

The Guardian

JUNE/JULY 2021

FROM THE RECTORY

THE DOORS ARE OPEN!

A few weeks ago at the beginning of the loosening of many pandemic restrictions, I told our administrator, Jeanie, that I didn't think we needed to lock the door anymore. At the beginning of the pandemic, we moved out of our offices and locked the doors. When we moved back in, we kept the doors locked in order to observe safety protocols and contact tracing.

Unlocking the doors felt like a small thing, but such a small thing, it turns out, means a lot. It makes me happy to walk into the church without having to use my key. And it means a lot for others to be able to come to the church and not have to knock on the door. It is a small thing, but deeply symbolic of becoming the church again, at least the church, as is our intention, with a wide open door.

As I write this our country is making huge progress toward opening up. The opening up almost feels as fast as the shutting down! New diocesan guidelines allow us to gather for meetings in the church, have weekly Holy Communion, and even gather in the church (though at this point, with many restrictions). It is hard to plan with so many changes afoot, but plan we must! At this point, we are hoping to continue to worship outside at Christ Church through July. We decided to do this because, given the current diocesan restrictions, worshipping in the church means restricting our numbers to only 22 people or family units. Outside, there are no restrictions on size.

I give you this plan with the caveat that it may change as things open more! So, stay tuned. We will be communicating mainly through our eNews and website, so please take a look at these communications often so you know where and when we will be worshipping on Sundays.

Here are some important changes you need to know:

- We WILL be starting up our Wednesday Eucharist service in the church beginning on June 9.
- The Thursday Contemplative Service is now being held outside on the Rectory Lawn from 5:30–6 pm. In the event of bad weather, we will retreat to the church sanctuary.
- Meetings are now allowed to happen in the church. Let Jeanie know if you'd like to schedule one.
- At this point all indoor activities continue to involve masks and physical distancing.

Please let me know if you have any questions or ideas you would like to share. Enjoy this time of grace and reunions!

Yours in Christ,


Mary

JUST IN CASE

The Just in Case documents are now available! These forms were developed by our Pastoral Care Team and our amazing administrator, Jeanie, to help us prepare for emergencies. They are not just for older people, but for people of all ages, as none of us can predict when accidents or emergencies will happen.

We have developed four forms, all of which are available as forms to be filled in on a computer or as forms to be filled in by hand:

- **Information for First Responders** — a quick reference for those who provide initial help in an emergency. This form is meant to be in an obvious place, such as the refrigerator door, and to be accompanied by a medication list and a copy of your advance directive.
- **General Information** — information needed by family, neighbors or friends who might be caring for you, your home, pets etc. during a time when you cannot do that. It would also be helpful for St. Michael's to have a copy of this form.
- **Care Management Plan** — Here you can record your thoughts about how you would like to receive various kinds of care if needed, identify others to be involved or consulted in making any decisions about care you might need, and direct another person to pieces of information that might be needed such as copies of your insurance cards or policies, military discharge papers, or a copy of a power of attorney.
- **Funeral Information** — This form where you record your preferences can be on file at St. Michael's as well as in your papers at home.

Printed forms are available at the church office or can be mailed to you. Links to fillable forms and to forms that can be printed and filled in by hand are on the website and in the eNews. If you would like help in understanding or filling out the forms, contact the Church office. Jeanie will connect you with one of the members of the Pastoral Care Team who have volunteered to help.

STORIES OF LEGACY GIVING: HARRY AND JANET SCHROEDER

By Christopher Chapman

Harry and Janet Schroeder distinguished themselves by their service to others. Mrs. Schroeder, as I always knew her, was a Sunday school teacher of mine but more to the point, she was an active member of the parish and an artist, accomplished in sculpture and pen-and-ink drawing. My memories of childhood in church included seeing Dr. Harry Schroeder march in with the choir, guiding himself with his cane and standing with the others Sunday after Sunday, reliably supporting the church in his own way. He was also a distinguished scientist who, under the auspices of Dartmouth Medical School, labored for many years in the basement lab at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

He is known widely in the world of diabetes research. High on the hill where he and Janet lived in rural West Brattleboro, he bred laboratory rats and in 1961 he isolated a strain that had a naturally occurring genetic mutation that left the animals without the ability to produce the hormone vasopressin, which helps control kidney function. That particular strain of rat was dubbed the "Brattleboro Rat" and continues to aid research on the role of vasopressin in any given biological function. The achievement was important because rats and human beings share all but approximately 1 percent of each other's genes, making the isolation of the gene very helpful to studying diabetes in people.

I revere Dr. Schroeder's memory because of his grave concern about environmental contamination. He was among those pioneering researchers who established a connection between infant retardation and the presence of heavy metals, such as lead and cadmium, in their brains. Because of his work, we no longer put leaded gasoline in our tanks. It was tetraethyl lead, added to gasoline to eliminate engine knocking, that was also poisoning the environment and finding its way into our bodies.

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Dr. Schroeder was also a person of compassion who communicated beautifully. Another of his legacy works is a book he wrote on moral philosophy in the form of a long letter to his granddaughters titled “A Matter of Choice,” which is probably in the parish library.

Together, Janet and Harry Schroeder were dedicated Episcopalians. When Mrs. Schroeder died, years after losing Harry to old age, she left to St. Michael’s a substantial part of her estate, now known as the Schroeder Fund. That legacy has been a foundational source of funds for the parish’s significant outreach in the community, supporting a number of human service organizations and initiatives. Every month, 40% of the funds draw goes to the Help Fund for people with emergency needs, 35% goes to education (supporting our seminarians and camp kids), 20% goes to capital improvements, and 5% goes to help support Christ Church.

A lesser known legacy is the lovely chapel that the Schroeders built on their property with a view of Mount Monadnock in the distance to the east behind the altar. The simple A-frame building was deconsecrated after Mrs. Schroeder sold the property and moved to the island of St. Thomas in the Caribbean, but it remains on the property to this day, cared for by owners who respect it and keep it from falling into ruin.

Brattleboro and the rest of the world have benefited from this pair of St. Michael’s parishioners, whom I will never forget and whose legacies will continue to benefit others indefinitely.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LEGACY GIVING

If you are interested in finding out more about Legacy Giving in support of St. Michael’s mission and ministry, please contact Chris Chapman, parishioner and longtime financial advisor on estate planning, for more information. He has offered to meet with any parishioner to discuss how best to accomplish a legacy gift of any kind or size.

COME CELEBRATE PRIDE SUNDAY ON JUNE 27 AT BOTH SERVICES!

On Sunday, June 27, St. Michael’s will be celebrating PRIDE Sunday in honor of PRIDE month. This year, our own Darcey Mercier (Seminarian Extraordinaire) will be preaching for us. Please join us at the 8 or 10:15 service outside at Christ Church to show your ongoing support and celebration of the LBTQ community at St. Michael’s and in the world.

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WEDNESDAY SERVICES ARE BACK BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

It has been so long since we gathered mid-week for a 30-minute service of prayer, Eucharist, and celebrating the saint of the day. Please join us in the church sanctuary for this special time of communion.

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ADULT FORUM THANK YOU

We’ve danced Jerusalema, learned about systemic racism, heard John Lewis on the importance of the vote, visited Laments and lamentation, delved into the Prophets, considered pollinators and monarchs, sung and discovered the church music of Advent and Easter and so much, much more. The Adult Forum happened every Sunday (except the big holidays) from April 19, 2021 to May 11, 2022. We’re going to take a break now.

There were a total of fifty-six forums. Many of the presenters put significant time and care into their presentations. With the ease of recording, quite a few of them have been preserved and are available through our Vimeo channel on the church website. But it’s easier to go here: [<https://vimeo.com/user35869896/collections>] which takes you straight to the Adult Forum Vimeo page. You will see that there are 24 videos there. Not everything was recorded and not all the editing is professional. Sigh.

Continued

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Thank you to our presenters (some of them more than once): Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, Alan McBean, Andy Burrows, Annamarie Pluhar, Annie Landenberger, Becca Balint, Cliff Wood, Craig Hammond, David Treadwell, Duncan Hilton, Imogene Drakes, Janet Cramer, Jay Pomponio, Jean Smith, Jeffrey Lewis, Joyce Vining Morgan, Judy Davidson, Mary Lindquist, Meg Mott, Nancy Ames, Phillip Wilson, Steve Guerriero, Susan Avery, Susan Dedell, The Vestry, Tom Ely, Tracey Lind, and Wylene Wood! What an amazing church community we have!

We look forward to resuming the Adult Forum in September. Please send us ideas, interests, and desires! It looks like it might even be possible to be in person again. Have a great summer!

