



The Annual Report
Of Ministry & Administration
for 2018
St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Presented at the
Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 27, 2019

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PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Mary D. Lindquist, *Rector*

The Reverend Duncan Hilton, *Minister of Discernment & Discipleship*

Ms. Jeanie Crosby, *Parish Administrator*

Ms. Susan Dedell, *Director of Music*

Mr. John Laamanen, *Sexton*

Ms. Darlene Rutnik, *Financial Administrator*

The Reverend Thaddeus Bennett, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Alfred Cramer, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Jean R. Smith, *Priest Associate*

The Reverend Phillip Wilson, *Priest Associate*

WARDENS & VESTRY

Ms. Judith McBean, *Senior Warden, class of 2018*

Ms. Carolyn Taylor-Olson, *Junior Warden, class of 2021*

Ms. Lynn Billington, *class of 2019*

Mr. John Byrnes, *class of 2019*

Ms. Janet Brocklehurst, *class of 2020*

Mr. Mark Horton, *class of 2020*

Ms. Jeanette Landin, *class of 2020*

Ms. Imogene Drakes, *class of 2021*

Mr. Christopher Wesolowski, *class of 2021*



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St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Brattleboro, Vermont

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

Sunday, January 27, 2018

AGENDA

Call to Order

Annual Slide Show

Opening Prayer

Verification of Quorum

Appointment of Clerk of the Meeting

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting

Reports Received by Title

Report from Rector and Acknowledgements

Report about the Discernment and Discipleship Ministry

Distribution of proposed 2019 budget

Report of the Nominating Committee

Candidates for Vestry & for Delegates to Diocesan & Bishop's Election Conventions

Adjournment

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Brattleboro, VT
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2018
12 PM Sanctuary, St. Michael's Episcopal Church

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer (Mary Lindquist, Rector)

The meeting was called to order by the Reverend Mary Lindquist at 11.55 pm. The traditional annual slideshow of the year's events followed. Mary then opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Verification of Quorum (Mary)

There was a count of 61 members at the start of the meeting. Mary declared a quorum.

3. Appointment of Clerk for 2018 Annual Meeting (Mary)

Mary asked for a MOTION to appoint Joanne Patalano as clerk for the annual meeting. The MOTION was moved by Nancy Barber, seconded by Ruth Tilghman and passed unanimously.

4. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting (Mary)

Mary asked for a MOTION to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2017 Annual Meeting. The minutes were included in the 2017 Annual Report. The Annual Report was available on the website and in hard copy at the meeting. The MOTION was MOVED by Ruth Tilghman, seconded by Devin Starlanyl and passed unanimously.

5. Reports Received by Title (Mary)

Various Ministry and Committee reports (listed in the Appendix at the end of these minutes) were included in the Annual Report. Mary asked for a MOTION that these reports be received by title. The MOTION was moved by Jean Smith, seconded by Judy McGee and passed unanimously.

Chris Chapman made a request in reference to the Building and Grounds Report regarding the roof. Mary acknowledged his request and said she would bring his concern and request to the Vestry.

6. Acknowledgements (Mary)

Mary expressed special gratitude to the priest associates: the Rev. Jean Smith, the Rev. Phillip Wilson, the Rev. Thad Bennett and the Rev. Al Cramer. She also acknowledged the following people for their talents, dedication and contributions:

- The Vestry members
- The outgoing Sr. Warden Deb Jones and outgoing Jr. Warden Bruce Lawrence.
- Wayne Cook, Treasurer and Joanne Patalano, Vestry Clerk
- The Sabbatical Planning Committee members: Christy Fritz, Leigh Marthe, and Jeff Lewis
- The Church staff Jeanie Crosby, Susan Dedell and John Laamanen

Mary announced that Judith McBean is the new Vestry Senior Warden.

7. Rock Point Report (Deb Jones and Judith McBean)

A slideshow on Rock Point preceded the report. Deb informed the congregation of the Rock Point campaign: Upon This Rock: The Parish Partnership Campaign for Rock Point. Brochures about the campaign were made available. Deb informed the congregation of the pledge the Vestry made and asked the congregation to consider making a pledge over the next 2.5 years.

Judith McBean, incoming Sr. Warden, talked about her personal experience with Rock Point. She added that Vestry members have already pledged and that the total raised to date was about \$6000.

Deb specified that the Church pledged \$20,000 to Rock Point over three years to financially support solar panels and that the pledge was a contribution to "Upon This Rock: The Parish Partnership Campaign for Rock Point."

Mary clarified that contributions should be made payable to St. Michael's with a note that the donation is for the Rock Point Campaign pledge.

8. Report from the Discernment and Discipleship Leadership Team (Megan Buchanan)

Megan highlighted aspects of the team's report included in the annual report.

9. Report from the Rector (Mary)

Mary outlined her upcoming sabbatical that begins in early May. St. Michael's was awarded a \$49,962 grant for her sabbatical from the Lilly Foundation.

Her sabbatical begins May 1, 2018. In early May she will be going to Arizona where she will spend one week at the Sofia Monastic Community. She will also visit the St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, CO where Thomas Keating lives. She will travel with family to Barcelona, France and Germany.

10. Report from the Sabbatical Planning Team (Leigh Marthe)

Leigh highlighted aspects of the Sabbatical Planning Team's report included in the annual report.

11. Report concerning Finance and Capital Campaign

There was no report on finance and capital campaign.

12. Distribution of Proposed 2018 Budget (Wayne Cook)

Wayne distributed copies of the Draft Budget 2018 dated 1/17/2018. It included the 2017 budget and 2017 Actual Budget and the 2018 Budget. He noted that the 2018 Budget is more than last year. He drew attention to the operating income providing further detail. He asked if there were any questions. One member asked about the outreach ministry and how much is given to outreach. Wayne noted that those details are in the Parochial Report and said that the amount was about 15%.

13. Report of the Nominating Committee (Mary and Deb Jones)

Deb Jones spoke on behalf of the Vestry Nominating Committee. The Vestry nominated three candidates to the Vestry. The three nominated Vestry candidates are Imogene Drakes, Carolyn Taylor-Olson and Christopher Wesolowski. Mary asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Mary asked for a MOTION to accept the slate of the three nominees. The MOTION was moved by Devin Starlanyl, seconded by Craig Hammond and passed unanimously.

Mary asked for a motion to elect Imogene Drakes, Carolyn Taylor-Olson and Christopher Wesolowski to the Vestry for a 3-year term. The MOTION was moved by Carol Beninati, seconded by Lori Palmer and passed unanimously.

14. Candidates for Vestry and for Delegates to the Diocesan Convention by Mary

Mary presented the recommendations for delegates to the 2018 Annual Diocesan Convention. The candidates for delegates are Nancy Barber and Christy Fritz. Mary asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Mary asked for a MOTION to accept the slate of candidates for delegates. The MOTION was moved by Ed Sbardella, seconded by Shirley Hodgdon and passed unanimously.

Judith McBean, Vestry Sr. Warden, will also attend as a delegate. The alternates for Diocesan Convention are Bruce Lawrence and Annamarie Pluhar.

15. Open discussion (Mary)

Mary asked the congregation if they had any questions or concerns. There was a question about leadership of the Church during her sabbatical. She said that Jean Smith and Phillip Wilson will have liturgical and pastoral oversight, and the Vestry will be in charge during her absence.

16. Adjournment

A MOTION was made by Brian Morgan to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Jeanette Landin and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne Patalano, Clerk

Appendix:

Reports Received by Title (Agenda Item # 5)

WORSHIP

- Altar Guild
- Sacramental Healing\Music Ministry

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

- Christian Formation Team/Adult Education
- Discernment and Discipleship Ministry
- Education for Ministry
- Christian Education/Children & Youth
- Workshop Rotation
- Godly Play
- Youth Forum
- Contemplative Christianity

MISSION & MINISTRY

- Mission & Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Social Justice Ministry
- Schroeder Fund
- Poetry Writing Group
- Prison Ministry
- Buildings and Grounds
- Sabbatical Planning Committee
- Stewardship Team

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

- Vestry (from the Senior Warden)
- Endowment Committee
- Capital Campaign
- Nominating Committee



Rector's Report

*...Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31*

Happy Annual Meeting! I was reflecting this morning that my vocation contains a great deal of variety. Last month (December) my attention and time were focused mostly on worship and liturgy; this month (January) I am focusing more on administrative leadership. In order to do this, I need to take a step back to look at the year that has passed: What happened? What changed? What does it mean? Where does it lead us?

