

The Guardian

JANUARY 2021

FROM THE RECTORY

As I write in the middle of December, the first Americans have received the COVID-19 vaccine and the Electoral College has confirmed the election results from November. We just had a big dump of new, white snow and the Winter Solstice is almost here. Even though it will be months before we will enter anything resembling normal life, it does feel like we are beginning a new chapter.

My parents often tell me (especially on my birthday), “Your birth was the only good thing to happen in 1968.” They remember 1968 as a terrible year. I wonder if this may be what the parents of children born in 2020 will say — “Your birth was the only good thing to happen in 2020.”

As my daughter Bibi wrote in our Christmas letter this year, “2020 was...something.” Certainly terrible things have happened this year and it has been a time of great struggle and loss. I myself am not quite sure how to regard it, because we are so close to it still and indeed, we are still struggling with all of what characterized this infamous year.

What has been a balm to me through this time has been you all, our church family, and the growing importance of faith in many people’s lives in our country and in the world. Knowing anew our common vulnerability and frailty helps us know in a deeper way our dependence on God. And despite the pain of loss and the struggle of this time, drawing closer to God in right relationship is a good and true thing.

I am reminded of one of the General Thanksgivings in our Book of Common Prayer. I love the way this prayer affirms the goodness of accomplishments while leaving room for the corrective goodness found in failure and disappointment:

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Bibi is right. 2020 was....something.


Mary Lindquist
Rector

NEWS OF THE PARISH

JANUARY ADULT FORUMS

9–10 AM ON SUNDAY

January 3 — “Epiphany around the world”: Those of us who grew up outside of the Episcopal church may not have had very much exposure to the Feast of the Epiphany when we were younger. After listening to Susan Dedell tell us about Advent and Christmas carols, I discovered that there are 22 Epiphany carols! That’s a lot of celebration. This forum will explore how cultures around the world recognize and celebrate Epiphany. *Led by Nancy Ames*

January 10 — “Baptism 101: Different Meanings through the Ages”: From the Baptism of Jesus, which we celebrate today, to state policy, to Hell insurance, to dramatic conversion...to what it means to you. *Led by Phillip Wilson*

January 17 — “Celebrating MLK Sunday”: The Forum will be an overview of the Windham County chapter of America’s oldest civil rights organization, the NAACP. Cliff Wood will interview the branch’s president Steffen Gillom, a doctoral student at Antioch University. You will learn the history of the chapter and its work to ensure social justice for all residents of southern Vermont.

January 24 — “After the Inauguration”: On the first Sunday after the inauguration of Biden and Harris, let’s use our time in the forum to reflect on that event and our hopes for our nation going forward.

January 31 — TBD

Born in segregated Pine Bluff, AR, Wylene became aware of the African American struggle for civil rights as a young girl. Her father, Wiley A. Branton, Sr., the third African American to graduate from the University of Arkansas Law School, was a Civil Rights lawyer. He was chief counsel for the Little Rock Nine school desegregation case of 1957 and Director of the Voter Education Project based in Atlanta, credited with overseeing the registration of over 700,000 Africans Americans in 11 states across the South over a period of 3 years. During this period, he worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Her father then went on to work for the Johnson Administration in helping to implement the Civil Rights Act and became Dean of Howard University School of Law.

This family history and what she experienced first-hand fed Wylene’s interest in education, community service, and social justice. Prior to moving to Vermont, Wylene and her husband, Cliff, lived in Rockland County NY, where she served on several boards including being long-time President of the Board of the African American Historical Society of Rockland County, where she wrote and orchestrated numerous educational programs for the community and especially for public school students. Currently, she is a member of the Windham County NAACP and St. Michael’s Episcopal Church and an Incorporator of Kurn Hattin Home and School for Children. She is also a volunteer with Brattleboro Area Hospice and Loaves and Fishes.

STM

**ST. MICHAEL’S CELEBRATES
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SUNDAY
JANUARY 17**

On January 17, St. Michael’s will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday. Our speaker that day will be parishioner Wylene Branton Wood, a life-long educator, writer, community volunteer, and graduate of Spelman College and the University of Chicago.

STM

**VIRTUAL B.O.B. DRIVE
JANUARY 6–18**

The Outreach Committee invites you to join our Virtual B.O.B. (Bag of Basics) Drive — Martin Luther King Day of Service, January 6–18. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. It’s often called “a day on, not a day off.” Due to COVID,

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we will not work together in person on January 18. Instead, we will gather in spirit through gifts from our hearts over the 12 days from Epiphany to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The B.O.B. Drive is an effort to supplement our parish's ongoing food offerings with a special drive for non-food items that are much needed, often not supplied by existing programs, and too-rarely donated. We will then deliver them to Loaves and Fishes, to Groundworks, and to St. Michael's Ministry for the Southern Vermont Correctional Facility on or after January 18.

To minimize contact, please read the list of suggested items (much reduced this year to keep our process simpler!) and donate ONE TYPE OF ITEM per box or bag (reusable or paper), CLEARLY LABELED on the outside stating what kind of item and how many. We will pass the boxes and bags directly to our three partners based on which types of items they each requested.

SUGGESTED ITEMS, * means "OK to package together":

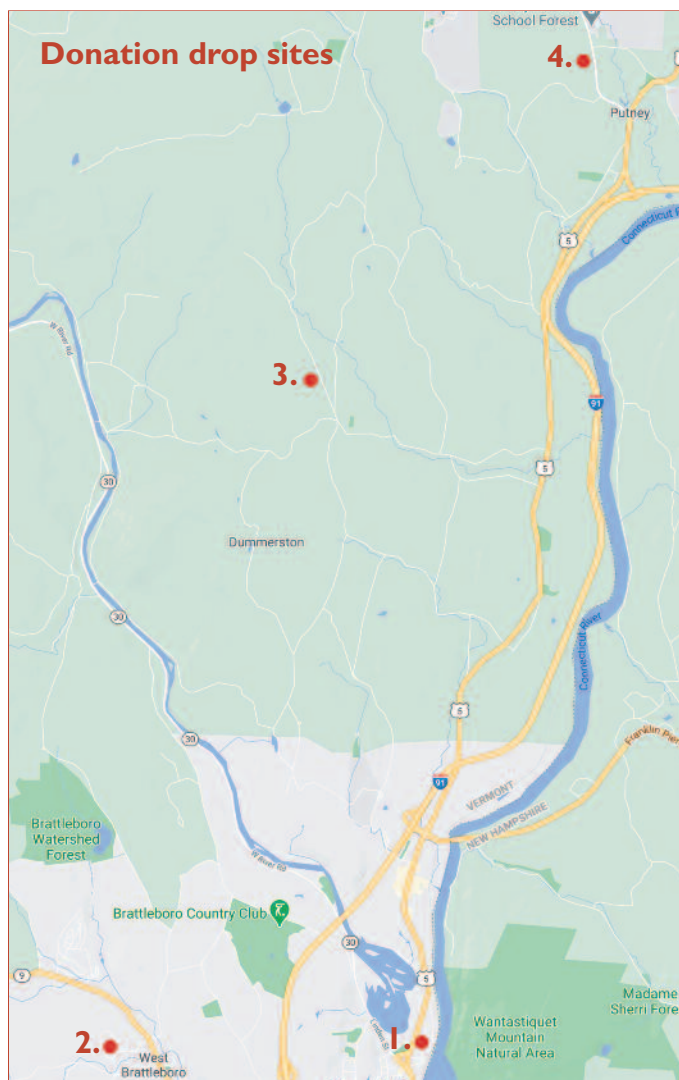
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Band-aids
- Cold remedies (e.g. Dayquil, Nyquil, Emergen-C, throat lozenges)*
- Deodorant
- Diapers (especially larger sizes)
- Sanitary napkins & tampons*
- Shampoo & conditioner*
- Shaving cream
- Soap
- Toilet paper
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss*
- Dish liquid
- Laundry detergent
- Men's white T-shirts
- Men's white socks
- Men's underwear/boxers
- New socks

- New mittens
- New hats

On any day from January 6–18, please leave your donations on the porches of:

1. Judy Davidson, 42 North Street, Brattleboro
2. Shirley Hodgdon, 34 Hampshire Circle, West Brattleboro;
3. Alix Fedoruk, 169 Park Laughton Road, Dummerston (use brick porch, or wooden "Packages" box at front corner of house near driveway); or
4. Susan Wilson, 105 Westminster Road, Putney.

THANK YOU!!



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AN ABUNDANCE OF GENEROSITY

Mary Lindquist

During the last month, there has been an abundance of generosity pouring in and going out from St. Michael's! Here are just a few things that have astounded me:

- The Operation St. Nicholas was a huge success! On November 28, over 30 St. Michael's "elves" delivered Holy Communion and Advent Devotionals to over 170 families and individuals. The Elves did this AGAIN on December 19 to deliver Holy Communion for Christmas Eve!
- St. Michael's Outreach Team collected 6,941 diapers to distribute to families in need in our community.
- We also collected "about a gazillion" cookies and swags to give to people in our community who are in transitional housing at local motels for Christmas.
- For Thanksgiving we collected over 60 pies and an abundance of Thanksgiving dishes to distribute through Loaves and Fishes and Groundworks.

Thank you to St. Michael's parishioners for your great spirit of love and generosity in these challenging times — It is truly amazing!



Operation St. Nicholas and St. Michael's Diaper Drive

AN INVITATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 AT 2 PM
ST. MICHAEL'S ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for our first ever virtual Annual Meeting! Instead of beginning right after church, we want you to take a screen/lunch break and come back at 2 pm for our Annual Meeting. At this meeting we will be able to see one another, hear reports, elect new Vestry members and delegates to Diocesan Convention, and see our Annual Meeting Slide Show!

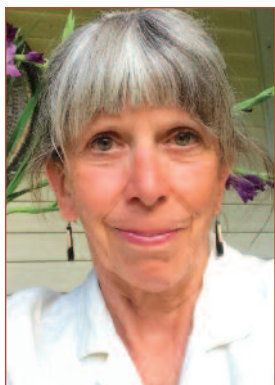
CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

STEVEN GUERRIERO: I am starting my fourth year as a member of St. Michael's Community. I live in Spofford NH, along with my wife Joy and our German Shepherd Emma. We have two grown children and four grandchildren, living too far away! After a long career in higher education as a faculty member and in



administration, we now operate our family farm, Pisgah Farm LLC, where we grow and sell produce and flowers wholesale and retail. My professional background includes years of leadership experience and consulting in private and nonprofit organizations.

ANN LANDENBERGER: I joined St. Michael's in 1996 when I and my young family moved to Williamsville from Providence, RI where we belonged to St. Stephen's on College Hill. I recently retired from 21 years of teaching at Leland and Gray in Townshend where I directed 65 shows including five that toured China with Journey

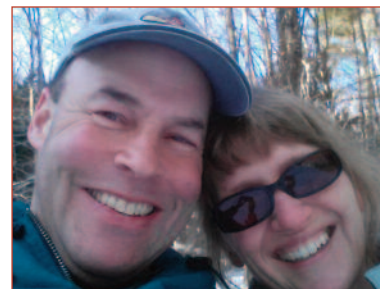


East, a program I co-founded. I also founded the Rock River Players in Williamsville in 2015 and remain active in theatre while also performing with my partner, T. Breeze Verdant, as Bard Owl, a music duo. As a writer, I'm working on a memoir and have been a regular contributor to area publications both as a freelance essayist and as a PR practitioner. An avid

outdoors person, I thrive on fresh air, deep woods and wide views from a canoe or a bike, on skis, or on foot. I am a proud grandma of Henry, age 3+, and a grateful mother of three grown sons, all of whom performed in some of the many pageants I directed, including a long run at St. Michael's where I've also served as a reader and lay assistant. This would be my second time serving on the Vestry. I feel clearly called to serve again and would be honored to do so — to have a chance to contribute to the good health and ever-widening reach of our remarkable parish.

ALAN MCBEAN:
 Greetings St. Michael's.
 My name is Alan McBean and I am a candidate for the Vestry class of 2021.

My wife Judith and I were married at St. Michael's in 1981 and have been members of St. Michael's since our return move in 1999. I grew up in Dummerston where my family attended Dummerston Congregational, the center of all things spiritual and social in the 60s. Living in Essex, VT for a time, I attended St. James where I was confirmed by Bishop McLeod and served a term on the Vestry. Since returning to Brattleboro, I have served on Vestry, the Schroeder Fund, committees for the renovation project, and Buildings and Grounds. I look forward to once again being more closely involved in church business especially in this time of creating new and innovative ways to stay connected as a congregation. I'm praying for everyone's health this winter and lemonade on the lawn together by June! *Yours in Christ, Alan McBean*



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Bags waiting for St. Michael's elves



The Virtual Youth Discipleship Group Secret Santa

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

ST. MICHAEL'S AND VERMONT INTERFAITH ACTION: UPDATE

Many parishioners are familiar with “Vermont Interfaith Action” (VIA). St. Michael’s has been involved with VIA off and on for several years, and Tom Ely, the former Bishop of Vermont now worshipping at St. Michael’s, was instrumental in urging the Diocese of Vermont to sign on to VIA’s work in the early 2000s.

VIA is a statewide organization that is part of the larger “Faith in Action” national organization. As a grassroots community organizing group like “Faith in Action,” VIA is different from other social justice groups in several important ways. For one, it is outward, visible and committed to changing systems. VIA is deliberately relational, based upon one-on-one conversations with a wide range of people in the community to determine needs and possible productive actions that can be taken. Significantly, VIA is a means in which faith communities can enact structural, systematic and political change. You can learn more about the ministry of VIA by visiting their website — <https://viavt.org/>

Community organizing like that undertaken by VIA can often be slow. It entails a number of deliberate steps. It starts with participants having meaningful conversations with community members, comparing notes, and deciding on an issue to tackle. Once the issue is determined, data are systematically gathered and presented to elected officials, leaders and others in a public “action.” At an action, people in positions of authority are urged to commit to change, following which everyone is held to account for progress, after which solutions are followed through to successful conclusions.

It may seem at times during this process as if nothing is happening, but the end result is most often a significant change that targets the root causes of social and economic problems. The solutions are often much

more long-lived, and have a wider reach, than the more hands-on and direct activities of charity work.

Daniel Quipp, who had been VIA’s Coordinator for southern Vermont until this past summer (and a current Brattleboro Select Board member), was assisting area faith communities in launching a southern Vermont VIA group. Now that Daniel has taken a full-time job with SEVCA and VIA cannot fund his replacement at the current time, a core group at St. Michael’s that is committed to VIA is actively discussing possible ways forward. We are being assisted by VIA’s Executive Director Debbie Ingram.

Are you sensing a call to embark on this important work? If so, we would love to hear from you. We are looking for two groups of people: some who can participate in one-on-one conversations (training is available) and others who can join us in the core leadership group (there can certainly be overlap!). Current members are listed below with contact information; please let one of us know if you are interested in helping out — thank you!

Valerie Abrahamsen, valabrah@gmail.com

Megan Buchanan, mbuchanan@hotmail.com,
802-387-5733

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Judy Davidson, judydavidson3d@gmail.com,
802-254-5440

Tom Ely, thomasely1@gmail.com,
802-233-5729

Mary Lindquist, mary@stmichaelsvermont.org,
802-254-6048, ext 102

Joyce Vining Morgan, jcvmorgan@gmail.com,
802-387-2543

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VESTRY UPDATE FROM THE DECEMBER 2020 MEETING

This month the Vestry met and after our Devotional Time focused on de-stressing, self-care and a grounding meditation lead by Imogene, we received the following updates.

Adowa gave us an update about the how her studies are going and the focus of her coursework for the next couple of terms. She shared with us some experiences working with different groups within the church and the Vestry asked her how we can continue to support her. We all agreed it was wonderful having Adowa share her gifts, skills and learning with us.

We then received an update from our treasurer. Overall, we are doing well. We continue to receive pledges from the parish that allow us to continue our mission.

Then we received the Rector's report from Mary. She gave us an update of no changes to current COVID-19 protocols from the Diocese. Mary also went over the plan for the holiday services and the elves' delivery of communion. She then let us know we surpassed our stewardship goal as far a dollar amount goes, but have yet to achieve the number of pledges goal, but there is still time. We were also updated on the banners for the side of the church and told that Bruce Lawrence is

building a frame to better hold and hang those banners and once complete they will hang proudly on the Putney Road side of the church.

The Vestry next received the Senior Warden's report. The Vestry will meet in groups of 3 (a third year, second year and first year member) to discuss ways we can continue the "knock and drop" program started in Advent and how and when to do so.

The committee reports were as follows:

- Buildings and Grounds, three members of the group walked through the entire church property with John the sexton to discuss the smaller projects that can get done over the winter and while the church building is generally quieter.
- the Nominating Committee discussed the three parish members to be put forward as new Vestry members during the annual meeting next month.
- Endowment Committee, the Vestry approved the slate of new and return parish members to serve on the Endowment Committee.

Rebecca led us in a closing prayer.

—Ricky Davidson



Ricky Davidson and Jared Rediske counting checks

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A huge THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the 2021 Stewardship Campaign. In October, we set a goal of raising \$270,000 and receiving 135 pledges. As of December 20, we have received 126 pledges for a total of \$272,716! We are so grateful for your generosity and your support.

William & Nancy Ames
Robert & Becky Anderson
Laura Andrews
Anonymous - 2
Susan Avery
Nancy Barber
Betsy Morgan Bates
Carol Beninati
Thad Bennett
Diana Bingham
Karin Bleecker
Lindsey Boss
Janet Brocklehurst & Sissi Loftin
Jean Brodie
Anne Wilmott Brown
Andy & Elise Burrows
Richard & Irene Burtis
Thomas Cain
Patricia Cameron
John & Mary Carnahan
David & Pam Carr
Christopher Chapman
Dianne Clouet
Janet Cramer
Lawrin & Pam Crispe
James & Anita Crosson
Charles & Elaine Curry-Smithson
John Daly
Judy Davidson
Ricky Davidson
Paul & Susan Dedell
Dorothea Degutis
Daniel Dobson
Imogene Drakes
Dan Drish
Paul & Susan Dyer
Larry Earle & Jay Pomponio
Corwin & Elizabeth Elwell
Tom & Ann Ely
Steve Faure & David Treadwell
Katra Faust

Alix Fedoruk
Paul & Pam Gallagher
Cary Gaunt
Lloyd Graf
Steven Guerriero
Karen Guthrie
Craig Hammond & Liz Vick
Steve & Laurel Harrison
Christine Hart
Susan Heimer
Ken & Melissa Herman
Carol Hesselbach
Shirley Hodgdon
Wendell & Madelyn Howard
Parker Huber
Judy & Phul Hueber
Kenneth Jacobs II
Kurt Johnson & Mary Lindquist
Vince Johnson & MJ Woodburn
Judith Junkins
Jon Davis & Laurie Kaiser
Jenny Karstad
Charlene Kemp
Ann Landenberger
Bruce & Marie Lawrence
Yoojin Lee
Mark & Heather Lesage-Horton
Gregory Lesch
Jeffrey Lewis
Adwoa Lewis-Wilson
Jack & Margit Lilly
Ray Lindquist
Paul Love
Leigh Marthe
Alan & Judith McBean
Margery McCrum
Andrew & Lauren McDowell
Judith McGee
Dana & Kate McGinn
Judith McGorray
John Byrnes & Kiersten McKenney

Ralph & Michelle Meima
Steven & Karren Meyer
Anne Montgomery
Elizabeth Moore
Brian & Joyce Vining Morgan
Whitney Nichols
Rebecca & Nathan Olmstead
Linda Parker
Joanne Patalano
Robert Peeples
Joan Pinilla
Annamarie Pluhar
Zolt & Hedy Pomazi
Nicholas & Dorothy Porter
Jared Rediske
Judith Reichsman
Jesse Ridgway
Ross Kinney & Teri Robinson
Susan Ruggles
Ed & Jane Sbardella
Peter & Jean Smith
Miranda Smith
Devin Starlanyl
William Stearns
Marcia Steckler
Cherolyn Stimmel
Douglas & Ann Switzer
Eben & Lydia Taggart
Carolyn Taylor-Olson
Ruth Tilghman
Christine Triebert
Fred & Carol Turner
Elaine Wolcott
Nancy Waldron
Judy Walker
Laurie Webb
Christopher Wesolowski
Robin White-Diamondstone
Phillip & Susan Wilson
Cliff & Wylene Wood
Aldrich Wright & Louise LaChance

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Belle

*Belle, deep black mare,
 round as a bell and resounding,
 belly huge with foal to come.
 We check your teats three times a day,
 full, full, and fuller, and then
 tiny bits of waxy white
 on the sooty black and cold tips.
 Oh Belle, Belle, deliver us
 from these twelve degrees of coldness,
 snow, wind, and a still white sun.
 Deliver us steaming into spring,
 suckle us, succor us, ring us round
 with all this resounding joy,
 sweet, deep, in the dark night.*

—By Kim Peavy



Robes waiting to be picked up for Lessons & Carols



St. Michael's Snow Mary



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

Sunday, January 3:

Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 84;
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 or
Luke 2:41-52 or Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 10:

Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7,
Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 17:

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 24:

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:6-14; 1
Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 31:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111,
1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

JANUARY 2021 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| January 2 | Robert Peebles |
| January 4 | Maria Escalera |
| January 5 | Andy Burrows |
| January 7 | Carol Blanchard |
| January 10 | Pat Cameron, Nancy Waldron |
| January 15 | Bruce Griffin |
| January 18 | David Mattocks |
| January 19 | Pam Carr |
| January 20 | Miranda Smith |
| January 21 | Linda Neilson, Lily DeLeon |
| January 22 | John Carnahan |
| January 23 | Julie Cogliano |
| January 24 | Melia Allen |
| January 26 | Rebecca Olmstead, Andachew Mousin |
| January 28 | Gwen Mousin |
| January 29 | Paul Dedell |
| January 30 | Megan Buchanan |
| January 31 | Linda Parker |



ANNIVERSARIES

January 25 Neil & Anne Montgomery

LEADERSHIP

VESTRY

Carolyn Taylor-Olson, Senior Warden
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380-1474

Bruce Lawrence, Treasurer
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257-1494

Carol Beninati, Clerk
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258-4636

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ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Permit #18

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