

The Guardian

NOVEMBER 2020

FROM THE RECTORY

FATIGUE AND FAITH

*God gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.*

—Isaiah 40:29–31

I've been reading a lot about fatigue lately — pandemic fatigue, zoom fatigue, news fatigue, to name a few. The word “fatigue” comes from French and is related to “satiety.” It is true, no doubt, that we have been “sated” with this pandemic and that we have been brought again and again to states of weariness. And now, as winter is around the corner, the threat of fatigue and weariness looms even larger.

I heard a story recently in which someone asked a friend how she was doing a few weeks after suffering the loss of her father. The friend, referring to the story of God feeding the people of Israel in the wilderness, replied, “God is feeding me manna every day. The problem is, I am getting really sick of manna.”

You might be feeling similarly as we enter our 8th month of pandemic living. God has been faithfully getting us through day by day, but we are weary of masks, orange zones and yellow zones, COVID testing, travel restrictions and hand sanitizer.

Isaiah promises that “those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength.” What does it mean to wait for the Lord in the midst of our weariness?

In the world of marathon running, mile 20 is often when runners “hit the wall” and feel completely depleted. There is a physiological reason for this exhaustion; their muscles have depleted all their stores of glucose. They are literally out of fuel. Yet if runners continue to run through this sense of depletion, their bodies turn to the secondary energy source of fat which gives the runners the energy they need to finish the race.

I don't know if we are at mile 20 or mile 12, but I do know that something similar can happen to us in our lives of faith. When we feel like we cannot go on and we have depleted all our own strength, God is there to supply God's own strength, and we will indeed be borne on eagle's wings.

Mary
Mary Lindquist
Rector

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT BOTH SERVICES ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

The Feast of All Saints is a very special day in our liturgical calendar, when we remember and give thanks for our ancestors in the faith and those who have died in our own lifetime. This year, there are many people to remember, not only those we have known but also those 220,000 who have perished from COVID-19. Please join us for this special time of remembrance and prayer.



STEWARDSHIP INGATHERING OF PLEDGES IS NOVEMBER 15

Many thanks to all who have helped during this most unusual Stewardship Season! Although we cannot actually “gather” in person to offer our pledge cards, we hope that you will send your pledge cards to St. Michael’s by November 15. There is also an option to pledge online. Just go to St. Michael’s website, www.stmichaelsvermont.org, click on “Give” at the top of the screen, and then click on “Pledging Online.”

Thank you for your great generosity and commitment to our mission and ministry at St. Michael’s.



NOVEMBER ADULT FORUMS

Notes on Adult Forum:

For those who might like to visit with each other, we are opening the Zoom session 10 minutes early at 8:50 am to give you a chance to chat. The formal presentation will begin at 9.

Zoom makes it possible to record sessions and we now have several of them on our St. Michael’s Channel in Vimeo, <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7581088>. We plan to post the Forum presentation only — unless the ensuing discussion gets so interesting and everyone gives permission to post it.

November 1 — “All Saints”: We know the names Halloween, All Saints, and All Souls, but what about “Allhallowtide”? We greet trick and treaters with Snickers and candy corn but what about “Soul cakes?” We greet scores of princesses, ghosts and goblins, but what do you know about “lating the witches?” Zoom with us on All Saints Sunday, when we’ll look at some of these folk traditions and how the church has celebrated them. We’ll share stories too of saints whom we love who are now part of the “blest communion fellowship divine.” *Led by Jean Smith.*

November 8 — “Diocesan Convention”: Come hear what happened at the October 31 Diocesan Convention from Mary Lindquist and your delegates — Cary Gaunt, Jack Lilly and Carolyn Taylor-Olson. Now that Bishop Shannon has been our bishop for over a year, we anticipate hearing more about her priorities for the Episcopal Church in Vermont and her vision for our diocese.

November 15 — “Will you respect the dignity of every human being?” This question is part of the Baptismal Covenant in The Episcopal Church. Bishop Tom Ely, Retired Bishop of Vermont now living in Newfane, will lead the Adult Forum in an exploration of dignity, understood as each person’s inherent value and worth, and its essential role in the fostering of our relationships with one another, especially across differences and in the face of conflict. The conversation will center on the work of Dr. Donna Hicks, author of “Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict” and “Leading with Dignity.” We will explore the 10 essential elements of dignity and reflect on times in our own lives when we have witnessed the dignity of another being violated, times when we felt that our own dignity was not being honored and times when we have violated the dignity of others.

November 22 — “Continuing to look at racism in our midst”: “What is the good doll, the smarter, the prettier doll? In this classical “Doll Test” video we see how young children, both black and white, internalized racism. We ask ourselves how such bias can be installed at such an early age and what can we do to begin to change the narrative. *Led by Phillip Wilson.*

NEWS OF THE PARISH

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

St. Michael's will be offering our traditional Morning Prayer Thanksgiving Day service at 10 am from St. Michael's sanctuary. This service will be streamed live that morning. We will send you the links to the service or you can find them on St. Michael's website under "News & Events."

STM

TAG SALE CLOTHING DROP OFF

NOVEMBER 14 + DECEMBER 12, 9-12 NOON

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, November 14
- Saturday, December 12

A Core Team member will meet you at the door off the parking lot on these days. Contact a tag sale core team member with any questions:

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

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ARE COMING....

It is beyond sad that we cannot gather for our traditional Advent activities of the St. Nicholas Day Fair, Advent Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve Services, but we are working on creative ways to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons this year. If you have any creative ideas about ways we might celebrate and participate in these wonderful seasons, please contact Mary at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org.

AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT UPDATE

It has taken many months but almost all our new equipment has been installed in the church. We hope to be able to film our Sunday services from our church sanctuary just in time for the colder weather. We still need to install some cables and receive training in how to use the equipment, but we are aiming to have our first service filmed in the church on November 15.

Many thanks to **Ross Kinney** who built beautiful platforms for the cameras and, with the help of **Bruce Lawrence**, painted the yellow electrical cables black so that they cannot be seen. Ross also helped build a console for the sound board and monitor in the back of the church!



Installing Audio-Visual equipment in the church.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

A QUESTION AND A CONFESSION:

Question: Did you know that God jumps right into life with us?

Confession: I am a racist.

Thad Bennett

Let's start with the question and use a story: There is a person walking an unfamiliar road who falls into a huge hole with steep vertical sides. They call out for help. A doctor comes by, looks down, writes out a prescription and throws it down. A priest comes by and, in response to the call for help, kneels, says a prayer and goes on. Finally, another person comes by and, hearing the call for help, jumps into the hole. The first person says: "Are you stupid? Now we are both down here!" "Yeah," says this person, "but I have been down here before and I know the way out."

The larger, Christian, spiritual "story," of course, is that God loves us so much that God became human, jumped into the hole of our humanity — into the WHOLE of our humanity — with all its joy and pain and will show us the way out. The promise is that when we say "Yes" to God's love, we will walk the way out with God.

Some people gather together each Sunday to remember God's promise. For some, it is a spiritual experience of God being with us; for others, it is the experience of Christian help and support through others. It is not one or the other — they both have God walking the Way of Love with them.

Now, let's apply the "story of the hole" to the issue of racial justice. Who is in the hole? Well, of course, people of color who have suffered centuries of injustice are in the hole. But, can I, a white male, jump in to help because "I've been there and know the way out?" No! Moreover, I'll tell you who I really think is in that hole: It is mostly white folk, who are products of privilege



because of our color, culture, heritage and privilege. Racism is mostly, if not completely, a white problem.

Now, the confession: I am a racist. I am a product of all I just mentioned. I am a product of a cultural history that favored white over any other skin color and that actively made sure

people with red or brown or yellow or Black skin did not get the same privilege/opportunity as I did as a white person. I know that I need to work every day to overcome that history.

So, who needs to jump down and can say: "Yeah, but I have been down here before and I know the way out." We need people to meet us in this hole who have confessed their racism and have worked hard to reject all the benefits of their white privilege; who have stepped down to raise up others; who have struggled with being part of the social, financial, cultural, spiritual cost of racial injustice.

The hole/whole of racial injustice is deep and complex. But God is in the hole with us. Maybe you've been in this hole, maybe you know someone who has and found a way out. If so, help us with truth-telling and tough honesty, because racism eats away at my soul, at our souls, and at the soul of our country.

God's promise: Look and you will find help from God and from others who have jumped before and can help you find a way out. Can you help? Will you do the tough work to make that scary jump? Who knows what will happen, but the good news is that it will be with God.

This article appeared in the Greenfield Recorder, 9/25/2020

NEWS OF THE PARISH

A ST. MICHAEL'S COVID CHRONICLE FOR OUR TIME

Have you read the first issue of our Covid Chronicle? Craig Hammond asked a few folks to help us get started by submitting in writing whatever it is that's inspiring and helping them weather and get through this storm of Covid-19.

To read the first issue, go to the Church website, click on "about" and then click on "The Guardian." Covid Chronicle is the second item in that list. Also a link to the Covid Chronicle has been in the eNews for the last few weeks. You can also call the Church office at 254-6048, ext 104 and ask for a printed copy to be sent to you.