What happened?

Well, the most unusual part of 2018 was that I was on sabbatical for 4 months. To be honest, it is easy for me to forget that I was absent for one-third of the year as I now feel like I'm back in the swing of things in my role as rector. But it is good to remember all that happened during the sabbatical renewal time for St. Michael's – the lay preaching, the scripture study, the prayer, the planning and the playing. *Energetic* is how I would describe 2018. The leadership and devotion that were shown by the Wardens and Vestry, the Sabbatical Planning Team, the Lay Preachers, the Priest Associates and the Staff of St. Michael's during the sabbatical time were tremendous and even exceeded my high expectations.

In addition to all that happened during the sabbatical time, there was an increase in weekday offerings at St. Michael's: more liturgies (Morning Prayer, Compline, etc.), more small groups, more engagement in ministry from many both inside and outside the parish. St. Michael's is definitely not a Sunday church; it is an every-day-of-the-week church.

What changed?

Given all that happened during the sabbatical time at St. Michael's, I would have expected to return to an exhausted and possibly burned-out leadership. However, this is not what I found upon my return last August. St. Michael's seemed energized rather than enervated. The sabbatical renewal time has led to a deeper sense of our common ministry and the importance of lifting up and empowering the gifts of all people in our community.

I have also noticed subtle shifts in our church culture that have come about through the Discernment and Discipleship ministry: more prayer, scriptural reflection, and silence woven into our life together. I also notice a growing willingness to try new things, to experiment, and to recognize our dependence on God and one another in our ministries.

What does it mean?

As we have increased the many different ministry offerings at St. Michael's, we are making room for many different levels of engagement. St. Michael's has a place both for those who attend our church only occasionally as well as for those who want to engage on a daily basis and all those levels of engagement in between. There is space for everyone and a path for those who feel called to greater depth, activity and Christian formation.

I believe that the sabbatical renewal time deepened our trust in God's presence, guidance and call to our community. This trust helps us all to know that with God's help, all things are possible and that "those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength."

Where does it lead us?

You might expect that a sabbatical focused around the theme of newness and innovation would lead to a call to go in a new direction. However, it seems to me that we began move new direction *before* I left for sabbatical and that the sabbatical time affirmed the vision we discerned in the last two years.

- We continue to affirm and nurture the goodness of the faith tradition and congregational forms that we know and love in our parish.

- We continue to wrestle with how our faith meets people where they are in our changing and increasingly secular culture. We will ask the hard questions about what it means to follow Jesus now and in the future.

While I oversee the parish in our life together in its traditional forms, the Minister of Discernment and Discipleship is taking the lead in exploring new forms of what it means to follow Jesus. While these ministries often overlap and complement each other, it is important to be intentional in naming and balancing them.

Finally, while I experienced some sadness after the sabbatical time was over (“I can’t believe it is over!”), I am mostly relieved and thankful. I am very grateful to have been given some time to step away from the intensity of ministry at St. Michael’s for deep rest, prayer and uninterrupted time with my family. However, the sabbatical was something that took a great deal of planning, time and preparation for me and for the parish. Now that it is completed, I feel freed up to enter into a new season of ministry with St. Michael’s and that is a happy thing.

Thank you

- Thank you to Judith McBean who served as Senior Warden for 2018. It is no easy thing to be the Senior Warden during sabbatical time. We are so blessed that you were willing to lead St. Michael’s with such deep faith, love and generosity of spirit. You had confidence in St. Michael’s ability to rise to any challenge and your calm and wise presence was deeply reassuring and inspiring to all. Thank you Judith for giving so deeply of yourself for this ministry!
- Thank you to Carolyn Taylor-Olson for serving as Jr. Warden for 2018. You and Judith were partners in crime during sabbatical time. Thank you for your faithful presence and no-nonsense leadership. You brought a deep and prayerful presence to your vestry leadership, as well as brilliant organizational skills. I look forward to your continued leadership as Senior Warden in 2019.
- Thank you to John Byrnes, Lynn Billington and Judith McBean, our outgoing Vestry members. You each have brought tremendous gifts for ministry and leadership to the Vestry. We will miss you greatly!
- Thank you to Wayne Cook, our *treasurer extraordinaire*. Your faith and commitment to St. Michael’s are extraordinary. You work countless hours together with our bookkeeper, Darlene Rutnik, to keep the finances well-organized, balanced and faithfully stewarded. Your generosity, devotion, intelligence and care for St. Michael’s are tremendous and we are so blessed to have you serve St. Michael’s in this capacity.
- Many thanks to Joanne Patalano, who has served as clerk in these last three years. Joanne’s ministry has been such a gift to us. She has been faithful, highly-skilled, efficient and wise in her ministry as our clerk. Her presence in our vestry meetings has been invaluable as (in addition to taking the minutes) she has offered great insights and clarity to many of our discussions. We will miss you Joanne!
- Thank you to Anne Cook and Lucia Osiecki who have shared the leadership of St. Michael’s Tag Sale Ministry these last few years. You both brought amazing skill, love and dedication to this incredible ministry and we so appreciate your great generosity. Well done!
- Thank you to the Sabbatical Planning Team – Christy Fritz, Jeff Lewis and Leigh Marthe. You had no idea what you signed up for in the beginning (and neither did I), but it was a magical collaboration, full of surprise and Spirit. Thank you for your open-hearted willingness and wisdom at every step.
- Thank you to Jean Smith and Phillip Wilson who oversaw the liturgical and pastoral life of the parish while I was gone. I’m so glad you both had fun ---and it showed. The parish was so thrilled to have your masterful and wise leadership. We at St. Michael’s are so blessed by your ministry, which continues to bear amazing fruit.

- Thank you to Duncan Hilton for saying yes to a ministry of uncharted territory; for your love, support and nurture of many at St. Michael's and beyond, for the shared leadership you model, for making discernment and discipleship a way of life that we all can learn from.
- Thank you to Jeanie Crosby who holds so very much at St. Michael's and even more so during the sabbatical time. Your intelligent and thoughtful acumen in all things, your wise counsel and unerring support are invaluable to me and to St. Michael's!
- Thank you to Susan Dedell for your spirited and masterful musical and pastoral leadership at St. Michael's. Your creativity, openness and sense of adventure inspire me and the rest of the parish. Thank you for your love and dedication and your deeply faithful and thoughtful spirit. Thank you for the music that makes our worship deeper and more radiant.
- Thank you to John Laamanen for your faithful and dedicated service to St. Michael's. Thank you for shoveling, cleaning, mopping, setting up and taking down and so much more. Thank you for showing up at all hours of the day and night to help us with our ministry. St. Michael's would not be the same without you!
- And finally, thank you to the other members of our staff. Darlene Rutnik our dedicated and lovely bookkeeper; Thad Bennett, our wonderful priest associate who is not with us as often because of his move to Massachusetts; and Al Cramer who prays for all of us every day without fail.

Of course in all we have done and all we do, we are upheld and guided by the powerful love of God in Jesus Christ. God has blessed us richly this year and it is my hope that we continue to grow together in our trust and our love of God through our ministry in Christ's name.

Yours in Christ, Mary

WORSHIP

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated on 52 Sundays.

There were 54 weekday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist.

During 2018 we offered 52 weekly Contemplative Services Thursdays at 5:30 pm and 52 sessions of Saturday morning Centering Prayer.

There were no baptisms or confirmations in 2018.

The Blessing of a Marriage was celebrated 2 times (Anne Brown & Edwin Dews, Judith Hildreth & William Junkins) .

Ordination to the Priesthood was celebrated on January 6, 2018 for Duncan Hilton.

Home Communion was conducted 29 times.

Holy Communion was brought to nursing home residents (Pine Heights, Thompson House and Hilltop/Bradley House) once a month.

Services were held at Springfield Prison 15 times, 6 of which included Holy Communion

The Burial office was conducted on 4 occasions (Betsy Swift, Paula Ryan, Neil Quinn and Sharry Manning).

Daily Offices: Morning Prayer was conducted 3 times, Evening Prayer was conducted 2 times and Compline was conducted 3 times.

Other worship services – St. Bridget's Day, Wave of Light Service, Festival of Lights, The Longest Night Service, Sabbatical Prayer Vigil, Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil

Average Sunday attendance in 2018 was 139.



Reports from Worship Ministries

ALTAR GUILD

As members of the Altar Guild, we are called to an ancient tradition within the church that is essential to the community's worship. Each of our 5 teams consists of 3-4 members whose shared ministry involves a form of worship and fellowship which yields a product of love, spirituality, and a form of humble utility.

We are very fortunate to have Marie Lawrence who coordinates our weekly altar flowers and our arrangements for Easter and Christmas. Each team serves a 2-week stint approximately every 8 weeks. Members prepare for Sunday and Wednesday services, funerals, weddings, baptisms, musical events, and special services.

We had 2 work bees, which involved cleaning, polishing, and readying the church for Christmas and Easter. Business meetings followed with an extra business meeting in September with the team leaders.

On Ascension Day, May 10, Mary Carnahan, Laurie Chiperfield and Jane Sbardella attended the 62nd Annual Meeting of Vermont Diocesan Altar Guild at St. James Episcopal Church, Woodstock, VT. The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely spoke with slides on the convention themes and world events during his 17 years as our bishop. A delicious luncheon and a Eucharist followed. It was interesting to meet and speak to other Altar Guilders throughout the state.

We welcome William Stearns, a new member, and thank Pat Laubach for her many years of dedication and service on the Altar Guild. Her attention to detail restoring our linen has been an essential part of our ministry.

A big thank you goes out to all our members for their commitment and willingness to step up helping other teams and during our busy seasons. I want to thank our Rector, Mary Lindquist for all the help and support and to Rev. Jean Smith and Rev. Phillip Wilson for their seamless transition while Mary was on her 4-month sabbatical. *Jane Sbardella and Craig Newbert*

SACRAMENTAL HEALING

"Rise and go; your faith has made you well." Luke 17:19

As followers of Christ, we believe that we are called to continue his ministry of healing. This healing takes many forms—physical, spiritual, and emotional—and is an important part of the church's ministry.

A "healing team" of prayer companions from the parish feel called to this ministry to support those who request prayers of healing for themselves, for others, and in thanksgiving. Everyone who comes for prayers is also anointed with oil that has been blessed by the Bishop. The blessed oil is sent to each parish at the end of the Diocesan Convention in November.

The sacrament of healing is scheduled on most Sundays. At the 8 o'clock service, it follows the service proper. At the 10:15 o'clock service, it is available during communion. No prayer request is too big or too small. We know it may not always be easy to come forward whether it is for the first time or the one hundredth time.

Our team meets once a month for meetings that offer spiritual support for each other and an opportunity to read and discuss faith, prayer, and what it means to heal and be healed. Confidentiality is essential to our work; we do not discuss any concerns or prayer requests brought to us by parishioners outside of the "sacred space" of the prayer encounter.

We have a yearly retreat for discernment and recommitment. We offered an Adult Forum on Healing in April 2018.

We have a shared leadership structure where individual team members take responsibility for arranging meetings, minutes, and other administrative tasks on a quarterly basis. Our current members include: Megan Buchanan, Janet Cramer, Robin White-Diamondstone, Judith Junkins, Greg Lesch, Jeff Lewis, Margit Lilly, and Carolyn Taylor-Olson. Sarah Benton was with us for part of this year as well as Jean Brodie who joins us in discernment.

We invite members of the parish who would like to learn more and explore sharing in this ministry to speak to a member of the Sacramental Healing team.

For the Sacramental Healing ministry, *Janet Cramer* and *Carolyn Taylor-Olson*

MUSIC AT ST. MICHAEL'S

People sometimes ask me if I like my work at St. Michael's, to which I reply, "I LOVE IT!" How could I not, with a parish just brimming with musical gifts of so many kinds and an encouraging and joyfully collegial staff?

St. Michael's has a truly outstanding adult choir, with 33 members on the full roster and an average Sunday attendance averaging 20-25 people. The St. Michael's Choir rehearses every Sunday morning during the program year from 8:45-10:15, with additional rehearsals scheduled periodically in the evening or as a weekend retreat. Choir members are diverse in age, theological points of view, musical tastes and experiences, just to name some of the most obvious things that individuate each person. But there is a true unity of purpose and intent, which can only spring from the workings of the Holy Spirit. Looking at the host of red robes at the communion rail, I am often overwhelmed by a sense of joy and gratitude for the choir as a whole and for each person. Given the abundance of musical gifts in the choir, I'm planning on performing an extended choral work with them for the latter part of Lent.

The Choir Schools of St. Michael's had a terrific past year, with a total of 25 young people participating in 2018. The Choir School is open to all children who love to sing, regardless of church affiliation, and I am grateful that our parish supports this outreach to provide spiritually nourishing music to young people. I am truly joyful as I witness the growth in musical skills, leadership, teamwork, and community of each member of the Choir School at both age levels. With the help and encouragement of Bishop Tom, the Senior Choir School brought their latest mystery play, "A Mighty Outcry," up to the Christ Church in Montpelier this fall. Not only did they give an outstanding performance, but we also forged tangible and hopefully lasting connections with the people of Christ Church. The younger choir school is growing by leaps and bounds in many ways, maturing in ways both musical and social. The two programs will combine their forces for a newly revised version of "Out of the Lion's Mouth" in the coming months.

In the coming year, I am planning on expanding musical opportunities to a wider range of our parish. I will be offering at least 3 separate "mini-classes," each lasting for 2-4 weeks depending on the topic, and all will be suitable for all adults, regardless of prior musical experience or background. I love teaching and hopefully the classes will be as fun as they are informative!

For all of this bounty, I give thanks, knowing that all of this is made possible by God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Susan Dedell



Reports from Christian Formation

CHRISTIAN FORMATION/ADULT EDUCATION

The "Forum Committee" plans and schedules forums for the church year that starts in September. The committee meets over breakfast on the first Wednesday of the month. If you want to come to a meeting, please contact any committee member for the date, time, and location. The forums are held each Sunday from 9-10 am in the upstairs Meeting Room. All are welcome.

Mission Statement

The Adult Forums will offer a diversity of topics covering:

- different interests (outreach, scripture, contemplative Christianity, spirituality, tradition, community interests, etc.),

- experiences of faith,
- the basics of Christianity and the Episcopal Church (for those new to the church and those who want to rediscover their roots) and
- specialized topics (for deeper understanding)

In the context of:

- small, high-commitment/confidential small group offerings,
- open, low-commitment offerings (forums), and
- a balance between content and discussion.

All offerings are to be connected to our context (Christian, faith community); all topics should ask the question, “How does this connect to our faith?” or “So what?”

Our forums leaders are our clergy, our parishioners, and guest speakers. What follows is a summary of our topics for the year January 2018 to January 2019.

2018: The New American Bible; “A Black Man Looking at Life” (guest speaker Charles Mays); Contemplative Prayer (guest speaker Fr. Bill Sheehan); Voices from Inside (guest panel); Discipleship update; a Lenten series on Diminishment/Empowerment of Women (guest speaker from the Women’s Center, plus speakers from St. Michael’s); Resurrection; Hospitality at St. Michaels; a two-part presentation on Water; a “Bon Voyage” to Mary Lindquist leaving on sabbatical; a report by the Healing Team; Restorative Justice in Brattleboro (guest speaker Dan DeWalt); Foyer Evangélique orphanage in Haiti (guest speaker Pastor Duckens Janvier – Outreach Ministry); Kipling in Brattleboro; Kenya (Outreach); Gay Pride (Social Justice Ministry); a follow-up on our Discipleship project.

