

The Guardian

APRIL 2021

VIRTUAL HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28 • 8:00 AM

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28 • 10:15 AM

TENEBRAE, MARCH 31 • 7:00 PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1 • 6:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2 • 12:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2 • 7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3 • 9:00 AM

SUNRISE EASTER VIGIL , APRIL 4 • 5:30 AM

EASTER DAY, APRIL 4 • 8:00 AM

EASTER DAY, APRIL 4 • 10:15 AM

Zoom Links, Descriptions and Bulletins can be found on St. Michael's Website, www.stmichaelsvermont.org

NOTES ABOUT THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

- We will include Palms, crosses, candles and Holy Communion in the Holy Week Bags delivered on March 27.
- The Tenebrae service, organized by Craig Hammond, will include participation from many of St. Michael's youth.
- The Maundy Thursday service will involve sharing a meal together from our various homes, blessing the food as an Agape Meal, speaking together about the scripture for the day and having an opportunity to experience foot or hand washing from our own homes. This service will be in a Zoom Meeting format, so we can see each other as we eat and worship.
- The Stations of the Cross Service at 7:00 pm on Good Friday is a new offering for us. It will be akin to the Advent Lessons and Carols in that it will include music, images, prayers, readings and body prayer as we experience the stations.
- The early morning Easter Vigil service will begin in the dark and culminate in the first sunrise of Easter. This will be a Zoom Meeting format so we will be able to see one another (depending on if you have your camera on) and hope to share sunrises from our various locations. This service will include Holy Eucharist.

FROM THE RECTORY

THE VOW OF STABILITY

A few years ago, I accompanied St. Michael's vestry on a retreat to Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, New York. For one of our gatherings, we invited Brother Scott, one of the monks, to speak to us about the Rule of St. Benedict.

While Brother Scott spoke of many monastic vows that were familiar, he also talked about one that surprised me — the Vow of Stability. St. Benedict was very clear in his writings that those who made a commitment to monastic life must also make a commitment to a particular place and community. He wrote with disapproval of those monks who moved from monastery to monastery: “Always on the move, they never settle down, and are slaves to their own wills and gross appetites.”

Thomas Merton further illuminates what the Vow of Stability means:

By making a vow of stability the monk renounces the vain hope of wandering off to find a 'perfect monastery.' This implies a deep act of faith: the recognition that it does not much matter where we are or whom we live with. ... Stability becomes difficult for a man whose monastic ideal contains some note, some element of the extraordinary. All monasteries are more or less ordinary.... Its ordinariness is one of its greatest blessings.

As we pass the one-year anniversary of the pandemic and we begin to feel a bit freer moving around and even traveling, it occurs to me that we have all been living a kind of vow of stability. Not a voluntary vow, but a necessary vow for the sake of our own health and for the sake of others.

Who among us has stayed home so much as in this last year? Many of us have experienced no traveling, no driving to meetings, gatherings, sporting events, etc. We have had to limit our wills, appetites and preferences for the sake of staying put.

Although I have missed traveling, I have also been surprised that I have found great comfort in the calm absence of moving around. I have found that there is a sense of stability (!) and grounded-ness in routine and slowness and familiarity. I have never experienced such a regular prayer life and our family has never eaten so many consecutive dinners together. A little dull at times perhaps, but I have appreciated the conservation of energy, money and “climate expense” that this stability has afforded.

How has this time stability been for you? Have you found it difficult? Easy? Different from what you thought? What have you learned? Have you found a blessing in the “ordinariness” of home life? How might this vow of stability affect us as we move into a time when movement and travel are more possible?

Mary
Mary Lindquist
Rector

NEWS OF THE PARISH

FORUMS

March 28, Palm Sunday: Spiritual, political and historical forces collide in the simple story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a colt. Exploring the larger context of this story holds up the challenges of what it means to be a Christian today. We look at this story not so much in terms of Jesus' "Passion," i.e his death, as we do in terms of Jesus' passion and commitment to justice and the Kingdom of God.

