

The Guardian

JUNE 2019

FROM THE RECTORY

SUMMER DISCERNMENT AT ST. MICHAEL'S

As I write this, I am still wearing sweaters and long pants, but I know by the time you receive this newsletter, we will probably be fully immersed in the summer season. Summer is definitely a more laid-back time at St. Michael's --- we have "Lemonade on the Lawn" instead of Coffee Hour, our worship services are slightly shorter, and overall there is a feeling of spaciousness in our ministry.

And yet, it is also the time when we are able to focus on important topics and questions that we may not have had time to focus on during the program year. This summer, there are two areas of discernment that the Vestry and I are focusing on – the Black Lives Matter sign and the Discipleship & Discernment Ministry.

About three years ago, after much discussion with the congregation and among the Vestry, the Vestry voted to place a Black Lives Matter sign in our front lawn. At the time, the Vestry did not make a decision about how long the sign would remain on the lawn. Because of the prompting of a parishioner, we believe it is time to talk about the sign again. Do we keep it up? Take it down? Make it seasonal? Replace it with a different sign? This has led to some deep and interesting conversations among the Vestry and a few members of the Vestry have been working hard to find the best structure to invite you all (the congregation) into the conversation. Stay tuned!

The other area we are discerning is the Discipleship & Discernment Ministry which was started two years ago as a three-year experiment. This ministry initiative led to the hiring of Duncan Hilton as a half-time minister of St. Michael's. We are now heading into the third year of this experiment and we need to begin to think and pray about what has unfolded in our life together because of this ministry and how we are called to proceed. Does the Discipleship & Discernment Ministry end a year from now? Do we continue this ministry initiative and if so, in what form? Are we being led into a new ministry initiative?

So....there is much to think and pray about this summer! Perhaps give it some thought as you weed your garden or swim in the river or look at the stars. Talk to the Vestry and with me about your thoughts, visions and ideas. We are the Body of Christ called St. Michael's and as the Body, we need to discern these things together.

THE DIOCESE OF VERMONT ELECTS SHANNON MACVEAN- BROWN AS BISHOP

On Saturday, May 18, the Episcopal Church in Vermont elected the Reverend Doctor Shannon MacVean-Brown the eleventh Bishop of Vermont. MacVean-Brown was one of three candidates for bishop and was elected on the very first ballot. MacVean-Brown follows the Right Reverend Tom Ely, who has been Bishop of Vermont for eighteen years. The lay delegates from St. Michael's -- Jenny Karstad, Bruce Lawrence and Carolyn Taylor-Olson -- commented on their experience of the electing convention:

- Jen Karstad -- "It was an amazing experience! One of the whitest states in the Union elected a black woman bishop."
- Bruce Lawrence -- "I found it exciting being part of history being made."
- Carolyn Taylor-Olson -- "With such a strong first ballot, she will have a lot of support. And that's God's grace right there."

MacVean-Brown will be ordained in Burlington on Saturday, September 28.



JUNE 2 FORUM

Recently the United Methodist Church General Conference voted a rejection of tolerance of homosexuality, an issue festering in the UMC since 1972. Recently it was announced that spouses of gay Bishops in the Episcopal Church will not be welcome at the 2020 Lambeth Conference, a matter that strikes home to us because Thomas Brown will soon be a bishop and his husband, Tom Mousin, will not be welcome. This is the second of two Forums on this topic. Come and discuss with us the implications of the UMC act, Lambeth decision, and the broader conditions of religion in America. *David Carr, Jeff Lewis, Annamarie Pluhar, Judy Davidson, Craig Hammond and Jean Smith.*

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH

The Feast of Pentecost, which marks the end of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on Sunday, June 9 at the 8 am and 10:15 am services. This is the occasion when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church and the sending of the apostles into the world to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ.

For this special feast:

- We invite you to WEAR RED in honor of the Holy Spirit.
- Children and youth are invited to gather at 9:45 am to create special Pentecost dove streamers to carry in the opening procession.
- Incense will be part of our celebration at 10:15 am.

SUMMER PRAYER SERIES BEGINS TUESDAY, JUNE 11

The Discernment for the Layperson's Team (DLT) invites you to a summer prayer series. Every other Tuesday evening from 6 to 7:30 this summer, we will come together in the Meeting Room for an evening around prayer. At each meeting, the DLT will offer an introduction to a different way to pray followed by a chance to practice. You may attend any or all of the meetings. No commitment or registration is requested. Join us in this opportunity to deepen our prayer lives.

Summer Prayer Series Dates and Topics:

- June 11 - Music and Scripture Prayer
- June 25 - Nature-Based Prayer
- July 9 - Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer
- July 23 - Two-Way Prayer
- August 6 - Imaginative Prayer
- August 20 - The Daily Examen and Compline

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VIEWING PARTY FOR THE ORDINATION OF THE BISHOP OF MAINE, THOMAS BROWN

Not all of us can attend the ordination of Thomas Brown (former Rector of St. Michael's) in Portland, Maine, but we will be able to participate remotely as the service will be web-cast on June 22 at 11 am. We will be having a "viewing party" in the Meeting Room to watch the service together. Although the service begins at 11 am, it will most likely go on for two hours, so feel free to come and go as you need.

