



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

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April Calendar

Happy April Birthdays to

Isabella Renney
William Thor Hundahl
Hannah Atkinson
Kelsey Pruett
John C. Capshaw, III
Rose H. Clark
Timothy Clay

From the Rector

Turning the corner from Rockaway Street onto Summer Street recently, I came across a modern sign of spring: a landscaping crew with leaf blowers going at full force. No leaves were being blown as far as I could see, but there was a great cloud of dust. I drove on (and through) to the rectory. There I was greeted with more traditional harbingers. Tips of revitalized daffodils seemed to have greened over night. A song sparrow tested his vocal cords in a nearby bush and a cardinal gave a warning cheep from high above. Around the corner, buds on the rhododendron had plumped and fattened.

They are welcome sights. At the bird sanctuary on Marblehead Neck, and also around town, fallen trees, broken branches, twisted brush and bushes all bear the marks of a heavy winter. Spring brings healing and resilience and hope for souls weary from winter's dealings.

Signs of Spring on Summer Street

The Resurrection of our Lord, celebrated each Sunday, gives one this hope, too. We mark it especially with the celebration on Easter Sunday. It comes late this year. "Easter Day is always the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after March 21. It cannot occur before March 22 or after April 25." (Book of Common Prayer, p. 15) Early or late, it is most welcomed. Beginning with the Great Vigil on Easter Eve we gather in prayer and vigil to acknowledge the time "in which our Lord Jesus passed from death to life" and "by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death." (BCP, p. 285) Gracious souls, burdened by the challenges and changes of life, are invited to find renewed hope in the power of the resurrection.

Please join us for worship during Holy Week.

- Fr. Andrew



Easter Memorial Flower List

If you would like Easter flowers in memory of a loved one, please submit names by Friday, April 15th. The flowers are displayed for Easter and the list of names is included in the Easter Vigil and Easter Day bulletins. The suggested donation cost per listed name is \$17. Easter flowers are included as part of perpetuity remembrance; however, with the costs increasing substantially a donation to the flower fund would be greatly appreciated. - Anne Foster, Altar Guild Director

From the Music Director

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 17	PALM SUNDAY	
8:00 am	Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist	
10:00 am	Blessing of the Palms and Festal Eucharist	
APRIL 20	HOLY WEDNESDAY	
9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	
APRIL 21	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
7:30 pm	Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar and Prayer Watch	
APRIL 22	GOOD FRIDAY	
12:00 noon	Stations of the Cross for children & families followed by children's luncheon	
7:30 pm	Solemn Good Friday Liturgy with sung Passion according to St. John and Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament. Offerings for Episcopal Relief & Development	
APRIL 23	HOLY SATURDAY	
9:30 am	Holy Saturday Liturgy -a brief liturgy of the Word	
7:30 pm	The Great Vigil, the First Eucharist of Easter and Holy Baptism	
APRIL 24	EASTER DAY, DAY OF THE RESURRECTION	
8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	
10:00 am	Festal Eucharist, Rite II	

**Aleluia!
He is alive!**

Choral Evensong

Sunday, April 3 at 5 PM

On Sunday April 3 at 5 pm the St. Michael's Choir will sing Choral Evensong, with a special emphasis on the Lenten musical tradition. The beautiful Gregorian Chants for the Psalm and the Canticles create a meditative and calm experience for the worshiper; we will sing music by Thomas Morley, one of the great Elizabethan composers, as well as a beautiful setting of one of the Collects from the 1660 Book of Common Prayer by early 20th Century composer Ernest Farrar. Two beautiful hymns, Marsh Chapel (#547) and Ellers (#345) will open and close the service, with organ improvisations based on these tunes.

Music for Holy Week

During Holy Week, April 17 - 24, the Choir will sing a wide range of choral music for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, The Great Vigil of Easter and the Sunday of the Resurrection, Easter Day. Some highlights include a very powerful anthem to the text "Alone to sacrifice thou goest, O Lord" (poem by Peter Abelard, 1079-1142) with music by Kenneth Leighton, a 20th century British composer, on Palm Sunday.

