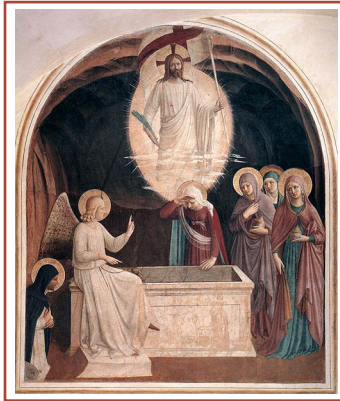


The Guardian

APRIL 2019



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14

8 AM HOLY EUCHARIST

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST & PROCESSION WITH PALMS

MONDAY, APRIL 15

5:30 PM HOLY EUCHARIST

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

5:30 PM HOLY EUCHARIST

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

12 PM HOLY EUCHARIST

7:00 PM TENEBRE SERVICE

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 18

DINNER (TIME TBA)

7:00 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

8 PM NIGHTWATCH

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19

8:00 AM PROPER LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY (NO MUSIC OR VENERATION OF THE CROSS)

12-3 PM ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT THE GUILFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

7:00 PM PROPER LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY WITH VENERATION OF THE CROSS (ST. MICHAEL'S)

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 20

7:00 PM THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER FOLLOWED BY A CELEBRATORY RECEPTION

SUNDAY, EASTER DAY, APRIL 21

8 AM HOLY EUCHARIST

10:15 AM FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST

ELDER LUNCHEON THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 11:30-1PM

Our first Elder Luncheon back in January was a smashing success! Please join us for another special Elder luncheon with conversation and storytelling. At our first luncheon, we had people ranging from early 60s to age 98! YOU decide if you are an elder.

If possible, please sign up in the Common Room or by calling or emailing Jeanie in the office (254-6048, Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org)



MORNING PRAYER FOR LENT

During the season of Lent, Morning Prayer is offered every weekday in the chapel from 8-8:30 am. This is a beautiful service and a wonderful way to begin your day.



MARK THE DATE FOR A WONDERFUL MUSICAL EVENT

April 14, at 4 pm (Palm Sunday), our fabulous choir, joined by some wonderful singers from the community, will share The St. John Passion, by British composer Bob Chilcott. Guest tenor Peter Shea sings the role of the Evangelist, with bass Charles Mays, Jr. in the role of Jesus. Our own Christopher Wesolowski takes the part of Pilate and Margery McCrum is featured soprano soloist. Chilcott's setting of the St. John Passion is both incredibly tender and powerful, and I truly love his music. The concert lasts just about an hour and is the perfect way to start Holy Week.

~ Susan

TENEBRAE

This year Tenebrae, from the Latin meaning "Shadows," will take place during Holy Week on Wednesday, April 17, beginning at 7:00 PM. Holy Week is a very solemn time, drawing to a close Jesus' 40 days of prayer and temptation in the wilderness. Tenebrae at St. Michael's is not a time of celebration, but a time of contemplation, prayerful soul searching and reflection of what this time in this Passion of Jesus means for us and for the world.

We do this through prayer, scripture, poetry and music. This year parishioners Megan Buchanan, Margery McCrum, David Runnion, Christopher Wesolowski, Jonathan Kinnersly and Maurice Harris will help us with music and poetry and there will be readers from the parish. The service which begins in twilight and ends in darkness will be lit with candles. In its simplicity, starkness and times of quiet it will be honest, personal and intimate. Please join us.



APRIL FORUMS

The Forum Committee reports that Forums will not be held on 4/14 and 4/21 due to Palm Sunday and Easter activities. Please be sure to review your Sunday bulletins and the weekly eblast for announcements about the Forums on 4/7 and 4/28.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND
CELEBRATION AT EACH
SUNDAY SERVICE**

NEWS OF THE PARISH

MISSIONAL TEAMS UPDATES

Five groups emerged from the missional trainings that happened in November, December and January. They have each developed a project through a process of group discernment, storytelling, and relationship-building. The projects are both meant to accomplish something meaningful in the world connected to their collective sense of calling and also to be a crucible for learning. All the teams will come together on March 23rd for further learning, planning, and collaboration. Here's what's happened to date:

TAG SALE MINISTRY

In order to continue to meet or exceed current funding requirements to support St. Michael's church programs and local outreach, the members of the Tag Sale Ministry have been working diligently since November of last year to rethink the operations of a long standing and very successful Ministry. During the months of February and March of this year, all members of the Ministry, including the newly formed Core Leadership Team, have been meeting to plan how the Tag Sale will operate going forward. The Ministry's goal for the spring is to have identified all of the various sale and sale venues for the calendar year 2019. The Ministry is energized by the continued passionate interest and desire to participate in the Tag Sale Ministry by the members of the St. Michael's congregation. Our challenges are minor and are only the impact of recent weather on scheduled Ministry meetings.

ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM

The teen-led Animal Rescue Team is focused on supporting local animal rescue shelters. They raised \$245 at a March 17 Bake Sale (thank you for your donations!) and are planning to meet with local organizations to find out how they can be supportive beyond raising money.

CONNECTION CONSTRUCTORS

This team "shares in common a desire to help our neighbors that are struggling with feelings of loneliness and isolation through a ministry of Christ-centered companionship, Sacred Listening, and engagement around shared interests." Team members have begun to visit people and have met with the Pastoral Care Team to update them and receive input. Because of the emphasis on engagement around shared interests (e.g. art, games, music), the team has created a survey of gifts and talents that they will invite the wider parish to complete so that others can be involved in connecting with people who may feel isolated or lonely.

RESPONDING TO THE OPIOID CRISIS

Along with the Rev. Matt Miller, Lead Pastor at the Community Bible Chapel in Brattleboro and a regular at the Wednesday Open Discipleship Group at St Michael's, I have been researching the opioid abuse crisis in Brattleboro over the last few months. We've met with family members impacted by the crisis, recovering addicts, and social workers; visited the Phoenix House and Turning Point; and attended town forums about the crisis. Last month we attended a showing of the documentary "Coming Home" at the Bellows Falls Community Justice Center. The film follows the lives of five Vermonters as they leave prison and try to resume life in their towns with the help of Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA's). COSA's are volunteers who receive a brief training and then meet regularly with formerly incarcerated people to offer encouragement and support as they readjust to work and family life after prison. Matt and I were both very moved by the film and the plea of the Community Justice Centers afterward for more volunteers. A high percentage of people in prison also struggle with addiction so becoming and helping to recruit COSA volunteers seemed like a concrete and meaningful way to respond to the opioid abuse crisis. Matt is taking the lead to screen "Coming Home" at his church on Sat April 27, in cooperation with the Brattleboro and Bellows Falls Community Justice Centers, so more people can learn about COSA's. More details to come. I hope people from St Michael's who are interested in becoming a volunteer will also attend.

LIVING BY A DIFFERENT RHYTHM

This team is focused on developing a project at the intersection of environmental sustainability and living by a rhythm of prayer. They have gathered to pray and vision and are continuing to meet to decide how to turn that vision into a concrete focus.

UPDATE FROM THE PRIEST FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT



As many of you know, I spent nine weeks last summer working at a L'Arche community in Erie, PA (www.larche.org). L'Arche is an ecumenical, international network of communities that "provide homes and workplaces where people with and without intellectual disabilities live and work together as peers; create inclusive communities of faith and friendship; and transform society through relationships that cross social boundaries". There are 147 member communities of L'Arche in 35 countries. The closest community to Brattleboro is just north of Boston, in Haverhill, MA.

Since I returned in August, I have been reflecting and praying over my experience with friends and spiritual companions (see the article in the September 2018 newsletter for more details about my time there - <http://www.stmichaels-vt.org/community-life/the-guardian-newsletter/>). One of the thoughts I have had is to explore starting a L'Arche community in Vermont. Two of the people I met with about this were Richard and Stephanie Bower. Richard is a retired priest and the former Dean of the Cathedral in Syracuse, NY. Stephanie was a L'Arche assistant at the community in Syracuse and then served on the L'Arche national board. They now live in Ludlow. They were very encouraging when we met and offered to accompany me to meet with Bishop Ely to discuss this idea with him at his office at Rock Point. We drove up to Burlington together in early March.

I shared with the bishop about my experiences working at a L'Arche in Erie, as well as my work with people

with special needs in Ireland and at my former parish in Watertown, MA. Richard and Stephanie shared their wisdom about what is involved with starting a L'Arche community. The bishop was supportive and offered his blessing on the exploration.

A few things to emphasize:

- This is outside my position at St Michael's as Priest for Discipleship and Discernment. As many of you know, I have been teaching at CCV Brattleboro part-time. As I'm not teaching this semester, this project will happen in that time. This won't change my job at St Michael's or my plans to continue with parish work long-term.
- My focus at this time related to L'Arche is to put together an ecumenical team to meet together, pray and build a sense of community, and research. I would welcome the involvement of people from St Michael's but a L'Arche community seeks to be broader than any single church or denomination.
- L'Arche is clear that it "takes a community to start a community." People with disabilities are essential partners in the founding of the team, along with their families, supporters, and those with expertise in the field.
- Only L'Arche can start a L'Arche community. I'm just beginning an exploration. It is in cooperation with the structures of L'Arche that a L'Arche community is founded. This process takes many years.

