

April/May 2026

The Guardian

Shield the joyous!(from An Order for Compline, *BCP*.)

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

The main services will be available via livestream.

You will find livestream links on St. Michael's website. www.stmichaelsvermont.org.

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

8 am Holy Eucharist

9 am Coffee Hour

10:15 am Holy Eucharist & Procession with Palms

MONDAY, MARCH 30

12 pm Contemplative Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

12 pm Contemplative Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 7 PM

12 pm Contemplative Holy Eucharist

7 pm Tenebrae Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 7 PM

12 pm Contemplative Holy Eucharist

7 pm Maundy Thursday Service

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 12 PM & 7 PM

12 pm Proper liturgy for Good Friday (no music or veneration of the cross)

7 pm Proper liturgy for Good Friday with veneration of the cross

HOLY SATURDAY & THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, APRIL 4

9–9:30 am Holy Saturday

7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter with baptisms followed by a celebratory reception

SUNDAY, EASTER DAY, APRIL 5

8 am Holy Eucharist

10:15 am Festival Holy Eucharist

Holy Week, when we recall and participate in Jesus's last week, is a very special and important time in the life of our faith and of our community of St. Michael's. You may attend church most Sundays, but if you do not experience Holy Week, you will be missing the most important story of our salvation history! This year's Holy Week is even more exceptional because we have four adults, two teens, and one twelve-year-old who will be baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, April 4 at 7:30 pm. These catechumens have been preparing for their baptisms since October. We hope you will come and support them, pray for them and celebrate with them as well as renew your own baptismal vows.

NEWS OF THE PARISH

**BISHOP'S VISITATION
WITH CONFIRMATIONS, MAY 10 AT 11 AM
(YES, 11 AM!)**

Bishop Shannon will be visiting St. Michael's for the first time since 2023! We have many adults and youth who will be confirmed at this service. Confirmation is a sacramental rite in the Episcopal Church only performed by bishops; it is also an adult affirmation of one's baptismal vows and an official way of joining the Episcopal Church. This celebration is very important for St. Michael's!



Bishop Shannon with St. Michael's confirmands in 2023.

- Please note that the services on May 10 will be at 8 am (no Bishop) and 11 am (with Bishop Shannon and Confirmations).
- We will have coffee and snacks for those who would like to show up at our normal worship time (10:15 am).
- There will be a celebration when you can greet Bishop Shannon in the Undercroft following the 11 am service.

POINTS OF LIGHT

- We are thankful for the gift of \$10,000 from the Right Reverend Thomas Ely who made provision in his will for St. Michael's Hope for the Earth Initiative. Bishop Ely was an active member of St. Michael's Hope for the Earth Team.
- Congratulations to Scott Davenport for representing Vermont as one of 51 winners of this year's Teaching America250 Awards presented by the Jack Miller Center, an educational nonprofit committed to civic education. The awards allow recipients to "develop and implement engaging educational projects focused on the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence." The 51 teachers selected represent each state and Washington, D.C. Each recipient will receive \$5,000 to go toward "a project of their own design that engages students with the history of America's founding and the ideals of the

Declaration." Scott's hope is to bring students to the Freedom Trail in Boston. Congratulations, Scott!

- Congratulations to Dr. Cliff L. and Wylene Branton Wood who were honored by the Windham County NAACP with the "Heart of the Branch" Award at the First Annual MLK Jr. Freedom Fund Brunch Fundraiser at the North Barn at Retreat Farm on January 17, 2026. "This was my fifth year to chair the event," Cliff says, "and yet they surprised us. Lifting up the community has never been more important. Much love to you all."



NEWS OF THE PARISH

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2026

On Saturday, February 28, about two dozen women of St. Michael's gathered in the sacred space of Hallelujah Farm for the annual women's retreat.

The theme was Psalm 119:25. Mary Lindquist and Erin Pesut, our co-facilitators, invited us to reflect upon the areas in our lives and hearts where the dust we cling to might be blocking the Light of God's love. We reflected upon the questions "what are we returning to?" and "what are we letting go?" We had breaks for silent time, reflection and journaling. There was time to share our challenges, discoveries and insights. For some, journaling was a new experience,

but the breath of God began to gently blow away the dust that was dimming our souls.

We spent the day sharing life, singing, laughter and tears. Our souls were nourished by our oneness in Spirit. We were blessed by the gracious hospitality of John, Leigh and the staff, who nourished our bodies with delicious food.

We bonded as we shared, in this Spirit-filled day, and generated some powerful spiritual energy which has blessed us with renewed vision for our lives.

