

The Guardian

SEPTEMBER 2018

FROM THE WARDENS

SABBATICAL TIME ENDS: WELCOME BACK MARY!

As your Senior Warden, I have been given the opportunity during this sabbatical time to share some of my musings “above the fold.” I am relieved to tell you that this will be my final installment. We are welcoming Mary and her family back on August 26 (in plenty of time for the next Guardian deadline!)

During the next few months as Mary settles back into life at St. Michael’s, we will have an opportunity to hear from her regarding her time away. We will have time to ask questions: “Was it a time of renewal?”, “What did you learn?”, “What was the best part?”, and “What happened that you did not expect?”

Here at St. Michael’s, we have a tradition of using interim times to reflect deeply and prayerfully on where we have been and what new things God is calling us to do. If asked those same questions, how will we respond? I have included below some excerpts from the proposal to the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program which provided the grant to fund this sabbatical time for Mary and for the parish. The goal of the Lilly program is to strengthen Christian congregations through renewal and reflection. I encourage each of you to take some time for prayerful reflection regarding your own sabbatical time asking the questions “Did we achieve our stated goals?”, “What sustained you during the sabbatical time?”, and “Where do we go next?”

Excerpts from the proposal to the Lilly Endowment:

- *The main purpose of our project is for our pastor, Mary Lindquist, and for our congregation, St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, to engage in practices that help us perceive the new things God is doing in our lives, in the congregation and in the wider community and then to engage in acts of innovation.*

- *We wondered, “Why it is that some ministries feel vital, exciting and urgent while other ministries feel lifeless, dull and burdensome?” The quality that the vital ministries share, we decided, is a sense of newness or freshness. We are, after all, called to be people who proclaim the Good News. And Good News must necessarily be new. But what is newness? Where is “the freshness deep down (in) things?” Through our renewal program, we hope both to perceive newness inwardly and to participate in this newness through acts of innovation.*
- *Living in the least religious state in the union, we are on the cutting edge of exploring what it means to follow Jesus in this particular time and this place. We ask, “What is the new thing God is doing both within and outside the church walls?”*
- *We know the way this Good News is experienced will not necessarily look like church on Sunday morning.... Vermont is aging and we with it. This demographic change, coupled with the growing population of those unaffiliated with any faith community, gives us the stimulus to set ourselves the task of discerning what our ministry should be, not only to ourselves, but to those who are not here yet. We want to enter the coming time looking at “deep down things” with open minds and hearts, a clear sense of mission, and a flexible faith.*
- *We are a strong, faithful, growing congregation with wide-ranging faith practices from social action and justice to a robust contemplative group. If there is one theme that defines the congregation it is this—the ability to jointly share the journey of discernment and then to act. The renewal time will provide our congregation another opportunity for focused discernment that will inform and guide our ministry in the future.*

In Faith,
Judith McBean (MD)
 Your Senior Warden

Behold, I am making all things new.

- Revelation 21:5

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear St. Michael's,

I'm writing you in mid-August and we have just recently returned from our 7-week adventure in Europe. So much has happened in the 4 months I have been away that it is hard to sum up in any satisfying way, but rest assured that my time away was very rich and life-giving. There were many surprises and discoveries along the way and I'm looking forward to sharing my/our experience of this Sabbath time with you and hear about all that the Spirit has been up to at St. Michael's during these last few months.

We are planning an important gathering and celebration on Sunday, September 30 (St. Michael's Day) for reflection and sharing, so please mark your calendars and make every effort to be there. I will also be leading the Adult Forum on Sunday, September 23 with my family so that we can share some photos and stories with you about our time in Europe and my time in Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico.

I'm so grateful for all your support and prayers during this special time. We missed St. Michael's a great deal and can't wait to see you again!