2019: Discipleship kickoff, year 2; a two-part Sabbatical report; Kipling in Brattleboro; The Many Faces of Jesus; Herbalism in the Bible; a two-part presentation on Brattleboro’s Opioid Crisis; The Warrior Connection (guest speaker Ann Black and panelists); Report on Diocesan Convention (delegates and attendees); an Advent series on Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist; Joseph, the Father of Jesus; Simeon and Anna.

We sincerely thank all our presenters this year and all in our parish for your enthusiastic participation in the Sunday Adult Forums. Our speakers have been a good mix of clergy, parishioners, and guests.

Please speak to any committee member if you have any suggestions for topics or speakers.

Respectfully submitted, *Bill Ames, Nancy Barber (chair), Benson Bobrick, Mary Lindquist, Annamarie Plubar, Ruth Tilghman, Chris Triebert, Phillip Wilson*

MINISTER OF DISCERNMENT & DISCIPLESHIP

Two years ago in her 2017 annual meeting “Rector’s Report,” Mary shared some of her insights from her Missional Leadership Cohort: that God’s Spirit goes before us; that it is the minister’s job not to create programs but to listen for movement of the Spirit; and that we discern the Spirit primarily by listening deeply to those around us and God’s Spirit within us. These insights led to the creation of this ministry and my hiring in June of 2017. That fall I created a leadership team (Megan Buchanan, Christy Fritz, Jeff Hiam and Darcey Mercier) which has tried to stay true to Mary’s founding vision by creating a ministry with four elements: 1) Disciplemaking, 2) Mission, 3) Shared Leadership, and 4) Communitas (Embracing liminal spaces – inward and outward).

What’s Happened

Disciplemaking

All six of the *discipleship groups* that began in the fall of 2017 have continued to meet for the last year and a half – one group weekly, most groups twice per month. These groups include a time for prayer, sharing from the heart, and reflecting on spiritual practices. 15-20 people gathered on two Sundays in October and November to create personal *Rules of Life*, trellises of routines and rhythms to support spiritual growth based on monastic wisdom. The *Discernment for Lay People Team* formed in the spring to explore how to create teaching materials and a community of practice to help people with listening to God’s voice as they work through decisions in

their lives. They have met monthly since May following the December 2017 discernment workshop and a desire among some people for continued support. I supported Valerie Abrahamsen around her passion for having more *sung liturgy*. Since October, and planned through the spring, we have been celebrating morning prayer, evening prayer, and compline once per month in the sanctuary.

Mission

This element of the ministry – exploring how to support, bless, and celebrate the work God is doing already in the wider community - has been a bigger focus of my time in the second half of 2018. I have sought to follow God's Spirit into the community in multiple ways: visiting *MANNA*, the homeless ministry of St Paul's Cathedral in Boston, with a handful of lay leaders; beginning last winter by celebrating the Eucharist monthly at the *Shell Gas station* on Canal Street; celebrating the Eucharist at *Turning Point* recovery center and joining them for their monthly lunches. Since October I've joined Peter Johnson and others at the *Gathering Place* for a hymn sing. I've assisted Craig Hammond a handful of times with his ministry at the *Springfield Prison*.

Shared Leadership

Much of my time and effort has been focused on how to build out the leadership of this ministry so that the work of mission and discipleship is shared by as many people as possible. Based on the trainings I led in the Diocese of Massachusetts and with the help of Cary Gaunt as a trainer and designer, we put on workshops in November and December to equip people with prayer and relationship-building practices to develop their sense of missional call. Each workshop was attended by 15-20 people. More than 20 people are signed up for a training this January to put that call into action in teams.

Communitas

This element is about embracing liminal threshold spaces, inner and outward. This has included developing additional liturgies: St Brigid's Day, Maundy Thursday Vigil, Holy Saturday Graveyard Service at the Retreat, and a Wave of Light Service for people who have lost children. It also included a longer Contemplative Practice retreat at Hallelujah Farm during Lent as a follow up to a workshop led by Fr. Bill Sheehan in January.

Reflection

What has been the impact? From the gathering of all the discipleship groups in May and again in September, what stood out from their written evaluations and conversations was that the participants have come to know one another in a more intimate way by sharing about parts of their life they don't often get the chance to share on a Sunday. It is too early yet to have done a formal evaluation of the missional aspect of the ministry, but I sense that it has given some folks who haven't had an outlet for their leadership an opportunity to explore and express what that might be. I'm especially thinking of the teenagers who have been leading their own discipleship group and attending the missional workshops.

I'm proud that we have created a culture of experimentation. We've tried a few things that haven't taken off – a theology exploration group and the Eucharist at the Turning Point. Both instances taught us about the importance of relationship-building and having a clear purpose before launching something. I am proud of the Sunday in October when members of various discipleship groups preached about the impact of the group on their lives -- how they felt safe, accepted, and known in their groups. I am proud of the commitment of lay leaders and their increasing ownership of the ministry. I'm proud of the support and encouragement we've received from the diocese as we've shared the fruits of our work.

What's Next

In this coming year I hope to focus even more on shared leadership. In the winter and spring of 2019, that will mean supporting the teams who are developing missional ministries. In the second half of the year, it might mean equipping lay people to lead the trainings I have been leading this fall so that even more of the responsibility for the ministry can be shared. I hope that the discipleship groups will continue to meet and that with the help of lay leaders there will be more chances to learn about and practice the spiritual disciplines – prayer, worship, stewardship, discernment, care for the poor, and study of scripture.

After the retreat in March at Hallelujah Farm, a longtime parishioner said something like, "This is strange but I like it." At this time of rapid change in the church and the world, thank you for creating a space where together we can do things that may seem strange but hopefully will bear fruit.

DISCERNMENT & DISCIPLESHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM

This team, formed by Duncan Hilton in September 2017, continued for a second year, meeting once or twice per month to work on development of the ministry. The members are Christy Fritz, Jeff Hiam, Megan Buchanan and Darcey Mercier. The group met at either Duncan or Megan's home or at church.

2018 activities of this ministry included St. Brigid's eucharist on February 1, a Contemplative Retreat at Hallelujah Farm, and a full offering of liturgies for Holy Week including a Maundy Thursday vigil and Holy Saturday graveside procession and service. Further afield in the spring were trips to Yale Divinity School for a conference on the future of the church and a MANNA trip to Boston with Whitney Nichols and others. Other spring activities included organization of a Prayer Vigil during Mary's sabbatical and offerings of Bible Study and a Theology Exploration Group. While Duncan was at L'Arche, the leadership team read Michael Eric Dyson and Hauerwas, four Discipleship Groups continued to meet over the summer, and the new Discernment Leadership Team met without Duncan. In August, the team had a retreat and planned a relaunch for the fall, including Sunday Sing-along for kids. Duncan and Jeff visited the prison with Craig. In October, we were busy: we began Rule of Life workshops with the parish, planned and offered a Wave of Light service with leadership of Rosie Wojcik, wrote a Diocesan Grant proposal, attended the Revival, hosted a table at Convention, and three members of groups gave the sermon on 10/28 (Jonah Johnson, Peter Johnson and MJ Woodburn). Missional trainings, with the support of Cary Gaunt, and 12-step Eucharist services at Turning Point were offered in November and December. Advent activities centered around Rule of Life, some participants became prayer partners, and other parishioners brought home Christy's Advent bags to center home activities. We hosted two potluck gatherings of all Discipleship Groups also during the year. Ongoing monthly activities include meetings of the Discernment for Lay People Team, Duncan's participation in lunch at Turning Point, and a Gathering Place sing, as well as visiting the bi-monthly Vestry meetings. We look forward with joy to the year ahead and continuing our work together, praying for the continued guidance and inspiration from the Holy Spirit! *Respectfully submitted, Megan Buchanan*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Christian Education for children and youth continues to be a strong and important ministry at St. Michael's. Here are some changes that happened this year: We stopped offering the Workshop Rotation Class between the 9-10 am service because of lack of attendance, but created a new opportunity in a Story and a Sing-along which was offered once a month from 9-10 am. Also, with the help of Duncan Hilton, some of the teens created a Teen Discipleship Group that is youth-led and meets every two weeks.

