



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
Rose H. Clark
Timothy Clay

From the Rector

In the early spring fifteen years ago I was preparing to preach to a small group of classmates in seminary. Holy Week and Easter had been celebrated, and we were now settling back into the semester's routine after that spring break. This particular class was on preaching. Most of us, myself included, had little or no experience developing a sermon. I was very nervous. I had lots of notes and much information, but I still hadn't found a theme that made any type of faith connection.

April 3, my delivery date, was approaching. I remember this for two reasons. The first is because Boston was hit with a surprise snow storm on March 31. Many may remember that April Fools' Day storm. Over two feet of wet heavy snow fell quickly, knocking out power, breaking limbs, and effectively shutting down Boston for a brief time. During the storm, a branch on our neighbor's magnolia tree broke off and fell into our yard. It was full of ripe buds that had not yet bloomed. My wife snipped off a smaller branch from the larger one, and placed it in a jar of water. Within days the buds opened. My theme was given to me! Before me in this broken, small, flowering magnolia was the wondrous appearance of resurrected life.

The second reason is because April 3rd (as I learned then) is the day the Angli-

can Church celebrates Richard, Bishop of Chichester, who died in 1253. Richard, Bishop of Chichester, is not known to most people, but a prayer he wrote likely is:

*Dear Lord, of thee three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly.*

Adding the words "day by day," this little prayer became popular to a modern generation through the musical "Godspell."

Easter Day is approaching as I write this article, as are April 1st and 3rd. I am not hoping for another April Fools' Day storm, especially since spring has arrived early this year. I am hoping that each day we may come to know Christ and the power of his resurrection (Phil. 3:10) more clearly, dearly and nearly. There is the brokenness of Christ's passion we must journey before we reach Easter Day. There is the brokenness we encounter in our journey in life and faith. He knows this well. We need not be nervous. Christ has risen, and he lifts us with him, day by day.

- Fr. Andrew



From the Music Director

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 1	PALM SUNDAY	
8:00 am	Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist	
9:30 am	Children's Chapel	
10:00 am	Blessing of the Palms and Festal Eucharist	
5:00 pm	Evensong & Benediction	
APRIL 4	HOLY WEDNESDAY	
9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	
APRIL 5	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
7:30 pm	Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar and Prayer Watch	
APRIL 6	GOOD FRIDAY	
11:30 am	Children's Good Friday story	
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. Offerings for Episcopal Relief & Development	
APRIL 7	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	
APRIL 8	EASTER DAY, DAY OF THE RESURRECTION	
8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I	
10:00 am	Festal Eucharist, Rite II	

Alleluia!
He is alive!

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.

Music for Holy Week

Holy Week offers us the opportunity to make a theological as well as a musical journey through the mysteries of the Passion and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We at St. Michael's draw on that centuries old musical tradition to assist us in understanding the complexities and joys of this most important season in the church year.

On Palm Sunday, April 1, the Choir will be singing music by Handel, "Surely he hath borne our griefs," from Messiah as well as a moving and intense chorus from Heinrich Schutz's setting of the St. Matthew Passion.

At Evensong, we will sing a setting of the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis by the great Elizabethan composer Thomas Tallis. The anthem is by Kenneth Leighton, a 20th century Scottish composer who wrote much beautiful music for the Anglican services.

On Good Friday, April 6, we'll once again sing the Passion according to St. John in a setting by your Music Director, featuring Thomas Smoker carrying the role of the Evangelist (narrator).

On Saturday the 8th, for the Great Vigil of Easter, the music will include the always enjoyable "Ye choirs of new Jerusalem", music by Charles Stanford.

Easter Day brings us to music by S. S. Wesley, with his glorious setting of "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ".

It is our hope that this wide range of musical styles will help our worshippers appreciate the 450 year-old tradition of great music composed for the Anglican Church - a tradition continues to this day with composers from around the world writing beautiful and spiritual music for our Prayer Book services.

- Douglas Major, Music Director



An early crocus in the atrium garden.

