

# The Guardian

DECEMBER 2022

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

*First Sunday of Advent*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 9 AM**

*The Greening of the Church*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**

*Second Sunday of Advent*

*St. Nicholas Fair*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Advent Lessons and Carols, 4:00 pm*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

*Christmas Pageant and  
Holy Eucharist, 4:00 pm*

*Festival Candlelight Christmas Eve  
Service with Holy Eucharist, 8:00 pm*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

*Christmas Day Service, 10 am*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

*Holy Eucharist, 8 am  
Christmas Lessons and Carols  
(no Eucharist), 10:15 am*

### CHRISTMAS DAY IS ON SUNDAY THIS YEAR!

Please note that this is a year when Christmas arrives on a Sunday!

This allows us to enjoy an extra-long Advent season this year.

However, please note that we will be celebrating the

Feast of the Nativity with ONE SERVICE

at 10 am on Sunday, December 25.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## CALLING ALL KIDS AND TEENS FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT! REHEARSALS START DECEMBER 4

Calling toddlers, children and teens!

We haven't had an in-person Christmas Pageant in THREE YEARS!

Join St. Michael's Christmas Eve pageant and help bring the Nativity to life for our parish!

We are bringing back a modified version of our own Vermont Nativity. We will modify to fit the company and add, of course, any new elements that pageanteers invent. Pre-pandemic pageants have been blessed with flocks of free-range angels and sheep, a couple rabbits, and various goats.

Here is the rehearsal schedule:

DATE	TIME	WHO IS CALLED?	WHAT?
Sunday, December 4	9–10 am	Children Toddlers–4th grade	We will tell the story and begin to think about roles
Sunday, December 4	10:15–11 am	Youth in grades 5–8 (Holy Mayhem age)	Begin working on narration
Sunday, December 11	9–10 am	Kids ages 7–18	Run through roles and start blocking, Assign high school readers' narration — run that; work on Holy Mayhem kids' narration
Sunday, December 18	9–10 am	All Participants	We will organize costumes.
Sunday, December 18	12–1:30 pm	All Participants (with lunch!)	“Stumble Through” rehearsal with music and props
Friday, December 23	3 pm	All Participant Dress Rehearsal	
Saturday, December 24	3:15 pm	All Participants	Christmas Pageant & Service at 4 pm!





## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Many thanks to everyone who has made a pledge in support of St. Michael's ministry and mission for 2023. As of November 20, we have received 95 pledge cards for a total of \$202,376! We are well on our way toward our goals for pledges received (132) and total pledged (\$295,000). If you have not had a chance to pledge, we encourage you to do so soon. Pledge cards may be returned in the offering plate on Sundays, mailed to St. Michael's, or made through St. Michael's website under "giving." If you have not received a pledge card, you can pick one up in the back of the church or the Common Room, or we can send one to you. Many thanks for your great generosity and support!

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## BUILDING HOPE PROJECT UPDATE

Work on the sanctuary roof is moving along! The roofers are almost ready to install the copper. As you may remember from our last renovation in 2011, the copper will be shiny for a few weeks, but then tone down quickly. For the latest updates about the building progress, please check out our weekly Building Hope Blog, complete with photos and videos, that can be accessed through St. Michael's website, or directly with this link: <https://www.stmichaels-vt.org/category/building-hope-updates/>



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH**

The Music Director Search Team of Karen Guthrie (chair), Susan Heimer, Jenny Karstad, Greg Lesch and Mary Lindquist has been receiving applications to St. Michael's position. The due date for applications is December 1. After that time, we will begin interviews. Please continue to pray that God will lead and guide us in our discernment for St. Michael's next Director of Music!

**CELEBRATING SUSAN**

Plans are beginning for a robust celebration of Susan's 31 years of ministry at St. Michael's. Susan's last Sunday with us is January 15, so we will be announcing plans soon! In the meantime, we will cherish this last Advent and Christmas with Susan and keep both Susan and Paul in our prayers for this new chapter in their lives.

