

The Guardian

OCTOBER 2018

FROM THE RECTORY

SURPRISES FROM SABBATICAL

There is no way for me to sum up my sabbatical time in one newsletter article, so I thought I would share with you just a few surprises from sabbatical.

Time is truly relative. Einstein was right! The first month of sabbatical, I spent by myself out west doing retreats in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. Being by myself with no one else to take care of was such an extreme contrast from my regular life and routines that it felt like time slowed down and every day was a new adventure. By the time I returned to Vermont, I felt as if I had been away for a year, not a month. Now that I am back to my routines of church, family, school, time seems to be racing by.

Being Here Now is always challenging. Even with no responsibilities, the practice of remaining in the present moment (and aware of God's presence) is truly challenging. I had assumed that stepping away from responsibilities and busyness would free my mind up and bring ease to this practice, but my mind was endlessly creative with its thoughts...I wonder what we will have for breakfast today? I love this place, how can I come back? Where shall I hike today? I can't believe how tame the deer are, which reminds me of that time I almost hit a deer on my bicycle....and on and on. I learned to temper my frustration and just be humored by how clever my mind was in keeping me from being here now.

The monk is an archetype. I saw more monasteries than I could count. I stayed in monasteries out west and I visited countless monasteries in Eu-

rope. I've always been fascinated by monastic life and it was interesting to reflect on the rise and decline of monasticism in the west. This really hit home while biking around Lake Constance (through Germany, Switzerland and Austria) where there seemed to be an old, vacant monastery in every town. It was sad to me to see the monasteries empty, but one of the monks at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass said that he thought there would always be monasteries and monks even if this way of life seems to be dying out. "The monk is an archetype," he said.

Being a tourist is hard work. No one likes to be thought of as a tourist, but that is essentially what we were during our seven weeks in Europe, so we decided to embrace it. In many ways it was wonderful to experience so many new-to-us things in Europe—castles, museums, monasteries, churches, funiculars, metros, trains and exotic food. But in other ways, it was tiring and difficult to have to make so many decisions every day, especially as a family. Not all of us wanted to see another Gaudi architectural wonder, nor did we always agree on the best way to reach our destinations. And while goose liver and truffles are supposed to be amazing, the kids mostly just wanted simple food like macaroni and cheese, which is hard to find in Europe!



Prehistory, apes and innovation are not unrelated. Part of the focus of the sabbatical grant I wrote had to do with the themes of newness and innovation. While I did study the architecture and life of Antonio Gaudi, a great architectural innovator, I didn't

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SURPRISES FROM SABBATICAL con't

expect that I would be so immersed and drawn to the prehistoric history that was so present in Europe. We visited the ancient cave paintings at Lascaux, the reconstructed Stone age stilt houses near Lake Constance and the Museum of the University of Tübingen which holds small carvings from the tusks of mammoths over 30,000 years old. Thinking of time over so many thousands of years really expanded my sense of our particular place in history and made Christian history seem pretty short in comparison.

We also lived quite near the Barcelona Zoo for four weeks. Since we became members of the zoo, we could visit the animals every day, which was fantastic. I especially loved the apes, gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans, who were so human-like and who made me wonder about the evolution of our species, the homo sapiens, or as some say, the homo sapiens sapiens, the man who knows he knows.

We can live without screen time. One of our rules for the kids in Europe was NO SCREEN TIME. I thought that it was going to be a struggle to maintain this rule, or at least difficult to adapt to for the kids, but it wasn't. At all. Once they were clear about the boundaries, there was a



little griping, but they found other things to do: reading, walking around, swimming, going to the zoo, puzzles and games, feeding the pigeons, drawing pictures, and spending time with their aging parents.

Another surprise? The kids missed a lot of things about home, but one of the main things they missed was church, our church, where they know and love people and they are known and loved. What a blessing it is to know this and to be able to return to our loving church community!

NEWS OF THE PARISH

ST. FRANCIS DAY BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

All people, creatures and critters are invited to a special celebration in thanksgiving of our pets and animals!

When: Sunday, October 7, 2018, 4 pm

Where: The Brattleboro Common (Rain venue: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 16 Bradley Avenue)

What: A brief time of music, readings and prayer, followed by a time of blessing each pet.

Who: You, your pet or a picture of your pet, or a stuffed animal, plus your animal-loving friends and neighbors!