GODLY PLAY

Every Sunday at 10:15, the children of the parish are welcome to come to Godly Play. While the adults are participating in the Liturgy of the Word, the part of the service that includes all the readings and sermon, the children have a Liturgy of the Word that is tailored to younger minds. Bible stories are told with the help of props that illustrate the stories. Children are encouraged to listen to the story and then to wonder about the story. After the story telling, children are invited to do respond to the story in a variety of ways. Their choices are art or playing with the props of a particular story.

Every Godly Play session has a storyteller and a doorkeeper. The storyteller memorizes the story so that in the telling they can easily manipulate the props. The doorkeeper helps by introducing the children to the room, taking attendance and generally providing an additional adult presence.

Every year some new stories are added and others rotated, so even the older children hear ones they haven't heard before, and everyone can respond in new ways.

Storytellers and doorkeepers this year included Christy Fritz, Jayne Fritz, Josh Fritz, Susan Heimer, Mark Horton, Annamarie Pluhar, Miranda Smith, Lydia Taggart and Rosie Wojcik. Please speak to any of the Godly Play team if you want to learn more or become involved in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted, The Godly Play Team

YOUTH FORUM

The Youth Forum for the 2018-2019 school year is made up of 9 students ranging from ages 12 to 17. This year started with the students asking the following questions: How do we practice spiritual disciplines in our everyday lives? How do we follow Jesus' ways? How can we be in a closer relationship with Jesus?

The students searched the gospels to determine what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Using Isaiah 58 they created a definition of spiritual discipline and started a list of disciplines, thinking about which ones they could do. Robin White-Diamondstone visited, sharing how compassionate communication can be a spiritual discipline asking students what attributes of Jesus they recognize through his words or actions. During Advent they thought about what they are waiting for and how waiting can be a spiritual discipline. They also compared a narrative from Elizabeth's perspective to Luke's story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and they wrote Christmas card prayers to God. As the year continues, they will practice more spiritual disciplines including praying with the Bible and Two-Way Prayer.

It is a joy to be a part of the lives of these young people of our parish. The Youth Forum is led by *Darvey Mercier* and *Ruth Venman-Clay* with help from *Josh Fritz* after church from 11:45-12:45 on the second and fourth Sundays each month.

TEEN DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

In the fall of 2018, the Teen Discipleship Group met about 6 times every other week beginning in mid-September. The group, about 7 people in total, met on Tuesdays, shared food and fellowship around 5:20 pm, and then began the Lectio Divina around 6 pm. This group primarily focuses around supporting each other as we engage in our individual spiritual journeys and allowing a safe space for us to share about our struggles and hopes. Submitted by *Jayne Fritz*

CONTEMPLATIVE CHRISTIANITY

The Contemplative ministry at St. Michael's is alive and well. We are a small group of faithful practitioners and are grateful to have added a few to our groups in the last year. Here are some highlights:

- The Centering Prayer group met faithfully every Saturday morning, alternating between practicing centering prayer meditation and reading James Finley's [The Contemplative Heart](#).
- We offered the opportunity to come together in silent meditation every weekday from 6-7 am in the Chapel of Mary Magdalene, the First Apostle.
- We celebrated our Contemplative Service on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6 pm in the Chapel. These services are led by Jean Smith, John Daly, Parker Huber, Margit & Jack Lilly, Erika Alin, Carolyn Hammerlund and Mary Lindquist.
- Many practitioners participated in retreats at Hallelujah Farm and other venues.
- Participants in the contemplative ministry at St. Michael's include both community members and St. Michael's parishioners. We welcome all people who have an interest in contemplation as a tool to deepen their relationship with God and with one another.



REPORTS FROM MISSION AND MINISTRY

OUTREACH MINISTRY

"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food? We saw you thirsty and gave you something to drink? We saw you a stranger and welcomed you? We saw you sick and took care of you? We saw you in prison and visited you? Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:37-40. Episcopal Relief & Development Mandate. "Joel's Prayer"

At our annual retreat in January 2018, we re-examined and updated our Mission Statement.

Mission Statement: The Outreach Ministry of St. Michael's Episcopal Church initiates and supports efforts through which we, committee and parishioners alike, can manifest our Christian beliefs by helping those in need, locally, nationally and internationally through charitable organizations. This work involves not only our "treasure," but also our "time" and "talents." Distribution of our resources is limited to meeting needs for heat, shelter, health, and food insufficiency.

The Outreach Ministry's resources come from various sources. Each fall the Committee formulates a budget request, which we submit to the Finance Committee and Vestry to be included in the Parish's Annual Budget. The resources that originate from the Vestry after the Annual Meeting are disbursed in three, approximately equal, areas: local, i.e. Windham County; national; international. In addition, the Outreach Ministry has been fortunate to benefit from 50% of the two annual Tag Sales, the proceeds of which are disbursed exclusively among local organizations. The Committee membership is eagerly awaiting the outcome of discussions concerning the future of St. Michael's Tag Sales.

The Committee also undertakes various complementary fundraising efforts. For example, in 2018 the proceeds from parking fees at the Heifer Parade that amounted to \$340 were allocated to Guilford Community Church for the purchase of two heifers at the Meru Secondary School in the Central Highlands of Kenya.

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper last February generated \$363 which was allocated towards the purchase of a water purifier for the Meru Secondary School in Kenya. The Pancake Supper was considerably less well attended than in previous years, a development that the Committee will examine closely at its 2019 retreat.

Two Diaper Sunday events resulted in 4,390 and 3,500 diapers, respectively, being delivered to the Parks Place Diaper Bank in Bellows Falls.

In all these undertakings, the sheer generosity of the parishioners of St. Michael's Episcopal has been stunning and deeply appreciated. Despite all this, the need is always greater than our resources. The Outreach Ministry has concluded that again in 2019 it will have to focus its efforts on the following areas: food insecurity; heat/shelter - physical and environmental; health. A comprehensive listing of 2018 disbursements follows at the end of this report.

While we often use 'Joel's prayer' as our opening prayer, we are always cognizant of and guided by her adage of 'giving from our abundance.' It is also gratifying that the Joel Hill Ministry Expo has become an annual event and that forty or so outreach ministries within the St. Michael's congregation are highlighted.

St. Michael's was privileged in May to host Pastor Duckens Janvier, founder and Director of the Foyer Evangélique Orphanage in Haiti. Through the Outreach Ministry, St. Michael's has been supporting this orphanage for a number of years, and this was the first time that Pastor Duckens has been able to visit St. Michael's.

St. Michael's has also continued its Love Brigade chapter, whereby parishioners may write postcards of support to victims of hatred around the country. We have recently broached the 500 postcard barrier! Hatred, it seems, is not a commodity in short supply nowadays.

The Committee has been fortunate to welcome Judy Davidson to its membership in 2018. Judy has been active in the Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP) based in Westminster. In July, Outreach held a special meeting to meet CASP Founder, Steve Crofter, and to learn more about this critical ministry.

We urge others to consider joining us. The Committee usually meets at 5:30 pm on the first Monday of the month. If you are interested in joining the Outreach Ministry, feel free to contact one of the Committee members: Janet Cramer, Susan Wilson, Lori Palmer, Shirley Hodgdon, Laura Lewis, Jeanette Landin, Judith Junkins, Alix Fedoruk, Julia Fedoruk, Judy Davidson, Joyce Vining Morgan, Craig Hammond, and Brian Morgan. The more, the merrier!

