



St. Michael's Newsletter

From the Rector—Looking Ahead

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December 2015 Calendar

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that you Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself. — Collect for Second Sunday of Advent.

Suddenly we are marching to Christmas! The pace of planning and preparation quickens, excitedly, if a bit anxiously. This is nothing new or unexpected. As soon as the pots and pans of Thanksgiving are put away and the dinner over, family and community focus leaps ahead to the Christmas holiday. Retailers, ad agencies and the media provide a steady dose of deals and incentives to buy and buy and buy...all with the intention of giving, of course. Whether or not one heads to a store for a “Black Friday” deal or turns to a computer screen on “Cyber-Monday”, it is hard to ignore the urgent messages of deals to be had and things to purchase.

Underneath all this is the season of Advent. It is not hidden, though sometimes its call gets lost. It, too, has an urgent message. During this season, you and I are reminded to be awake and aware of God's presence, and God's call to us as individuals and as a community. While acknowledging the presence of God in the here and now, Advent looks ahead. It is a season of preparation and anticipation of something divine being revealed. The readings of Advent take on an “apocalyptic” theme. The word apocalypse means “revelation.” The readings look to a new time breaking in for God's

creation and people. An Advent calendar, for example, reveals something new of God each day!

St. Michael's is embarking on a new program to discern and reveal what God is calling this community to do in the year to come. The program is called the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI). Part of the process of discerning God's call to action for St. Michael's is engaging on one-on-one conversations throughout the parish. Such conversations builds and strengthens our relationships with each other, and lets arise what the parish discerns is a need to be addressed in the wider community of Marblehead or beyond. A core team from St. Michael's met for an all day workshop in late November at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston. The core team currently consists of Wardens Steve Clay and Karin McCarthy, and parishioners Brian Fizer, Annette Nicolas, Frances Nilsson and Patty Reilly. A second workshop is scheduled for late January, though the core team will begin its work in the weeks to come. You'll hear more about LDI and the process. In the spirit of Advent, you are invited to be awake and aware of it!

Advent prepares us for the incarnation of God. While we celebrate that event on Christmas Eve and Day, Advent reminds us – as the collect for the 4th Sunday of Advent states – that God visits us every day. May our hearts and minds and souls be open to make room, and God and Christ revealed. *- Fr. Andrew*



Worship & Music

Choral Evensong, Sunday, December 6 at 5 pm

Please join us for Choral Evensong on Sunday, December 6 at 5 pm. The music will include a setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Herbert Sumsion, who was the Organist at Peterborough Cathedral in England. I had the opportunity to meet him in 1975, during a learning tour of English cathedrals. A colleague of mine and I visited 15 cathedrals and collegiate chapels to hear the choirs and play the organs, and Mr. Sumsion was very gracious in allowing us to attend one of his boys' choir rehearsals. The anthem for Evensong on Dec. 6th will be a work of mine, commissioned by one of our choir members, titled "Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding".

Youth Choir on Christmas Eve at 5 pm

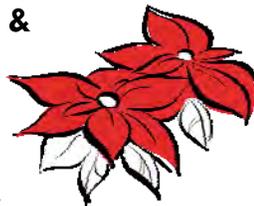
Our Youth Choir continue to prepare for the Christmas season, and will sing several anthems at the 5 pm Family Eucharist on Christmas Eve. I am very proud of their enthusiasm, and it is one of the highlights of my week when we rehearse on Tuesday afternoons. They are a talented group indeed.

I wish all the very best to you and yours during this Holiday season.

—Doug Major

Christmas Poinsettias & Memorial List

*Names are needed by
December 13th.*



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. 13th. 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 perpetuity remembrance.

Advent & Christmas Special Services

Sunday, Dec. 6 5:00 p.m.	2 Advent Evensong & Benediction
Thursday, Dec. 24 5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Christmas Pageant with Family Eucharist, Rite II
9:45 p.m.	Choral and Organ Music
10:00 p.m.	Festive Eucharist, Rite II
Friday, Dec. 25 10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, Jan. 3 5:00 p.m.	2 Christmas Christmas Lessons & Carols

Christmas Giving

St. Michael's Church is once again supporting the Marblehead Food Pantry by providing Christmas Gifts for Marblehead children in need. Gifts should be left unwrapped in a holiday gift bag with the red mitten attached under the tree by Monday, December 21st. A \$30 gift limit is suggested.



Where: Mittens will be on the tree in the Parish Hall Sunday, December 6th.

How: Clip or tear the punch hole of the mitten with the child's information, leaving the second blank mitten hanging on the tree for decoration. Buy a gift for the child and return the unwrapped gift in a gift bag under the Christmas Tree in the Parish Hall no later than Monday, December 21st.

Gifts will be distributed to The Marblehead Food Pantry on Tuesday, December 22nd. *-Diane Christian*



Church School & Youth



November Highlights

We had a very full agenda in November highlighted by some very unique moments.

On November 1st we lit our steeple for the first time! This lighting has been provided by a generous parishioner, Jean Howe. The light will create a new night time sky line for Marblehead.

Also on November 1st we blessed and dedicated the new chasuble purchased with the proceeds from the St. Catherine's Guild Thrift Shop fashion show, given in honor of deceased Guild members.

On November 15th we welcomed Colette Leung Stark to our Church family through baptism. We are so happy to have Colette and her family here at St. Michael's.

Our year old steeple; beautifully lit against the night time sky, and our beautiful new chasuble. Colette Stark and her family with Father Andrew on her baptism day this November.

Upcoming in December

Church School students have a lot to look forward to in December! During the month, Godly Play children will be working on a unit about the Holy Family and the Christmas Story while the Weaving God's Promises group will learn about using their gifts and talents wisely and giving back to our community. We have also created a craft to sell at the Heart of Christmas Fair, and will be participating in rehearsals for the Pageant that will be held on Christmas Eve!

Supper Club

We will meet this coming month on December 8th from 6-8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. That evening we will have our Christmas movie and charitable giving night as we did last year. Thank you so much to our volunteer

Fulfill a wish by taking a mitten from our Mitten Tree

- Nov.29: Child Care 9:30 am
No Church School (Thanksgiving Weekend)
- Dec. 3 Annual Tree Lighting + Carols, 7 pm
& chili bags & cider, 6-8 pm
- Dec. 4 Heart of Christmas Fair Preview Party
with Craft Night for Children
- Dec. 5 Heart of Christmas Fair, 9 am—3 pm
Christmas Walk Parade at noon
- Dec. 6: Child Care & Church School 9:30 am
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:20 am
- Dec. 8 Supper Club-Movie night & working for
charity 6-8 pm
- Dec. 13 Child Care & Church School
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:20 am
- Dec. 20 Child Care & Church School
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:20 am
with Cast Party luncheon
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Pageant & Service, 5 pm
- Dec. 27 Child Care, 9:30 am. No Church School

chefs! We can always count on delicious treats and nutritious meals at Supper Club!

Mitten Tree

A great opportunity for giving during the holidays, please consider taking a mitten and buying a gift this holiday season for someone less fortunate. Mittens should be on display in the Parish Hall.

Continued on next page.

Church School & Youth continued

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.

3rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Join us for Christmas Carols, hot cider and chili on Thursday, December 3rd from 6-8pm on the Summer Street lawn. We will begin with carols, and will light the tree at 7pm.

Heart of Christmas Fair

The St. Michael's Heart of Christmas Fair will begin with a Preview dinner on Friday, December 4th beginning

at 6p.m. Helen Riegler and Kristen Clay will be organizing care and entertainment for the children downstairs by hosting a Children's Craft Night, while adults enjoy the preview upstairs. Thank you Helen and Kristen! Tickets for the Preview Party are \$5 for children 2-12 and \$15 for adult in advance, \$20 at the door. Tickets are available at the Church Office, the Thrift Shop and after the 10 am service.

The fair continues on Saturday, December 5th from 9a.m.-3p.m. Look for our Church School contribution of "Magical Reindeer Dust" on sale there!
—Kelley Howells.

Steward of the Month: Brian Fizer

Brian Fizer has attended St. Michael's for two years after his move from Boston to Salem. In Boston he had attended Church of the Advent where the high and solemn service was almost two hours long. So, he was church-shopping for a local high church when someone suggested St. Michael's. Moreover, his mother told him, "Just wait until you hear the music." He came, felt comfortable, and stopped shopping around. And he does indeed find the music "fantastic."

"I had always been in large parish, but here it is small enough for personal connections while still having program options," he says.

His most fulfilling role at church is being a lay Eucharistic minister. "It is a gift to be able to give the sacrament to others," he says. And, the first time he served was at St. Michael's. He is also a diocesan representative to the Convention which he attended last month. "It means a lot spiritually," he says.

Brian is a first grade teacher at the Bowditch School in Salem after teaching in Boston for eight years. His husband Tim Braughler is an attorney in family law in Boston. Because they planned to adopt, they decided that one of them needed to be near home when day-care entered their lives.

And indeed they got a sudden call that there was an adoption waiting in Florida. "In a few hours, with no nursery outfitted, we were on a plane to Florida," he recalls. They came home with their new daughter Edith, called Edie, who is now 7 months old. She was baptized at Michelmas with family coming from as far away as San Francisco.

With an active baby, the couple doesn't have as much free time as before, but they do like to hike in Maine and New Hampshire with Rufus



the dog, a good hiking companion according to Brian. They are both avid readers and Brian likes to garden. "It's therapeutic," he notes. - *A series of profiles by Marilyn Day*

Below: Baptisms of Edie Braughler-Fizer, daughter of Tim & Brian, and Lucas Higgins-Smith, son of Matthew Smith & Philip Higgins with brother Felix Higgins-Smith.



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 was-sail for a merrier evening. It's your first opportunity to buy those items you have spotted through the library door—perhaps a painting, wood dining set, linen, collectible or antique, artisan fine wares, Raindeer Dust from the Church School children and the pick of the best wreaths, table arrangements and crafts.

Parents, don't forget that Kristin Clay and Helen Riegle will be hosting a special craft 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.

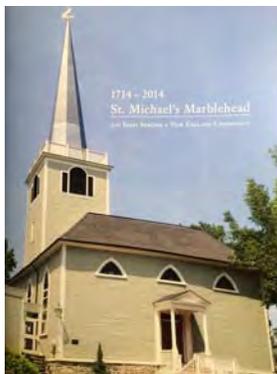
But most of all, remember that every penny spent at the fair helps us fund all our ministries, staff and programs, and helps close our budget gap.



Tercentenary Booklet and Poem Published

We are pleased to announce the publication of a 38-page full-color commemorative Tercentenary booklet, "St. Michael's, Marblehead, 1714-2014: 300 Years Serving A New England Community." All who pledged to our Tercentenary Capital Campaign will receive one complimentary copy in mid-December. Additional copies may be purchased for \$5.00 at the Christmas Fair.

The heart of the booklet is the 16 panels from our Tercentenary Exhibition — the tall exhibition towers in the Parish Hall, curated by Frances Nilsson with the Exhibit Committee and designed by Helen Riegle. The booklet also contains a Tercentenary Timeline, photos from highlights of Tercentenary events, a Tercentenary poem, "New St. Michael's" and cover photo by Edward Nilsson.



Ulrike Welsch of the steeple's gold-leafed weathervane taken the day of its installation. The cost of the poem is \$1.00, and it will also be available at the church fair.

- Robert Howie, Jr.

Tree Lighting on the Lawn during the Christmas Walk Preview

Thursday, December 3

6 pm—8 pm Chili-in-a-bag & Cider

7:00 pm Tree Lighting & Carols



St. Michael's Heart of Christmas Fair

Friday, December 4

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 5

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 11am—2 pm

John Lightner Egbert, Rector 1887-1894

When the Rev. John L. Egbert arrived at St. Michael's on September 11, 1887 at age 42, he had already participated in the building of Christ Church (now Cathedral) in Springfield, renovated churches in Bainbridge, NY and Vineland, N.J and organized a new church in Lynn, Massachusetts. Within a month of his arrival in Lynn in 1883, he had organized the recently formed mission, a more Anglo-Catholic outgrowth of St. Stephen's, and laid the cornerstone for a stone church building, the Church of the Incarnation. The first service in the building was held 6 months later!¹ This same energy and efficiency would soon be demonstrated at St. Michael's.



The Rev. John L. Egbert, about 1886—from St. Michael's Archives

Egbert was appalled when he reviewed the condition of the church—peeling wallpaper & paint streaked with stains, fraying carpet and patchwork cushions—and vowed to “remove this standing reproach against God and the Parish” within 6 months. But the Vestry was concerned that proposed refurbishing was too elaborate. So Egbert went to Boston to find artisans and contractors to create and install stained glass windows with Venetian and cathedral glass, gas fixtures based on the chandelier, new solid cherry chancel furniture, and to stain the pews and paint and fresco the walls and ceiling including the Four Evangelists in the cross vault. With plans and estimates in hand, the Vestry voted on December 29, 1887 to close the sanctuary for 3 months beginning January 23, 1888. The church was re-entered on Easter Day, April 1, 1888 and on April 18th a Jubilee Meeting was held with members of the Massachusetts Senate arriving on a special train from Boston.² The entire proceedings was soon published in a small booklet with line drawings³, and a later edition with photos.

Other improvements were also made: stone posts and gas lamps at the driveway with concrete walks and steps to Washington St., silver vases and a cross for the altar and later a prayer desk with new service books. All are meticulously described with detailed listings of each donor.²

In July 1892 the adjacent Cross estate on Pleasant St. was bought and plans made for a “New Chapel and Guild House” partially funded by the sale of the existing Cross house and chapel structures. However, Egbert who was not well, submitted his resignation in October 1892. It was not accepted. Instead the Rev. Charles L. Wells was appointed acting Rector while Egbert went on an extended vacation in warmer climes. Construction of the new parish house proceeded, but without Egbert's funding zeal, a mortgage was needed for its completion in 1893.⁴

Egbert retired completely from St. Michael's on October 11, 1894. His family moved to Springfield, Massachusetts where he and his wife Ellen Adams had been married in 1877. In the ensuing years Egbert traveled south for his health, filling in at churches in Springfield, MA and nearby towns, Charleston, SC and environs, San Diego and Los Angeles, CA and in 1898 in Egypt, Palestine, Rome, and Bermuda.

John Lightner Egbert was born in Missouri in 1845, raised in Kentucky, educated at Kenyon College in Ohio, received his law degree in 1870, graduated from General Seminary in 1874, and was ordained and admitted into the priesthood in 1875. He died in 1905 at age 60 and was buried in the Springfield Cemetery with other family members.

- Frances Stith Nilsson, *Historic Church Committee*

¹Hobbs, Clarence W. *Lynn and Surroundings*. Lynn: Lewis & Winship, 1886, pp. 98-99.

²Egbert described in detail his actions with listings of all donors in *St. Michael's Parish Register 1852-1860*, pp. 87-118. Photos of the windows are [online](#) with descriptions in [St. Michael's April-November 2008 Newsletters](#).

³[Order of Exercises Commemorating Its Restoration April 18, 1888](#). Marblehead, MA: St. Michael's Church, 1888.

⁴More about this building and its windows (recently restored by St. Catherine's Guild) is in the [April 2011 Newsletter](#).

January Preparations for Annual Meeting January 24, 2015

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), and 2 Diocesan convention delegates. If you know of a good candidate, or if you are interested yourself, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee:

Steve Clay, Karin McCarthy, Brian Carlson, Chick Chickering, Rob Howie, Jr. and The Rev. Andrew Stoessel.

Annual Reports Due January 5th

Committee/Commission Chairs—Please turn in your 2014 annual report to Jane Maihos **by Tuesday, January 5, 2016**. The early date facilitates combining, copying and collation. Please send electronically, preferably single-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font. Thank you.



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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Photo: Ulrike Welsch



Tree Lighting & Carols
Thursday, December 3, 7 pm
Chili-in-a-bag, Cider 6-8 pm

Heart of Christmas Fair
Friday, December 4, 6-8:30 pm Party
Saturday, December 5, 9am—3 pm



Evensong & Benediction
Sunday, December 6, 5 pm

**Schedule for
Christmas Eve / Day**

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

5:00 pm Family Eucharist &
Christmas Pageant
9:45 pm Organ and Choral Music
10:00 pm Festal Eucharist, Rite II

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

St. Michael's Church

Officers: Stephen Clayon, Sr. Warden; Karin McCarthy, Jr. Warden; Sue Cool, Clerk; James Dearborn, Treasurer;
Diane Christian, Asst. Treasurer.

Vestry: Sarah Bates, Kelley Callahan, Brian Carlson, Zavier Chickering, Ellie Doyle, Rory Gaunt, Justin Hintlian,
Robert L. Howie, Jr., Jennifer Oliveira.

Delegates for Convention: Brian Fizer, Denise Shea. **Deanery Delegates:** Brian Fizer, 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.

Newsletter: Frances Nilsson, Editor; Marcia Koopman, Mailings.

December 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
	Office Hours Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am - 12:30 am	11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:30 pm Youth Choir 5:00 pm St. Michael's My Brother's Table 6:00 pm Deanery at Ascension, Ipswich	9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 6:00 pm Fair Setup 8:00 pm AA	6:00 – 8:00 Chili bags & cider 7:00 pm Tree Lighting & Carols 7:30 Adult Choir	4:00 pm Vendor Setup 6:00pm–8:30pm Heart of Christmas Preview Party	Heart of Christmas Fair 9:00 am – 3:00 pm 11 am – 2 pm Lunch inside & out
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Children's Chapel 9:30 am Child Care 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Pageant Rehearsal after service 12:30 pm LDI Team		11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:30 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Supper Club	9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	7:30 pm Adult Choir		St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge Pam Oppelt & Valerie Wyckoff Co-Captains
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Historic Church 9:30 am Child Care 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Pageant Rehearsal after service		11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:30 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm Vestry	9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	<i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 7:30 pm Adult Choir		
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 20	21	22	23	CHRISTMAS EVE 24	CHRISTMAS 25	26
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Pageant Rehearsal & Cast Party Luncheon after service		11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:30 pm Youth Choir	9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 7:30 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm AA	5:00 pm Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist, Rite II 9:45 pm Choral/Organ Prelude 10:00 pm Festal Eucharist, Rite II	10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music	
1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 27	28	29	30	<i>New Year's Eve</i> 31	January 1	2
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I No Church School 9:30 am Child Care 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II			9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 7:30 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm AA		<i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	Thrift Shop Hours Tuesday-Saturday 1pm – 4 pm