

The Guardian

JUNE 2022

FROM THE RECTORY

BUILDING HOPE FOR THE EARTH UPDATE

As many of you know, we began our program year last fall with three big initiatives: the Interfaith Refugee Ministry, the Becoming Beloved Community Initiative and the Building Hope for the Earth project. While you have heard a lot about our ministry with our Afghan families and our work towards racial healing through the BBC initiative, you may be wondering...what is happening with the Building Hope Project?

I'm here to tell you that A LOT has been happening! Our team which includes Christopher Chapman, Jonathan Davis, Cary Gaunt, Chris Hart, Vince Johnson, Alan McBean, Judith McBean, Steven Meyer and myself has been meeting every two weeks from 7–8:30 am to organize and learn how best to accomplish our goal of moving our physical structures from dependence on fossil fuels to 100% clean, renewable energy by 2030. We now have a good sense of the phases of this project going forward.

The first stage of this project will involve replacing the sanctuary roof, the Bradley Wing roof and the Rectory roof. While replacing roofs seems like a straightforward proposition, we also want to install insulation in the sanctuary and Bradley Wing roofs. We learned from a very thorough energy audit of the church and the rectory that we were losing valuable energy through our church roofs because of the lack of insulation. And (as I have learned) part of cutting our dependence on fossil fuels involves becoming better stewards of the energy we produce. How can we make sure that the energy we create will be contained in the building and not be lost through the walls and the roofs? And if we install insulation, how can we make sure we do not create any condensation problems for the building? All this involves re-decking the structure of our roofs to create the most energy efficient, long-lasting, and stable roofs possible.

Following the replacement of the roofs, we plan to install solar panels on the new south-facing roofs. We have had four solar companies come to St. Michael's and offer bids for this project and we are in the process of deciding which solar company would be best for our needs. There is also the option of taking advantage of power purchase agreements to help finance this portion of the project. The wonderful thing about solar is that it allows us to produce clean energy to meet our electrical needs, which helps the earth and deeply reduces the cost of energy to the church.

The third phase of the project is to install mini-splits and heat-pumps to electrify our heating and cooling systems. What cooling system, you may ask? The installation of mini-splits will allow us both to heat and cool our church spaces, which is great news as we know that our summers will unfortunately continue to get hotter.

Continued

FROM THE RECTORY

The fourth phase of this project will be the completion of environmental work, bringing St. Michael's to independence from fossil fuels and enabling us to donate 10% of our capacity to the community. The cost and implementation of this phase will be determined by the level of our electrical demand after installing the new insulated roofs, solar panels, and electrical heating and cooling systems.

As you know, St. Michael's will need a lot of financial support for this project. We are beginning the first phase of the capital campaign now as well as applying for grants to help us with the costs. We expect to have a public announcement of the capital campaign soon!

Mary
Mary Lindquist
Rector

ORDINATION DAY!

ORDINATIONS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4

On Saturday, June 4 at 11 am, Darcey Mercier will be ordained at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, Vermont, to the Sacred Order of Deacons. All are invited to attend, either in person or online. Here is the link to the online service:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9eejE2xvHOADEsIGqscGQw>

On the same day, Adwoa Lewis-Wilson will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul *in Boston* at 10:30 am. All are welcome to attend the service in person or online. The online link can be found on St. Paul's Youtube channel,

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMmyBqxnq1nJhCIM-_KXZHw

JUNE: A MONTH OF SPECIAL SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

This June we have special services and celebrations scheduled for every Sunday!

- **June 5 — The Feast of Pentecost:** The Feast of Pentecost, which marks the end of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on Sunday, June 5 at the 8 am and 10:15 am services. On this occasion we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church, and the sending of the apostles into the world to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ. All are invited to wear RED for this special occasion!
- **June 12 — A Special THANK YOU to Adwoa!** On Sunday, June 12 we will celebrate and give thanks for Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, who has served as St. Michael's Seminary Intern for the last two years. And what a two years they have been! The pandemic began shortly before Adwoa started her internship and is still with us. I'm sure she never expected her time with St. Michael's to look like it did, and yet, what amazing gifts Adwoa brought to us through her presence and ministry.
- As Adwoa will be ordained as a deacon on June 4, she will serve as our deacon at both the 8 am

NEWS OF THE PARISH

and the 10:15 am services. We will have a special Adult Forum to reflect on Adwoa's time with us and we will celebrate with an outdoor reception after the 10:15 am service.

