

# The Guardian

SUMMER 2023

## THIS IS OUR “SUMMER ISSUE” OF *THE GUARDIAN*

It has been a very active and productive year for St. Michael's! We are grateful for the many ministries God calls us to do and are grateful for God's call to sabbath rest. We are hoping that this summer will bring some much needed sabbath time to our staff and our parishioners. One way to cut back on the work is to have one issue of the *Guardian* for June and July. News and announcements will continue to go out via our eNews. In the meantime, the church is open and still abuzz with activity, but hopefully with a bit more spaciousness this summer.

## FROM THE RECTORY

### DWELLING IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD

*One thing have I asked of the LORD;  
one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days  
of my life;*

— Psalm 27:5

There are seasons in the life of our church when I think of these words by the psalmist. There are times when our life together is so full and intense that I tune into the desire to “dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.” One of these full and intense times is Holy Week, a time when we see much of each other and we are worshipping and praying so intently. It feels like the church is not just a place that we go to in order to do church things, but rather, it feels like our common home and we are living there together.

I was reminded of this psalm again during the first week of May, not because we were worshipping so intensely, but because we were working and coming together so much. The church was abuzz with people preparing for our annual Tag Sale. The choir was gathering to meet Music Director candidates. On Friday, St. Michael's folks were at Gallery Walk in town to invite people to participate in the Weaving Love for Groundworks project. On Saturday, we opened our doors for our Tag Sale, which was an amazing gift of love to our community with proceeds going 100% to Groundworks and the Windham County Heat Fund. There were so many people working and volunteering with such a sense of delight and joy. Yes, we were at church again and it was good. Then on Sunday May 7 with Bishop Shannon, we celebrated 13 people who were confirmed or received or who re-affirmed their baptismal vows. By the end of the week, it felt like we were living at the church, dwelling in the house of the Lord together. And it was all joy.

When we return to our own dwellings once again in the much needed, less intense season, I remember with fondness dwelling and being in close communion with you all. And I look forward to the next time it feels like we are dwelling together in the house of the Lord.

*Mary*  
Mary Lindquist  
Rector

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

*Bishop's visit*

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**PARISH BREAKFAST TRINITY SUNDAY, JUNE 4**

St. Michael's Outreach Ministry invites parishioners to a delectable breakfast on Trinity Sunday. The proceeds will be donated to the Community Asylum Seekers Project (CASP).

**When?** 9–10 am, between services on Sunday, June 4.

**Where?** Undercroft.

**Charge?** \$5 per capita; \$15 for a family of three or more.

Bring your appetite!

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**A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR  
BRATTLEBORO AND ST. MICHAEL'S  
JUNE 4 AND 5**

A volume of The Saint John's Bible will be at St. Michael's from the afternoon of Saturday, June 3 through Sunday, June 4. This beautiful piece of devotional work is the first hand-illuminated bible created in over 500 years.

It will be available for viewing from 8:30 am–1 pm Sunday or by appointment at other times. To make an appointment to view the Saint John's Bible between 2 pm and 9 pm on Saturday or between 1 pm and 9 pm on Sunday, please contact David Treadwell at (734) 657-0023.

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

From the website, stjohnsbible.org: “In 1998, Saint John's Abbey and University commissioned renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson to produce a hand-written, hand-illuminated Bible. We can explore this work of art that unites an ancient Benedictine tradition with the technology and vision of today, illuminating the Word of God for a new millennium.”

We have invited members of the wider Brattleboro community to share the opportunity with us.



### ADULT FORUMS IN JUNE

**June 4** — No Forum this day. Join in the Outreach Breakfast or view the St. John's Bible.

**June 11** — **Pride Sunday Forum**

**June 18** — **“Faith Under Occupation: The Plight of Indigenous Christians in the Holy Land”:**

Parishioner John Lent will talk about his years of working with the Palestinian Christian community as Executive Director of The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ), a non-profit that supports the 25 humanitarian ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem – schools, hospitals and rehabilitation centers in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel. He will share videos, photos and stories from his travel and work in this volatile part of the world.

**June 25** — **“Loaves and Fishes”** — Come and hear where Jesus lives at a sacred place called Loaves and Fishes. There will be photos and a discussion of the struggles and miracles of our joint church mission with Centre Congregational Church. Led by Ruth Tilghman and David Treadwell.



### PRIDE SUNDAY, SUNDAY JUNE 11, AT 8 AND 10:15

St. Michael's will be celebrating Pride Sunday on June 11 this year. For this occasion, the Reverend John

Michael Longworth, a member of our “Church in the Cloud,” will be preaching at 8 and 10:15 am.

*The Rev. John Michael Longworth, OEF (The Order of Ecumenical Franciscans) currently serves as the Grant Writer and Foundation Specialist for COTS. In this role, they steward institutional and corporate giving for COTS (Committee on Temporary Shelter in Burlington) and partner with program staff to develop achievable goals and measures of success. Previously they served as the co-founder and developer of Companions in Wholeness in Rutland VT, a community outreach to people experiencing homelessness that included a day program, free breakfast café, case management support, street-based chaplaincy and campsite visitation. John Michael is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and of Trinity College in Hartford, CT. They are a trained spiritual director and counselor and believe firmly in the power of trauma-informed holistic care to transform lives and that everyone deserves a place to call home. For more information about their Spiritual Direction practice: <https://www.sdicompanions.org/sdi-profile/GreenMtFriarOEF/>*



### SUNDAE SUNDAY CELEBRATION FOR KIDS, TEACHERS AND FAMILIES SUNDAY, JUNE 11 FOLLOWING THE 10:15 AM SERVICE IN THE RECTORY YARD



Come and celebrate the end of school with an ice cream celebration in the Rectory Yard! All kids, parents, families and teachers are invited to join in a time of fellowship, play and food. We especially want to honor our Godly Play and Holy Mayhem teachers by showering them with our thanks for their dedication and love for St. Michael's children and youth.





## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**JOHN LENT, FORMER DIRECTOR  
OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM,  
TO PREACH ON JUNE 18**

John Lent, a new parishioner at St. Michael's, served as Executive Director of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) for seven years. We are honored to have John share his ministry in the Middle East with us on June 18, both as our preacher and as the leader of the Adult Forum.

John retired from AFEDJ at the end of 2022 and now works as a special assistant to Archbishop Hosam Naoum, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem. AFEDJ is an independent non-profit that supports the 25 humanitarian ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem — schools, hospitals and rehabilitation centers in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.

The Palestinian Anglican community lives and works in the place where Jesus taught and ministered, now a region of conflict, brokenness and distrust. Today, Christians are only 1% of the population of Palestine — The West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem — and 2% of the population of the state of Israel. Yet, through their faith, resilience and humanitarian outreach to people of all religions, ethnicities and economic circumstances, they have outsized influence in advancing peace and reconciliation in this volatile part of the world.



**EXCITING CHRIST CHURCH UPDATES!**

- Bring your blanket or chair at **7:00 pm on Thursday, June 1**, for a free concert by the BUHS Jazz Band! Relax, bring kids, enjoy the music, and congratulate Steve Rice on his long career as an educator and performer. The band will play favorite music they have been working with this year. Lemonade and snacks will be donated by the Guilford Country Store. We will also offer guests a peek inside the historic sanctuary while the building is closed for repairs.