NEWS OF THE PARISH

EVER ANCIENT, EVER NEW

Ever Ancient, Ever New is the theme of our stewardship season this year. This theme comes out of a recognition that the faith we are trying to live is both ancient in its origin and roots and ever new as we discern how to live it out in this time and place.

If you are and have been supported in your life in Christ at St. Michael's, if you are nourished by people willing to struggle together over how to be faithful in a broken world, if you are excited by the direction we are called to go as a community of faith, we ask for your financial support. In this Body of Christ called St. Michael's, we are dependent on one another's help, offerings and contributions to continue to thrive, to dig deeply, to reflect Christ's love in this place and time.

Our intentional focus on stewardship will begin on Sunday, October 21. During this time, you will be sent a packet of materials asking you to prayerfully make a pledge to St. Michael's for 2019. We ask you to return your pledge card to St. Michael's on Commitment Sunday, November 11 during the 8 am or 10:15 am service, or to mail your pledge card to St. Michael's if you cannot attend these services.

We thank you for your generosity to our common ministry. May we continue to deepen our love for God, for one another and for this world through our commitment to the ministry that God has given us.

**EXPLORING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CLASS BEGINS OCTOBER 2**

Beginning Tuesday, October 2, Mary Lindquist will offer a five-session class about the Episcopal Church (October 2, 16 & 30, November 13 & 27). The class will meet Tuesday evenings, 5-6:15 pm in the Meeting Room. In this class, we will explore the history, theology and spirituality of the Episcopal Church and the Christian faith in general.

The class is open to anyone interested in learning more about how the Episcopal Church lives out its Christian faith. Although the class is especially suited for those seeking to be baptized, confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church, it is open to all who want to brush up on their knowledge or those who are just curious. Those who wished to be confirmed will have the opportunity when Bishop Tom Ely visits St. Michael's on the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2019.

Please email Mary if you are interested in attending at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org or call the church office at 254-6048 or sign up in the Meeting Room. Also, let Mary know if you are interested in this class, but the timing does not work for you, as we may be able to change the day or time.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR YOUTH BEGINS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9**

Youth interested in the possibility of being confirmed in the Episcopal Church are invited to attend a class with Mary Lindquist on five Tuesday evenings this fall on October 9 + 23, November 6 + November 20 (or a make-up date), and December 4 from 5:30-6:45 pm. This schedule accommodates youth who are in the Teen Discipleship Group on the other Tuesday evenings. We generally recommend that youth be at least in 7th Grade before becoming confirmed as it is meant to be "a mature affirmation of faith." Please contact Mary Lindquist if you are interested in attending this class at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION AND REAFFIRMATION

Bishop of Vermont, Thomas Ely, will visit St. Michael's on Sunday, January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. At that time, he will offer the sacramental rite of Confirmation. If you are interested in being confirmed, received, or reaffirming your baptismal vows, please enroll in the class "Exploring the Episcopal Church" (see above). Below is a description of the differences between Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation.

Confirmation: Baptism is the ancient entry rite into the Church, which is also called "the Body of Christ." In Baptism, we affirm that we belong to the God who is made known to us in Jesus, and we promise (or, promises are made for us, if we are infants) to live our lives in accordance with this deepest truth about who we are and whose we are. Confirmation in the Episcopal Church is a sacramental rite in which a baptized person makes a mature and public affirmation of the promises that are normally made at Baptism. After making these affirmations, the Bishop lays hands on the candidate and prays a prayer of confirmation.

Reception: Reception is a formal welcome into the Episcopal Church by a bishop for those who have already been confirmed in the Roman Catholic or Orthodox Church.

Reaffirmation: Reaffirmation is for people who are already confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Some people presented to the bishop during the service of Confirmation are there to "reaffirm" their Christian vows. These might be people who have been away from the church for a period of time and want to make a new beginning. Others might be people who sense that they are at a new stage in their spiritual life and want to affirm this in ritual. Periodically, a spouse or fiancé who is already a Confirmed Episcopalian will go through Reaffirmation, as a way of honoring his or her partner's decision to become a Confirmed Episcopalian, saying in effect, "We are in this together." We all go through many changes in our life's journey, and reaffirmation provides a rite for those who want to take stock of their religious and spiritual life anew.

