

The Guardian

NOVEMBER 2019

FROM THE RECTORY

SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS



Four and a half years ago, St. Michael's embarked on a series of Small Group Conversations that were extremely valuable to the life of our church. We heard from folks about what they valued about our church and how they integrated their faith with their daily lives. We had 12 Small Group Conversations and 65 people participated. The findings we collected through recording all the responses were very important for our discernment as a church.

Now, after many ministry experiments, we are going to be embarking on another series of Small Group Conversations. These conversations will focus on your sense of the impact of the Discipleship & Discernment Initiative and the other new ministries that we have created in the last few years.

Each conversation will include one facilitator, one scribe, and 4-6 parishioners and will last 75 minutes. The conversations will be prayerful and structured to encourage authentic sharing and participation. The information we collect from your responses will be recorded, analyzed and shared with the Vestry and the congregation. We hope these conversations will allow us to have a better understanding of our faith community and of how the Holy Spirit is leading us at this time.

One of the surprises about the conversations we offered in 2016 was how much people really enjoyed them. Participants reported that they felt heard and had the opportunity to get know one another other in a deeper way. We hope these November conversations will offer the same opportunity for sharing and connection, while also giving the Vestry a lot of information to understand the impact of our current ministries.

We are hoping for very broad participation from as many people as possible, regardless of your involvement in new ministries! Even if you are new to St. Michael's or if your participation at St. Michael's is limited, we want to hear from you.

Below are the dates and times when we have scheduled Small Group Conversations which will take place at St. Michael's.

- **Saturday morning, November 9 (9-10:15 am & 10:45-12 pm)**
- **Sunday morning, November 10 (9-10:15 am)**
- **Wednesday evening, November 13 (6:30-7:45 pm)**
- **Tuesday evening, November 19 (6:30-7:45 pm)**

Please let me know if none of these times work for you, if you need help with transportation, or if you are home-bound and would like to be interviewed. We want to make sure that these conversations work for everyone! You may sign up in the Common Room, or by emailing me at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org, or by calling Jeanie Crosby at (802) 254-6048.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

**THE RIGHT REVEREND SHANNON MACVEAN-BROWN TO VISIT ST.
MICHAEL'S ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**



Shannon MacVean-Brown, the very new Bishop of Vermont, is coming to St. Michael's for a visit on Sunday, November 17. This will be Bishop Shannon's very first visit to St. Michael's and we are VERY EXCITED!!! Bishop Shannon will be preaching and celebrating at both the 8 and 10:15 services as well as leading the Adult Forum from 9-10 am. You will not want to miss this special day in the life of our parish!

**ALL SAINTS' DAY CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 3**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.
— Paul's letter to the Ephesians

On November 3, St. Michael's will celebrate the Feast of All Saints at both the 8 am and the 10:15 am services and in a Taize service at 4 pm. During these services, we will remember those saints who have gone before us and loved ones who have died, as well as recognize ourselves as those 'saints' who have been called to follow Jesus with our whole selves. On this day, we will remember in our prayers those who have died during the last year.

- If you have people you would like to be named in the prayers, please add them to the book in the back of the church.
- If you have pictures of loved ones who have died whose lives you want to give thanks for, we will provide two tables in the chancel area (in front of the altar and in the corner) as a visible reminder of the saints who have come before us for worship that day.
- Because this is a major feast day, we will have incense at the 10:15 am service.

