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St. Michael's Newsletter

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The April calendar is included inside.

Kitchen Update – Phase I has begun!

Workers will be installing new appliances in the Parish hall kitchen beginning April 7th. We are getting new electric wall ovens, 6-burner gas range and hood, refrigerator, under-counter microwave, coffee maker and disposal. This will involve some cabinetwork with stainless steel counters and backsplash, painting, new flooring and a kitchen island. Phase I should be completed before April 18; Phase II in the summer. These improvements are made possible by a bequest from Rachel Holbrook. Kitchen committee members include Greg Bates, David Winder, Pam Oppelt, Father Stoessel and Frances Nilsson with Ed Nilsson, consulting architect.

Book Readings and Discussions

Fred Alling, a retired priest and psychiatrist, has written a new book, **Brief Flights: Transcendent Experiences Inside and Outside**. It describes the nature of religious experiences in the light of recent scientific discoveries. New research has revealed that religious experiences are wider, deeper and more important than previously realized, but also not equally accessible. The Kirkus Discoveries' review reported that this book "is written with clarity, insight and terrific real-world testimonies...The author's arguments are cogent, and he bolsters his case by connecting abstract ideas to specific, concrete examples and case studies. A fascinating look at the dazzling nature of transcendence".

Fred will be giving some readings and leading discussions on transcendent experiences at:

- St. Andrew's Church, April 29, 2:30-4 pm, "The Outside Experience" (Brief Flights-Part I)
- St. Michael's Church, May 6, 2:30-4 pm, "The Inside Experience" (Brief Flights-Part II)
- St. Andrew's Church, May 13, 2:30 -4 pm, "Science and Religion" (Brief Flights-Part III)

Brief Flights is currently available locally at the Spirit of '76 Bookstore and also online from Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com or electronically at Diesel ebooks. It would be helpful, if possible, to have read the appropriate part in the book before each talk and discussion.

Happy April

Birthday to

Isabella Renney

William T. Hundahl

Hannah L. Atkinson

Kelsey Pruett

John C. Capshaw III

Rose H. Clark

Timothy J. Clay

Erodita A. Suarez

Music

This month we have three musical events to help us out of the cold winter and into spring. I hope you will all take the opportunity to enjoy some good choral and organ music with us.

April 6 at 5pm – Choral Evensong with the Choir of Grace Church, Salem at St. Michael's. Mark Englehardt, former Organist and Choirmaster of St. Paul's Cathedral, Boston has been building a fine music program for youth and adults at Grace Church for three years now, and this will be the first time we will host their adult choir to join us for Evensong. A reception follows – please come and bring a friend!

April 20 at 5pm – Our Organ Recital Series continues with guest organist Stuart Forster, Director of Music at Christ Church, Cambridge. Stuart hails from Australia, and is one of our finest organists in the Boston area.

April 27 at 4pm – your own Doug Major will play a recital at Church of the Holy Name in Swampscott, to celebrate the re-building of their pipe organ. Won't you consider a road-trip out of town to join me for that event? It would be great to have a strong contingent of St. Michael's folks to cheer me on!

May you all have a wonderful springtime.

Douglas Major

Church School

For several years, we have provided a class for the children called Introduction to Communion. We meet once a week for several weeks and teach the kids about this mysterious activity we participate in every Sunday in Church. They enjoy learning the names of the implements like chalice, cruet, and paten and setting up their own, miniature version the communion table complete with pita bread and grape juice. They learn about the community aspect of this meal and that participation in it links them to all other Christians around the world and throughout history. Then, they get to respectfully explore the church and experience what it is like to stand in the choir loft, pulpit and a number of other places. It is, we hope, a fun way for the children to learn about this integral practice of our faith.

This year, six children participated and were acknowledged during the Rite II service on March 30th. They are Hannah Bragdon, Tessa Robertson, Julia Christian, Miles Renney, Mack Renney, and Isabella Renney.

Schedule:

Date	K-2	3-5
April 6	Children's Chapel	Children's Chapel
April 13	Good Shepherd & World Communion	Jesus and the Twelve
April 20	No Church School	Public School Spring Recess
April 27	Synagogue & Upper Room	Good Shepherd & World Communion

Youth—Rite 13

During the month of March, the youth have been exploring various forms of prayer. Recently, these forms have been meditative. First, we practiced “contemplative prayer” together. During contemplative prayer, one can contemplate an object, image, or idea. Through contemplating we try to relax and let go of our conscious thoughts so that we can allow God to speak or to be seen. This is different from some forms of Eastern religious meditation because we are not contemplating nothingness or a void but we are contemplating the *presence* of God in ourselves and in the object, image, or idea. During another class, we practiced an ancient form of prayer called *lectio divina*, which is praying a Scripture story. Utilizing the meditative prayer techniques, we imagined ourselves in Luke 10:38-42, as Mary, Martha or Jesus. This allowed us to participate in the Scripture stories in a different, and a little more experiential, way. We tried these prayer forms in later classes as well. As the youth have said, these forms of prayer become easier with practice. The youth had a great idea a few weeks ago to act out the story as a play and then also pray the story using *lectio divina*. It was interesting to see which method of imagining the story was easier for each youth according to their different learning styles.