After many years of praying and reflecting about this, I'm excited to take the next step in community. I welcome your prayers, questions, and support!

ST. MICHAEL'S TAG SALE UPDATE

Are you wondering what has happened to the St. Michael's Tag Sale? What are the results of all the meetings and discussions about whether to continue this long-standing tradition and what will it be like if we do?



Here are your answers!! The Tag Sale Ministry has a Core Leadership Team (Daniel Dobson, Betsy Bates, Susan Nichols, Sherry Stimmel, Becky Anderson and Liz Vick) which has made some important decisions and is prepared to lead volunteers in a variety of upcoming fund-raising events including, but not limited to, Tag Sales.

In addition to our traditional Spring and Fall Tag Sales, we are hoping to hold a fundraising event at the Strolling of the Heifers this June and to host a Gala Benefit event in November.

The Spring Tag Sale date will be ONE DAY ONLY on Saturday, May 18 from 9 until 3. All of the usual items will be offered for sale, although really nice and vintage items will be saved to sell at a silent auction at our November Benefit.

Tag Sale donations are now welcome and you are probably wondering what you can donate!! Our guidelines are as follows:

- Clothing- any season, adult and child. Must be clean, no stains or rips, good condition.
- Linens- good condition, no stains, clean.
- Housewares- must have all parts, clean, unbroken, in good condition.
- Toys- only puzzles or games with all the pieces! Sorry, no other toys.
- Shoes- only lightly worn, excellent condition shoes; hiking boots; boots.
- Furniture- big items- can be housed at our storage barn if you can't keep them until May 18. Please check with us first about any upholstered furniture. (see contact info at end).
- Books- books in good condition are welcome as long as they have not been stored in a damp basement.
- Jewelry- in good condition.

Sorry, we absolutely cannot accept any ELECTRONICS, APPLIANCES, MATTRESSES, or anything that is soiled, worn, musty or broken.

We are excited about getting ready for the Spring Tag Sale and hope that you are, too! Please contact Sherry (sherrys@iglide.net or 802-254-8470) or Susan (greenflower05345@yahoo.com or 802-365-4671) to check about donations (upholstered furniture, whole house of stuff or individual questions).

Volunteer opportunities will be plentiful, so we hope you can help out! Thank you!

Liz Vick

NEWS OF THE PARISH

MEET THE BISHOP CANDIDATES!**Valerie Abrahamsen, ThD**

We on the Bishop Discernment and Nominating Committee of the Episcopal Church in Vermont are nearing the end of our year-long work! We now hand things over to the Transition Committee and the people of Vermont. Quoting from a recent article in the Mountain, here is some important information:

“As the days grow longer and we move closer toward the Electing Convention on Saturday, May 18, it is important to keep in mind the Walkabouts planned for April 28-30. These events will give Vermont Episcopalians an opportunity to meet the candidates in person and, most importantly, to ask them questions. With that in mind, the Bishop Transition Committee invites you to send questions and concerns that you would like to pose to the candidates, so that we can see what the main areas of interest are for our different parishes, as well as coordinate a specific set of questions for the candidates that will cover as much ground as possible in the few days they are with us.

“Please send your questions to Robert Barton at rbarton88@outlook.com. Robert and other members of the Transition Committee will use them in planning the Walkabouts. We encourage all Vermont Episcopalians, not just the clergy and lay delegates, to share your questions with us.”

I plan to attend the Walkabout in Springfield at St. Mark's the evening of Sunday, April 28. If others would like to go, perhaps we could meet in the church parking lot about an hour before the session starts and carpool. I believe that both the Walkabouts and the Electing Convention will be live-streamed and recorded as well for those unable to attend in person. More information will be forthcoming on the St. Michael's e-blast and the Sunday bulletins.

PHOTOS FROM "PREPARING FOR A HOLY LENT" DAY AND SHROVE TUESDAY

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY VESTRY MEETING

The Vestry of St. Michael's met on Thursday, February 21st. The rector, Rev. Mary Lindquist, was not able to attend nor were two other members, but a quorum was met. Items reviewed and discussed included a review and approval of the 2019 budget as presented by our Treasurer Wayne Cook. It was noted that the income for January was particularly strong but the expenses that month were also larger than anticipated. There was discussion around the funding of the work of the Outreach Ministry.

Christy and Judy shared their ideas and initiatives on Lenten activities and how the congregants at the 8:00 am service can share in them.

There are two task forces being formed to explore topics that emerged at the Vestry Retreat.

The Vestry discussed adopting some of the practices of the Discernment and Discipleship group format in an effort to further our spiritual leadership and communal bonds. It was decided to add some of the practices at the beginning of the Vestry meetings to help bring us together and ground us in our work.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Wesolowski

VESTRY

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EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

WOMEN AND WORSHIP AT PHILIPPI

by Valerie A. Abrahamsen

published by Astarte Shell Press, Portland Maine

1995, 6" x 9" 252 pages

Older parishioners may recall that when Jack Burgess was assigned the day's reading he introduced the assigned text with a brief background commentary. He was a devoted member of St. Michael's, a local attorney, a former lieutenant governor, and a jolly gentleman. His extensive Biblical knowledge was acquired in his school-days at St. Paul's School, the earliest of the New England Episcopal boarding schools.

We no longer have Jack's amusing commentary, more's the pity, to illuminate the day's reading. Without context, we blithely must accept the text as read but without the illumination that puts it in its context and renders it meaningful. But magically context has recently returned to the Sunday bulletin. No longer must we ask just who are those obscure Philippians, Corinthians, Thessalonians, Ephesians, and Galatians that so upset Paul and prompts his correspondence--and what troubles them? Moreover, where are they to be found?

Follow the coastline north from Athens until you can turn eastward for some fifty odd miles and there is Philippi, in the midst of a broad fertile plain and ten miles inland from the port of Kavala on the Aegean Sea. At the time Paul was writing to its young Christian community, the city was under Roman control, a sophisticated urban metropolis complete with handsome buildings, a marketplace, government offices, fountains, library, theater, temples, monuments, and a system of running water and sewage disposal (it was not until the latter part of the nineteenth century that the latter two items became available in American cities—goodbye, thank goodness, to the pungent honey wagon at day-break). The reader can ponder whether life in Philippi of 50 AD might not have been considerably more commodious and less odiferous.

Of the letters attributed to Paul, scholars agree that only those to the Corinthians and the Philippians are indisputably by him. Well south of Athens, Corinth sits astride a narrow isthmus, much as Panama did before the canal, between two oceans: the Aegean and the Adriatic. Shipping was hauled overland from sea to sea and Corinth was a roaring outpost, not unlike Las Vegas today, where, among other delights, wine, women, and song were available for a price.

Two delightful stories emerge from Philippi in the account in the Acts of the Apostles. The first is the baptism of Lydia by the (still flowing) river, the first Gentile convert to Christianity. The second is the account of the unjust imprisonment of Paul and his companion. An earthquake destroys the prison yet the two apostles remain lest their jailer be accused of negligence for their escape. The thankful jailer and his family were converted.

However, our beloved author adds a new dimension. Her sub-title is "Diana/Artemis and Other Cults in the Early Christian Era." Christianity at Philippi was a long time in developing. It did not fully mature until Emperor Constantine converted Rome and its colonies in early 300's. In the meantime, the citizens merrily embraced a variety of pagan cults, many of which were feminine in their conception and organization. That of Diana the Huntress, in particular, should find a warm spot in the hearts of our sporting parishioners who take to the forest and field come autumn's sparkling days.

Unlike typical pointlessly impenetrable scholarly prose, our scholarly author writes clearly about a confusing subject.

Robert R. Anderson

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

APRIL 2019 LECTIONARY

April 7

Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126,
Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

April 14

The Liturgy of the Palms:
Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

The Liturgy of the Word:
Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31: 9-16, Philippians
2: 5 - 11, Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

**April 21**

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25;
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians
15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43;
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

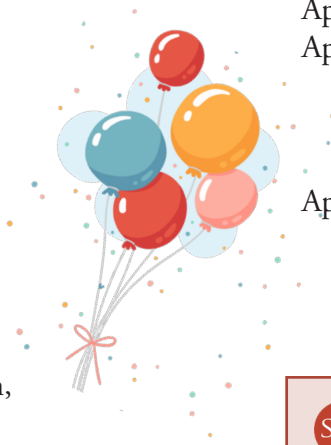
April 28

Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm
150, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

APRIL CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

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



April 22 Marcia Steckler
April 24 Norma Willingham
April 25 Alison Hale
April 27 Susan Heimer,
 John Daly
April 28 Rich Cogliano
April 29 Marta McBean,
 Annie Landenberger,
 Brian Hesselbach,
 Zsolt Pomazi
April 30 Lawrin Crispe,
 Douglas Bonneville



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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

WEEKDAY MORNINGS

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

WEDNESDAYS

6:00–7:00 am, Silent hour in chapel

THURSDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

8:00 - 9:00 am, Centering Prayer