



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

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Happy October Birthdays to

Matthew Thibert
Annabelle Ayer
Hanson Hundahl
Hannah Bragdon
Rebekah Barnett
Patricia Cool

From the Rector –

“All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.”
(1 Chronicles 29:14)

Regular 8:00er's and longer-term members of the Episcopal Church will recognize this verse from 1 Chronicles. During the 8:00 a.m. Rite I Sunday service the congregation says this verse as the gifts of bread and wine and an offering of our money are placed on the altar. It also appeared as the heading of the 2007 Stewardship Guide prepared in conjunction with *“Stewardship: The Musical!”*

Looking back at the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, I came across a number of passages from scripture that may be spoken at the time of the offering. They begin with the simple and well-known verse from the Book of Acts: *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* (Acts 20:35) I won't list all those passages here, but each reminded me that the focus of our giving is God. It is not that we can buy our way into God's grace. God grace is a gift itself. By striving to live a just life by following the teachings of Christ and of scripture, we find that we become more aware of the grace of God in and around us. We may even sense a wealth of abundance – an abundance of grace, of the presence of God, of the gifts in our midst, of life itself. Giving, therefore, starts from a foundation of abundance and flows from a spring of gratitude of what has been given to us in the first place.

This fall the Stewardship Committee and the Vestry has started in earnest a three-year quest to eliminate of our use of

endowment *principal* that helps to fund the operation of the church. That figure today is \$80,000. Each member of the parish has been asked to increase his or her pledge to share in this goal. It seems awkward and even jarring jumping from speaking about grace and abundance to hard facts about money. Our money, however, is a spiritual matter. Giving is of matter to our spirituality.

The gifts of bread and wine and the offertory are placed on the altar to commence with Holy Communion. The bread and wine, themselves gifts from God's creation, are blessed and consecrated. They are taken, blessed, broken (or poured), and shared, “that he may dwell in us, and we in him.” The offertory is shared, too. Food presented goes to the Marblehead Food Pantry. The money offered supports the mission and vision of St. Michael's, the aim of which is our “transformation in God's grace.”

Another passage included as an offertory sentence in the 1928 Prayer Book comes from St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. It respects that the choice to give is ultimately ours, and offers some brief practical guidance for our life and vocations:

“The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

- Fr. Andrew

From the Music Director—Eucharist & Evensong, Receiving & Giving

As the summer winds down, and the afternoons get shorter, we begin again our tradition of singing Choral Evensong at St. Michael's Church. A few years ago I attended a musicians' conference at which the speaker was Louis Weill, one of America's finest theologians. He was speaking about the differences between the Eucharist and the Offices, i.e. Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer (Evensong). He suggested that we attend the Eucharist to RECEIVE the Word of God, to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to renew our participation in the body of Christ through the Eucharistic elements and also to receive absolution for our confessed sins. We also receive the charge to go forth into the world, doing God's work with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Evensong, on the other hand, is when we GIVE back to God, through our prayers, and our singing of God's praise through the Hymns, Psalms and the Canticles. The Anglican tradition of Choral Evensong is 450 years old, and goes back to the first Prayer Book of 1549. Archbishop Cranmer combined the old Latin Offices of Vespers, when the *Magnificat* was sung, and Compline, when the *Nunc Dimittis* was sung, into one beautiful liturgy he called Evening

**Sunday, October 3 at 5 pm
Choral Evensong and Benediction**

**Sunday, October 17 at 5 pm
Organ Recital
Douglas Major**

Prayer. When it is sung, of course, it is called Evensong. Much beautiful music has been written by Anglican composers around the world for this liturgy, especially musical settings of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*. It is our tradition at St. Michael's to continue this monthly service, and I hope you will join us for our first Evensong of the season on October 3rd. Bring a friend, and enjoy the quiet giving back of our praises to God.

—Doug Major, Music Director

October Events

Marilyn Day to Speak on Oberammagau Thursday, October 7 at 6:30 PM at St. Catherine's Guild

St. Catherine's comes together for dinner and a program on the first Thursday of the month most months. This October dinner consists of the traditional pork chops and is followed by a program presented by Marilyn Day. She has recently returned from Bavaria and will share her experiences at Oberammagau. This town in Bavaria has conducted a Passion Play every 10 years since 1634. At that time the townspeople made a vow that if the plague passed them over, which it did, they would fulfill their promise of performing this play every 10 years.

St. Catherine's welcomes new members! We hold monthly dinners on the first Thursday of every month (except in February and the summer months) followed by a program. We support the church in numerous ways either financially and or through our expert food preparation. St. Catherine's is a great way to meet and get to know church members over a great meal and to listen to interesting speakers. So please join us. Contact Lesley Tracy for information on joining.

—Lesley Tracy, President, St. Catherine's Guild

We regret that our Soup & Dessert luncheons must be suspended this fall. If you have questions, contact Sue Cool or Fr. Andrew.

Parish Aid Society continues to meet the third Tuesday of the month.

Where is Father Norton?

Many have asked what happened to Father Norton's portrait that was hanging near the library. After an intermittent roof leak dripped water on it several times, we thought it best to move it to a different wall. Some time this month we will be moving the portraits of Peter Bours, Rector 1753-1762, and John Bours Richmond¹, Rector 1851-1859, to the upper walls of the Parish Hall. The four 20th century portraits—Lyman Rollins, Rector 1915-1921; Roy I. Murray, Rector 1933-1947; David W. Norton, Jr., Rector 1947-1968; and George Westenberg, Rector 1968-1998—will be arranged in chronological order on the two walls above the sofa.

¹John Bours Richmond is great-grandnephew of the Rev. Peter Bours.

Church School & Youth—Aileen Ryder

Church School

Godly Play classes for students pre-K through 5th grade meet Sundays at 9:30am.

The Supper Club

A gathering of Middle School Youth on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6pm

High School Youth

Stay connected through our Facebook page.

October Highlights

Oct. 3 Blessing of the Animals at 2pm

Oct. 10 A special multi-age lesson on Outreach. This month's focus is the Marblehead Food Pantry.

Oct. 16 All Saint's Church in Belmont MA is hosting a Godly Play workshop introducing the new cycle of stories. Let's get a group together to attend!

Oct. 17 We will celebrate National Children's Sabbath with an intergenerational service and education forum.

Children will choose their special liturgical roles in classes on Oct. 3 & 10.

Oct. 23 Fr. Andrew will train new acolytes at 11am. All youth in sixth grade and up are invited to serve as acolytes.

National Children's Sabbath

On October 17 we will join thousands of congregation across the nation in the annual multi-faith National Observance of Children's Sabbaths weekend sponsored by the non-profit, non-partisan Children's Defense Fund and over 200 religious organizations including the Episcopal Church. This day celebrates children while providing the opportunity for faith communities to nurture, protect and advocate for all children.

This year's theme is "Blessed to be a Blessing: Lifting up the Next Generation." Our children will help us celebrate by taking special leadership roles within our worship.

Our children and youth share their blessings through the support they offer one another. They have spread their gifts even further with support to the Marblehead Food Pantry (remember the shopping bags?) and St. Thomas Church in Arcahaie Haiti. This year our children are making a year-long commitment to support children in Haiti.

This year's National Children's Sabbath invites us all to consider ways in which we are can share our blessings with the next generation. Aileen is happy to talk with anyone who wants to offer more support to children both in our parish and in the greater community.

Special Opportunity Would your child like to bake communion bread? Contact Aileen to organize a baking group.

Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Middle School Youth	Godly Play I	Godly Play II
Sunday, October 3	Blessing of the Animals, 2pm		Good Shepherd & World Communion with Sue Cool & Kristen Clay	Living Eucharist with Aileen & Gillian Petty
Sunday, October 10			One Room Schoolhouse	Outreach with Aileen
Tuesday, October 12		Supper Club: Worship Together		
Saturday, October 16	Godly Play Workshop in Belmont			
Sunday, October 17	National Children's Sabbath	Family Education Forum after service	Intergenerational Service	All involved children and youth meet at 9:30
Saturday, October 23	New Acolyte Training 11am			
Sunday, October 24			The Lord's Prayer I with Kaki Ianchulev & Joe Oliveira	
Tuesday, October 26		Supper Club: Stewardship		The Story of Samuel with Noah Bitterman
Sunday, October 31			The Lord's Prayer II with Kaki Ianchulev & Joe Oliveira	The Story of King David

St. Michael's and Slavery



Peter Bours, 1756, from St. Michael's photo-reproduction of the oil painting by Joseph Blackburn. The original was given to Harvard College by Miss Eunice Hooper in 1892. © President and Fellows of Harvard College, Harvard U.

The following article was adapted from a sermon delivered by Father Stoessel on September 19, 2010.

In the spirit of understanding and awareness, which hopefully in turn leads to reconciliation, a resolution was passed by the Episcopal Church's General Convention three years ago. Its title is Slavery and Reconciliation. Among its points, the resolution asks that the Episcopal church understand the economic benefits it gained from the institution of slavery, its complicity in slavery, and understand the injury done by it. Each diocese has been asked to look into this issue. The resolution also speaks to the ongoing issues of racism and oppression today.

We greatly value our history and colonial heritage at St. Michael's. It is humbling to think of the sermons, worship services and ministries that have taken place in this church over nearly 300 years. We have many historical items in the parish that are dear to us. Among them I'll mention two: the portraits of our rectors which hang in the foyer, and our chandelier, given to us in 1732 by John Elbridge, Collector of Customs for the port of Bristol, England.

As customs officer, Elbridge would have been responsible for checking freight and cargo moving in and out of the port to assess the appropriate tariff. His own income likely was connected with the tariffs collected. Here is an interesting fact, if sobering to our modern ears: between 1728 and 1732, 48 ships a year left Bristol specifically engaged in the slave trade left Bristol. This represented 50% of Britain's slave ships, and meant that Bristol replaced London as the major slave trading port in Britain. Another sobering fact: over a 100 year period, Britain enslaved and transported approximately 2.8 million Africans for the slave trade to its colonies in the Caribbean and America.

Now there is nothing to indicate that Elbridge's gift was a direct result of the slave trade. But, like trickle down economics that is hotly debated today, the slave trade was a vital part of the wealth of Bristol, and thereby Elbridge's income was not exempt from it. To many at that time, it was a just trade. We know that it is not a just trade.

Peter Bours was rector at St. Michael's 1753-1762. From Newport, Rhode Island, he was Harvard educated, considered a gentleman, and a popular figure in Marblehead. Like his predecessor, the Rev. George Pigot, rector 1727-1737, Bours owned slaves. Tradition says that he awoke one night to find one of his female slaves at his bedside ready to attack him. He feared for his life, and he sold her the next day. With the money from the sale, he had his portrait painted, a copy of which hangs in our foyer.

Why do we dredge up this history? The key is in the word reconciliation—to understand our history, and our actions, and how perhaps they are not that far from us now. Perhaps we are not so far removed now. We need only think of overseas sweat shops and factories that produce inexpensive goods for the ever-consuming U.S. economy.

Our goal is to seek transformation in God's grade. As the *Book of Common Prayer* points out, the mission of God and the mission of the church is to reconcile all people of God and each other in Christ. Step by step we seek this—by study, understanding, and conversation—that we may be led to where true riches are to be found.

Top 10 Reasons to be an Episcopalian

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.

4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry - none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized. And the Number One reason to be an Episcopalian...
- 1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.**

From the comedian Robin Williams, who is an Episcopalian, on a HBO special.

Stewardship Sunday, October 3

Jesus' message to us about how we use our resources is one of the most challenging elements of the Gospel. The ministry of Stewardship is an invitation to take up this challenge. When we are generous, we acknowledge the abundance in our lives - and our confidence in God's bounty. And when we give to St. Michael's, we claim this community for our own with its rich heritage and its extraordinary potential.

Giving can be found in multiple forms. Time, talent and treasure constitute the 3 T's of stewardship, and all should be included as you develop your personal stewardship plan.

On Sunday, October 3, the Stewardship Committee handed out pledge cards and letters with important information about our budget for the coming year. Please consider tithing or working toward of tithe of your in-

come or living expenses. Help us reduce the withdrawal from our endowment so we can be good stewards of the gifts others have given.

Members of the Vestry have already stepped up to the plate and increased their pledges!

With your help we can fulfill Our Vision: "to be a Mission-driven Episcopal congregation that by 2014 will be known as a vibrant, open and inviting community known for liturgically-centered worship and music, lifelong learning, pastoral presence and service to communities near and far, good

stewardship of our resources, and celebration of our legacy as an historic church."

- Stewardship Committee: Avery Russell, Jeff Barnett, Harriett Magee, Karl Renney, Larry Robbins.

Please return your pledge form by November 1st.

Haven't received your pledge form? - Contact the Parish Office.

New pledger? - Blank forms are at the web site on our new Stewardship web pages.

Steward of the Month: Jacqui Acevedo

Jacqui Acevedo, her husband Jay Finney, and their three children moved to Marblehead nine years ago. She says it is the longest she has ever lived in one place. Eight months ago, she joined St. Michael's.

Jacqui says, "I am culturally a Catholic, but Fr. Andrew is so open to all that I felt comfortable coming to St. Michael's." So comfortable that she was confirmed this year.

