

The Guardian

AUGUST 2023

FROM THE RECTORY

HOLY RECREATION

We at St. Michael's have been taking advantage of the first, somewhat relaxed summer in a few years: picnics, celebrations, baby birds and baptisms. "Yay for summer" has been my mantra.

Summer reminds me of the importance of rest, play and connecting with one another for maintaining our right relationship with God. Indeed, God shows us in the creation story both the value of work and rest. My favorite lines from the "Morning has broken" hymn are stanza 3:

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!*

This last line always reminds me that "recreation" is really re-creation. In our rest and delight, God re-creates us for joy and praise.

These days also remind me of when my family and I first moved to Brattleboro in 2011. We arrived in town in the middle of July (as soon as our crate from Hawaii was delivered), and I celebrated my first Sunday with you on July 31, 2011. I remember how warmly welcomed we felt as we began this new chapter in our lives in the midst of the summer.

I can't help but think of our arrival as we prepare to welcome our new Director of Music, Keane Southard, and his wife and son, Diane and Theron. The Southard family will be moving from Ohio at the end of July. Keane will have his first Sunday with us on August 13. I hope you will all join us in welcoming the Southard family that Sunday and staying for a special reception following the 10:15 am service.

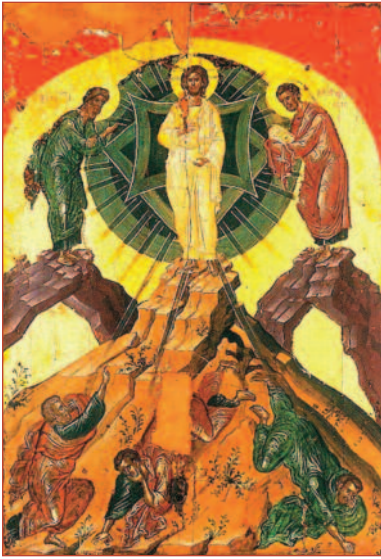
In addition to Keane, St. Michael's will be welcoming an old friend, the Reverend Lars Hunter, as our official deacon beginning on August 6. Lars has been serving as St. Michael's deacon occasionally throughout this last year, as Bishop Shannon and Lars discerned where he might offer his gifts in an official capacity. We are grateful that Lars will be serving at St. Michael's as our deacon, helping with Sunday liturgies most Sundays and serving on the Pastoral Care Team.

I hope that a summer start for Keane and Lars will allow them to ease into the fullness of St. Michael's life and ministry, as they experience our welcome, delight and some holy recreation.

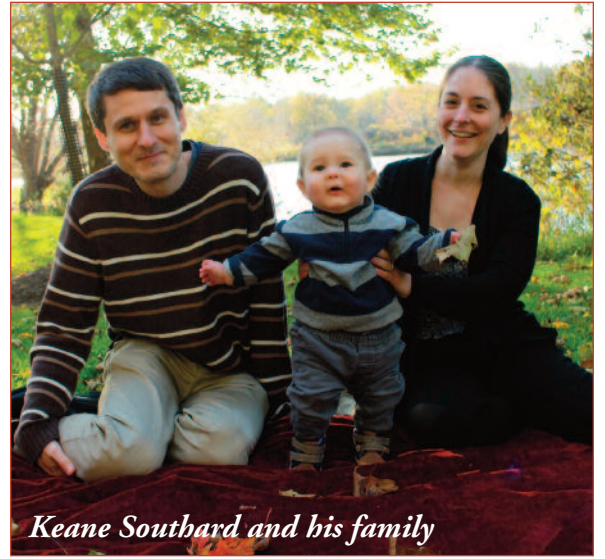
Yay summer!

Mary
Mary Lindquist
Rector

NEWS OF THE PARISH



Rev. Lars Hunter



Keane Southard and his family

**THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
TO BE CELEBRATED ON AUGUST 6**

The Feast of the Transfiguration lands on a Sunday this year, so we will step out of “Ordinary Time” to celebrate this feast that commemorates the transfiguration of Jesus. To add to the celebration, we will also recognize the Music Director Search Committee of Karen Guthrie, Susan Heimer, Jenny Karstad and Greg Lesch for their hard work and welcome the Reverend Lars Hunter to St. Michael’s staff to serve as our deacon!

STM

**BENEFIT CONCERT FOR LOAVES & FISHES
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 6:30-8:30**

Bard Owl, Annie Landenberger and Breeze Verdant, will do a benefit concert for Loaves & Fishes as part of the Springs Farm Music Under the Maples series. Special guest: story teller Mary Wallace Collins.

Come to 49 Carpenter Road in Guilford, bring a lawn chair and a picnic! Admission by donation on a sliding scale: \$10–\$20.

STM

**WELCOME KEANE, DIANE AND THERON!
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**

Calling all St. Michael’s folks! We know many of you will be vacationing out of town, but will those who are available please come to St. Michael’s 10:15 service on August 13 to welcome our new music director, Keane Southard and his family. We will have a festive welcome reception following the 10:15 service. All are welcome!

STM

**THE ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
IS COMING AUGUST 27!**

On Sunday August 27, we will celebrate summer with our Annual Parish Picnic. Please join us for this



NEWS OF THE PARISH



celebration at Kate & Dana McGinn's beautiful home on Lake Spofford from 12–4 pm. Please bring a side dish or dessert and your bathing suit for swimming and outdoor activities. There are also plenty of chairs for porch-sitting.

Directions to the McGinn's house will be available at the church.

Please RSVP by August 20 by emailing Kate at kjmcginn17@gmail.net or by signing up in the Common Room.



BUILDING HOPE UPDATE

With the recent flooding in Vermont, we are more aware than ever of the terrible effects of our exploitation of the earth's resources leading to climate change. It feels so good to do what we can at St. Michael's to transform our reliance on fossil fuels to clean renewable energy. St. Michael's parishioners have been so generous in supporting this important initiative. Below is a run-down of where we are right now in our Building Hope work:

What have we accomplished so far?

- replaced the Sanctuary roof, the Bradley Wing roof and half of the Rectory roof;

- added insulation to the Sanctuary roof and sealed and insulated the Bradley Wing attic;
- installed mini splits to the most frequently used spaces in the church, for heating and cooling with electricity;
- installed a heat pump heating and cooling system to the Rectory; and
- finished the conversion to LED lighting.

What has still to be done in this phase of the Building Hope Project?

- After a two-month delay, the solar panels are scheduled to be installed on the south-facing roofs of the Sanctuary, Bradley Wing and Rectory in August.
- The flat roof that connects the Sanctuary to the Bradley Wing is set to be replaced as soon as we get some continuous dry weather.

What is the long-term plan?

- Eventually, we hope to install heat pump technology to heat and cool the Sanctuary and Undercroft.
- While our onsite solar panels should cover the majority of our electrical use, we expect to invest in a solar array offsite in order to reach our goal of obtaining 110% of St. Michael's energy needs and tithing 10% back to our community.



*BUHS Jazz Band
Concert at Christ
Church, Guilford*

NEWS OF THE PARISH

FORMING A NEW ST. MICHAEL'S TRANSPORTATION TEAM

Now that we are gathering in person more and more, we have some St. Michael's parishioners who do not drive but who would like to come to church occasionally. We also have parishioners who sometimes need help going to and from medical appointments. Might you be willing to offer rides occasionally to St. Michael's parishioners?

Here is how it works:

- Sign up to be on the Transportation Team by contacting Mary Lindquist.
- As requests for transportation come up, we will email the team to see if anyone might be available to offer transportation.
- We will connect you to the person/people who need rides and the team member will arrange details of pick-up, etc.

This is a wonderful way to serve St. Michael's community on an "as you can" basis. Please email or call Mary at mary@stmichaelsvermont.org or 802-254-6048, ext. 104 if you are interested in being part of the Transportation Team.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- **August 6** — We celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration, welcome the Reverend Lars Hunter and recognize the Music Director Search Committee
- **August 13** — We welcome our new Music Director, Keane Southard, and his family and celebrate with a festive reception following the 10:15 am service.
- **August 27, 12–4 pm** — St. Michael's Annual Picnic at the McGinn's Residence on Spofford Lake
- **September 3** — The beginning of the Season of Creation, September 1–October 4.
- **September 10** — The beginning of the program year, with Sunday School, Adult Forum and Sunday Choir resuming.