Please send your story, poem, memory, memorable phone call, or even a picture letting us know what's inspiring and helping you manage in these difficult times. Brief, a few paragraphs max, would be good. Send to the Church office (jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org) or 16 Bradley Avenue, Brattleboro 05301) or to Craig (ach39450@gmail.com). We will publish again, hopefully in November, when you have sent enough new pieces for a second issue. The sooner we hear from you the better!

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Thursday Contemplative Service outside



Youth discipleship group meeting outside

NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER MEETING
OF THE VESTRY

The September Vestry meeting began with prayer and a time to check in with one another. Next, the Treasurer reported that August income was encouraging and that the annual audit was completed and approved.

We then heard from Adwoa about her rigorous study at seminary and serving for a couple of weeks full-time at St. Michael's. She also plans to welcome the parish to create another Advent devotional and had her first meeting with the teens Holy Mayhem group.

Mary updated the vestry about worshipping in the time of COVID, the installation of the new AV equipment in the sanctuary, and the plans for stewardship. She also reported that the website is new and improved and functioning well.

At the close, Christy Fritz shared about the back to school gathering at the rectory and ideas for how to engage children and families with take home activities/prayers and Zoom. Ricky Davidson also gave an update about the careful research that continues by building and grounds for the replacement of the roof, as well as recruiting new member for the committee.

We ended the meeting in gratefulness for those who have served, by remembering them with thank you cards, and then Judy Davidson prayed for us.

Christy Fritz

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SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 15 MEETING
OF THE VESTRY

Absent: Nancy Ames, Rebecca Olmstead

Bruce Lawrence, treasurer, reviewed our financial updates. Pledges paid are running behind the amount budgeted. We rely on pledges being paid in order to have enough income to meet expenses. We are grateful to all who continue to support our parish even though we can't meet in person.

Mary presented a proposal to be submitted to the Diocesan Task Force on Reopening which would allow us to begin filming Sunday services in the sanctuary with a few people participating as readers and musicians. The Vestry discussed and approved this proposal which will be sent to the Task Force.

Mary discussed the hard work and enthusiasm of the Stewardship Committee in creating the materials and format of the small Zoom groups. We are hoping that many will attend to learn about the results of the 5 year planning group and to discuss our new Mission Statement. The Vestry will discuss the results at the November meeting. Some possible questions to explore: What did we learn about the projected financial needs of the parish? What potential groups were identified in the plan that might be open to what St. Michael's has to offer? What opportunities are there in our own neighborhoods to expand our missional work?

Ricky gave an update on the roof project. The Building & Grounds Committee is gathering new figures on insulation, solar and heating and cooling for the church. They hope to make a decision after the Stewardship season is over.

Judy reported that the Outreach Committee met and has planned for a Diaper Sunday to go from November 8–22. There will be 4 drop off points for parishioners to drop them off. They will be delivered to Groundworks and to the Parks Place Diaper Bank on November 23.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Davidson

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER

November 1, All Saints: Revelation 7: 9–17;
Psalm 34: 1–10, 22; 1 John 3: 1–3; Matthew 5: 1–12
November 8: Joshua 24: 1–3a, 14–25; Psalm 78: 1–7;
Canticle C; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13–18;
Matthew 25: 1–13
November 15, Stewardship Ingathering:
Judges 4: 1–7, Psalm 123, 1 Thessalonians 5: 1–11;
Matthew 25: 14–30
November 22, Christ the King: Ezekiel 34: 11–16,
20–24; Psalm 100; Canticle D; Ephesians 1: 15–23;
Matthew 25: 31–46
November 29, Advent 1: Isaiah 64: 1–9;
Psalm 80: 1–7, 16–18; 1 Corinthians 1: 3–9;
Mark 13: 24–37

NOVEMBER 2020 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 and
Jesse Ackerman-Hovis
November 9 Ruth Tilghman
November 11 Mikael Mattson
November 15 Wendell Howard, Nathan Olmstead
November 16 Judy Walker
November 17 Kate McGinn, Ken Jacobs
November 19 Christopher Wesolowski,
Aiden Anderson
November 20 Christine Gauthier, Eve Pomazi
November 21 Annelise Fedoruk, Amanda White,
Rosalind Ridgway
November 22 Anne Brown
November 24 Pam Crispe, Juniper Ridgway
November 28 Laurie Chipfield, John Laamanen
November 30 Alfred Cramer



ANNIVERSARIES

November 2 Irene & Richard Burtis
November 13 Rosie & Matt Wojcik
November 29 Jessica & Chris Mattson

LEADERSHIP

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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
WEEKDAY EVENINGS	5:00 pm	Evening Prayer
THURSDAYS	5:30–6:00 pm	Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer