

The Guardian

APRIL/MAY 2024

FROM THE RECTORY

IN A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE AND FORTUNATE EVENTS

In a series of fortunate events preceded by a series of unfortunate events, my family and I are spending one week in Florence, Italy, followed by one solo week for me which will include time at a convent in Assisi. This trip feels super extravagant and, at the same time, a joyful and surprising opportunity.

Some of you might remember that I had planned a vacation with three of my seminary friends right after the Annual Meeting at the end of January. It had taken my friends and I two years to find dates that would work for all of us to get together. In a series of unfortunate events, I came down with Covid right before I was supposed to leave (the day of the Annual Meeting). I had hoped I might be able to join my friends in Arizona later in the week, but I was not well enough. I felt very, very sorry for myself as I spoke to my friends on the phone who were enjoying the great Southwest while I endured another cold and cloudy stretch of Vermont winter weather. I rested. I cleaned out drawers. I cleaned our closets. But I did not succeed in overcoming my disappointment.



St. James' Episcopal Church in Florence, Italy

A couple weeks later, I discovered that there was an inexpensive Carriage House designated for clergy stays owned by St. James' Episcopal Church in Florence, Italy. I inquired about this property as a possible vacation/retreat spot for me to visit after Easter. While the church could not accommodate me after Easter, they generously offered me another of their properties — a three-bedroom guesthouse. This was wonderful news! The dates it was available happened to correspond with Kurt and the kids' Spring Break. And yes, Ori, Bibi and Kurt wanted to get in on the action. I found some cheap airlines tickets for the four of us, all the time feeling guilty that Jonah, who is in college, would not be able to join us. However, when I told him the plan, he said, "I want to go!" He checked with his professors and figured out a way that he could join us also!

Is this an Easter story? Perhaps?...It is a stretch. But I will say that a series of unfortunate events led to a series of fortunate events that led to a surprise family and solo trip. I am very thankful to Tom Ely, Lars Hunter, and adwoa Wilson who will be covering the Sundays when I am gone (April 28 & May 5). I hope this Easter Season will likewise bring you some happy surprises. Please keep me and my family in your prayers as we embark on this great Easter adventure!

Mary
Mary Lindquist
Rector

NEWS OF THE PARISH

Palm Sunday



Maundy Thursday



NEWS OF THE PARISH

Easter Vigil



NEWS OF THE PARISH

ADULT FORUM SERIES: HOUSING AS COMMUNITY

April 14: Housing as Community: L'Arche — In 2019, Reverend Duncan Hilton, while serving at St. Michael's, spearheaded the initiative to explore the creation of a L'Arche community in Southern Vermont. Founded in France in 1964, L'Arche is now a worldwide network of over 150 communities where people with and without intellectual disabilities share life together, interdependently, and engage wholeheartedly with their wider community.

Today Duncan's vision to create a local L'Arche community continues. At the Forum, we will explore how we can foster a sense of belonging by strengthening human and social connections. Friends of L'Arche Southern Vermont believes that "people with intellectual disabilities belong at the center of

community, rather than its peripheries, that people of differing abilities are called into life together, and that we are all transformed when we commit to loving and serving each other."

April 21: Housing as Community: Windham Aging — Windham Aging is a community collaboration focused on what 2040 will look like for the significant number of residents 60+. Please join Chris Hart to hear about the extensive housing needs that will grow with the population over the next 16 years and to share your thoughts about aging well in Windham County.

April 28: Housing as Community: Winston Prouty Campus — Chloe Learey, Executive Director of The Winston Prouty Center, will talk with the Forum about the evolving vision for housing on the Winston Prouty campus and give an update on the status of the project.



Local L'Arche Event on the Common

NEWS OF THE PARISH

BAPTISM CELEBRATION
APRIL 14, AT THE 10:15 AM SERVICE

2024 seems to be the year we are catching up on the baptisms missed during the pandemic. Ethan Horton, who was our baby Jesus for the Christmas Pageant of 2019, will be baptized on Sunday, April 14. Ethan is now 4 years old and is very excited to be baptized (or “babaptized” as he likes to say). Below is a great poem about a baptism that I read recently. Please join us for this great celebration!



Ethan Horton

Laving the Precious, Pagan Baby,

by Thomas Lynch

Brody Patrick Lasch
Baptized a child of God
Sunday, 18 August, 2013

By water and the ancient codes we claim
 this wriggling boyo for our kind and tribe
 and call down blessings in the Blessed Name
 of Whomever Is In Charge Here, praying, “God,
 God, safeguard our Brody against all evils.
 Save him from cruel happenstance and cold.
 Let him outlive us by a hundred years,
 awash in grace, made fierce by faith, grown old
 and wise, free of our most grievous foibles.”
 Today we proclaim he is one of ours,
 with chrisms and singing, candles aflame
 with Pentecostal and with Paschal light
 by which we reckon he will find his way
 back home to you in the fullness of time.
 And so we hold him up to heaven’s face
 (See how he reaches for the bright abyss!)
 So you will recognize one of your own,
 and know his voice when he cries out to you,
 as he most surely will, as we all do.
 We call upon his cloud of witnesses —
 our ancients and our elders and long lost—
 to breathe into hm all the holy ghosts
 by whom we are well haunted and still blessed
 and beckoned to what is or isn’t next.

STM

TAG SALE FURNITURE DONATIONS
NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

The Tag Sale team is now looking at furniture donations for the upcoming Saturday, May 4 Tag Sale which will benefit Brattleboro’s community meals program, Loaves and Fishes. This year, we are looking over potential furniture donations so that we take only what we can sell.

For 1–2 items, a photo might be fine to send to lindariceaprn@gmail.com. For more than 2 items, please request someone to come look at what you have to make sure we can take everything, by calling Linda Rice at 802-257-7982 or 802-275-2268. Linda will schedule someone to come review your furniture donation items. Furniture pickup is now available, and Linda can pass your information on to others on the pickup crew.

We have had some really nice donations of clothing, linens, books, jewelry, puzzles and housewares and would be happy to receive more, as well as sporting goods like bikes and skis.

Thank you for your generosity!

STM

NEWS OF THE PARISH

MOTHERS' DAY DIAPER SUNDAY IS MAY 12

Twice a year, at Thanksgiving and Mothers' Day, times when we are thankful for our own blessings, the Outreach Committee invites us to express our gratitude by donating diapers for our neighbors. 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.

Please bring a pack or box of disposable diapers (any size) or wipes to St. Michael's on Diaper Sunday, May 12, placing them in the front of the Sanctuary. Alternatively, place a check to St. Michael's in the collection plate with the memo "Diaper Sunday," which the Outreach Committee will use to purchase diapers in bulk. Your donations will be shared between Parks Place Diaper Bank in Bellows Falls, the Putney Foodshelf, and Foodworks and Loaves and Fishes in Brattleboro."

**SWORDS TO PLOUGHSHARES, VERMONT HOSTS FIRST PUBLIC EVENT MAY 18**

Following an introductory Swords-to-Plowshares event at Brattleboro's Retreat Farm last April, several area leaders have formed Swords to Plowshares, Vermont, Inc., which holds its first public event May 18 at the Putney School.

Since its founding in 2017, Swords to Plowshares (<https://www.s2pnortheast.org/>) has focused on reducing gun violence in communities. The group's purpose, according to its website, is founded on this: "With [45,000] gun deaths per year in our country, something must be done now. The strategy we apply to this problem is to convert weapons of death into

tools of life, and then use those tools to the betterment of the community."

Swords to Plowshares, Vermont (StPVt) is a Windham County chapter of the nonprofit organization dedicated to community education aimed at reducing gun violence. According to founder, Rt. Rev Thomas Ely, "working with the Windham County Sheriff's department, we are seeking unwanted firearms that can be destroyed and the usable parts turned into garden tools and works of art."

StPVt is currently working with Brian Quarrier, art teacher at The Putney School, whose students will create items out of the recycled weapons. "We are in need of donations of firearms so that the students can get to work," Ely adds.

The StPVt May 18 event will be from 10–12 at The Putney School, Houghton Brook Rd., Putney, Vt. Attendees will benefit from a presentation on StPVt's mission and its connection with local law enforcement and from a demonstration of the transformational process of turning unwanted firearms into garden tools and works of art by Putney School students. Attendees will have a chance to watch and share in the demonstration. People should arrive around 9:30 so that the program can begin on time. "There is a bit of a walk to the art center from the parking area," Ely adds. "And if you have firearms that you no longer have use for and would like to dispose of them in a safe way and, at the same time, know that the usable parts will be transformed into garden tools and works of art, then please email swordstoplowsharesvt@gmail.com."

**LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS DRIVERS!**

You or a family member or a neighbor or a friend can help. Contact Ruth Tilghman at ruthtilghman@gmail.com or 802-258-1765.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, MAY 19

The Feast of Pentecost, which marks the end of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on Sunday, May 19 at the 8 am and 10:15 am services. This is the occasion when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church and the sending of the apostles into the world to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ. *We will be looking for people who can speak in different languages to enact the Pentecost story.* If you would like to volunteer, please let Mary know.

For this special feast:

- We invite you to WEAR RED in honor of the Holy Spirit.
- Children and youth are invited to gather at 9:45 am to create special Pentecost streamers to carry in the opening procession.
- Incense will be part of our celebration at 10:15 am.

**HOUSING NEEDED FOR REFUGEE FAMILY**

Judith McBean

St. Michael's is currently supporting two refugee families. Team "Rinaldo" (name chosen by a young member of the family) is supporting a Congolese family who arrived in the United States in September. Following 20 years in a refugee camp in Uganda, they have been living at SIT while they get settled into school, employment, and life in the US.

We are now actively looking for an apartment or house to rent for the Pemba family. They are a family of 8; however, the two oldest sons are working and have an apartment of their own. So, we are seeking a rental that can accommodate a family of 6, either a large 3-bedroom or ideally a 4-bedroom apartment or house.

If something larger were available, the family might consider renting together as a family of 8. The Brattleboro area is preferable, secondary to

transportation issues, but we would consider all options.

They are a very close and kind family, who would make excellent tenants. Three of the children are in high school (BUHS), joining in activities such as soccer, track and baseball. They look forward to going to college. The oldest, who completed college in Uganda, is currently seeking to obtain US college credit for his degree.

We would appreciate any leads regarding a rental for the Pemba family! They are anxious to get settled and to launch their new lives. Thanks so much for any ideas or leads you may have. Please contact Judith McBean with ideas or leads at jmcbean1959@gmail.com

**A MESSAGE ABOUT FOYER EVANGELIQUE UNIVERSEL ORPHANAGE**

Note: This message was received from Pastor Duckens Janvier, founder and director of the orphanage, on March 13, 2024. St. Michael's has been a long-time supporter of this orphanage in Haiti.

"In spite of the resignation of the Prime Minister who had led the country very badly, the gangs are getting together to take over the presidential palace and install their own government; there are already American soldiers on the ground but they haven't reacted. The roads are still blocked after 15 days of ransacking public institutions and some private businesses. This situation has caused the prices of all products to rise; there are certain products that are sold for three times the initial price. There are also products that one can no longer find in the market, such as rice.

I have rented a house for the 15 girls, and the 16 boys are in another nearby location. But I have also provided housing for 13 families who left Meyer with me, who have nothing to eat and escaped with nothing but the clothes they were wearing on the day of our flight.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

I live in a house near the children with my wife, but my own children are with my parents because I don't have enough space to house them. Thus, I have 31 young people with me, and more than 85 people whom I am sheltering at my school in Santo and the neighboring area. I have started to purchase a piece of land in Santo; if I had the money, I could construct some dormitory rooms in order to provide better housing for people. I continue to help people who are unemployed, who have abandoned their homes; if I don't give them something to eat, they may spend an entire day without eating anything; it is truly serious.

Happily, there is a large store only a kilometer away that has large supplies of products in bulk that help the whole community. I can buy enough supplies there to keep in reserve in case the situation becomes worse

because the ports are closed and the routes for the circulation of certain products are blocked. Thanks to one person I know who works at the bank, I am able to pick up money at the bank by traveling more than 20 kilometers either to Delmas or Petionville because the banks near me have been ransacked and burned.

For the moment, there is only my personal bank account. Perhaps when the situation will have improved, I would be able to open an account in the name of OEFU or my church if I am able to find the papers that were left behind in Meyer.

Thank you... I continue to pray that I will be able to keep the young people of OFEU in safety, which is a huge responsibility for me, and also to find the means to continue to feed them, take care of their health needs, purchase clothes, etc. Thank you again."



SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 21 MEETING OF THE VESTRY

- Christine Hart called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
- Rosie Wojcik offered readings and encouraged discussion about ways to deal with news and events that seem out of control with actions that, while seem minor, are meaningful.
- Minutes of the February 18 meeting were approved with additions.
- Budget was reviewed with the new vestry members seeking clarification about the budget report. A training session will be considered. Several corrections regarding the pension contributions and outreach budget were identified and will be addressed by the Treasurer.
- Mary Lindquist presented the Rector's report:
 - Regarding stewardship, John Lent has agreed to chair the effort again and will present a plan at the Vestry Meeting in May.
 - Choir gathering will occur on Saturday, March 23 to discuss changes and develop a vision for the future.
 - Mary will be on vacation from April 22 through May 6.
- Skyberry House, a vision which resulted from the "Responding to our Neighbors" initiative was presented by Teresa Savel and Susan Heimer.
- Its mission is to "create a home of hospitality where unhoused children and families feel supported and can grow and move forward in their lives."

NEWS OF THE PARISH

- They asked if St. Michael's could act as fiscal agent to receive donations. In an extensive discussion, several questions were raised to be addressed by the organization's committee.
- In the Warden's report, Christine Hart mentioned that an effort will be made to increase awareness of the activities of the Diocese.
- In the Junior Warden's report, Susan Heimer shared the schedule for committee liaison reports during the 2024 Vestry meetings.
 - She offered two dates for the summer picnic at Spofford Lake and the Vestry agreed on Sunday, August 25.
- Committee reports
 - Building Hope: Cary Gaunt reported that the solar panels are fully functional with very high power generation on a sunny day in March.
 - Refugee Ministry: Paul Gallagher reported that second co-sponsorship team in 2024 has begun supporting a refugee family, a mother and five children from the Congo. Now with two new families needing cars, a notice will be circulated that St. Michael's can accept vehicles as a donation.
 - Mary reported that the Women's Retreat, held on February 24 at Hallelujah Farm, was highly successful.
 - Building and Grounds submitted an estimate, which was approved by the Vestry, to trim trees and shrubs.
- In other business, Mary reported that Tom Ely and Cliff Wood asked if St. Michael's could help Swords and Plowshares while it seeks to establish a Vermont chapter as a 501c3.
 - The Vestry approved a motion that St. Michael's can receive donations designated to support the mission of the Swords and Plowshares Ministry.
- David Treadwell offered a closing prayer devoted to our unhoused neighbors.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

EXPLORING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL & MAY

To see all the readings for each Sunday, go to

<http://www.lectionarypage.net/#april>

and <http://www.lectionarypage.net/#may>

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

NEWS OF THE PARISH

On Saturday, February 24, 19 women from St. Michaels gathered at Hallelujah Farm in Chesterfield, New Hampshire, to enjoy a day of prayer, reflection, fun and connection. Many thanks to Kim Peavey who led the retreat, Susan Marshall who helped with body prayer and Jenny Karstad who helped with singing. It was a wonderful day!



APRIL/MAY 2024 CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

April 2	Becky Anderson
April 3	Callan McDowell
April 7	Neil Montgomery
April 8	Kelli Allen
April 10	Sherry Stimmel
April 11	Peter Johnson, Kurt Johnson
April 12	J. Michael Wilmott, Devin Starlanyl
April 13	Diane Clouet, Ron Bell, Lyndsay Hesselbach
April 15	Ian McBean, Emily Brown, Ian Harrison
April 16	Katie-Beth Ryan
April 18	Douglas Switzer
April 21	Jonas Ackerman-Hovis, Samuel Kochinskas
April 22	Marcia Steckler
April 24	Norma Willingham
April 25	Alison Hale
April 27	Susan Heimer, John Daly
April 28	Rich Cogliano
April 29	Marta McBean, Annie Landenberger, Brian Hesselbach, Zolt Pomazi
April 30	Lawrin Crispe
May 2	Francine Vellario
May 4	Carol Beninati, Bruce Landenberger
May 5	Nancy Ames
May 7	Diane Pitcher, Beatrice Johnson
May 8	Evangelina Holvino, 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
May 23	Chloe Hull
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**

Christine Hart, *Senior Warden*
chrishart312@gmail.com | 802-257-0452

Susan Heimer, *Junior Warden*
heimer.susan@gmail.com | 802-387-2650

Paul Gallagher
pkgall07@gmail.com | 203-809-8531

Cary Gaunt
chg.watershed@gmail.com | 802-734-5009

Mary Lindquist
marydail7@gmail.com | 802-254-6048

Margery McCrum
sullariadoc@gmail.com | 802-258-4593

Chris Meyer
cuba.vermont@gmail.com | 802-380-2385

John Spooner
jspooner52@gmail.com | 917-847-9467

David Treadwell
davidtreadwell@me.com | 734-657-0023

Rosie Wojcik
rosie@wojnet.org | 802-380-1363

Gwen Mousin, *Treasurer*
gmousin@gmail.com | 802-380-5888

Carol Beninati, *Clerk*
writers@sover.net | 802-258-4636

STM *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



ST. MICHAEL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

16 Bradley Avenue
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301-8429

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Brattleboro VT
Permit #18

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)