

The Guardian

AUGUST 2019

FROM THE RECTORY

SUMMER NEWS

A year ago, my family and I were in Europe for much of the summer and it has been fun to think back to exactly where we were and what we were doing last summer. However, this year, I am thankful to be in Vermont for much of the summer. While it is nice to travel, it is also good to stay put and enjoy the beauty of Vermont as well as to experience the church in a less intense and lighter time.

Even though life is a bit slower in the summer at St. Michael's, there have been some notable happenings.

- One such event was the parish gathering on July 10. The Vestry invited parishioners to come together to give feedback on **the “Black Lives Matter” sign** that has been on St. Michael's front lawn since 2016. The Vestry did a wonderful job structuring our time together so that all opinions were welcome. About 60 people came and many shared their perspectives, which were wide-ranging and thoughtful. There was a sense of unity in our commitment to confront and stand against racism in ourselves and in our world, but there were many different perspectives about whether the sign helped or hindered this commitment to justice. The Vestry will be prayerfully discerning next steps both in regard to the sign and in regard to how we will continue to strengthen our commitment against racial injustice in our community and in our world.
- Another important happening this summer is that we are saying goodbye to some important people in our church community. After many years of their deep involvement at St. Michael's, we said goodbye to **Lucia Osiecki and Deb Jones** on July 21. Lucia and Deb have been important to us at St. Michael's, sharing their many gifts so generously with our community through countless ministries. They will be living near the Jersey shore, in close proximity to family.

And on Sunday August 4, we will say goodbye to **Darcey Mercier** who will be moving to Austin, Texas to begin seminary. Darcey has been discerning her call to ordained ministry for many years, so this move is one of joy and hope. Darcey, like Lucia and Deb, has been tremendously generous to St. Michael's and her presence has made a big difference to our church.

It is HARD to say goodbye to these members of our community. They are family to us and we love them. And yet, we are so thankful for how their presence has changed us and inspired us to follow Christ. We know that through the Body of Christ, that wonderful and sacred mystery, we will continue to be connected and upheld in God's love.

**SUNDAY AUGUST 4
8 AM SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH**

In summer we return to Christ Church for the 8 am service on the first Sunday of the month. The 10:15 services will remain at St. Michael's. Please remember that Christ Church has several steps which are not accessible for some with mobility limitations. The 8 o'clock service on August 4 is a lovely time to experience worship at our mother church, the first Episcopal church in Vermont.



**COME SAY FAREWELL TO DARCEY!
AUGUST 4**

Darcey Mercier is headed to the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas to pursue theological training necessary to become ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. We are so proud of Darcey and how her ministry and leadership have grown over the last few years. Darcey's last Sunday with us before heading for seminary will be August 4. We will say a special prayer and blessing for her at the 10:15 am service, followed by some lemonade and food in the Undercroft. Please come to bless Darcey and tell her how much she has meant to our church!



**SUMMER PRAYER SERIES CONTINUES
AUGUST 6 + 20, 6 - 7:30 PM**

The Discernment for Layperson Team (DLT) invites you to the summer prayer series which began earlier this summer. Every other Tuesday evening from 6 to 7:30 this summer, we come together in the Meeting Room for an evening around prayer. At each meeting, the DLT offers 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.

- August 6 - Imaginative Prayer
- August 20 - The Daily Examen and Compline



**ELDER LUNCHEON
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 12-1:30 PM**

Our two Elder Luncheons were so much fun and great successes! Please join us for another Elder Luncheon with conversation and storytelling. This time, we will invite some of St. Michael's youth to join in the luncheon so that youth and elders can talk about how life has changed over the last few decades. At these luncheons, we have 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 contacting Jeanie by phone in the office (254-6048) or by email at jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org.

INVITATION TO JOIN SACRED GROUND DIALOGUE GROUP AT ST. MICHAEL'S BEGINNING AUGUST 9, 9-10:30 AM

We invite you to join our first *Sacred Ground* Dialogue Group at St. Michael's, starting on Friday, August 9, from 9-10:30 am at St. Michael's. There is still room for additional participants. Please contact Sissi Loftin to register or for more information at sissiloftin@hotmail.com. The series will meet every two weeks to discuss readings and films from the syllabus. Following the church-wide discussion on the "Black Lives Matter" sign, this study group is one opportunity to explore more deeply the roots of racism in our history and the painful legacy in our personal lives and American society.

Sacred Ground is a film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through the chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all and is especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day—all while grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love.

To learn more about *Sacred Ground*, go to www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground.

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC, AUGUST 25

On Sunday August 25, we will celebrate summer with our Annual Parish Picnic. Please join us for this celebration at Kate & Dana McGinn's beautiful home on Lake Spofford from 12 – 4 pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert and your bathing suit for swimming and outdoor activities. There are also plenty of chairs for porch-sitting. Parking is limited so please carpool if able. All are welcome!