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. Meetings follow the Re:form curriculum..

April Highlights

Children's Chapel Everyone is welcome to join with the Church School for this short Lenten worship service on Sunday April 1 at 9:30am. We will gather at the altar in the parish hall.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross We begin our Good Friday commemoration with a Good Friday story in the parish hall at 11:30am. Everyone is welcome to our family celebration of the Stations of the Cross at 12:00. We end our day of story and prayer with a simple soup lunch.

Holy Saturday Crafts for Children and Youth The younger people of our parish will begin our Easter celebration a

little early. Join us downstairs for lunch and a special Easter Craft at 12:00.

Joy of Easter

If you were to ask a youth to name the most important Christian holiday, the answer is sure to be "Christmas." Yet it is Christ's resurrection that is the cornerstone of our faith. It is easy to understand this confusion; not only does secular society place a large emphasis, but we Christians do too. After all, it is much easier to get excited about a birth than a death (the necessary predecessor of the Resurrection). Here at St. Michael's we prepare our children for Christmas with a Fair and Christmas Pageant. Therefore our children to may be confused about which holiday is our cornerstone. This year we are enriching our Holy Week offerings for Children and Youth so that they may fully understand the excitement of Eastertide. Throughout Holy Week, there were be ample opportunity for our young parishioners to encounter the story of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection, pray about it, and celebrate the joy of this season in ways that honor our tradition and speak directly to a younger generation.



Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Youth	Godly Play	Weaving God's Promises
Sunday, April 1	Palm Sunday Children's Chapel		One-Room Church School	Palm Sunday
Friday, April 6	Good Friday	Story @ 11:30. Stations of the Cross @ 12:00. Simple Soup Lunch follows.		
Saturday, April 7	Holy Saturday	Crafts for Children and Youth @ 12:00. Lunch will be served.		
Sunday, April 8	Easter	No Church School		
Tuesday, April 10		Supper Club: "Why do Christians believe Christianity is the best religion?"		
Sunday, April 15		No Church School		
Sunday, April 22			One-Room Church School	The Risen Jesus Comes to Dinner
Tuesday, April 24		Supper Club: "How do I stop doing things I know I shouldn't do?"		
Sunday, April 29			Jesus and the Twelve	Moses, Agent of Deliverance

Stewards of the Month: Martha Gorman

"Forever!" says Martha Gorman about how long she has attended St. Michael's. Martha, who just celebrated her 96th birthday in March, says, "Lyman Rollins, who was a chaplain for the Yankee Division in WWI, baptized me in 1916." She attended Sunday School, got confirmed and married, all at St. Michael's. "And that's where my funeral will be," she added.

A Sunday School teacher she remembers with special fondness was Mrs. Smith who lived on Tucker Street. Martha was in high school then and Mrs. Smith invited her class come to her house one day during the week where the girls made layettes for the poor. After, Mrs. Smith's maid served them goodies and tea. "We loved her," says Martha.

Over the years, many family events took place at St. Michael's. Martha Bessom and James Edward Gorman were married on October 22, 1941. Her parents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary there. And then came the baptisms and weddings of children and grandchildren over the years.

Martha was one of the first members of the "new" Altar Guild. Her sister was president and one rule was that members had to be under 40. Martha, like her mother, became president of the Parish Aid. "Doris Bartlett and I took turns being president of Parish Aid when no one else stepped up," says Martha. She served on the Vestry when it voted for a new rector, George Westerberg. She remains a member of the Parish Aid and St. Catherine's Guild.

As for family, Martha's father was a Marbleheader, while her mother emigrated from Norway in 1891 when she was 17 years old. Martha was one of their five children, all born at home, 11 Washington Street, with the help of a midwife.

Her brother, Joseph Harold Bessom, became an Episcopal missionary priest. "He looked up to Lyman Rollins," said Martha. Serving in Liberia at a school and clinic, he came home only every three years.

Martha's husband James passed away in 1964. The garden within the church was given as a memorial to him. Her sister Florence Bessom Higgs sculpted and cast the statue of St. Michael and the Dragon. Charles Davidson suggested adding the trellis and he cared for the garden for years. In 2006 as part of her 90th birthday celebration the garden was refurbished.

Martha and James had three children: two daughters, Pamela Oppelt who works at Salem State University and



Lissa Simard who is a nurse. Her son Mark, who was the academic dean at Baldwin Wallace College in Ohio, has passed away. She has six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. "The great grandchildren are scattered all over the globe," she says with a smile.

Martha graduated from Colby College as an English major. After college she had a tour of England and Scotland. Her father's people had come from the Isle of Jersey and Guernsey. She also spent a week in Norway visiting her mother's side of the family.

She taught first at Brewster Free Academy in Wolfeboro, NH, freshmen and seniors. She also was in charge of the girl boarders. "I got homesick though so I came home," she says. Then along with marriage and children she taught kindergarten in Topsfield. Eventually with others, she started and ran a nursery school, Tiny Tot, at 105 Elm Street.

So, throughout her long busy life, Marblehead and St. Michael's have remained home for Martha.

- Marilyn Day



Martha Bessom Gorman, her sister Florence Bessom Higgs and other family members at the dedication of the statue of St. Michael and the Dragon.

Helen Marie Casey at St. Catherine's Guild, April 12



Helen Marie Casey will present, "**Florence Hosmer's Achievement**" at St. Catherine's Guild, on Thursday, April 12 after the Guild's 6:30 pm dinner. Based on a study of the American artist's work, her correspondence, and Hosmer family diaries and notebooks, Casey will provide a verbal portrait of an artist once considered among Boston's most

prominent artists. She will speak of the way that Florence's life holds a mirror up to our own.

Miss Hosmer, who lived from 1880 to 1978 and who left her home and more than 450 of her paintings to the Town of Sudbury, was gifted with talent, energy, initiative and, of course, a long life. The daughter of a farmer, she was born not that long after the Civil War. A teacher and an artist, she lived through two world wars, the war in Viet Nam, and the Civil Rights Movement. She saw American women receive the right to vote and she witnessed the transformation of her town, Sudbury, from a farming community to a suburban enclave. She was an independent woman who maintained studios in Boston and in Sudbury and received critical acclaim for her work during her life-

time. The presentation will include details about Florence Hosmer's training and her many accomplishments as well as how this book came to be written.

Helen Marie Casey's books include *My Dear Girl: The Art of Florence Hosmer* (Black Lawrence Press), two chapbooks: *Fragrance Upon His Lips* (Finishing Line Press), a collection of poems about Joan of Arc, whose 600th birthday is celebrated this year, and *Inconsiderate Madness* (Black Lawrence Press), a collection of poems about Mary Dyer, hanged in Boston in 1660. Helen won the 14th National Poet Hunt sponsored by *The MacGuffin*. Her poems have appeared in numerous publications, including *Ct Review*, *Louisiana Literature*, *The Laurel Review*, *Tiferet*, *The South Carolina Review*, *Runes*, *America*, *The MacGuffin*, and *Dogwood*.

Please contact Aileen Day if you are interested in attending this meeting or joining St. Catherine's. New and prospective members are dinner guests when they attend their first Guild meeting.

- from Aileen Day,
Guild President



Who Was Rachel Holbrook?

Erratum: Rachel Morton Holbrook

The March 2012 Newsletter article on the Parish Aid Society had an error. Rachel Holbrook (1887-1969), not Ruth Holbrook, was the benefactor who left a legacy that enabled us to update the kitchen. Rachel Morton married Chalmers Holbrook at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Boston in 1912, just a year before he was ordained into the Presbyterian Church. According to his Yale notes and his career, the Rev. Chalmers Holbrook was interested in federated churches and he served in federated and congregational churches in New York and Connecticut. Some time after his death in 1953, Rachel Holbrook moved to Marblehead, living on Lee Street next to her brother Oliver P. Morton.