Your Adult Forum Planning Committee: Annamarie Pluhar, David Treadwell, Mary Lindquist, Nancy Ames, Phillip Wilson, Ruth Tilghman.

(For digital readers—If you would like to see a full list of the forums you can find it here.)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11BJH481GnLpNgRnEq3chob7zZorE-qARHrxHHteYxpc/edit?usp=sharing>

Family gathering*St. Michael's buildings and grounds in action*

NEWS OF THE PARISH

“SHARING FOR MEALS” PROJECT TO BENEFIT LOAVES AND FISHES

Saturday July 17 — 9 am–2 pm

The Tag Sale Core Leadership Team has become aware of two needs in our community exacerbated by the pandemic over the past year.

First, Loaves and Fishes has requested financial support from St. Michael's. Located in Centre Church and directed by St. Michael's parishioner Ruth Tilghman, Loaves and Fishes is a non-profit organization which provides prepared food and groceries to hungry people in the Brattleboro area. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Loaves and Fishes has more than doubled its production from 150 meals a day twice a week to 350–400 meals twice a week!

Second, St. Michael's has a super-abundance of donated clothing and linens but we haven't been able to hold any Tag Sales! We would like to share these items with the community. In light of that, we have decided to hold an outdoor, “by donation,” event on Saturday, July 17 (rain date July 24) from 9 am until 2 pm under tents on St. Michael's lawn. Signs will be posted under the tent saying, “Take what you want — Give what you can.”

Our goal is to raise \$3000 for Loaves and Fishes while sharing good quality clothing and linens with the broader community. We understand that we may not raise this full amount with this event. If you would like to help us support the important work of Loaves and Fishes, we encourage you to send a donation to the parish office with “Loaves and Fishes” noted in the memo line.

Please note that we are NOT accepting additional donations of clothing or linens at this time. If you have any really nice furniture you would like to donate for future fundraising, please contact Liz Vick to make arrangements for our limited storage at 254-7060 or ebethvick@gmail.com.

We will need many volunteers in the week of July 17 to help us get things organized for this Sharing for Meals Project: moving bags of clothing and linens, taking out and setting up tents and tables, helping

during the event, and finally cleaning up afterward. Look for more specifics in June in the eNews and the Sunday bulletins! If you are interested in helping, please call: Charlene Kemp at (802) 254-2083.

Thanks, everyone, for your support!

—*Sherry Stimmel, Charlene Kemp, Becky Anderson, Jane Sbardella, Linda Rice, Liz Vick, Daniel Dobson*

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DIAPER DRIVE

The Outreach Team thanks fellow parishioners sincerely for their generosity in the Mothers' Day Diaper Drive. The response was beyond all expectations, especially given the limitations imposed by this pandemic. St. Michael's delivered 4,473 diapers and 11 packets of wipes. Outreach also received a number of monetary donations, which will help the Thanksgiving Diaper Drive. The diapers and wipes were divided equally between the Parks Place Diaper Bank in Bellows Falls and Foodworks in Brattleboro, and both organizations expressed their deep gratitude.

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St. Michael's celebrates Pentecost

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SUMMARY OF MAY MEETING
OF THE VESTRY

The Vestry met on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Because of the rapidly changing recommendations from both the CDC and the Vermont Department of Public Health, the May meeting might mark the end of 14 months of fully Zoom-formatted meetings that the Vestry has held! Speaking about changes, one of our first topics on our agenda was to talk about our joy at starting outdoor worship and about our hope that we will soon be able to reinstate former liturgical elements into our services. No firm dates have been set yet, but you will begin to see changes in the next few weeks.

We discussed a wide variety of topics during the course of our meeting. We will be helping out Loaves and Fishes by having volunteers take on some recycling responsibilities so that we can save nearly \$1,000 per year in costs that we would otherwise pay to Centre Church to help defray the cost of Loaves and Fishes using their facility. We began the planning process for the Annual Picnic which is usually held in late August. Because this is an outdoor event, we are hoping that we will be able to celebrate together as a parish this year. We worked on reviewing and updating our financial relationship with the preschool that uses our basement facilities and we heard updates from various church committees.

