



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

From the Rector: The Light of God, the Light of Christ

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December Calendar

Happy December Birthdays to

Bryce Russell
Harry McDonough
Jack McDonough
Genevieve Riegler

“Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light.”—Collect for 1 Advent

It was already getting dark as I left the church one gray and cold November day late in the month and late in the afternoon. The outside lamps and walk-way lights were not yet on. Descending the stairs was a bit challenging. I did not feel ready for any of this! Half-way down, I made my way back into the foyer and to the timer for the outside lights. I re-adjusted the setting to have them come on at 4:30 rather than 5:30. The steps illuminated and my exit clear, I hurried off to my next appointment.

The season of Advent begins a new church year. The growing season of the ecclesial “ordinary time” – the season after Pentecost – and the primary agriculture season in our part of the world has ended. The “thanksgiving harvest” of the abundance we share has been celebrated. Now day light hours wane. It is a time to adjust and prepare, for colder weather, shorter days, a new year, and new light.

The word “advent” derives from the Latin “adventus,” meaning, “coming.” In this season, we wait expectantly for the coming of God in Christ. Liturgically, we mark this on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The season of Advent gives us a set and intentional time of

preparation to receive in our hearts and minds the joyous gift that God is with us, inviting us into a new age. It is a busy time of year in which we are invited to find moments of quiet to readjust the timer, so to speak. It is a cycle that bears repeating. *“What has come into the world in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”* (John 1:3b-5)



St. Michael's looks forward to a coming year of celebration and building projects. Celebration continues marking the church's 300th anniversary of mission, proclamation and witness of the light of God, the light of Christ. Building projects to commence are those funded through the current Capital Campaign. The renovations and additions will further enhance the mission of the church. It would not be possible without the generous support of parishioners and friends to the Capital Campaign and annual Stewardship appeal. It is also a result of the careful planning and tireless efforts of numerous individuals and committees in the parish. As the prayer attributed to St. Francis says, “for it is in giving that we receive.”

At baptisms at St. Michael's, it is our custom to present a candle to the newly baptized (in the case of infants, handing it often to their parents or godparents!), with

From the Music Director

Warmest Holiday wishes to all as we prepare for the Christmas miracle!

The members of the St. Michael's Youth Choir are very excited about their first appearance in the liturgy at St. Michael's - they will sing on Christmas Eve at the 5 pm Family Service. Our nine very enthusiastic children will participate in the Christmas Pageant, then ascend to the balcony and sing "Mary's Lullaby" by yours truly at the Communion. Wish them well!

Please join me also in welcoming Mr. Mark Dirksen who will be providing musical direction for Evensong and Benediction on Sunday, December 1; and to Mr. John Skelton who will be leading the choir and playing the organ on the mornings of Advent 1, 2, and 3. It is my privilege to be on a concert tour of the central and eastern US with Elizabeth Von Trapp and the Carolian Brass as we perform in 12 cities in 16 days. By then it will be great to get back home on Dec. 16 and see all of you again.

For Christmas we have beautiful music planned by Handel, Sweelinck, Rutter, Dirksen, and Manz. Our Choir is working hard to prepare for these services - please thank them for their faithful service to our Church..

—Doug Major

Christmas Poinsettias & Memorial List



Names are needed by December 15th.

Poinsettias adorn the church through the Christmas season until Epiphany. If you wish to have a poinsettia in memory of, or in thanksgiving for, a beloved one or for other blessings, please submit name(s) by Sunday, Dec. 15th. The poinsettias are displayed in the church at Christmas until Epiphany. The list of names is included in the Christmas Eve and Day bulletins. The suggested donation for a poinsettia is \$20.00 per listed name. Poinsettias are not included as part of perpetual remembrance.

