

# The Guardian

OCTOBER 2019

FROM THE RECTORY

## A LONG OBEDIENCE



As I write this, it is mid-September. Summer has not yet passed, but there is a chill in the air in the evening and some leaves are just beginning to change color. It is the time of fantastic New England light and the Canada geese have begun their flights south.

I love to watch the geese as they fly in their V-shaped formation. Sometimes the V-shape looks a bit misshapen as one or two geese go a bit off course, or perhaps are having an argument (at least that is what I imagine), but they always seem to right themselves as they fly.

Scientists believe there are two very good reasons for geese to fly in this formation. First, this formation makes the whole gaggle more energy-efficient as all except the leader is able to draft off the goose in front. When the lead goose tires, he or she drifts to the back while another goose takes the lead for a while. The second benefit for flying in a v-formation is that it is easy to keep track of every goose in the group, not to mention the probable benefit of communication and coordination within the group. Fighter pilots often use this formation for the same reason.

Eugene Peterson once said that being disciples is “a long obedience in the same direction.” And in this endeavor, we are not so different from the Canada geese. We may not be as organized as our geese friends, but as we join together in worship, prayer, action and service, we endeavor to move in the same direction, by the One who calls us into being.

Sometimes we lead the pack, sometimes we follow, and sometimes we need to rest for a bit while being carried by the rest of the group. We pay attention to those around us, noticing when one is missing or lagging in our common life. Sometimes we get off course and sometimes we mess up, but with God’s help and our obedience, we trust that we are being led in the right direction.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## CELEBRATING ST. FRANCIS, CELEBRATING THAD

On Sunday, October 6 we will be celebrating the feast day of St. Francis, as has been our tradition over the last few years. Although the choir will not be singing the Missa Gaia this year, we will give thanks for the witness and ministry of St. Francis. Coincidentally, we will also give thanks for the ministry and witness of our beloved Priest Associate, Thad Bennett.



Because he and husband George have recently moved to Massachusetts (which Thad calls "Vermass," maintaining ties to Vermont), Thad will be focusing his ministry closer to his new home.

Thad Bennett has been a Priest Associate (i.e. retired, non-stipendiary) at St. Michael's since 2012.

Please come and thank Thad for his tremendous ministry and generosity to St. Michael's over these last many years. His presence, spirit, and energetic witness have meant so much to us. We love him and will miss him greatly!

STM

## ST. FRANCIS DAY BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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

**When:** Sunday, October 6, 2019, 4 pm

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

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

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

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
TAG SALE MINISTRY**Kudos**

The Fall Tag Sale is here.

Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 8:30AM to 2:00PM!

THREE tents this year, under which will include a wide variety of housewares, all kinds of tools, sports equipment, and a vast assortment of furniture, including antiques.

Please join us to make this another successful St. Michael's Tag Sale.

See the sign-up sheets in the hallway for opportunities to volunteer.

*Most importantly, even prior to the sale, the Tag Sale Ministry would like to recognize all the work, the long hours, and the dedication of so many folks in this congregation who have already contributed their time and continue to do so. Without these unsung heroes, we would not be so well positioned for this upcoming sale. Make no mistake - there is still much to be done.*

*Kudos to all these great folks.  
Thank you, thank you, from all of us.*

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## OCTOBER FORUMS

All are welcome at the Forums which are held each Sunday from September through May at 9 am in the Meeting Room. The Forum discussions are all connected to our context of a Christian faith community and ask the questions “How does this connect to our faith?” or “So what?” Forum leaders are our own clergy, our parishioners, and an occasional guest speaker. Please join us on Sunday mornings.

**October 6:** “Celebrating St. Francis Day” led by The Rev. Thaddeus Bennett

*Francis became fascinated again and again and was inspired by the animals around him. He sought to understand his own nature that he might obey it as the animals obeyed their nature. He blessed them for their beauty and obedience. They taught him, and led him to seek God’s will for his own life.* From The story of St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. Patrick Tuttle, OFM (Order of Friars Minor)

The forum will center around the role of animals in our spiritual lives. Thad will facilitate a conversation about the ways the animals in our lives have affected us and helped us be followers of Jesus. Come prepared to talk about animals that have helped you be a better person, have helped you see God, and have helped you develop your own spirituality about God and nature.