Yours in Christ,

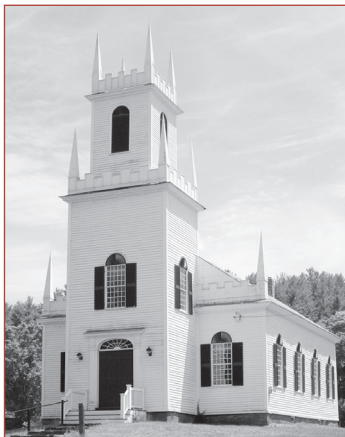
Mary



NEWS OF THE PARISH

8 AM SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH ON SEPTEMBER 2

On the first Sunday in September, we will have the 8 o'clock service at Christ Church, our mother church in Guilford. Come enjoy the peace of Christ Church for the early service.



SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 9:15-10 AM

September 9 marks the beginning of our program year at St. Michael's! On that day between 9:15 am and 10 am, there will be an Open House for parishioners, kids, parents and all who are interested in supporting and participating in St. Michael's ministry for children and youth. Come check out Godly Play, Youth Forum, Choir School and more! There will be food, an art project for kids, play, a bouncy house and balloons. Invite your friends who have children to come and check it out. We will also be commissioning and praying for the teachers and leaders during the 10:15 am liturgy. Please join us for this special day!

NEWS OF THE PARISH

THE GOSPEL THROUGH GODLY PLAY

Do you know that the American tradition of Sunday school began as a way to teach reading and writing to young people who otherwise had to work six days a week? Nowadays, children learn to read in school but where do they learn the stories of the Bible, where do they get to wonder about God and Jesus? Here at St. Michael's in Godly Play - that's where.

Godly Play is one way our young people hear biblical stories. They can come at the age of three and are welcome at any age - until they prefer to be in church. A storyteller tells a story using props for illustration. There is one story per Sunday in concert with the liturgical season. The stories are supplied by the Godly Play Foundation and are carefully crafted to be age appropriate and open ended. At the end of the story, the children are encouraged to wonder about the story and themselves. They then respond with art or by playing with the props.

Godly Play happens during the first part of the 10:15 service. Children gather upstairs opposite the Godly Play room to settle down and prepare. One by one, each child is introduced to the room and the storyteller who is waiting. Once everyone is ready, the story is told. Every story begins "Watch carefully so you will know where to go to find the story" as the storyteller walks to collect the props for that story. Each story has its own place. After the story, the children have response time until summoned to join the congregation at the Peace so that families can have Eucharist together. Parents are welcome to come to Godly Play with their children, especially the first times.

The Doorkeeper role is one of assistant to the Storyteller. Besides introducing each child, they note attendance and are generally a helper. The Storyteller memorizes (or has a way of reading it without being too obvious) the story and tells it. It is not a performance. The children love the stories.

Maybe you might be interested in helping by becoming a doorkeeper or a storyteller? **There will be a planning meeting on September 9, about 15 minutes after the coffee hour begins.** We will meet upstairs opposite the Godly Play room. Questions? Ask Christy Fritz, Susan Heimer, or Annamarie Pluhar.

SEPTEMBER 12 DISCIPLESHIP GROUP GATHERING AND POTLUCK ALL ARE WELCOME

Members of a discipleship group and anyone from the parish and beyond are welcome to come on Wednesday September 12 from 6:00-8:00 at the church to discuss how to move forward with the small group ministry, collectively and as individual groups. Over the summer, some of the discipleship groups continued to meet while others took a hiatus. This evening is the chance to reconnect and plan with people in your group or consider joining a group for a season. The arc of the evening will be enjoying a potluck meal, praying together, groups gathering individually to discuss if and how they want to move forward into the fall and beyond, and updates across groups. Childcare will be available.

STM

SEPTEMBER FORUMS

All are welcome at the Forums which are held each Sunday from September through May at 9 am in the Meeting Room. The Forum discussions are all connected to our context of a Christian faith community and ask the questions "How does this connect to our faith?" or "So what?" Forum leaders are our own clergy, our parishioners, and an occasional guest speaker. Please join us on Sunday mornings. The Forums for the fall season begin on September 16.

- **September 16** – "Discipleship and Discernment Ministry – Year 2": Join the leaders of the Discipleship and Discernment Ministry in a conversation about the direction of the ministry for the coming year. Hear how the six small groups are moving forward and what the leadership team is discerning about God's call beyond and within the walls of the church. There will be a brief presentation and lots of time for discussion.
- **September 23** – "Photos and Stories from Sabbatical": Come join the Lindquist/Johnson family as they share some photos and stories from their time in Europe and Mary's time in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico.
- **September 30** -- TBA

NEWS OF THE PARISH

POETRY WORKSHOP BEGINS AGAIN**Wednesday September 26, 7-8 pm**

The Poetry Workshop led by parishioner Megan Buchanan will begin its fall season on Wednesday, September 26. The workshop begins at 7 pm in the Library of St. Michael's. The open-to-all workshop, which Megan has offered for six years, usually meets once a month. Contact Megan at mbuchanan@hotmail.com or 802-258-9052.

STM

SPECIAL SUNDAY FOR SABBATICAL CELEBRATION & STORYTELLING**ST MICHAEL'S FEAST DAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

On Sunday September 30, we will celebrate a special liturgy in honor of St. Michael's Feast Day. After the 10:15 service, we will have a congregational lunch and reflect on all that has happened during the sabbatical renewal time both for the congregation and for Mary.

COFFEE HOUR IS COMING!

Please Consider Joining the Coffee Prep Team! This is a wonderfully meditative service position where you can be the first to arrive on Sunday Morning and set up for Coffee Hour.

This is an important and welcoming ministry in our Parish Life. With a full team you would be on deck just every 4-6 weeks. If you have not done it before we offer full training and support! If you love Coffee Hour but not hosting or baking this is an ideal spot for YOU!

Please contact Deb Jones ASAP to sign up (802) 251-7404.

**Education for Ministry (EfM)**

This note is from Anne WS Montgomery who, along with Sherry Stimmel and Janet Cramer, graduated from EfM in June.

"I finally completed my tenth year of this amazing four-year course. The time has come for me to move on to another such incredible course (if I can find one)!"

Thomas J. Brown asked me to join EFM in 2003 or 2004 - I cannot remember! I told him I never had any intention of presuming to be a minister, but then learned that the course did not serve to recruit ministers. Instead, its goal was to teach the individual how to use his/her gifts to be part of a church, in this case the Episcopalian community. "Go out," said EFM, and "serve." I have tried.

Joel Goodrich Hill, St. Michael's Deacon, served as my mentor for my first 'degree' and left the program (not willingly but unable to continue due to illness) in the capable hands of several mentors. One of these was Linda Rice who led us these past four years, and more.

What EFM taught me was love: of one's community, for one's fellow parishioners, and of the teachings of Jesus. Additionally, it served as a major historical and cultural study of the rise of Christianity along with its multitude of adaptations over the centuries. It also taught me not to judge. In this class I learned camaraderie, caring, community importance, and, most of all to live my life with joy."

NEWS OF THE PARISH

FALL TAG SALE

This fall, our tag sale will be just a wee bit earlier than usual. The sale will be held Friday evening, September 28, and Saturday morning, September 29. We will have the sale during the usual hours. I thought about rearranging the hours, but Friday 5-8 and Saturday 9-12 seem to fit the schedules of those involved.

DONATIONS WILL BE CLOSED AS OF SEPTEMBER 9. We have been collecting donations since the day after the spring sale finished, and are about filled to capacity for the fall sale. There is just no room to store it all! Thank you for bringing it all in. I will also post notices on the closet doors.

FURNITURE DONATIONS MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH SEPTEMBER 24- 28. We will have room in the rectory garage beginning September 23 until the actual sale. If there are items that you cannot bring in, let me know and I can see if I can arrange a pick up for you.

As Anne Cook so aptly said in the spring, the sale is a tremendous help to our community and the church. It would be great to see this venture continue, but it will need to be under new leadership, or thought about in a different way. This will be the final sale that I will chair. It has been a wonderful service in faith, in SO many ways, and I have enjoyed doing it, but it is time to pass the baton.