Upcoming Dates:



Hunger Simulation

The parish is invited to participate with the youth in a Hunger Simulation on Saturday, April 26th at 6:00 p.m. This activity is a meal and fundraiser to benefit “Nets for Life.” The youth have been supporting this Episcopal Relief and Development program throughout this church school year. We ask for a donation of \$12 per person, which is the cost of one mosquito net. For tickets see Forrest or Candace Johnson.

Preparing Fields for “The Food Project”

May 31 from 9:30-12:30

In Beverly (Long Hill)

Sponsored by the
Northshore Deanery

Reminders

Add Your Story to the Time Line

Have you added your stories of St. Michael's to the Time Line? Don't worry about precise dates. We want your memories – events, people, programs, activities – that have meant the most to you. Fill up the wall before Bishop Gayle Harris's visit on Sunday, May 4th. – from the Strategic Planning and Historic Church Committees



Please Let Us Know!

Please let us know if you, a relative or friend is in the hospital and would appreciate a visit or being included on the St. Michael's Prayer List.

Because of a Federal “Privacy” law, there is no way for the clergy at St. Michael's to know that you are hospitalized unless we are informed. We need to know your name exactly as it is given to the hospital, and the name of the hospital and your room number, if possible.

If unable to let us know yourself, please have a relative or friend call the church office to make sure your information gets onto our Prayer List, should you desire.

Thought for the day from one who trusts:

*Lord, I'm so grateful
there isn't a place on earth
I can go without You.*

St. Michael's Stained Glass Windows

On April 1, 1888 parishioners of St. Michael's Church celebrated Easter in newly renovated space with frescoed walls, new chancel furniture, gas lighting and 6 gift and memorial stained glass windows. A commemorative 175th anniversary celebration followed on Wednesday, April 18 when Samuel Roads, Jr. provided a historical sketch of St. Michael's and fellow members of the Massachusetts Senate of 1888 officially presented the window with Moses holding two tablets with "The Law." These events were just 3 months after the Vestry authorized the Rector, the Rev. John L. Egbert, to obtain estimates and then "to select and arrange the new windows."



Up until that time the windows were of clear glass. The original openings in 1714 were round-topped windows above, paired with rectangle openings below, and separated by horizontal beams. In 1833 when the altar was moved to the north wall, pointed ogival or gothic windows were cut into the east and west walls. In 1888 natural light was no longer necessary as new gas lighting fixtures, designed after the Bristol chandelier, were being installed. Stained glass windows and ornate decoration were encouraged by the belief that medieval styles were more appropriate for church architecture and by the aesthetic movement's emphasis on beauty. Local inspiration would have surely come from the Trinity

Church, Boston, built 1872-1877 with its stained glass completed in 1882.

The memorial and gift stained glass windows were "furnished" by Redding, Baird & Co. located on Franklin St., Boston, according to an advertisement in the first edition of the booklet for the mid-week commemorative event. The firm imported stained glass from Europe, and designed and manufactured windows for church, home, academic and public buildings up and down the east coast. The six main Redding, Baird windows were restored 100 years later by Cummings Studio using income from the Hodgkinson Fund.



Redding, Baird & Co. provided the transom window over the south entrance doors and probably the simple geometric windows that extend below and above the gallery or choir loft. The choir loft windows on the south side of the church were added later around the turn of the century: first the center pointed arch window above the door by 1907, and later the two matching windows on either side.

One of the features of the newly frescoed walls and ceilings included four medallions in the ceiling crossing with the four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This theme of the four is repeated in the windows and chancel furniture with quatrefoils – symbols with 4 equal lobes, like a flower with 4 petals. Look around at the windows and the chairs in the parish hall and see the many different quatrefoils.



Frances Nilsson,
Historic Church Committee

This is the first of a series of articles on our stained glass windows. The next articles will focus on the images, symbols and memorials in each window.

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*Lifelong spiritual guidance
through
service and celebration.*

***Soup and Dessert
Fellowship and nourishment!
April 8, 2008—cancelled—Next date May 13
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. Also, 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 Riegle, Linda Smidt*

Staff: *The Rev. Andrew J. Stoessel, Rector; Dr. Douglas Major, Music Director; Candace Johnson, Church School
Director; Forrest Johnson, Youth Coordinator; Carolyn C. Winder, Parish Administrator; Ron St. Pierre, Sexton;
Donna Hingston, St. Michael's Nursery School*

Saint Michael's Church

April 2008

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



		1)	2) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 10:45 am Devereux Visitation 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	3) 4:45 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm Adult Choir	4)	5)
6) 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Evensong	7) Kitchen Update Begins	8) 12:00 pm Soup & Dessert - cancelled	9) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	10) 4:45 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	11)	12) 9:00-3:00 pm Vestry Retreat at St. Stephens, Lynn— Lessons in Leadership- Tom Shaw
13) 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 2:30 pm Strategic Planning	14) 7:00- 9:00 pm Marblehead Festival of Arts Executive Chairs Meeting	15) <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 12:00 pm Parish Aid Luncheon	16) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	17) 4:45 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	18)	19)
20) 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I NO Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Organ Recital: Stuart Forster	21) <i>School Vacation Week</i>	22)	23) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	24) 4:45 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	25) 	26)  6:00 pm Hunger Simulation
27) 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER ROGATION SUNDAY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	28)	29) 2:30 pm <i>Brief Flights</i> Part I at St. Andrew's Church	30) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 10:45 am Devereux House Visitation 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting			