

The Guardian

OCTOBER 2020

FROM THE RECTORY

THE WHY AND THE HOW

Sometimes I feel like I am living in a different world...or an oddly changed representation of the same world. I remember talking to Peter Johnson a couple months ago when he exclaimed, "I feel like I am living on a different planet!"



As we begin the program year of the church, we at St. Michael's are continuing to learn how to be the church in this strange world. We are implementing ways to continue Sunday school online with some in-person outdoor gatherings. We are creating new ways to celebrate feast days like St. Francis Day and All Saints' Day. And we are examining how the stewardship season might look this year.

It is important to remember, however, that even though the "how" of our ministry is changing, the "why" remains the same. We still exist because we recognize that we are created by God and drawn to follow Jesus. We still live by the greatest commandment — to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength...and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Part of the challenge of living in this time is the continual realization that the fact that we cannot gather physically, receive Holy Communion or sing together, does not stop us from living out our mission — our "why." Finding new ways to live out our mission is not easy and it takes constant innovation, creativity, wonder and learning.

The mission statement that the Vestry created after many months of discernment and work describes our "reason for being."

St. Michael's Episcopal Church is a loving, welcoming and dynamic faith community deeply rooted in the belief that we are all children of God. We seek, through the joyful experience and power of Christ, to serve all people as we pursue stewardship of the Earth, commit to deep generosity, and promote social, racial and economic justice. Through these works of compassion, love and service, we hope to manifest the presence of God in our time.

I commend you to let our mission statement help to remind you of the "why" of who we are so that you too may continue to help us as brothers and sisters in Christ find ways to live out our mission in this most unusual time. I invite your ideas, insights or inspirations, as we discern *the how* of our ministry together.

Mary
Mary Lindquist, Rector

NEWS OF THE PARISH

**ST FRANCIS DAY GATHERING FOR KIDS,
FAMILIES & ANIMAL LOVERS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 4–5 PM**

THE RECTORY LAWN, 18 BRADLEY AVENUE

Come celebrate St. Francis' Feast Day with a blessing for animals and people. As it seems too difficult to bring real animals this year (who don't understand physical distancing), please bring a photo of the animal you wish to be blessed.

- Please bring a blanket to sit on; blankets will be spaced 10 feet apart to be safe. Everyone with masks (except young children).
- We will have a brief service on the lawn, followed by individually wrapped treats.
- Families will be given packets of home prayers and activities for the month of October.
- Pray for sun....No gathering if it rains.
- This is our chance to see each other in person before the weather gets too cold!



KIDS & YOUTH UPDATE

Godly Play, a Montessori-inspired Christian formation program for children ages 3–11, started up again on September 27 via Zoom. Godly Play takes place on Sundays from 9:15–9:45 am. Godly Play consist of an opening song, the sharing of a story with wondering questions and a response time. Please contact Christy Fritz if you have any questions at fritzfive@gmail.com

Holy Mayhem, a Christian formation program for kids 5th–8th grade, also started up on September 27. Holy Mayhem uses the Spark reForm curriculum and employs short films with lively discussions about theology, faith, the church and life. Holy Mayhem meets every two weeks (October 11 & 25 for October) and is held over Zoom. Many thanks to Lydia Taggart and Adwoa Lewis-Wilson for leading this class! Please contact Lydia if you have any questions at lydiafin1@gmail.com

Youth Discipleship Groups for kids in 7th–9th Grade (younger group) and 10th grade and up (older group) meet every two weeks from 12–1 pm on Sundays. In October, the Discipleship Groups meet on October 4 & 18. Please contact Jayne Fritz at jaynealexis2001@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Please check out St. Michael's website, www.stmichaelsvermont.org, for the Zoom link for Godly Play, Holy Mayhem and Youth Discipleship Groups. New kids are always welcome!



LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 FROM 4:45–7 PM

On **Wednesday, October 14**, we will begin a lectionary-based Bible study on Zoom. Our time will be bracketed with song and prayer from the Sunday services; the main goals are to grow in biblical literacy, to become disciples of the text who study to be transformed regardless of how we interpret, and to deepen fellowship through open sharing. No prior biblical knowledge or sign up is required. All are welcome for occasional or ongoing participation. Over time, long-term participants will be shaped by the joys of mutual encouragement to live into the Gospel and awareness of how our faith life is shaped by the liturgical rhythms of the church in Scripture. If you are interested in more information, please contact adwoa at adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org or call her at 254-6048, ext 103.



Ruth and Betsy at Loaves and Fishes

NEWS OF THE PARISH

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

Thank you to everyone who contributed to last year's Advent devotional. For many of us, it was the first time experiencing this kind of joint publication at St. Michael's. Others remember the once upon a time when we did have this kind of collective creativity! Whichever you may be, I hope you will help us build on this tradition again. A collection of reflections, poems, and images from the voices of our parish, the Advent devotional gives us an opportunity to enter the special season of Advent through the precious wisdom of those who walk the road with us.

If you have any interest in participating as a writer, editor, formatter, etc., please contact adwoa at adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org or 254-6048, ext 103. For those who write reflections, Scripture assignments will be made in the middle of October to allow ample time for writing, editing, and publication. Last year we found that a good guideline for written submissions was about 250 words, though some were much shorter and some a bit longer.

Those who wish to write are asked to contact adwoa with their intention by October 4. You can email her at adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org or call her at 254-6048, ext 103.

OCTOBER FORUMS

OCTOBER 4 — “Our Pets” — During our Covid-driven Zoom meetings, we have heard and/or seen many parishioners' pets as they have jumped on laps, walked in front of cameras, or barked in the background. Few things bring such uncomplicated joy into our lives as our pets. On St. Francis Day, we will gather to share stories of how our pets, both past and present, have enriched our lives. Led by Nancy Ames — parishioner, Vestry member, and animal lover.

OCTOBER 11 — “Uncovering Abenaki history” — Recently the legislature passed a bill to supply all new place name signs in Vermont with an Abenaki name for the sites and places, as well. Why is this important to do? Why is language such an important part of reclaiming the Abenaki history of this area? Join State Senator Becca Balint, who holds an MA for her research on Native American land claims. She's looking forward to an interesting and robust conversation!

**OCTOBER 18 AND OCTOBER 25
INFORMATION TO COME LATER.**

TAG SALE UPDATE

The Tag Sale Core Leadership continues to meet as we contemplate the current environment and discern the next steps for the St. Michael's Tag Sale.

There will be no Fall Tag Sale this year, unfortunately.

We are taking clothing donations of clean, not soiled, clothing in good condition and any season. Clothing includes shoes and boots. Pack the clothing in securely closed strong garbage bags and label contents as “ladies”, “kids”, or “men's”.

CLOTHING ONLY may be dropped off at the Church between 9 and 12 noon on:

• Saturday, October 17 • Saturday, October 31 •
Saturday, November 14 • Saturday, December 12
A Core Team member will meet you at the door off the parking lot on these days.

FURNITURE DONATIONS: Please contact Liz Vick (802-254-7060) or Daniel Dobson (425-785-8262) to discuss your furniture donations.

WE ARE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE from our St. Michael's brothers and sisters with all types of activities. If you can assist in any way or have a question about our donation activity this fall or our future activities, please do not hesitate to contact:

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Becky Anderson; broadaxe@comcast.net; 802-257-0064

Daniel Dobson; dbdrunner@dobsongroupinc.com;
425-785-8262

Charlene Kemp; charkemp@outlook.com; 802-254-2083

Sherry Stimmel; sherrys@iglide.net; 802-254-8470

Liz Vick; ebethvick@gmail.com; 802-254-7060.

STM

CELEBRATING ALL SAINTS FEAST DAY, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

In preparation for celebrating the Feast of All Saints on November 1, we ask you to call or email St. Michael's (jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org or 254-6048, ext 104) the names and (if possible) photos of loved ones who had died in the last year. Photos can be sent electronically or mailed or brought to the church. We plan on filming from the church sanctuary that day and will have a place in front of the altar to remember people and light candles for them during our online service.

STM

THANK YOU!

From Valerie Abrahamsen

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the many parishioners and friends who helped me so generously in conjunction with my knee replacement surgery. Special thanks go especially to Judy Davidson, George Moore, Margery McCrum, Suzann Jones, Jeff Lewis, Susan Dedell, Paul Dedell, Pam Carr, Nancy Ames, William Stearns, Teri Robinson, Jean Smith, and Karen Davis for rides, yummy food, visits, shopping, and miscellaneous tasks of all kinds. And thank you to the St. Michael's community for your prayers and support — you are the best!

No Ordinary Time

ST. MICHAEL'S STEWARDSHIP SEASON INITIATIVE

In the liturgical calendar, we are currently in “Ordinary Time,” but since the middle of Lent last spring, this pandemic time has been anything but ordinary. How do we continue to live out our Christian call during this “un-ordinary” time? How do we continue to come together in a virtual way to continue to thrive and follow Jesus even now?

No Ordinary Time is what we are living! And we invite you to participate in this Body of Christ called St. Michael's through supporting our church with pledges of money, gifts and time in 2021. We have no idea what ministry will look like in 2021, but we have faith that we will continue to find creative ways to live out our ministry together. And we are, as in every season, dependent on one another's generosity to continue to live out our calling as a church in ordinary and in un-ordinary times.

This year, we will do some familiar stewardship things, like sending out pledge cards and inviting parishioners to speak to us during the services (over Zoom). AND we will be doing some new things, like inviting you to participate in Small Zoom Groups and perhaps participate in a short film about ways we are living into our ministries in this time.

We invite you to participate in one of our Small Zoom Groups where we will consider some data about our church that has been gathered by the 5-Year Planning Team (which convened in January of 2020) and get your feedback as to ways we can continue to thrive as a church now and in the future. Please note that even if you do not have a computer, you may participate in a Small Zoom Group through your telephone. Stay tuned for more information about participating in the Small Zoom Groups.

We will begin our focus on stewardship on Sunday, October 25 and have our Ingathering of Pledges on Sunday, November 15. Many thanks for your continued support, participation and prayers!

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Blessing of Students and Teachers, September 6*Horton Family**Taggart Family**Rosalind and Juniper Ridgway**Socially distancing*

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

FROM ADWOA

Greetings St. Michael's,

As I write, it is now the beginning of September. I've been appreciating the rhythms of natural life these days. Plants I put in the ground as bare seed are now in the last part of their life cycle as I collect seeds for next year. The "confusing fall warblers" in my Peterson's Field Guide of birds are also on the wing. Driving home in the last week of August from Northeast New York, I was delighted by the splashes of fall color interrupting the tides of green leaves. The bees who have somehow built a hive between my screen and inner window this summer are sleeping later and later each day, bundled against the morning air, sweet and crisp as a fresh picked apple.

I notice these things as I also enter into a new cycle and rhythm of life. It was just three months ago that I began seminary and not even so long that I transitioned into my role as an intern here. These first few months have been a whirlwind – a whole term of study is completed. Study this first term focused heavily on theology and biblical study, but also had a course that prioritized awareness of ourselves as individuals and emerging leaders in a field called 'practical theology'. Instead of sheltering in place, this course was a kind of 'study in place', helping us notice who we are as we embark on our pilgrimage as ministers. I have rediscovered how much I love learning. Further, despite significant reservations about academia as the way to form spiritual leaders, I have been stretched, nourished, and enriched in the journey with God and in formation. What a delightful surprise.

I'm also grateful to those of you who reached out to make pastoral connections over the summer. It has been a delight to get to know people a bit more and I



look forward to more as time progresses.

In the month between my typing and your reading, I will have completed two full-time weeks at St. Michael's and just over a week of 8-hour intensive zoom classes! Now, the normal rhythm of my seminary and internship life has started anew. The focused time at church was a precious gift as I settle into this role and prepare for our fall program. I look forward to preaching a few more times in the coming months, leading Bible study,

and perhaps hosting some game events for the church on Zoom.

Mary's recent August 27th sermon about what grounds us has gotten me thinking about how to ground ourselves anew and aright as this pandemic continues. I hope that as the fall unfolds, studying Scripture together will help us refocus our sight: deepening our commitment to see the realities of the world through the lens God, rather than God through the lens of our trying and fraught world. I also hope that play might be a way for us to reground ourselves in the delight of fellowship. Finally, I look forward to working with many of you again this year to create an Advent booklet so that we can nourish each other through our experiences of God and faith.

I look forward to continuing the journey of school and ministry — together with you all.

Shalom,
adwoa, ObJN*

* "ObJN?" You ask, "What does that mean?" I look forward to sharing more about that and the peculiar medallion I wear around my neck in upcoming articles!

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR OCTOBER

October 4: Isaiah 5:1–7, Psalm 80:7–14, Philippians 3:4b–14, Matthew 21:33–46

October 11: Isaiah 25:1–9, Psalm 23, Philippians 4:1–9, Matthew 22:1–14

October 18: Isaiah 45:1–7, Psalm 96:1–9, (10–13), 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10, Matthew 22:15–22

October 25: Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 22:34–46

OCTOBER 2020 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------|---|
| October 4 | Nancy Ames |
| October 5 | Valerie Abrahamsen, Joao d'Alcaravela |
| October 6 | Nathaniel Johnson |
| October 9 | Judith Reichsman, Keira Caponcelli |
| October 10 | Janet Cramer |
| October 11 | Jace Rose, 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 23 | Sammy Panzer |
| October 24 | Lifei Osborne |
| October 25 | Karren Meyer |
| October 29 | Steve Harrison |
| 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 11 | Louise LaChance & Aldrich Wright |
| October 16 | Anne & Wayne Cook |
| October 22 | Anita & Jim Crosson |

LEADERSHIP

VESTRY

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The Guardian

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



OUR WORSHIP TOGETHER ONLINE

| | | |
|------------------|--------------|---|
| SUNDAYS | 8:00 am | Quiet service of prayer and virtual Morning Prayer or Eucharist |
| | 10:15 am | Prayer, music and virtual Morning Prayer or Eucharist. |
| WEEKDAY MORNINGS | 8:00 am | Morning Prayer |
| DAILY EVENINGS | 5:00 pm | Evening Prayer |
| THURSDAYS | 5:30–6:00 pm | Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer |