

# The Guardian

AUGUST 2021

## FROM THE RECTORY

### BEGINNING AGAIN

After our outdoor July 4th service at Christ Church, we returned to our church sanctuary on July 11th. What a joy to be together in our beloved church again! We are starting very simply, with a bit of a pared-down liturgy, still masking at 10:15, with Holy Communion of bread only; even so, our worship feels so abundant. We have broken our fast of isolation, of singing by ourselves on Zoom, of not being able to greet one another after church.

In one sense, we are not actually beginning again. Even though we have been away from our sacred space for 16 months, we did not cancel church, not even once. We pieced together a different kind of worship on Zoom, starting off with much anxiety about how we might worship in such a strange way and getting more comfortable and sophisticated as we went along.

In another sense, we are beginning again. We are beginning to piece together a liturgy that involves more than myself, Susan Dedell, a reader and a few singers. We now need much more participation from YOU to create our worship. We need ushers and lay assistants and acolytes and counters and flower providers and Altar Guild helpers. Worship is again something we do together as the Body of Christ, as a true community.

Yours in Christ,

*Mary*  
Mary



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**LEADERS IN LITURGY — HELP WANTED**

We are rebuilding our liturgical ministries after the long pandemic. Please give some thought as to whether you feel drawn to serving in one or more of the below capacities. Remember, “liturgy” means “work of the people.” It is a beautiful thing for many people to be involved in the leading of worship. All the roles listed below are scheduled on a rotating basis approximately every 6 weeks, according to your availability. Training will be provided!

**Ushers**

Ushering is one of the most important roles in the church, for they are the first representatives of our church to welcome people. Ushers need to arrive early and greet people as they come through the doors, handing our bulletins and helping to orient people to restrooms, childcare, etc. Ushers also help with the offering and bringing up elements for the Eucharist.

**Crucifers**

The Crucifer helps lead the liturgical party by carrying the cross and helping to serve Holy Communion.

**Lay Assistant**

Lay Assistants assist the priest by setting the altar, distributing Holy Communion and reading the second lesson. At the 8 am service, the Lay Assistant also carries the cross and does all the readings.

**Acolytes**

Acolytes assist in worship by lighting the candles, leading the procession and helping serve grape juice at Holy Communion. Anyone ages 8 and above are invited to be acolytes.

If you are interested in serving in any of the above capacities or if you have any questions, please contact Mary Lindquist at [mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org) or 254-6048.

**THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC IS COMING  
AUGUST 29!**

Kate and Dana McGinn have graciously offered to host our church picnic this summer. Since we missed last year because of the pandemic, we are so excited to be able to come together this year for food, swimming and relaxing on rocking chairs on the porch at beautiful Spofford Lake. The event will be from 12–4 pm. Hamburgers, hotdogs, and veggie burgers will be provided. Please bring a salad/side dish or a dessert to share.

Directions to the McGinn's house will be available at the church.

Please RSVP by August 14h by emailing Kate at [kjmcginn@comcast.net](mailto:kjmcginn@comcast.net) or by signing up in the Common Room.





## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**WELCOME BABY CHARLIE!**

Duncan and Bethany are missing sleep but absolutely delighted with their son Charles Peter Hilton. He was born at Dartmouth Hitchcock on June 27, weighing in at 8 pounds and 1 ounce. His surgery for bladder exstrophy has been scheduled for 8/30 and 8/31 at Boston Children's Hospital. They'll be living in Boston for six weeks following his surgery. Please continue to keep them in your prayers!

**JEFF HIAM NEWS**

Jeff Hiam is beginning his seminary studies at Virginia Seminary this month. Please keep Jeff in your prayers as he takes this next step in his formation for ordination as a priest. We are so grateful for Jeff's rich ministry with us and are proud to send him forth into the world bearing God's love in Christ.

STM

**NEEDING LEMONADE MAKERS!**

Part of what makes the summer at St. Michael's complete is having lemonade on the lawn after the 10:15 service. We invite you to help us out with this important ministry until late September! Instructions will be available and the supplies are already provided for you. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Common Room, or you can email [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org), or call the Church office at 254-6048, ext 104 and leave a message. Thank you!

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

- You can participate in St. Michael's 10:15 am service online! Every Sunday, the 10:15 service is available by Vimeo Livestream. Just go to St. Michael's website and click on "Sunday Morning" or "Worship Online."
- In addition, each of these services is recorded and available online whenever you might want to view it. Just go to St. Michael's website and click on "Livestream Archive."
- St. Michael's is present on social media: Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest!
- St. Michael's "Just in Case" documents are available on St. Michael's website under 'Pastoral Care' or at the church office. These documents not only help provide information in case of emergencies, but also offer a way for you to let St. Michael's know what your wishes are for your funeral.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## LET'S DANCE!