SUMMER UPDATES FROM THE DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT MINISTRY



It was wonderful to be able to visit family and friends on vacation in late June and early July and it's good to be back. Many things are still happening over the summer: music at the Gathering Place continues monthly on the third Tuesday; many of the discipleship groups are gathering; the Discernment for Lay People Team is hosting the summer prayer series; and following up on the May 19th Match Up, the Connection Constructors team is meeting with the pastoral care team to explore how to collaborate on connecting people in the parish, especially people who may be experiencing isolation, around shared gifts and interests.

Upcoming Dates and Ways to get involved:
Following up on the exploration this past year about how to respond concretely to the opioid crisis as a Christian community, I'm coordinating with the Greater Falls Community Justice Center to have a training for volunteers interested in participating in Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA). COSA volunteers "work in groups of three to five (plus a staff person) for a minimum of one year to provide mentoring and support for someone (a core member) as he or she transitions from prison to community." (<http://cijnvt.org/about-us/volunteers-needed/>). If you are interested but haven't yet signed up, let me know. The training will likely happen September 13-14 in Bellows Falls, exact times TBD.

As I shared in my June 16 sermon, one of the possibilities that has emerged out of the Discipleship and Discern-

ment ministry is the exploration of creating a L'Arche community in Vermont. L'Arche – French for "ark" – is an international network of communities where people with and without disabilities live alongside one another. There are over 149 communities in 38 countries. L'Arche's mission is to: *"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. . . L'Arche communities are communities of faith, rooted in prayer and trust in God. The spirituality of L'Arche is grounded in the belief that each person is unique and of sacred value, and that we experience God's love through mutual friendships in which the gifts and weaknesses of each person are recognized and accepted."*

There will be a gathering on Sunday August 25, 3-5 pm, at St Michael's where people from our parish and beyond can learn about L'Arche from folks who have lived and worked in various L'Arche communities. It will also be a chance for people to share about opportunities and challenges for developing a local community and discuss next steps. Please feel free to invite people beyond the parish community. L'Arche very much values being an ecumenical organization, not tied to any particular denomination or tradition.

Write me – Duncan@stmichaelsvermont.org – if you have any further questions.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

PHOTOS OF THE CELEBRATION FOR TOM AND ANN ELY



PHOTOS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14

Safe Church training is required in the Episcopal Church for anyone who works with children and youth, visits people in their homes, or is a part of vestry leadership. There will be a Safe Church Training at St. Michael's on Saturday, September 14. More information about registration will be available soon. In the meantime, please mark your calendars!

**EMAIL SCAM**

Dear Parishioners,

There is someone sending out emails in my name asking for "a favor" or asking directly for money via eBay gift cards or other gift cards. PLEASE DO NOT BE DUPED! Do not trust any emails that ask you for "a favor" or that ask you to give money to any other organization but St. Michael's! Often these false emails are signed "Rev. Mary Lindquist," which is never how I sign my name.

My two email addresses: mary@stmichaelsvermont.org and marydail7@gmail.com

If you receive an email with my name attached to it with any other email address, **DO NOT REPLY** and know that it is a scam.

I am very sorry we live in a world in which people decide to make a living by tricking unsuspecting and generous people.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns -- at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org

Yours in Christ,

Mary

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

**The Cathedral Church of Canterbury:
A Description of its Fabric and a Brief History of the Archiepiscopal See**

By Hartley Withers B. A.

George Bell & Sons, London 1904

5" x 8 1/2" 132 pages

This is one of a series by the publisher Bell & Sons of notable English cathedrals, the foremost of which is certainly Canterbury in the county of Kent and the only one in which this writer has attended Sunday service. It was a grey late March morning, blustery and damp outside and grim and chill inside. In true English fashion, the twelve year-old young lady accompanying us was suitably dressed by her mother to ensure her daughter maximum discomfort: wool skirt and knee-length stockings. Her skirt was grey, her stockings black, and her knees blue from the cold. Discomfort apparently is considered instructive and possibly even virtuous to English youth of a certain class. What cherished memories linger from yesteryear!

No cathedral in the English-speaking world has the significance of Canterbury. Even in our humble parish, two book reviews already have been devoted to it: the first about a contemporary pilgrimage to it and the second about the discovery in it of what might be the bones of the martyred Archbishop Thomas of Becket. Further, St. Michael's has its own connection: T. S. Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" was twice performed in the church under the direction of our cherished George Lewis.

On the site of the cathedral of today, a church of which next to nothing is known was reluctantly given by the Saxon King Ethelbert to St. Augustine in 597 A. D.. Augustine had been sent by Pope Gregory to convert the heathen in the British Isles and clearly he was off to a stellar start with the subsequent conversion to Christianity of Ethelbert.

In 1011, the church and the town were pillaged by the Vikings. However, the repentant Canute restored the church and brought back the corpse of Archbishop Alphege, martyred by his soldiers. However, in 1067 the conquering Normans destroyed the church by setting

it ablaze. Lanfranc, the first Norman archbishop, set about in 1070 the task of building a suitable cathedral to replace the church. The new cathedral was dedicated in 1130 and attended, in addition to all the country's bishops and archbishops, by the royalty of both England and Scotland.

"Are there none of the dastards eating my bread who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" Thomas of Becket, once a close friend of Henry II, had trod upon the royal toe in a dispute over which court took precedence, church or civil. The king, campaigning in France in 1170, little realized that his intemperate plea would be taken seriously. Forthwith, four knights departed for Kent and slaughtered Thomas on the cathedral's altar steps. Appalled, the king publicly repented, praying before the altar whose steps were stained with the martyr's blood and permitting his royal body to be scourged by the cathedral's monks.

In 1533, Henry VIII, frustrated that his Spanish wife Catherine proved unable to produce a male heir, wanted a divorce so that he could marry Anne Boleyn who would presumably act as a brood mare. The Pope refused, sending Henry into a maddened rage. He assumed primacy of the English church, dissolved and destroyed the monasteries nationwide, and appropriated their considerable wealth to his treasury. The body of Becket, enclosed in a sacred tomb in Canterbury Cathedral, was seized and hurled into a bonfire as a final insult to the Roman church. The church of which Henry assumed control and leadership became the Anglican Church of England and from which is derived the Episcopal faith which we embrace.

Robert R. Anderson

SUMMARY OF THE JULY 18 VESTRY MEETING

All Vestry members present.

Meeting opened with a prayer led by Mark Horton and a personal check in by members.

Christy gave an update on activities planned for the next year by the Ministry for Discernment and Discipleship (MDD).

Wayne gave a Treasurer's report, mentioning that income for June and July is below budget as pledges are down. He is encouraging people to pay pledges now so bills do not have to put off. He also read a letter from the Diocesan Financial Oversight and Audit Committee which said our 2017 audit "was thorough and complete and deserves high praise for its exemplary work." Members of the 2017 audit committee were: Jeanette Landin, Bruce Lawrence, and Jack Lilly. New members of the 2018 Audit team are: Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, William Stearns and Daniel Dobson.

The Vestry spent a long time discussing the Parish meeting on the BLM sign. Everyone was appreciative of the number of people who attended and their thoughtful and respectful comments on this challenging subject.

Everyone had received copies of the written comments submitted to the Vestry and members discussed their thoughts about this input from the parish. Many different possibilities about how to go forward were discussed but because Mary was absent and because the Vestry felt we need to respond very prayerfully and thoughtfully, a definite plan was postponed until Mary returns.

The Rector had left a written report for the Vestry.

Carolyn, the Senior Warden, had a report on the Safe Church training in September that many vestry members will attend.

Ricky, the Junior Warden, reported from the Building and Grounds Committee and praised the many skilled members of the parish who volunteer their time to make needed church repairs, thus saving the parish much money.

Thank you cards were written.

Ricky gave the closing prayer.

Judy Davidson



VESTRY

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EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

AUGUST 2019 LECTIONARY

August 4

Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14, 2: 18-23; Psalm 39: 1-11; Colossians 3: 1-11; Luke 12: 13-21

August 11

Genesis 15: 1-6; Psalm 33: 12-22; Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16; Luke 12: 32-40

**August 18**

Jeremiah 23: 23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11: 29-12: 2; Luke 12: 49-56

August 25

Isaiah 58: 9b-14, Psalm 103: 1-8, Hebrews 12 18-29; Luke 13: 10-17

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

August 2 Caleb Fritz,
Noah Coburn
August 8 Julie Laamanen
August 9 Pat Laubach
August 11 Christine Triebert
August 13 Paul Moberly
August 14 Amy Walker
August 16 Louis Ronconi,
Erin LeBlanc
August 17 Gregory Lesch
August 18 Avery Buchanan,



August 19 Mary Carnahan
Samuel David Mattocks
August 20 Emmanuel Keppel
August 21 Judith McBean
August 22 Janet Brocklehurst
August 25 Meghan Mattocks
August 26 Susan Dedell,
Betty Elwell,
Grainne Buchanan
August 28 Fred Bump

ANNIVERSARIES

August 5 Bill & Nancy Ames
August 10 Andy & Elise Burrows
August 20 John & Mary Carnahan,
Lawrin & Pam Crispe
August 22 Alan & Judith McBean
August 24 Susan & Paul Dyer
August 25 Christine Hart & Bill Morlock
August 30 Vince Johnson & MJ Woodburn
August 31 Ed & Jane Sbardella,
Robert & Susan Kochinskas



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The Guardian Mailing List: Contact Jeanie Crosby with address changes or requests to be added or removed from *The Guardian* mailing list. jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org or 802-254-6048.

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The Guardian

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



Our Worship Together

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