- The Christ Church Guilford Society has received a \$20,000 matching grant from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation to conduct necessary repairs to the roof of our classic 1817 building. We are also receiving significant financial assistance from the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont.
- We've applied for several other grants to bolster the VDHP match, but we are counting on community support to complete these repairs and reopen our historic building. Please consider a donation through our secure website (<https://www.christchurchguilfordsociety.org/support-christ-church/donations-payments-deposits/>) or by check to CCGS, 16 Bradley Ave, Brattleboro VT 05301.
- We are planning another outdoor concert, featuring local musicians, to celebrate all the individuals who have been lost over the last several years, whether due to Covid-19 or under other circumstances. Check out our website's Home page (<https://www.christchurchguilfordsociety.org/>) for updates!
- Another exciting initiative is the 1817 Legacy Society! 1817 Legacy Society members are responsible and caring donors who have remembered Christ Church Guilford in their estate plans. The Legacy Society will support historic Christ Church Guilford, its activities and its preservation for years to come. To learn more about becoming a member, go to <https://www.christchurchguilfordsociety.org/support-christ-church/legacy-society>.



**LET THE SUN SHINE IN  
THE SOLAR PANELS ARE COMING!**

We have reached a very important milestone in our Building Hope for the Earth Project. The sanctuary, Bradley Wing and Rectory roofs have all been replaced. The sanctuary and Bradley Wing have also been thoroughly insulated. The heat pumps and mini-

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

splits have been installed, transforming our heating and cooling to (almost) all electric. We are finally ready for the solar panels that will power our electrical systems. Yay!

Norwich Solar plans to begin the installation of solar panels on the south-facing roofs of the sanctuary, Bradley Wing and Rectory in June. We hope to begin receiving power from the sun in July. Finally, we are planning a big celebration for the Building Hope Project and campaign on Thursday, August 31, one year after we kicked off our capital campaign.

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## FOYER GROUPS ARE BACK!

Many among us have wonderful memories of experiences, laughter, support, inquiry, and caring shared over St. Michael's Foyer Group meals in the past. A great way to get to know each other outside of regular Sunday activities, Foyer Groups will thus be forming again as a means of deepening fellowship within our parish family.

Here's how it works: Let us know you're interested and what your preferences are. We'll then form the groups of 6–10 — unless you'd like to form your own. Over a period of 6–8 months, each participant will host their group for a meal. Meals can be simple, grand, or potluck, and can be hosted at home or at an agreed upon location.

We are aiming for a late summer start. So if you'd like to join in, please write Annie Landenberger at [verbatimvt@gmail.com](mailto:verbatimvt@gmail.com) by July 1 with the following information:

- name (s)
- email
- phone

And do you prefer to gather with...

- any configuration of a group
- families with kids
- couples

- singles
- LGBTQ+
- a group of your own making

Other special requests? Any group size limitations?

Groups will be formed, a point person named, and contact info shared by August 1. From there groups are encouraged to begin gathering. After six months, we'll take a month or so off and then re-group, though some groups might choose to carry on.

Here's to sustenance in its many satisfying forms!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE PICNIC,  
AUGUST 27!

Kate & Dana McGinn have graciously offered to host St. Michael's Annual Picnic again this summer. Please mark your calendars for the afternoon of Sunday, August 27 and plan to attend this special and super-fun gathering!

STM



*Jennifer and assistant at Parks Place on Monday*



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY TAG SALE!**

On Saturday May 6, after two weeks of rain, the sun came out in Brattleboro, Vermont. It was a beautiful day, perfect timing for the 50th anniversary of the St. Michael's Episcopal Church Terrific Tag Sale. The first Tag Sale in 1973 was put on by some young mothers with a few tables of children's used clothes to exchange. The 2023 version was a bit bigger. People were lined up well ahead of the 8:30 am opening time and the minute the sale opened, they were eager to rush into the outside tents to go through the array of clothing and furniture and into the church basement where there were big displays of housewares, jewelry, linens, books and very tasty food.

Most items other than food, furniture and jewelry were not priced and customers were invited to take as much as they wanted, to fill up bags or boxes, in exchange for any amount of money they wished to donate. This year the Tag Sale was a fundraiser for both Groundworks Collaborative and the Windham County Heat Fund, two critical local non-profits which help people in need.

The total amount raised at the sale surprised even the organizers — approximately \$10,500! This means that, after expenses, St. Michael's will be able to donate approximately \$6,000 to Groundworks and \$4,000 to the Heat Fund.

The Tag Sale Team of St. Michael's has worked since January to organize this sale. People have spent countless hours sorting through clothes, linens and housewares donations, reviewing and picking up furniture, checking over and organizing books and jewelry, and cooking delicious food. Putting on this sale once a year is a huge job, but it is made possible and fun by the many volunteers, from St. Michael's and from the community, who work together to make it happen. Big thanks to everyone who pitched in to help make the 2023 Terrific Tag Sale successful and to everyone who attended the Tag Sale and donated so generously!



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

## SUMMARY OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE VESTRY

All members of the Vestry were present. Also attending were Rector Mary Lindquist, Treasurer Thomas Cain, and Clerk Carol Beninati.

Tom Cain presented the **budget** reports. Finances for April showed “nothing surprising.” We were over budget in terms of income due primarily to up-front payment of pledges. It was noted that we are near the end of paying for major Building Hope project expenses. The need for an audit was reiterated; preliminary research is underway for this.

The devotional time let by Cary Gaunt called us to reflect on an excerpt from Pope’s Francis’ encyclical letter of May 2015 on Care for Our Common Home (available online). Shared reactions yielded fruitful discussion after which Cary asked us how we as vestry sow seeds of beauty.

In her **Rector’s Report**, Mary reported on the **Music Director search**: two candidates came to visit in early May and we are moving forward with an offer. Securing affordable housing is an issue for anyone moving to our area. Mary, Jeanie, and Adwoa are working on a **Lilly Endowment** application which aims at supporting lay leaders in rural churches. Awarded to help create thriving congregations, the proposed program aims to nurture spiritual practice, connection, and growth among the lay. We will not be applying for the Diocesan Grant again this year. **Pride Sunday** will be celebrated June 11. Preaching will be John Michael Longworth, a Methodist minister and a member of the ecumenical Order of Franciscans. Currently working as a grant writer in Rutland, he’s been a member of our church in the cloud for several months. **John Lent**, retired Executive of American Friends of Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and part-time Dover resident, will preach June 18. Solar panel installation will begin in early June, an important last step in this phase of **Building Hope for the Future**. A celebration of the completion of this portion of the project is slated for August 31. (A discussion of snow guards on the roofs ensued — if, when and where to install them. It was decided we should wait to see if they’re needed). Mary visited Loaves and Fishes recently and was heartened to see so many St. Michael’s people helping on site. That mission has expanded within Centre Church to use all spaces available to them. We want to make sure we’re supportive of **Loaves and Fishes**, and we are working to that end with Centre Congregational. An Adult Forum on Loaves and Fishes will be held in the near future. **Christ Church** received a grant for \$20K for maintenance and capital improvements. Roughly \$7K was raised for the required match, the balance of which has been granted in a loan from the Diocese, which owns the Christ Church building.

**Senior Warden’s Report:** The **Common Room** makeover is underway with a projected completion date set for September 1. Stay tuned for progress reports. **Name Tags** will be available for all to wear at coffee hour and other gatherings — if/as you wish — starting Sunday, May 28. **Listening Corners** continue Sunday June 4 when Vestry member Steve Guerriero will host after the 8 am service. Mark your calendars! The **Parish Picnic** will be Sunday, August 27, once again at Kate & Dana McGinn’s home at Spofford Lake and thanks to their generous hospitality. Stay tuned! Foyer Groups redux! See the write-up in this month’s *Guardian*.

**Junior Warden’s Report:** Chris Hart focused the discussion on staffing needs of the church and why extra help is needed. How can we ensure the continuation of the **Assistant Priest position** as an essential and enriching member of our staff? A motion was made and passed: “To lead a parish task force to transition from a grant-based assistant priest position to a more secure and permanently funded one.”

