

# The Guardian

SEPTEMBER 2023

FROM THE RECTORY



## SEASON OF CREATION

### THE SEASON OF CREATION

This fall, St. Michael's will join with millions of Christians around the world to celebrate, for the second year, the Season of Creation. The movement, which began in the Eastern Orthodox Church and spread widely among Protestant, Catholic and Anglican congregations, is observed every year from September 1–October 4 (St. Francis' feast day, which will be celebrated on Sunday, October 8 at St. Michael's). With the devastating floods, fires and storms of this last summer, the call to engage directly with the reality of climate change and our place in God's creation is more urgent than ever.

Beginning with our Sunday liturgy on September 3, we will integrate prayers, readings, music, sermons and a Eucharistic Prayer that reflect:

- our sorrow and repentance for the ways we participate in the exploitation and destruction of the earth,
- a renewed commitment to the transformation of our own relationship with God's creation,
- and a pledge, with God's grace, to work for the healing and restoration of the earth.

On September 17, we will welcome a special preacher, Mary Colleen Sinnott. Mary Colleen is a member of the Church of the Woods in Canterbury, New Hampshire and has been involved in eco-spirituality for decades. In addition, she has worked as a hospital and college chaplain and is connected to the L'arche Community in Syracuse, New York, as a member of their Spiritual Life Team.

We hope you will join us for this special season!

*Mary*  
Mary Lindquist  
Rector

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**KIDS & YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION  
KICK-OFF SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 10, 9:30–10 AM  
THE RECTORY YARD**

Back to school means back to formation programs for children and youth at St. Michael's. Our hope is that every child experience God's love and know how precious they are to God and to us in the church!

On Sunday September 10, please come at 9:30 for games and food, to register for Sunday School, and to get inspired for this new year in the life of our church. At 10 am, kids will be invited to the church to begin new classes (see below).



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**SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**Nursery Care** (ages 0–3, every Sunday) is open beginning at 10 am on Sundays. Childcare is provided by our two lovely Nursery staff, Kaitlin and Blue. You are welcome to have your kids stay in the nursery throughout the 10:15 am service or pick them up at The Peace (middle of the service) to share Holy Communion.

**Godly Play** (ages 3–9) meets Sundays at 10:10 am during the first half of the 10:15 am worship service. Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired Christian formation program based on the recognition that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that enhances the child's authentic experience of God so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world. Children then join their parents during the Peace so that they may participate in Holy Communion with the rest of the congregation.

**Upper El**, a Christian formation program for children and youth Grades 4–6, is offered from 10:10–10:45am on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We explore one biblical story for each two-week cycle,

using a different learning approach each week (art, drama, video, story, science, dance, music, computer, or cooking). Our hope is to provide a time of active engagement with the stories of the Bible and with one another.

**St. Michael's Youth Group** (for kids 6th–12th Grade) will be held on the Third Sundays of the month from beginning at 10:10. (In September, the Youth Group will meet on September 10 & 17). St. Michael's Youth Group will focus on service projects this year and may even build something together! Please come for the first class on September 10 to brainstorm ideas for the year.

**Interfaith Youth Group** (ages 13–18) — There is also a relaunch of the Brattleboro area Interfaith Youth Group starting on Sunday evening September 10, from 5-7pm at the Guilford Pavilion. Please see announcement below!

**Age Overlap** — *You may notice that there is an age overlap for some of the classes. Please choose what is the best fit for your child. Because Youth Group and Workshop Rotation do not meet every week, it is possible for your child to participate in different classes/offerings.*

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**GREETINGS FROM KEANE, ST. MICHAEL'S  
MUSIC DIRECTOR**

*Keane, Diane and Theron Southard arriving in Brattleboro.*

Diane, Theron, and I thank you all for your welcoming us into the St. Michael's community and for the wonderful reception we have received here. We are thrilled to be here and look forward to becoming integral members of both the church and wider Brattleboro communities.