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CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY PICNIC CELEBRATION, JUNE 23

All kids, teachers, helpers, parents and grandparents involved with St. Michael's ministry with children and youth are invited to a special picnic in your honor. We want to celebrate all the wonderful things that have happened this year – Godly Play, Youth Forum, Choir School, Teen Discipleship and Acolyting. Please come to the Rectory Lawn after the 10:15 am service on Sunday, June 23 for food, fun and fellowship.

A SIMPLE, YET VERY HEARTFELT, THANK YOU!

We are unable to express or articulate our gratitude. "Thank you" does not say enough.

It is with the deepest sincerity that The Tag Sale Ministry wishes to extend our appreciation to everyone who in some large or small way contributed to the success of The Spring Tag Sale. For the sorting that seemed endless, the Saturday Haul-Out, set-up the week before the sale, the sometimes exhausting hauling of furniture and donations to the church, the amazing human resources we had on Sale day (what an incredible show of the St. Michael's community!), the ever-present church staff, the trust extended to us by the Vestry, your support and prayers -- thank you. We are blessed.

The Tag Sale Core Leadership Team is passionate about this Ministry and its Mission, very passionate. And this passion is tied tightly with our roles as disciples of Jesus, in particular with our outreach for those less fortunate, for those living alone, or for those who just need a friendly face.

In closing, may peace be with you.

Becky Anderson

Betsy Bates

Daniel Dobson

Charlene Kemp

Susan Nichols

Liz Vick

SUMMER PLANS FOR THE PRIEST OF DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT

One of the joys and challenges of this position is that each month and year has had its own rhythm of beginnings and endings. What has emerged based on the rhythm of the program year is for me and the church to focus my part-time hours at the church during the program year and for me to focus more on other aspects of my vocation during the summer. I'll be away on vacation from June 24 to July 13 and then will be working at the church on Wednesdays and Sundays through mid-August while I also teach at CCV. I've been enjoying the process of evaluation and reflection this month and look forward to discerning with you all what emerges for Year 3 based out of those conversations.



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FAREWELL TO BISHOP TOM AND ANN ELY AT ST. MICHAEL'S SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 5 PM - 8 PM

St. Michael's will be hosting a farewell event for Bishop Tom and Ann Ely for the southern part of the Diocese of Vermont on Saturday, June 29. There will be a special Taize service in the church at 5 pm followed by a festive reception in the Undercroft from 6-8 pm. A brief program honoring Tom and Ann will begin at 6:45 pm. All are invited to come and celebrate Tom and Ann's amazing ministry of 17 years in the Diocese of Vermont!



PRIDE SUNDAY, JUNE 30

On Sunday, June 30, St. Michael's will be celebrating PRIDE Sunday in honor of PRIDE month and the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. There will be a special speaker for the sermon time and prayers for our ongoing support and celebration of the LGBTQ community at St. Michael's and in the world. This celebration will take place at both the 8 and 10:15 am services.

A LETTER OF THANKS

In Northern New England, self-reliance is prized. Just before Christmas, when I broke my left ankle and both lower leg bones, any thoughts of independence flew out the window. At the same time, my church family flew to help. Through one complication after another, my community cared for me and saw that my needs were met. During this time, my most frequent prayers were those of gratitude, and they still are. I've been able to get food, see my medical care providers, get and send mail, receive communion, and remain connected to my church family in so many ways, because of you, my church family. When I was most vulnerable, you showed up, and you cared for me. Your prayers kept me strong. God provides, and you were God's hands and feet in this world. Thank you all for your loving acts of kindness and comfort. I have been blessed.

Many hugs,

Devin Starlangl

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

Floral Art in the Churchby **Jack Inman****Published by Abingdon Press, Nashville & New York****1968 7"x10" 192 pages**

At first glance, the florally insensitive (which would include this florally-challenged reviewer) might dismiss this book as mere flower arranging for the altar guild. Yet the sub-title reads "Creative Use of Flowers and Symbolism Throughout the Christian Year." And this lifts the book into another realm.

Symbols are visual reminders. And through the ages, flowers have acquired specific symbolic meanings (often multiple meanings) both secular and spiritual. For instance, the rose secularly stands for charm, grace, love, and simplicity. Spiritually it symbolizes rejoicing.

The book follows the Christian year beginning with the first Sunday in Advent (from *advenire*, "to come" for those whose schoolday Latin is a bit shaky or, regrettably, non-existent). It includes every Sunday in every season. The Christian year is basically seasonal with only a handful of specific calendar dates (Christmas is December 25th, for instance). The first half, Advent to Easter, deals with God's revelation to man through Jesus. The second half, Pentecost onward, is about our response to this revelation.