Advent & Christmas Special Services

Sunday, Dec. 1	1 Advent
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:30 a.m.	Church School Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m.	Choral Evensong & Benediction
Tuesday, Dec. 24:	Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant with Family Eucharist, Rite II
10:45 p.m.	Choral and Organ Music
11:00 p.m.	Festive Eucharist, Rite II
Wednesday, Dec. 25:	Christmas Day
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, Dec. 29:	1 Christmas
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, Jan. 5	Feast of the Epiphany
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:30 a.m.	Church School Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m.	Epiphany Lessons & Carols

The Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree, located in the Parish Hall, is an opportunity to give to a child in need. Each Mitten-Star pair provides the gender and age of the child. Take the mitten of the pair and leave the star to decorate the tree. Return the gift unwrapped in a holiday gift bag with the mitten attached. Please bring gifts by Sunday, December 15.

- Kelley Howells and Diane Christian



Rector's Article continued

this prayer: "Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord." (BCP p. 110)

May the hope and expectation of this Advent season come to you, and may God's brightness dwell in your heart.

Fr. Andrew

Church School & Youth—Kelley Howells

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 for students in grades 2-5.

Bible Club

Following Church Services, older children meet to explore the day's lesson.

The Supper Club

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

December Highlights

Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Kelley Howells, and I am so excited to begin my new adventure as Church School Director here at St. Michael's! I have been pleased to be a part of the St. Michael's community in various capacities since 2004. My involvement began when my children attended the Nursery School here. Within a month I took the position providing child care in the nursery on Sundays, and soon afterward began working on the Board of the St. Michael's Nursery School. I feel so fortunate to be able continue my involvement with such a welcoming parish.

I have two degrees in education, my BA cum laude from Tufts University, and my Masters degree from Lesley University. I have been fortunate to teach elementary school in England, and most recently in Swampscott, where I taught at Clarke School for 10 years. I am currently certified as a preschool Lead Teacher and as an Early Childhood Educator.

I would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome



Kelley Howells surrounded by our church school children.

and would particularly like to thank all of the families who so generously gave of their time and talents to support the Church School during the director search and during my transition into this new position.

December Topics

December will be a busy month for the Church School! We will begin on Sunday, December 1st with Children's Chapel in the lower church hall at 9:30am. The Godly Play Group will be preparing for the birth of Jesus on Christmas by learning about the Holy Family, Advent, and the Epiphany. The Weaving God's Promises Group will learn about Isaiah's promise of peace, John the Baptist, and the story of the Annunciation to Mary.

Christmas Pageant

Once again we will be looking for young thespians for our Christmas Pageant! The Pageant will be held on Tuesday, **December 24th at 5pm**. Rehearsals will be held on **Sundays, December 8, 15, and 22**, following the 10 o'clock Service and will last about an hour. We will also be in need of adult help. Please consider participating in this annual tradition!



Food Pantry Shopping

Also in December, families are invited to take part in our parish outreach to the Marblehead Food Pantry to help less fortunate families prepare a special Christmas meal. We are asking only for a commitment of your time and energy. The Food Pantry has gift cards to Market Basket. Our service to them is to do the "legwork". Families take a prepared list, shop for the requested foods, pay with the gift cards, and deliver the items to the food pantry. Please contact Linda Smidt or myself for more information.



Mitten Tree

Our annual Mitten Tree is also another great way to reach out to others at this time of year. Please consider taking a mitten from our tree and fulfilling the wish of someone in need by purchasing them a gift, (\$30 suggested amount) and leaving it under the tree.

Nursery Care Person Needed

Finally, we are still in need of a nursery care person for Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:30. I can attest that it is a fun and fulfilling job! We are also in need of a Middle School Youth Coordinator. Please consider these positions and contact Father Andrew if interested.

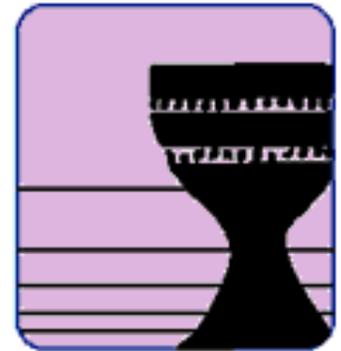
-Kelley Howells.

Stewardship Onward! Upward! Outward! To Next Year's Budget

The generosity of St. Michael's parishioners for the capital campaign has been overwhelming. We have reached our initial goal and moving closer to our reach goal.