Linda "Biddy" Neilson

St. Michael's Women's Retreat



Teresa Savel finishing lunch



Jenna and Alden (baby) Webb

MOTHER CHURCH: CHRIST CHURCH: “BEING MOVED BY THE DESIRE”

By Kim Peavey

“a number of persons in the east part of the town of Guilford being desirous of associating together for the purpose of erecting a suitable house for the worship of Almighty God, and being moved by the desire, did meet at the dwelling house of Artemus Gale in said Guilford, on the 4th day of March, 1817”

—The History of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church ⁽¹⁾

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

—Matthew 18:20, New Living Translation

Pew Auction

Christ Church in Guilford, the first Episcopal church in Vermont and mother church to St. Michael’s, was established in 1817. The building was constructed with volunteer labor and local materials. It was also locally financed: the “cost of construction was calculated and divided by the number of slips, or pews, in the church. Each pew was then auctioned off, no bid to be less than the average cost of the pew” ⁽²⁾. The church was consecrated in 1819. Church members came from both Guilford and Brattleboro.

The church had 13 ministers or rectors from 1818 to 1894. Over the years, the congregation installed a 500-pound bronze bell, erected a fence around the cemetery, established a Sunday School and a vestry, built a rectory, and renovated the building to reflect the “general trend to more ceremonial forms of worship in the Episcopal church” ⁽³⁾. The church hit its peak of 50 members in 1875, and then entered a gradual decline, as did Guilford.

Slate, Water, and Train

Guilford’s prosperity came from slate. The village’s decline was due to the discovery of other slate sources, the popularity of Brattleboro’s then-fashionable water cures, and the railroad’s bypass of Guilford. In 1849, the

first train came from Boston to Brattleboro. Brattleboro developed into a resort and manufacturing town with new schools, newspapers, and businesses, including the Estey Organ Company in 1852, the largest industry of the period. As Brattleboro developed, the movement for an Episcopal Church there gained strength, with St. Michael’s Episcopal church built in 1858. Still, church records show afternoon Sunday services at Guilford’s Christ Church as late as 1892.

Living History, Right Here

In the 1950s, a living history museum offered to buy Christ Church, intending to move it to the shores of Lake Champlain. There was significant objection to this idea from both church and community members, and the Society for the Preservation of Christ’s Church in Guilford was formed “to provide for the restoration and preservation of the Church as an historic landmark and an example of early New England architecture and as the first Episcopal church in Vermont” ⁽⁴⁾. The church is still in use for concerts, weddings, funerals, and church services, by St. Michael’s and others, and is beloved by many.

Sources: 1, 3, 4. Carnahan, Paul A. The History of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. Lunenburg, VT: Stinehour Press, 1982 (1, 8, 17); 2. Society for the Preservation of Christ’s Church in Guilford, christchurchguilfordsociety.org.

CHRIST CHURCH RECEIVES \$20,000 GRANT

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) and the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation have awarded \$330,211 of Historic Preservation Grant awards to facilitate the restoration and rehabilitation of Vermont landmarks and important historic buildings and structures, helping to leverage more than \$1 million in restoration and rehabilitation efforts. Repair of Christ Church will be supported by a \$20,000 grant, the highest amount which can be awarded.

Valerie Abrahamsen, a Board member of the Christ Church Guilford Society, says “The VDHP grant [for



Christ Church, Guilford

Christ Church] is for repairing the plaster ceiling. Once the repairs are done, we should be able to open up to the public again and to start hosting indoor events.”

Historic Preservation Grants are a state-funded program awarding one-to-one matching grants up to \$20,000 for the rehabilitation of civic and community

resources that are a vital part of Vermont’s historic downtowns, villages, and rural communities.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the match for this grant, go to the website of the Christ Church Guilford Society at <https://www.christchurchguilfordsociety.org/>.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Belle Coles and Mary Lindquist



Cara & Elizabeth Fisher

ATTENTION ST. MICHAEL'S POETS & POETRY LOVERS!

In honor of National Poetry Month in April, all are welcome to join St. Michael's community for “Poetry & Pie” on Saturday, April 25 from 2–4 pm in the Undercroft. To participate, sign up in the Common Room.

All members of our church community are welcome to read. Everyone is welcome to attend. Readers have 5 minutes each. (Please practice and time yourself!) Share your own original poems or read a favorite by another poet.

Coffee and tea provided. Bring a pie to share or just bring yourself! Hosted by Erin Pesut and Megan Buchanan. Email mbuchanan@hotmail.com with any questions.

A HOLY AND SPIRITED WORD

by Gabriel Sistare

There is a scene in the “Bastogne” episode of the HBO series *Band of Brothers* in which Eugene “Doc” Roe, Easy Company’s senior medic, is sitting with his back resting against one wall of his shallow foxhole. A flare ignites. There is sporadic gunfire. He removes an amulet from his jacket pocket. Shivering, he prays:

*Lord
Grant that I shall never seek so much as to be
consoled
as to console
To be understood as to understand
Or to be loved as to love
With all my heart
With all my heart.*

Roe’s prayer, colored with actor Shane Taylor’s South Louisianan accent, is a variation of the second half of the Prayer of Saint Francis.

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

When Rev. Charles Wynder preached on the Sunday honoring Rev. Martin Luther King Jr, he invoked a prayer he attributed to Bishop Barbara Harris:

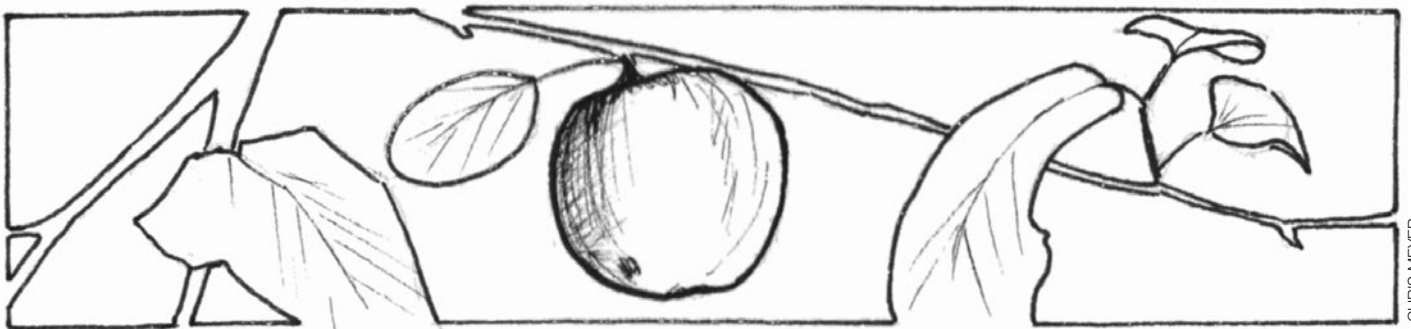
*The Joy of the Hearts Which Love You.
The Strength of the Wills Which Try to Serve You.*

*Grant us to Know You So as to Love You.
To Love You so as to Serve You.
In Whose Service is Perfect Freedom.
And since you have called all of us to your Service,
Make us Worthy of the Calling &
Empower Us for this Service — Through Jesus
Christ Our Lord.
Amen*

I felt like I was comforted and catapulted at the same time by Rev. Wynder’s recitation. Weeks after the service, he emailed me with the text, and I wanted to learn more about this specific invocation. What Rev. Wynder spoke derived from Bishop Harris who adapted a prayer attributed to Saint Augustine:

*Eternal God,
who are the light of the minds that know you,
the joy of the hearts that love you,
and the strength of the wills that serve you;
grant us so to know you
that we may truly love you,
and so to love you
that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

We’re connected to an infinite tether of a holy and spirited word. We try and achieve some crystallization of God’s power through our writing, our speech. Words that get smashed up and swapped and reassembled by successive generations. Each variation containing a kernel of the first Word. Amen. Amen. Amen.



CHRIS MEYER

PARISHIONER PROFILE: CALEB WEBB

Caleb Webb has deep roots in New England. He is a descendant of the Mayflower Aldens, he lived in Maine as a youth, and his maternal family's home in Plymouth, Vermont is "just the other side of the notch" from the Calvin Coolidge homestead. He is also the descendent of people with varying religious affiliations including Roman Catholicism, Protestantism, and Judaism. Before choosing to become an Episcopalian, Caleb belonged to the Society of Friends.

His career choices reflect his values. He was a key member of a build-green construction company for which he has great respect. Both of Caleb's parents are physicians, and his sister is a registered nurse. Honoring the family's commitment to service, he was a premed major in college. His uncertainty about committing to med school was the impetus for pursuing his early work in green construction. His sister then encouraged him to become a nurse, suggesting that both construction and nursing are



Caleb's compassionate nature and calm demeanor will be a gift to his employers and patients.

invited to join us in this conversation, but her care of Alden took precedence. She and Caleb and family bring wonderful spirit and talent to our church family.

Our profiles are meant to be brief introductions to the featured person. Thanks so much to Caleb for being willing to be featured!

hands-on work, which appeals to Caleb. Currently, he is a licensed nursing assistant and a student in Norwich University's intensive, 18-month program to become a registered nurse. He now has had experience with emergency room work which he expects to continue as a nurse. Caleb's compassionate nature and calm demeanor will be a gift to his employers and patients.