- **June 19 — Graduate Recognition with Darcey Mercier Preaching and Deaconing:** On June 19, we will recognize and celebrate our graduates including Julia Fedoruk, Clara Fritz, Meaghan Landin, Jonah Johnson and Andachew Mousin. (Please let us know if we are forgetting any other graduates connected to St. Michael's!) Darcey Mercier, also recently graduated from the Seminary of the Southwest and a newly ordained deacon, will preach for us at St. Michael's that day. Darcey was sponsored by St. Michael's for ordination back in 2019 and will be returning to Vermont to begin zers call. Please join us to celebrate our graduates and welcome Darcey back for this special Sunday.

- **June 26 — Pride Sunday:** Lars Hunter, a parishioner from St. Mary's in the Mountains in Wilmington, Vermont and also a recently ordained deacon, will be our preacher and deacon for Pride Sunday this year. Lars, the Bereavement Program Coordinator at Brattleboro Area Hospice, has been active in the Diocese of Vermont for many years. We are so pleased that he is able to help us in our celebration of Pride Sunday.
- **June 26: Newcomers' Lunch:** Following the 10:15 am service on June 26, all people who are new to St. Michael's in the last two years are invited to a simple lunch on the rectory yard (across the parking lot from St. Michael's). This is our chance to welcome you and introduce you to one another and to St. Michael's Vestry. Please RSVP to mary@stmichaelsvermont.org or by signing up in the Common Room by June 20.



NEWS FROM ZACHARY ROESEMANN ON ICON OF PAULI MURRAY



Recently, Zachary Roesemann, the iconographer who created St. Michael's icons, was commissioned by the dean of General Seminary to create an icon of Pauli Murray. Zachary writes about the icon: "Pauli Murray appears in a chasuble and clerical collar in honor of her place as the first Black woman to be ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. The vermillion red of the chasuble is the liturgical color for both Ordination and Pentecost, and, further, recalls Eleanor Roosevelt's description of Pauli as a "firebrand." Pauli raises her right hand in blessing, and in her left holds a scroll.

In the visual language of traditional iconography, Old Testament prophets are often shown holding scrolls on which are written passages from their prophecies. Since Pauli shared many of the qualities of those prophets, in this image her priestly clothing is paired with a prophetic scroll displaying the words of Isaiah 61:1: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek." This, with the following verses, was the text Pauli used for a sermon given on the first Sunday of Lent in 1974 while she was a student

NEWS OF THE PARISH

at General Theological Seminary. The sermon, titled “Women Seeking Admission to Holy Orders — as Crucifers Carrying the Cross,” advocated the ordination of women. (Reprinted in Bettye Collier-Thomas, *Daughters of Thunder: Black Women Preachers and Their Sermons, 1850–1979*, Jossey-Bass, 1997, p. 240.) The text on the scroll is in the English of the King James version, which is the translation Pauli used for her sermon, and is written in Roman lettering with deliberately old-fashioned ligatures. This is meant in part to slow down the viewer’s eyes. . . . The antique printing also recalls the big, old family Bible Pauli used as a child to read aloud to her grandmother. As she wrote, “I liked the huge print and the way the verses were divided on the pages. I liked the sound of the words rolling off my tongue and I would let my voice rise and fall like a wailing wind.” (Quoted in *Daughters of Thunder*, p. 271.)

Pauli is shown without her usual eyeglasses. I chose to omit them for several reasons. Icons are not meant to be faithful portraits. Also, icons depict transfigured humanity; glasses would be superfluous for spiritual sight. Furthermore, icons are meant to connect the viewer with the person depicted, leading ultimately to God. I find that glasses can dominate the face and set

up a barrier in this relationship. I wanted Pauli’s face to shine forth without visual impediment. The recessed area of the icon board is called an “ark,” which is a container for something holy. But holiness cannot be contained, so parts of an image are sometimes shown extending into the border — in this case, Pauli’s halo and scroll. This seems especially apt for Pauli, since her prophetic and priestly ministries were marked by the breaking of boundaries and limits. The text around the border is a prayer Pauli wrote and used to conclude a sermon titled “Healing and Reconciliation” delivered in 1977 at the Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, five months after her ordination: “Show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Quoted in Rosalind Rosenberg, *Jane Crow: The Life of Pauli Murray*, Oxford University Press, 2017, p. 379.) There is indeed rather a lot of text on this icon, but that seemed appropriate for Pauli, for whom words were her most powerful tools in her many battles and ministries.”

For those who would like to learn more about Pauli Murray, there is an excellent documentary on Prime Video called, “My Name is Pauli Murray.”



WHERE DID THE REFUGEE MINISTRY COME FROM?

In a recent *Guardian* article, Daniel Dobson, co-creator and leader of the St. Michael’s Refugee Ministry, described the worldwide refugee situation: Ukrainian refugees at the Mexican border, Central American asylum seekers similarly trying to enter the US to seek protection from dangerous conditions at home. At the same time there are about 20 million refugees around the world under the care of UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). From that very large and growing pool of displaced people, the United States plans to accept about 115,000 per year, not including the exceptional conditions in Afghanistan and Ukraine. That is the global condition; there are

too many people without safe homes, suspended between nowhere and somewhere.

Here at St. Michael’s Episcopal we have responded directly and strongly to the need, driven by our faith commitments as expressed in our Mission Statement: “...We seek, through the joyful experience and power of Christ, to serve all people...”. We have welcomed four families through co-sponsorship with ECDC. You will have heard some of the people involved in that at the Forum on May 15. Our teams have become very close with their families. The relationships have become deeply meaningful on both sides. I hope you

NEWS OF THE PARISH

heard this at the Forum and from your friends who are involved.

Those relationships are one powerful dimension of our work, a benefit of following our commitment and mission. There is another dimension as well. By welcoming our new neighbors, making them welcome to our community, we are strengthening our region as well.

Many of you have heard me talk about the demographics of Vermont and particularly of Southern Vermont. We have here 20 years of experience with a double-edged demographic shift — workforce age people have been leaving and older folk, retirees, have been moving in. We certainly understand the latter of these: this is a beautiful, comfortable place to live. The former is driven by two forces: first, wages in this region are lower than surrounding areas; second, housing is tight and expensive. It has been hard to start a family here. People see more opportunity elsewhere. The result of these two movements is a very tight labor market — you can see the ‘help wanted’ signs all over the region, and you have likely seen places limiting service hours because they cannot find staff. This shortage is a very real phenomenon that places limits on growth for our very good businesses of all kinds, particularly manufacturing.

We have been studying this for several years. Our first introduction to real data, not just impressions, was about 13 years ago. From then people, principally BDCC and SeVEDS, have been learning both how powerful these forces are and ways to respond. Those two organizations have spent a lot of time educating the region and building networks of people who were both concerned and energized by the challenge.

Jumping ahead a bit (to save you all the tedious detail of creating a community movement), BDCC discovered that the Boston Federal Reserve Bank had



a grant program, called ‘Working Communities,’ aimed at supporting communities and regions that wanted to develop ways to increase their strength in the face of shifting economics and demographics. Several other Vermont areas

have also benefited from this including Winooski and Springfield. BDCC and Southern Vermont proposed a program called ‘Welcoming Communities’ aimed at responding to the population challenge by attracting new people to the region. While part of the program is to foster immigration from inside the US, a large part is aimed at attracting new neighbors from other countries through refugee resettlement. Many areas of the country have had great success in opening themselves to new people from other countries finding that they are excellent workers, good neighbors, and add a richness to a community with new cultural elements.

‘Welcoming Communities’ is aimed at exactly that — to support growth in the population and workforce from new people. ‘Welcoming Communities’ envisions a robust program of cultural and workforce readiness to incorporate new people and cultures into our region. This includes working with employers, who are hungry for new workers, and with schools, landlords, and other key institutions. The project was developed over about eighteen months through consultation with CASP, United Way, SIT, NAACP and other key groups across the region. As the project gained focus and forward motion, they reached out to ECDC to become the refugee resettlement partner.

The Afghan exodus created both an intense need and significant resources from both the Federal and State governments. Vermont has recognized that not just southern Vermont but the whole state is suffering from population and workforce challenges. The State has committed people and financial resources to support the effort. So what we do is supported

NEWS OF THE PARISH

and magnified by the help of others across the region and state.

As a community we will become different, no question, but we will also become stronger and more resilient to the forces around us by bringing new

people, cultures, and values into our lives. Our co-sponsor teams have discovered the incredible beauty of becoming close to people they would never have known but for this opportunity. We have changed almost as much as our new neighbors have changed.

Jeffrey Lewis

MEDITATIONS ON THE INNER LIFE OF WORDS, A SERIES

Benson Bobrick

“LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF”

Graham Greene opens one of his novels with a character whom he describes as “a man without friends, who was said to love humanity.” The man is the Minister of War in an unnamed Central European nation who is prepared to destroy the lives of others for “the greater good.”

We will come back to this.

As everyone knows, love assumes a variety of forms: simple affection, romantic passion, erotic ardor, familial devotion, spiritual fellowship, and so on. English has a variety of words for these states or emotions. And so does Greek. Moreover, as in Greek, the same word may have different shades of meaning, depending on its context.

So what does “Love thy neighbor as thyself” — one of the two fundamental commandments given to us by Christ — mean? The word for “neighbor” is the same in Greek as the word for “near.” So we are called upon to love those near to us, that is, those whom we encounter in our lives. It doesn’t mean loving everybody in the abstract. Love is not abstract. It is always personal. God may love every single person from above, but we can only love those whose lives touch ours. That love may be extended beyond our immediate horizon to others, as in political giving or to a charitable cause — to those we may not know directly, but know of. But we at least have to know of

them. The more general the object of one’s care and affection, however, the more diffuse the feeling, as love gives way to a sort of generalized good will. Abstract “love,” on the other hand, can be vicious — like the “love of humanity” claimed by Greene’s friendless, and possibly loveless, Minister of War.

The love Christ was talking about was of a very particular kind. The word he used, in the way that he used it (being a Christian coinage), includes unconditional, selfless, sacrificial love. It is the kind of love, in human terms, that St. Paul would later (in 1 Corinthians 13) try so hard to describe. Broadly speaking, it implies “generous concern for others” — which is how we may best understand it as we go about our daily lives. Most of our ordinary encounters, after all, don’t require substantial self-sacrifice — nor would we be up to it, even the best among us, if they did. But if we could summon from within ourselves a sincere, generous concern for those around us, whether we happen to “like” them or not — despite our little irritations, imagined slights, brooding animosities, disappointed vanities, resentments, and so on — not to mention the things that might stir us up to any of the deadly sins — we would, I warrant, earn a place among the saints!

But that is our calling. As the poet W.H. Auden once remarked, with Zen-like wit, “We are all here on earth to help others; what on earth the others are here for, I don’t know.”

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Tag Sale

NEWS OF THE PARISH



STM

SUMMARY OF MAY MEETING OF THE VESTRY

The St. Michael's Vestry met via Zoom on Thursday, May 19. Jared led us in some personal reflections. There was universal celebration of the community that makes up St. Michael's! Gratitude abounds even as we encounter a surge in Covid cases. People report feeling well cared for and supported by the church parish. After approval of the minutes from our April meeting, we heard from Bruce Lawrence, our Treasurer. He reported that our income and expenditures are as he anticipated, and that we are in good shape, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners.

Moving on to Mary's reports, she reminded us that Adwoa's last day is June 12. There will be a special Forum that day, and the newly-ordained Adwoa will be our Deacon for both services! Mary also talked about our hopes to be able to offer Adwoa a part-time position beginning in the Fall. The Vestry voted to approve a

plan to write a grant to the Diocese of Vermont that would allow us to offer Adwoa a part-time position.

We spent time planning for the meeting this Saturday regarding the portrait of Bishop Hopkins and also talked about the church policy around the acceptance of gifts. These will be items that we study and decide upon in the near future.

Finally, we discussed the idea that our Clergy and Staff have worked tirelessly during Covid, and the Vestry would like to offer some Covid respite time that is over and above traditional vacation time. The idea of a single day, a few times during the summer months, would make such a positive difference to someone who might be feeling stressed. We are excited about the prospect of being able to lend positive support to the people who help us day in and day out.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Ames*

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR JUNE

Sunday, June 5: Day of Pentecost — Acts 2:1–21 or
Genesis 11:1–9; Psalm 104:25–35, 37;
Romans 8:14–17 or Acts 2:1–21;
John 14:8–17, (25–27)

Sunday, June 12: Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31; Psalm 8 or
Canticle 13; Romans 5:1–5; John 16:12–15

Sunday, June 19: Isaiah 65:1–9, Psalm 22:18–27,
Galatians 3:23–29, Luke 8:26–39

Sunday, June 26: 1 Kings 19:15–16, 19–21, Psalm 16,
Galatians 5:1, 13–25, Luke 9:51–62

JUNE 2022 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
June 20	Jared Rediske
June 21	Nye Ffarabas
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
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

LEADERSHIP

VESTRY

Annie Landenberger, *Senior Warden*
verbatimvt@gmail.com
802-348-7156

Chris Hart, *Junior Warden*
chrishart312@gmail.com
802-257-0452

Nancy Ames
alderyacht@gmail.com
617-733-6179

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

Mary Lindquist
marydail7@gmail.com
802-254-6048

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

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

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

David Treadwell
davidtreadwell@me.com
734-657-0023

Rosie Wojcik
rosie@wojnet.org
802-246-1008

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

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



The Guardian is published monthly by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. News items, announcements, articles, etc. should be submitted to jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.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@stmichaelsvermont.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

SUNDAYS	8:00 am	Quiet service of prayer and Eucharist
	10:15 am	Prayer, music and Eucharist.
WEEKDAYS	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (online)
WEDNESDAYS	11:30 am	Centering Prayer (in-person)
	12:00	Eucharist (in-person)
THURSDAYS	5:30 pm	Contemplative service (in-person and online)
SATURDAYS	8:00 am	Centering Prayer (in-person)