SCHEDULE:

- September 23 -- HAUL OUT SUNDAY all donations in the closets, on the stage and tucked away here and there will be brought out to the undercroft. This will begin at 9am
- September 24 – 28 unpacking, arranging and pricing of donations
- September 28 -- tent set up outdoors and furniture brought out from garage. Tent sale will begin about 3 pm and inside sale will begin at 5 pm. Sale closes at 7:30 pm
- September 29 -- sale 9 am – 12 noon, then clean up.

There will be sign up sheets for the week in the Common Room the beginning of September. I hope to see some new faces, and of course I will be happy to see our “regulars” too.

Thanks again. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Lucia Osiecki

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

“WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER” DUNCAN HILTON

On Monday June 11, I drove from Brattleboro to Erie, PA in order to work at a L’Arche community for two months. L’Arche is an ecumenical, international network of 147 communities in 35 countries that “provide homes and workplaces where people with and without intellectual disabilities live and work together as peers; create inclusive communities of faith and friendship; and transform society through relationships that cross social boundaries” (www.larche.org). The L’Arche community in Erie, PA has seven homes spread across the city where people with disabilities (“core members”) and people without disabilities (“assistants”) live and work. I write this two days before I officially return to St Michael’s on August 19. Knowing that I won’t have a chance to speak with everyone at St Michael’s in depth about my two months with L’Arche, I wanted to share in writing about some of my experiences.

Why did you go to L’Arche Erie in the first place?

Ever since I spent two years in Ireland right after college in a Camphill Community, an organization similar to L’Arche, I’ve had some sense that the working with people with disabilities in Christian community is part of my vocation. In Ireland the community was on a farm. I was sitting down to eat three meals a day and saying grace beforehand, milking a cow and learning to garden, belting out Irish ballads with a man with Down Syndrome after only having played guitar alone in my room. After many years of competing for grades and sports, I had a sense that I was more fully myself and who God intended me to be in this type of community. But I also had a sense that I was called to ordained ministry, and so I turned from the calling and headed to divinity school.

Throughout my years at divinity school and doing community organizing and training with the Episcopal Church, there were moments where I felt like God was tapping me on the shoulder and saying, “Hey, don’t forget about this work I planted on your heart.” There was no Camphill in the Boston area but I had read about L’Arche and I visited the community just north of Boston. They welcomed me on a night that was also a baby shower for two assistants. There was cake and dancing

and people of all abilities singing together. I remember thinking, “If I ever marry and have a child, this is how I’d want to celebrate.” A major element to my conversion to the Episcopal Church was visiting a parish in Watertown, MA hearing the prayers of an intellectually disabled blind man, Dean, who spoke the prayers and sang the hymns a few seconds behind the congregation. I loved hearing him and I loved watching others wheel him to the altar for communion. I was sold on that parish. At my seminarian internship at the Cathedral in Springfield MA, one of the most joyful moments was the music of Manny, a man with cerebral palsy who joyfully played the tambourine with the church choir. On Christmas Eve, someone recruited him to be a Wise Man for the pageant. My favorite photo from that year is Manny in his wheelchair before the altar in a gold-speckled crown, purple robe, hands folded on his lap, looking solemn and dignified between the two other smiling wise men.

As I moved to Vermont and spent the year studying for ordination exams, working at Hallelujah Farm, and working part-time for Families First, the taps on my shoulder from God didn’t stop. I kept turning to God and saying, “I don’t have time for this. If you want me to be a priest, you’ll have to wait.” In Lent this year, shortly following my ordination to the priesthood, I was preparing for an annual confession and realized that my argument no longer worked. After talking with Mary about the possibility of being away for the summer, I reached out to L’Arche’s National Director about spending a summer at L’Arche to learn more about the organization and to reconnect to the work with an openness to exploring starting a community in southern Vermont. He invited me to Erie for the summer.

What was life like at L’Arche in Erie?