**TAIZE SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
NOVEMBER 3, 4 PM**

Our candlelit service at St. Michael's, part of our celebration of All Saints' Day, features simple harmonious chants, short readings and prayers, periods of silence, and the lighting of candles as we remember those whom we love but see no more. Those who wish may bring a photo or a memorial object to place near the candle-lighting area. Taize gets its name from the monastic community in the French village of Taize, which was founded in 1940 and served as a shelter for political refugees fleeing persecution during World War II. Thousands of pilgrims still travel to the ecumenical, monastic community of Taize yearly to attend teachings on trust, peace and reconciliation.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

STEWARDSHIP INGATHERING SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 10

Fall is the time we ask you to consider your financial pledge to St. Michael's for 2020. We hope you have received the packet of stewardship materials and a pledge card in the mail. If for any reason you have not received this material, please contact the church office at 802 254-6048 or info@stmichaelsvermont.org

We ask you to prayerfully and boldly consider your pledge to St. Michael's in 2020. Your support means a tremendous amount to our ministry together and every pledge no matter what size is important. This year, our goal is to raise \$260,000 in total money pledged and to collect 140 pledge cards. With everyone's participation, we are confident that we can attain, if not exceed, these goals.

Please return your pledge cards at our Stewardship Ingathering Sunday on November 10. Many thanks for your generosity!


L'ARCHE GATHERING, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, at THE GATHERING PLACE

Curious about the possibility of a L'Arche Community in Vermont? Interested in singing and karaoke? If so, come to The Gathering Place, 30 Terrace St in Brattleboro, from 3-5 pm on Sunday Nov. 17. Brian White will be leading the karaoke. We will enjoy snacks, address some of the questions about L'Arche from previous gatherings, hear some stories from folks interested in L'Arche, and close with a prayer. What you can bring: a snack to share, your singing voice, any questions or hopes related to L'Arche.

NEWCOMERS TEA, SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17 AT HALLELUJAH LOWER FARM

All those who are new to St. Michael's in the last year (or still feel new to St Michael's) are invited to a Newcomer's Tea on Sunday, November 17 at 4 pm at the beautiful retreat center in New Hampshire, Hallelujah Farm. You can check it out on the website, <http://www.hallelujahfarm.com> There will be food, drinks, a warm fire and good company for all ages (children are newcomers too)! Please let us know if you will be attending by signing up at church or by contacting Mary Lindquist at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org



Photo from October L'Arche meeting


THANKSGIVING DAY MORNING PRAYER AT CHRIST CHURCH

Join us on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, at Christ Church in Guilford for a Thanksgiving Morning Prayer service with hymns. Coming together to give thanks to God is a beautiful way to begin your Thanksgiving, and you will still have plenty of time to go home and cook! All are welcome at this service.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

ST. NICHOLAS DAY FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The annual St. Nicolas Day Fair will be held on December 8 this year. There are a number of opportunities where you can help support this wonderful and fun inter-generational parish event!

- Help out at the individual craft tables. If you would like to create and organize your own craft activity, we welcome that. Or, we can provide you with a craft activity to supervise.
- Help set up on Saturday, December 7.
- Help clean-up on the day of the event, December 8.
- Donate some of the items needed for crafts. Please place these items in the designated container in the Common Room: Large containers of Creamy Peanut Butter; Bag of bird seed
- Contribute food items for the Buffet Table (sandwiches, baked goods, snacks, cheese platter, fruit, etc)

If you can help with any of the above, contact Lydia Taggart at lydiafin1@gmail.com or find sign-up sheets in the Common Room.

**ST. MICHAEL'S WOMEN'S RETREAT - SAVE THE DATE!**

The women of St. Michael's are invited to gather for a retreat, February 22-23 at Hallelujah Farm's Lower Farm. This will be a chance for the women of St. Michael's to come together in reflection, prayer, play and conversation. We hope women of many different ages will join us for this wonderful opportunity. More information to come.

**NAACP FREEDOM FUND DINNER, NOVEMBER 16**

The Windham County NAACP will host its First Annual Freedom Fund Dinner on Saturday, November 16, 2019 at the American Legion, 32 Linden St., Brattleboro.

The evening begins at 5:00 PM with a free public lecture: "A Perspective on Ferguson" by Jonathan Smith, Executive Director, Washington Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. The Freedom Fund Dinner will begin at 6:00 PM with a reception followed by dinner and a special program at 6:30 PM, where Mr. Smith will present the keynote address: "Policing and the Civil Rights Movement," and there will be special music and award presentations. Special guest for the evening will be The Rt. Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown, the first African American to serve as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont.