**October 13:** “Helping Asylum Seekers on Our Southern Border” led by Sharon Lehmann. Sharon, partner of Pastor Audrey of the First Congregational Church in West Brattleboro, will share with us details of the efforts her fellow West Brattleboro parishioners are undertaking to help asylum seekers on our southern border near Brownsville, TX. They volunteer in conjunction with volunteers from the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, specifically from the three Episcopal churches in Brownsville, who occasionally need respite from their saintly labors. The Outreach Committee hosts this Forum.

**October 20:** Vermont Interfaith Action - Come hear about the important work of Vermont Interfaith Action from Brattleboro Select Board Member Daniel Quipp. Vermont Interfaith Action’s mission is: **To create solutions to systemic issues that prevent our most vulnerable citizens from enjoying the quality of life God intends for us all.**

**October 27** - “Water 3” led by Bill Ames. “At the last of the Forum water talks, we will take a few minutes to look back at Water Talks 1 and 2. Water 3 will focus on the worlds’ remaining fresh water reserves, the glaciers in their present retreat, the rising oceans in response to a warming planet, the geography of climate change and water scarcity in the USA with a look at the Ogallala Reservoir, along with some time to address questions. Hope to see you there”.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**One in Christ: Stewardship 2020**

*One in Christ is the theme of our stewardship season this year. This phrase comes from Paul's letter to the Ephesians: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:4-6).*

As we reflect on what is at the heart of our ministry at St. Michael's, being and becoming One in Christ seems our primary call, especially as we experience so much division and distraction in our world. What does it mean to be One in Christ? And in what amazing ways can we participate in God's mission through our oneness with Christ and one another? These are some questions we will explore as we look to supporting our mission and ministry in 2020.

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

Our intentional focus on stewardship will begin on Sunday, October 20. Around this time, you will be sent a packet of materials asking you to prayerfully make a pledge to St. Michael's for 2020. We ask you to return your pledge card to St. Michael's on Commitment Sunday, November 10 during the 8 am or 10:15 am services or to mail your pledge card to St. Michael's if you cannot attend these services.

We thank you for your generosity to our common ministry. May we continue to become one with Christ and one another through our commitment to the ministry that God has given us.

**PHOTOS OF MOVING THE BAPTISMAL FONT TO THE MEMORIAL GARDEN**



## BEING MORE THAN THE WORST THING WE HAVE EVER DONE

By Craig Hammond

We are so much more than the worst thing we have ever done. And more than anywhere, I have learned this in my prison ministry with the men, from these men, inmates in the prison in Springfield, Vermont. I have absolutely loved every single moment I've spent there, and I've looked forward each month to our time together.

My ministry has essentially been to lead and host worship once each month, for an hour and a half. Up until I began, these worship services always had a sole Christian focus, that is, by Christians for Christians. But I joined with a rabbi friend and we decided to offer an interfaith service instead. We have no Muslim imam in our area who also could join us, but we realized we could easily include Muslim prayers and readings from the Quran, with Muslim inmates assisting us. Why did we pursue this path? We believed and still believe more than ever that we need to rediscover our common humanity and a common ground where at least there, in this prison, we could find God in and through one another.

And we have. Mostly we have been Christian, Jew and Muslim, all of us from the Abrahamic tradition, but almost always Buddhists, agnostics and atheists also join us. Perhaps our most devoted and faithful worshipper is an atheist. Many are barely literate, but as they read scripture aloud the Holy Spirit stumbles right out to every one of us. Of inmates with Christian backgrounds, many are lapsed in their particular observances. Many are fundamentalist and evangelical, but of course that only rounds out our circle, our own chapel of the United Nations.

We have our own liturgy, one created by our experience together, which begins with the words "United by the

wish that we could meet anywhere but here [behind bars]." We have our own songbook or hymnal, but often we simply sing favorites of the inmates. Much that we've done is impromptu. Sometimes an inmate is clearly feeling agitated and needs help. Sometimes an inmate breaks out and sobs. Sometimes an inmate wants to sing Amazing Grace at the top of his lungs. And sometimes we just stop, and pray. Once when I asked where they find a sanctuary just to find peace and quiet and time with God, one inmate said, "Right here in this room, this chapel. And you want to know why? Because there's no microphone here."