Organizations Funded From Outreach Ministry Funds in 2018:

Local:

Brattleboro Walk In Clinic \$1,500.00
Parks Place Diaper Bank \$600.00
Windham County Heat Fund \$2,500.00
Southern Vermont AIDS Project \$500.00
Putney Food Shelf Family Food Bag Program \$1,000.00
Loaves & Fishes \$500.00
Groundworks Collaborative Overflow Shelter \$1,000.00
SIT Peace Camp Port-A-John for Barn Dance \$75.00
Project Feed the Thousands \$1,000.00
Jerusalem Peace Builders \$500.00
WSESU (Windham Southeast Supervisory Union) Summer Food Program \$500.00
Women's Freedom Center \$613.72
Wild Carrot Farm CSA (for Loaves & Fishes) \$500.00

Local Total: \$10,788.72

National:

St. Thomas Community Health Center, New Orleans \$3,000.00
Love Brigade supplies \$81.93
Hurricane Relief via ERD \$1,000

National Total: \$4,081.93

International:

Foyer Evangélique Universel Orphanage, Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti \$2,000.00
Meru Secondary School, Kenya (water purifier) \$500.00
Meru Secondary School (2 heifers) \$500.00
Carry Me Home \$500.00
ERD hurricane relief \$1,000.00

International Total: \$4,500.00

TOTAL: \$19,370.65 (of which \$13,000 from Church budget, and \$6,370.65 from Tag sales and fundraising)

Respectfully Submitted, *Brian Morgan, Convener pro.tem.*

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

Pastoral Care at St. Michael's is made up of many different ministries that continued to evolve in 2018. If you are interested in any of these ministries, please contact Jeanie at St. Michael's office, Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org

Pastoral Care Visitation – Pastoral visitors are parishioners or clergy who are available to visit those who are homebound, in the hospital or just in need of a visit and prayers. The Pastoral Care Team meets on the second Saturday morning of each month from 9:00 to 10:00. We pray together, reflect on a Bible passage or article, and share who may need a visit. The team members support and share with one another, learning what it means to listen more effectively.

Intercessory Prayer - The Intercessory Prayer Team meets on the First Monday of the month at 3 pm in the Chapel. Those involved in the Intercessory Prayer Team commit to praying for certain individuals every day for three months (this time can be renewed as long as the prayers are needed). In 2018 this team was led by Anita Crosson.

Prayer Shawls –The Prayer Shawl Team knits prayer shawls and baby blankets for people who are sick or recovering from surgery and for those who have welcomed a new baby. The team meets on the second Thursday of the month from 10:30 am-12:00 pm. This ministry is led by Joan Pinilla.

Transportation – The Transportation ministry involves connecting people who are willing to offer transportation to those who need help with transportation. Often, volunteers help bring people to church or to medical appointments. This important ministry was led for many years by Lynn Billington and will need new leadership in 2019.

Meals – When someone is sick or recovering from surgery, we provide meals to help support them. We will be using *Mealtrain*, an online tool where people can sign-up to help with this ministry. This ministry is organized by Deb Jones.

Funeral Receptions – When a member of our church dies, we organize food for a reception following the funeral. Susan Wilmott and Laurie Chiperfield stepped down after 5 years of leading this ministry; Jenn Karstad is now organizing this ministry, in coordination with the newly formed Hospitality Committee.

Hospitality-- At the end of 2018, a new plan to spearhead community hospitality began, especially regarding community potlucks, receptions, and the like. Christopher Wesolowski, Rosie Wojcik, and Jenn Karstad are the planning committee for this and further plans to develop hospitality will continue into 2019.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

The following people lead this ministry as of 1/1/19: Sarah Benton, Janet Brocklehurst, Carol Blanchard, Pam Carr, Steve Harrison, Sissi Loftin, Jean Smith, Rosie Wojcik, and Phillip Wilson as Convener. We keep in contact with members of the parish who are part of a large email list of people who have expressed interest in Social Justice issues. The following Mission Statement defines and guides our efforts.

*The **MISSION** of the Social Justice Ministry of St. Michael's Church is to make real Jesus' vision of justice and love for all people as children of God, following where it leads and accepting its cost.*

We plan to do this by:

- educating ourselves and others to issues of inequality, their origins and effects on people;*
- relating the Christian Gospel to current issues of social justice;*
- building a community of awareness and response to issues of justice locally and globally;*
- connecting with other churches, faith traditions and secular organizations to bring about greater justice.*

Focus of this Ministry: While we support direct response to people in need, our focus is on the underlying systems that create inequality and need. Our focus is systemic justice rather than acts of mercy.

Activities this past year of the Social Justice Ministry:

1. Creation of Martin Luther King Sunday morning celebration on Jan. 14, 2018 with Charles Mays, Jr., African-American professional singer, as speaker and leader of the Adult Forum.
2. Creation and leadership of 5-part Lenten Series: **“This is Us: Family, Race and Belonging in our Community.”** We invited the following to lead: families of the parish with children of color, an African-American woman and man, and via video, people white and of color telling stories of white privilege. The evening ended with a specially created Compline and candle lighting. Dates: from Feb. 20, 2018-March 20, 2018
3. Publicized via Social Justice Email list various justice events at St. Michael's and in the wider community.
4. Creation of Gay Pride Sunday June 10, 2018 with Alex Potter as preacher and Lars Hunter leading the Adult Forum on transgender issues.

5. Sponsoring Adult Forums on justice issues: local, national, global
6. Creating an evening program, Mon. Dec. 3, 2018, **OUT OF BALANCE: #Me Too; Kavanaugh and Gender Inequality**. Led by Lise Sparrow and John Bouffard.
7. Planning for January 20, 2019 Martin Luther King Sunday with preacher and Forum leader, The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, Bishop Suffragan of Massachusetts .
8. Meeting with other parishes to explore ways we can co-operate in creating Social Justice events.
9. Financially supporting the Roots Justice Center and the newly created NAACP of Windham County.

The Social Justice Ministry wants to hear additional ideas and issues that excite you. Our goal is to support and focus the people of St. Michael's as we live out our Baptismal Vow in an intentional way "striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being."
Book of Common Prayer

SCHROEDER FUND COMMITTEE

Members: *Ruth Tilghman, Doug Lilly, Hollis Carlisle, Linda Parker, Pam Carr and Alix Fedoruk*

Ronny Johnson and Lynn Billington resigned, and we thank them for their dedication and good stewardship to the Schroeder Fund. Doug Lilly and Linda Parker agreed to join the committee.

Education: We supported Jack Karn with his discernment to the diaconate at Iona Seminary with both tuition and books with funds totaling \$1250. We also supported Jack on his work, schooling, and training with Jerusalem Peace Builders in Israel, as well as with \$339.38 for his continuing education through Jerusalem Peace Builders. The Fund also contributed to the cost of his psychological exam for the diaconate through the diocese.

We supported three people to take courses at Yale Divinity for a total of \$1100.49

We supported 5 children to attend Rock Point Camp with funds totaling \$1175.

Total for Education: \$4528.49

Outreach: The money allotted for outreach goes to support the Help Fund. We also give our time by serving on the Help Fund Committee. The Help Fund meets on Wednesdays at noon and all the social services agencies in the area can attend. SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action) runs the meetings and is treasurer. The Help Fund gives grants to individuals and families for housing deposits, car repairs, back utility payments and moving and storage expenses. The goal is to keep families and individuals in housing. At the weekly meeting, requests for grants are vetted. This is important because other agencies may know more information about the family and we will know if the request is viable. The mission is to keep people in their housing and to help others obtain housing. We give \$536 per month.

Total for Outreach: \$6432.00

POETRY WRITING GROUP

The Poetry Writing Group at St. Michael's was started eight years ago by Megan Buchanan, who continues to facilitate. Our members and meeting schedule have varied somewhat over these years. The group has a steady core membership of 5 people. In 2018 we met once per month for 75 minutes on a weekday evening in the library. The group is open to everyone.

In April 2018 during National Poetry Month, we had our second annual public poetry reading in the Meeting Room, featuring numerous parish poets. This year we featured Ross Thurber, whose first collection, *Pioneer Species*, was recently published. Also reading their work were Nye Farrabas, Andy Burrows, Leigh Marthe, Dianne Clouet, Lloyd Graf and Megan Buchanan, as well as two other poets from outside the parish, Stephan Brandstatter and Dondo Cuerdon.

