

# The Guardian

JANUARY 2022

## FROM THE RECTORY

### PAUSING IN-PERSON SUNDAY WORSHIP — DECEMBER 24

Dear St. Michael's Family:

I am writing an update to the Guardian which we thought was done and ready to print a few days ago. Fortunately, we did not print it, so I can add a note with some news. Yesterday, with the COVID cases around the country sky-rocketing and my own daughter testing positive for COVID, we (Staff and Wardens) decided to take a pause on in-person Sunday worship. For January, we will return to Zoom (just like in the lock-down time) for Sunday worship. We are doing this in the hope that we can protect our community against the surge of COVID cases and hope, when we see more fully what will happen with the Omicron variant, that we can return to hybrid worship. The good news is that we know how to do Zoom worship and the pivot to Zoom and back to hybrid worship, will trust, will be smooth.

I also want to note that we are not going back to "lock-down" at the church. The church office will still be open, in-person meetings (with masks) can still happen. We just want to be especially careful about gathering in large numbers.

Thank you all for your flexibility and sticking with us through all these different forms of worshipping together! I have no doubt that God will be glorified however we gather. See you on Zoom!

Much love and many Christmas blessings,



Mary Lindquist, Rector

### GRACE UPON GRACE

I just sent Susan Kochinskas, our amazing graphic designer, photos from this last month to be used in this issue of *The Guardian*. I was amazed at how many photos I had! Most of these months during the pandemic, I have (sadly) not had many photos to share. But this last month, there was a windfall: preparing for Afghan Refugees to move to our community, greening the church and polishing the silver and preparing the church for Christmas, delivering Christmas gifts to the Southeast Correctional Facility, making swags and visiting with St. Nicholas, making cookies for Loaves & Fishes...and there is much more that is happening which I did not photograph.

I am so grateful to God for giving us the will, the power and the courage to persevere with our mission as this Body of Christ called St. Michael's as is so evident in how you all are embracing the ministry you are called to do despite the circumstances of our world. *From God's fullness, we have all received grace upon grace.* Merry Christmas and Happy 2022 to you all.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## ADULT FORUMS FOR JANUARY — NOW ON ZOOM!

Adult Forums will be on Zoom for January and February, the period of Christmastide. January and February are the cold, dark months when it is hard to get out of the house in normal times! But with a new Covid variant making us all worried and weary and with many people choosing streaming church rather than in-person church, we think Zoom may make it easier for everyone to attend Adult Forums! See you there.

**January 2 — Habits, Hopes, and Resolutions.** Hope springs eternal! The annual practice of New Year's resolutions...do you make them? Do you think it's all silly? What is a habit? A routine? How are you looking into the new year? We'll explore all this and more, on Zoom with Annamarie Pluhar who is facilitating.

**January 9 — Becoming Beloved Community Update:** Come join the BBC Focus Group and hear what they are planning for this winter and spring: Covenant Groups, Storytelling, Quiet Days and more! This is a good place to ask questions if you are curious about any of the upcoming offerings.

**January 16 — Martin Luther King Jr. Forum:** TBA

**January 23 — “How Senior Solutions Helps Seniors in our Community”:** Senior Solutions has served Southeastern Vermont since 1973. Last year the agency provided services to promote the well-being and dignity of more than 700 older adults in Brattleboro alone, including case management services, nutrition and wellness programs, transportation services, volunteer programs, information and assistance services, and a variety of other activities to support older adults, their caregivers, and their families. Come talk with Mark Boutwell, the new Executive Director of Senior Solutions, and Vicki Mastroianni, the agency's Home Visitor Program Coordinator, to learn more about the agency's programs and services.

**January 30 — Vestry Retrospective:** On this Annual Meeting Day, please join the Vestry as they look back at a big year and look forward to what is ahead.

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*Greening the Church*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**PARISH INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
ON ST. MICHAEL'S  
ROOF/SOLAR/ENERGY PROJECT  
JANUARY 9**

Come and find out more about the building project St. Michael's is planning for 2022–23. This is your opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and give feedback as we discern our call to respond to the

climate crisis by being good stewards of our church and of our planet. The topics will include:

- Roof Replacement and Insulation
- Solar
- Total Energy Approach

This meeting will be on Zoom at 2 pm. Please join us!

