

# The Guardian

NOVEMBER 2023

## FROM THE RECTORY

### COME & CHECK OUT ST. MICHAEL'S RENEWED COMMON ROOM!

The title “Common Room” says it all. This is the place where we walk through, visit, come together in informal ways, welcome people into our church. In 2021, when we engaged in deep study about the history and current realities of racism in the Episcopal Church, we learned more about Bishop John Henry Hopkins, the first bishop of Vermont whose portrait was prominently displayed in our Common Room, right on the other side of our sanctuary altar. Learning that Bishop Hopkins had written extensively supporting the cause of slavery, we really wanted to remove the portrait. Why do we have this visible reminder of our racist past in our Common Room?

We struggled with this decision. Take it down and make ourselves feel better, as if racism is a thing of the past? Leave it up as a reminder of our history and the work we are called to do? What we decided was to create a display of some important parts of our history — both the things we are proud of and the things we would rather hide.

Thanks to the very hard work of Chris Triebert, Annie Landenberger, Kim Peavey, adwoa Wilson, John Laamanen, Jeanie Crosby and our Building & Grounds crew of Alan McBean, Vince Johnson and Ross Kinney, we have finally finished the Common Room Project. We have created panels about our history, about our legacy and about how God is calling us today. Not only that, but we have new displays of parishioner photos and names, a new paint job and some new furniture. We hope that the Common Room will invite conversation, connection and welcome to all who spend time there. Come and check it out!

*Mary*  
Mary Lindquist  
Rector



*As we were looking for photos to display in the Common Room,  
we came across many sweet photos that we wanted to share.*





## NEWS OF THE PARISH



### ALL SAINTS' DAY CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

*I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.*

— Paul's letter to the Ephesians

On November 5, St. Michael's will celebrate the Feast of All Saints at both the 8 am and the 10:15 am services. During these services, we will remember those saints who have gone before us and loved ones who have died, as well as recognize ourselves as those 'saints' who have been called to follow Jesus with our whole selves.

On this day, we will remember in our prayers those who have died during the last year.

- If you have people you would like to be named in the prayers, please add them to the book in the back of the church.
- If you have pictures of loved ones who have died whose lives you want to give thanks for, we will a table in front of the altar as a visible reminder of the saints who have come before us for worship that day.
- Because this is a major feast day, we will have incense at the 10:15 am service

### NOVEMBER ADULT FORUMS

- **November 5 — “St. Michael's Prison Ministry”:** For more than ten years, St. Michael's has had an outreach program to support the persons incarcerated at the state prison for southern Vermont. The program includes a worship service at the prison twice each month. Additional services and support are needed. We could expand our ministry to the prisoners with more volunteers. *Come hear Cliff Wood and Gabriel Sistare discuss what they are doing right now and what expanding this ministry might look like.*
- **November 12 — “The Heat Fund”:** Windham County residents who are struggling to pay for home heating fuel and who are not eligible for existing programs can contact The Windham County Heat Fund for help. Monies are given directly to fuel dealers and deposited into the accounts of people and families receiving donations. The Fund has no overhead and almost no administrative expenses; all money is used to pay fuel bills. *Richard Davis, one of the founders of the Heat Fund, will lead.*
- **November 19 — “Books that have changed your life”:** What is better than a good book? Let's share our collective knowledge! This will be an informal conversation about books that have changed our lives. You are invited to bring a book or two to share with the group. *Mary Lindquist facilitates.*
- **November 26 — “T’is the Season — Gifts and gifting”:** What is a gift? How do we understand gifts as we head into the Christmas season? “The Gift” by Lewis Hyde explores the idea of gift in human experience. I read it in the 1980s and it completely reframed my understanding. Perhaps his ideas and our discussion will be helpful to you as we approach the annual Christmas gift exchange. *Facilitated by Annamarie Pluhar.*

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### STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 12

Fall is the time we ask you to consider your financial pledge to St. Michael's for 2024. We hope you have received the packet of stewardship materials and a pledge card in the mail. If for any reason you have not received this material, please contact the church office at 802 254-6048, ext 104 or [info@stmichaelsvermont.org](mailto:info@stmichaelsvermont.org)

We ask you to prayerfully and boldly consider your pledge to St. Michael's for 2024. Your support means a tremendous amount to our ministry together and every pledge no matter what size is important. This year, we are hoping to receive **140 pledges** and raise **\$322,000**, a 13% increase for our ministry in 2024. The increase in pledges is asked so that we can fully support our much-needed Assistant Priest position.

Please return your pledge cards by St. Michael's Stewardship Commitment Sunday on November 12. Many thanks for your generosity!



### THANKSGIVING DAY MORNING PRAYER THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 8 AM

Because we are not able to worship at Christ Church this year, we will hold a simple Morning Prayer Service in the Chapel of Mary Magdalene at 8 am on Thanksgiving Day. There is a small group of us who pray Morning Prayer each weekday in this simple manner. We invite you to come and begin your Thanksgiving Day with praise and prayer and song.



### DIAPER SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 26

In one year, a typical baby uses about 2400 diapers costing up to \$950, an enormous impact on family budgets. Yet Federal safety net programs such as WIC and SNAP don't cover diapers. Children need regular diaper changes to prevent rashes and infections and to attend child care where they can grow socially and intellectually.

Every Tuesday and Friday, thanks to the generosity of our community, families in need go to Loaves and Fishes to receive a hot meal, groceries, and needed personal health items such as diapers. Foodworks in Brattleboro and Parks Place in Bellows Falls also supply donated diapers. All three of these great organizations have limited budgets, and they sometimes run out of diapers completely. Your donations of diapers are welcome in the offering basket at St. Michael's every week of the year. And twice a year, at Thanksgiving and Mother's Day, we highlight this need and express thankfulness for our own blessings by organizing a diaper drive.

Please bring a pack or box of disposable diapers (any size) or wipes to St. Michael's on Diaper Sunday, November 26, placing them in the front of the Sanctuary. Prior to that date, you may also leave

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them on Brian and Joyce Vining Morgan's porch at 109 Wantastiquet Drive. Or any week in November, place a check to St. Michael's in the collection plate with the memo "Diaper Sunday," which the Outreach Committee will use for a bulk purchase of diapers. Your donations will be shared between Parks Place Diaper Bank in Bellows Falls and Foodworks and Loaves and Fishes in Brattleboro.



### CALLING ALL KIDS AND TEENS FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT!

Calling toddlers, children and teens! Join St. Michael's Christmas Eve pageant and help bring the Nativity to life for our parish!

We've been doing our own Vermont Nativity for several years now and will continue to do so, modifying to fit the company and adding any new elements that pageanteers invent.

We'll gather first on November 26 right after church in the Undercroft to go over the pageant plan and to hear who would like to be involved and in what role. If you can't make it to that brief roundup, no worries: kids can sign up by email — info to follow.

We'll then rehearse Sunday mornings December 3, 10, 17 from 9–10 a.m. (during Sunday school) AND Saturday, December 23 in the afternoon. The pageant is December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

We invite youth from outside the Parish to join in, too. Kids: if you have friends from school or the neighborhood who'd like to be part of the pageantry, please encourage them to join us.

We welcome — and are grateful to — the Youth Group as key players in the pageant this year. For more information, contact Annie Landenberger, 802-348-7156, [verbatimvt@gmail.com](mailto:verbatimvt@gmail.com). Watch for more information and a list of other adult contacts in upcoming Sunday Bulletins.

—Annie Landenberger, Lydia Taggart, Miranda Smith



### ST. NICHOLAS DAY FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The annual St. Nicolas Day Fair will be held on December 3 this year. There are a number of opportunities where you can help support this wonderful and fun inter-generational parish event!

- Help out at the individual craft tables. If you would like to create and organize your own craft activity, we welcome that. Alternatively, we can provide you with a craft activity to supervise.
- Help set up on Saturday, Dec. 2.
- Help clean-up on the day of the event, Dec. 3.
- Donate some of the items needed for crafts. Please place these items in the designated container in the Common Room: large containers of creamy peanut butter; large pine cones.
- Contribute food items for the Buffet Table (sandwiches, baked goods, snacks, cheese platter, fruit, etc.)

If you can help with any of the above, contact Lydia Taggart at [lydiafin1@gmail.com](mailto:lydiafin1@gmail.com) or find sign-up sheets in the Common Room.

We are looking for a new organizer for next year and now is the time to apprentice! Please let Lydia know if you are interested in helping to organize this fun and festive event.



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### DON'T WORRY, ADVENT IS LATE THIS YEAR...

But it is coming! Because of the way Christmas moves around on the calendar, we will have a very short Advent Season this year (boo!!!). In fact, the fourth Sunday of Advent is on the same Sunday as Christmas Eve. Perhaps you want to begin your Advent devotions early this year? It is such a beautiful season.

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### SUMMARY OF OCTOBER MEETING OF THE VESTRY

We began our meeting with a round of reflections on current global events and their impact right down to the local level. It is a challenge at times to be hopeful under such dire conditions. The question we ask ourselves is how do we cope and respond with positive energy and love.

One way is to try, albeit difficult, to tune out some of the noise of the unrelenting news/media coverage. Another is to take some time to remember there is beauty in the natural world and great comfort in prayer. Vestry member David Treadwell shared a poem at the end of our reflection time that nicely summed up a sense of hope and connection. The poem is "Belonging" by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer. The poem can be found at [Grateful.org](http://Grateful.org).

Planning and preparation are the two words that highlight the meeting.

Our Treasurer Tom Cain continues to organize our financial posting and reporting providing us with greater clarity in our income and expenses setting the stage for the next budgeting cycle.

Mary's report reflected our continued support for some of the early initiatives of Responding to our Neighbors.

Vestry members and Stewardship Committee will be making phone calls to parishioners on Sunday, October 22 as we kick-off this year's annual giving.

Annie reported plans are moving along to complete the projects for the Common Room and a big thank you to everyone who has been involved.

The Nominating Committee (Alan, Annie, Steve and Mary) for new Vestry members is getting into full-swing looking towards completing selection in the next six weeks.

Our final discussion led by Chris focused on preparation and planning for the Building Hope Celebration on Sunday, October 29. We hope for a great turnout and a wonderful and thankful time celebrating the hard work and contributions that have made this project so successful.

## EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

## LECTIONARY FOR NOVEMBER

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

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

## NOVEMBER 2023 CELEBRATIONS

## BIRTHDAYS

November 1	Willow Hesselbach
November 2	Patrick Meyer
November 3	Rich Melanson
November 4	Tian Ragle
November 5	Kierstan Landin, Oliver Ridgway
November 8	Miles Ackerman-Hovis and Jesse Ackerman-Hovis
November 9	Ruth Tilghman
November 10	Rachel Daigneault
November 11	Mikael Mattson
November 16	Judy Walker, Martha Guthrie
November 17	Kate McGinn, Ken Jacobs
November 18	Heddy Pomazi
November 19	Christopher Wesolowski, Aiden Anderson
November 20	Christine Gauthier, Eve Pomazi
November 21	Annelise Fedoruk, Amanda White, Rosalind Ridgway
November 22	Anne Brown
November 24	Pam Crispe, Juniper Ridgway
November 28	John Laamanen, Laurie Chipfield
November 30	Maida McKenna

## ANNIVERSARIES

November 13	Rosie & Matt Wojcik
November 29	Jessica & Chris Mattson

## 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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# 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)