Parish Aid Society minutes indicate that Mrs. Holbrook was welcomed as a new member on November 28, 1961. The following June 1962 she was elected Vice President, an office she held until 1968. During her tenure Parish Aid provided clothing and other items to the Dakotan Mission,

and to missions in San Juan, New Mexico and Alaska. They also held several fundraisers and many socials. Mrs. Holbrook died December 23, 1969. Her funeral, like her brother's, was at Harmony Grove Chapel in Salem, but she was buried next to her husband in Brattleboro, Vermont.

The Holbrooks had two children, a son Frederick who died at age seventeen, and a daughter Catherine who was taken care of by the Order of Saint Anne in Arlington. Rachel Holbrook's legacy came to St. Michael's after the death of Catherine in January 2005. - F. Nilsson

**Parish Aid Society meets
Tuesday, April 17
at noon
Bring a sandwich and
join this convivial group.**

St. Michael's Outreach to Lifebridge, Salem—Meeting on April 15 at 11:30 AM

For the past several years St. Michael's has divided one half of the July 4th Lobster Lunch proceeds among seven organizations in need:

- Friends of Marblehead Abandoned Animals
- Marblehead Food Pantry
- Marblehead Counseling Center
- Esperanza Academy, Lawrence
- My Brother's Table, Lynn
- Healing Abuse Working for Change (HAWC), Salem
- Lifebridge, Salem

St. Michael's parishioners are actively involved, individually or in groups, with most of these organizations.

On Sunday, April 15 at about 11:30 am, a meeting will be held to discuss how we can coordinate and strengthen our support for Lifebridge in Salem. All those interested in helping out at Lifebridge are encouraged to attend.

Lifebridge (formerly known as Salem Mission, and before that, Crombie St. Mission) operates an emergency shelter, Seeds of Hope temporary housing, community meals three times a day, Seeds for Change counseling including job search and other programmatic services, a health clinic, and a thrift shop. Aside from monetary donations, Lifebridge has volunteer opportunities in the areas of phone answering, thrift shop volunteers, meal teams, computer expertise, budgeting, reading literacy, crafts and bilingual communications.

Currently there are three St. Michael's teams that rotate preparing and serving lunches from about 10 am – 1:30 pm on the second Saturday of each month. Team leaders in-



Parishioner Harriett Magee and Mhd'er Margaret Smist prepare lunch at Lifebridge, formerly known as Salem Mission. Three St. Michael's teams prepare lunch on the second Saturday of each month.

clude Pam Oppelt and Valerie Wyckoff, Connie and Dana Denault, and Michelle and Ed Baillie. St. Michael's teams have been providing meals at Lifebridge since the mid- or late-1980s.

Regardless of whether or not you are able to attend the meeting on April 15th, new team members are always welcome. Please contact any of the team captains or Peggy Bittermann if you have an interest in joining a second Saturday lunch team.

- Frances Nilsson and Peggy Bittermann

Christopher H. Wilson of Esperanza Academy on April 22

In 2006 a group of Episcopalians came to St. Michael's to tell us about a new tuition-free school for 5th through 8th grade girls at risk opening in Lawrence, Massachusetts -- Esperanza Academy.

A group of women at St. Michael's were inspired to visit the school, gather supplies, and attend fundraising dinners in February 2008 and 2010. They also held two Latino Festival fund raisers with salsa dancing, Hispanic foods, a piñata and lots of fun. Esperanza Academy now has 71 students and has sent several classes of girls on to area high schools. And it has a new principal, Christopher Wilson.

Mr. Wilson came to Esperanza last fall from Baltimore, Maryland where he was principal of the St. Ignatius School for Boys. Both St. Ignatius and Esperanza are part of the NativityMiguel network, a network of schools designed to

provide families in urban neighborhoods with a high quality education.

Mr. Wilson will be visiting St. Michael's on Sunday, April 22 at the 10 am service to tell us more about the activities of Esperanza Academy.



Christopher H. Wilson, Headmaster, Esperanza Academy.



St. Michael's Church

EPISCOPAL - MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS - EST 1714

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
26 Pleasant Street
Marblehead, MA 01945-3432

Phone: 781/631-0657
Fax: 781/639-2866
E-mail: office@stmichaels1714.org
Web: www.stmichaels1714.org



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Officers: *David Bittermann, Senior Warden;*
Frances Stith Nilsson, Junior Warden;
Sarah Bates, Treasurer;
James Dearborn, Asst. Treasurer;
Walter Haug, Clerk.

Vestry: *Melissa Amberik, Jenny Armini,*
Lynn Bragdon, Stephen Clay,
Ian Hunter, Kristin McCarthy
Joe Oliveira, 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;
Jennifer Hill, Sexton.

Holy Week

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| APRIL 1 | PALM SUNDAY |
| 8:00 am | Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist, Rite I |
| 9:30 am | Children's Chapel |
| 10:00 am | Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist, Rite II |
| 5:00 pm | Choral Evensong & Benediction |
| APRIL 4 | HOLY WEDNESDAY |
| 9:30 am | Holy Eucharist, Rite II |
| APRIL 5 | MAUNDY THURSDAY |
| 7:30 pm | Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing,
Stripping of the Altar and Prayer Watch |
| APRIL 6 | GOOD FRIDAY |
| 11:30 am | Children's Good Friday story |
| 12:00 noon | Stations of the Cross for children & families |
| 7:30 pm | Solemn Good Friday Liturgy
with sung Passion According to St. John |
| APRIL 7 | HOLY SATURDAY |
| 7:30 pm | The Great Vigil, the First Eucharist of Easter |
| APRIL 8 | EASTER SUNDAY, THE DAY OF THE RESURRECTION |
| 8:00 am | Holy Eucharist, Rite I with music |
| 10:00 am | Festal Eucharist, Rite II |

Saint Michael's Church

April 2012

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>1) PALM SUNDAY SUNDAY OF THE PASSION 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I Blessing of the Palms 9:30 am Children's Chapel 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Blessing of the Palms 5:00 pm Choral Evensong & Benediction</p>	<p>2)</p>	<p>3) TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK 5:00 pm St. Michael's Team at My Brother's Table, Lynn 7:30 pm Property Meeting</p>	<p>4) 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</p>	<p>5) MAUNDY THURSDAY 11:00 am Assemble Bulletins 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar & Watch</p>	<p>6) GOOD FRIDAY 11:30 am Children's Good Friday Story 12:00 pm Children's Stations of the Cross for families & children, followed by lunch 7:30 pm Solemn Good Friday Liturgy</p>	<p>7) HOLY SATURDAY 9:15 am Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Word 12:00 pm Children & Youth Crafts (downstairs) 7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter</p>
<p>8) EASTER DAY OF THE RESURRECTION 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I NO Church School 10:00 am Festal Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>9) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>10) 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Wardens' Meeting</p>	<p>11) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 7:30 pm Evangelism & Welcoming Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>12) 6:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild, Guest Speaker Helen Marie Casey 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>13)</p>	<p>14) 11:00 am St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge, Salem</p>
<p>15) 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I NO Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 11:45 am Lifebridge Ministry Outreach Meeting</p>	<p>16) Patriots Day <i>Office Open</i></p>	<p>17) 12:00 pm Parish Aid 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>18) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>19) 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>20)</p>	<p>21)</p>
<p>22) 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Christopher Wilson</p>	<p>23) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>24) 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club</p>	<p>25) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>26) 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>27) 6:00 pm Spring Pot Luck Dinner</p>	<p>28)</p>
<p>29) 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:45 am Strategy Plan: Committee Chairs & Liaisons Meeting</p>	<p>30)</p>	<p>Office Hours Mon.-Fri. 8:30 am – 12:00 pm</p>			<p>Thrift Shop Hours Tues. – Sat. 1:00 – 4:00 pm</p>	