



St. Michael's Newsletter

From the Rector—Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

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December 2017
January 2018

“A voice cries out: ‘In the wilder-ness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a high-way for our God...Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people shall see it together.’”
(Isaiah 40:3, 5)

Sunday, December 3, marks the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new church year. The season of Advent is a time of preparation and expectation. Theologically and spiritually speaking it is preparation for the coming of a new time when God's reign is fully realized. As Christians as first step towards this new time is the birth of Jesus, the incarnation of God's Word. We acknowledge that this happened over 2,000 years ago. With this theological and spiritual underpinning, we prepare for Christmas and all that preparation encompasses: where and with whom we are going to spend Christmas; what to buy and what to give; decisions on Christmas cards or not; holiday parties or lack thereof, just to name a few. It is easy to get caught up in all the extra busy-ness, and easy to become distracted and anxious from that spiritual underpinning. More than just preparing for Christmas, the Advent season offers an intentional time of opening our hearts and minds to God's presence and God's signs in and around us. In our preparation, it helps to stop and take a breath, and know God is with us.

I write this as much activity encompasses St. Michael's. The annual Christ-

mas Fair is upon us. Tables are moved, wreaths decorated, baked goods made and sold, carol sung and chili in a bag! Many thanks to Karen McMahan and Charlene Tyler, co-chairs of the Christmas Fair, and all other “captains” and volunteers and participants. As the Christmas Fair comes into being and is celebrated, Eric Fialho pulling together St. Michael's annual Christmas Pageant. The Pageant will tell the Christmas Story at the 5:00 pm service on Sunday, Dec. 24. The later service begins at 9:45 pm with organ and choral music, with the proper liturgy commencing at 10:00 pm. (There is also a service Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.) Meanwhile, our “Strategic Visioning Team” is pulling together the responses from the “cottage meetings” and online survey. Again, this process is to help set our course for the coming years.

We prepare, too, for a visit to St. Michael's with Bishop Gayle Harris on Sunday, