

The Guardian

APRIL 2018

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter to you! For me this season of Easter is especially exciting as I will be starting my 4-month sabbatical on May 1. As many of you know, this sabbatical is a time of renewal, not only for me, but for you. There are many wonderful events planned for this time of renewal at St. Michael's including many lay preachers preaching throughout the sabbatical time, a Play and Pray In-gathering scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend, and a Prayer Vigil to coincide with my retreat at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado.

Below is a brief sketch of what we will be doing.

- **May 4-10** – I will fly to Phoenix, Arizona and drive to the Sofia Community (<https://www.sofiacommunity.com>) outside of Prescott, Arizona, where I will do a 6-day retreat. Sofia is a creation of my friends Will Duncan and Ann Curry, who have done workshops at St. Michael's. Sofia is "a monastic laboratory, a place for the exploration and cultivation of deep compassion, meditative stillness, and earth stewardship." I will spend time in prayer and meditation, working on the lavender farm that is part of the community, sharing meals, and learning about what starting a "modern monastic community" is like!
- **May 10-15** – I will drive from Prescott to Aspen, Colorado. I have not quite planned out where I will stop and what I will see on this drive, but I know there are many parks and much beautiful scenery to take in.
- **May 15-24** – I will do a 10-Day Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Colorado, about 10 miles outside Aspen. St. Benedict's is where Father Thomas Keating lives and it has been a center of the Centering Prayer practice for decades.
- **May 24-31** – I will fly to Santa Fe, New Mexico to participate in a retreat at the Upaya Zen Center led by Roshi Joan Halifax and Sharon Salzberg. I will

also visit Richard Rohr's Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque.

- **May 31 – June 20** – I will fly back to Brattleboro and help the kids and Kurt finish up the school year and prepare for our time in Europe.
- **June 21-July 22** – We will fly to Barcelona, Spain where we will live for one month in an apartment in El Born. We don't have many plans yet for our time there, except that I am hoping to visit and study the architecture of Gaudi and we are expecting that the kids will do some Spanish camp. We will take some day trips to other places during this time and spend one weekend in Rome visiting an old friend who is head of a Roman Catholic order near the Vatican.
- **July 22-July 27** – Make our way by train to Constance, Germany.
- **July 27-August 7** – Do a family bike trip around Lake Constance. We will pass through Germany, Austria, and Switzerland on our bicycles and hopefully do a lot of swimming also!
- **August 7-10** – We will visit Tübingen, Germany, where I studied when I was in Seminary.
- **August 10-12** – Take the train back to Barcelona and depart for Boston.
- **August 13-21** – Recover and be reunited with our dog and cat at home!
- **August 21** – Back to work at St. Michael's!
- **August 26** – First Sunday back.

I know it sounds like a whirlwind and it is! I am so grateful to St. Michael's in allowing me to take a sabbatical and so grateful to the Lilly Foundation for providing funding for all the sabbatical plans, both my own and St. Michael's. Please keep me and my family in your prayers during this time. You will certainly be in mine! Meanwhile, I will be around during all of April and hope to see you all to share the joy of this Easter Season!

Yours in Christ,

Mary

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

THE VERMONT-NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE COMPANIONS OF THE HOLY CROSS MEETS AT ST. MICHAEL'S ON APRIL 14

All women of St. Michael's are invited to the meeting on April 14 in the Undercroft from 10 am-2 pm. The Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross is a diverse group of more than 800 women, both laywomen and clergy, single and partnered. Founded in 1884 by Emily Malbone Morgan in the United States, the Society welcomes women from any church with whom the Episcopal Church is in communion: the Anglican Communion, the Moravian Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ECLA).

Companions are called to live under a rule of intercessory prayer, thanksgiving, and simplicity of life, seeking to live a life of obedience to Christ in the company of others. Connected to one another by the Companion Prayer Chain and the Intercession Paper sent to all Companions monthly, we focus our prayers on the needs of individuals and families known to Companions around the world as well as on our concerns for the unity of all God's people, God's mission in the world, social justice, and peace and reconciliation.