Each Sunday has its own two-page spread with the left hand page a photograph of a suggested floral arrangement. Most are in black and white but a fortunate few in process color. The text is found on the opposite page and includes a recommendation of the floral symbolism of that particular Sunday as well as text explaining its significance in the Christian year in clear and spare prose. Additionally, a color bar under the Sunday's name indicates the season: Advent purple, Epiphany green, etc.

Many of the arrangements incorporate elements other than flowers. The Fourth Sunday in Lent (The Road to Calvary) includes not only the rose (symbolizing victory) but the thorny cane (symbolizing suffering). The delicacy of such arrangements, however, calls for intimate spaces such as a side chapel. In a full-size church setting,

they would be barely visible. However, most arrangements are sufficiently robust for either setting.

Unlike most of today's books designed by fru-fru "book designers" whose knowledge of the historical elements of visual communication through the printed page is woefully and preposterously lacking, this book is a model of good taste and legibility. This writer recalls a contemporary "practitioner" being unaware of the term foot-margin and his work suffered accordingly (and so, too, did his unfortunate readers).

Today's publishers foist off on the innocent reader so-called hardcover books which are nothing more than paperbacks with cheap paper covering the flimsy boards. This book's signatures are traditionally sewn to prevent pages falling out of the book as so often occurs with contemporary glued bindings. Further, being sewn, the book opens readily, a necessity for a two-page format. Try that with a contemporary glued binding. Ridiculously, the trade term for such inferior binding is "Perfect Binding." It is worth noting the inventiveness of the book's binding: black cloth with gold spine stamping and a tan front edge panel adorned with Christian symbols running vertically. It is an altogether good job of the craft of bookmaking.

The author was (the book's publication year was 1968) a devout Methodist. However, his taste and knowledge applies readily to the Episcopal Church.

Robert R. Anderson

Correction: The May book review incorrectly states that the Folsom window portraying St. Michael is in the east wall. It is in the south wall. Incidentally, in regard to direction, parishioners should note that, in the Anglican tradition, to walk around a church widdershins (counter-clockwise) courts bad luck. You have been warned.

SUMMARY OF MAY VESTRY MEETING

Our meeting opened with prayer and spiritual sharing led by Rev Duncan Hilton.

A report of the current activities of the Discernment and Discipleship program was given by Christy and Duncan.

A continuation of how to have difficult conversations involved a demonstration of a Fishbowl format.

A brief financial report was reviewed and minutes from our April meeting were approved with clarification.

Comments and concerns were reported from May's Vestry Listening Corner.

The Rector gave a report, as did the Senior Warden.

Thank you cards were written and signed by the Vestry.

Mary gave a closing prayer.

Carolyn Taylor-Olson

VESTRY

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EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

JUNE 2019 LECTIONARY

June 2

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97;
Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21; John
17:20-26

June 9

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9;
Psalm 104: 25-25, 37; Romans 8:14-17 or
Acts 2:1-21; John 14:8-17, (25-27)

**June 16**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8 or
Canticle 13; Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

June 23

Isaiah 65:1-9, Psalm 22:18-27,
Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

June 30

1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21; Psalm 16;
Galatians 5:1,13-25; Luke 9:51-62

JUNE CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

June 1 Madelyn Howard,
Nancy Durborow
June 2 Laura Lewis,
Cary Gaunt,
Jane Sbardella
June 3 Lynn Billington,
Caroline Wojcik
June 4 Phillip Stimmel
June 5 Jonah Johnson,
Deborah Jones
June 9 Larry Earle
June 11 Martha Moravec
June 12 Betsy Bates
June 13 John Byrnes



June 16 Jake Mattson
June 17 Jean Jersey,
Herb Meyer
June 20 Jared Rediske
June 21 Nye Ffarabas
June 23 Craig Hammond,
Adwoa Lewis-Wilson
June 25 Whitney Nichols,
Kevin McElhinney,
Michael Fedoruk
June 27 Carolyn Taylor-Olson
June 28 Judy Hueber,
Oren Hesselbach
June 29 Vince Johnson
June 30 Zadie Olmstead

ANNIVERSARIES

June 1 Ramon & Maria Escalera
June 10 Greg & Kelli Allen,
Douglas & Ann Bonneville
June 13 Joao d'Alcaravela & Carol Blanchard
June 15 Peter & Jean Smith
June 16 Doug & Mimi Lilly
June 18 Al & Janet Cramer
June 21 Ron Bell & Gwen Mousin
June 22 Kevin McElhinney & Carol Beninati
June 24 Philip & Cherolyn Stimmel
June 27 Cliff & Wylene Wood



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The Guardian

a Christ-centered community of practice awakening to the abiding presence of God



Our Worship Together

SUNDAYS	8:00 am, Quiet service of prayer and Holy Communion 10:15 am, Prayer, music, and Holy Communion, with childcare
WEEKDAY MORNINGS	6:00–7:00 am, Silent hour in chapel
WEDNESDAYS	12:00–12:30 pm, Brief service of prayer and Holy Communion
THURSDAYS	5:30–6:00 pm, Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer
SATURDAYS	8:00 - 9:00 am, Centering Prayer