Individual tickets for the Freedom Fund Dinner are \$65 and a table for 8 is \$520. To order tickets by mail, please send a check payable to Windham County NAACP, P.O. Box 6164, Brattleboro, VT 05301 or purchase them online at <https://windhamnaacp.app.rsvpify.com/>
Questions? Please contact Cliff L. Wood at 802-518-2080 or @ CLWOOD0213@gmail.com

WINTER MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS BEGIN NOVEMBER 6

Groundworks Collaborative is a Brattleboro non-profit organization dedicated to helping the poorest of our local population. One of its programs is the Seasonal Overflow Shelter, SOS, which offers dinner and overnight dorm-style housing for area homeless people from the beginning of November until late April. St. Michael's parishioners have been helping with evening meals at the Overflow Shelter for many years. We have once again committed to providing a hot meal for approximately 30-35 hungry people once a month; this meal includes a main dish, bread and butter, salad and dressing, milk and dessert.

The meals we provide this winter are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month, so our dates will be Wednesday evenings Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 1, Feb. 5, March 4 and April 1. This year we are asked to bring casseroles for our main dish. Most of the guests at the Shelter like meat, although we are often asked to prepare about 3 vegetarian options to offer as well. All food preparation is done in parishioners' homes and delivered to the Shelter hot (or cold) and ready to serve.

Casseroles can be pasta-based, but since Monday is pasta night at the Shelter, variety is really appreciated. Some other types of casserole ideas are: Scalloped Potatoes with ham, Chicken Stew with vegetables served over biscuits, Braised Beef or Beef Pot Pie served over biscuits, Beef Shepherd's Pie. And then, of course, there are pasta casseroles such as American Chop Suey, Hamburger Stroganoff with noodles, Macaroni and Cheese with hotdogs, and so on.

Most often, parishioners team up with others to provide the meal - one or two people prepare the main dish, others bring the other dishes. The food needs to be delivered to the Overflow Shelter at 6 pm the night we are providing the meal. We need at least 3 people to stay and set up, help serve, and clean up after the meal. Someone staying to help could expect to be finished by 8 pm. Meeting the Shelter guests and visiting with them can be a significant part of the ministry.

The SOS will be located at Winston Prouty Campus (formerly Austine School) on Maple St., Brattleboro again this winter. This is a 5-7 minute drive from downtown Brattleboro.

There are sign-up sheets in the Church Common Room for each date we will be providing meals. More detailed instructions and directions to the Shelter will be provided to people who have signed up about 2 weeks before your meal date. I will also ask you what you are planning on preparing.

Thank you so much if you can consider helping out with this ministry of St. Michael's! For more information, or to sign up for a date for any type of food contribution, please contact me or sign up in the Common Room at Church on Sunday.

Blessings and many thanks,

Liz Vick

254-7060

ebethvick@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HELP WITH TRANSPORTATION AND MEALS

The ministry of pastoral care provides support to people in our congregation who are sick, recovering, homebound or need help with transportation. We would like to receive names of people who might be willing to help with meals and/or transportation.

Meals

When someone is recovering from surgery or is not able to cook for themselves for a period of time, we at St. Michael's try to provide meals for one-two weeks. If you sign up for this ministry, your name would be added to our Meal Train program and when someone has a need for meals, you would be contacted and asked if you might be able to make a meal or two. In the past few years, we have provided meals 2-4 times a year, so it is not a heavy commitment.

Transportation

Sometimes parishioners or people new to our community need rides to church or to medical appointments. If you sign up, your name will be added to a list of people to be contacted when we have a transportation need.

If you think you would like to help with meals and/or transportation, please sign up in the Common Room or call Jeanie at the church office at 802 254-6048. This is a wonderful ministry for our congregation. Please don't hesitate to speak with Mary Lindquist or Jean Smith if you have questions.