**ADULT FORUMS IN DECEMBER:  
"WRESTLING WITH REVELATION"**

For the Adult Forums (9–10 am on Sunday mornings) on December 4, 11 and 18, we will be reflecting on passages from the 2022 Advent Devotional: "Wrestling with Revelation." The Reverend adwoa Wilson has gathered voices of folks throughout the Diocese of Vermont who respond to different passages in the Book of Revelation. Advent is a wonderful time to come together, have conversation, and reflect on scripture. The Devotional will be available online soon. Check your eNews for a link!

**CHRISTMAS TAG SALE TO BENEFIT  
WINDHAM COUNTY HEAT FUND**

The St. Michael's Tag Sale is holding a special sale during Advent of Christmas-related items from our

varied and unique collection. (We do not need any additional items, thanks!) The sale will open before church on Sunday, November 27 in the back, left-hand side of the Undercroft and will be ongoing before and after church services until Christmas. You are invited to come and wander around. We hope you will find some treasures to enjoy during the holidays!

A donation jar will be available. There will be no prices on anything, but we hope you will give generously — you will be supporting our local community! All proceeds will be donated to the Windham County Heat Fund to help families in need have a warmer winter.

Thank you very much!!

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVENT**

If you are in need of a new revelation in your life, this Advent is the season for you! Please look out for an upcoming diocesan daily devotional based on the Revelation to John. A link will come shortly in the eNews. This devotional will be the focus of our Advent adult forums.

Additionally, there will be a diocese-wide covenant group program on zoom on Thursday evenings during Advent — Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 6:00–8:00 pm. All are welcome to join this time of Evening Prayer, reflection, wrestling, and study with the messages held in this book. Because these are covenant groups that hope to deepen in trust and vulnerability over time, people are asked to commit to all four sessions. If you suspect that you will need to miss one, that needn't prohibit participation. However, for those who will need to miss more than one, this may not be the right opportunity. Please RSVP for the Thursday Advent study by Sunday November 27 to [adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:adwoa@stmichaelsvermont.org).





## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**BREAKFAST WITH THE PSALMS  
CONTINUES IN ADVENT**

The Wednesday morning (8:30–10) fellowship with adwoa and the psalm for the next Sunday will continue every Wednesday in Advent (Nov 30; Dec. 7, 14, and 21) but not in Christmas week (December 28.) All are welcome for all or any part of the hour and a half at The Works on Main St. in Brattleboro.

**ADVENT GREENS & CHRISTMAS  
POINSETTIAS**

If you would like to contribute to the Advent Greens and Christmas Poinsettias at St. Michael's, please fill out the forms available in the back of the Church or in the Common Room and attach your check or cash.

You can also send a check to the office with a note or call (802-254-6048, ext 104) telling us if the contribution is

- "To the Glory of God,"
- in honor of someone, or
- in memory of someone.

If the contribution is in honor or in memory of someone, please send the appropriate names.

**THE GREENING OF THE CHURCH,  
DECEMBER 3**

All are invited to the greening of the church on Saturday, December 3 at 9 am. This is a festive time when parishioners of all ages are invited to adorn the church with greens and decorate the Christmas tree. Please join us for this festive gathering!

**ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD  
DECEMBER 3, 11 AM**

On Saturday morning, December 3, 2022, adwoa Wilson and Darcey Mercier will be ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Burlington, Vermont. This is a very exciting and important event for the life of St. Michael's, as adwoa is part of our staff and Darcey was sponsored by St. Michael's for ordination. There is a sign-up sheet in the Common Room for those who would like to Carpool or volunteer to drive and take others. Alternatively, please contact Mary Lindquist if you are interested in attending, [mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org).

Those who wish to view the service online can follow the link to the Cathedral's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9eejE2xvHOADEsIGqscGQw>. Select the video with the "live" indication on it.

**ST. NICHOLAS DAY FAIR  
DECEMBER 4 FOLLOWING 10:15 SERVICE**

The St. Nicholas Day Fair is one of the most joyful and fun events of our church year! There is food, Christmas craft-making for all ages, and a visit from St. Nicholas himself. Did you know that Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.342, was generous to seafarers and to sailors, and more especially to children? Please join us for this special event immediately following the 10:15 am service on December 4.

**LESSONS AND CAROLS ON DECEMBER 11, 4 PM**

At 4 pm on Sunday, December 11, one of the most cherished events of the liturgical year arrives: the Festival of Lessons and Carols. In the waning light of a Sunday afternoon, with candles and greens, come hear in scripture and music the story of the advent and nativity of our Lord.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

This year is going to be a very special one with ethereally beautiful and joyful music by Icelandic composer Sigour Saevarsson, Norwegian composer Ola Geillo, Morten Lauridsen, Ralph Vaughn-Williams, Supply Belcher, and me (blush) — as well as traditional carols and hymns of the season. This service is not only a perfect way to center your mind on the great gift of this season, but also a perfect time to invite your friends and family who might not normally attend a church service.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this heart-warming and spirit-enriching service!

*~Love, joy, peace! Susan*



### ST. MICHAEL'S MINISTRIES ADULT FORUM

The St. Michael's Adult Forum team is responsible for designing programs that are presented on Sunday mornings from nine to ten. It is our hope that these programs will be faith-based, but broadly interpreted so that they will appeal to a wide spectrum of parishioners. For example, we have presented several series based on various saints or prophets which definitely deepen our understanding of Biblical people and their stories, but we have also had Forums based on climate change and how our faith calls us to respond to the changes demanded of us. (Does that sound familiar?)

Sometimes during the time of Covid, we simply got together to chat and remind ourselves how important community is to us all! People who are on the Forum committee are not responsible for presenting the Forums, though they may.

We are tasked with coming up with exciting ideas which we believe people will want to attend and finding individuals who would like to present. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 8:30 am. We hope that one day soon we will be able to resume meeting over breakfast! If you are interested in being

part of the Adult Forum team, please contact Mary Lindquist at [mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org)



### THE BIN IS BACK ON THE BENCH

Once again, we are asked to donate to the men at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield. These donations can be placed on the bench by the entry to the church offices. Matthew Elkan is joining me on coordinating this effort. We look forward to the time when we will be able to provide a non-denominational religious service each month including communion. Items that are needed include paperback books (no hardbacks) and magazines for readers with a wide range of interests. Men's toiletries such as soap, deodorant and shampoo are needed; each must be in a clear plastic container. Toothbrushes and toothpaste are also needed. It is also nice to provide individually wrapped treats such as candy, cookies or snacks. Clothes are not needed at this time. Be very proud of yourselves at St. Michael's — you have given so generously in the past and it is appreciated.

*Cliff Wood*



### PROJECT FEED

One week in November, we gave groceries to 128 Afghans to last a week. They always ask for oil, and we haven't had any for a few weeks. A volunteer with the Afghans asked how she could help and then went out and brought in 14 bottles of oil. By the end of the morning, that too was gone. Please help fill the red bucket in the common room with oil! Or canned goods! or dry goods! so all of our community can be fed.

*Thanks, Ruth Tilghman*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

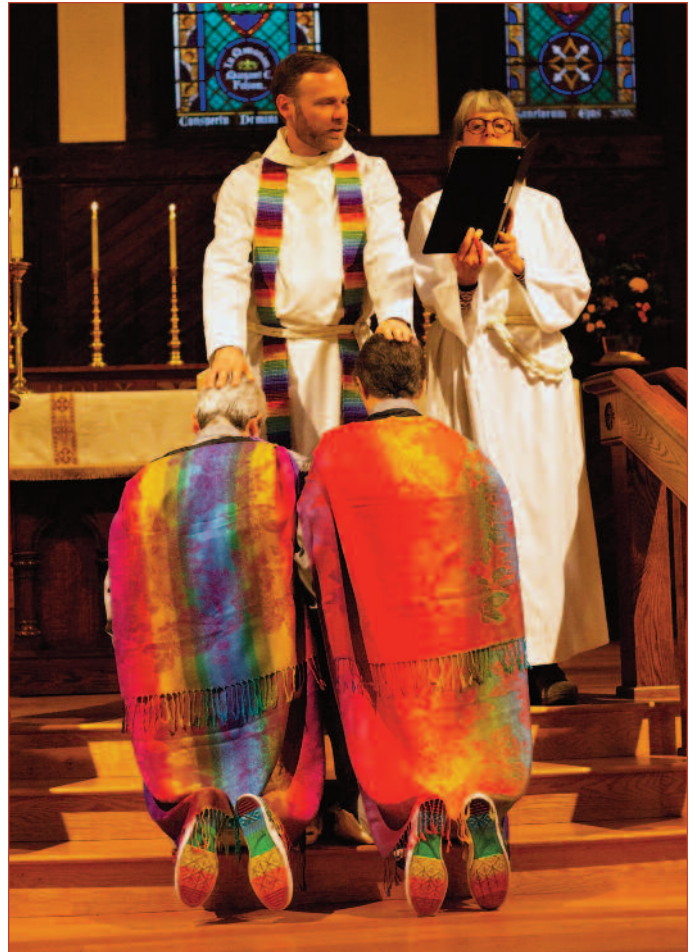
## LETTER FROM DARCEY &amp; SUSAN

Dear St Michael's Family,

Thank you so much for sharing in our special day. It was so wonderful to see you all and celebrate with you. Thank you for the delicious foods, the many cards and notes, and all the love and support. We are so grateful to be a part of the St Michael's Family.

We wanted to explain the splash of rainbow we asked folks to wear for the ceremony. In "Empire Strikes Back," Yoda says to Luke Skywalker as he is training to be a Jedi, "Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter." We are luminous beings, full of the light of God, radiant in our luminosity! Just as sun beams radiate rainbows when seen through a prism, we can imagine we also emanate rainbow colors. Wearing the splash of rainbow was a visible sign of that radiance, that light shining from within us all.

We love you,  
*Darcey and Susan*



## SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE VESTRY

Mary provided the Vestry with an update and prayer for Nancy Ames.

Our meeting began, as customary, with Devotional Time. Chris Hart offered a reflection followed by asking the question, "how do we deal with the challenging and dark times we face in our lives?" Our group sharing focused on the practice of prayer.

Bruce provided a monthly and year-to-date Treasurer's Report. His thorough and thoughtful analysis each month is both informative and reassuring. He concluded with "we are definitely meeting our budget

and not exceeding expenses." It is hard to think of more reassuring words.

The budget development process for 2023 is getting underway and Bruce stated they would have a draft budget for the December Vestry meeting. Bruce will be available to assist, as needed, Tom Cain, our new Treasurer who will begin in January. Tom will be involved in new budget development.

Minutes of the October Meeting were approved as presented to the Vestry.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**RECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Advent:** Mary provided an overview of Advent planning, which will be closer to pre-pandemic activities. There will be a St. Nicholas Day Fair on December 4 after the 10:15 service. The Advent Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday, December 11, at 4:00 pm. The program will be in-person and livestreamed.

There will be a Christmas Pageant at 4 pm on Saturday, December 24, at 4 pm. Many thanks to Annie Landenberger, Lisa Sparrow and Miranda Smith for organizing the children for this family event. There will be Liturgies at 8 pm Christmas Eve and 10 am on Christmas Day. No 8 am service that day.

**Music Director's Search:** The search is in process with some promising applications. The Choir is meeting to share their input with the search committee. A celebration for Susan Dedell will be held on January 15th.

**Bishop's Visit:** Bishop Shannon will be visiting the parish on Sunday May 7th. She will be Confirming and Receiving new members into the Church. The Liturgy will be at 11 am. There will be no 10:15 am Liturgy that day. She will meet via Zoom with the Vestry on Wednesday, April 26th.

**Nominating Committee:** Jared and Mary gave an update on the annual process of replacing three Vestry members who are going off the Board, after their three years of service. They have done some outreach, and we are hopeful that we will have identified three new members by our December meeting.

**WARDEN'S REPORT:**

**Common Room Project:** Annie gave an update of the Common Room Project that includes a historical timeline past to present. Community members were invited to participate in providing input on Sunday, November 13th. Mary, adwoa, Annie and designer Chris Triebert are organizing the project. Alan reported that the carpeting for the area will be installed on January 23rd.

**Vestry Retreat:** dates are set for Friday evening and Saturday, February 24–25th. Details on logistics will follow.

**Parish Ministries:** Annie asked members to complete write-ups they may be doing on parish ministries. Rebecca's Altar Guild write-up is due December 15 for the January *Guardian* and Rosie's write-up on Hospitality is due January 15 for the February on *Guardian*. The plan is to consolidate all the write-ups into one document so parishioners can have an easy reference to the many ministries at St. Michael's. Chris reported on this past month's Vestry Listening Corner, sharing one request from a member seeking assistance with an accommodation during Sunday Liturgy. Annie shared from the Communication Committee an article that she prepared that was published in "The Mountain" on St. Michael's Refugee Ministry.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Stewardship:** Steve and Mary reported on the progress of this fall's Stewardship Campaign. Both commented how well the preparation and process went. Our thanks to this year's three Sunday speakers, Alex O'Pray, Joyce Vining Morgan and Matthew Elkan. Sunday November 20th is the In-Gathering of Pledges.

**Building Hope:** Alan provided an update. The roof copper is in and we are all seeing first-hand the progress taking place. Alan said the walk-through by electrician Brian Tyler was fine with plenty of electrical capacity in the building for our needs. Alan said they would be building a catwalk above the insulation in the Bradley Wing in order to access electrical or any other service need.

**Cash Flow:** Jared reported that all payments are current on the building project and the cash flow is positive.

**Hospitality:** Rosie said we will need to talk about hospitality for the Annual Meeting on January 29th and we need volunteers to sign up for food/refreshments for after the Advent lessons and carols. There is a sign-up folder in the Common Room.

Alan McBean offered a closing prayer for the meeting, which ended 15 minutes early to all Vestry members' delight!



## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## LECTIONARY FOR DECEMBER

To see all the readings for each Sunday,  
go to <http://www.lectionarypage.net/#december>.  
You will find there the collects, lessons and psalms  
for each Sunday and feast day.

## DECEMBER 2022 CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

- December 1 Liz Vick, Cindy Bacigalupo  
 December 3 Jonah Siegel  
 December 6 Ramon Escalera Jr.  
 December 7 Chris Mattson  
 December 8 Julia Fedoruk, Paul Dyer  
 December 9 Jeanette Perry  
 December 10 Clara Fritz, Gigi Birri  
 December 11 Wylene Wood  
 December 12 Jenny Karstad, Hailey Cogliano,  
 Rebecca Mayer  
 December 14 Robin White-Diamondstone  
 December 15 Carol Hesselbach  
 December 17 Julie Ackerman-Hovis , Jessica Bennett  
 December 20 Merribelle Coles, Annabel Horton  
 December 22 Susan Avery  
 December 24 Carol Leitch  
 December 23 Jean Smith  
 December 25 Joyce Vining Morgan  
 December 26 Jeanette Landin, Hugo Taggart,  
 Susan Ruggles  
 December 28 MJ Woodburn, Christine Gauthier,  
 Stephanie Diamondstone  
 December 30 Annamarie Pluhar, Laurel Harrison



## ANNIVERSARIES

- December 5 Brian & Joyce Vining Morgan  
 December 7 Michael & Susan Wilmott  
 December 27 Bruce & Kerry Capponcelli  
 December 30 George Moore & Margery McCrum

## LEADERSHIP

## VESTRY

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**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](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.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

SUNDAYS	8:00 am	Quiet service of prayer and Eucharist
	10:15 am	Prayer, music and Eucharist. (in-person and online)
WEEKDAYS	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (online) and Tuesday in Chapel
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)