*Joyce Vining Morgan*

Saint Michael's is reopening officially on September 12. My first thought, or maybe the second, is LET'S DANCE!

Let's dance the Jerusalema together on the rectory lawn, after the 10:15 service and coffee/lemonade hour on September 12. Mary has okayed the invasion of her backyard, so all that remains for those ready and able is to practice the dance.

Some background: last October, an article in the Christian Science Monitor featured a spiritual-inspired song by the South African singer Nomcebo Zikode, produced by the popular Master KG, in December of 2019. It was at the top of the charts in South Africa, jumped over international borders to become a hit throughout most of Africa and then in most of Europe and beyond. In February of 2020, a group of young dancers in Angola choreographed it as a line dance and made a video, which went viral.

The dance transformed the song's haunting plaint into a celebration of life. "Jerusalem is my home. Guide me. Take me with You. Do not leave me here," Nomcebo sings in Zulu, but the spirit of the dance brought communities together. People danced in national dress in parks, or in jeans on the street, in uniform - or, for nuns and monks, in religious habits. One community would challenge another related

community — airline to airline, convent to convent, firefighters to firefighters: a joyful "Jerusalema Challenge" to counter the worldwide pandemic challenge. We can dance it in Mary's backyard.

The young Angolan dance troupe Fenomena da Semba set a tradition by staging the dance during an ordinary event (lunch) outdoors near their studio — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=613A9d6Doac> (you need to skip the ad!). They are very cool and more agile than all but the youngest of us. Zipping forward by many months, we can see the Irish Garda take up a challenge from the Swiss police by dancing in nearly every county, with dancers from nearly every branch of the service. Their dance is a bit tamer than the energetic Angolan and has a more serious purpose as the virus by then had swept through much of the world: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ew5w4U6Riiw>. So, to be ready to practice, here's an Australian dance teacher to show you the moves: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6efHtpJK-Ns>.

No practice has been scheduled yet, but there are plenty of Sundays before 9/12 — I'll happily organize everyone who emails me at [jcvmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:jcvmorgan@gmail.com) and we can dance together, learning as we go.

A St. Michael's Forum on the Jerusalema was recorded and can be seen at <https://vimeo.com/535642248>



*Hit song "Jerusalema" goes viral*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## THE UN-TAG SALE A GREAT SUCCESS!

In March of 2020, the Tag Sale team was meeting regularly planning for the Spring Tag Sale in May. I remember speaking with Daniel Dobson in late March of that year, wondering if we would need to cancel the Spring Tag Sale. It seemed such a big loss after collecting so much. Fast forward 14 months. St. Michael's is still closed, but with COVID numbers descending, it looks like there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Liz Vick continued to lead with the Tag Sale Team through much of the pandemic and they were determined to figure out what to do with all the clothing and linens that had been collected so many months before.

Meanwhile, during the pandemic many more St. Michael's parishioners have become very involved in the day-to-day ministry of Loaves & Fishes. Loaves & Fishes provides meals and food to people in need in our community on Tuesdays and Fridays and is run out of Centre Church. This spring, Centre Church asked if St. Michael's might be able to take a more active role in providing financial support for the ministry of Loaves & Fishes. When the Tag Sale Team heard of this need, an idea was born. Why not plan an outdoor event where we provide clothing and linens for no cost and try to raise money, through donations, for Loaves & Fishes?

*Continued*





## NEWS OF THE PARISH

Liz contacted me in late April to see if we might be able to plan something for July 17. We tentatively put this event on the church calendar, hoping that COVID restrictions would be lifted. Thanks be to God that we were indeed able to host this event!

Not only was this event very well attended by many people in our community, not only did people in need of clothing and linens receive what they needed, not only was there an amazing spirit of love and welcome that infused this gathering, not only did the weather work out well (almost NO rain!), but between donations made by generous folks before the benefit (\$1653), donations collected through the Un-Tag Sale on July 18 (\$2708), and a last minute donation of \$3,000, we were able to raise \$7361 towards the support of Loaves & Fishes!

About \$4000 of this money will go towards the purchase of a new dishwasher for the Loaves & Fishes Kitchen and the remainder of the funds will support the use of utilities to run this ministry over the next two years.