PROJECT FEED THE THOUSANDS STARTS NOVEMBER 1

Ruth Tilghman

This is the Brattleboro area food drive to feed our neighbors one can of food and one dollar at a time. You probably have seen the bins and signs at the grocery stores; this year St Michael's is one of the drop off sites. All the cans and boxes of food as well as money donations go directly to Loaves and Fishes. Centre Congregational Church and All Souls are also supporting Loaves and Fishes.

What does Loaves and Fishes do with all the cans and boxes of food? We have a share table each Tuesday and Friday for folks to take home food for themselves and their families. We also serve 14 families at the Centre for Children Nursery at the Congregational Church with a box of each weekend with food for 2 meals and some items not covered by food stamps such as personal care items, laundry and dish soap, and paper products. Some of the families also opt to receive frozen meals and refrigerated products like eggs and cheese.

How can the people of St Michael's help? Help fill that basket that our youth haul up to the altar on Sunday! We need the following: canned soups; packages of mac and cheese; canned chili, vegetables, and fruit; peanut butter; spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. When you're shopping for your family, think of the family struggling to make a meal, add some food for your neighbor in need, bring it to church, and put in the basket at the back of the church.



Photo of Thad Bennett with his Peach Tree (a gift from St. Michael's)

A MULTIGENERATIONAL BOOK CLUB? A LETTER FROM NANCY AMES

Dear Parish Members,

I have often thought about two things. What am I going to do with my retirement, when I finally get around to taking it? And, am I called to do something with our parish family in that retirement?

In response to those two questions, I would like to start a multi-generational book club. This doesn't need to be limited to a parent/child book club. Anyone may join for any book choice that interests them. I want everyone to know that they are welcome, whether they have someone on the other side of the generational gap or not. At one level or another, I've been a reading teacher for the past 45 years. I love books, and know a lot of truly spectacular books that would be appropriate for upper elementary, middle, and high school students. While I could serve as a resource for selecting books, as with any effective book club, I would like the participants to drive the choices that are made. Likewise, I would like the members, both adults and youth, to run the discussions.

The focus of our book choices would begin with social justice and multicultural books, but that could certainly morph over time, depending on the participants' interests.

Choosing a time to meet will be the most challenging decision we will make. It might be that this becomes a summer endeavor, or is set up around school vacation weeks. If we can actually find an open time, perhaps we could meet after the 10:15 service, or on some evening once a month.

If you are interested in participating in this type of book club, please let me know by sending an email to me at alderyacht@gmail.com

With thanks,

Nancy Ames

CARRY ME HOME GREEK SUPPER, NOVEMBER 16

Carry Me Home will hold its annual Greek Supper Benefit on November 16 at Centre Congregational Church from 5-7 pm. Please save the date on your calendar and sign up on the forms in the Undercroft if you are able to donate ingredients, cook dishes ahead of time, or help out on the day of the event. The cost is \$15 for those 12 and over, \$8 for those ages 6-11, free for those aged 5 and under, and a maximum of \$35 for a family.

CARRY ME HOME CLOTHING COLLECTION

Carry Me Home is in its 5th year collecting gently used clothing for people fleeing zones of conflict in Europe as well as here in the US. We sort and pack most Fridays, 9:30 am-noon at Centre Congregational Church, and new volunteers are always welcome. We are currently collecting winter clothing only: for children, tops, bottoms, and jackets for ages 4-7; for men, thin dark socks, jackets, t-shirts, all sizes S-M only; for women, leggings and jeans sizes M-L; for all ages, new/unused underwear, and sturdy winter shoes/boots. Donations may be placed in the box in the Common Room. Checks to pay shipping costs (tax deductible) may be mailed to Carry Me Home, c/o Centre Congregational Church, 193 Main St, Brattleboro, VT 05301, or you may go to <https://bit.ly/2oAzDHs> to donate via Paypal. For more information, please contact Alix and Julia Fedoruk at carrymehomecampaign@gmail.com.

DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT



As I wrote in my Guardian article last month, 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. Our hypothesis was: if we draw on the scriptures, tradition, and organizational wisdom such as 12-step group structure principles and community organizing principles, we can create a ministry that will:

- Manifest the fruits of the Spirit in individuals (Galatians 5:22) - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control;
- Deepen relationships with God and with other people inside and outside the parish and
- Form new leaders and ministries inside and outside the church

This particular expression of the experiment, with me in this role, won't continue beyond this spring. Through parish-wide conversations in November and conversations with those most active in the ministry's various groups, Mary and the Vestry will be discerning the future of the ministry.

Since last month's article, a few of you have been asking, "So what are your plans?" I've stumbled to find the right words. This week, in reflecting on what would be a concise and accurate answer, I remembered Henri Nouwen's words on waiting as a follower of Jesus. He writes:

Waiting is essential to the spiritual life. But waiting as a disciple of Jesus is not an empty waiting. It is a waiting with a promise in our hearts that makes already present what we are waiting for. . . We are always waiting, but it is a waiting in the conviction that we have already seen God's footsteps. Waiting for God is an active, alert - yes, joyful - waiting

The concise and accurate answer is, "I'm waiting." It doesn't feel like an empty or passive waiting but the active, alert waiting that Nouwen describes. It involves waiting for our new bishop to settle in, waiting for clarity on uncertain elements in my personal life, waiting for future opportunities to emerge.

It also feels like shepherding the ministry at this stage involves this active, alert waiting: waiting to let the results of all that we have experimented with unfold (discipleship groups, COSA, L'Arche, Discernment for Lay People Training, morning prayer) and waiting for the parish's discernment about how it desires the ministry to continue beyond my tenure before making concrete transition plans. It is an active waiting in so much as it involves maintaining constancy with the current forms of the ministry and continuing the Ignatian examen process of noticing where we are seeing God's footsteps here and now. I'm noticing that in the depth of sharing at my discipleship group after two years of trust-building; the laughter and gratitude at the COSA circle; the interest in L'Arche across denominations and the joyful singing at our last gathering.

I am a "J" on the Myers-Briggs; I like goals, plans, and timelines. I assure myself that there will be a time this winter to put all those structures in place. In the meantime, I'm actively waiting and noticing and feel grateful to be doing so with this parish.

THE ALTAR GUILD MINISTRY

Rebecca Olmstead

I am going to try to describe the work of being an Altar Guild member. I must say that I was truly humbled to be asked to write a few words about this important ministry within our church. I have eight years of service, which is minor when compared to the tens of years that other members have. It is easy for me to calculate my years of service as I started when I was early in pregnancy for my son, Christian. Some would assume that I joined because my mother, Jane Sbardella, encouraged me to do so. However, I must say that it was Carey Lane who asked me. Of course I had background knowledge of what the duties of Altar Guild were. I helped my mom clean the brass kneelers when they were in our church before the renovations. I would wear the gardening gloves that we use to clean the brass with NEVR-DULL and polish out the fingerprints - quiet and busy work for an introvert like me.

My start to Altar Guild brings such warmth to my heart. Carey asked me to join and reassured me that my family (she knew it was growing) would come first and that if it seemed too much hardship, I could always re-evaluate the job. Carey had been praying for me for some time as I struggled with many miscarriages between the births of my two children. Carey holds a special place in my heart because of this, and I would have agreed to help her in any way I could. So during Easter of 2011, I started in my membership in Altar Guild.

Over the years both my son and my daughter have grown up helping out at church. I still remember that after Christian was born, I brought him in a car seat and set him up in the sacristy where Zadie, his ever-helpful sister, distracted him while I tried to help out however I could. Over the years, Zadie has become an integral part of our Altar Guild team. It brought a huge smile to my face when she said "Look mom! I can reach now," as she stood tall to change the hymn numbers on the boards on the sides of the church.

These are the joys of our being part of a community of Altar Guild members. The joys are the birth of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren among our members. The joys are setting up for weddings, baptisms, celebrations, and choir plays. The joys are a prideful smile when the brass shines for Easter after our spring work-bee. The joys are watching the bright sunlight shine through the stained glass and cast a rainbow in the church on a quiet Saturday morning setting up for Sunday's service. The joys are also watching the strength of our members when dealing with death and loss.

The answer of why I enjoy my work in this ministry is vast. Maybe it is because it is work that is so similar to my duties as a nurse. It is a quiet, caring, watchful labor. These tasks have a beginning, middle, and an end. The work is predictable, manageable, and humbling. I encourage you to join us and will leave you with part of the Foreword in the Altar Guild Manual of the Diocese of Oklahoma that was printed in 1964 -- "I ask each woman (*and 'man' I must add as we do have men in our group*) to consider Altar Guild work an adventure with our Lord. Enter deeply into the story of His holy life as it unfolds through the Liturgical year. Let the grace of seasons, feasts, and holy days be woven into the fabric of everyday living. Use His sure presence to yeast daily duty at home, and in the community. Carry His beauty, love, and compassion beyond the Church, into all relationships with people." Thank you mom, our Altar Guild Director, for encouraging me to do this work. Thank you team members Mary Carnahan, Charlene Kemp, Betty Elwell, and Zadie for being such a great group and thank you Altar Guild for representing a ministry that is truly faithful work.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FROM THE LIBRARY SHELVES

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

Roger Williams & The Creation of the American Soul

by John M. Barry

Viking, New York 20126" x 9", 464 pages

One of the least known and appreciated events in our nation's history was the plague that devastated the coastal tribes of present day New England in the early 1600's. Unlike the warfare that existed between the Powhatan tribe and the Jamestown settlers, the local tribes were supine, having lost ninety percent of their population to the plague. Thus, the English settlers faced no resistance to occupation and even inherited the fields and forests of the decimated tribes. Truly, they thought, God had made a place for them in this new world.

The sub-title of this book is "Church, State, & The Birth of Liberty." Governor John Winthrop insisted that the Bay Colony was to be, in his famous sermon: "a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us." It would be dedicated to God, obeying God's laws, and flourishing in God's image. The obvious weakness, as Williams realized, was that this would require human beings to interpret God's laws. And human beings are fallible and sometimes ignorant, self-serving, and possessors of a host of other unattractive qualities, not forgetting occasionally just plain stupid.

England was then in turmoil. King James, Elizabeth's Scottish successor had promulgated the doctrine of the "Divine Right of Kings." His presumption was no doubt based on Elizabeth's father's, Henry VIII, break with the Catholic Church and assumption of the head of the church of England. Thus, God's man and thus divine. King James' son, Charles inherited his father's belief in his own divinity. Puritans, who wanted a church free of Catholic ritual and convention, disputed this and were persecuted as heretics. Ultimately, civil war would result and Charles would lose the war, his crown, and his head.

Roger Williams had been a young man at court, with both legal and clerical training and, at the time of the troubles, a private chaplain to a minor noble. But his sympathy lay with the reforming Puritans. The temptation to leave all this behind and emigrate to the newly prospering Bay Colony, present-day Boston, seduced him and, one step ahead of arrest by Archbishop Laud for his belief, he set sail for the New World in 1630. By remarkable chance, the position of minister was open and Williams was offered it. He declined, stating his reasons and infuriating his fellow colonists.

