

The Guardian

MAY 2022

FROM THE RECTORY

EASTER INCARNATION

Many Easter greetings to you! I am writing to you on Easter Monday after a very rich Holy Week at St. Michael's. This was the first in-person Holy Week we have experienced in three years. From the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday to gathering outside at 5:30 am by the light of new fire for the Easter Vigil to the robust singing of "Jesus Christ is risen today" at all our Easter services, the joy expressed this Easter was truly abundant.

Part of our joy, of course, was being together in our bodies. While we often associate the incarnation with the season of Christmas, the importance of Jesus being resurrected in his body seems particularly important this year. The gospel writers go out of their way to make sure we know that the Jesus was not a ghost, but a person, in his body, wounded, eating and drinking.

In the spirit of celebrating the Easter incarnation, please enjoy this poem by John Updike.

*Make no mistake: if he rose at all
It was as His body;
If the cell's dissolution did not reverse, the molecule reknit,
The amino acids rekindle,
The Church will fall.*

*It was not as the flowers,
Each soft spring recurrent;
It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the
Eleven apostles;
It was as His flesh; ours.*

*The same hinged thumbs and toes
The same valved heart
That—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then regathered
Out of enduring Might
New strength to enclose.*

*Let us not mock God with metaphor,
Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence,
Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded
Credulity of earlier ages:
Let us walk through the door.*

Continued

FROM THE RECTORY

*The stone is rolled back, not papier-mache,
 Not a stone in a story,
 But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of
 Time will eclipse for each of us
 The wide light of day.
 And if we have an angel at the tomb,
 Make it a real angel,
 Weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair, opaque in
 The dawn light, robed in real linen
 Spun on a definite loom.
 Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
 For our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
 Lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are embarrassed
 By the miracle,
 And crushed by remonstrance.*

—John Updike, “Seven Stanzas as Easter” (1960)

Mary
 Mary Lindquist
 Rector

ORDINATION DAY!

On Saturday June 4, Darcey Mercier, St. Michael's parishioner who has been studying at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas will be ordained at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington, Vermont (time TBA).

On the same day, Adwoa Lewis-Wilson, St. Michael's seminary intern, will be ordained to the diaconate at 10:30 am at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston, Massachusetts! Confused?

Darcey will be ordained in Vermont because she is sponsored by the Diocese of Vermont and Adwoa will be ordained in Massachusetts because she is sponsored by the Diocese of Massachusetts. We believe that the ordinations will be livestreamed and we will let you know the link information as soon as we can. Meanwhile, please keep Darcey and Adwoa in your prayers as they prepare for this important step in their ordination to the priesthood.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

MAY FORUMS

May 1 “May Day, International Workers’ Day, And Labor Day: Transformations Of An Observance” —

The first of May, or May Day, a celebration of spring, developed from ancient spring rituals. Practices differ widely by culture, but often involve nature, flowers and dancing. In the mid-nineteenth century, the budding labor movement began to flex its power with work stoppages around the world, occurring in late April through early May. One of these work stoppages, which began in Chicago on May 1, 1886, resulted in the infamous Haymarket Massacre. Labor organizations later chose May Day as International Workers’ Day. How then, did the US end up with Labor Day in September, and what is left of the ancient springtime rites? *David Treadwell* leads.

May 8 “Are You My Mother?” — Join us for this forum and learn about mothers in the Bible. There will be a quiz (no pressure) and we’ll close with a lovely lullaby from *The Secret Garden*. *Carolyn Taylor-Olson and Nancy Ames* lead.

May 15 “The Afghan Ministry at St. Michael’s” — Who are the Afghan refugees and what are they facing? How are Support teams sponsored by St. Michael’s helping? How can you be involved? *Phillip Wilson* leads.

May 22 “Exploring Islam” — As we accompany Afghan families as they find homes in Vermont, we are learning more about Muslim practices and faith. We are happy to welcome Margaret Robbins to St. Michael’s to give us an overview of Islam and Muslim practices and answer any questions we might have. Margaret has been a student of Islam for 50 years and is a member of the Hampshire Mosque in Massachusetts, where she leads a convert group for new Muslims. She also completed her pilgrimage to Mecca in 2009.