Caleb says that he finds the Episcopal liturgy compelling. He believes that he and Jenna have a spiritual obligation to have their son Alden baptized, and he has been a bit frustrated that the January snowstorm and scheduling have delayed Alden's baptism until May. Jenna was

William Stearns

SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE VESTRY

All members except John Spooner, Junior Warden, were present. We recognized the out-going class of Vestry members: Senior Warden Susan Heimer, Paul Gallagher, and Cary Gaunt. Mary acknowledged the tremendous contribution each of them has made to St. Michael's while serving on the Vestry.

Gwen Mousin presented the proposed 2026 budget for discussion. It will be available for discussion with interested congregation members following the January 18 church service and will be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting.

The Vestry reviewed changes in policies and procedures which enable calculating the annual draw at the beginning of the calendar year, clearly identifying funds included in the draw and documenting how the draw is distributed. Limits are in place on making any additional draws on the Endowment. The Vestry approved the policies.

The Vestry reviewed and approved the annual Parochial Report, required by the Diocese.

The Rector's Report included:

- Compassion in Action (CIA) identifying finite projects that can be offered by church members with the CIA's help,
- Parish Discernment Committee for a parishioner who would like to begin the discernment process,
- Compline services the 2nd Thursday of each month,
- a bequest from Tom Ely for the church's environmental stewardship.

Refugee Ministry Update: Paul Gallagher, who with Linda Rice is co-leading the Refugee Ministry, reported on the well-attended open house for the new Multicultural Community Center in the building on Vernon Street. ECDC is leasing the 2600 sq ft from BMAC with St. Michael's helping to sponsor this effort.

Vestry Listening Report: the older copies of the Common Book of Prayer have much larger print and are much easier to read than the newer copies.

Submitted by Margery McCrum for the Vestry

SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE VESTRY

Prior to the regular meeting, most members of the Vestry met with Treasurer Gwen Mousin for an orientation to our finances. Topics included the Realm software transitioned to last year, budget structure, banking accounts and funds, structure of the Treasurer's quarterly reports to the Vestry, and an explanation of Diocesan financial requirements.

All Vestry members were present at the regular Vestry Meeting, as were Rev. Mary Lindquist, Carol Beninati (clerk), and Gwen Mousin (for treasurer's report). Gwen gave the Treasurer's Report, reviewing final numbers for 2025 (we finished with a surplus!), reporting on the implementation of direct deposit for clergy and staff payment, and noting that the Vestry will be receiving quarterly treasurer's reports.

The 2026 budget was presented for approval, noting there have been no changes since it was initially

submitted to the Vestry in January and opened to the congregation for questions and comments. The Vestry voted to approve the 2026 budget as presented.

The Rector's report noted a bequest from Ed McCatty's estate gratefully received, 3 Lenten studies underway, the formation of a Parish Discernment for Ministry committee, and a high number of baptisms planned for this year's Easter Vigil service.

In the Joint Warden Report, the wardens distributed and went over documents reviewing our Vestry Covenant, general responsibilities, required Safe Church Training, and Canon Law along with our church's Mission Statement. We discussed Vestry ministry liaison roles and reviewed schedules for greeting and listening on Sunday mornings and tasks for Vestry meetings in the coming year.

Submitted by Rosie Wojcik for the Vestry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

April 2	Becky Anderson
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, Cary Storm
April 13	Diane Clouet, Ron Bell, Lyndsay Hesselbach
April 15	Ian McBean, Ian Harrison
April 16	Katie-Beth Ryan, Alex O'Pray
April 18	Douglas Switzer
April 21	Jonas Ackerman-Hovis
April 22	Marcia Steckler
April 23	Rudy Fedrizzi
April 24	Charlotte Veltkamp
April 25	Alison Hale
April 27	Susan Heimer, John Daly
April 28	Rich Cogliano
April 29	Marta McBean, Annie Landenberger, Bee Hesselbach
April 30	Lawrin Crispe
May 2	Francine Vallario
May 4	Carol Beninati, Bruce Landenberger
May 5	Nancy Ames
May 7	Diane Pitcher, Bibi Johnson
May 8	Evangelina Holvino, Jeremy Geragotelis
May 11	Brian Morgan, Diana Bingham, Julian Siegel
May 12	Kristina Meima Devendorf
May 19	Susan Dyer
May 27	Karin Bleecker
May 28	Anne Black
May 29	Colby McGinn

**Please see Thursday E-Notes
and Sunday Bulletins for other
important dates and news.**

VESTRY



St. Michael's Vestry (from lower left to right): Alex O'Pray, Rosie Wojcik, Mary Lindquist, Annamarie Pluhar, John Spooner, Ricky Davidson, Patty Meyer, Belle Coles, Michael Hightower and Margery McCrum.

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parishadmin@stmichaelsvermont.org or 802-254-6048.

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The Guardian

St. Michael's is 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)
SECOND THURSDAYS	7:30 pm	Compline service
SATURDAYS	8:00 am	Centering Prayer (in-person)