

The Guardian

MAY 2023

FROM THE RECTORY

(sitting in a tree-)

o small you

sitting in a tree-

sitting in a treetop

riding on a greenest

riding on a greener

(o little i)

riding on a leaf

o least who

sing small thing

dance little joy

(shine most prayer)

—e. e. cummings

Easter greetings to you all! I give thanks that the Season of Easter coincides with the season of spring in the Western hemisphere, at least. I experienced a wonderful and profound Holy Week this year with many of you participating in music, Altar Guild preparations, Team Holy Week and many other ways, including deep prayer from inside the church and from our Church in the Cloud. This Holy Week was accompanied by a terrible tragedy in our Brattleboro community with the murder of Groundworks coordinator, Leah Rosin-Prichard. I think it is safe to say that we are all experiencing painful loss and confusion as we reckon with this and other episodes of violence that have occurred in our region. Holding this pain with the joy of Easter and the joy of spring is difficult and yet, this is where I am at this moment. I read this poem by e.e. cummings during the week after Easter and it gave me a sense of delight and hope even in these hard days. May it do the same for you.

Mary
 Mary Lindquist
 Rector

NEWS OF THE PARISH

**COMMUNITY LOVE WEAVING
FOR GROUNDWORKS****FRIDAY MAY 5, 5–7 PM****LOCATION AT GALLERY WALK
TO BE ANNOUNCED**

St. Michael's Episcopal Church is gifting community members with a concrete and tactile way to therapeutically express their love, their concern, and their healing wishes for those who work and reside at Groundworks. **A Community Love Weaving for Groundworks** will be displayed and created during Gallery Walk on Friday, May 5, from 5–7 pm. Helpers are needed to set up at 4 pm and clean up right after 7; people who can help are asked to contact Teresa Savel at teresasavel@yahoo.com. The exact location at Gallery Walk will be announced soon in the eNews. Everyone is invited to place their love and healing wishes into a provided ribbon and weave it into a sapling frame that upon completion will be given to Groundworks and serve as a tangible reminder that our love remains with them.

The intent of the Community Love Weaving is two-fold: 1) to create space giving individual community members a concrete and tangible way to express their love, their concern, and their healing wishes for those who work and reside at Groundworks and 2) to gift the finished weaving to Groundworks so that it may serve as a visible reminder that we, as a community, stand with them in love, in acknowledgement of their tragic loss, and in deep gratitude for all the ways they continue to serve those in need.

How the weaving will be created: Each person is invited to select a piece of ribbon from a vast array of colors and designs; next they silently infuse their ribbon with loving and healing wishes; and then they weave the ribbon into a 5'x7' frame of woven saplings. The more ribbons the more powerful and beautiful!

The colorful weaving can then find its perfect home at Groundworks where it can help them (and us) remember as they continue the healing process that they are not alone.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE
ST. MICHAEL'S TERRIFIC TAG SALE!!**

which will Benefit Groundworks Collaborative & The Windham County Heat Fund

SATURDAY, MAY 6–8:30 am–2 pm

- Please sign up to help us set up for the sale April 30–May 5, and/or on the Sale Day, May 6.
- No experience required — and it's fun and a great way to get to know each other better!
- You can sign up on the sheets on the table in the Common Room (top of the stairs) at Church.

Thank you so much!!

STM

**BISHOP'S VISITATION WITH
CONFIRMATIONS, MAY 7 AT 11 AM
(YES, 11 AM!)**

Bishop Shannon will be visiting St. Michael's for the first time since 2019! We have many adults and youth who will be confirmed at this service. Confirmation is a sacramental rite in the Episcopal Church only performed by bishops; it is also an adult affirmation of one's baptismal vows and an official way of joining the Episcopal Church. This is a very important celebration for St. Michael's!



- Please note that the services on May 7 will be at 8 am (no Bishop) and 11 am (with Bishop Shannon and Confirmations).
- We will have some coffee and snacks for those who would like to show up at our normal worship time (10:15 am)
- There will be a celebration in the Undercroft following the 11 am service when you can greet Bishop Shannon.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

BUILDING HOPE FOR THE EARTH UPDATE

Our Building Hope project took a small pause during the winter months, but has started up again in earnest now that spring has come!

- ARC Mechanical finished installing a heat pump system at the Rectory and mini-splits in most of the spaces in the church. This means that we will be using much less heating oil next winter and that we have the capacity to cool our offices and classrooms this summer. Electric energy is clean and renewable because once the solar panels are installed, we will be able to obtain most of our electric energy from the sun. Other sources of electric energy from Green Mountain Power come from hydro facilities in Quebec and Vermont.
- Phoenix Roofing is in the process of replacing the Bradley Wing roof. Insulation was also recently installed in the Bradley Wing, which will help us to prevent heat and cooling loss from the building.
- Once the roofing is finished in early May, Norwich Solar will be coming to install solar panels on the south-facing sides of the church, Bradley Wing and Rectory. This will mark the end of this phase of our Building Hope for the Earth Project! We are planning for a celebration sometime this summer.
- Finally, we received a \$10,000 grant from Vermont Interfaith Power and Light for our electrification project. This grant is in addition to the \$24,000 we received earlier from the same organization for the efficiency measures we have taken to move towards 100% clean, renewable energy.

Thanks to everyone who has supported this project through donations, prayers, expertise and love. To the extent to which a building can have emotions, the church building seems happy to me — relieved to be carrying less weight and strengthened to protect and hold the people, prayers and faith that it shelters.



NEWS OF THE PARISH

CHRIST CHURCH FUNDING REQUEST

Christ Church Guilford, St Michael's Mother Church, has an urgent funding request: the winter has been hard on the row of hemlock trees in front of the Church. Many are dead or dying and have become a hazard. The cost of removal is \$5800.

Can you help us with this unexpected expense? We would be so grateful. Please send your check, payable to CCGS, to Christ Church Guilford Society, 16 Bradley Ave, Brattleboro VT 05301 or donate online at <https://www.christchurchguilfordsociety.org/support-christ-church/donations-payments-deposits/>

Thank you very much. *The Board of Christ Church Guilford*

STM

MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

The Music Director Search Committee is in their second round of interviewing for St. Michael's next Music Director. Please pray for us in this time of discernment! We are hopeful we will find someone who will continue to grow and deepen the ministry of music at St. Michael's and who will delight in this work and in our community.

STM

Easter Egg Hunt

NEWS OF THE PARISH

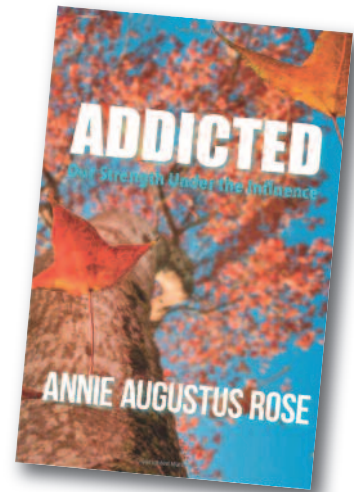
“ADDICTED: OUR STRENGTH UNDER THE INFLUENCE”*Susan Avery*

In the spring of 2016, a Recovery Sunday, I spoke to our St. Michael's congregation of my family's long and often challenging journey into recovery. I confirmed by our experience that addiction is a family disease. How could a single action of one individual affect the lives of so many? Forever.

And now, forward, seven years later.

I welcomed motherhood in 1968, and that title birthed my recently published memoir: “ADDICTED: Our Strength Under the Influence.” Due to the personal nature of our story, I am writing under a pen name to protect family members who are all so important to me. No matter how you interpret our journey, be assured, I love my family still and I still love my life here on earth.

An excerpt from the cover... *“Wait! What? Jamie. What did she just say? Heroin? Addicted? What the hell?” Those words, ‘words,’ would change the course of all our lives, yet until that day in September 1998, would I have had any reason to consider heroin or addiction a part of my family? Never. As our personal journeys began to collide and unfold concurrently, not in my wildest dreams would I have believed I would eventually come to know both of my children as addicts.*



Open to life's experiences, a meaningful journey can oft be traveled; life is your story to tell. Now, I didn't say it would be an easy walk, but what is to come, with an openness of heart, can and will unfold as it is meant to. What you will read between these pages is life happening in real time, family members struggling often just to survive. Revealing more about me as a mother who was shaken deeply to the core by at first this unknown assailant, you should be aware that I did not sit still but quickly dove in to learn more and more about this debilitating family disease called addiction. Through education, I now know that addiction is a disease, yet understanding the effects of this lived experience as it faced me down has been a lifelong process.

“In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity,” once said Albert Einstein.

I don't mean to say writing this book was my original intention, yet by instinctively listening, believing, doing God's work, as our family crisis grew, so did my opportunity.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

MEDITATIONS ON THE INNER LIFE OF WORDS, A SERIES

Benson Bobrick

“Whatever else we say when we pray, if we pray as we should, we are only saying what is already contained in the Lord’s prayer.” —St. Augustine

“And lead us not into temptation.” —The Lord’s Prayer

After more than two thousand years, the depth of our understanding of certain Biblical texts — including the holiest among them — continues to change. The texts themselves haven’t changed; or their teaching. But the translations continue to vary, along with our understanding of what the words mean.

In an earlier meditation, I talked about the phrase “daily bread,” which (depending upon how you understand the Greek words) may refer, more truly, to the “supersubstantial” Bread of Life. But that’s not really controversial. We all intuitively know that Christ was talking not only about the daily nourishment we need for our bodies but our souls.

A more challenging part of the Prayer is the verse: “And lead me not into temptation.”

What does this mean? Why would God ever lead anyone into temptation—or deliberately place them in a circumstance where they might fall? The answer is not obvious, and from Christ’s day to ours the verse has troubled many believers. James, the brother (or step-brother) of Christ, felt obliged to admonish some of the earliest Christians sternly when he wrote: “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.” (James, 1:13)

But that failed to quiet all souls.

Most of us think of ourselves as being tested by life, as we experience temptation and trial. (The word in Greek for both trial and temptation is the same.) Yet we also hope, whatever our failings, that we are purified and refined by the trials we undergo. But that is scarcely guaranteed. So the puzzle of the verse remains.

Some four centuries after Christ, St. Augustine sought to uncross this crux when he explained the relationship of free will to grace. And he did so, notably, with reference to this verse. Our will is free, he explained, but also fallen, so we can do nothing truly righteous without God’s help. Grace, he added, must be humbly and constantly prayed for. Only God can carry us through those temptations to which our will naturally tends. That is why the next verse in the Prayer reads: “But deliver [literally, “rescue”] us from evil,” for temptation ends in evil without God’s grace.

Although St. Augustine’s grasp of the implied meaning of the Prayer has been accepted as Christian doctrine, it is not, perhaps, generally understood. Even today some Christians have found in the verse an excuse for their sins. In response, Pope Francis recently approved a new translation to clarify its sense: “Abandon us not when in temptation.” As he explained: “I’m the one who falls. But it is not God who pushes me into temptation to see how I fall. That’s Satan’s department.”

And, of course, he’s right.

We can explore this even more deeply on linguistic grounds. We all encounter temptation — as did Christ Himself, in His human nature, as the New Testament makes clear. But whether we fall in temptation depends on God’s grace. And this agrees with the Greek. For the verb we somewhat mistranslate as “lead” (based on St. Jerome’s approximate Latin) means literally “to bring or carry in.” Why did Christ use that word? Because we are all in God’s hands.

So the full meaning of the verse is: “Carry us not in temptation unsupported by Thy grace.”

For it is only by God’s grace that we don’t fall.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF MARCH MEETING
OF THE VESTRY

The hybrid online and in-person meeting was called to order on March 16. Susan Heimer opened the meeting with prayer and a devotional.

The first item of business was discussing the parish's need for a clergy person to assist Mary in her duties. We are fortunate to have adwoa Wilson as our Assistant Priest, but the vestry recognizes the need to formalize the position. The needs of our parish and community for parochial support will only grow in the future, and the Vestry is committed to formalizing its ongoing support for such a position, recognizing the associated fiscal and organizational challenges.