FORUMS FOR OCTOBER 2018

October 7 – KIPLING IN BRATTLEBORO with Bob Anderson: "In February of 1892, Rudyard Kipling arrived at the train station in Brattleboro, Vermont with great expectation. Arguably, he was the foremost celebrity in the English-speaking world. Four years later, in August of 1896, he departed from the same station in deep humiliation and amidst an appalling international scandal never to return to America. In 1937, a parishioner of our church learned first-hand the reason for the abrupt departure that had sparked world-wide fascination. The Adult Forum of October 7th will reveal the true story of this sensational incident. Should time permit, I will declaim Kipling's poem "The Betrothed" in which is found the most famous couplet in all of English literature. Come and enjoy! RRA"

October 14 – WATER PART 2 with Bill Ames: "This time we will be talking about salt water, specifically with reference to Southeast Asia and Bangladesh. Protein

diets are based on fish, and the fish population in the ocean is close to expiring. This puts approximately 650 million people at risk. Without sufficient land mass to grow substitute protein, there is no alternate protein source for these people."

October 21 – THE MANY FACES OF JESUS with Phillip Wilson. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins.

October 28 – HERBALISM IN THE BIBLE, AN ASPECT OF DIVINE CREATION: PLANT ALLIES with Dianne Clouet: "The Bible is filled with references to plants used for food, healing and soothing. Full use of the natural world created by God seems understandable for the ancient world. Yet this delightful spread of the herbal cornucopia exists around us still, in the most prosaic of outdoor settings. Come and learn about some common simple herbs, their locations and their possibilities for use today."

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

**SOMETHING AMAZING IS HAPPENING ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 4:30 PM!**

St. Michael's fantastic choir and members of the Choir School, joined by some wonderful adjunct singers, will be singing Paul Winter's Missa Gaia at the Retreat Farm as the concluding event of their Fall Festival! We will be bringing the joyful Spirit into the community in celebration and thanksgiving for the earth and all of its wonderful bounty. We'll be joined by the incredible band of Steve Rice, percussion; Don Baldini, electric bass; and Bruce Diehl, soprano sax, with special guest appearances by the animals of the Retreat Farm and poet/dairyman Ross Thurber. The program lasts under an hour and is co-sponsored by the Retreat Farm and Winged Productions. Tickets are \$12/\$5, and are available online or at the door.

Please make plans to be there! You will leave with your hearts uplifted and your support will mean a lot to our choir.

**WAVE OF LIGHT SERVICE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 7- 8 PM,
THE CHAPEL**

The subject of a child lost – especially those lost in miscarriage, stillbirth or to neonatal complications -- may feel taboo, making it difficult to grieve. On October 15 we at St. Michael's will join with people around the world to mark the day with a Wave of Light. Around the globe, candles and sometimes whole buildings are lit for one hour beginning at 7 pm local time to create a wave of light, illuminating and honoring the lives of children who have died and the grief of those who have loved them. All are welcome at this service - those who have lost a child of any age and those who wish to support others in their grief. The service will be about an hour long and include candlelight, song, sharing from the heart, and prayer. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Megan Buchanan (mbuchanan@hotmail.com) or Rosie Wojcik (rosmarinus@earthlink.net).

**YOU ARE INVITED TO HEAR PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY
PREACH ON OCTOBER 21**

On Sunday, October 21 there is an Episcopal Revival coming to Massachusetts! Free tickets are available but must be procured because seating is limited. The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop and Primate, will preach at 1:00 in Pittsfield, MA and at 5:00 in Worcester, MA. If you are interested in going, please see <https://www.wmarevival.org/> for more details and to get your tickets. Sign up in the common room to carpool.

DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT MINISTRY

It's been a month full of reconnecting: with staff, with wardens, with the vestry, with the leadership team of this ministry, with discipleship groups, with the rhythm of church life, and with many of you. A major thrust of those conversations has been reconnecting with the vision and purpose of the discipleship and discernment ministry. The slides from the September 16 Forum go into more detail about the purpose and plan for the ministry. You will find them on the Discipleship page on the church website. Here is a summary of what has emerged.

1. **Continue with the Discipleship Small Groups.**

About 35 people, with representatives from all 6 of the discipleship groups, met on Wednesday September 12 to discuss if and how to move forward with their groups. All the groups committed to continue meeting at least through the spring and are open to welcoming new members. The liturgy or format for each group has continued to evolve: some share a meal together, some pray in different ways, some have adopted different disciplines. The plan is to draw on the collective genius of the groups to let each group evolve autonomously while remaining unified by a basic structure across groups – opening prayer, sharing from the heart, sharing about spiritual practices, and closing prayer. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact Duncan at duncan@stmichaelsvermont.org.

2. **Go deeper with Disciplemaking.** Many members of the discipleship group longed for even more focus and community to live out their faith. There are a few ways we plan to respond:

- **Folks who are interested in developing a Rule of Life will gather on Sunday October 14 from 1-3 in the Meeting Room.** The Society of Saint John the Evangelist, the Episcopal monastic order, has a workbook that helps people develop their own Rule of Life (<https://www.ssje.org/growrule>). They write on their website: "God, the Chief Gardener of our souls, invites us to grow into fullness of life. Just as stakes and lattices nurture the growth of young

plants, so too can spiritual disciplines support the flourishing of our whole being. Explore a tool from monastic spirituality called a 'Rule of Life' to cultivate your relationships with God, Self, Others, and Creation." Other folks may be interested in exploring being a lay companion to one of the 18 Episcopal Religious Orders (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/religious-orders-and-faith-communities>) and adopting the lay version of their Rule of Life.

- One of the most helpful spiritual practices is worshipping in community. Valerie Abrahamsen is helping to coordinate additional morning, evening, and compline services (see her article for dates and times) to be held in the chapel at least through December.
- We want to continue to offer more training and spaces for practices around spiritual disciplines. Building on the Discernment Workshop last December, Cary Gaunt, Joanne Patalano, Darcey Mercier, and Christy Fritz have been meeting since this spring to research various types of Christian discernment practices. Out of their research, they will create a weekly teaching and practice program during Lent.

3. **Focus more on mission and shared leadership.** If the energy of disciplemaking is downward into one's heart and upward to God, the energy of mission is outward to others. We want to do more to support people in their calls into the community. This has begun to happen organically out of the relationships developed in discipleship groups. For instance, through getting to know Peter Johnson in the Wednesday Open Group, I'll be leading a hymn sing and prayer service at the **Gathering Place on Tuesday October 9 at 10 am** (anyone is welcome) and I am working with Don Cuerdon from the Turning Point to do a **monthly 12-Step Eucharist. The first service at the Turning Point will be on Friday November 2 at 5:00 pm** and anyone is welcome who is connected to recovery in any way.

From my previous job doing team-based missional training in the Diocese of Massachusetts and Mary's missional training over the last two years, we both know the value of offering a space where people can tell their stories

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DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT MINISTRY *con't*

– whether they are stories of heartbreak, or joy, or taps on the shoulder from God that won't stop. In that spirit, we'll have a "Missional Training" on Saturday November 3 to provide a space where parishioners can tell those stories, learn some practices for collective discernment,

and reflect on whom else they might need to meet with in the wider community based on how they're feeling called. There will likely be a further training in the early winter when people can gather again to reflect on what they have discerned and decide if and how to respond.



CHANTED DAILY OFFICE SERVICES OFFERED

Valerie Abrahamsen

Several opportunities will be offered this fall to chant Daily Office services from the Book of Common Prayer. Each service which lasts approximately 30 minutes includes Psalms, prayers, and readings and will be held in the Mary Magdalene Chapel at St. Michael's. Morning Prayer Rite II, with plainsong chants taken from the 1982 Hymnal, will be offered on the following Thursday mornings at 9:00 am:

- October 11,
- November 1,
- November 29, and
- December 20.

Evening Prayer Rite II, with plainsong chants from the 1982 Hymnal, will be offered on the following Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm:

- October 14 and
- November 11.

A David Hurd setting of Compline will be offered on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm on

- October 3,
- November 7 and
- December 5.

Just a word about Compline (pronounced KOM-plin). According to the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, Compline is the last of the daily office services in the Western church, recited immediately prior to go-

ing to bed. The service took its liturgical form from St. Benedict in the early sixth century. The Rev. Mark Edington, priest at St. John's Episcopal Parish in Newtonville, Mass., wrote in the Harvard Gazette in February 2002 that Compline "is an act of defiance – of light defying the encroaching darkness, of silence insisting on peace amid the crashing noise of a world chasing madly after temporal rewards." The version of Compline that we are chanting at St. Michael's is by David Hurd, composer, concert organist, choral director and educator. Hurd may be familiar to parishioners from several hymns – "Christ, mighty Savior" for Evening Prayer (35), "O Christ, you are both light and day" for Compline (41), and his arrangement of "Let Us Break Bread Together" (325) – but it should also be noted that he is one of the most prolific, published African American composers in the United States. (https://episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/ENS/ENSpress_release.pl?pr_number=040505-2-A)

Arriving in the chapel 5 to 10 minutes before the start of each service will allow time for quiet meditation and marking page and hymnal numbers in advance (bookmarks will be provided). Spread the word – all are welcome to these peaceful, contemplative services. Questions? Contact Valerie Abrahamsen, valabrah@comcast.net, or the Rev. Duncan Hilton, duncan@st-michaelsvermont.org.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

**ADVENT RETREAT AT ROCK POINT:
“CONTEMPLATING MARY IN HISTORY, MUSIC, ART AND LITURGY” - DECEMBER 7-8**

This year's Advent Retreat at Rock Point, led by St. Michael's parishioner Valerie Abrahamsen, will begin on Friday, December 7, at 5:00 PM (registration and dinner at 6:00 pm) and will conclude on Saturday December 8, at 4:00 pm. Please mark your calendar and register now at <https://form.jotform.com/82384186309968>. There are single occupancy, shared occupancy and commuter options available. If you wish to walk the grounds, you are welcome to arrive in early afternoon.

Mary the mother of Jesus figures prominently in Christian tradition. In this retreat, we will begin by putting Mary and the other Marys of the New Testament in the social, historical and archaeological context of the early Roman Empire. We will then explore how the mother of Jesus is portrayed in later Christian literature, Western art, icons, convents and monasteries, and how she was viewed by some as a goddess. The Magnificat – Mary's powerful words as recorded in the Gospel of Luke – is prominent in the context of Evening Prayer, so we will chant a few settings of the Magnificat from the 1982 Hymnal and listen to several recordings of the text. Finally, we will discuss the visionaries of Medjugorje in the former Yugoslavia; these young people, now adults, were investigated medically and scientifically as they experienced life-changing visions of Mary, and the results of the tests were astounding. Participants will come away with a deeper and richer understanding of the strong, inspirational figure that is Mary. At the end of each of the four retreat sessions, there will

be an opportunity for questions, and the silent breaks between sessions will lend themselves well to contemplation. A packet of materials, including suggestions for further reading and Marian devotions, will be included in the cost of the retreat.

Dr. Valerie Abrahamsen, Retreat Leader, holds Master of Theological Studies and Doctor of Theology degrees in New Testament and Early Christian Origins from Harvard Divinity School. She is the author of over three dozen peer-reviewed articles, reviews, and book chapters in New Testament archaeology, early church history, women in antiquity, and ancient goddess religion, and she has published two books in these fields: *Women and Worship at Philippi* (1995) and *Goddess and God: A Holy Tension in the First Christian Centuries* (2006). Dr. Abrahamsen has taught at the college level and in adult education settings and has given scholarly presentations at regional, national and international meetings of the Society of Biblical Literature and other professional societies. In 2015, she self-published *Paranormal: A New Testament Scholar Looks at the Afterlife*, and she blogs on the afterlife and other topics at [WisdomWordsPPF](https://www.wisdomwordspff.org/) (<https://www.wisdomwordspff.org/>). Dr. Abrahamsen serves on the Board of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, sings in the choir of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Brattleboro, Vermont, and is an Associate of the Sisters of St. Margaret in Duxbury, Massachusetts.

UPDATE FROM THE BISHOP DISCERNMENT AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The profile text for Vermont's next Bishop has been written and a draft was shared with the Standing Committee at a joint meeting on Saturday, September 8. Rev. Gary Butterworth, our transition consultant from the national church, was also in attendance. The draft is now undergoing final edits. The profile is a thorough, accurate and honest representation of the themes and comments we received from Episcopalians throughout the diocese in our series of 38 listening sessions. Maurice Harris is collaborating with us in developing the website which will be an engaging compilation of text and photos de-

scribing the Episcopal Church in Vermont to candidates discerning a call to be our next bishop. We anticipate the profile will be posted by October 8, and we will accept applications for six weeks. Heartfelt thanks to all who participated in our listening sessions and others who gave us input along the way. Your thoughts, concerns and hopes are the pulse of the profile.

Gratefully,

Maggie Thompson
Chair, BDNC

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

A Short History of the Episcopal Church

by The Reverend George Hodges

Forward Movement Publications Cincinnati, Ohio

4" X 6 1/4" 126 pages

PART ONE This tiny book encompasses the history of the denomination in this country. But rather than attempt to deal with its entirety, confining this review to New England seems more sensible.

Somehow historians have ignored the one factor that allowed English settlers of the early 1600's to thrive amid our hostile climate: the abundance of land for settlement and agriculture. A decade earlier this would have been impossible. But a great plague (now suspected to be Hepatitis B) had killed ninety per cent of the native coastal inhabitants from Maine to Rhode Island. Their bones, picked clean by bird and beast, littered the coastline for hundreds of miles. God, the settlers agreed, had provided a home for them.

There is an aphorism that states what begins as a social movement soon becomes a business and finally emerges as a racket (the parishioner need not look afar to test its validity). The first settlers were Puritans escaping the grasp of what they thought was the tyrannical and corrupt grasp of the Church of England and hoped to bring about reform. That what they created was more tyrannical than what they left behind is a touch ironic.

The caste system that strangled initiative lured yet more to emigrate to where land, fish, and game freely abounded. The natives attempted a final woebegone attempt to drive out the settlers, known as King Philip's (Metacombet) War, in 1675. It was a complete failure. Settlers from across the Atlantic poured into this newly peaceful land.

But not all settlers were separatist from the Anglican faith, in particular those who settled Salem, and many were not persuaded that separation and independence from England was practical or sensible. Their first church was built in Tremont Street in Boston in 1688 and replaced by the present stone edifice in 1750 and today known as King's Chapel (ironically now Unitarian). During our Revolution and especially in Boston, suspicion arose about their loyalty to the cause of independence. When General Knox dragged all the cannon

from Fort Ticonderoga by oxen in the winter of 1776 and set them up on Dorchester Heights overlooking the city, the British army promptly evacuated by ship and with them most of the Anglican faithful sympathetic to the crown.

Prior to our Revolution, the English church was indifferent to establishing itself here. After the Revolution, our church was indifferent to the English church wishing to establish itself here. But there was a problem only the English church could solve: apostolic succession. In 1783, in a secret meeting, a handful of Episcopal priests met at the home of the rector of the church in Woodbury, Connecticut and elected Samuel Seabury bishop. But to be consecrated, Seabury needed to go to England. But to be consecrated there he was required to take an oath of allegiance to the church and crown. Clearly impossible, he journeyed to contrary Scotland and was duly consecrated in Aberdeen.

Meanwhile, the churches in the mid-Atlantic states organized a General Convention in 1785 in Philadelphia to ratify a prayer book and develop a constitution (remarkably structurally similar to that of our nation's constitution). But the New England church, which was satisfied that now it was fully developed, did not bother to attend.

After the Revolutionary War, a period of apathy toward church matters overtook the region as practical matters became foremost—the building of a new nation unlike any that had preceded it in history. In 1811, with another war with England looming, Alexander Viets Griswold was made Bishop of all New England except Connecticut. Now there was a single diocese consisting of Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont (Connecticut being its own diocese). He was a hard-working, simple man. But he succeeded in making these several states into dioceses with their own bishops.

In 1818, thanks to Bishop Griswold's good work on its behalf, Christ Church in Guilford became the first Episcopal Church in Vermont. It celebrates its bi-centennial this year.

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NEWS OF THE PARISH

PHOTOS FROM PARISH PICNIC, AUGUST 26



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EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

OCTOBER LECTIONARY

October 7

Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8;
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

October 14

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17;
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

**October 21**

Isaiah 53:4-12, Psalm 91:9-16,
Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

October 28

Jeremiah 31:7-9, Psalm 126,
Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

CELEBRATIONS

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 4	Nancy Ames
October 5	Valerie Abrahamsen
October 6	Nathaniel Johnson
October 9	Keira Capponcelli
October 10	Janet Cramer
October 11	Jace Rose, Brendan McElhinney
October 12	Christy Fritz
October 14	Ronny Johnson
October 15	Joanna Brown
October 16	Judith Hildreth
October 17	Dana McGinn, Jack Lilly
October 18	Emily Nohl
October 21	Mary Lindquist, Gayle Potter, Ed Sbardella
October 23	Sammy Panzer
October 25	Karren Meyer
October 28	Clark Anderson
October 30	Melanie Boese



OCTOBER MARRIGES

October 1	Christine & Richard Gauthier
October 4	Rebecca & Nathan Olmstead
October 8	Thad Bennett & George Connell, Larry Earle & Jay Pomponio
October 9	Heddy & Zsolt Pomazi
October 16	Anne & Wayne Cook
October 22	Anita & Jim Crosson



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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