**Building Hope update:** Alan McBean added another note about solar panel funding. Clarity is being established moving forward with the parishioners who are buying the panels which they will own for five years and then donate back to the church.



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**Interfaith Refugee Ministry:** Paul Gallagher reported that planning for a sustainable model for St Michael's Refugee Ministry is now moving to form a Resource Committee to capitalize on our acquired experience in supporting New Americans. So far Jean Smith, Jeff Lewis, Elizabeth Fisher, Steve Guerriero, Paul Gallagher, Robin Manning and Christopher Wesolowski have agreed to make this a reality so we have the skills, training, and volunteers to welcome new families in our Refugee Ministry.

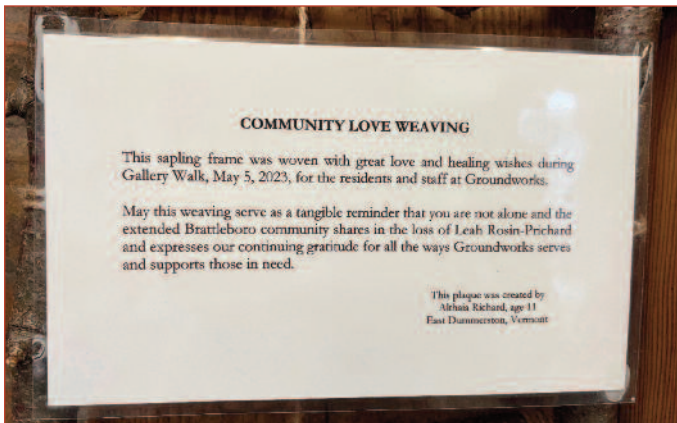
**Mission and Outreach** reports that a volume of The Saint John's Bible will be at St. Michael's from the afternoon of Saturday, June 3 through Sunday, June 4. This beautiful piece of devotional work is the first hand-illuminated bible created in over 500 years. More info at [saintjohnsbible.org](http://saintjohnsbible.org)."

The Vestry offers many thanks to Liz Vick and all the Terrific Tag Sale volunteers for extraordinary effort, dedication, and service to the greater good.

Rosie brought us to a contemplative close with two beautiful prayers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annie Landenberger, Sr. Warden

*Community Love Weaving Project for Groundworks*





## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## LECTIONARY FOR THE SUMMER

To see all the readings for each Sunday, go to <http://www.lectionarypage.net/#june> and  
<http://www.lectionarypage.net/#july>

You will find there the collects, lessons and psalms for each Sunday and feast day.

## JUNE 2023 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, Ed McCatty
June 11	Martha Moravec, Susan Gantt
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, Yoojin Lee
June 23	Craig Hammond, adwoa 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 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

## JULY 2023 CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Meaghan Landin, William Stearns, Patrick Ackerman-Hovis
July 2	Beth Houder
July 3	Rosie Wojcik
July 4	Matthew Wojcik
July 5	Thea Porter, Rebecca Porter
July 6	Duncan Hilton
July 7	Lori Palmer, Joanne Patalano
July 8	Judith McGee
July 9	Anita Crosson, Irene Burtis
July 11	David Treadwell
July 12	Ann Switzer
July 13	Jessica Mattson, Beth Ruane
July 14	Marian Wojcik, David Carr
July 16	Olivia Capponcelli
July 20	Richard Gauthier
July 22	Susan Wilmott
July 25	Phillip Wilson
July 27	Kerry Capponcelli
July 30	Shirley Hodgdon



## ANNIVERSARIES

July 1	Pam & David Carr
July 13	Susan & Paul Dedell
July 20	Susan & Phillip Wilson
July 23	Mary Lindquist & Kurt Johnson
July 26	Susan Heimer & Tim Ragle
July 27	Ann & Douglas Switzer, Kiersten McKenney & John Byrnes



*The Guardian* is published monthly by St. Michael's Episcopal Church. News items, announcements, articles, etc. should be submitted to [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto: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](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 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)