Good Friday brings us my setting of the Passion according to John, with beautiful narration by Sarah Hunter.

For the Great Vigil, Sarah will sing the *Exsultet*, and the Choir will sing music by Rutter and Harris.

On Easter Sunday, we will have the opportunity to hear Thom Smoker, our tenor soloist, sing "Rise Heart" from the *Mystical Songs* of Vaughan Williams.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church Marblehead, Massachusetts

Our Mission is to seek transformation in God's grace by worshipping God in prayer, song, and study; loving and serving our neighbor in and outside our parish Community; and being good stewards of God's creation.

Our Vision is to be a Mission-driven Episcopal congregation that by 2014 will be widely recognized as a vibrant, open, and inviting community, known for liturgically-centered worship and music, for lifelong learning, for pastoral presence and service to communities near and far, for good stewardship of our resources, and for celebration of our legacy as an historic church.

A Special Organ Event in Methuen

On Saturday, April 30, up at the Methuen Music Hall, Peter Krasinski, organist extraordinaire, will accompany the epic silent film *The King of Kings* (Cecil B. DeMille, 1927) on the magnificent Music Hall Organ. Those who heard him play for us in March are still talking about his incredible skill at improvisation, and here is a rare opportunity to hear him do what he does best - accompany silent films. If we can interest 10 people in going to this event, we can secure a discounted ticket price. Please e-mail or speak to me if you are interested in a unique opportunity to celebrate on the Saturday evening after Easter, April 30.

- Douglas Major, Music Director

Church School - Aileen Ryder

Church School

Church School meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Students in pre-K-2nd grade use Godly Play. Weaving God's Promises is the class for students in grades 2-5.

The Supper Club

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

April Highlights

Intro to Holy Communion-Classes meet on Wednesdays.

Confirmation Class-Classes continue on Thursday nights, except for Holy Week and Easter Week.

Celebration of Special Communion-Children who have completed the Introduction class will celebrate with the reception of Communion on Palm Sunday

Stations of the Cross-Children and youth are invited to commemorate the death of our Lord with this service. Following the service we will share a light lunch.

Easter Craft Day-Children and youth are invited to celebrate the Lord's resurrection with a morning of crafts.

Meeting God in Our Daily Lives

The curriculum *Weaving God's Promises* invites children to explore how God's story is lived out in their everyday lives; during the Holy seasons of Lent and Easter we are invited to do the same. The Supper Club explored ways of prayer. You can see their exploration on the bulletin board, and perhaps incorporate these practices into your daily life as well. The children of *Weaving God's Promises* practiced hospitality through the baking of pretzels while learning about Lenten practices.



Throughout Lent, Godly Play students are making their own storybook about Jesus' life. This way they can carry God's story, told in their own words, with them in all part so their lives. All the Children and youth are invited to Celebrate the Resurrection with an Easter Craft Day—another way to keep Jesus' story part of their everyday life.



Teachers please mark your calendars: Safe Church Training May 14 at Holy Name in Swampscott.

Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Middle School Youth	Godly Play	Weaving God's Promises
Sunday, April 3			Faces of Easter V & VI	Jesus Enters Jerusalem
Wednesday, April 6	Communion 3:30			
Thursday, April 7		Confirmation 7:00		
Saturday, April 9	Godly Play Training: Cohasset			
Sunday, April 10			Faces of Easter VII	Jesus' Last Supper
Tuesday, April 12		Supper Club Jesus' Last Days		
Wednesday, April 13	Communion 3:30			
Thursday, April 14		Confirmation 7:00		
Sunday, April 17	Palm Sunday Special Communion		One-Room Church School	From the Garden to the Cross
Friday, April 21	Stations of the Cross & Lunch 12:00			
Sunday, April 24	Easter Sunday		No Church School	No Church School
Tuesday, April 26		Supper Club A New Beginning		
Saturday, April 30	Easter Craft Day 10:00			

Passion and Resurrection Windows

While cleaning out the bell deck in January, five stained glass windows were discovered with 3 triangular tops. The windows came from the apse of the 1893 Chapel and Guild House as can be seen in the photo below. The 1893 building was located where the playground, office and lobby are now located and was razed in 1964 to make way for our more spacious parish hall.

The windows depict passion flowers and Easter lilies, symbols of Christ's Passion and Resurrection. Very soon after its discovery in America, the passion flower became identified with Christ's last days and crucifixion. To many the 10 petals represent the 10 faithful apostles (12 minus Judas Iscariot and St. Peter, the one who denied Christ three times). The radial filaments are the crown of thorns; and the five anthers, Christ's wounds on the cross. Others saw the vine's tendrils as whips and the lancet leaves as the lance that pierced His side. The Easter lilies symbolize Christ's Resurrection as they bloom in the spring from a bulb that appears lifeless. Our windows are identical to insets in a much more elaborate triptych (three-part) window installed in 1893 in the [Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York](#), by the company Redding & Baird.

The 5 windows found and the winged angel window in our sacristy are all that remain of the 12 windows installed by Redding & Baird in 1893. The windows in the apse were given by the Sunday School classes of Mrs. Theodate Alley, Miss M. Lizzie Bray, Miss Margaret Buchanan, Miss Maria T. Gardner (later Mrs. William D. T. Trefry), and Mrs. Thomas T. Lyon (nee Hattie K. Green). Three nave windows were given by Daniel G. Broughton, Dr. & Mrs. E. M. Kellog, and Miss Margaret Buchanan. Another three were funded by an offering in church on September 3rd, 1893.

- Frances Stith Nilsson, Historic Church Committee



Church School service 1950s-early60s in 1893 Chapel.



The Historiographer

of the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists and the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church
 Fall 2010, Vol. XLVII No. 3 included
 "St. Michael's Church, Marblehead, Massachusetts:
 A Short History" and "St. Michael's Church, Marblehead, Massachusetts: A Model Parish Archives"
 both by Robert L. Howie, Jr.
 See copies on the bulletin board
 outside church office and in the Parish Library.

Helping Hands for Haiti and Marblehead

Little Dresses for Haiti

Margaret Withum has made 28 dresses to be sent to Haiti along with 30 pairs of flip flops. The dresses were made from pillowcases (many donated by LifeBridge) plus leftover fabric, binding tape and riprap. The flip flops were bought with funds donated by members of Parish Aid. The project was developed at Grace Episcopal Church in Mansfield, Ohio, and rapidly spread throughout the Episcopal Church. Nearly 2000 dresses, plus boys and women's clothing have been sent.

If you would like information on how to make the dresses, contact Margaret Withum. More information is also at www.gracemansfield.org/dresses-for-haiti



- Frances Nilsson

Marblehead Food Pantry Needs Delivery Help and Donations

Support of the Marblehead Food pantry is an ongoing ministry of the parishioners of St. Michael's. Not only are donations of food welcomed, but help is needed to deliver the food to the Pantry (across from Star of the Sea on Atlantic Ave.).

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. The Food Pantry is open Tues. 9:00 AM– 12:00 noon and Thurs. 12:30–3:00 PM and 6:00–7:00 PM. At other times during week days, ring the bell at the door; there is usually someone available to receive donations.

- Peggy Bittermann,
Outreach Co-Chair

Stewardship—2011 Pledges Help Protect Endowment...

Parishioners faced up to the real possibility that St. Michael's could close in a little more than decade by significantly increasing their pledges for 2011. In one of the parish's most successful stewardship drives in recent memory, 90% of the 135 pledgers responding increased their support from the previous year. The final total for 2011 donations was \$202,279, compared with \$157,515 for 2010, a 28% gain. The pledging response suggested that parishioners rejected the notion of withdrawing endowment principal to pay operating expenses.

The stewardship drive for 2011 was a critical first step in reaching the longer-term goal of \$265,000 in annual pledges for 2013 that would pay operating expenses without having to tap our endowment of roughly \$1 million. Currently, the 2011 budget requires a withdrawal of \$42,000 from the endowment, which has been hurt by investment losses. Only then can St. Michael's, on the cup of celebrating our 350th anniversary, promise future generations that the parish will endure.

Despite generous pledging, St. Michael's still lags behind that of several sister churches in the area. For example, using 2010 data, the average pledge at Grace Church, Salem, was \$2000, and \$2168 at St. John's, Beverly Farms, compared with our \$1270.

**...but
St. Michael's
still lags
behind our
neighbors**

For 2011, our average pledge rose to \$1496 but was still less than that of Trinity, Topsfield, at \$2583, and of St. Peter's, Beverly, at roughly \$1,575. Both churches had fewer than 100 pledging units supporting them.

St. Michael's 2011 average pledge breaks down to roughly \$29 weekly or \$124 monthly. Annual pledge amounts ranged from one at more than \$10,000, another one at between \$5000 and \$10,000, with the most frequent contribution, for 40% of pledges, at between \$1,000 and \$2,000. This last figure represents a weekly amount of roughly \$39. There were 28 pledges of \$500 or less annually.

As important the fiscal health of the church is, we especially need to grow our congregation. Thanks in part to the Evangelism & Welcoming Committee, there were 15 new pledgers, some of them families with young children, who are supporting the church during 2011. Such an infusion into a congregation comprising many older people on fixed incomes is welcome. However, more parishioners pledging at higher levels will be needed in the next few years to reach the Vestry's commitment to leaving St. Michael's precious endowment intact.

- Harriett Magee & The Stewardship Committee

St. Catherine's Guild Invites You to Join Us for...



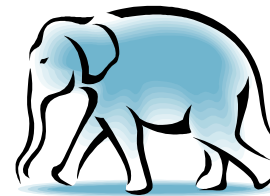
Dinner with Amy Riskin, RN, Plus the Threshold Singers

After our dinner, Amy Riskin of All Hospice Care will talk about palliative and hospice care followed by a demonstration by the Threshold Singers who sing to patients in a variety of settings. Dinner for St. Catherine's members is \$4.00; guests are invited for a cost of \$5.00 per person.

Notify Aileen Day if you would like to attend.

Water for Elephants, by Sara Gruen,

to be discussed on Sunday, May 22 at 2:00 pm at the home of Lesley Tracy. In this book a conagenarian remembers his days with a circus during the Depression. "Water for elephants tells of love in a world in which love's a luxury few can afford."



Stewards of the Month: Stephen & Kristen Clay

Stephen Clay first came to St. Michael's when he was carried in for his baptism. With his father on the Vestry and a Senior Warden and his mother administrative assistant to Fr. Westerberg, Stephen grew up in the church and served as an acolyte. Then, he says, "I disappeared for a while," moving away for college and work.

Stephen and wife Kristen moved back to Marblehead in 2001. When it came time for their sons Timothy and Ryan to be baptized, Kristen, who grew up Congregational, found St. Michael's and Father Andrew to be very welcoming and so they began attending regularly as a family.

Stephen especially enjoys the timelessness of the church itself and the connection of the generations of worshippers. He remembers the first time he, Kristen, and Tim attended with his parents. "I looked around to see the church filled with old friends from childhood and with friends-to-be," he says.

Kristen teaches Sunday school and loves the fact that she is learning, too. She admits she was a bit skeptical about the Godly Play curriculum. She wondered if the children could make the connections. Now, however, she says she has seen how powerful it is when they do make the connections. She has also helped with Rogation Sunday and she says with a laugh, with "The Christmas Pageant That Wasn't," the year before last.

Stephen is currently on the Vestry and serves on the Property Committee and the Communications Committee. He says he is looking forward to the sign up for the Maundy Thursday watch. Last year he sat alone in the church from 3 am to 4 am. "It was intensely spiritual in the stillness of the night. It was a powerful hour," he says.