The life of the Society revolves around 35 chapters as well as the Society's retreat and conference center, Adelynrood, in Byfield, Massachusetts. Companions organize regional and national conferences on an array of topics from spiritual direction to interfaith collaboration for peace and social justice. The Society broke new ground in engaging women

of diverse nations and contexts through the 2014 Anglican Women at Prayer conference. Companions are now exploring ways to use the Internet to foster prayer and friendship across the world.

Many women have first come to know about the Society through reading about the lives and work of two of our early leaders, Emily Malbone Morgan (February 26) and Vida Dutton Scudder (October 10) who are part of the Episcopal calendar of saints in "Holy Women, Holy Men."

Companions find the dual emphasis on both spiritual growth and action in the world to be an ongoing blessing, and they find themselves upheld in their individual ministries by the corporate life of prayer and support in local chapters.

The topic of the April 14 meeting will be "Advocacy." Come at 9:30 for a meet and greet.

Bring thanksgivings and prayers to offer up. Soul Salad will be provided for lunch. Please bring your own cup, plate or bowl with utensils (this speaks to our commitment to the environment).

For more information, please email or call Deb Haines at chaines831@aol.com, 603-325-2978.



School Protest
Against Gun
Violence

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

ADULT FORUMS FOR APRIL

April 1 - There is no Forum on Easter Day

April 8 -- "Resurrection: Is it a magic trick: true or false?" Or, is it a window into the inner workings of that central energy of life that we call God? Explore experiences of resurrection ancient and modern. Led by Phillip Wilson.

April 15 -- "Hospitality at St. Michael's": We will look at hospitality in the parish from the perspectives of Jesus, His teachings, and examples from scriptures.

April 22 -- "Water" -- The poet Samuel T. Coleridge once remarked "Water, water, everywhere nor any drop to drink". Perhaps Cape Town is just the beginning. We will explore the subject of fresh water and the crisis facing us all - a crisis to be addressed by our children and grandchildren. A crisis about which we should be much more informed. Bill Ames will lead.

April 29 -- "Groundworks' Services and Programs" -- Josh Davis, Executive Director of Groundworks Collaborative, will be joining us on Sunday April 29th. He plans on giving a general overview of Groundworks' services/programs, with particular focus on the Seasonal Overflow Shelter. The SOS typically closes mid to late April, he plans to give an overview of the past season success and challenges. He also plans to spend some time talking about causes of homelessness and solutions while leaving plenty of time for Q & A. Bring your questions and come prepared for a rich discussion!



PARISH POETS: SATURDAY APRIL 14 AT 7 PM

All are invited to the 2nd annual ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH POETS READING on Saturday, April 14th at 7 pm. April is National Poetry Month! Come join us in the Meeting Room for an hour-long program of original poetry, featuring poets from the St. Michael's community: Nye Ffarrabas, Leigh Marthe, Ross Thurber, Andy Burrows, Lloyd Graf, Dianne Clouet, Megan Buchanan. This year we will feature Ross Thurber of Lilac Ridge Farm. His first full-length poetry collection, *Pioneer Species*, is stunning and has just been published by Green Writers Press.

**If there are other poets in the parish who would like to participate, please contact Megan at mbuchanan@hotmail.com or 802.258.9052. She has offered an open-to-all, experimental poetry writing workshop at St. Michael's for over six years and will host the event.



Interfaith Youth Group
Cooking meal for Homeless
Shelter

DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT



Dear St Michael's,

St Patrick's Day Greetings from the Metro North train on its way from New Haven to New York City. Fourteen years ago, my aunt and uncle started a tradition of hosting a St Patrick's Day parade at their home in Brooklyn. My uncle and I share an inexplicable fondness for Irish ballads so I was invited to help play guitar and facilitate singing. The party was a hit and, despite my introvert dread of visits to the big city, I returned each year to sing and celebrate. Then about ten years ago, as I started working at churches and took on Sunday work responsibilities, the trip became logistically impossible. With a part-time church job now, this is my first time back since 2007, and as my uncle turns 70, it is also the last year of the party. With all the beginnings of this ministry and a life in Brattleboro I'm also aware of how, in my life and in yours, beginnings are interwoven with endings. I'm aware of how, as W.S. Merwin writes in his poem *For the Anniversary of My Death*, "Every year without knowing it I have passed the day/When the last fires will wave to me. . ."

It still feels like a season of beginnings within the ministry of Discipleship and Discernment. I've had many chances to get to know the wider Brattleboro and southern Vermont community this last month. I was called to jury duty for the months of February, March, and April. Already I have served on a jury for a three-day trial, which the court officer claimed was the longest in years. Despite the interruption to work, being in the courthouse was a great chance to learn more about the heroin trade in Vermont and to meet fellow jurors as we talked during the many breaks. A March visit with Craig Hammond to his ministry at the Springfield prison helped to further educate me about the ways of the world in Brattleboro, as did a tour of town from a lifelong resident of Brattleboro and former worker at the Drop-In Center, a visit to Turning Point, and my continued work as a teacher at CCV.

The leadership team has continued to meet monthly to plan and vision the ministry. Out of those meetings has emerged the Maundy Thursday Nightwatch and Holy Saturday morning liturgies and the format for the Open Discipleship Group. Despite the snowstorm on the March 7, eight of us gathered to eat, pray and share from the heart together. It was very sweet to get to meet visitors and to get to know church members more deeply. I look forward to more gatherings in the coming months and welcome anyone and everyone to join, even just once. The leadership team has also been exploring how to create more spaces where people can practice and discuss discernments together, building on the interest from the December workshop. In the midst of all these beginnings, and even a few endings, I continue to feel grateful for the opportunity to worship and serve at St. Michael's and pray daily for the knowledge of the Spirit's bidding.

Duncan

STM

A Letter to the Parish

I wish to thank all those parishioners who prayed for me and extended their support during the past few weeks. I feel very strongly that I was blessed with a miracle leading to my recovery from a very serious medical condition. Again, a thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Doug Switzer

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

HOSPITALITY AT ST MICHAEL'S

Can you imagine looking toward the beach after a night of fishing and seeing the risen Jesus cooking your breakfast? Or entertaining strangers who turned out to be angels? Who do you identify with in the Mary and Martha story- - there is no wrong answer!

Have you greeted one another, welcomed a newcomer, actively listened, anticipated another's needs, or reached out to someone who was missing? Have you prepared a table, provided flowers, offered food and beverage, or helped to clean up? Have you sent a card for a birthday, called to offer encouragement, or visited the sick? There are many more examples, but if you have done any of these, you are an important part of HOSPITALITY here at St. Michael's!

We have a rich history of folks among us who have taken this as a sacred duty, a spiritual practice with passion and joy. Some of them have needed to step back recently after many years of service. In this upcoming time of renewal, it will be good to examine this both personally and as a congregation.

The Adult Forum on April 15th will focus on Jesus, His teaching, and examples from the Scriptures regarding hospitality. We hope you will attend with your thoughts, dreams and ideas.

CHANT WORKSHOP ON APRIL 20 + 21

All are invited to "Chanting the Daily Office: A Contemplative Practice Using The Book of Common Prayer," a workshop to be held on Friday evening, April 20, 2018, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the sanctuary and on Saturday morning, April 21, from 9:00 to 10:30 am in the Meeting Room. The two interactive sessions will offer participants the opportunity to learn chant tones from the Service Music of the 1982 Hymnal that can be used, either alone or corporately, to enhance Morning Prayer II and Evening Prayer II. We will also use a chanted setting of Compline.

Participants will explore the rich history of chant, how to read musical notations in the Psalms and the different portions of the services, and how to find appropriate readings. The workshop will be led by Valerie Abrahamson, ThD, a St. Michael's parishioner and choir member and a long-time Associate of the Society of St. Margaret in Duxbury, Massachusetts. Attendees are encouraged to attend both sessions, although a short review of the Friday material will take place at the Saturday session. Participants do not need extensive musical background and the workshop is free and open to all.

APRIL 28 WORKSHOP: "APPROACHING THE SCRIPTURES FOR PREACHING AND LEARNING"

The Sabbatical Committee will offer a workshop open to all on approaching the scriptures for preaching and learning. The April 28 workshop will run from 9 am to 12 noon in the Meeting Room. The leader will be Rev. Allen 'Mick' Comstock, longtime UCC pastor in Heath and Charlemont in western Massachusetts. Mick has devoted his ministry to being and teaching in the community where life is lived and bringing the Word, worship and prayer to bear on daily living. In this workshop which is open to everyone, he will lead us in approaching the scripture expecting to be surprised.

Mick writes, "One of the greatest temptations in approaching scripture, especially for the purpose of preaching, is to come looking for reinforcement of what you already think. The second greatest temptation, especially if you've been at this for a long time, is to come thinking you already know what it's going to say. Preaching from the lectionary is a discipline that tries to help us overcome both of these temptations, but it can't do so by itself. It's up to us to approach the scripture passages desiring and expecting to be freshly addressed by God in them. This workshop will give us the opportunity to discover and cultivate this practice together."

NEWS OF THE PARISH

MARCH VESTRY MEETING SUMMARY

VESTRY

The March meeting of the Vestry was focused on a presentation by Christy Fritz, Jeff Lewis, and Leigh Marthe who have been exploring and discussing the future of the church and what will it look like, for example, in the next 10 years. This mission coincides with Mary's participation in the Missional Leadership Cohort and the theme of her sabbatical proposal "Making all Things New". In her 2016 Annual Report she wrote: "We discern the Spirit primarily by listening deeply to those around us and to God's spirit within us. Where the Spirit is present, there is a sense of excitement, energy, possibility and newness." Christy, Jeff and Leigh are engaged in exploring ways to not only attract people into the church, but ways of going out into the community to experiment with what it means to be a follower of Jesus in this time.

The Vestry also discussed the letter that is going out to parishioners about the status of the Building for the Future Campaign, the sound system upgrade in the church, and the Vestry involvement in preparing the meal for Maundy Thursday.

Submitted by

Lynn Billington

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Dear St. Michael's Friends,

In the March Guardian, we wrote about "A Christmas Gift" from our friend Connie in San Diego from which we made contributions to St. Michael's and to the Humane Society. We sent Connie our deepest thanks, a copy of the Guardian and a copy of the gift acknowledgment Harriet received from the Humane Society.

Two days ago, we received a letter telling us that Connie had passed on February 13 and our letter was returned unopened. Our sorrow is deep; our friend of over 70 years is no longer here. But there is joy, knowing she and her husband Henry are united again, now in God's eternal kingdom. Thank you.

Pat Cameron and Harriet Ives

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

The History of St. Michael's Church Brattleboro Vermont 1853-1978 (Part II)

by Paul Carnahan

published by St. Michael's Episcopal Church 1982

105 pages, 7" x 10"

The dictionary defines the word 'connoisseur' thus: A person with informed and astute discrimination, especially concerning the arts or matters of taste. For the gentleman that usually means suits from Savile Row tailors, shirts from Jermyn Street, hats from Lock (est. 1676), shaving needs from Trumper, and shotguns from Purdey. In matters of the printed word, the world becomes significantly smaller.

The Brattleboro Historical Society is launching a substantial project that will ultimately become a book about printing and publishing in the local area. For this reason, a reconsideration of our church history is proper for it is arguably one of the finest books produced locally.

For virtually the entire nineteenth century no appreciation of the readability of the printed word existed—certainly not among printers or publishers. "You can read it, can't you?" would have been the response to any complaint about legibility or craftsmanship. A reaction began in England late in the century to produce books that were both readable and attractive. Here, shortly later, at Houghton Mifflin Company, the distinguished Boston literary publishing house (the contract for Thoreau's 'Walden' hung on its walls when this reviewer was employed there in the late 'sixties), a young man from Indiana named Bruce Rogers began to produce books of great typographic beauty. So impressed was the publisher that it began a limited edition line of books designed by Rogers and with it began a taste for connoisseurship among the reading public—limited to be sure. By the early twentieth century, a select number of printers began producing work that rivaled and surpassed Rogers' output. Although the audience was small, it was sufficient to sustain them. Clubs of connoisseurs developed, notably the Club of Odd Volumes in Boston, the Grolier Club in New York, and the Rowfant Club in Cleveland—all vigorous to this day.

By mid-century, a new printer appeared who would dominate this little world of connoisseurship for the balance of the twentieth century. An air force veteran and a graduate of Dartmouth, Roderick Stinehour opened a small shop in the little northern Vermont town of Lunenburg devoted to producing the finest craftsmanship, typography, and binding design. Astonishingly, considering the remote location, Stinehour began to attract major clients who demanded the best work, including the Limited Editions Club,* as well as museums, private libraries, the aforementioned clubs, and universities.

So it came to pass that when our church history project was underway, thanks largely to a generous contribution from Janet Greene, widow of local book publisher Stephen Greene and a former communicant of St. Michael's, Stinehour was asked to set the type and print the book.

The best possible presswork is to print directly from the type but this is only possible when the edition is small since the type is lead and, therefore, soft and soon deformed by the pressure of the press. Publishers typically made casts of type pages in harder and long-wearing metal. But our edition was three-hundred so printing from the type was feasible. A special acid-free paper was obtained from the Mohawk Paper Mill in New York state. The result was Stinehour at its best. The colophon page which follows the last book page gives further details of the book's design and production.

Sadly, the binding is another matter. A parishioner who was part owner of the gigantic book manufacturer Book Press on Putney Road contributed the binding but the workmanship is inferior. Parishioners who desire to own the book should consider having it rebound and possibly slip-cased (consult this reviewer for advice). The church still has a goodly quantity.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES CON'T

Sadly, Stinehour closed its shop in 2008 as the owner's health had declined precipitously and new technology would have forced an investment beyond the means of the business. Ironically, a good deal of the equipment was purchased by Firefly Press in Boston owned by the scholarly printer John Kristensen who grew up in Guilford. He continues to produce work of Stinehour caliber, notably and recently, to delight the connoisseur's taste, a limited edition book of sermons by a former Rector of St. Paul's School.

RRA

*The LEC monthly produced elegant versions of classic titles for its fifteen hundred subscribers. Robert L. Dothard of Guilford was instrumental in its creation. Owner and president of Hildreth Press (which occupied the site of the Harmony parking lot), he was also a distinguished book designer. Hildreth was the town's second largest employer. Although a commercial printer, it could also produce quality work and had a list of distinguished clients. It printed fourteen LEC titles and Dothard designed ten. It was, additionally, printer to Yale University Press.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

MYSTERY PLAY: A MIGHTY OUTCRY

The Choir School

Performances: Saturday, April 28 at 7 pm and Sunday, April 29 at 4 pm

The quartet is complete! The fourth of a set of mystery plays written for young people by Paul Dedell explores the complex young woman known as "Joan of Arc." Although Joan is now an icon of French identity, *A Mighty Outcry* seeks to discover the young woman who not only led armies, but who wept for those who perished on both sides. The topics in the play are surprisingly resonant with today's world. The core question of the play, in fact, may be the one that is at the heart of human existence: "How does one discern the rightness of the inner voices that guide our decisions?"

Joan was 13 when she began hearing voices urging her to rescue the people of France from the English army, who were waging a "scorched earth" campaign at that time in France. She managed to persuade the Dauphin of France to allow her to lead troops to the siege of Orleans as part of a relief mission. She gained prominence when the siege was lifted after only nine days. Several additional swift victories boosted French morale and paved the way for the final French victory. At the age of 18, she was captured by a pro-English faction and put on trial. She was burned at the stake one year later.

Paul Dedell wrote *A Mighty Outcry* with St. Michael's parishioner and Choir School member Clara Fritz in mind. "Having watched Clara over the last 3 years, I was well aware of her incredible natural dramatic gifts.

Although Clara is herself a fairly quiet person, she has clearly got an inner core that guides her path. I also wanted to write a play that had a brave and active woman as the central character. And I wanted to explore Joan, not only as a military leader, but as a normal young girl who played and danced with her friends, and with hopes and dreams for a future that was different from the one her culture expected. Exploring Joan's inner world as a young woman also allows for the play to have more range musically."

Paul wanted to avoid the narrow stereotypes that exist about Joan in order to make her more human, and he also wanted to humanize the people around her. "I just couldn't help having a little bit of fun with the "Educated Men" of France who originally examined Joan before she led her first army. They were just so obviously desperate, and yet maintained a facade of quite ridiculous pompousness. I could imagine the Choir School having a lot of fun with that. I also knew they would dive into the deeper songs with heart and skill."

