

The Guardian

AUGUST 2018

FROM THE WARDENS

Living Water Flowing!

"To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life"

Revelation 21:6

This summer, water is frequently on my mind. The high temperatures have sent me to the lake and, truth be known, under an occasional sprinkler for cooling and refreshment. While the sounds of the waves lapping at the lake edge or the trickling of a quiet stream evoke a sense of calm and wonder, we are also reminded of the tremendous power of water in the devastation wrought by hurricanes and flooding. Droughts and forest fires as well as the escalating consequences of pollution in our rivers and streams instill the urgency of protecting this precious resource.

Water is essential for life! Water makes up 70% of the human body and 95% of plant mass; oceans hold 96.5% of the Earth's water. Science helps us know the properties and functions of water in the natural world, but never overshadows awe and wonder that water in all its forms evokes. Water not only sustains us, but is an integral part of our spiritual lives. The image of living water flows throughout the Bible; it symbolizes the sacred value of life, the spiritual dimensions of purification, protection and healing, and salvation.

Water's refreshing fluid quality is a symbol of the power of life itself. The image recurs from Genesis to Revelation. We see water as a symbol of God's presence in troublesome times: ...Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink (Exodus 17:6); in spiritual cleansing that comes in the sacrament of Baptism with Holy water and with the acceptance of God's offer of salvation and as a promise of eternal life which God offers through faith in Jesus...The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life (John 4:14). Jeremiah says "Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of water (Jeremiah 17:13).

As water flows through our garden hoses, our streams and rivers, as it quenches our thirst and sustains our lives, we can choose the idea of Water from the Rock to remind us of God's presence in the dry times of our lives and we can use images of the living water of the Holy Spirit to find God's word in our daily lives.

We will never outgrow our need for water. We can all be refreshed by having drink of the living water each day!

Judith McBean (MD)

Your Senior Warden

NEWS OF THE PARISH

**LAST CHANCE: SIGN UP FOR ROCK POINT
DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 4**

Join fellow adventurers from St. Michael's as we spend the day at Rock Point. See what all the fuss is about. Explore the grounds and learn more about the capital campaign for Rock Point sustainability. To read about the campaign, go to www.rockpointvt.org/news-announcements/rock-point-campaign-report.

Or just enjoy the picnic and a swim. It's all possible. Carpooling is available. The signup sheet is in the Common Room. Or contact Deb Jones (251-7404) or Judith McBean (254-6975) with questions.

Schedule for August 4:

- 7:30 - meet at church for carpool to Burlington
- 10:30 - arrive at Rock Point
- 11:00 - Orientation to Rock Point
- 11:30 - Program (TBA)
- 12:00 Eucharist in the Outdoor Chapel
- 12:30 - picnic lunch followed by free time to rest, relax, hike or pray.....
- 3:30-4 - head home
- 7:00 - Arrive home at St Michael's

STM

JESSE RIDGWAY PREACHES ON AUGUST 5

Jesse says "I am a midwife, wife and mother of two (soon to be three in November!). I came to St. Michael's looking for a church home when my son was a baby - about three years ago. I was immediately struck by the welcoming attitude towards my crying baby and my late arrivals. I loved the way children were allowed their own time while

still being integrated into the morning routine. Having been raised in a tradition of 'church,' I have been happy to find a place where I can offer my children the same."

**FROM THE SABBATICAL
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

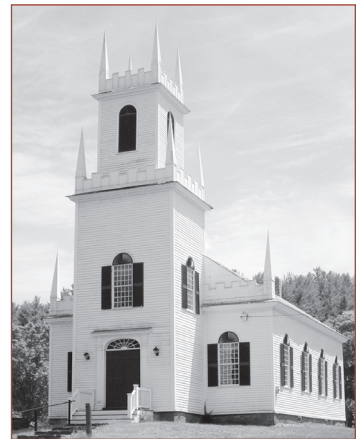
Time moves so quickly! We are coming into the home stretch of Mary's sabbatical, if you can believe it! So far we have had a Saturday Bible Study workshop, a six-session Bible Study group, the Play and Pray Weekend at Hallelujah Farm, a prayer vigil mapped to Mary's time at Snowmass, and four of our seven lay preachers have had the pulpit. We've also had the first of two community breakfasts for the church with another between the services on August 12th. As we come into the final few weeks, the Sabbatical Planning Committee is preparing a short welcoming liturgy to usher Mary back to the chancel on August 26. The Vestry will be sponsoring the Church Picnic that afternoon, and there will be a more formal event reviewing what Mary did on her Sabbatical, what we did, exploring what we all learned and looking forward from what has been a very active last two years.

Christy Fritz, Leigh Marthe, Jeff Lewis

STM

AUGUST AT CHRIST CHURCH

- Sunday August 5, St. Michael's 8 am service will be at Christ Church.
- Sunday August 12, St. Michael's will have an Evening Prayer service at Christ Church, beginning at 5 pm.
- Saturday August 19, Christ Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary with a gala concert and silent auction.



Get your concert tickets now!

NEWS OF THE PARISH

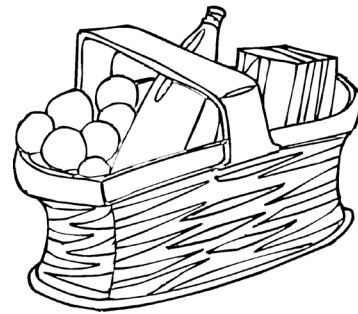
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

AUGUST 4	Rock Point Trip – you can still sign up
AUGUST 5	Jesse Ridgway preaches at 8 + 10:15 8 o'clock service at Christ Church
AUGUST 12	Church Community Breakfast – 9-10 am Evening Prayer at Christ Church, 5 pm
AUGUST 19	Christ Church's 200th anniversary celebration
AUGUST 26	Mary returns from sabbatical Parish Picnic for all, Kate & Dana McGinn's at Spofford Lake
SEPTEMBER 9	Sunday School Open House
SEPTEMBER 28 + 29	Fall Tag Sale
SEPTEMBER 30	St. Michael's Feast Day Lunch for all after 10:15 service Sabbatical Celebration

**aWALKening IN THE MOMENT,
SATURDAY AUGUST 25, 9:15-12:45**

Back again for this annual experience! Meet at St. Michael's and take a three-mile walk, tune into the natural environment, do some "forest bathing," and enjoy an experience of greater mindfulness. Spend precious time with yourself in a supportive small group and explore connectedness to a full range of being. We will walk rain or shine. There may be some uneven terrain on the Retreat trails. Bring drinking water and a snack. A journal and pen are recommended.

Pre-registration is requested as space is limited. Kate Lampel Link, our neighbor on Bradley Avenue, will again lead the WALKshop with Lauren Puzen. They are both trainers and facilitators from Leadership 'N Motion, an international organization. Payment is by donation. Email your questions and registration to info@awalkening.com



**SUNDAY AUGUST 26
MARY'S FIRST SUNDAY BACK
PARISH PICNIC**

On Sunday August 26, we will welcome Mary and family back to St. Michael's after a four-month sabbatical time. Please join us for a celebration at our annual Parish Picnic at Kate & Dana McGinn's beautiful home on Lake Spofford from 12 – 4 pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert and your bathing suit for swimming and outdoor activities. There are also plenty of chairs for porch-sitting. Parking is limited so please carpool if able. All are welcome!

THANK YOU, ST. MICHAEL'S

Thank you, St. Michael's, for your help in putting on the 2018 Peace Camp barn dance. The dance took place on Friday, July 6, with the wonderful Andy Davis leading the dances and teaching them, accompanied by his Dancing Master band. 110 young people were at the camp this year, most from the Governor's Institute on Social Activism -- a State of Vermont program. Some 40 in other SIT programs were from Iraq, Spain, France, and Ireland -- and they loved the dancing!

It was a bit difficult with all the music and with so many people there, but I did learn that their favorite part of the SIT/Governor's Institute experience was talking with each other individually and in the programs' small group discussions. They were cheerful, enthusiastic, willing to try, polite.... And I was very glad that St. Michael's, through Outreach, provided their outhouse and helped with their refreshments. Again, thank you.

Laura Lewis

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SAVE THE DATES - SEPTEMBER 23 - 29 FALL TAG SALE WEEK

The annual Fall Tag Sale at St. Michael's will be on Friday September 28 + Saturday September 29. On Sunday September 23 after the morning services, we will get together to bring out all the collected items to be sold and to begin setting up. Teams will be working through the week to prepare for the Friday evening and Saturday morning sale. We will soon have sign up sheets for volunteers -- it's a great way to meet new people and gain a sense of what this sale means to the community of Brattleboro, as well as to St. Michael's. Lucia Osiecki is in charge; you can contact her at 251-7404 or luciandeb711@aol.com with any questions.



Photo from Community Breakfast on July 15

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

The Quest for Becket's Bones

by John Butler

Yale University Press, New Haven & London 1995

7" x 9" 180 pages

Everyone loves a mystery and this scholarly book concerns the mystery of the relics of Saint Thomas Becket of Canterbury.

A rising star in the church, the Archbishop of Canterbury appointed the young Becket as his Archdeacon. The future king, Henry II, also fell under Becket's spell and appointed him Royal Chancellor upon accession to the crown. Eight years later, the king appointed his friend Archbishop of Canterbury. But from the beginning as Archbishop, it became evident that Becket would defend the authority and jurisdiction of the Church. Inevitably, this would bring him into conflict with what Henry understood as his rights. While in France waging war, Henry in exasperation was overheard to ask aloud would no one rid him of this troublesome priest. The result is well known. Four knights boarded ship and sailed for Canterbury where they murdered Becket with their broad swords on the cathedral's altar steps in December of 1170. Henry was horrified that his intemperate words had been taken literally. Becket's body, buried in the cathedral and canonized in 1173, soon became a destination for pilgrims for centuries to come.

Some four centuries subsequent, Henry VIII, furious that the Pope in Rome would not grant an annulment from Henry's first wife (whose sin was not producing a male heir) so that he could marry Anne Boleyn (who would presumably provide one), assumed for himself leadership of the English church. In 1537, he began the pillage and destruction of Papal monasteries and seizing its properties thereby, incidentally, greatly increasing the crown's wealth. Becket was a particularly sore irritant for he had challenged royal authority. Henry had the shrine in the Canterbury cathedral destroyed and Becket's bones burned and cast to the winds.

Or were they?

Perhaps the cathedral clergy, having been alerted to the approaching destruction, gathered the saint's bones and substituted those of another in their place in the shrine. Of course, this would have required extreme secrecy for, should

the swindle become known to Henry's destroying minions, heads would roll (literally).

Before the shrine was constructed, Becket's body had been interred in the eastern crypt in the cathedral. In 1220, it was removed to the cathedral's newly built shrine. And, as aforementioned, the remains subsequently and presumably were savaged by Henry VIII in 1538.

In 1888, during an archaeological investigation in the eastern crypt (where the saint was first interred), a narrow rude coffin was discovered quite near the surface of the floor and a few yards from the original grave suggesting a hasty and secret burial. Inside was a skull surrounded in an obvious pattern by the bones of the body. The skull had a long, gaping hole in its left rear. Becket had been first stuck from behind while at the altar with a powerful blow from a broad sword. Was this six inch hole the sort of damage incurred from such a blow? The angle seemed to be correct for such a chopping blow to have been struck by a right-handed man. Further, it was known that the saint was a tall man, well over six feet in height (in a day when men typically were a foot shorter). When measured, these were the bones of a man well over six feet tall.

Could this be Becket, hastily buried to avoid the imminent arrival of Henry's troops? Controversy swirled about the discovery for subsequent decades. Strong arguments were put forth, scientifically, archeologically, and historically supporting yea and nay. If, gentle reader, you expect this writer to provide an answer, you are sore mistaken. Read the book and decide for yourself!

RRA

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For several decades of the early to mid-century past, Hildreth Press in the present day Harmony parking lot was the printer for Yale University Press (the publisher of this book). A mail pouch went back and forth nightly between Brattleboro and New Haven. A sign hung over the door stating "Printer to Yale University Press."

NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF JUNE VESTRY MEETING

Following a discussion of the dichotomy of contemporary faith expressions versus church attendance decline, we discussed how our church might need to experience some discomfort in our faith approach in order to move forward. We discussed the amount of new activity in terms of groups meeting during Mary's sabbatical and are eager to see where this new activity leads.

The Treasurer reminded us that the pledge income is low at this time, which is common during the summer months. We would like to encourage parishioners to consider setting up direct payments through their financial institution to help us avoid this seasonal issue. The Treasurer noted that the electric expense has been high recently and we agreed to turn lights off around the church when a room is no longer in use, and encourage parishioners to do the same.

We have a couple of fun events set for August and hope that parishioners will join us for the following:

1. August 4, Trip to Rock Point in Burlington. Carpools are available and we will depart from St. Michael's at 7:30 a.m. for a day of togetherness and spirituality at our own camp in Burlington.
2. August 26, Parish Annual Picnic at the McGinn's home on Lake Spofford. We will be welcoming Mary back from her sabbatical at the picnic as well as enjoying food, fellowship, and hospitality. The picnic goes from approximately 12-4 p.m.

We look forward to spending time at any or all of these meetings and events this summer!

In Christ,

Jeanette Landin

VESTRY

Senior Warden:

Judith McBean, jmcbean1959@gmail.com, 254-6975

Junior Warden:

Carolyn Taylor-Olson,
oltayols@gmail.com, 254-9255

Lynne Billington,
Billington_l@yahoo.com, 380-4309

Janet Brocklehurst,
janetbrocklehurst@gmail.com, 254-9509

John Byrnes,
john.byrnes@webbersupply.com, 254-6457

Imogene Drakes,
idrakes10@gmail.com

Mark Horton,

markhorton078@gmail.com, 251-0565

Jeanette Landin,

renplus2002@yahoo.com, 289-3836

Christopher Wesolowski,
cmwvt@svcable.net, 365-9139

Wayne Cook, Treasurer,

wecooks.alot@gmail.com, 896-9446

Joanne Patalano, Clerk,
joannepatalano@comcast.net, 254-2294

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

AUGUST LECTIONARY

AUGUST 5

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29;
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

AUGUST 12

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8;
Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51



AUGUST 19

Proverbs 9:1-6, Psalm 34:9-14,
Ephesians 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

AUGUST 26

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22;
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

CELEBRATIONS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 2	Caleb Fritz, Noah Coburn
August 8	Julie Laamanen
August 9	Pat Laubach
August 11	Christine Triebert
August 13	Paul Moberly
August 14	Amy Walker
August 16	Louis Ronconi, Erin LeBlanc
August 17	Gregory Lesch
August 18	Avery Buchanan, Mary Carnahan
August 19	Samuel David Mattocks
August 20	Emmanuel Keppel
August 21	Judith McBean
August 22	Janet Brocklehurst
August 25	Meghan Mattocks
August 26	Susan Dedell, Betty Elwell, Grainne Buchanan
August 28	Fred Bump



AUGUST MARRIGES

August 5	Bill & Nancy Ames
August 10	Andy & Elise Burrows
August 20	John & Mary Carnahan, Lawrin & Pam Crispe
August 22	Alan & Judith McBean
August 24	Susan & Paul Dyer
August 25	Christine Hart & Bill Morlock
August 27	Martin & Deborah Leggott
August 30	Vince Johnson & MJ Woodburn
August 31	Ed & Jane Sbardella, Robert & Susan Kochinskas



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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 am, Quiet service of prayer and Holy Communion

10:15 am, Prayer, music, and Holy Communion, with childcare

WEEKDAY MORNINGS

6:00–7:00 am, Silent hour in chapel

WEDNESDAYS

12:00–12:30 pm, Brief service of prayer and Holy Communion

THURSDAYS

5:30–6:00 pm, Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer

SATURDAYS

8:00 - 9:00 am, Centering Prayer