Kristen, who worked in software sales, has been at home for four years with the boys, but she just returned to a new venture in September. She is a fund-raiser for the Jewish Federation of the North Shore. It is a small office so she gets to do a bit of everything, the job has a lot of flexibility, and Ryan goes to the JCC pre-school. Although, she says, it



did confuse Tim briefly when he saw a sign at church that said Jesus was King of the Jews. "Are we Jewish?" he asked.

Stephen works for Partners Healthcare as a web developer. He works three days at home and in Wellesley two days. His sideline is producing video for webcasts of college sports events. He was just in Rochester, NY for a college hockey tournament, for example. He also recently recorded Evensong at St. Michael's and posted it to the website. All of this keeps him busy with little time for recreation. His goal is to find time for activities to unwind. Right now, "In my spare time, I sleep," he says.

Kristen, though, finds time to take ballet classes at Boston Ballet at the new YMCA. "I am amazed by the professional backgrounds and talents of the teachers. And they are patient with everyone," she says. She danced years ago and loves the workout and focus of the classes.

Their son Tim, almost 7, is in the first grade at Bell School. His latest accomplishment is that he can name the capitals of all 50 states. In fact, he said he would like to be president because he likes all the states. Ryan, 4, loves Hot Wheels and trains. He is usually with Kelly at church, but recently he went to Sunday school for the first time and enjoyed it. Kristen says, "As a child, I knew every corner of my church. I knew everyone and they knew me. It was so warm. That is what we wanted for our children and that is what is happening."

- Marilyn Day .

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ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

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

Vestry: *Jenny Armini, Stephen Clay,*
Susan Cool, Ian Hunter,
Harriett Magee, Joe Oliveira,
Avery Russell, Thomas Weber,
Victor Wild.

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.

Evensong

APRIL 3 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
5:00 pm Choral Evensong & Benediction

Holy Week

APRIL 17 PALM SUNDAY
8:00 am Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist, Rite II

APRIL 20 HOLY WEDNESDAY
9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

APRIL 21 MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing,
Stripping of the Altar and Watch

APRIL 22 GOOD FRIDAY
12:00 noon Stations of the Cross & Children's Luncheon
7:30 pm Solemn Liturgy: Sung St. John's Passion with
Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament

APRIL 23 HOLY SATURDAY
7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter and Holy Baptism

APRIL 24 EASTER SUNDAY, THE DAY OF THE RESURRECTION
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Saint Michael's Church

April 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Office Hours Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am – 12:00 pm		Thrift Shop Hours Tues. – Sat. 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm			1)	2)
3) LENT 4 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Choral Evensong & Benediction	4) 7:00pm Discernment	5) 5:30 pm St. Michael's Team at My Brother's Table, Lynn 7:30 pm Property Management	6) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Priscilla Barr service 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Supper & Lenten Program at Holy Name, Swampscott 8:00 pm AA Meeting	7) 6:30 pm St. Catherine's 7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir	8)	9) 11:00 am St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge, Salem
10) LENT 5 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	11) 7:00pm Discernment	12) 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Wardens	13) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 3:30 pm 1 st Communion Class 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Supper & Lenten Program at St. Michael's 8:00 pm AA Meeting	14) 7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir	15)	16)
17) PALM SUNDAY SUNDAY OF THE PASSION 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I \ Blessing of the Palms 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Blessing of the Palms & First Holy Communion	18) <i>Patriots Day</i> <i>Office Open</i> <i>8:30 am – 12:30 pm</i> 7:00pm Discernment	19) TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK 12:00 pm Parish Aid	20) WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 7:30 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm AA Meeting	21) MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar & Watch	22) GOOD FRIDAY 12:00 pm Stations of the Cross for families&children, followed by lunch 7:30 pm Solemn Good Friday Liturgy Collection for E.R.D.	23) HOLY SATURDAY 9:30 am Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Word 7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter & Holy Baptism
24) EASTER DAY OF THE RESURECTION 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I NO Church School 10:00 am Festal Eucharist, Rite II	25) 7:00pm Discernment	26) 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Vestry	27) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	28) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	29)	30)