

The Guardian

MARCH 2021

FROM THE RECTORY

A PERPETUAL LENT

It is March 2021. We are about to celebrate...celebrate?... recognize?... observe a dubious anniversary, the anniversary of the pandemic. Many of us may remember the last time we were gathered together in the church, March 15, the third Sunday in the Season of Lent. We knew by then that the Coronavirus had come to our country and our state. We watched in disbelief and fear as the virus made its way across the globe.

It made liturgical sense at the time to call our hiatus from in-person worship a “Lenten fast.” We would fast from in-person worship, from Holy Communion, from all the activities we usually do in Lent and from most all of the activities that made up our normal daily lives. Perhaps by Easter, we hoped, we would be able to celebrate the end of the fast.

But Easter came and went, then Pentecost, then summer and, well, you all know what happened. We have continued our Lenten fast for a year now. There have been small reprieves like our outdoor worship last summer and walks with friends, but no real end to the fast we began.

It may be inaccurate to call all the things we have given up a “fast.” We usually choose fasts in order to deepen our relationship with God. And I’m pretty sure none of us would actually choose to fast from community, church and family gatherings, singing or receiving Holy Communion as a way of growing closer to God.

However, another purpose of fasting is to help us appreciate the blessings of what we have, like food, for instance. In this sense, our perpetual Lenten fast is definitely working. When we are able to come back together again, to hug, to sing, to travel, I’m certain that our appreciation of these great blessings will have grown enormously.

And now that the vaccine is being distributed, we have hope that there will be an end to our Lenten fast. May it be so soon and may we never again take for granted the many blessings of our human fellowship.

Mary
Mary Lindquist
Rector

LENTEN SERIES 2021

**VOICES FROM THE WILDERNESS:
REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR OF DISRUPTION**

**TUESDAYS, 6–7:15 PM
FEBRUARY 23–MARCH 23**

March 15 marks the one-year anniversary of our church's time of separation as well as deep and previously unthinkable changes in our lives. During the Lenten series this year, we will take time to reflect on this time and all the changes it has wrought for ourselves, our church, our nation and our world.

The Wilderness is one of the ways we think about Lent. It is the place of Jesus' temptation and fasting; it is the place where the Jews wandered for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land; it is also the place where early Christian monks and nuns chose to live in order to be closer to God. The Wilderness is a place of hardship and danger, but also a place of growth and renewal. In what ways have we been living that paradox in this time?

Some of the voices we will hear from during the Lenten Series include folks from Medical, Educational and Church fields. We will find out what this last year has been like for them.

- March 2 — “Danger & Security,” Voices from the Medical Field
- March 9 — “Confusion & Formation,” Voices from the Educational Field
- March 16 — “Temptation & Trust,” Voices from the Church
- March 23 — “Leaving the Wilderness,” What have we learned?
What will we take with us?

Schedule — Join us for part or all of the evening!

5:30–6:00 pm — Dinner conversation (We will chat while “sharing” a meal from home)

6:00–6:15 pm — Introduction of theme and speakers

6:15–6:45 pm — Panel discussion

6:45–7 pm — Questions/responses

7:00–7:20 pm — Closing worship

Zoom Links can be found on St. Michael's website and in your eNews. Also, the telephone links for zoom are being sent directly to those without email.

FORUMS ON THE SUNDAYS IN LENT

“Speaking Truth Toward the Future — Voices of our Hebrew Ancestors”

We will explore the lives of our Hebrew ancestors as they addressed the central questions of their lives and times. The power of the Scriptures is found as our Hebrew ancestors help us address those same questions in our lives during this time.

February 28 — **Joseph** led by Craig Hammond

March 7 – **Amos** led by Janet Cramer

March 14 – **Jonah** led by Jay Pomponio

March 21 – **Job** led by Annie Landenberger

To enter the Forum meeting on Sunday mornings, click the link in the eNews or on the website stmichaelsvermont.org. Meeting ID: 932 0641 6516, Password: theology
OR

Call by phone: +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 932 0641 6516 Password: 679508



VESTRY RETREAT ROUNDUP

Ann Landenberger

Vestry Retreat '21 was, predictably, the oddest perhaps in St. Michael's history. All virtual — thanks to zoom — it called on each of us to shun the distractions that'd otherwise demand attention on our desks and dining room tables and to dial into the work at hand.

Friday evening, February 5, we got to know each other sharing a range of material from the minutiae of what we'd each had for breakfast to the deeper and revealing stories of our own spiritual journeys. What's to be learned in such a sharing is complex, broad, and rich. And being asked to share gave each of us a reason to dig into our individual calling to serve on the Vestry. Personally, at a time when there are many ways I could be willing to contribute of myself, this service seems

most meaningful, truly essential. To be among others who feel the same commitment — and inspired by Mary's wisdom and presence — only ensures a healthy start to the new vestry's year.

The rest of the Retreat began with a well-documented, engaging history of St. Michael's. Knowing where we've come from and how we as a Vestry fit into the next phase of our history is a GOOD foundation for fulfilling our four-pronged role: to grow with vision, to tend to our buildings and grounds, to be good stewards of our strengths and potential, and to uphold our mission. That mission, thoroughly and beautifully crafted at last year's Retreat with input from the congregation, reads almost like a prayer, one Vestry

NEWS OF THE PARISH

member observed. It's to be called on regularly — repeated, heeded.

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.

In small groups and as a whole, we discussed goals we envisioned the Vestry setting as well as the challenges we'd face in meeting such goals. And we discussed how the most dominant of those challenges — the pandemic — has and can continue to yield opportunities, as well. With the ample strides the Church has taken in the realm of technology since the onset of the pandemic, for instance, we have grown our potential to reach even more of those who wish to work and worship with us.

Vestry member, Rebecca Olmstead, RN, offered an in-depth look at what our eventual return to live worship — or even a hybrid — would look like. Offering facts, experience, caution, and hope, Rebecca's presentation was invaluable.

The various ministries of St. Michael's were presented and explained; then each Vestry member chose to be

assigned a liaison role—or two—to the committees that further those ministries. Giving parishioners full access to Vestry and the specific roles they're serving can only broaden involvement in the good work of St. Michael's Church. Thus, in addition to your Senior Warden, Ricky Davidson, rickybratt@gmail.com, and Junior Warden, Nancy Ames, alderyacht@gmail.com, please note the following:

Liaisons to —

Choir: Jared Rediske

Youth (*Godly Play, Holy Mayhem, Youth Discipleship): Christy Fritz

Adult Forum: Nancy Ames

Discipleship & Discernment: Christy Fritz

Outreach: Judy Davidson

Social Justice: Nancy Ames

Pastoral Care: Rebecca Olmstead

Buildings and Grounds: Alan McBean

Stewardship: Steve Guerriero

Hospitality: Judy Davidson and Rebecca Olmstead

Communications (not yet formed): Annie Landenberger

I'm sure I speak for my fellow Vestry members in thanking Mary and our Wardens for launching us in such a thoughtful, reassuring, positive, and spirit-filled direction.



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 7: Exodus 20:1–17,
Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18–25, John 2:13–22

Sunday, March 14: Numbers 21:4–9;
Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22; Ephesians 2:1–10; John 3:14–21

Sunday, March 21: Jeremiah 31:31–34, Psalm 51:1–13
or Psalm 119:9–16, Hebrews 5:5–10, John 12:20–33

Sunday, March 28:

The Liturgy of the Palms: Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29;
Mark 11:1–11 or John 12:12–16

The Liturgy of the Word: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 31:9–16;
Philippians 2:5–11; Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark 15:1–39

MARCH 2021 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

March 2	Susan Kochinskas
March 3	Christine Hart, Kiersten McKenney, Callan McDowell
March 5	Joshua Fritz
March 6	Wayne Cook
March 7	Ladd Osborne
March 10	Gabe Reynolds
March 11	Teri Robinson, Marie Lawrence
March 15	Benson Bobrick, Jeffrey Hiam
March 16	Chris Chapman
March 19	Karen Guthrie
March 20	Bob Walker
March 22	Bruce Lawrence
March 24	James Wilmott, Joan Pinilla, Margery McCrum
March 25	Kate LeBlanc
March 28	Tom Woodbury, Elizabeth Moore
March 30	Craig Newbert
March 31	Jan Bennett



ANNIVERSARIES

March 7	Elizabeth Vick & Craig Hammond
March 12	Nancy & Jeffrey Durborow
March 23	Kate & Dana McGinn

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STM *The Guardian* is published monthly by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. News items, announcements, articles, etc. should be submitted to jeanie@st.michaels-vt.org by the 15th of the month for consideration.

The Guardian mailing list: Contact Jeanie Crosby with address changes or requests to be added or removed from *The Guardian* mailing list. jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org or 802-254-6048.

Printed on recycled paper 100% post consumer, PCF

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