As a summer assistant I was given a guest room in the basement of Serenity House, a suburban ranch house that was also the home of four core members – Dana, Patrick, Cliff, and Jay. The assistants at Serenity House are “live-out” – they have families and homes outside of L’Arche and assist at Serenity House in shifts. My daily routine was to wake up and have a coffee and Cheerios

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

“WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER” con’t

breakfast with the core members. Most of them participate in day programs in the city that are coordinated by other organizations. Later in the morning, I would drive to the gym and work-out (I haven’t gone to the gym regularly since college. It felt great), eat lunch (Wegmans supermarket has a great salad bar), and spend a few hours at the library reading and writing (I savored the time and mental space to focus on trying to improve my writing). I would then go to Journey Home, just a few blocks from Serenity, for shifts that ranged in length from four to eleven hours and added up to 40 hours a week. Journey is the home of four core members: Bob, Linda, Richard, and Sarah. Connie is a live-in assistant (her bedroom was at the far end of the house) who has been at L’Arche or over thirty years. Weekday routines in the afternoon included helping to prepare meals, bowling on the Nintendo with core members, and just chatting on the couch in the living room. Most of the core members had limited verbal abilities. Their favorite topics were discussing what we had all eaten that day and their favorite television shows which ranged from “Mr. Rogers” to “The Price is Right” to “All in the Family” with Archie Bunker.

Visitors often came for dinner including the pastor of the local Presbyterian Church which Linda has been attending for decades; Fr. George Strohmeier, a retired Catholic Priest and the co-founder of L’Arche Erie in 1972; family and friends of core members; and retired assistants. After dinner, core members helped with washing dishes and cleaning the dining room before watching their evening television shows. Assistants helped with medications, bedtime preparations, and keeping up with the paperwork required by the state.

Prayer and worship were woven into the daily and weekly routine. The community prayed before and after meals. Twice a week after dinner, Richard gathered intercessory prayers from others in the house to share with a prayer partner over the telephone. On Fridays the seven L’Arche homes would gather at the Hearth, the central office building off a four-lane street in a single story cement building next to a pizza shop and across from a Harley Davidson dealer. Worship was a group

lectio divina practice of sorts that included reflection on a scripture, singing, and intercessory prayers. On Saturdays Journey House often went to a Eucharist service at the House of Prayer, a Sisters of Mercy community in downtown Erie. On Sundays three of the core members in Journey along with assistants went to a Catholic Church (we went to four different parishes while I was there depending on the priest who might be presiding, proximity, and air conditioning preferences) while Linda went to a Presbyterian Church (the Protestant churches were often preferred by core members and assistants for having coffee and snacks). On Sunday afternoon Father George came and led a 20-minute quiet meditation session with everyone in Journey Home.

What stood out from your time there?

Some of my favorite moments were of the community in worship – Sarah getting up and shimmying during the Lord’s Prayer in front of a circle of people; Bob greeting strangers after worship with an embrace so wide that you’d think they were long-lost friends; all of Journey House gathering around Richard, the quietest member of the house, as he worked through “Old Rugged Cross” on piano and singing along. Each night Linda soaked her feet in the living room in a basin of warm water with mineral oils. Even more than having her feet soaked, she seemed to enjoy checking in me with me when we greeted each other, “Will you soak my feet?”

Parts of the work were harder than I remembered. Along with intellectual disabilities, some of the core members had behavioral issues that could occasionally lead to physical conflict. Intervening effectively was taxing mentally and emotionally.

Erie is not Vermont. Like nearby rust-belt cities of Cleveland and Buffalo (they prefer the descriptor “robust-belt” in Erie), the city has shrunk in population in the last fifty years. There are empty factory buildings downtown and a sense of some people that maybe Erie’s best days are behind it. And yet, Lake Erie is now cleaner than it was during its industrial heyday and the economy is vibrant with low unemployment. The only national newspapers at the library were the USA Today and the Wall Street

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“WHAT I DID THIS SUMMER” con’t

Journal. Most people hadn’t heard of the Episcopal Church and were surprised to hear that the senior minister of my church back home was a woman. The equivalent road in Erie to Brattleboro’s Putney Road extends for miles. At Journey Home the weekend was celebrated with fast food take-out and watching “Lassie” re-runs. I ate more Arby’s roast beef and Pop Eye’s chicken in two months than I have in a lifetime.