We have special times together; baptisms, bar mitzvahs, seders, Ramadan observances, holiday carol sings during advent, and when possible, Christmas Day worship. Last month's worship centered around our own St. Michael's practice of *Lectio Divina*. Once we followed the lead of the Jesuit theologian and paleontologist Teilhard de Chardin who once led a Eucharist in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia and realized he had neither bread or wine, so he decided the whole earth would become his altar, with the human toil and sufferings of the day offered up as his bread and wine.

I will be leaving, retiring from this ministry this December. My last day will be a Christmas Day eucharist. There may be someone stepping up to take over for me from the United Church of Christ (UCC). But please, if any of you feel that tug of the Holy Spirit and might like to enter this world, one with riches beyond belief, and lead worship at the Southern State Correctional Facility - let me know. You will never regret it.

**UPDATE FROM THE VESTRY****Re: The Black Lives Matter Sign**

On July 10, approximately 60 members of our parish family gathered with the Vestry in the Undercroft to discuss the future of having the Black Lives Matter (BLM) sign on the front lawn of the church. There was a wide range of shared viewpoints. These viewpoints have been the prayerful center of the Vestry's discussions these past five weeks.

What was revealed in that open and non-judgmental discussion on July 10 was that there are deeper issues of concern regarding social and racial justice in our parish, our community, and in our world. We heard that many of us have significant emotional and spiritual feelings about the concern for equality.

The social and racial injustices of the past 400 years (since the first African slaves were brought to our shores in 1619 at Fort Comfort, Virginia\*) must be called to truth, to recognize that much of the success and wealth enjoyed by many in present day America was paid for on the backs of these first slaves and other slaves who followed them. However, present day family members of many of these slaves continue to struggle to enjoy the benefits of the economic and privileged foundation that they helped to build. It is true that we of the present day did not create these layers of inequality but that, without awareness, we have perpetuated the injustices created by our ancestors. It is clear that those who are not people of color are the people who continue to more fully enjoy the benefits of today's America.

The centerpiece of this discussion is much more than a BLM sign. It is about social and racial injustices beginning with Native Americans and continuing with African slaves and other marginalized groups that cannot access the elusive "American Dream." By acknowledging this inequality and injustice, we, as a parish family of faith, have a chance to publically take a stand while seeking forgiveness for past wounds and reconciliation for a healed and inclusive future.

The Vestry has prayerfully considered key points raised and feels a forward motion on several points:

a. The BLM sign will continue to be displayed on the front lawn. The sign has helped to create a conversation toward a deeper discussion with the parish going forward toward the development of a mission and action plan for the parish.

b. Examples of companion signs or banners will be circulated among the Vestry members to find consensus on one that is inclusive, may include lines of scripture, and speaks of kindness and love. It was felt that an "All Lives Matter" sign fell short of what we wish to proclaim. The Vestry will make a choice and place this companion sign or banner along with the BLM sign. This is meant to be a conditional/temporary sign/banner until, as a parish, we may create our own sign that proclaims who we are based on a mission statement.

c. The Vestry will develop an inclusive format for ALL parish members who wish to participate in the creation of a St. Michael's Episcopal Church Mission Statement. We will begin this conversation in the late winter and early spring. We look to create a statement that reflects what we stand for in a scripture-based way and to which we are committed regarding social and racial injustice in this country. This statement will guide us in prayer, community outreach, educational engagement, and non-violent action. This statement will proclaim the Christ-like life that we seek, not just within our individual selves but also in our community.

Here are several questions to pray about in anticipation of the process to building our mission statement:

- What do we proclaim?
- What are our values?
- For what do we stand?
- As Christians, how do we feel called to manifest this stand for our parish family and our larger community?

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## UPDATE FROM THE VESTRY con't

What we proclaim may find us in a place that is uncomfortable. Some may feel that we are using politics to form our decisions. After lengthy Vestry discussions, it is very clearly a question of how to proclaim our beliefs in a scriptural way. As C. S. Lewis said, "If you are looking for a religion to make you comfortable, don't look to Christianity."

We look to be more public about what we believe by inclusion in the weekly Sunday Services section of the Reformer, an article in the Commons, and services in public spaces (recalling our summer of church services in the downtown River Garden). These actions are ways to more visibly open our hearts and minds to people who also resonate with our witness that they, too, may come and join with our voices.



In faith,

*Carolyn Taylor-Olson,*  
Senior Warden for the Vestry

\*(from the NYT Magazine) "The 1619 Project is a major initiative from the New York Times observing the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. It aims to reframe the country's history, understanding 1619 as our true founding, and placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of the story we tell ourselves about who we are."

## Photos of Annual Picnic





## DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT – WHAT’S HAPPENED AND WHAT’S TO COME



*Exploring L’Arche in Vermont* -- Following the gathering on August 25 at St. Michael’s with about 30 people attending, there will be a further fellowship gathering on Friday 10/4 from 5:30-8:00 pm at Guilford Community Church. We’ll have a potluck meal, enjoy an informal singalong, and engage with L’Arche spirituality. We’ll also have time to address some of the questions about L’Arche from last month. The plan is for monthly fellowship gatherings throughout the fall and winter to discern if there is collective energy for L’Arche.

*Discernment for Lay People Team* – This group – Christy Fritz, Cary Gaunt, Joanne Patalano and Duncan Hilton – met in mid-September to begin conversations about how to build on the Lenten series and summer spiritual practice series, perhaps with an Ignatian-style retreat and ongoing discernment community of practice. Let us know if you have ideas and stay posted for events.

*Circles of Support and Accountability* – Matt Miller, Jean Smith, Joyce Vining Morgan, and Duncan Hilton participated on September 13 and 14 in training in order to be certified by the Department of Corrections as “Circles of Support and Accountability volunteers.” The training involved lessons around listening, boundaries, and understanding the challenges of transitioning out of incarceration. The Greater Falls Community Justice Center will assign them to a weekly circle in Bellows Falls and they will soon begin accompanying someone newly out of prison. Contact me at [Duncan@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:Duncan@stmichaelsvermont.org) if you’d like to become a volunteer, and I can let you know about upcoming trainings.

*Discipleship Groups* – Many of the discipleship groups continued to meet through the summer; those that weren’t have resumed this fall. One group decided to stop meeting after two years while a new group of teens has begun to meet, keeping the total number of active groups at six. We’ll gather the teams later in the program year to discern how to move forward.

*Transition Plan* – The role of Minister for Discipleship and Discernment was created as a three-year experiment from the summer of 2017 through the spring of 2020. This particular initiative in this form with me in this role will end this spring. One of my focuses therefore is equipping lay leaders to carry on the parts of the ministry that they feel called to carry on. My personal vocational plans are evolving, although I know that I do hope to stay in southern Vermont. The plans for the ministry and how it continues are in the hands of the rector and the vestry with input from the parish and the leadership team. They will be facilitating parish-wide conversations later in the fall to gather the parish’s input.

*Discipleship Leadership Team* -- The group led the forum on September 22 with the goals of answering people’s questions about plans for the discipleship and discernment ministry, sharing what has excited us about the last year, and communicating some of the practices that have become part of the culture of the leadership team, especially Ignatian-style decision-making and the daily office. Adwoa Lewis-Wilson joined the team in September as Megan Buchanan and Darcey Mercier stepped down. The group is working to plan more communal events like last year’s “Lane-glicans” trip to Brattleboro Bowl and additional worship events following the Anglican calendar, as well as to support the ongoing ministries.



**THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW PICTURE ON THE 2019 PARISH DIRECTORY***by John Carnahan*

The cover of our new 2019 Parish Directory features a nice color picture of the Howland Memorial stained glass window located in the northwest corner of St. Michael's nave. The left panel reads:

IN MEMORIAM  
ELIZABETH B. HOWLAND  
OBIT JULY 2ND 1892  
BELOVED BY ALL  
A Tribute From Her Friend W.A.

Elizabeth Howland (1842-1892) was the organist at St. Michael's going back to at least 1874 when she was hired by the Vestry at \$150 for the year. "Her friend W.A." was Colonel William Austine (1815-1904), a longtime vestry member and benefactor of St. Michael's. The story is told that Colonel Austine and Elizabeth Howland wanted to marry, but her parents who were Quakers would not consent to the marriage because Austine was a "military man."

**FALL PREVIEW****Saturday, October 5**

St. Michael's Tag Sale

**Sunday, October 6**

St. Francis Day celebrated & Farewell service for Thad Bennett at both services; The Blessing of the Animals at the Brattleboro Common at 4 pm

**Sunday, October 20**

Stewardship Kick-off

**Sunday, November 3**

All Saints' Day Celebrated at Sunday Services; 4 pm All Saints' Taize Service

**Sunday November 10**

Stewardship Ingathering

**Thursday, November 28**

Thanksgiving Day Service at Christ Church, 10 am

**Sunday, December 1**

First Sunday of Advent; first Pageant Rehearsal, 9-10 am

**Sunday, December 8**

St. Nicholas Day Fair, 11:30 am

**Saturday, December 14**

The Greening of the Church, 9 am

**Sunday, December 15**

Advent Lessons and Carols, 4 pm

**Saturday, December 21**

Festival of Lights, 4 pm

**Sunday, December 22**

Fourth Sunday in Advent; Longest Night Service, 4 pm.

**Tuesday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Service with the Christmas Pageant, 4 pm

**Wednesday, December 25**

Christmas Day Service, 10 am

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

*Robert Anderson's reviews and opinions about books in the library of St. Michael's*

### **The Emperor Constantine: A Chronicle**

by Dorothy L. Sayers

Edmans Publishing Company 1976 (reprint of 1951)

5" x 8" 191 pages

This is a three act play with both a prologue and epilogue for a premier performance in Colchester, England in 1951. Constantine's mother hailed from that city and her father was Coel whose legend comes down to us in the nursery rhyme "Old King Cole." It must have been a remarkable performance for the play spanned Constantine's lifetime and required a cast of ninety-five plus guards, soldiers, standard-bearers, lords & ladies, slaves, and attendants. The playwright is, of course, the author of the Lord Peter Wimsey detective stories. Sadly, she was not at her most scintillating when dealing with matters theological rather than matters temporal.

For those of us whose ancient history is a bit shaky, Constantine is credited with making the small sect of Christianity an official religion (but not the only one for paganism was still tolerated) of the Roman Empire. In doing so, he placed, for better or worse, the power of the state behind the faith. As a consequence, in centuries to follow the church exercised that power in ways less than charitable (hideously dispatching heretics, etc.) and accruing to itself great wealth. The Roman Church today continues that abuse with its pedophilic clergy rarely receiving the justice so richly deserved. To say that Jesus of Nazareth would be thoroughly disgusted might be the greatest understatement of all time.

Upon the death of Diocletian, who had held the Empire together for two decades, rival claimants began to contend for control. From Britain, Constantine conquered Gaul and then Rome. Maxentius, the Emperor of the West, attempted to thwart the advance and was militarily out-manuevered and crushed in 312. Apparently, just before the battle, Constantine had a vision or a visitation from the Christian God. He was so moved that he sent his troops into battle with the Chi Ro Christian symbol adorning their shields. Attributing victory to the Chris-

tian God, he annulled the edicts of persecution against Christians and proclaimed himself a Christian.

Twelve years later, Licinius, the pagan Emperor of the East was defeated by Constantine on both land and sea, and Constantine proclaimed himself sole Emperor of East and West. He moved the seat of empire from Rome to Byzantium which he re-named Constantinople, a name that stuck until the twentieth century when it was re-named by the reformer Ataturk as Istanbul.

Western Christianity and eastern Christianity were divided in regard to the nature of Christ. To resolve this confusion, Constantine called the Council of Nicaea in 325. There were two concepts abounding about the nature of Christ. One held that Christ was made by God. The other contended that Christ was God, not a product of God's. The decision at Nicaea concluded that Christ was "eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, Very God from Very God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father." We use the Nicene Creed at the Holy Eucharist. For the Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, we substitute the Apostle's Creed: "He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary." Confused? No doubt any of our estimable and scholarly clergy will be eager to resolve your conundrum should you merely inquire.

Was Constantine truly a Christian? Or was Christianity for him a useful superstition or a cynical instrument of his political policy? He studied the Christian faith. He attributed military success to it. One of his intimate counsellors was a Christian bishop. Furthermore, on his death bed, he accepted baptism. Thus, technically, he became a Christian. But, deep down, was he? We will never know.

*Robert R. Anderson*



**SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING OF THE VESTRY**

Judy Davidson and Mark Horton were not present.

Meeting opened with a check in and time of song and meditation led by Imogene.

Duncan shared the DDM focus on constancy for the coming year of ministry. This is to include deeper work with L'Arche, COSA circles, and the transition of the discipleship group ministry. He also highlighted the work of the DLT in continuing to work in preparing discernment offerings for the parish in the coming year. Duncan also invited the vestry to a Sunday forum to ask further questions about the ministry. Carolyn expressed gratefulness for the ministry's cultivation of a safe space for prayer within parish life. Mary expressed hope for continued connection with this unfolding ministry.