May 29 “What is the Diaconate?” — As Adwoa Lewis-Wilson and Darcey Mercier from St. Michael’s will be ordained to the diaconate on June 4, we thought it would be helpful to learn more about the history and vocation of being a deacon. While Adwoa and Darcey are being ordained to the transitional diaconate (as a

step towards being ordained as priests), Jack Karn, who was sponsored by St. Michael’s a few years ago, is a vocational deacon. Jack will be joining us from Texas via Zoom to tell us more about his diaconate.

STM

WHAT DO WE DO WITH BISHOP HOPKINS’ PORTRAIT?

The Vestry is thankful to Bishop Hopkins, first Bishop of Vermont, whose portrait in our Common Room led us to begin the Becoming Beloved Community Initiative last fall. Throughout these last few months, we have begun a significant engagement with racial healing in the Episcopal Church through the deep conversations we had in our Epiphany/Lent Covenant Groups, our three Storytelling sessions, and the Lenten Quiet Day.

We have now come to a point where we are ready to make a decision about Bishop Hopkins’ portrait in the Common Room. Should it stay? Should it go? Or is there another solution that is in-between these two options?

Please join us on **Saturday, May 21 at 10 am**, for an open meeting in the Undercroft. The Vestry would like to hear your thoughts and ideas before deciding on our next steps.

STM

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Our Intercessory Prayer group has been going on for the past 13 years. The mission of this group is to pray daily for the people on our prayer list. While knowing the circumstances of the person being prayed for is helpful, it is not necessary. Each person receives daily prayers. This is a confidential list so we do not share names or circumstances with anyone other than the group. It is important to let people know that we are praying for them; therefore, we ask you to get their permission before we put them on our list.

Prayer tethers us to one another and it generates hope during times which sometimes seem hopeless. We will

NEWS OF THE PARISH

keep someone on our prayer list for 3 months unless we hear from you. Updates on their conditions are appreciated.

In April, we began meeting in person monthly in the chapel on the first Monday of each month. To put someone on our prayer list, please contact Judy Walker, Joan Pinilla or Jane Sbardella.

Is this a ministry to which you feel called? If so, please contact one of us.

“True intercessory is being with God with the people on our hearts. Praying for another is one of the most beautiful things we do.”

STM

DIAPER SUNDAY IS MAY 8

In one year, a typical baby uses about 2400 diapers, costing up to \$950. Poor families, with the least access to bulk or discount merchants, usually must pay the most. In Vermont, we have 17,000 children under age three.

12% of these children live in families earning less than the federal poverty level, and the cost of diapers has an enormous impact on their budgets. Yet Federal safety net programs such as WIC and SNAP don't cover diapers.

Diaper need is tough on kids – causing rashes and infections and limiting their social and intellectual growth by keeping them out of child care – and on parents, who experience stress and anxiety when they can't keep their child healthy and comfortable, as well as the financial toll.

You can help parents in Windham County keep their children healthy and happy! Please bring a pack or box of disposable diapers (any size) or wipes to St. Michael's on Diaper Sunday, May 8 (Mothers' Day), placing them in the front of the Sanctuary. Or place a check to St. Michael's in the collection plate with the memo "Diaper Sunday," which the Outreach Committee will use to purchase diapers in bulk. Your donations will be shared between Parks Place Diaper Bank in Bellows Falls and Foodworks in Brattleboro.

Palm Sunday*Early morning Easter Vigil*

NEWS OF THE PARISH

ST. MICHAEL'S INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY — AN UPDATE

*Looking Ahead — Ongoing Refugee Support and Welcoming***World View**

Today, there is a changing dynamic to refugee movement in the western hemisphere. Increased movement toward the Mexican border now includes people from Ukraine as well as Venezuelans and refugees from the western Caribbean and all of Central and South America. Last month, the United States committed to accepting as many as 100,000 Ukrainian refugees in a range of pathways, but it has yet to establish a way for them to arrive directly. There are no resettlement programs or visa pipelines. On social media platforms and messaging apps, the following description of the immigration process is published in the Ukrainian language: *"From major European cities, fly to either Cancún or Mexico City. Ukrainians don't need visas to enter the country. From there, take another flight to Tijuana."* Ukrainians in growing numbers are booking flights to Mexico and appearing at the U.S. border.

As of the writing of this Guardian submission (April 14, 2022), thousands of Ukrainians are presenting themselves to U.S. border agents and asking for temporary admission to the United States on humanitarian grounds. Thousands have been let in, availing themselves of the avenues that this administration has recently opened to ease their admission faster than people who have come from other countries. Because of the numbers reaching the border, a major backlog in the admission process is quickly developing.

National View

In 2020, the US president invoked Title 42 of the U.S. code 265 which grants the government the "power to prohibit, in whole or in part, the introduction of persons and property" to stop a contagious disease from spreading in the U.S. The use of Title 42 at the border ends on May 23, 2022. Ending the use of Title 42 will have significant consequences at the border, with Department of Homeland Security officials preparing for more than 500,000 potential illegal

border crossers within six weeks of terminating the policy. Prior to this announcement, border arrivals were already high at approximately 5,100 per day and are expected to increase by about 50% after May 23. Plans are in place to facilitate status determinations to be completed at the border in less than 90 days, rather than through the immigration court which can take years. These numbers reveal that new immigration remains a key element of population growth and stability in the United States. The slowing of the U.S. population growth may be reversed if migration patterns eventually return to their pre-pandemic levels.

Local View

We are now entering a new phase of what will be a long-standing refugee resettlement process in southern Vermont. Phase One, which covered the first quarter of 2022, saw approximately 19 families and 22 single individuals come to our area. Of these, 90% have been placed in appropriate housing and 27 in this group have found employment. The response by the community for housing, employment opportunities, welcoming and support has been heartening.

During Phase Two, many of our families will transition off their first 90-day Federal support and move to State-supported benefits if that has not already occurred. These benefits include Medicaid, Food Stamps and Reach-Up. We also anticipate the arrival of more refugees, but in significantly smaller numbers than we experienced in January and February. Most of the refugees who will come to Vermont will come from other parts of the world and probably will not have any connection to refugees already settled in Vermont, unfortunately.

However, there may be some exceptions. For example, Afghan refugees recently settled elsewhere in the U.S. or who for some reason still remain on a US army base but who have a close acquaintance with refugees now settled here in southern Vermont will also be prioritized to settle here. The impact over the next 2–3 months by the huge numbers of immigrants at our

NEWS OF THE PARISH

southern border is not currently known or well understood. The best we can do is to be prepared and to continue this amazing and heartening journey.

Legalization

Enactment of The Afghan Adjustment Act to help our refugees is critical. This very important act can grant them asylum as it did for the Vietnamese in 2000 and Cuban immigrants in 1966. Many human rights groups, veterans and diplomats are supporting it. Passing legislation that would protect these evacuees is important because obtaining asylum may be difficult or out of reach for many of them. Given existing backlogs in the asylum system, as well as the fact that many Afghans were advised to destroy needed documents associating them to the U.S. mission in order to evade the Taliban, many deserving evacuees will find it difficult to obtain asylum expeditiously. You can help by contacting your members of Congress and asking them to support the Act.

Conclusion

For the St. Michael's Interfaith Refugee Ministry and all co-sponsorship groups in southern Vermont, important focuses during the new phase of the next 3–6 months will be to work with our families to assist them to become as self-supporting and independent as possible. We will be helping enroll children in the school system, familiarize the family to the community

and where the key sources are, enroll our adults in ESL classes, and make sure our families are very familiar with the benefits they have received from the State. Additionally, we may help the family open a bank account and help them develop a budget, learn how to drive, to expand access into the community, as well as maximize our support where necessary to enable successful financial independence. There is much yet to do. Join us! There are many opportunities to join this amazing mission which together facilitates a best scenario for integrating our families into the community and for helping them feel comfortable and secure.

Best Blessings, Daniel Dobson,
dbdrunner@dobsongroupinc.com;
425-785-8262

This article, prepared by Daniel, is a short version of a longer, more detailed and comprehensive document he prepared for the purpose of highlighting the current world immigration crisis and its impact on us locally in southern Vermont. If you are interested in the longer piece, including linked access to notify your Congressional representatives in support of enactment of the Afghan Adjustment Act, or any of his other resources related to the immigration issues of today, please contact Daniel directly by email. Printed copies of the longer document will be available in the Common Room.

YEAR-END ROUNDUP FOR THE GROUNDWORKS OVERNIGHT SHELTER MEALS

Bountiful thanks to all those who helped provide hot, homemade meals for the homeless at the Groundworks Overnight Shelter at 54 South Main Street in Brattleboro from October to April. For seven months, on the second Monday evening of each month, generous volunteers from St. Michael's Episcopal Church provided some 238 hot meals to those in need. The menu typically included a pasta dish, such as lasagna or macaroni and cheese; salad with dressing; whole milk; bread; butter; and dessert. The main dishes were richly conceived, the salads at times

elaborate, and the bread and desserts often home-baked. It's fair to say that as much care went into many of these meals as might have embellished a dinner served to an honored guest at home.

Everyone who contributed to this endeavor should know how much those at the Shelter depended on your kindness and concern. We hope you will not be embarrassed to be named: Betsy Bates, Megan Buchanan, Dianne Clouet, Janet Cramer, Judy Davidson, Daniel Dobson, Alix Fedoruk, Craig

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Hammond, Shirley Hodgdon, Bruce and Marie Lawrence, Kiersten McKenney, Steven and Karren Meyer, Joan Pinilla, Teri Robinson, Jane Sbardella, Judy Walker, Phillip and Susan Wilson, and Christopher Wesolowski.

Although St. Michael's is suspending its Shelter ministry during the summer months, we fully expect to renew it in the fall. Hopefully, once the Covid pandemic subsides, we'll also be able to serve, as well as prepare, the meals, once more. Meanwhile, all those who wish to contribute occasional food to the Shelter on their own are invited to do so. The Director of the Shelter has told us that breakfast foods of any kind are especially welcome, such as milk, orange juice, pastries, pancake mix, cereal, eggs, bagels, cream cheese, sliced white bread, jelly, and breakfast meats. Such items (best delivered in disposable pans or tins) can be dropped off at the Shelter at any time between 9 am and 5 pm

Anyone who would like to participate in this ministry in the future, or has any questions about it, may contact Benson Bobrick at shiloh98@sover.net, or Liz Vick at ebethvick@gmail.com.

STM

MEDITATIONS ON THE INNER LIFE OF WORDS, A SERIES

Benson Bobrick

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose/ By any other name would smell as sweet." So Shakespeare tells us, or seems to, in *Romeo and Juliet*. But is this true? Yes and no. And in the play, the answer is yes and no, too. As so often in his plays, Shakespeare tempts us to embrace an airy notion, only to bring us up short against more complicated truths. In *Romeo and Juliet*, for example, we soon learn that if your family name happens to be "Montague" or "Capulet" (the names of the two feuding houses) your name can get you killed.

So we learn that names do mean things, both in themselves and in context. And we would be wise to think twice about the seductive allure of some blithe sentiment or phrase.

What's in a name? When we think of the Devil, we think of God's Great Opponent ("Satan" in Hebrew means "opponent") who is also Man's Great Deceiver ("diabolos" in Greek means "slanderer") for the Devil is "the father of lies." We also know that the Devil is everywhere and, as we are told (John 14:30), effectively rules the world. At the beginning of Job, at a great counsel of the angels or "Sons of God," Satan is among those who attend. When asked what he's been up to, he says, "Going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it." Who can doubt him when we read the News? Or, to be sure, when we honestly examine our own lives?

Mighty as the Devil is, he has just two arrows in his quiver. One is Sin, which is self-undoing; the other is Sorrow, which, at its sharpest, may shake our faith. And this the Devil knows. The Sins of the world are the unholy things we do to ourselves and others of our own free will. The Sorrows are "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," as Shakespeare calls them — afflictions that are not our doing, but which inevitably befall us because we belong to a world subject to accidents, natural disasters, disease, decay, and death.

Armed with Sin and Sorrow, then, what does the Devil do? The answer lies in the *root meaning* of his name. "Devil" is derived from "diabolos," a compound word ("dia" + "bolos") which means, literally, "one who throws himself across." So as we strive to make our way along the hard road to redemption, the Devil *throws himself across our path*. And as his path intersects our own, as it must (since we are fallen), it forms a cross. It is from that fell junction that the full meaning of the Cross is shown — of Christ, who bore our Sins and Sorrows, and the Cross of Life, that every one of us must bear.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF APRIL MEETING OF THE VESTRY

The Vestry met by zoom on April 21. Present were Alan, Steven, Rebecca, Jared, Chris and Carol (Clerk) and Bruce (Treasurer) and Darcey. Mary, Annie, Nancy and Rosie were absent.

The meeting began with a psalm and invitation from Rebecca for each to share thoughts and thanksgivings for spring.

The minutes were approved with a few changes.

Bruce Lawrence gave the Treasurer's report. The budget and expenses are in line with where they should be at 25% of the year.

Chris gave the Rector's report: There will be a celebration for Adwoa after the 10:15 service on June 12. Discussions are underway for her next undertaking after seminary. Darcey will be ordained into the Deaconate on June 4 in Burlington and Adwoa will be ordained into the Deaconate in Boston on June 4.

The Wardens' report included a report from Nancy who held the first Listening corner. Two suggestions were made: to not let the energy and spirit created by the Becoming Beloved Community seep away and to have a lawn welcome sign in various languages include that of our Afghan refugees.

Alan gave a report on the Building Hope — roof and solar project: They are awaiting proposals from three solar companies. The insulation consultant recommended air spacers under the new Sanctuary roof for an additional cost of \$10,000. The Vestry passed a motion to add this work and re-affirm its previous motion to have the work needed on the flat roof done at this time. Alan is hopeful that a completed scope of work and pricing for the entire project can be presented to the Vestry at their next meeting.

Steven gave an update on the Refugee Ministry: It is transitioning from the work of initial welcoming and settling of the families (St. Michael's has 4). The community center is being established on Birge St. where some families live. They are looking to give a

panel update on May 22 at the Adult Forum. Daniel Dobson and Jeff Lewis are creating a web page for this Ministry. Steven noted that St. Michael's has played a crucial role in the whole process and should be proud of the work done by all.

Becoming Beloved Community: Chris gave an update. We have finished the work of the Covenant Groups, but the initiative will continue. There will be a parish-wide discussion on May 21 at 10:00 on the topic of the portrait of Bishop Hopkins which remains in the main foyer. There are at least three alternatives: take it down, leave it up, or an in-between option.

Anything Else? COVID increase in numbers was discussed. A directive from the Bishop of Massachusetts was shared which encouraged churches to give a respite to their clergy and lay staff. It was recommended that our first response should be to open the windows and get outside!

Some members of the parish would like to see how we might keep the sculptures done by Susan Wilson. The Outreach Committee suggested that we have a Ministry Expo as we did pre-COVID to let parishioners know about the various on-going ministries.

Thank you cards will be written for the story tellers, Susan and Paul Dedell, Choir, Susan Wilson and Cellists (if we can get their addresses). The Vestry was thankful and moved by the whole of the Easter week offerings.

Jared let the closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR MAY

Sunday, May 1: Acts 9: 1–6, Psalm 30,
Revelation 5: 11–14, John 21: 1–19

Sunday, May 8: Acts 9: 36–43, Psalm 23,
Revelation 7: 9–17, John 10: 22–30

Sunday, May 15: Acts 11: 1–18, Psalm 148,
Revelation 21: 1–6, John 13: 31–35

Sunday, May 22: Acts 16: 9–15; Psalm 67;
Revelation 21: 10, 22 – 22:5; John 14: 23–29
or John 5: 1–9

Sunday, May 29: Acts 16: 16–34; Psalm 97;
Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21; John 17: 20–26

MAY 2022 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Holden McDowell
May 2	Francine Vellario
May 4	Carol Beninati, Bruce Landenberger
May 6	Mark Mayer
May 7	Diane Pitcher, Beatrice Johnson
May 8	Opal Mayer, Derek Daigneault
May 11	Brian Morgan, Diana Bingham, Julian Siegel
May 12	K.C. Mattson
May 17	Brian White, Clara Dutton
May 19	Susan Dyer
May 22	Oliver Pomazi, Lucy Barone-Benoit, Marek Barone-Benoit
May 23	Chloe Hull
May 26	James Crosson, Sylvester Mayer
May 27	Karin Bleecker
May 28	Evan Daigneault
May 29	Colby McGinn



ANNIVERSARIES

May 2	Karren & Steven Meyer
May 27	Teri Robinson & Ross Kinney

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@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 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)