



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

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October Calendar

Happy October

Birthday to

Matthew Thibert

Olivia Jane Chickering

Anne Turner Ayer

Hannah Bragdon

Hanson Waite Hundahl

Rebekah Barnett

Patricia Cool

From the Rector

I write this article the day after the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. The liturgy of Sunday, Sept. 28, seemed especially rich this year. We celebrated a baptism (welcome again, Scotia Hunter!). To my mind our music and prayers all melded wonderfully upward, inward and outward. At the parish wide lunch after the service, Frances Nilsson, on behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee, encouraged us to reflect on our parish's role and purpose in serving God and Christ, as well as our own individual response on how we participate as members of Christ's Body. The conversations seemed particularly energized and thoughtful. And the soup and sandwiches were delicious!

There is much going on at St. Michael's, and much going on in the world, too. As I write this, there is great uncertainty about the country's financial markets and economic outlook. These strong ripples extend worldwide, as they do locally and personally. The Presidential and congressional campaigns are in full force, including a bevy of mostly negative

political ads on television and print. We are also ever mindful of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and cries for help from countries such as Haiti in the aftermath of tropical storms and hurricanes.

There is indeed much going on and much to be concerned. In all of this, I am also mindful of the prayers offered by individuals during our Michaelmas Sunday services: thanksgiving for a newly born granddaughter; healing and recovery for an ailing person; thanksgiving for a wedding anniversary; comfort, strength and the repose of the soul of a person who recently died. Life events continue on. With all that is happening in the world and in our lives, our liturgy, ministries and relationships at St. Michael's continues as a source of nourishment and sanctuary.

Perhaps this is a place to start as we consider our strategic plan for the next five years: how we encounter God's grace at St. Michael's, and how we carry it to others.

- Fr. Andrew

Thank You for Your Entering the Conversation at our Michaelmas Celebration!

The conversation is not over. Additional thoughts are always welcome. Place them in the box in the Parish Hall or talk to a Strategic Planning Committee member. The Strategic Planning Committee will be compiling your thoughts and reporting later.



From the Music Director - Douglas Major

Oldest Keyboard Instrument in the World

If asked to name the world's oldest keyboard instrument, most people would say the piano. They'd be wrong. It's the organ – the venerable instrument that people generally associate with churches and choirs. What they don't know is that the organ has been a mainstay of international musicians since the 12th century. Originating some 2,000 years ago in ancient Egypt, the organ has been used in gladiatorial games, as gifts by kings and queens, and most importantly, as a tool to produce the world's universal language: music.

New Organs Around the World

In recent years, there has been resurgence in organ music due to the construction of a plethora of new concert halls across the country. Featured in many of these new venues are spectacular organs like the 3,051-pipe C. B. Fisk organ in the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, in Orange County, Calif., and the 3,617-pipe Schoenstein & Company organ built for the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville. The famous Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall, which opened in late 2003 in Los Angeles, also boasts a stunning new organ. Built by a German organ builder with a façade designed by architect Gehry and installed by organ consultant Manuel Rosales, the instrument is visually unique and features 6,125 pipes, ranging in size from a few inches to an astounding 32 feet.

Today, in fact, organs can be found everywhere in the world. Japan, for example, has organs in many concert halls, colleges and schools, most of them imported from Europe and America in the years following World War II. South Korea and Taiwan recently acquired several organs for concert halls and churches, and an American firm built a large organ for a concert hall in China's Forbidden City. There are also a number of organs in Central and South America, the Middle East and Russia, and even in Siberia. One of the oldest Russian organs was built in the 19th century for the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow. Many African countries, including Kenya and South Africa, also have had organs in concert halls and churches since the 19th century.

International Year of the Organ, July 2008-June 2009

It's no wonder, then, that the American Guild of Organists (AGO), a national organization of 18,000 members that promotes the organ and its music, has designated 2008-2009 as the International Year of the Organ (IYO). This 365-day celebration, which began in July, 2008, and continues through June, 2009, will feature a multitude of activities worldwide, ranging from grandiose organ concerts and recitals to organ-building workshops and special organ music appreciation classes for students.

Highlighting the IYO will be the "Organ Spectacular," a special event scheduled for October 19, 2008. On that day, more than 250 concerts will be held around the world to showcase the organ, its rich, colorful history, how it has evolved through the ages, and its indelible impact on society and culture. "We

are thrilled that the organ will be on center stage around the world over the next year, and that people of all ages and nationalities will have the opportunity to learn more about the 'King of Instruments,'" noted Fred Swann, president of the AGO.

"The Organ Spectacular and subsequent events during the year will encourage more people to become familiar with the instrument, particularly young people who are drawn to all types of music today," added James E. Thomashower, executive director of the AGO. The Organ Spectacular, Thomashower noted, is being coordinated by the AGO national organization in conjunction with the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) and hundreds of local Guild chapters and other music organizations throughout the world. "The event will feature more than 2,000 performers in different concert venues throughout North America and abroad," Thomashower said. "Combined, those performances will constitute the world's largest organ concert."

- Douglas Major, Music Director

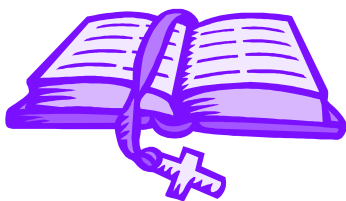
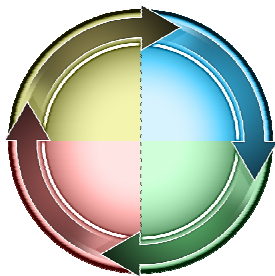
	<p>St. Michael's Organ Spectacular Concert with Doug Major October 19, 2008 at 5 pm</p> <p>Join in this festive event at your own St. Michael's Church for our first program of the season – and be a part of a great world-wide event!!</p>
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See page 5 for full calendar of concerts and evensongs.

Church School - Aileen Ryder

Classroom Musings

The first day of Church School, the children in Godly Play engaged with a story entitled "Circle of the Church Year" about the liturgical calendar. After interacting with the storyteller, they were encouraged to choose their own activity during "work time." At first glance of the K-2 classroom this appeared to be any ordinary play time for the kids; no one was creating a calendar, they weren't using only the liturgical colors we talked about, there weren't any pictures of Jesus. But as I watched them work I noticed a common thread, they were all using *circles*! After the work time, they told me about how they learned that time "looks like a circle." Pointing to the circular calendar of the Church year they started to tell me about their holidays, and which was their favorite color (white was popular—"it's the color of Christmas!").



Entering the Story

In the Godly Play classrooms, we are exploring the stories of Genesis and Exodus. Some of these stories lead to great controversy today...how are we to understand the great truth within them? Are we to take a literal understanding of the seven days of creation that may blind us to scientific facts?

If we read the sacred history contained within the Scriptures the same as we would a history text, then we may always be stuck with these questions. Recalling that Holy Scripture is a different genre than what we encounter in our everyday lives may lead us to greater understanding. The stories we encounter in the Bible tell of a truth beyond quantifiable facts. These stories point to the greater truth of the wonder and power of God's actions within the world. Within the greater Christian family we may disagree how to understand some details of these stories, but we all hold to the great truth that God created the good world and all the people within it.

High School Youth

We are creating a new program designed to meet the interests, needs and demands of our high school youth. Our high school youth will continue their dedication to this community and are looking to expand their community service commitments. Our youth have been invited to join the Oasis/BANA (Building a New America) —a North Shore Episcopal youth and service group. Please watch announcements, the bulletin board and future newsletters for more

Rite 13

Our youth in grades 6-8 are invited to participate in the Rite-13 group. This group is designed to invite our youth into adult participation within the faith community. Classes are based in conversation engaging daily life and faith.

The class is already off to a great start! The teachers for this fall are Jan and Jeff Barnett. They will be taking the youth on a camping trip the night of October 4-5. This overnight is a great time for the youth to come together as a group. We will be planning more fun events like this throughout the year. Furthermore, the group is invited to lunch with Fr. Andrew the first Sunday of each month.



Calendar of Special Dates

October 5: Rite-13 camping trip.
No Sunday morning class.

October 12: 9:30am One-Room School House.
Youth not serving as acolytes are invited to attend.

October 25: Safe Church training in North Andover.

Weekly Schedule

Rite-13 meets regularly at 9:00 am Sunday mornings. They have lunch with Fr. Andrew on the first Sunday of each Month.

Godly Play—two classrooms are offered each Sunday at 9:30 am.

High School Youth meet every other Sunday at 6 pm.

Good Shepherd Window

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.—*Isaiah 4:11*

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.—*John 10:11-16*

The northeast window presents Jesus as the Good Shepherd which, together with other symbols, indicates the dual image of his care for us, his sheep and children, and of Christ as the lamb sacrificed for us. Above his head is a five-pointed star representing the five wounds of his crucifixion—four from the nails that held his hands and feet on the cross, the fifth from the spear that pierced his side. Radiating from the star are pointed spear-like shafts. Note, too, that the pelican above is sitting on a nest of thorns resembling the crown of thorns placed on Christ's head to mock him.

A nest made of thorns is an unusual feature for a depiction of a pelican feeding her young, often called a "pelican in her piety." This image of a pelican feeding her three hatchlings is often used as a symbol of Christ's sacrifice. The pelican was popularly thought of as being very attentive to her young, to the extent that she drew her own blood to feed them. This belief may have arisen because pelicans press their chests to empty a pouch where food is stored for their young and they sometimes suffer from a disease that leaves a red mark on their chest. Some people even thought that the pelican "resurrected" its children with its own blood. The pelican's action of self-sacrifice became symbolic of Christ's death in atonement for our sins. The shield of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina includes the "pelican in her piety" as a symbol of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The SPG established many missionary churches in South Carolina through the work of Francis Nicholson, including St. Michael's and other churches along the East Coast.

Springing from the five-pointed star and surrounding the roundel is a vine which often refers to Jesus as the source of our salvation:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ... Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. - *John 15:1, 4-5.*

The bottom part of the window tells us that the window was "Presented by the Sunday School" who, according to the Rev. John Egbert's notes, paid \$250 from the Sunday School "free-will offerings." Again we see the dual message of Christ's care and self-sacrifice. The quote, "He shall gather the lambs with His arms and fold them in His bosom" (Is. 4:11b), reminds us of Christ's love of children. The Easter lilies whose pure white flower springs from a lifeless bulb, are reminders of Easter and Jesus' resurrection.



The seventh of eight articles in a series on our stained glass windows. - Frances Stith Nilsson, Historic Church Committee

St. Michael's Music Calendar 2008—2009

October 2008

- 5 Sunday 5 pm – First Choral Evensong
- 19 Sunday 5 pm – Organ Recital Series –
Douglas Major, Organist
St. Michael's Church

International Year of the Organ Special Recital

November 2008

- 2 Sunday 5 pm – Choral Evensong
- 16 Sunday 5 pm – Organ Recital Series –
Heinrich Christensen, Organist
King's Chapel, Boston

December 2008

- 7 Sunday 5 pm – Choral Evensong

January 2009

- 4 Sunday 5 pm – Choral Evensong

February 2009

- 1 Sunday 5 pm – Choral Evensong
- 15 Sunday 5 pm – Organ Recital Series –
Mark Nelson,
Organist & Director Of Music
St. John's Church, Gloucester

March 2009

- 1 Sunday 5 pm – Choral Evensong
- 15 Sunday 5 pm – Organ Recital Series –
Barbara Bruns,
Director of Music,
Christ Church, Andover

April 2009

- 5 Palm Sunday 5 pm – Choral Evensong
(no recital this month)

May 2009

- 3 Sunday 5 pm – Choral Evensong
- 17 Sunday 5 pm – Organ Recital Series –
Henry Lowe
Director of Music
Church of the Redeemer,
Baltimore (formerly of Christ
Church, Hamilton-Wenham)



Reception Host /Hostesses Needed!

Many of you have offered in the past to help with our Fellowship Receptions which are held after the Evensong and Recital afternoons – thank you very much. Another program year is ahead of us, and if you would be willing to host(ess) one of these evenings, it would be most appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall – again – thank you for your support.

Important Dates

St. Catherine's Guild

The Guild begins the new season on Thursday, October 2 at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and a speaker. The November meeting will feature Laura Tamagna presenting tips for a make-over of several of our members.

Parish Aid

will meet in the Parish Hall
at Noon on **Tuesday, October 21st**
(the third Tuesday of each month)



Annual Dinner & Auction

Esperanza's 3rd annual dinner and auction to raise funds for Esperanza Academy will be held on Friday, October 17th in Andover. A group of us from St. Michael's attended last year and the evening was a great success and a lot of fun. This is an opportunity to get to see the students and understand the mission of the Esperanza - a tuition-free school that creates an enriched environment for girls from 5th to 8th grade in Lawrence, Massachusetts, dedicated to fostering individual success and community commitment. It provides a quality of education in the Episcopal tradition welcoming girls from diverse faiths, races and cultures. If you are interested please contact Vivian Bennett at 617-556-1175 or Lesley Tracy at 781-639-2808. Car pooling can be arranged. Individual tickets are \$100.00.

*It is the heart always
That sees before the head
Can see.*

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*Lifelong spiritual guidance
through
service and celebration.*

Worship Schedule St. Michael's Church

Sundays:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Wednesdays:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

1st Sunday of Each Month (beginning Oct. 5):

5:00 p.m., Choral Evensong and Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament.

Soup and Dessert Fellowship and nourishment! October 14, 12:00 Noon Parish Hall, St. Michael's Church

On the 2nd Tuesday of each month, the Pastoral Care Group hosts a Soup and Dessert lunch. The group provides the soup, dessert, tea and coffee—you provide the fellowship. There is never a charge for this, just the pleasure of each other's company. Bring a sandwich, if you wish. Please join us!

For questions, call Pat Spaberg, 781-631-3181. Please call Pat if you would like to help prepare or serve.

St. Michael's Church

Officers: *Sarah Bates*, Sr. Warden; *Barbara Miller*, Jr. Warden; *Laurence Pierce*, Treasurer; *Paul Roberts*, Asst. Treasurer; *Walter Haug*, Clerk

Vestry: *Jack Attridge*, *Jeff Barnett*, *Vivian Bennett*, *David Bittermann*, *Louise Hunt*, *Anna Onishi*, *Paul Pruett*, *Christopher Riegler*, *Linda Smidt*

Staff: *The Rev. Andrew J. Stoessel*, Rector; *Dr. Douglas Major*, Music Director; *Aileen Ryder*, Church School Director, *Jane Maihos*, Parish Administrator; *Ron St. Pierre*, Sexton; *Donna Hingston*, St. Michael's Nursery School

Saint Michael's Church

October 2008

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



Parish Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:30 – 12:30

			<p>1) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>2) 9:00 am – Noon Christian Ed Teachers' Retreat 4:45 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm St. Catherine's 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>3)</p>	<p>4)</p>
<p>5) SEASON AFTER PENTECOST Proper 21 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 2:00 pm St. Francis Blessing of the Animals 5:00 pm Choral Evensong and Benediction</p>	<p>6)</p>	<p>7)</p>	<p>8) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 10:45 am Devereux Nursing Home Visitation 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>9) 12:00 pm Marblehead Ministerial Association Luncheon 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>10)</p>	<p>11)</p>
<p>12) SEASON AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 22 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>13) NO School Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>14) 12:00 pm Soup & Dessert </p>	<p>15) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>16) Newsletter Deadline 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>17)</p>	<p>18)</p>
<p>19) SEASON AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 23 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Rite 13 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Baptism & Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Organ Recital – Dr. Douglas R. Major National Pipe Organ Awareness Day</p>	<p>20) </p>	<p>21) 12:00 Parish Aid 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>22) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>23) 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>24)</p>	<p>25)</p>
<p>26) SEASON AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 24 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Rite 13 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>27)</p>	<p>28)</p>	<p>29) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 11:30 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>30) 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>31) </p>	