April 11: The Jerusalema Challenge! In January of 2020 a South African spiritual Jerusalema, sung in Zulu, became a hit in southern Africa. When Angolan dancers choreographed it in February and recorded themselves dancing while they ate lunch, the song and the dance began to go viral. People danced it in law offices in Zimbabwe, a Catholic church in Montreal, a monastery in Israel, on the streets of Havana. Firefighters danced, and street kids, and pilots; the Swiss police challenged the Irish Garda. An Australian dance teacher made an

Our counters at work!



instruction video. So we will explore why the Jerusalema Challenge became a global response to the pandemic, why cloistered Irish nuns took up the Challenge not only "to cheer people up" (as the Kenyan Parliament did), but as "a creative way to pray." We might also dance.

April 18: "Monarch Gardening: Being a good host for migrating butterflies" — In early spring, Monarch butterflies in eastern North America leave their overwintering home in Mexico to start a migration they'll never complete. Three generations are born along a route of thousands of miles as they make their way to Vermont and the north east. Each generation needs milkweed plants to nourish caterpillars, and the adults need plenty of flowers' nectar as fuel. This remarkable natural spectacle requires a careful choreography of weather and habitats. Human activities threaten the dance and are threatening the Monarch population. We'll discuss how, through gardening and advocacy, we can be good stewards of these beautiful butterflies. Led by David Treadwell.

April 25: "Salvation, Rescue and the Vaccine" — Theologian Karl Barthe once said: *To be saved does not just mean to be a little encouraged, a little comforted, a little relieved. It means to be pulled out like a log from a burning fire.* What insight might we gain about the power of salvation through our faith in the experience of being "saved" from disease by a vaccine? We will explore different biblical concepts of salvation and reflect on our own experiences of rescue from danger. Led by Mary Lindquist.

STM

**WINDHAM COUNTY NAACP
2ND ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND DINNER
VIA ZOOM**

FRIDAY, APRIL 23 — 7:00 PM–8:30 PM

Cliff Wood

Wylene and I invite all of you to join us for the Windham County NAACP's 2nd Annual Freedom Fund Dinner. As Chair of the event, I promise you an

NEWS OF THE PARISH

informative and entertaining evening. The Branch will bestow its coveted “Unsung Hero Award” and our own Bishop, The Right Reverend Shannon MacVean-Brown, will give the Welcome and the Invocation. The Benediction will be given by F. James Levine, PhD, Chairperson of The Compassionate Community Brattleboro and former Spiritual Leader of the Brattleboro Area Jewish Community.

The Honorable Kesha Ram, Vermont State Senator who represents Chittenden County, will give the Keynote Address. A graduate of the University of Vermont, she also holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University. She is the first woman of color and the youngest woman in history to have a seat in the Vermont State Senate and she will have a powerful message for us.

Special music will be provided by noted St. Louis vocalist, Olivia Neal, whose voice is described as “A sound that is mixed with soul and inspiration, it is no wonder she touches her audience.” Also, Wylene Branton Wood will read her poem “The African American Challenge,” which was originally written for a publication of the CBCS (The Congressional Black Caucus Spouses organization), which celebrates its 50th anniversary this spring.

Individual tickets are \$50. This includes \$40 Dinner Access, 1-year membership to NAACP, and a \$10 donation to Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen. Additional Individual Memberships are \$30.

To purchase Individual tickets, please mail a check for \$50 (adding an additional \$30 for each extra Individual Membership) to:

Windham County Branch NAACP
P.O. Box 6164, Brattleboro, VT 05302

To pay online, please go to
<https://windhamnaacp.org/donate/>



SEEKING SUPPORT FOR CASP FAMILY

Our parish has supported the local Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP) for several years. During that time, 8 families have been supported, 6 of whom are now working and living independently! The goal of CASP is to support these families who are here legally and need support while they go through the asylum process and acquire the skills to live and work here. CASP is hoping to bring a mother from Honduras and her 2 daughters, ages 16 and 8, this spring. They have been stuck in Mexico for over a year waiting for the asylum court to hear their case.

The most important need they have is a place to live. Some asylum seekers have lived with local families in an extra bedroom. If you have space in your home or know of anyone who has space or if you know of someone who has space to rent out to CASP, that would be a great help. It does need to be a cat-free home due to allergies.

CASP always sets up a team of volunteers to support the asylum seekers: people to take them to medical appointments, help with school issues, make a meal, take a walk or invite them to a playdate with your children. Spanish speaking volunteers are always welcome but with Google translate on your phone, being a volunteer is a great way to practice your Spanish! There are many different ways to help welcome this new family so if you are interested, please call or email Judy Davidson (254-5440 or judydavidson3d@gmail.com) and she can share more about this program. It is definitely a way for us to manifest our new Mission Statement in the world!



NEWS OF THE PARISH

WATER AT FOYER EVANGELIQUE

The Outreach Team from St. Michael's sent a donation to Pastor Duckens at the Foyer Evangélique in Haiti to help with a new well that has eased the drought. This letter is the latest update from Pastor Duckens.

I take great pleasure in expressing to you my feelings of gratitude for all the friends who have donated so that the children of OFEU can have water. The children are overjoyed to have water again in our courtyard. We missed it very much.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to dig a new well that is 85 feet deep. We can now use this water for the children's baths, laundry, cooking, cleaning, and watering the garden.

Because of your generosity, we are also building a tank to store the water above ground so that we do not have to use gasoline for the generator to operate the pump every time we need water. Thank you very much for your support.

The situation remains politically difficult in Haiti because the mandate of the current president is coming to an end but he does not want to leave power. This causes a lot of demonstrations and insecurity in the streets, and contributes to rising cost of food and



other essentials. Our schools have not been able to function since the beginning of February due to political unrest and insecurity. Everyone is staying at home so as not to fall victim to kidnapping and violence in the streets, but I am confident that will change in the coming weeks.

The drought continues in Haiti. We have not received rain for 3 months which impacts the harvest and results in an increase in children suffering from hunger. Your generosity is helping some families in my community with food. This is saving lives.

There is still a scabies outbreak in our community and some of the OFEU children are still affected, but we know they will be ok because they are receiving

medical care. Thankfully Coronavirus is not killing people in our community.

Thank you again for your diligence in saving people in my community.

Pastor Duckens

SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE VESTRY

The Vestry met over Zoom on February 18, 2021. We began with a short guided meditation and then had a check-in about our personal lenten practices.

Next, we covered important highlights and approved the Annual budget. Bruce Lawrence also reviewed the January 2021 balance sheet with us and we also approved the Parochial Report for the diocese.

Then we hosted a virtual interview with our seminarian, Jack Karn, who lives and works in Texas. Along with congratulations for his recent engagement, many offered positive feedback about his work with youth and other ministries. Jack is currently serving as a youth minister and feels called to this work for a season and is continually devoted to discerning his future call to ministry.

Mary updated us about current Lenten offerings that St. Michael's will be offering on Tuesday evening and encouraged us to attend. She also made us aware of new hires at the diocese, including the Canon for Cultural Transformation.

Nancy Ames, our junior warden, proposed a schedule of virtual Vestry Listening Forums to be offered every few months. This was well received and Ricky and Nancy will schedule the events with the forum committee.

Ricky closed our business meeting with an update from the Endowment committee and updated us about the rotation of appointing new members.

Finally, we offered thanks to parishioners who have served this month, and Judy Davidson closed us in prayer.



SUMMARY OF MARCH MEETING OF THE VESTRY

Present: Nancy Ames, Judy Davidson, Ricky Davidson, Steve Guerriero, Annie Landenberger, Mary Lindquist,

Alan McBean, Rebecca Olmstead. Absent: Christy Fritz, Jared Rediske

Nancy Ames led a spirited discussion about Vermont's Bishop John Henry Hopkins who used the Bible to defend the practice of slavery in the South in writings from 1851–1864. The Vestry had read an article about the Bishop's life and writings which they used as the starting point. We discussed what a complicated man he was, with mixed motives for his writing, but agreed that he had no right to use the Bible to support his views. The Vestry will continue to discuss next steps and will probably have an Adult Forum on this in the future.

Bruce Lawrence updated us on parish finances. Although our operating income and pledges were \$3,477 less than budgeted, our expenses were \$5,781 less than budgeted so we are doing okay.

We had a delightful zoom meeting with Darcy Mercier who updated us on her courses and activities in seminary. She is an incredibly busy woman! Mary has received glowing reports of her work at the seminary and the Vestry unanimously approved Darcy to become a Candidate for Ordination. We are so proud of her!

Mary updated us on Holy Week and Christ Church. We do not anticipate any changes in in-person gatherings until the Governor allows multi-person gatherings.

We reviewed and approved the Vestry covenant that will guide our meetings this year. Ricky reported that there will soon be a way for parishioners to group email all vestry members at the same time.

Annie Landenberger reported on the recent work of the new Communications Committee whose goal is to increase the visibility in the community about our church and the many things it does. There were also committee reports from Buildings and Grounds, Pastoral Care and the Stewardship Committee.

Ricky Davidson led the Closing Prayer. He will also write this month's Thank You notes.

Respectfully submitted, *Judy Davidson*

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

Sunday, April 4 Easter Day:

Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24;
1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43;
John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8

Sunday, April 11:

Acts 4:32–35, Psalm 133;
1 John 1:1–2:2; John 20:19–31

Sunday, April 18:

Acts 3:12–19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1–7, Luke 24:36b–483

Sunday, April 25:

Acts 4:5–12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16–24,
John 10:11–18

APRIL 2021 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

April 2	Becky Anderson
April 3	Callan McDowell
April 7	Neil Montgomery
April 8	Kelli Allen
April 10	Sherry Stimmel
April 11	Peter Johnson, Kurt Johnson
April 12	J. Michael Wilmott, Devin Starlanyl
April 13	Diane Clouet, Ron Bell, Lyndsay Hesselbach
April 15	Ian McBean, Emily Brown
April 18	Douglas Switzer
April 21	Jonas Ackerman-Hovis, Samuel Kochinskas
April 22	Marcia Steckler
April 24	Norma Willingham
April 25	Alison Hale
April 27	Susan Heimer, John Daly
April 28	Rich Cogliano
April 29	Marta McBean, Annie Landenberger, Brian Hesselbach
April 30	Lawrin Crispe



LEADERSHIP

VESTRY

Ricky Davidson, Senior Warden
rickybratt@gmail.com
579-6701

Nancy Ames, Junior Warden
alderyacht@gmail.com
617-733-6179

Judy Davidson
judydavidson3d@gmail.com
254-5440

Christy Fritz
fritzfive@gmail.com
706-599-8756

Steve Guerriero
guerrierosp@gmail.com
603-363-8006

Annie Landenberger
verbatimvt@gmail.com
802-348-7156

Mary Lindquist
mary@stmichaelsvermont.org
254-6048

Alan McBean
amcbean57@gmail.com
802-254-6975

Rebecca Olmstead
rebeccaolmstead@me.com
802-258-2656

Jared Rediske
dentalguy2006@gmail.com
802-579-8998

Bruce Lawrence, Treasurer
brattvt@yahoo.com
802-257-1494

Carol Beninati, Clerk
writers@sover.net
802-258-4636

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



ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

16 Bradley Avenue
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-8429

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Brattleboro VT
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