Our intention is to make regular time in our full lives to write, to cultivate a fellowship of creative writers, and to experiment together.

Respectfully submitted, Megan Buchanan

PRISON MINISTRY

Three and a half years ago, Rabbi Jim Levinson and I, Craig Hammond, began our ministry to prisoners at Southern State Correctional Facility (SSCF) in Springfield, Vermont. Our approach has always been to host and lead our worship in an interfaith way. Jim is no longer with me in this ministry. He has moved on and now leads worship for Jewish inmates at the men's prison in Greenfield, MA. So now on my own, while I lead this worship routinely one Sunday afternoon each month, I also host special services celebrating special holy days within our Judaic and Muslim and Christian traditions, such as the Advent season with a Carol sing with the Hollowell Singers, an annual Passover Seder, Rosh Hashanah, Ramadan, and a special Christmas Holy Communion service. These have become very popular. When our Muslim brothers join us, we include in our worship Muslim (including Sufi and Quranic) readings.

Our sermon time is interactive, always based on scripture and often from our own Lectionary, but often upon events within other Abrahamic traditions. Yet no matter what, profound sharing occurs, almost always. These inmates know why they are in prison, and we're so fortunate to be the ones with whom they share the hard work they're doing. We go deep and through prayer, honest love for one another, sometimes tears and sometimes alleluias, we always seem to come out the other end, into the light, amazed at what's just happened with God among us. Whatever the faith or even lack of faith some may have (and yes atheists are always welcome and do attend), Jesus is at the core of our time together. The men, including Muslims and Jews, know that Jesus is especially present with all people on the margins - the poor, orphans, widows, foreigners including refugees, the sick, the stranger, and prisoners - a place where in one way or another we've all spent time at some point in our lives.

When we celebrate our Eucharist, the inmates are hungry. Christian or not they devour the bread. They dip into the grape juice. They do this with great reverence with one another, just as Muslims and Jews do with those outside their faiths at the end of Ramadan or at a Seder. We end with a prayer, often led by one of the inmates. They have often said we are their family; that is, we are present, we show up, visit, affirm their innate goodness, and we keep in touch.

I visit one-on-one with inmates, but I also organize special events. This year 40-50 inmates, staff and guests attended our annual Carol sing in early December. We provide books, prayer shawls, yarmulkes, and, this past year, deodorant. Yes, deodorant. We connect inmates with their families. We address issues of remorse, guilt, shame, wishes to reconcile, cutting, considerations of suicide, paranoia, loss of family, and isolation. Pastoral care it is, shared privately, yet with support of the prison. So often they just need someone to listen. And believe me, they always have something to say!

Many parishioners have volunteered as musicians and just as guests. The inmates love guests! Volunteers are golden. This year our own (Rev.) Duncan Hilton has undergone training and become an official Prison Minister, finding ways to both assist and lead worship, and to provide ministry in new ways. But as I've said before, more than anything you all as a parish have embraced this ministry as your/our own with your volunteering, with your support in our parish budget, and with your presence in spirit and prayer. And because they know this, the inmates know that they are not alone, that somewhere out there someone really does love and believe in them, and that among those "someones" are the people of St. Michael's. This is rare indeed, for a parish to support and practice so wholeheartedly such a ministry of grace and redemption. Thank you, and God bless you. If you'd like to learn more and perhaps get involved, please speak with me anytime. *Craig Hammond*

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

THE CHURCH

Leaks: After a second leak caused by ice dams, Greg Allen repaired the sheet rock in the Sacristy. Despite repairs to the area above the Treasury Office, it continues to leak after heavy storms

Repairs: Due to an increasingly high water bill, Bruce Lawrence used blue dye tablets to decipher if we had leakage. Vince Johnson then rebuilt all the toilets which were installed during the renovation and secured a professional to repair a sink in the Women's Room in the basement.

Caulking: Deb Jones and Vince starting caulking the church windows

THE GROUNDS

There was a spring clean up but not in the fall due to snow!

Trees: A new maple was planted in front of the church, thanks to Josh Fritz. In the back of the church, locust limbs were trimmed and a menacing pine was removed; both were paid for by the neighbor who requested it

DAYCARE

Storm grates: Vince cleaned the playground drain and installed mesh to keep out chips *and toys*. Cute story, ask Vince about it.

Entrance to daycare: remains cluttered and isn't in compliance with fire codes

Signage: Daycare Director is working with the town to replace their sign

THE RECTORY

Dishwasher: replaced by Bruce and Steven Meyers on a hot, steamy night!

Painting: Lucia Osiecki secured a professional to touch up walls and cabinets

Stairs: Lucia installed the runners and repaired a basement threshold

Outside: Ross Kenny and Vince repaired the fence, the cement stairs off the screened porch and a gate and then added a gate.

Garden Fairies: Rev. Jean Smith and Deb Jones organized three hot, humid Fridays to spruce up the yards of the Rectory which were pruned, raked, planted and mulched. Thanks to Dick Burtis, Anne and Wayne Cook Judy Davidson, Ken Jacobs, Lucia Osiecki and Nancy, Bill and Peter Ames.

TO DO LIST for 2019

Roofing and Insulation:

- Replace Church roof and install insulation (grants are available)
- Replace Dunham Wing roof and install insulation (**none there**)
- Replace the fascia above the Treasurer's Office in the Dunham Wing

Foundation:

- Repair the rotted foundation on the west side (Putney Road)

Flooring:

- Sand and polyurethane new flooring in church (from heating leak)

Doors and Windows:

- Replace two exterior doors (Elevator and Playground Entrances)
- Replace all windows in Dunham Wing (**extreme heat loss**)

Drainage:

- Repair new drainage system (from the renovation)

Roadways:

- Repaint stripes in the parking lot
- Pour concrete pad under the dumpster and the storm drain
- Make two more portable Mobility Impaired Signs for the Bradley Ave entrance

Rectory:

- Replace Rectory roof on the Bradley Ave side
- Update the Rectory's upstairs bathroom

Submitted by *co-chairs Vince Johnson and Bruce Lawrence with members Greg Allen, John Byrnes, Richard Cogliano, Joshua Fritz, Deb Jones, Ross Kenny, Don Marcille, Alan McBean, Steven Meyers and Lucia Osiecki, Secretary*

SABBATICAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

In late 2016 (!) Mary invited us to help her plan a sabbatical for herself and the parish. Over the early period we supported her application for a Lilly Foundation Grant, discovered a shared interest in helping the parish go deeper in spiritual life through more practiced discipleship, and developed programs to stimulate the parish during Mary's time away. Early 2017 was devoted to defining the Discipleship ministry and leadership, and then helping the parish come to a decision about undertaking the new initiative. Mid to late 2017 saw Duncan's hiring as priest (at first deacon) for discipleship, program initiation, and early thinking on sabbatical programming. Early 2018 saw us having to get serious about actually doing some things. We settled on four major programs:

- We organized a prayer vigil to match Mary's prayer schedule at her Snowmass retreat on Centering Prayer. All slots were filled often by more than one person. The Vigil concluded with a Eucharist in the Chapel celebrated by Duncan. This was a very intimate and moving project for all who participated.
- Bible Study: a kick off session with Rev. Mick Comstock, long time Pastor in Western Massachusetts, followed by a six-session study led by the committee. The initial Saturday morning drew about 20 people for a lively interaction. The evening sessions were more intimate but deeply involving and meaningful.
- Pray and Play Weekend at Hallelujah Farm over Memorial Day weekend. A wide variety of events with play, song, food and worship drew a flow of people, young and old, to the Farm. Attendance was strong particularly among families, and many children were present for the daytime activities bolstered by adults and elders in the evening. It was a great time for all!
- We also arranged for six lay preachers over the sabbatical time. We deeply appreciate all who stepped up to the pulpit: Imogene Drakes, Bill Ames, Caleb Fritz, Matt Bickford, Jesse Ridgeway, Tom Cain, and Mark Horton. Each was terrific---personal, powerful, prophetic in clear intimate messages.
- During the sabbatical we decided to add two fellowship breakfast events which were well attended (not to mention well prepared---thank you, Deb Jones). These helped to provide an opportunity for all our community elements to mix easily in the Undercroft. We all really enjoyed those.