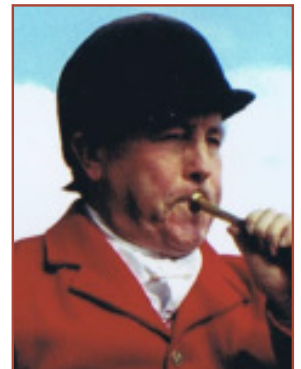
He stated that the magistrates had no authority to punish assumed violators of the first four of the Ten Commandments: to have no God before Him, to make no graven images, to take His name in vain, and to keep the Sabbath holy. These related to the individual's relationship to God. The rest related to that which governs human relations and could rightly be enforced by government—but not the first four.

This was revolutionary! In England, violation of the first four merited corporal punishment and even death. The Boston settlers rejected the Anglican church but nevertheless agreed with it in regard to the right of government to punish violators of the first four Commandments.

Chased out of Boston, he secured the rectorship in the struggling Salem community only to be chased out of that town for his views. He struggled southward through the winter wilderness, close to starvation, to found a colony on Narragansett Bay in present-day Rhode Island.

The rest of his life is well-known: how he created a colony for dissenters and befriended the Narragansett tribe (the only tribe unaffected by the plague that decimated the other coastal tribes).

Robert R. Anderson



NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 17 MEETING OF THE VESTRY

Absent: Carolyn Taylor-Olson, Imogene Drakes, Christy Fritz

Meeting opened with lovely Druid prayers celebrating the fall season led by Ricky and a check in.

Bruce Lawrence was voted in as our new treasurer and we all thanked him for being willing to fill Wayne's shoes. Our operating income in September was above budget and the expenses were below budget so the parish's financial position has improved since the summer. The Tag Sale net profit was \$7800.

The Rector gave a report about several things:

- The Stewardship materials have been sent out and 3 parishioners (Annamarie Pluhar, Daniel Dobson and Linda Parker) will be speaking about stewardship at November services.
- November 17 has two important events:
 - Our new Bishop will be at church and coffee hour on the 17th so come and meet her.
 - The Newcomers Tea will be held at 4:00 at Hallelujah Farm.

As a way of assessing the many programs sponsored by the Ministry of Discipleship and Discernment over the past 2 1/2 years, we will be having small group discussions on four different dates in November. There will be a series of questions to help us explore deeply the impact of these programs on the spiritual life of our church. All are invited to attend even if you haven't participated directly in the programs.

Thank you cards were written and Ricky volunteered to create a big Thank You on a bulletin board downstairs to all who helped make the Tag Sale such a success. Mary led the closing prayer and Christopher played a Weston Priory song welcoming winter.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Davidson

VESTRY

Senior Warden:

Carolyn Taylor-Olson, oltayols@gmail.com, 254-9255

Junior Warden:

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NEWS OF THE PARISH

PHOTOS FROM TAG SALE



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 2019 LECTIONARY

November 3:

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149;
Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

November 10:

Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9;
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17;
Luke 20:27-38

**November 17:**

Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalm 98,
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

November 24:

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46,
Colossians 1:11-20, Luke 23:33-43

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

November 1 Willow Hesselbach

November 2 Patrick Meyer

November 3 Rich Melanson

November 4 Tian Ragle

November 5 Kierstan Landin, Oliver Ridgway

November 8 Miles Ackerman-Hovis,
Jesse Ackerman-Hovis

November 9 Ruth Tilghman

November 11 Mikael Mattson

November 15 Wendell Howard,
Nathan Olmstead

November 16 Judy Walker,
Taytum Rose

November 17 Kate McGinn,
Ken Jacobs



November 18 Heddy Pomazi

November 19 Christopher Wesolowski,
Aiden Anderson

November 20 Christine Gauthier

November 21 Annelise Fedoruk,
Rosalind Ridgway,
Amanda White

November 22 Anne Brown

November 24 Pam Crispe,
Juniper Ridgway

November 28 Laurie Chiperfield,
John Laamanen

November 30 Alfred Cramer

ANNIVERSARIES

November 2 Irene & Richard Burtis

November 13 Rosie & Matt Wojcik

November 29 Jessica & Chris Mattson



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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