 1:16–2:1, 12–22 or Jeremiah 11: 18–20; Psalm 54; James 3:13–4:3, 7–8a; Mark 9:30–37

Sunday, September 27:

Numbers 11: 4–6, 10–16, 24–29; Psalm 19: 7–14; James 5: 13–20; Mark 9: 38–50

ADVANCED CARE PLANNING FOR ALL AGES BEGINS OCTOBER 5

How do you plan for something you don't want to think about? Yet, what happens if you don't? All evidence shows that the many difficulties surrounding death are lessened when families and loved ones have discussed their beliefs, wishes, and concerns far in advance.

St. Michael's is offering a three-session interactive workshop on issues surrounding illness, dementia, death, and dying.

If you are anywhere between the ages of 19 and 109, and whether you have a completed Advance Directive, have never heard of one, or are somewhere in between, come share your feelings and experience with other parishioners so that we can each move forward in our understanding and support. Based on the strong interest in end-of-life issues shown by our parish survey results last January we have planned this opportunity to dig deeper and help our church community grapple with this challenging part of life's journey.

The sessions will be facilitated by Joanna Rueter, MSW, certified in Advanced Care Planning. We will meet Monday, October 5, October 19, and November 2 from 6:00–7:30 p.m. in the Undercroft.

Advance care planning is a process—we need to think about it, talk about it, and write it down. Why? Because "It is Really About Love." Please join us in this discussion and take your next steps. Call the office 254-6048 Ext. 104 and leave a message by September 30 if you need childcare.

Jane Sbardella Linda Rice Annamarie Pluhar



GO GREEN—RECEIVE YOUR COPY OF THE *GUARDIAN* BY EMAIL!

If you would like to receive the *Guardian* as a PDF file that would be sent to you by email, please contact Jeanie Crosby at jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org or (802) 254-6048, x104.

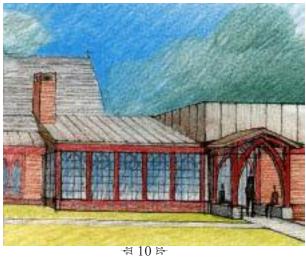


ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER

LITURGICAL ROTA FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 · 8:00 AM AND 10:15 AM SUNDAY SERVICES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Position	September 6 at Christ Church	September 13	September 20	September 27
		8:00 A.M. SERVICE		
Lay Assistant	Wayne Cook	Anita Crosson	Wayne Cook	Kate McGinn
Intercessor	Kiersten McKenney	Anne Brown	Doug Lilly	Bill Ames
Sacramental Healing	Betsy Bates	Jean Smith	Janet Cramer	Jean Smith
Usher	Judy McGee	Anne Cook	Judy McGee	Anne Cook
	I	0:15 A.M. SERVICE		
Crucifer	Fred Bump	Miranda Smith	Jessica Bennett	Mikael Mattson
Torch Bearers	Brian White Liz Vick	Clara Fritz Caleb Fritz	Brian White Liz Vick	KC Mattson Jake Mattson
Element Bearers	Judith Hildreth Sue Dyer	Ken Jacobs Ricky Davidson	Betsy Bates Nancy Barber	Liz Vick & Craig Hammond
Lay Assistant	Jeff Hiam	Annamarie Pluhar	Greg Lesch	Miranda Smith
Lector	Caleb Fritz	Sherry Stimmel	Martin Leggott	Sarah Warren
Intercessor	Craig Hammond	Jenn Karstad	Mary Carnahan	Elise Burrows
Ushers	Sarah Benton Linda Rice	Judith & Alan McBean	Bill & Sandy MacLean	Andy & Elise Burrows
Sacramental Healing	Trudy Crites Robin White-Diamondstone	Sarah Benton Judith Hildreth	Trudy Crites Margit Lilly	Janet Cramer Robin White-Diamondston
Altar Guild	Craig Newbert Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel	Craig Newbert Irene Burtis Judith Hildreth Sherry Stimmel	Mary Carnahan Charlene Kemp Betty Elwell Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead	Mary Carnahan Charlene Kemp Betty Elwell Rebecca Olmstead Zadie Olmstead
Lemonade/Coffee Hour	Deb Jones & Lucia Osiecki	Brian & Joyce Vining Morgan	Nancy Barber	Gwen Mousin
Counters	Anne Cook Judy McGee	Wayne Cook Vince Johnson	Ricky Davidson Jared Rediske	Sherry Stimmel Judith Hildreth

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







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CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3	Aaron Sharff, Thad Bennett
September 4	Jacki Capponcelli
September 6	Ricky Davidson, Charles Daigneault
September 7	Chris Lovell
September 9	Sarah Benton
September 11	Grace Xinqi Willingham
September 12	Margit Lilly
September 13	Iris Mayer, Richard McNary
September 14	Kyle Capponcelli
September 15	Calvin Ronconi
September 16	Susan Daigneault
September 17	Donna Reidt
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, Ellen McNary
September 23	Hannah Kochinskas, Jordan Vslego
September 25	Scott McElhinney
September 27	Meredith Martinez
September 28	Corky Elwell, Samantha Sharff, Thomas Brown
September 29	Bruce Hesselbach
September 30	Mary McCarthy

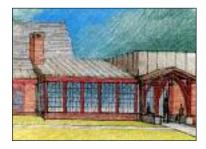
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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, Linda & Ken Neilson, Kate & Andrew LeBlanc
September 12	Michael & Ron Doty-Tolaro
September 16	Margit & Jack Lilly
September 28	Judy & Bob Walker

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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

This Month At St. Michael's Episcopal

SEPTEMBER 6, 8:00 A.M. —at Christ Church

SEPTEMBER 13: Sunday School Open House, Adult Choir begins, High School class begins

SEPTEMBER 15: Choir School begins

SEPTEMBER 20: Sunday School + Adult Forum begin

SEPTEMBER 27: Feast of St. Michael & All Angels