I am looking forward to making music with our

choir soon! We will begin choir rehearsal on Sunday morning September 10, but the choir will not sing together in the service until the following Sunday, September 17, so that I can have a little more time with the choir before performing.

While I'm excited by all of the great things I have heard about the choir, I would like to encourage more parishioners to sing with us so that all who want to may participate. With that in mind, in addition to our regular Sunday morning rehearsals, I am planning to begin offering an optional weekly choir rehearsal on a weeknight that will focus on developing singing and musicianship skills in addition to rehearsing the music for each Sunday. This will likely start up in early October (date TBA). The idea is that those who enjoy singing but don't yet feel ready to perform with the choir can build up their skills and confidence until they feel comfortable enough to join on Sundays (although established choir members are highly encouraged to attend as well!)

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email me at [keane@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:keane@stmichaelsvermont.org) or catch me after the 10:15 service.

**BRATTLEBORO AREA INTERFAITH YOUTH  
GROUP RE-LAUNCH  
SEPTEMBER 10, 5-7 PM  
THE GUILFORD COMMUNITY PARK  
PAVILION**

Young people, ages 13-18 in the greater Brattleboro area are invited to attend the re-launch of an interfaith youth group on Sunday, September 10 from 5 to 7 pm at the Guilford Community Park Pavilion, supported by various local faith communities. Youth: Come check it out and bring a friend!

During the kick-off, individuals will get to know each other through games, share a pizza meal and explore which activities they'd be interested in pursuing one Sunday afternoon a month this coming year.

Past groups have tackled community service projects, social justice issues, learned about different faith traditions, canoe and camped together, held overnight "Lock-Ins" locally, attended youth leadership conferences and explored New York City's diversity and rich traditions. The goal for this group is to build leadership skills and friendships among young people who care and want to make a difference in their communities.

In the past decade, youth have taken a service trip each year to places as diverse as New Orleans, Kenya, St. Croix, El Salvador and the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in S. Dakota, with the group fundraising to support each venture and to insure its affordability.

The Guilford Community Park Pavilion is located at 24 Church St. in Guilford, VT. If inclement weather, the gathering will move indoors. Come share ideas! For more information, contact Nanci Leitch at 802-258-8348 or email: [nanci.leitch@gmail.com](mailto:nanci.leitch@gmail.com)



## NEWS OF THE PARISH

### HEALING PRAYER 6-WEEK BOOK STUDY THURSDAYS, 4–5:15 PM BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 21

Are you interested in the relationship of prayer to healing? In the stories of healing in the gospels? In St. Michael's Ministry of Healing Prayer? If so, please join us for a six-week book study, beginning Thursday, September 21. We will be reading *Healing in the Landscape of Prayer*, by Avery Brooke. One reviewer wrote:

*"Healing in the Landscape of Prayer is an excellent introductory text that emphasizes the ministry of healing as one of the primary works of the church and the believer. It traces the history of healing as an artifact of baptism and provides a glimpse from the early church in which physical healing occurred to later developments in which spiritual healing was emphasized. The author, through her own experience, encourages others to claim this important ministry in their own lives, in healing prayers for others, and in binding the works of the unholy one in restoring people to health."*

Our hope from the book study is that some who participate may be interested in further training and discernment as we re-form St. Michael's Healing Team for the 10:15 am service. This is not a requirement, however, and all are welcome to come and explore the book.

Please contact Mary Lindquist ([mary@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:mary@stmichaelsvermont.org)) if you are interested in being part of the book study.

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### BENEFIT CONCERT FOR CHRIST CHURCH GUILFORD SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2 PM

Please join us for a Celebration Brass Band concert on the lawn at Christ Church Guilford. For anyone who doesn't know the church, it is on route 5 in Algiers just south of the Guilford Country Store. The concert of lively New Orleans-style jazz is free (donations gratefully accepted)!

We are raising money to save Christ Church (the first Episcopal Church in Vermont, 1817, and the "mother church" of St. Michael's). Structural and architectural repairs are being done this fall, and matching funds are needed to finish the work. Bring the kids, and a blanket or chairs. Light refreshments will be available.

### CHANGES TO THE COMMON ROOM

The Common Room is getting a new design! Thank you to Building and Grounds, who removed the second door to the Administrator Office to make more room for St. Michael's history displays, parishioner photographs and space for communicating current events. This project grew out of our Becoming Beloved Community initiative. After studying Bishop John Henry Hopkins and the history of racism in the Episcopal Church, we felt called to display both the parts of our history that we are still reckoning with and the part of our history that we celebrate. Many thanks to the Common Room Task Force Team of Annie Landenberger, Chris Triebert, Kim Peavey and adwoa Wilson.



## PARISH LISTENING SESSION AUGUST 23

At 5 pm on August 23, some 50 parishioners gathered in the Undercroft for a meeting focused on our thoughts and feelings regarding our homeless neighbors and what we as a congregation might be called to do.

After The Reverend Mary Lindquist, our Rector, opened with a prayer, Junior Warden Christine Hart set guidelines to ensure a time in which all could be respectfully heard and progress could be made. “Be open to the presence of the Holy Spirit between and within us; speak from your heart,” she urged.

I then briefly addressed how we had come to this place: With the reality of Covid housing funding scheduled to end in June and many people being left unhoused, St. Michael’s was asked by Groundworks to host a portable toilet on our property. The Vestry did research, talked to many people and organizations who had experiences hosting portable toilets, prayed and struggled, made the decision, and opened the subject again at the July vestry meeting. Our reaffirmed “no” led us to wonder what or how we could say “yes” in order to serve our homeless neighbors.

The expressed hopes for the meeting were to begin to have a conversation about what is on our hearts and minds in regard to those experiencing homelessness. Hardly expecting “the answer” to surface that night, we did hope to have some concrete next steps and a sense of alignment with each other and with God as to

our direction to find “where our deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

A listening session followed when some 16 people spoke in response to the question: “What is in your heart when you pray about our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness in our greater Brattleboro community?” Responses ranged from one speaker expressing dismay over an adult child rendered homeless to another expressing deep concern for her own safety as a Brattleboro resident.

The final half hour was shaped by the question: “How does our faith call us to respond to the challenges of homelessness in our community?” In that time numerous potential action steps were presented ranging from reaching out to assist Brattleboro’s homeless with laundry and hygiene needs to the supplying of food on weekends, from offering vehicles for expression such as music and personal story telling, to solutions involving real estate. Names of those who would be game to lead each were recorded. Moreover, increased support of the Loaves and Fishes ministry was urged.

The entire session was recorded on zoom and can be viewed at the “Livestream Archive” section of St. Michael’s website, [www.stmichaels-vt.org](http://www.stmichaels-vt.org). The Vestry welcomes further input from those who couldn’t be at the session — and from those who were. Please send all input to [jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:jeanie@stmichaelsvermont.org).

*Annie Landenberger, Sr. Warden*

**WINDHAM COUNTY NAACP 4TH ANNUAL FREEDOM FUND DINNER  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 5 PM • AMERICAN LEGION, 32 LINDEN ST, BRATTLEBORO VT**

Please join your friends and neighbors as the Windham County NAACP

- honors its Founding President Dr. Steffen Gillom with special music by Samirah Evans and
- confers the NAACP Outstanding Community Service Award on St. Michael’s own Dr. Imogene Drakes.

To purchase tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fourth-annual-windham-county-naACP-freedom-fund-dinner-tickets-662669360897?aff=oddttdtcrea>

For additional information please contact Cliff L. Wood 802-518-2080 or [clwood@gmail.com](mailto:clwood@gmail.com)

## NEWS OF THE PARISH

**BUILDING HOPE UPDATE**

Norwich Solar visited St. Michael's last month, and we expected the installation of solar panels to begin right away. Unfortunately, Norwich Solar has encountered many delays to their work because of our extremely wet summer. Their plan is to begin installation at the end of September. In the meantime, Phoenix Roofing will be back to replace the "flat roof" (between the old church and the Bradley Wing). Once the flat roof is finished, we will have replaced ALL the roofs of St. Michael's! Thank you for your patience, support and prayers!

**SUMMARY OF AUGUST MEETING OF THE VESTRY**

Our meeting opened with a prayer and devotional time led by Steve Guerriero. We discussed the juxtaposition of the harvest season's bounty and hope with those in our country and around the world who are losing everything to extreme weather and wars. How do we remain hopeful through these events? It was a spirited conversation to say the least.

The business portion of the meeting opened with the approval of the July minutes and the Treasurer's report. Tom informed us that expenses and income were as expected for July. We are over budget a bit on utilities as our electrical use has gone up without the offset in solar production yet. This should smooth out in the months to come. Pledge income was down but that is to be expected in the summer months but serves as a reminder that the church's expenses don't go on vacation! We have money from a Covid fund for nonprofits which will be deposited in the Greenfield Savings Bank as they are offering 5% interest. There is approximately 53k in the account. This year the church will complete an audit of our accounts required by the diocese. Chris Hart is leading this work and needs two more participants. Please contact Chris if you have interest in serving on this committee.

Mary reported that Keane and his family are settling in to their new home. It is exciting to have a Music Director again. Thank you to Patty Meyer for her stellar work as our interim director. Christian Education is coming together for the fall. Plans are to have 3 levels; Godly Play, Holy Mayhem for the upper elementary ages and a St. Michael's Youth Group for the teens. There are some security concerns emerging around the preschool. An attempted break-in was identified and security cameras are being considered for the building. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Parish meeting on the 23rd of August to discuss our neighbors in need. Several formats for the meeting were discussed.

Cary Gaunt reported on a meeting with Green Mountain Power and Norwich Solar to discuss details for the installation of our solar panels this fall. We are currently 3rd on their work flow and expect to see them on site at the end of September. It will be great to have the final piece of our electrification project in place!

Stewardship season is coming up and this will be the first year the Associate Priest position will be part of the operating budget. This position has been vital to handling work flow in our busy church and will require raising additional funds if it is to continue. Keep this important ministry in your prayers during the Stewardship season as you consider what St. Michael's means to your spiritual life.

Happy summer and hope to see lots of you at the picnic on the 27th.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Alan McBean, Vestry*

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## LECTIONARY FOR SEPTEMBER

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

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

## SEPTEMBER 2023 CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

September 1	Nan Tierra
September 3	Thad Bennett
September 4	Jacki Capponcelli
September 6	Ricky Davidson, Charles Daigneault
September 9	Sarah Benton, George Moore
September 11	Grace Xinqi Willingham
September 12	Margit Lilly
September 13	Laurie Kaiser
September 14	Jay Pomponio, Kyle Capponcelli
September 16	Eleanor Horton, Susan Daigneault
September 18	KJ White
September 19	Skyla Ragle, Elise Burrows
September 20	Krista Burtis, Ainsley Meyer, Christian Olmstead, Laura Panzer
September 22	Anne Montgomery, Alix Fedoruk
September 25	Scott McElhinney
September 26	Steve Guerriero
September 30	Mary McCarthy



## ANNIVERSARIES:

September 3	Christine Triebert & Carol Ross
September 5	Alix & Michael Fedoruk
September 10	Kate & Andrew LeBlanc
September 11	Julie & Richard Cogliano
September 14	Judy & Jack Davidson
September 16	Margit & Jack Lilly
September 20	Marie & Bruce Lawrence
September 28	Judy & Bob Walker

## 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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**ST. MICHAEL'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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.–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)