Our time ended with the ringing of a bell on St. Michael's Day at the end of September 2018, nearly two years after we started. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with everyone, pleased with the sabbatical outcome, and happy to be on the other side of what was a daunting project. *Leigh Marthe, Christy Fritz, Jeff Lewis*

STEWARDSHIP

Our Annual Pledge Campaign theme this year was, “Ever Ancient, Ever New.” For this campaign, we sent out a stewardship brochure with pictures and figures and asked a few people from the congregation to speak at our Sunday services about why St. Michael’s was important to them (many thanks to Judith McBean, Imogene Drakes, Peter Johnson, MJ Woodburn and Jonah Johnson).

This year, we set two specific goals. We hoped to raise \$265,000 and to receive 140 pledge cards. We are happy to report that we reached both our goals. We received 140 pledges for a total of \$ 268,498! In addition, *15 of these pledges were new*. As you can see in the chart below, this is remarkable and shows a really broad support for our ministries at St. Michael’s. This is a sign of great health in our parish.

	TOTAL PLEDGED	# OF PLEDGES	# NEW PLEDGES
2011	\$198,837	119	12
2012	\$211, 693	128	11
2013	\$218,293	129	12
2014	\$217, 293	128	12
2015	\$215,878	123	9
2016	\$234, 724	128	9
2017	\$262, 282	133	11
2018	\$255,947	141	13
2019	\$268,498	140	15

We are very grateful for your generosity and for your tremendous support of St. Michael’s ministry. THANK YOU!!! The Stewardship Committee: *Imogene Drakes, Bruce Lawrence, Mary Lindquist, Brian Morgan and Ladd Osborne.*



Reports from Administration & Finance

VESTRY

Vestry Report

How time flies! It seems like just yesterday that we were planning for “our” Sabbatical time.

That being said, much of our time this year was focused upon the planning, organizing and evaluating the events leading up to and following our successful Play and Pray Sabbatical. In addition to the amazing and hardworking Sabbatical Committee, you had a dedicated Vestry, working behind the scenes to make sure that everything went smoothly. The members of the Vestry wish to extend our sincere thank you and appreciations to all of the people who organized, who cooked, who played, who sang and who prayed with us and who contributed to making this time such a success. Special thanks to:

Rev. Jean Smith and Rev. Phillip Wilson for all that they did to organize our worship and to help meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of SMC during our sabbatical time

The Sabbatical Committee: for all of the time and energy that you dedicated to planning and organizing the many events.

Jeanie Crosby, our Parish Administrator, without whom the day-to-day functions of SMC might just cease to operate. (The Senior Warden extends heartfelt thanks here too. I could not have done it without you!)

Rev. Mary Lindquist: for carefully planning and organizing the time, and especially for returning home, renewed and refreshed.

In addition to our sabbatical responsibilities the Vestry: provided hospitality for multiple events including Maundy Thursday, the Annual Picnic, The Newcomer's tea and dinner with the Bishop. The Building for the Future Capital Campaign was successfully completed. We started a mutual ministry review process and met regularly with members of the MDD advisory group. During the sabbatical time we also spent time on renewal and innovation, exploring our role as spiritual leaders of the church and setting goals for the future.

I would like to thank all of the members of the Vestry; (Carolyn Taylor-Olson, Jr. Warden; Christopher Wesolowski; Imogene Drakes; Janet Brocklehurst, Jeanette Landin, and Mark Horton) for their hard work and prayerful consideration of the tasks at hand, both exciting and mundane. Special thanks to retiring members of the Vestry; Lynn Billington, John Brynes and Joanne Patalano, clerk. Most importantly, I would like to thank all of the members of the St. Michael's Family for allowing me to serve as your Senior Warden.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith McBean

Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are a variety of Services, but the same Lord, and there are a variety of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the Common Good. 1Cor 12: 4-7

TREASURER

What duties does the treasurer perform at St. Michael's? A lot of parishioners may say "he counts the money and pays the bills." This is true, but only a small portion of what happens. Let me outline what the Diocese says some of the duties of the treasurer are:

- Keep a "record" of all monies received and monies spent.
- Maintain a Chart of Accounts (COA) for uniformity that includes all income and expenses, as well as for assets and liabilities.
- Prepare monthly reports for the vestry that show, at a minimum, the cash position for the beginning of the month, income received during the month, by source; expenses, by approved budget category, and the parish cash position at the end of the month. Comment on any unusual items of income and expenses for vestry to understand, especially if it may affect the financial position of the church.
- Prepare annual report at the end of the year for the congregation and supply the figures for the financial section of the parish's parochial report to the Diocese.
- Recruit parishioners to perform the annual audit of records of the church, including all finances. This includes receipt and disbursement of funds, payroll, forms for tax purposes, w-2 and 1099 issuance, etc.

Some of the duties the treasurer performed during 2018: The treasurer issued a budget that was approved by the vestry in February. The vestry approved the parochial report for 2017 in August. The annual audit of records was approved by the vestry and sent to the Diocese in August. Monthly reports were issued to the vestry to state the financial position of the church. The treasurer signs all checks that are issued. The treasurer also maintains a rota for the counters of all funds. This is not an all-inclusive list but hopefully gives you the comfort of knowing that your finances are being well attended to.

May 2019 be as successful as 2018. *Wayne Cook, Treasurer*

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The value of our collective endowment funds at the end of year 2018 was \$1,345,974, with \$41,971 in the General Investment Account and \$1,303,974 in the undesignated and Restricted Endowment Funds. Compared with 2017 there is \$87,618 less in the accounts, due to capital loss in the markets, which have been turbulent recently.

The collected Restricted and Unrestricted Endowment Funds and General Investment Funds are invested through the Trust Department of the Greenfield Savings Bank, Greenfield MA. We are working with the Senior Vice President and Senior Trust Officer, Stephen B. Hamlin, CTFA who is in the top quartile nationally for investment managers.

In 2018 Treasurer, Wayne Cook reported there was a draw of 4% (\$39,027) from the General Investment Account to assist in funding St. Michael's annual budget. Given the small size of the General Investment Fund there was no draw from it in 2018. The Restricted Endowment Account draw funds are used to support the Schroeder Fund, designated for social and educational needs. At \$334,358 the Schroeder fund is the largest component of our Designated-Non-operating funds.

In December 2016 the Vestry elected members of the incoming Endowment Committee with Janet Cramer, as Chairman; former chairman, Bill Ames continues as a member of the committee that also includes Doug Switzer, Steven Meyer and Steve Harrison. The Treasure, the current Senior Warden and the Rector also are members of the committee. The committee meets four times a year on the last Sunday of the month following the end of each quarter. At that time they monitor the funds' performances and recommend adjustments to withdrawal rates, should that seem appropriate to market conditions.

As of December 31	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Restricted Endowment	\$1,450,209	\$1,361,332	\$1,399,034	\$1,460,013	\$1,303,974
General Investment Account	\$41,324	\$50,926	\$40,425	\$43,512	\$41,971

Respectfully submitted, *Janet Cramer, Chair; Committee members, Bill Ames, Steve Harrison, Steven Mayer, Doug Switzer, Mary Lindquist, Rector; Judith McBean, Senior Warden; Wayne Cook, Treasurer*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce this year's Vestry candidates for election for three 3-year terms: Judy Davidson, Christy Fritz and Ricky Davidson. The candidates who are nominated to be elected as delegates for the Diocesan Convention include Bruce Lawrence and another to be named. The Senior Warden Carolyn Taylor-Olson will also attend as a delegate.

Class of 2019: Lynn Billington, John Byrnes, Judith McBean

Class of 2020: Janet Brocklehurst, Mark Horton, Jeanette Landin

Class of 2021: Carolyn Taylor-Olson, Imogene Drakes, Christopher Wesolowski