St. Michael's also depends upon our annual Stewardship pledges to provide weekly services, compensate our Rector and office staff, maintain the high quality of the choir and music program, educate our children, and for utilities and regular maintenance of our building. It has been our hope to increase pledges over the last several years so that by 2014 we would not be taking out principal from our endowment to pay operating expenses.

For the current 2013 budget year we have 130 units pledging \$214,700, a good response but still less than our budget. As of November 24 we have received 95 households pledging \$164,000. **Please pledge today if you have not already. It is also never too late to revise your annual stewardship pledge upward!**



Steward of the Month: Karen McMahon

"St. Michael's is beautiful and it is close," says Karen McMahon of her decision two and a half years ago to join the church. A former Catholic, Karen found the service familiar and the church positions on issues to her taste. She says, "The parishioners are welcoming and Father Andrew is great."

Very soon, she found herself helping with the Lobster Luncheons. Then last year she made crafts, helped with the chili tent and she and Tom Weber co-chaired the kitchen for the preview party. Now this year, she is co-chairing the fair with Frances Nilsson. Along with Valeria Wyckoff, she organized this year's craft sessions for the fair. "I like events that involve everyone, the camaraderie, the getting to know more people." And, she helped with the Capital Campaign.

Both she and her husband Dennis are retired now. He was an accountant in Boston.

For 41 years, she was a flight attendant for American Airlines. "It was the best job in the world. And it was good for raising children since I could be home full-time when I wasn't flying," she says. She started out to be an English teacher, but an experimental program at Michigan State sent her to the Netherlands as a student teacher, teaching at an American school and living with a Dutch family. However, about that time American Airlines was looking for attendants so she applied and then substituted for a few months until the flight attendants class began. "The job has changed. There is so much more hassle for passengers now when they fly which has changed their attitudes," she says. "I have changed, too. I used to dress up and now I wear sweatpants!" she says with a laugh.

The McMahons have two grown children. Their son

Tom lives in Somerville and works in investments. However, for four years he worked for the Red Sox in security and he was the only non-player allowed on the field during the games. "If anyone tried to get on the field, it was his job to stop him. He did catch one streaker!" she recalls. Their daughter Casey is a sommelier in California. She had only meant to take a year off after graduating from the University of Colorado before graduate school, but discovered that she had a fine palate for wine. She now supervises all the wine purchases for Westin Hotels.

Dennis and Karen like to golf and to travel. She will go to Africa in May. As they are both from Michigan and with a daughter in California, those two states are always in their travel plans.

- Marilyn Day



Heart of Christmas Fair

It's time to bring in your crafts, baked goods & other donations.

And it's not too late to sign up for a shift!

Do you have your tickets for the preview party? There will be ham sliders, yummy hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and wassail for a merrier evening. It's your first opportunity to buy those items you have spotted through the library door—perhaps a painting, chair, a beautiful linen, collectible doll or antique.

Parents, don't forget that Kristin Clay and Helen Riegle will be hosting a special party for Church School children giving you a chance to visit, shop and help out. And the Christmas Fair is the perfect place for children to shop with bargains in the Rich Uncle area, the jewelry table and crafts.

Of course on Saturday there will be chili-in-a-bag for parade goers and if you are craving a taste of summer, come early for a Heavenly Lobster roll—we'll have a limited number—plus clam chowder, hot dogs & grilled cheese sandwiches.

But most of all, remember that every penny spent at the fair helps us fund all our ministries, staff and programs, and helps close our budget gap.



Left: Patsy Cool clutches her hot cocoa with her mother Sue Cool and Kate Renney at last year's fair.

January Preparations

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2014.

Nominating Committee Seeks Suggestions

The Nominating Committee is considering candidates for leadership positions in the church. Each year at the Annual Meeting of the parish, St. Michael's elects two wardens, clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, 3 Vestry members (3-years), 1 Vestry member (1 year) and 2 delegates to the Diocesan convention.

If you know of a good candidate, or if you are interested yourself, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Frances Nilsson, Steve Clay, Jenny Armini, Rory Gaunt, Sarah Bates and the Rev. Andrew Stoessel.

Tree Lighting on the Lawn during the Christmas Walk Preview

Thursday, December 5

6 pm—8 pm Chili-in-a-bag & Cider

7:00 pm Tree Lighting & Carols



St. Michael's Heart of Christmas Fair

Friday, December 6

6:00 pm—8:30 pm

Wassail! Hors d'oeuvres & Preview Sale
Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.
Children ages 2-12 are \$5.

Saturday, December 7

9:00 am—3:00 pm

Hot beverage & more beginning 9am
Hot chili, chowder, hot dogs, grilled cheese
beginning 11 am
Silent Auction ends at 1:30 pm
Historic Church Open House

Annual Reports Due January 7th

Committee/Commission Chairs—Please turn in your 2012 annual report to Jane Maihos by **Tuesday, January 7, 2014**. The early date facilitates combining, copying and collation. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th, 2014.



Also, please send electronically, preferably single-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font. All reports are then combined into one document to save paper and enable automatic pagination.

Lot Jones, Deacon & Missionary, 1823

The following article is a part of a series on the history of St. Michael's and its rectors.

Lot Jones (1797—1865) was brought to St. Michael's in 1822 by the Rev. Thomas Carlile, rector of St. Peter's in Salem as the Marblehead church was struggling to resist the possible conversion to a Congregational church.

Lot Jones was born in Brunswick, Maine into a Quaker family. He attended Bowdoin College and while there became interested in the Episcopal Church. After graduation in 1821 he studied theology in Salem with the Rev. Carlile. Being with Carlile, Jones was certainly aware of the troubles in Marblehead. Carlile had bought several St. Michael's pews and the Glebe to try to keep these for the struggling parish. But he had to borrow to pay for them and had difficulty paying his debts. Carlile was even accused of improprieties. He was acquitted, but resigned from St. Peter's as he with Lynde Walter, Dr. Drury and Capt. Trevett were gathering information to stop William Reed's proposed change in St. Michael's charter.

Part of that information included a December 1822 list of pew owners. Lot Jones is listed as one of those who was supporting St. Michael's as an Episcopal Church. Jones sent critical information to Lynde Walter about Reed's earlier association with St. Michael's. On January 1, 1823, at St. Michael's, Bishop Griswold, ordained Lot Jones a deacon. Jones attended the proceedings at the Massachusetts Senate and on January 16 wrote Dr. Drury describing the opening speech. Reed's plan was defeated and Jones stayed on at St. Michael's as missionary through June 1823. During this time he led services and performed several baptisms, burials and a marriage exchanging with other area ministers who would have been able to provide Holy

Communion. Jones' clerical acts were not recorded in the Parish Register until 1843 when he sent information to the Rev. Moses Stickney, rector at that time. Lot Jones was ordained into the priesthood in 25 September 1823 on the last day of the Convention of the Eastern Diocese held in Windsor, Vermont.

After serving as missionary in the Eastern Diocese which covered Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, Jones traveled south for his health where he helped establish Christ Church in Macon, Georgia. There he met his first wife Priscilla McMillan. Jones returned to the north about 1828 to fill in at Gardiner, Maine, while its rector the Rev. Thomas S. W. Mott was recuperating in Georgia. Mott would have brought Jones up to date with St. Michael's as he had served in Marblehead from 1825-1827. From Gardiner, Jones went to Leicester, Massachusetts where his first wife died in 1829. In 1831 he married Lucy Ann Bullard. Around this time Jones began assisting at St. Thomas in New York City. From there he was called to be the first rector of the fledgling Church of the Epiphany in New York City. Lot Jones stayed at Epiphany from 1833 to his death in 1865. He died after a fall on the steps of St. Luke's in Philadelphia while attending the Convention of the Episcopal Church.

Lot Jones' father and grandfather were Quaker leaders. One of his sons became an Episcopal minister and his grandson the Rt. Rev. Paul Jones became Bishop of Utah and a pacifist remembered each year on September 4th in the Episcopal Church.

*- Frances Stith Nilsson,
Historic Church Committee*

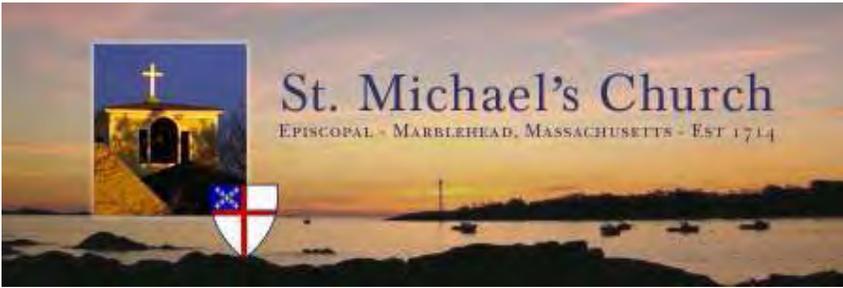
Parish Groups

St. Catherine's Guild next meeting is January!

The Guild will not be meeting in December but will on January 2nd when we will elect officers for the coming year and have a Yankee Swap. The swap is great fun—regift, or pick up an item from the Thrift Shop!

Parish Aid Society **Tuesday, December 17** **at Noon**

Bring a sandwich and join in fellowship and dessert.



St. Michael's Church
EPISCOPAL - MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS - EST 1714

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

Phone: 781/631-0657
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Schedule for Christmas Eve / Day

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

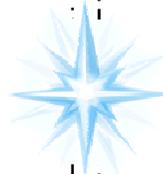
**5:00 p.m. Family Eucharist &
Christmas Pageant**

10:45 p.m. Organ and Choral Music

11:00 p.m. Festal Eucharist, Rite II

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

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



**Epiphany
Lessons & Carols**

**Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday, January 5**

5:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Church

Officers: Frances Nilsson, Sr. Warden; Stephen Clay, Jr. Warden; Sue Cool, Clerk; James Dearborn, Treasurer;
Karl Renney, Asst. Treasurer.

Vestry: Melissa Amberik, Jenny Armini, Sarah Bates, Brian Carlson, Xavier Chickering, Rory Gaunt, Robert L. Howie, Jr.,
Karin McCarthy.

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; Kelley Howells, Christian Education
Director; Jane Maihos, Parish Administrator; Jennifer Hill, Sexton.

Saint Michael's Church

December 2013

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p>1) 1 ADVENT <i>Begin Lectionary Year A</i> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Children's Chapel 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Choral Evensong & Benediction</p>	<p>2) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>3) 5:00 pm St. Michael's Team to My Brother's Table, Lynn</p>	<p>4) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 4:00 pm Chili Making 5:30 pm Christmas Fair Setup 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>5) 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Chili-in-a bag & Cider on the Lawn 7:00 pm Tree Lighting & Carols</p>	<p>6)  6:00 pm – 8:30 pm Heart of Christmas Fair Preview Party</p>	<p>7) 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Heart of Christmas Fair </p>
<p>8) 2 ADVENT 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Tercentenary Meeting 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 am Adult Choir Rehearsal</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 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>12)</p>	<p>13)</p>	<p>14) 10:30 am – 2:00 pm St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge, Salem (Co-Caps. Pam Oppelt, Valerie Wyckoff)</p>
<p>15) 3 ADVENT 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Historic Church Meeting 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Pageant Rehearsal 11:30 am Adult Choir Rehearsal <i>Flower & Mitten Tree giving due</i></p>	<p>16) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</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</p>	<p>19) 4:30 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>20) 10:00 am Assemble Christmas Bulletins</p>	<p>21)</p>
<p>22) 4 ADVENT 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Thrift Shop Meeting 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Pageant Dress Rehearsal</p>	<p>23) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>24) CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 pm Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:45 pm Choral and Organ Music 11:00 pm Festal Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>25) CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:00 pm AA</p>	<p>26) </p>	<p>27)</p>	<p>28)</p>
<p>29) 1 CHRISTMAS 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I No Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p>30) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p>31)</p>	<p>January 1, 2014) THE HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST New Year's Day <i>Office Closed</i> 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p>2) 4:30 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p>Parish Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Thrift Shop Hours Tuesday – Saturday 1:00 – 4:00 pm</p>