Thank you to all who helped make this amazing event possible! It was the first community event we have held at St. Michael's since the pandemic, and it was such a wonderful sign of hope.



STM

**WHAT MUSIC HAVE YOU BEEN MISSING?**

I can't begin to tell you how utterly fantastic it was to be back at the organ bench 2 Sundays ago and hear the sound of a congregation singing! Let's just say it was a FIVE exclamation point experience!!!!

I have a whole list of hymns I've been longing to play and I'll bet many of you have a list of your own. I can't promise that I can schedule all of our favorite hymns in the months ahead, but I would dearly love to hear from you about what hymns your heart, mind, and voice are longing to sing. Drop me a line at [dedellsusan@gmail.com](mailto:dedellsusan@gmail.com) or leave me a note on the organ or with Jeanie in the office. Glory be to God, we are singing again!!!

**CHOIR UPDATE**

All through the pandemic months, members of the St. Michael's choir have helped keep the music alive for our zoom services, saying "yes" when I asked them to once again step up and lead a hymn on zoom. But, praise be to God, the time is come for the harmony to resume. The St. Michael's Choir will be officially back in church on September 12! It is important to note that all members must be fully vaccinated.

Choir schools will be starting at a later date this fall — stay tuned for more information. Know that I am missing all of you younger singers very much and will do everything in my power to have a joyful return of choir school programs!

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**WHAT DOES “LIVESTREAM” MEAN ANYWAY?**

For those of you who have used Zoom meetings or Zoom webcasts, “Livestream” (what St. Michael’s is now using for virtual Sunday services) might be a new experience for you. Livestream means that you can log in and watch the service in real time and with great privacy. Unlike a Zoom format, those who link-in to Livestream cannot be seen and your computer camera is not involved at all. In fact, we don’t even know who is watching! So feel free to wear your pajamas. Also, each Livestream service is recorded and can be watched later.

**TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. MICHAEL’S:**

Thank you for your thoughtful donations — you are the best. You went in to your hearts and helped take a financial burden out of my life. Donations completed payment for Julie’s funeral and there is money left for engraving on her family tombstone. I would like to give a big thank you to Jeanie Crosby and Mary Lindquist for helping make my worries disappear. It was a big surprise that so many gave to my cause and you have inspired me to give to others in need of my time and energy.

It is a comfort to know we are not alone in our sorrows and that there are people out there who care for the wellbeing of others. I can never repay everyone enough for your support. Thanks for all the cards, flowers, visits, cleaning, food, and funds before and after Julie’s death with special thanks to Phillip Wilson, Jean Smith, Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, Kate McGinn, Jane Sbardella, Cliff & Wylene Wood, and Hospice volunteers Patty Dunn, Kris McDermet and Lindsay Crossman. Thank you all for being my Church family.

*Love to all, John Laamanen*

**SUMMARY OF JUNE MEETING OF THE VESTRY**

St. Michael’s Vestry met on Thursday, June 17 both virtually and in person. The “hybrid” meeting format is one example of how we are all working to navigate our lives during this time of transition. The term “hybrid” continued to be a theme in the meeting just as it is in our daily professional, personal, and spiritual lives. Vestry members continued our discussion on how we at St. Michael’s continue our mission in being “a loving, welcoming and dynamic faith community,” as we safely reopen in the Church. After this discussion, we had a Treasure’s report from Bruce and reviewed recent upkeep of the church. Other buildings and grounds items were reviewed and approved such as the concrete work on the pillars near the back entrance of the church so that visibility will be improved. Other items of discussion during the committee updates, Warden’s report, and Rector’s report represented a greater discussion of ongoing work to honor our mission statement, to “commit to deep generosity, and promote social, racial and economic justice.” A review of the work of Jeff Lewis in welcoming refugees, long term planning with Loaves and Fishes, the work of the social justice book club, and the greater discussion of John Henry Hopkins continue to be vital in our mission. All of this work involves the greater Brattleboro community.

*Rebecca Olmstead*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## SUMMARY OF JULY MEETING OF THE VESTRY

Your faithful vestry met on July 15, 2021 in another hybrid version where 50 percent of us were on Zoom and 50 percent of the members present were in person. We have elected, just like our worship service, to stay with the hybrid version because attendance is better and we can still have a decent conversation from many areas, not just at the church.

We continued our conversation of reopening and what things that we learned from being on-line for the past 16 months. Some of these investments in our congregation and our church will stay and some of our ways of showing our spirituality will go back to normal. The biggest news is that we now have the ability to be back in our beloved building on Bradley Ave. We have now had two services back in the sanctuary and spirits are particularly high. We are continuing to record and live stream the 10:15 a.m. service so everyone can feel free to attend at the time or when it is convenient for you. The overall tone of the discussion is that St. Michael's is strong, St. Michael's is adaptable, and, most importantly, St. Michael's is here for our parish to meet their spiritual needs in so many ways. We appreciate everyone's help over the past 16 months and everyone's patience during this ever-changing time.

The treasurer's report was very encouraging in that we have met all the pledges thus far for the year and that operating expenses have been down. An audit committee will be formulated as just a checks and balances that we do every year.

Mary brought up some of the challenges of reopening as there are many people involved from altar guild, to ushers, to counters, to speakers, readers, element bearers, choir members, and many that I'm sure I'm forgetting, to bring one service together. So, if you were a part of any of these committees, it might be time to get in touch with those committee leaders to reform your groups. Mary also reported on how we are planning on conducting funerals, small group ministries, Loaves and Fishes volunteers, and how we reintegrate these many other services back into our lives.

Warden's report given by Ricky Davidson marked the announcement of our reforming of the church picnic which will be held on August 29, 2021 in Spofford, NH. We will need some volunteers to help with the organization of the picnic so please be thinking about how you might help if you are able. Furthermore, we will be bringing back our listening corner for the vestry as of August. This is held on the first Sunday of every month and it is a way for the parish at large to sit down with two vestry members and allow vestry members to hear what may be on parishioners' minds.

Buildings & Grounds met with Phoenix Roofing again and are planning on at least getting on their list to have the roof redone next summer. The roofing business, like many businesses, has been in a state of flux with the cost of supplies so no definitive number can be given for this project at this time. We are going to insulate the roof and still looking at whether solar is going to be a part of this project or if we just buy into solar another way. Communications committee has also been hard at work trying to keep the whole parish and the greater community aware of all of the good things St. Michael's is doing in our community.

Lastly, we are formulating an Ad hoc committee to investigate our beloved organ as it is in some serious need of attention. I, Jared Rediske, Susan Dedell, Karen Guthrie, and a few other experts will be getting estimates of what is necessary right now, what needs to be done in the short-term future, and what is the long-term solution to our many issues with our beloved organ. Much more to come on this topic after we gather more information.

This is an exciting time of new possibilities for St. Michael's with our reopening. We thank the greater parish community for your patience during these most challenging 16 months. In God's love we are thankful for every one of God's people.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jared V. Rediske*



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

**Sunday, August 1:** Exodus 16:2–4, 9–15;

Psalm 78:23–29, Ephesians 4:1–16, John 6:24–35

**Sunday, August 8:** 1 Kings 19:4–8, Psalm 34:1–8,

Ephesians 4:25–5:2, John 6:35, 41–51

**Sunday, August 15:** Proverbs 9:1–6, Psalm 34:9–14,

Ephesians 5:15–20, John 6:51–58

**Sunday, August 22:** Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18;

Psalm 34:15–22, Ephesians 6:10–20, John 6:56–69

**Sunday, August 29:** Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9;

Psalm 15, James 1:17–27, Mark 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

## AUGUST 2021 CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

- August 2 Caleb Fritz, Noah Coburn  
 August 11 Christine Triebert  
 August 13 Paul Moberly  
 August 14 Amy Walker  
 August 16 Louis Ronconi, Erin LeBlanc,  
 Colin McKenney  
 August 17 Gregory Lesch  
 August 18 Avery Buchanan, Mary Carnahan  
 August 19 Samuel David Mattocks  
 August 20 Emmanuel Keppel  
 August 21 Judith McBean  
 August 22 Janet Brocklehurst, Joseph Meima  
 August 26 Susan Dedell, Betty Elwell,  
 Grainne Buchanan  
 August 28 Fred Bump



## ANNIVERSARIES

- August 5 Bill & Nancy Ames  
 August 8 Duncan Hilton & Bethany Hobbs  
 August 10 Andy & Elise Burrows  
 August 20 John & Mary Carnahan,  
 Lawrin & Pam Crispe  
 August 22 Alan & Judith McBean  
 August 24 Susan & Paul Dyer  
 August 25 Christine Hart & Bill Morlock  
 August 30 Vince Johnson & MJ Woodburn  
 August 31 Ed & Jane Sbardella,  
 Robert & Susan Kochinskas

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# 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 Eucharist
	10:15 am	Prayer, music and Eucharist.
WEDNESDAYS	12:00 pm	30-minute service of scripture, prayer and Holy Communion
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