Did your time away change you or your thinking about your ministry at St Michael’s?

Over the summer John Daly kindly added an oven and cabinets to the kitchen of the apartment where I live. In the process of remodeling, many of my belongings had to be moved. John checked in with me about how to put things back. I let him know that I was glad to do it, that I wanted to take a few days to think about where things go and what maybe to let go of. I feel similarly about returning to St Michael’s. I’m eager to hear about what has surfaced for the church and Mary during her sabbatical and to share more about my time in Pennsylvania. The leadership team of the discipleship ministry will be doing visioning and planning over the coming weeks in conversation with the wider parish.

I didn’t have any grand epiphanies, but I do feel more committed to this corner of the world than ever. And I know more clearly than ever that the heart of my priesthood is worship with those on the margins, even if the music is out of tune or the prayers a few seconds off-beat. That’s the type of community that opened my heart and converted me. If part of being a Christian is being able to share the faith with others, that’s the part of the faith that I can share most authentically. No doubt that already happens at St Michael’s and there are many ways to continue to do that.

It doesn’t feel as if turning to God to answer his insistent invitations about this work conflicts with being a priest at St Michael’s. Father George said that being a priest in L’Arche is a “vocation within a vocation.” Through all his years at L’Arche, he continued to teach and work at Gannon, the local Catholic university, and preside at



masses at local parishes. In fact, given that the majority of church positions in Vermont are part-time, having vocational interests beyond parish priesthood seems more practical than problematic.

How will you stay connected to L’Arche going forward?

At the end of my time in Erie I spoke with the National Director again about steps for exploring starting a L’Arche community in Vermont. The first step, he said, is to find other people interested in L’Arche – people of differing abilities and backgrounds - and begin learning more about L’Arche through books and connecting with local communities. “It takes a community to start a community.” And it takes years. I feel open to talking with people at St Michael’s and beyond to see if there is energy for that locally. I’m excited to share what I learned and then discern in community God’s next step.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

The Road to Canterbury: A Modern Pilgrimage

by Shirley Du Boulay

Morehouse Publishing Harrisburg Pennsylvania 1994

5 x 8 1/4, 225 pages

When in the 1980's Margaret Thatcher replaced the misery of decades of socialism with the shining prosperity of capitalism, one of the by-products of this bright new dawning was that women, for the first time, began to drive automobiles. The highways, roads and lanes which heretofore had been passable suddenly became clogged with irritable and doubled new traffic. Furthermore, the inherent class structure reasserted itself on the byways: nasty proletarian Mini's were deplored by rural Land Rovers and suburban Vauxhalls and sneering, superior Jaguars despised the lot. Soon the enchanting countryside which was supremely suited for the music of the hounds and the calls of the hunting horn was blighted by the fumes, filth, noise, and ugliness that constitute motoring today.

It is across this countryside that the author proposed to wend her way by foot from the cathedral town of Winchester in the southern county of Hampshire to Canterbury Cathedral one hundred and thirty miles distant in the eastern county of Kent. This has been a historical pilgrimage since the days of the Canterbury Tales (whose pilgrims trekked from London rather than Winchester). Recall that it was in 1172 that Henry II's knights slaughtered that troublesome priest Archbishop Thomas Becket on the cathedral's altar steps and, in doing so, initiated one of the world's best known pilgrimages.

The author, a widow of late middle age, was ill-prepared for a one hundred and thirty mile hike. She was not physically fit nor had she any previous inclination to walk whenever she could ride. Further, she was not sure of her motivation: was the point the journey or was it the arrival or perhaps was it both? Or was it a search—but a search for what?