Make plans right now to see the Choir School's production of *A Mighty Outcry* at St. Michael's on April 28 and 29. Not only will you support the polished efforts of 14 incredible young people, your hearts will be opened and your spirits enriched!

NEWS OF THE PARISH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SPRING TAG SALE IS MAY 4 & 5

Our Tag sale is fast approaching. I, Anne Cook, will once again be coordinating this event.

PREP WEEK: begins on Sunday April 29 with table set-up after the 8 am service and “closet haul out” after the 10:15 service. Work bee hours will run Monday-Thursday 9am to 4pm (with the possibility of one additional evening session, Monday 5PM to 7PM if folks sign up). Please watch your weekly bulletin and e-mail blast for additional information. There is ample opportunity (and plenty of work) for everyone interested in helping, so please sign up on the appropriate Tag Sale sheets in the Common Room. As always if you have questions, please feel free to contact Anne Cook at 802-896-9446 or anek.cook@gmail.com.

ACCEPTABLE DONATIONS: Housewares, small appliances in good/working condition & decorative items, Spring and Summer apparel, linens, jewelry, children’s clothing and toys, paperback & hardcover books, sea-

sonal outdoor items & sporting equipment. Items can be left in the Tag Sale closets near the lower level entry. PLEASE DO NOT put items on the stage. Good used furniture and larger items should be held until the week of April 30 when the rectory garage will become available.

UNACCEPTABLE DONATIONS: NO TV’S, COMPUTERS OR MATTRESSES/BOX SPRINGS, MAGAZINES, ENCYCLOPEDIA’S OR OLD TRAVEL BOOKS. (We have to pay to dispose of these items) Remember we have very limited storage space so PLEASE hold all FALL, WINTER and CHRISTMAS items until after this sale.

Remember, along with building community and having fun, this event also raises vital funds that support both our church and local Outreach and Ministry. Together, we can make this a great success.

Anne Cook

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

SIX-SESSION GROUP

“INTERACTING WITH THE WORD: THE BIBLE AND DISCIPLESHIP”

The Sabbatical Planning Committee (Leigh Marthe, Christy Fritz and Jeff Lewis) will offer a six-session early evening group for lay preachers and all others interested on interacting with the Bible. The group will use practices we have developed in the Discipleship groups (silence, sharing, and lectio divina) and it will draw in practice from the Scripture Workshop to be held April 28, “Living with the Word, Bible Study in the Real World.”

The group will meet every other week beginning on May 3 on Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30 at the Church. While the evening will draw on practices from the Discipleship program, we will reach beyond those to deepen interaction with and discussion of the Bible using the week’s lectionary readings as the base. Leaders will bring

some insight to the passages from history and commentary, but the central focus will be the interaction of our lives and stories with the Biblical stories.

Our experience of faith is deeply affected by how our own lives help us understand the powerful narratives of scripture. The conversation is between our lives, our own stories as they unfold, the collected faith stories from Creation to Resurrection, and the great people from Abraham to Paul. We will explore the Biblical stories, but search for the resonance between those and our lives today. This group is designed for sabbatical lay preachers but is open to all as the more voices and stories we share, the richer is our faith understanding.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

WHERE DO THE ALTAR FLOWERS COME FROM EACH SUNDAY?

Hello Everyone,

As we enjoy the glorious flowers of the Easter season, it seems a proper time to begin thinking once again about our year-round altar flower donations. We enhance our weekly worship services with bouquets of fresh altar flowers every Sunday except during Lent, when the altar remains unembellished, and Advent, when it is accented with seasonal greenery.

Many of you have generously contributed altar bouquets over the years, and we thank each and every person who has done so. It is a lovely way to celebrate a special event in our lives or commemorate a loved one who has passed. And some of us simply enjoy sharing the bounty of our flower gardens and the pleasure we derive from creating beautiful arrangements.

There is a poster on the wall in the Common Room where you are invited to sign up for one or more Sundays to provide altar flowers. My phone number and email address are included on the sign-up sheet and also are listed here. I appreciate you contacting me to let me know your plans, so that I can share that information with the week's Altar Guild team. I am also more than happy to provide guidance should you have any questions.

Jeanie Crosby in the Church office coordinates any messages you may wish to have in the church bulletin and also is the person who will process your donation if you are not paying the florist directly.

We are fortunate to have three wonderful local florists, all of whom provide lovely flowers. Taylor for Flowers, located on Elliot Street, is owned by Dan and Alva Jean Unwin (254-5255). They offer a 20% church discount, as long as the flowers are charged directly to the church. In this case, you can reimburse the church for the cost through Jeanie Crosby. Windham Flowers, located on

Main Street, is owned by Sally Winchester (257-1411). Sally prefers to use the low vases in order to create spectacular multi-layered bouquets. After a brief hiatus due to the death of Cathy Toomey, Ed Toomey has reopened Linden Gardens, which is located off Linden Street opposite the Common. Arrangements are now being created there by Star and Olga (257-1166).

It is easier for all concerned if you speak directly with the florist of your choice. You can then determine what flowers best suit your wishes and also discuss the cost involved. In general, it is wise to plan on at least \$40 per bouquet (\$80 total) plus tax, if you're not charging the flowers to the church, and a modest delivery fee. (The florists all make deliveries on Saturday morning; we usually request around 9:30AM.) Two important notes: liners need to be delivered to the florist a few days in advance -- tall liners for Taylor for Flowers, tall liners in a special basket for Linden Gardens, low liners for Windham Flowers. And please also specify St. Michael's Episcopal Church; it is ironic for such a small community to have two churches with the same title! Please don't feel discouraged if the florist's fees seem uncomfortably high for your circumstances. We welcome donations in any amount, as long as you let me or Jeanie know in advance what your wishes might be. You are also welcome to purchase loose flowers or provide them from your garden and make your own arrangements, if you feel comfortable doing this. Again, please let me know your plans, and I can guide you as to what resources are available for your use at the church.

Thank you so much for your prior and continued generosity. I think we can all agree that the beauty of fresh flowers enhances our worship experience here at St. Michael's.

Marie Lawrence, Altar Flower Coordinator
(802) 257-1494 gotiegoat@yahoo.com

AT ST. MICHAEL'S THIS MONTH

- April 14 – Parish Poets
- April 20 + 21 – Chant Workshop
- April 28 – “Approaching the Scriptures” Workshop
- April 28 + 29 – Mystery Play – “A Mighty Outcry”
- April 29 – Mary’s Send Off

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

APRIL LECTIONARY

APRIL 1:

Isaiah 25: 6-9; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24;
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Mark 16: 1-8

APRIL 8:

Acts 4: 32-35, Psalm 133,
1 John 1: 1 – 2: 2, John 20: 19-31

APRIL 15:

Acts 3: 12-19, Psalm 4,
1 John 3: 1-7, Luke 24: 36b - 48

**APRIL 22:**

Acts 4: 5-12, Psalm 23,
1 John 3: 16-24, John 10: 11-18

APRIL 29:

Acts 8: 26-40, Psalm 22: 24-30,
1 John 4: 7-21, John 15: 1-8

CELEBRATIONS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 2 Becky Anderson
April 3 Callan McDowell
April 7 Neil Montgomery
April 8 Kelli Allen, Ramon Escalera
April 10 Sherry Stimmel
April 11 Peter Johnson, Kurt Johnson
April 12 J. Michael Wilmott, Devin Starlanyl
April 13 Cliff Dempster, Diane Clouet,
Ron Bell, Lyndsay Hesselbach
April 15 Ian McBean, Emily Brown
April 16 Zachary Roesemann, George Connell
April 18 Douglas Switzer
April 21 Jonas Ackerman-Hovis, Samuel Kochinskas
April 22 Marcia Steckler
April 24 Norma Willingham
April 25 Alison Hale



April 27 Susan Heimer, John Daly
April 28 Rich Cogliano
April 29 Marta McBean, Annie Landenberger,
Brian Hesselbach
April 30 Lawrin Crispe, Douglas Bonneville



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

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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 6:00–7:00 a.m., Silent hour in chapel

WEDNESDAYS 12:00–12:30 p.m., Brief service of prayer and Holy Communion

THURSDAYS 5:30–6:30 p.m. Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer

SATURDAYS 8:00 a.m., Centering Prayer