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*Altar Guild Prepares for Christmas*



*Iris, Jenny and "Smoky Rabbitson" following the Advent Lessons and Carols Service.*

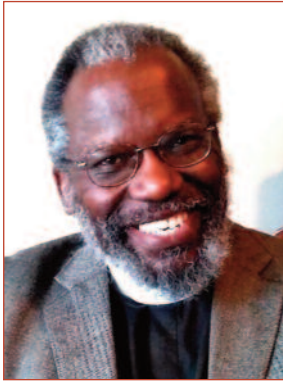


*Steve, David and Cliff delivering St. Michael's gifts to the Southeast Correctional Facility*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**ST. MICHAEL'S CELEBRATES  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SUNDAY  
ON JANUARY 16**



On January 16, St. Michael's will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday. Our speaker this year will be the Reverend Doctor Arnold Isidore Thomas, a longtime resident and clergy person in Vermont with incredible depth of experience with social justice work and racial healing.

Reverend Thomas is currently the Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Jericho, Vermont. Ordained as a Pastor in the United Church of Christ, Rev. Thomas served as Conference Minister of the Vermont Conference of the United Church of Christ, the first African American denominational leader in Vermont. Rev. Thomas also served as Minister for Education, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations at the Riverside Church in New York City and Adjunct Professor of Religion at New York Theological Seminary for ten years before returning to Vermont.

While Reverend Thomas will not be with us in person because he will be serving his own church, we will listen to his pre-recorded sermon at church and on the Livestream on January 16.



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
DAY OF SERVICE, JANUARY 17**

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." We at St. Michael's are blessed to be in fellowship with so many of you who have chosen "a day on" over and over, year round, and we especially thank you for stepping forward most recently to help with refugee resettlement. Yet in the spirit of this holiday about service in community, you may wish to spend a few hours working on different tasks or with people different from those you encounter the rest of the year. In early January, the Outreach Committee will share information about some one-day service projects with several community organizations for small groups of masked and vaccinated people.

We also invite you to join in The B.O.B. Drive, an effort to supplement our parish's ongoing food offerings with a special drive for non-food items that are most needed by people with limited means. We will collect these items from January 9–17. We will deliver them to Loaves & Fishes, St. Michael's Prison Ministry, Foodworks, our local refugee and asylum seeker programs (ECDC and CASP), and other partners. Return your offerings from the list below by January 17 to the Undercroft in a reusable or paper bag, **CLEARLY LABELED** on the outside stating what kind of item and how many. We will pass the boxes and bags directly to our partners based on the types of items each requested. Contact Alix Fedoruk at [alixf@mac.com](mailto:alixf@mac.com) for more information.

**Suggested items:**

Acetaminophen (Tylenol), cold remedies (e.g. Dayquil, Nyquil, Emergen-C, throat lozenges), band-aids, deodorant, diapers, shampoo & conditioner, shaving cream, soap, paper towels, toilet paper, toothbrushes-toothpaste-floss, dish liquid, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner, new men's clothing items: white T-shirts, white socks, underwear/boxers, mittens, hats.

THANK YOU!



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

*Holy Mayhem makes cookies for Loaves & Fishes!*



*Refugee Co-sponsorship Orientation*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY COVENANT GROUPS BEGIN JANUARY 25**

The Becoming Beloved Community Focus Group of Nancy Ames, Paul Dedell, Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, Mary Lindquist, Carolyn Taylor-Olson, Phillip Wilson and Rosie Wojcik has been working together through the fall on opportunities for all of us to participate in this pilgrimage of Becoming a Beloved Community (BBC). One opportunity we are offering through Epiphany Season and Lent of this year is BBC Covenant Groups.

**What is a Covenant Group?**

A Covenant Group is a small group of perhaps six to ten people who make a commitment to meet regularly as a safe space with guidelines and facilitators for their time together. Our hope is that each group will develop a sense of closeness and trust over time and that this closeness and trust will enable us to listen, speak and grow in our love of God and our love for one another.

**What do the Covenant Groups have to do with Becoming Beloved Community?**

We are embracing the Covenant Groups as part of our great hope for the culture of mutual support, the Beloved Community, that with God's help we are working to become. In this coming season, the Covenant Groups will focus on the racial healing element of St. Michael's Becoming Beloved Community effort.

**What resources will the Covenant Groups be using?**

The Groups will use *The Church Cracked Open* by Stephanie Spellers and one of Bishop Hopkin's shorter writings as the springboards for our conversations. We will also use scripture, prayer and other relevant resources to help guide our conversations. Participants will be asked to read short pieces in preparation for our gatherings.

**How will the time be structured?**

The Covenant Groups will meet on Zoom, from 5:15–6:45 pm every Tuesday evening, January 25–April 5.

From 5:15 to 5:35, the Covenant Groups will all meet together to begin with prayer and an introduction to the large group about the topic for the evening.

From 5:35 to 6:20, each Covenant Group will meet in break-out rooms on Zoom for a time of conversation with two facilitators.

From 6:20 to 6:45, the Groups come back together for final reflections and a time of prayer.

We will hold this structure loosely and discern what works best for us.

**Who will facilitate?**

Persons from our congregation, including Mary Lindquist and Adwoa, will receive training and support in their roles as group facilitators.

**Do I have to attend all 11 sessions?**

It is our hope that everyone will be at all of the sessions because this allows the groups to develop trust and gain momentum; however, we know that it may be necessary to miss one or two of the sessions because of time conflicts.

**I am new to the congregation. Is this a good opportunity for me to get to know the St. Michael's community?**

YES! Please do not be shy. As a newcomer you may feel as if everyone knows one another already. This is not the case; we are all beginners here.

**Talking about race scares me. I'm afraid of saying the wrong thing.**

The Covenant Groups will be a place where we can risk being honest and vulnerable without fear of judgment or shame. One of the advantages of talking about race and other difficult issues in a faith community is that we start with the assumption that we are not perfect, we mess up a lot, and we need help. Fortunately, we believe in a God of mercy and forgiveness and a God who fills our faithful vulnerability with the promise of hope.



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**This is a helpful introduction, but I want to know more before I sign up.**

The BBC Focus Group will be leading the Adult Forum on January 9. Please come and ask any questions you like. Or, you may email Mary Lindquist (mary@stmichaelsvermont.org) or Adwoa Lewis-Wilson (adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org) with questions.

**How do I sign up?**

Please email or call Jeanie in the church office to sign up. Jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org or 802 254-6048, ext 104.

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**BUDGET REVIEW MEETING,  
JANUARY 23, 9 AM**

Those who would like the opportunity to review St. Michael's budget for 2022 and ask questions prior to the Annual Meeting are invited to a budget review meeting on Sunday, January 23 at 9 am. We will send out Zoom link information in the eNews.

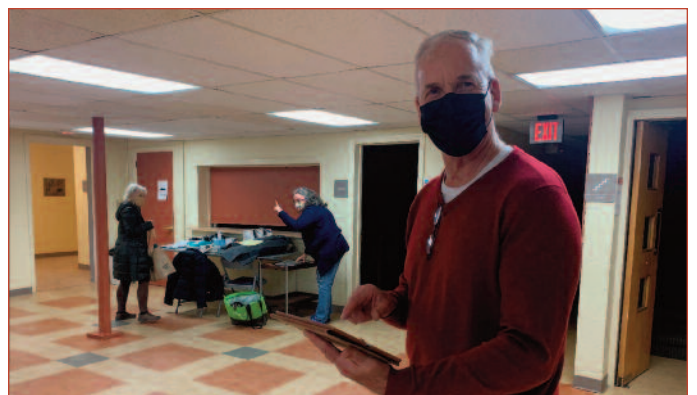
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*Organizing Household items for our Refugee Family***PARISH ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 30**

All members of St. Michael's are invited to attend our Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30 at 2 pm. The Annual Meeting will be on Zoom again this year. We will send out Zoom link information in the eNews prior to the meeting.

At this Annual Meeting we will elect three new members of the Vestry (see profiles in this issue!), adopt a budget for 2022, elect delegates to the Diocesan Convention, and receive reports on St. Michael's three initiatives (Refugee Ministry, Becoming Beloved Community & Roof/Solar/Energy). In addition, we will view our annual slide show highlighting life at St. Michael's in 2021. The Annual Meeting is an important overview of the past and future of our ministry together. Please make every effort to be present!

STM



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## CANDIDATES FOR THE VESTRY

**Christine Hart:**

I have been a member of St. Michael's for over 20 years and an Episcopalian since baptism at 6 months old. I served on the Vestry and as Senior Warden 10 years ago. I was involved in the large building project, change in Rectors, and many other initiatives undertaken by this amazing parish. It is incredible what this community of faith can accomplish. I am very drawn to the three large initiatives we are beginning and would honor being a steward of them through service on the Vestry. I really love this parish community.

**David Treadwell:**

I and my husband, Steve, moved to Brattleboro in early 2020 from Bastrop, Texas. In Texas, I was an active member of Calvary Episcopal Church, where I was a frequent puppeteer, a member of the choir, and served on the vestry, including serving as senior warden in 2018. I am a semi-retired chemist, lover of butterflies and mechanical contraptions, especially pinball machines, occasional stage and voice actor, and operetta chorister. Since joining St. Michael's, I have put my love of cooking to use at Loaves and Fishes and am a member of the board of directors there. I am delighted to be a member of St. Michael's amazing choir! I serve on the Adult Forum Committee and have given several presentations, including one on butterflies.

**Rosie Wojcik:**

It is getting close to 20 years since I began attending this church when then Deacon and fellow alto, Hillary Cooke, invited me and my husband Matthew to come and hear her preach and to maybe join the choir in singing the particular song she was referring to in her sermon.

After that we began attending the 10:15 service regularly, soon became members of the choir, and began to feel a part of the supportive community that exists at St. Michael's. The feeling has only grown over the years, as has our family, and many of you have seen our daughters as they've been born, baptized, and grown up here. As my children have got older, I have gradually become involved in the life of the church in more ways: as a doorkeeper in the Godly Play program and an administrator for the church's Facebook page, working on costumes and props for the choir schools' mystery plays, co-facilitating the Sacred Ground study group, and helping in the kitchen for our Lenten Suppers, Elder Luncheons and Coffee Hour. I am currently part of the Becoming Beloved Community focus group, the Hospitality, Communications, Social Justice, and Tag Sale Ministries, and I serve on the Help Fund Committee.



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A huge THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the 2022 Stewardship Campaign. We set a goal of raising \$280,000 and receiving 130 pledges. As of December 18, we have met both goals, receiving 130 pledges for a total of \$282,851! We are so grateful for your generosity and your support.

Valerie Abrahamsen	Imogene Drakes	Charlene Kemp	Kim Peavey
Greg & Kelli Allen	Paul & Susan Dyer	Ann Landenberger	Joan Pinilla
William & Nancy Ames	Corwin & Betty Elwell	Chris & Jeanette Landin	Annamarie Pluhar
Robert & Becky Anderson	Tom & Ann Ely	Bruce & Marie Lawrence	Jay Pomponio & Larry Earle
Laura Andrews	Don Erwin & Mary Abell	Marcia Leader	Nicholas & Dorothy Porter
Anonymous — 5	Tom & Barbara Evans	Gregory Lesch	Jared Rediske
Susan Avery	Steve Faure & David Treadwell	Jeffrey Lewis & Suzann Jones	Judith Reichsman
Betsy Morgan Bates	Katra Faust	Laura Lewis	Jesse Ridgway
Thaddeus Bennett	Alix Fedoruk	Douglas Lilly	Teri Robinson & Ross Kinney
Sarah Benton	Paul & Pam Gallagher	Jack & Margit Lilly	Susan Ruggles
Diana Bingham	Cheryl Gobin	Mary Lindquist & Kurt Johnson	Ed & Jane Sbardella
Lindsey Boss	Lloyd Graf	Ray & Phyllis Lindquist	Renee Skwirz
Janet Brocklehurst & Sissi Loftin	Steven Guerriero	Paul Love	Peter & Jean Smith
Jean Brodie	Karen Guthrie	Leigh Marthe	Miranda Smith
Anne Wilmott Brown	Martha Guthrie	David Mattocks	Lise Sparrow
Megan Buchanan	Craig Hammond & Liz Vick	Alan & Judith McBean	Devin Starlanyl
Frederick Bump	Ian & Elizabeth Harrison	Margery McCrum	William Stearns
Andy & Elise Burrows	Steve & Laurel Harrison	Judith McGee	Marcia Steckler
Thomas Cain	Christine Hart	Dana & Kate McGinn	Cherolyn Stimmel
Christopher Chapman	Susan Heimer	Judith McGorray	Douglas & Ann Switzer
Dianne Clouet	Ken & Melissa Herman	Kiersten McKenney	Eben & Lydia Taggart
Joann Coonrod	Carol Hesselbach	Steven & Karren Meyer	Carolyn Taylor-Olson
Janet Cramer	Shirley Hodgdon	Anne Montgomery	Nancy Tierra
Lawrin & Pam Crispe	Mark Horton & Heather Lesage-Horton	Elizabeth Moore	Ruth Tilghman
James & Anita Crosson	Dan Houser	Brian Morgan & Joyce Vining Morgan	Christine Triebert
Charles & Elaine Curry-Smithson	Wendell Howard	Gwen Mousin	Fred & Carol Turner
Charles & Susan Daigneault	Vince Johnson & MJ Woodburn	Amy Mullins	Elaine Wolcott
John Daly	Judith Junkins	Linda Neilson	Judy Walker
Judy Davidson	Laurie Kaiser & Jon Davis	Whitney Nichols	Laurie Webb
Ricky Davidson	Jack Karn	Rebecca Olmstead	Christopher Wesolowski
Paul & Susan Dedell	Jenny Karstad	Ladd & Lifei Osborne	Phillip & Susan Wilson
Dorrie Degutis		Linda Parker	Cliff & Wylene Wood
Daniel Dobson		Joanne Patalano	Aldrich Wright & Louise LaChance

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## SUMMARY OF DECEMBER MEETING OF THE VESTRY

The Vestry met both on Zoom and in person on December 16, 2021.

We began our meeting with a prayer created by Nancy Ames and a very fruitful sharing about how each of us struggles to create more patience in our daily lives.

Bruce Lawrence again gave us an encouraging report about the finances of the parish. We are right on target with our pledges and our expenses for 2021. We may have some larger expenses next month due to one-time, year-end expenses, but we will likely still have a balanced budget at the end of the year. Bruce has gathered a team of Jared Rediske, Doug Switzer and Jack Lilly to review with him the budget for next year.

Cary Gaunt gave us an update on the roof solar project which has been expanded to explore a Total Energy Management approach which might lead our parish to consider identifying a clear energy goal, perhaps adopting the Diocesan goal of getting 100% of our energy needs met through renewable energy by 2030. A group of knowledgeable people recently did a walk-through of the building exploring ways we might reduce our energy consumption. We hope that our solar panels will meet much of our energy needs but we may need to explore procuring other renewable sources. Cary is very excited that St. Michael's could become a model of how our faith community actually lives out its Mission statement of "caring for the earth."

Darcey Mercier informed the Vestry of the courses she is taking and some of her very timely research projects and the Vestry enthusiastically voted to approve her ordination to the Diaconate which will probably take place this summer in Burlington.

In the Rector's report, Mary mentioned that she notices many visitors at Sunday services and is looking for volunteers who can stand outside with her after Sunday services to welcome newcomers, invite them to the coffee hour, and be a personal connection for them. There will be a sign up sheet for vestry and other people can contact Mary about volunteering.

Re new Vestry Members, 3 people have agreed to serve: Chris Hart, Rosie Wojcik and David Treadwell. There will be biographies of them in *The Guardian* and the Sunday bulletins before the Annual Meeting which will be on January 30. Mary and Adwoa updated us on the Beloved Community initiatives starting in January and informed us that the MLK day speaker (by Zoom) will be Arnold Thomas, an African American who is the pastor of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Vermont.

Ricky led the Closing Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted  
by Judy Davidson*



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

**Sunday, January 2:** 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 9:** Isaiah 43:1–7; Psalm 29;  
Acts 8:14–17; Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

**Sunday, January 16:** Isaiah 62:1–5, Psalm 36:5–10,  
1 Corinthians 12:1–11, John 2:1–11

**Sunday, January 23:** Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10;  
Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12–31a; Luke 4:14–21

**Sunday, January 30:** Jeremiah 1:4–10, Psalm 71:  
1–6, 1 Corinthians 13:1–13, Luke 4:21–30

## JANUARY 2022 CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

January 2	Robert Peeples
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

**Ricky Davidson, Senior Warden**  
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**Jared Rediske**  
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**Carol Beninati, Clerk**  
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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](mailto: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](mailto:jeanie@stmichaels-vt.org) or 802-254-6048.  
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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
THURSDAYS	5:30–6:00 pm	Contemplative service of chanting, silence, and prayer