

The Guardian

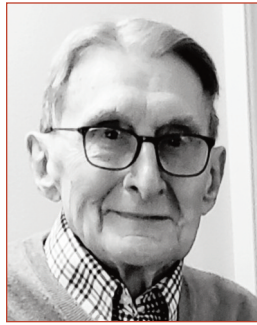
AUGUST 2022

FROM THE RECTORY

WALKING EACH OTHER HOME



Corky Elwell



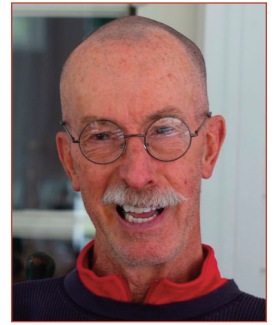
Wendell Howard



Patricia Cameron



Parker Huber



Daniel Dobson

Ram Das, renowned spiritual teacher, once said, “We’re all just walking each other home.” I’ve had the opportunity to reflect on these words more deeply in the last two months as we have been walking quite a number of our parishioners home: Corky, Wendell, Pat, Parker, Daniel...among those we knew well, and baby Hazel Ruth, granddaughter of Bruce and Marie Lawrence, who was called home before she was even born.

Because I have been presiding at so many funerals and I have shed some tears in my sermons of late, some of you have thoughtfully expressed concern for me. I am ultimately fine, more than fine, as these losses have been profound and meaningful, but yes, I also feel grief. Indeed, these losses we all share as the church, as the Body of Christ. As Paul says, *we do not grieve as those who have no hope, but we grieve nonetheless*. We will deeply miss Corky’s wise counsel, Wendell’s delightful wit, Pat’s deep kindness, Parker’s gentle hospitality, Daniel’s passion for serving...and so much more. Each one was a unique child of God, each one formed us and made us who we are as a church.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his servants (Psalm 116:15) is written in Latin in our sanctuary, on the back wall, under the cross. I do not know who chose these words to have such a prominent place in our church, but I am grateful that they are there, as they remind us that it is not only our lives, but also our deaths that are precious to God. And when we mourn, God mourns with us, even as each one returns to God, even as we walk each other home.

Mary

Mary Lindquist, Rector

NEWS OF THE PARISH

BUILDING HOPE FOR THE EARTH OPEN HOUSE!**When:** Thursday, September 1, 5–7 pm**What:** Come and see what St. Michael's is planning for our roof, solar and energy transformation project!

- Fun, Interactive Information Stations
- Food, Conversation
- A Mystery Raffle

Where: The Rectory Yard (right by St. Michael's parking lot, 18 Bradley Avenue)**How:** Come anytime between 5–7 pm**Why:** For the future of our church and the care of God's earth**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

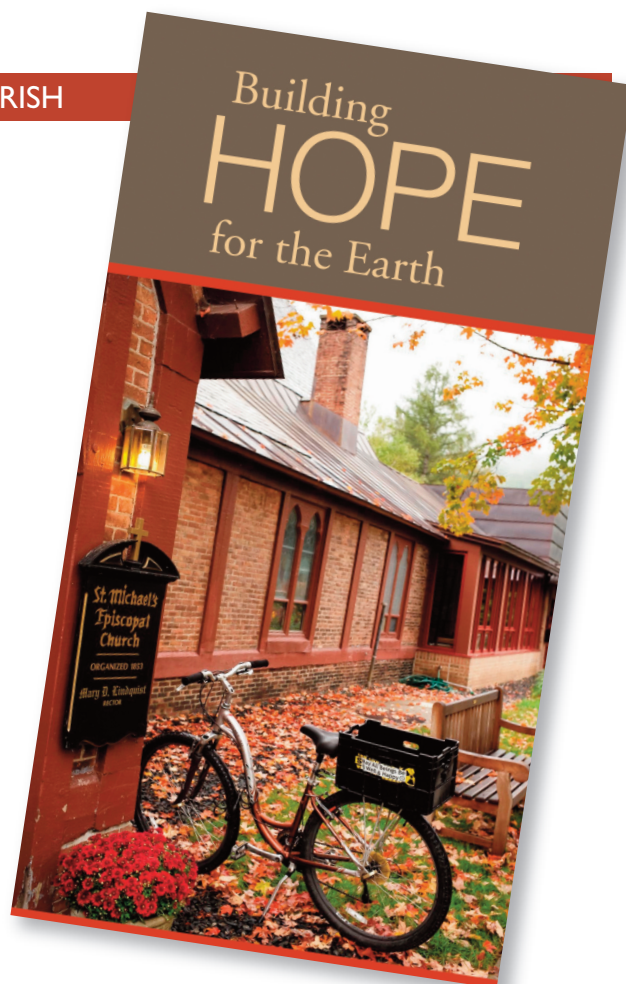
**ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND DINNER
OF THE WINDHAM COUNTY BRANCH
OF THE NAACP / RETREAT FARM
SATURDAY AUGUST 13, 5:00 PM–8:00 PM**

The Windham County Branch of the NAACP will host our annual Freedom Fund Dinner at the Retreat Farm this year. We will have wonderful guests including Senator Patrick Leahy, Congressman Peter Welch, and Dr. Samuel L Waymon, the brother of Nina Simone.

Tickets are \$50 and include an annual membership to our Branch as well as dinner. Cash bar available. The link to purchase tickets is:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/third-annual-freedom-fund-dinner-tickets-345816044097>. To order by mail, send check to Windham County NAACP, P.O. Box 6164, Brattleboro VT 05302. To make sure you receive your membership card, please provide: name of each person for whom you purchase a ticket, mailing address of each person, email address, and phone number.

For additional information or for questions, please email Cliff L. Wood at clwood0213@gmail.com



**THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC IS COMING
AUGUST 28!**

Kate and Dana McGinn have graciously offered to host our church picnic this summer. Since we missed the last two years 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 21st by emailing Kate at kjmcginn17@gmail.net or by signing up in the Common Room.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

“MICHAEL”: A PARISH-WIDE MYSTERY PLAY PREMIERES
SEPTEMBER 29, OCTOBER 1 + OCTOBER 2
DRAGON-MAKING WORKSHOP, AUGUST 27

Susan Dedell

What is a mystery play? And why have Paul and I been so keen on making them? And how and why should you think about getting involved with this one? READ ON!

Mystery plays — sometimes called miracle plays — are dramatized representations of stories from scripture or religious legends. They originated in the 10th century and were originally visual tableaux accompanied by Latin chants presented by the clergy in the courtyards of churches. Common themes were some of the more famous Bible stories such as the nativity, the flight from Egypt, the crucifixion, and Adam and Eve’s fall from grace. They were so popular that lay people began creating their own plays in the common language. You can imagine that under these circumstances the plays became more colorful and often contained non-Biblical legends, as well as social and political commentary. Original music for the plays was composed and the plays flourished. At their height in the 15th century, almost every town of some size held week-long festivals of plays. It is thought that Shakespeare first encountered drama in this way!

In the years following the Reformation, the plays were banned. To the Protestants, they smacked of heresy, as they often elaborated on Biblical stories in imaginative and even comic ways. Many governments wanted them suppressed because they frequently depicted the equality of all social classes and sometimes portrayed rulers as unjust or inept. Even so, it took many decades to suppress the plays, and by the time they had largely vanished, their influence had already made a profound mark on the development of theater, oratorio, and opera. Indeed, mystery plays laid the foundation for theater as we know it today.

I first got the idea to create original mystery plays 8 years ago and approached my friend Tony Barrand

to see if he would be interested. One thing led to another, and Paul (who started his musical career writing original musical theater) wrote the fabulous score to “Three in the Wilderness.” With puppets by Finn Campman, singers Zara Bode and Tony and violinist Kathy Andrew, “Three” was performed in Lent of 2015. Paul and I were both hooked! Exploring the rich, puzzling, confrontational and moving stories of human faith through the lenses of drama and music was and remains for both of us a powerful way to enter into the human aspect of spirituality.

Four mystery plays later, we are excited to tackle the complex and somewhat obscure being of Michael, the Archangel. Considering the number of churches that are named for Michael, very little is actually written of him in scripture. Yet Michael is important not only to Christians, but to Jews and Muslims. So who, or what, is he/she/them? And WHAT about that dragon?! It is our fervent desire to create a play that delves into this rich allegory and to involve as many of you as are able to participate in its creation.

Finn Campman is the visual art director for this project, and he will be designing and helping build the dragons. We are SO hoping that many of you will want to take part in creating them by attending a dragon-making workshop on Saturday, August 27. We’ll start at 10 in the morning, and work through the day. You can come for as much of this time as you are able and desire. No previous art experience is necessary — there will be plenty for everyone to do. However, this is not an event for small children.

Please do contact me or Paul if you have any questions. And help us celebrate our parish life and patron saint! Susan (dedellsusan@gmail.com) or (802) 348-7735.

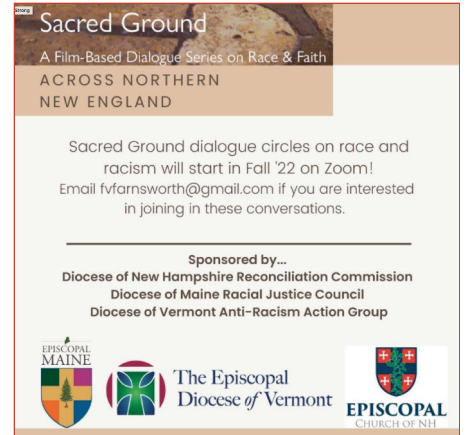
NEWS OF THE PARISH

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND SACRED GROUND CIRCLES COMING THIS FALL

This fall, Sacred Ground circles open to those in the dioceses of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine will meet on Zoom. The introductory meeting will be held in early September. The circles are sponsored by the Diocese of Vermont's Anti-Racism Action Group, the Diocese of New Hampshire's Reconciliation Commission and the Diocese of Maine's Racial Justice Council.

Those interested in participating should contact Franci Farnsworth (farnswor@middlebury.edu).

Learn more about Sacred Ground, and watch an invitational video.






Sacred Ground
A Film-Based Dialogue Series on Race & Faith
ACROSS NORTHERN
NEW ENGLAND

Sacred Ground dialogue circles on race and racism will start in Fall '22 on Zoom!
Email fvfarnsworth@gmail.com if you are interested in joining in these conversations.

Sponsored by...

- Diocese of New Hampshire Reconciliation Commission
- Diocese of Maine Racial Justice Council
- Diocese of Vermont Anti-Racism Action Group

STM



Interior of the church after baptism



Lemonade on the lawn

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM) ONLINE SEMINAR FORMING IN SEPTEMBER

Education for Ministry (EFM)

offers the faithful and the curious an opportunity to encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences in the world. Seminar participants study, worship and engage in theological reflection together in a weekly seminar format over 36 weeks.



Karen Byers (Diocese of Western Massachusetts) and Steve Isham (Diocese of Vermont) will co-mentor this seminar on Zoom. Both are experienced mentors and are trainers in the program.

Time: Monday afternoons 2:30 pm–5:00 pm

Dates: Sep 12–Dec 19, 2022; Jan 9–June 5, 2023

Cost: \$325. (Participants will separately obtain the textbooks for the program. The tuition fee includes the Reading and Reflection Guide.)

If you are interested in joining EFM, please contact the Church office for the email addresses of Karen Byers and Steve Isham.

MEDITATIONS ON THE INNER LIFE OF WORDS, A SERIES

Benson Bobrick

LOST IN TRANSLATION: REPENTANCE & THE BREAD OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

"And John the Baptist was in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." — Mark 1:4

"Give us this day our daily bread." — Luke 11:3

"Give us this day our supersubstantial bread." — Matthew 6:11 (Douay-Rheims Bible, 1582)

Repentance is the key-note of the New Testament. We encounter it at the very beginning of Mark, in the preaching of John the Baptist. And it is the first Gospel command — "Repent!" — given to us by Christ (Matthew 4:17). The Greek word is "metanoia," which means literally "a change of understanding, accompanied by a change of will."

A lot can hang on a word. St. Jerome in his great translation of the Bible into Latin got many things right. But he made at least one catastrophic mistake: he often translated "metanoia" by the Latin phrase "agere paenitentiam," which can mean "to repent," but can just as easily mean "to express repentance," "be penitent," or "do penance." Because "agere" is a strong action verb, it turned the idea of internal transformation into an external act of contrition; and in time this gave rise to the whole penitential system of indulgences, paid prayers, donations for the remission of sin, and so on, which corrupted and almost destroyed the medieval church.

From an unfortunate translation we come now to a unique word whose meaning has always been unclear. This is "epiousion," in the Lord's Prayer, commonly translated as "daily," as in "our daily bread." It appears only once in the Bible, and in fact nowhere else, inside the Bible or out. And it is arguably a word that Christ coined.* The fact that he may have coined it suggests that we ought to pay close attention to it. What might he have meant?

Those who read "epiousion" as "daily" think Christ intended to use an adjectival form of a verb that refers to what comes to us tomorrow — so, "Give us this day..." the bread we receive both today and tomorrow; hence, "daily." But the word could also mean something else. In Greek, "ousia" means "substance," so "epi+ousion" could mean "supersubstantial" — a substance above ordinary substance: one that meets all our needs. We might remember that before Christ reveals the Lord's Prayer, to teach his disciples how to pray, he pointedly tells them, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) So in this the holiest of prayers, Christ was obviously not talking about ordinary bread, or daily sustenance merely, but Truth, "the Bread of Life." (John 6:35)

St. Jerome apparently puzzled over the word and in his own translation hedged his bets. In rendering the prayer in Luke, he chose the Latin word for "daily;" in Matthew, he chose "supersubstantialem," which agreed with the coined Greek. In the Douay-Rheims translation of 1582, which followed St. Jerome's Latin closely, we get "supersubstantial bread." Other early English versions have "daily." Unfortunately, the divergence in translation got caught up in schismatic politics, as Catholic and Protestant translators faced off.

My own view is that "supersubstantial" is right, and that Christ coined a new spiritual term to express a hitherto inexpressible idea.

But I won't argue it.

*At the time of Christ, Greek was the lingua franca (common language) of the Mediterranean world. The Greek version of the Old Testament, known as the Septuagint, was used in many synagogues, and there is every indication that Christ spoke Greek as well as Aramaic, which had largely replaced Hebrew among the Jews. Much of Palestine and Judea belonged to this multi-lingual world and (a revealing fact) most of the surviving contemporary Jewish inscriptions are actually in Greek.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF JULY MEETING OF THE VESTRY

Our meeting opened with a prayer and Mary presenting an idea for some formational time on our meeting agendas for the next 4 months or so. We feel that the energy around the building project will inevitably generate questions, anxiety and heat... The word 'stress' was avoided in favor of characterizing the nervous energy many of us feel for generating ideas, creativity and generally getting things done when facing a big project. To that end your Vestry wishes to operate with the utmost transparency during this time of change, do our best to keep open lines of communication with the parish, and be proactive with information sharing as things progress. Stay tuned for more information about how you can interact with our Building Hope project as it comes to fruition.

The business portion of the meeting opened with the approval of the June minutes and the Treasurer's report. Bruce informed us that expenses for June were close to budget but pledge income was down \$11,000. This typically happens in the summer but serves as a reminder that the church's expenses don't go on vacation! Overall, we are at about 50% of our budgeted expenses at the year's midpoint and still ahead on pledge and operating income overall due to early payment of pledges by some parishioners.

TR Fire Safety Services made a visit to test/replace/repair as needed our emergency lights, fire extinguishers, emergency signage and smoke/CO detectors. Some new equipment was installed outside the Nursery and Sunday school rooms which are soon to be utilized by Horizon Early Education. Any expenditures required for their occupancy of our space will be paid for by them. A new contract will be negotiated with Horizon soon.

The Rector's report began with a concern and perception that our young people's participation has fallen off over this very difficult pandemic time. In addition to offering Confirmation classes and a

Sunday School open house in the fall, it was suggested that more outdoor time and informal activities would help generate friendships among our youth which would carry over to the social component of spending a Sunday morning together at Church. Other ideas were more involvement in services, Baptisms and a "Kid's Corner" in the *Guardian* with games, puzzles or activities.

Mary spoke of a "Grief Group" being offered by Lars Hunter in the fall. If you are interested in participating stay tuned for dates and times.

A Letter of Agreement between St Michael's and Adwoa for her appointment as Transitional Deacon was reviewed and approved. It is awaiting final editing and signatures before going to the Bishop's office.

The parish picnic is scheduled for Sunday August 28th beginning around noon at Kate and Dana McGinn's house on Spofford Lake. The Vestry will provide grilling fare and drinks and we ask others to bring a side dish or dessert to share. This is always a relaxing afternoon of lounging and swimming. The McGinn's porch has the best view on the lake!

There is a Task Force (sounds productive, doesn't it?!) to redesign the common room to display the history of our church and congregation. Annie Landenberger is the Vestry liaison on the Task Force and would welcome your comments or questions.

Finally, there will be an ongoing Ministry Expo with a different church ministry highlighted in the *Guardian* each month. We will also have available a handout where all ministries and their respective contacts will be listed and readily available to all newcomers and anyone seeking to become more involved at St Michael's.

Happy summer and hope to see lots of you at the picnic on the 28th.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan McBean, Vestry

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

Sunday, August 7: Genesis 15:1–6; Psalm 33:12–22;
Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16; Luke 12:32–40

Sunday, August 14: Jeremiah 23:23–29, Psalm 82,
Hebrews 11:29–12:2, Luke 12:49–56

Sunday, August 21: Isaiah 58:9b–14, Psalm 103:1–8,
Hebrews 12:18–29, Luke 13:10–17

Sunday, August 28: Sirach 10:12–18 or
Proverbs 25:6–7, Psalm 112,
Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16, Luke 14:1, 7–14

AUGUST 2022 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 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

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)