She organized a group of four kindred female souls for the journey, one of whom drove a car carrying their luggage from night's rest to night's rest. Relieved of transporting

their belongings, they could concentrate on the lovely rural countryside (sadly bisected by roaring motorways) through which they passed as well as upon their blisters, back spasms, sore muscles, and strained ligaments. The month was May when the landscape is at its jolliest, but the English weather is inclined to chilly dampness even in such a merry month (the English claim the best antidote to promiscuity is their weather). Unanticipated showers interspersed with dismal periods of rain dampened not only their hiking boots but also their ambition. But they persevered for the English are a stubborn race. Only a stubborn race could eat their wretched food.

Across the North Downs stopping to inspect ancient parish churches, hill forts, and burial mounds and through stockbroker's Surrey into the land of Kentish Men and onward to the land of the Men of Kent they trudged. What is the point of pilgrimage the footsore author asked herself. Was it the challenge or was it devotion to Becket or sheer masochism? Or was it that the ample discomforts of the journey somehow revealed something of an inner journey of faith? Regrettably, the author never seems to come to a conclusion and plods on.

Finally, the spires of the cathedral come into view from a hilltop and the author descends to cross a hectic four lane motorway and thence straggle into the town. The proper entrance to the cathedral was closed for construction and as always crowds of gawking tourists infested the building and the grounds rendering any hope of quiet contemplation near impossible. The shrine to the saint, she discovered, was savaged and destroyed by Henry VIII but a small altar remains dedicated to the saint where he fell.

The author's summation of the pilgrimage is inconclusive. She had no regrets but neither had she a brilliant spiritual revelation. In life she concludes, as in a pilgrimage, one merely plods on.

RRA

NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF AUGUST 16 MEETING OF THE VESTRY

The Vestry met on Thursday evening 8/16.

The Vestry members continued our renewal discussion about what the work of the Vestry could be for the balance of the year. This discussion with everyone contributing was facilitated by Rev. Jean Smith.

Opening prayer was offered by Judith.

Thank you note cards were sent to Rev. Jean Smith and Rev. Philip Wilson for their guidance and support to the Vestry and the parish during the sabbatical time; to Deb, Lucia, Cary and Christopher for their contributions to a successful outing and fellowship at Rock Point.

For the Sabbatical Committee, Christy Fritz gave a summary and overview of the past four months. She and the Committee were given a round of applause.

Wayne reviewed financial updates. YTD income is 98.2% of budget, and YTD expenses are 97.4 % of budget. The annual audit was presented and unanimously approved. A plan of correction for deficiencies was also approved with thanks to the Audit Committee of Jack Lilly, Jeanette Landin, and Bruce Lawrence.

Judith noted the Vestry gathering on September 9 at her house. The Parish Picnic is on Mary's first Sunday back, August 26. Jeanette is coordinating the event.

The Closing prayer was offered by Imogene.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Taylor-Olson, Jr.
Warden



VESTRY

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EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

SEPTEMBER LECTIONARY

September 2

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15;
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-10,
[11-13], 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 16

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

**September 23**

Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54;
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

September 30

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

CELEBRATIONS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 3 Thad Bennett
September 4 Jacki Capponcelli
September 6 Ricky Davidson
September 9 Sarah Benton
September 11 Grace Xinqi Willingham
September 12 Margit Lilly
September 13 Iris Mayer
September 14 Kyle Capponcelli
September 15 Calvin Ronconi
September 16 Eleanor Horton
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
September 25 Scott McElhinney
September 28 Corwin Elwell
September 30 Mary McCarthy



SEPTEMBER MARRIGES

September 3 Christine Triebert & Carol Ross
September 4 Becky & Robert Anderson
September 5 Alix & Michael Fedoruk
September 10 Betsy Bates & Neil Quinn,
Kate & Andrew LeBlanc
September 11 Julie & Richard Cogliano
September 14 Judy & Jack Davidson
September 16 Margit & Jack Lilly
September 20 Marie & Bruce Lawrence
September 28 Judy & Bob Walker



The Guardian is published monthly by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. News items, announcements, articles, etc., should be submitted to jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org by the 15th of the month for consideration.

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