Wayne gave the Treasurer's report. Our income and pledges for July were below budget and so were operating expenses. Our year-to-date budget is met in both income and pledges. Wayne will be working with Bruce Lawrence to advise and train him as our next treasurer.

The Vestry continued its conversation on the BLM sign. We reviewed and discussed an FAQ document written to address questions about the BLM sign staying up. We also voted on and approved an interim sign to be placed in addition to the BLM sign. We recognized there is future discussion still needed regarding our mission and action steps and will continue to discern our calling regarding racial justice.

The Rector gave a report including information on the Bishop-elect's consecration. She also reported on stewardship preparations and celebrated the movement of the baptismal font to the memorial garden. We were also made aware of new opportunities to develop the prison ministry and were invited to participate in the local climate strike, as St. Michael's will have a presence at the rally.

The Social Justice committee reported encouraging attendance for the parish meeting and 5-6 new members for their planning committee. There was discussion around how to bless and recognize social justice as an integral part of the mission of St Michael's. Sacred Ground continues to deepen its study of racial justice, and future ideas about offerings from the ministry were shared.

The Building and Grounds Committee reported it is beginning to address some concerns the preschool has about minor building repairs. A request came to address buckling carpet in front of the Rector's office.

The Outreach committee shared its plans to delay the October 19 Harvest Supper to a later date.

Thank you cards were written.

Jeanette gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by

*Christy Fritz*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH



**"Welcome Ethan Henry Horton, son of Heather and Mark Lesage-Horton and brother of Eleanor and Annabelle!"**

**Photo from meeting about exploring possible development of a L'Arche community in southern Vermont. See page 8 for more information.**



## VESTRY

**Senior Warden:**

Carolyn Taylor-Olson, [oltayols@gmail.com](mailto:oltayols@gmail.com), 254-9255

**Junior Warden:**

Ricky Davidson,  
[rickybratt@gmail.com](mailto:rickybratt@gmail.com), 579-6701

Janet Brocklehurst,  
[janetbrocklehurst@gmail.com](mailto:janetbrocklehurst@gmail.com), 254-9509

Judy Davidson,  
[judydavidson3d@gmail.com](mailto:judydavidson3d@gmail.com), 254-5440

Imogene Drakes,  
[idrakes10@gmail.com](mailto:idrakes10@gmail.com)

Christy Fritz,

[fritzfive@gmail.com](mailto:fritzfive@gmail.com), 706-599-8756

Mark Horton,

[markhorton078@gmail.com](mailto:markhorton078@gmail.com), 251-0565

Jeanette Landin,

[renplus2002@yahoo.com](mailto:renplus2002@yahoo.com), 289-3836

Mary Lindquist,

[mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org), 254-6048

Christopher Wesolowski,

[cmwvt@svcable.net](mailto:cmwvt@svcable.net), 380-1474

Wayne Cook, Treasurer,

[wecooks.alot@gmail.com](mailto:wecooks.alot@gmail.com), 896-9446

Carol Beninati, Clerk,

[writers@sover.net](mailto:writers@sover.net), 258-4636



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## OCTOBER 2019 LECTIONARY

**October 6**

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Psalm 37:1-10, 2  
Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

**October 13**

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c, Psalm 111,  
2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

**October 20**

Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 121,  
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

**October 27**

Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22;  
Psalm 84:1-6; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18;  
Luke 18:9-14

## OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

October 4 Nancy Ames  
October 5 Valerie Abrahamsen,  
Joao d'Alcaravela  
October 6 Nathaniel Johnson  
October 9 Keira Caponcelli  
October 10 Janet Cramer  
October 11 Brendan McElhinney  
October 12 Christy Fritz  
October 15 Joanna Brown



October 16 Judith Junkins  
October 17 Dana McGinn,  
Jack Lilly  
October 18 David Birri  
October 21 Mary Lindquist,  
Gayle Potter,  
Ed Sbardella  
October 25 Karren Meyer  
October 30 Melanie Boese

## ANNIVERSARIES

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



*The Guardian* is published monthly by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. News items, announcements, articles, etc., should be submitted to [jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for consideration.

**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](mailto: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