Tom Cain presented the treasurer's report, and briefed the Vestry about the ongoing restructuring of how the parish does its financial reporting. Tom is working with our bookkeeper, Darlene Rutnik, and staff to make the bookkeeping, accounting and reporting processes more efficient, all while minimizing costs and disruption to the current functioning.

Mary gave the Rector's report. This year, she is enlisting parishioners as Holy Week Helpers, to organize some of the many tasks necessary during our many Holy Week observations and celebrations. The Endowment Committee is pleased to bring Jared Rediske on to the committee. She discussed upcoming events.

In her Senior Warden's Report, Annie tasked the vestry members to finalize their ministry liaison assignments for the coming year. We further discussed the formalization of the parish's commitment to assisting clergy.

Chris closed the meeting with a prayer.

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL MEETING
OF THE VESTRY

All members of the Vestry were present. Also attending was Rector Mary Lindquist, Treasurer Thomas Cain, and Clerk Carol Beninati. The devotional time was dedicated to reflects on "How has your faith been at work within you as you have come to terms with the

violence and loss of life at GroundWorks?"

Thomas Cain presented the budget reports. A small group will work with Mary and Tom to make the reports more readable.

The Rector's Report began with Mary's update on Holy Week and Easter, saying that she found it powerful and moving. Team Holy Week was a moving addition and will be used again. The Swords to Ploughshares presentation will be on Saturday April 29. Ret. Bishop Curry will conduct the forum and preach on Sunday April 30. The Vestry will serve as extra greeters and ushers. The Bishop's meeting with the Vestry will be May 3 at 6:30 via zoom. **The Bishop's Visitation will be May 7 at 11:00.** All are encouraged to bring substantial snacks for the reception after the service. The Music Director Search has identified candidates for further interview.

The Senior Warden's report began with an update on the Common Room project which should be completed late this summer. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this effort. Name tags will appear in the next few weeks. The Vestry will hold listening corners for the 8:00 service. Annie will discuss bringing back the Foyer Groups with folk who participated in the past.

The Junior Warden's reported that the Vestry is encouraged to begin discussing informally with others the possibility of an Assistant Priest. More formal conversations will be held after the Building Hope Project is finished (for now). The Building Hope Project is progressing nicely. Roofs are going on the Bradley Wing and Rectory. The solar panels will be up this summer.

Paul Gallagher reported on the Interfaith Refugee Ministry: a small group has been working on the Way Forward to create sustainability and a structure for the ministry. They are now evaluating options and will be developing a plan shortly.

Thank you notes were sent to the Altar Guild and Patty Meyer.

Steven read a moving poem and the meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Submitted by Chris Hart

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Holy Week

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR MAY

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

MAY 2023 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

May 1	Holden McDowell
May 2	Francine Vellario
May 4	Carol Beninati, Bruce Landenberger
May 5	Nancy Ames
May 7	Diane Pitcher, Beatrice Johnson
May 8	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
May 27	Karin Bleecker
May 28	Anne Black, Evan Daigneault
May 29	Colby McGinn



ANNIVERSARIES

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

LEADERSHIP

VESTRY

Annie Landenberger, *Senior Warden*

verbatimmt@gmail.com

802-348-7156

Chris Hart, *Junior Warden*

chrishart312@gmail.com

802-257-0452

Paul Gallagher

pkgall07@gmail.com

203-809-8531

Cary Gaunt

chg.watershed@gmail.com

802-734-5009

Steve Guerriero

guerrierosp@gmail.com

603-363-8006

Susan Heimer

heimer.susan@gmail.com

802-387-2650

Mary Lindquist

marydail7@gmail.com

802-254-6048

Alan McBean

amcbean57@gmail.com

802-254-6975

David Treadwell

davidtreadwell@me.com

734-657-0023

Rosie Wojcik

rosie@wojnet.org

802-246-1008

Tom Cain, *Treasurer*

tlcain2018@gmail.com

315-778-8461

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. (in-person and online)
WEEKDAYS	8:00 am	Morning Prayer (online) and Tues. & Wed. 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)