As you know, the Vestry has been studying the work of the first Bishop of Vermont, John Henry Hopkins. He did some wonderful work establishing the Episcopal Church in Vermont and a picture of him hangs in the Common Room. But he also had views about slavery and social justice issues that are incompatible with values that we hold dear. The Vestry will be designing opportunities for us to talk as a Parish family about how to reconcile the conflicting aspects of the Bishop's work and how to use this as a teachable moment in the life of our Parish.

As always, the Vestry is interested in feedback from members of the Parish. Please remember to contact a Vestry member if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Ames

LEADERSHIP

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EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR JUNE

Sunday, June 6: Genesis 3:8–15, Psalm 130,
2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1, Mark 3:20–35

Sunday, June 13: Ezekiel 17:22–24;
Psalm 92:1–4, 11–14; 2

Corinthians 5:6–10, [11–13], 14–17; Mark 4:26–34

Sunday, June 20: Job 38:1–11; Psalm 107:1–3, 23–32;
2 Corinthians 6:1–13; Mark 4:35–41

Sunday, June 27: Wisdom of Solomon 1: 13–15, 2:
23–24; Psalm 30 or Lamentations 3: 21–33;
2 Corinthians 8: 7–15; Mark 5: 21–23

LECTIONARY FOR JULY

Sunday, July 4: Ezekiel 2:1–5, Psalm 123,
2 Corinthians 12:2–10, Mark 6:1–13

Sunday, July 11: Amos 7:7–15, Psalm 85:8–13,
Ephesians 1:3–14, Mark 6:14–29

Sunday, July 18: Jeremiah 23:1–6, Psalm 23,
Ephesians 2:11–22, Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

Sunday, July 25: 2 Kings 4:42–44, Psalm 145:
10–19, Ephesians 3:14–21, John 6:1–21

JUNE 2021 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

June 1	Katra Faust
June 2	Laura Lewis, Cary Gaunt, Jane Sbardella
June 3	Caroline Wojcik
June 4	Phillip Stimmel
June 5	Jonah Johnson, Deborah Jones
June 7	Louise LaChance
June 9	Larry Earle
June 10	Jon Davis
June 11	Martha Moravec
June 12	Betsy Bates
June 13	John Byrnes
June 15	Aldrich Wright
June 16	Jake Mattson
June 17	Jean Jersey, Herb Meyer
June 20	Jared Rediske
June 21	Nye Ffarabas, Yoojin Lee
June 23	Craig Hammond, Adwoa Lewis-Wilson
June 25	Whitney Nichols, Kevin McElhinney, Michael Fedoruk
June 27	Carolyn Taylor-Olson
June 28	Judy Hueber, Oren Hesselbach
June 29	Vince Johnson
June 30	Zadie Olmstead

ANNIVERSARIES

June 10	Greg & Kelli Allen, Douglas & Ann Bonneville
June 13	Joao d'Alcaravela & Carol Blanchard
June 15	Peter & Jean Smith
June 21	Ron Bell & Gwen Mousin
June 22	Kevin McElhinney & Carol Beninati
June 24	Philip & Cherolyn Stimmel
June 27	Cliff & Wylene Wood

JULY 2021 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Meaghan Landin, William Stearns, Patrick Ackerman-Hovis
July 3	Rosie Wojcik
July 4	Matthew Wojcik
July 5	Thea Porter, Rebecca Porter
July 6	Duncan Hilton
July 7	Lori Palmer, Joanne Patalano
July 8	Judith McGee
July 9	Anita Crosson, Irene Burtis
July 12	Ann Switzer
July 13	Jessica Mattson, Beth Ruane
July 14	Marian Wojcik, David Carr
July 16	Olivia Capponcelli
July 20	Richard Gauthier
July 21	Helena Kotas and Zofia Kotas
July 22	Susan Wilmott
July 25	Phillip Wilson
July 27	Kerry Capponcelli
July 30	Shirley Hodgdon

ANNIVERSARIES

July 1	Pam & David Carr
July 13	Susan & Paul Dedell
July 20	Susan & Phillip Wilson
July 23	Mary Lindquist & Kurt Johnson
July 26	Susan Heimer & Tim Ragle
July 27	Ann & Douglas Switzer, Kiersten McKenney & John Byrnes
July 29	Betty & Corwin Elwell



The Guardian

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



OUR WORSHIP TOGETHER IN PERSON & 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.
WEDNESDAYS	12:00 pm	30-minute service of scripture, prayer and Holy Communion IN THE CHURCH
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