Outreach Pancake Breakfast



NEWS OF THE PARISH

SUMMARY OF THE JUNE 15TH MEETING OF THE VESTRY

The in-person meeting was called to order at the home of Annie Landenberger. Alan led a devotional reflection on the refugee experience in America and said an opening prayer.

Jeff Lewis and Jean Smith gave the vestry an update on the refugee ministry. Over 50 parishioners and many other members of our community continue to provide aid and assistance to our many new Americans. They gave a brief overview of the challenges that face the ongoing ministry, including a lack of housing and upcoming changes in the Federal program that oversees refugee resettlement. The desire of the volunteers to help runs deep, but they can't do it all indefinitely, so new people are needed. A committee, headed by Paul Gallagher, has been set up to oversee the ministry as it moves forward.

Treasurer's Report: Income and expenses are generally in line with budget expectations. Tom continues to streamline the reporting process and some modification to bookkeeping procedures are necessary.

Rector's Report: The Vestry spent time considering the changes to the needs of our neighbors impacted by the State of Vermont's decreasing support of the hotel program. Many people are finding themselves in a state of housing precarity, and as Christians, we are called to help. The Vestry is exploring how best to do that.

The solar panels, which were slated to be installed in June, are delayed, pending a review by the Diocese.

Senior Warden's Report: The Common Room project plans are still coming together. Look for changes soon! Some of the updated photos are now on the photo wall, but this is only a part of what will be coming. Many parishioners now have name tags, which are available during coffee hour.

Cary closed by reading the poem "Clearing" by Martha Postlethwaite.

*David
Treadwell*

**SUMMARY OF THE JULY MEETING OF THE VESTRY**

The online meeting was called to order on July 20th. Mary was on vacation so Annie Landenberger moderated the meeting and opened with prayer and a devotional.

Tom Cain presented the treasurer's report which showed that income and expenses are close to budget for the first half of 2023. Changes are continuing to make the financial statements more functional. Importantly, Tom recommended that a Covid relief payment be used as a rainy-day fund in a money market account at Greenfield

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Savings Bank paying 5% versus alternatives at .05%. The vestry passed a resolution authorizing the new account. It also agreed to eliminate a credit card service that costs \$200 per month for paying pledges since it is not used.

Mary had provided a written Rector's report, which is summarized here.

- Keane Southard, and his wife, Diane, and their son, Theron, are moving to Brattleboro on July 30. Keane will start on August 8 with his first service as Music Director on August 13.
- Lars Hunter will be officially starting as St. Michael's deacon on August 6; he will be with us 2-3 Sundays a month.
- To address the transportation needs within the congregation, a call will go out to seek a few volunteers to drive people to church as well as medical appointments.
- The Healing Team will be launching a book study this fall open to all.
- Our Fall Kick-off Sunday will be September 10, with a Sunday School Open House and Choir practice resuming.

In Annie's Senior Warden's Report, the key topics were:

- The Common Room renovation project is moving forward.
- The Porta-Potty for the homeless, which had previously been addressed by the vestry, was discussed at length. The current need appears to have been addressed by hotel housing being re-authorized, although at a lower level, and the availability of sanitary facilities elsewhere. With this additional time, contacts with Ground Works, the town, and Centre Congregational Church, which currently provides space and services to support a facility, will be made to inform a recommendation by the vestry if the need arises again.
- Foyer Group sign-up has been steady; we welcome more to sign up.

Chris Hart delivered the Junior Warden's Report:

- The parish picnic will be Sunday, August 27th at the McGinn residence on Spofford Lake.
- The installation of the solar panels now can proceed since the diocese has approved the financial arrangement. The Vestry expressed its gratitude to Lawrin Crispe, who represented St. Michael's pro bono.

Annie closed the meeting with a prayer.

Paul Gallagher

Sunday School Celebration



EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

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

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

AUGUST 2023 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

August 2	Caleb Fritz, Noah Coburn, Laura Frey
August 11	Christine Triebert
August 16	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



LEADERSHIP

VESTRY

Annie Landenberger, *Senior Warden*
 verbatimvt@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*
 tl Cain2018@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.–Thurs. 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)