"The confirmation group was nice and I learned a lot about the history of the church and about being an Episcopalian." She found her confirmation more emotional and moving than she had anticipated.

How did she decide to become Episcopalian? Well, it began with the beauty of Trinity Church in Copley Square during a visit there and then later in the gift shop, she spotted a T-shirt that listed ten reasons to be an Episcopalian, written by Robin Williams! As she read, she found herself agreeing point by point. "God speaks to you in different ways," she says with a laugh.

At St. Michael's she has already worked on the Lobster Luncheon and become one of the hostess/oblations volunteers. She particularly likes socializing after the service. After all, she says, "It is always the people who draw you to a church." And she also looks forward to having meditative space during the service each week.



In her professional life, she is in geriatric health care. Recently she was developing a network to bring all geriatric entities together: elder law lawyers, VNA's, nursing homes, assisted living.

She has three children: Fernando, 20, Noelle, 14, and Quint, 10. Her husband Jay is the Deputy Director of Marketing and Communication at the PEM. Her greatest feeling of

achievement she says comes from seeing her children healthy, happy, and well-functioning. She mentions Mother Theresa's comment to women who wanted to come to join her in India: "Before you come here, is your house in order? Don't come here until your house is in order." Jacqui has always tried to be sure her house is in order before other endeavors.

In her free time she enjoys museums, the theater, reading the newspaper, and exercise—although she says she doesn't really enjoy the exercise that much! Jacqui would love to see the Amazon rainforest though she thinks it might be a demanding trip. "It is one of those places, you should see before you die," she says. And, finally, she wouldn't mind seeing those T-shirt ten reasons in the Newsletter!

- Marilyn Day

See page 4 for 10 Reasons to Become an Episcopalian!

Stewardship & Educational Opportunities



Thrift Shop Needs Volunteers & Fall Goods

Do you realize that, excluding pledges, our Thrift Shop is the largest source of non-endowment income for St. Michael's Church? It is a very important part of St. Michael's budget. However, needless to say,

- volunteers and
- clean, used clothing/household donations

are needed for its very existence. Volunteers are asked to work in pairs 1-4 PM twice a month on weekdays or one Saturday a month. We need workers for Mondays and Saturdays particularly. PLEASE call Jacqui Williams or Mary Williams and let us know when you can make a commitment.

A calendar is posted on the bulletin board just outside the Parish Office showing volunteers for specific dates. If current volunteers switch dates with someone else, please indicate the change on the calendar.

Thanks for your consideration.

- Mary Williams, Thrift Shop Treasurer

Sunday, October 17, 11:30 am

Simple Gifts

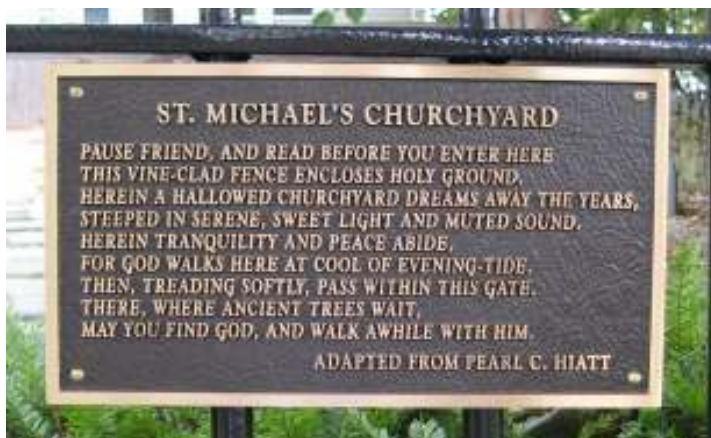
A stewardship forum

*I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them
bear much fruit, because apart from me
you can do nothing. -John 15:5*

FYI: God in America Series on PBS

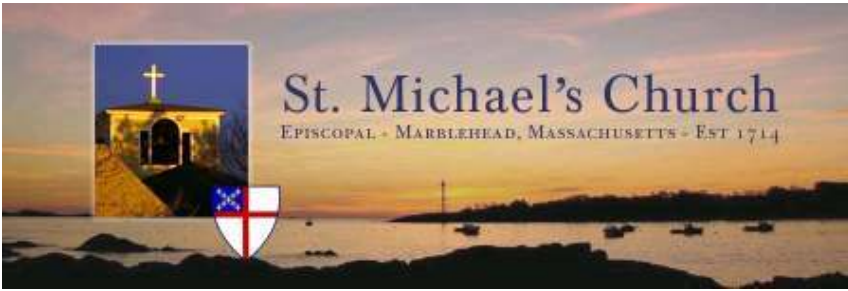
How well do you know the role of religion in American history? American Experience and Frontline will be airing 6 episodes on God in America on Monday-Wednesday, October 11-13 from 9-11 pm with repeats at other times and days. See the web site—www.pbs.org/godinamerica—for more information including a viewing guide with religion literacy quiz and a how-to guide for visiting sacred spaces of different denominations and religions. Boston churches will also be open for walking tours Columbus Day weekend including the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul and Trinity Church in Boston—See wgbh.org/walkingtour for the schedule and a beautiful guide.

Churchyard Fence and New Plaque



By now you may have noticed that our Churchyard fence and gate are back in place after an absence of about two weeks in July. Some of you wondered what happened to them. Cassidy Brothers Forge, in Rowley, the firm that built them had removed them. The paint had started to prematurely peel, and so Cassidy—at their own cost and effort—took the entire assemblage to their shop and completely stripped and re-painted everything using a special marine-grade black epoxy paint. Newly re-installed, the gate and fence look terrific.

What you may not have yet seen is the handsome new bronze plaque just installed on the fence. The plaque contains a poem welcoming all to the Churchyard, and its installation completes long-planned architectural and landscaping improvements. — Rob Howie, Jr.



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Sunday, October 3

**Blessing of the Animals
2 pm**

**Choral Evensong
& Benediction
5 pm**

Sunday, October 17

**Organ Recital
with
Dr. Douglas Major
5 pm**

St. Michael's Church

Officers: *Barbara Miller, Sr. Warden; David Bittermann, Jr. Warden; Sarah Bates, Treasurer; Laurence Robbins, Asst. Treasurer; Walter Haug, Clerk.*

Vestry: *Susan Cool, Ian Hunter, Louise Hunt, Harriett Magee, Joe Oliveira, Anna Onishi, Avery Russell, Linda Smidt, Thomas Weber.*

Delegates for Convention: *Jan Barnett, Denise Shea. Deanery Delegates: Jan Barnett, Frances Nilsson, Denise Shea*

Staff: *The Rev. Andrew J. Stoessel, Rector; Dr. Douglas Major, Music Director; Aileen Ryder, Church School Director; Jane Maihos, Parish Administrator; Ron Warburton, Sexton.*

Saint Michael's Church

October 2010

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Thrift Shop Hours
Monday-Saturday
1 pm – 4 pm

1)
9:00 am Polarity Class
11:00 am
Memorial Service:
Madeline Fraggos

2)

<p>3) 19TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Proper 22 Stewardship Sunday 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Outreach Committee Meeting 2:00 pm Blessing of the Animals 5:00 pm Choral Evensong-Benediction</p>	<p>4)</p>	<p>5)</p> <p>5:30 pm St. Michael's Team at My Brother's Table, Lynn 7:30 Property Committee</p>	<p>6)</p> <p>9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>7)</p> <p>6:30 St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>8)</p> <p>9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class</p>	<p>9)</p> <p>11:00 am St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge, Salem</p>
<p>10) 20TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Proper 23 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School (One-Room Schoolhouse) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>11) Columbus Day Office Closed</p>	<p>12)</p> <p>6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club (tentative) 7:30 pm Wardens</p>	<p>13)</p> <p>9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 3:30 pm Church School Bread Baking 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>14)</p> <p>9:00 am St. Michael's Gardeners 5:00 pm Circus Trip with Supper Club (tentative) 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>15)</p> <p>9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class</p>	<p>16)</p>
<p>17) 21ST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Proper 24 National Children's Sunday 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Intergenerational Service 11:30 am Stewardship Forum-Parish Hall 5:00 pm Organ Recital: Douglas Major</p>	<p>18)</p> <p>10:30 – 11:30 am AA Meeting</p>	<p>19)</p> <p>12:00 pm Parish Aid 7:30 pm Vestry</p>	<p>20)</p> <p>9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 6:00 pm Deanery Pre-convention Meeting, Trinity Church, Topsfield 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>21)</p> <p>7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>22) Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class</p>	<p>23)</p>
<p>24) 22ND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Proper 25 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Music & Worship Committee</p>	<p>25)</p>	<p>26)</p> <p>6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club</p>	<p>27)</p> <p>9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>28)</p> <p>9:00 am St. Michael's Gardeners 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>29)</p> <p>9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class</p>	<p>30)</p>
<p>31) 23RD SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Proper 26 All Hallow's Eve 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>						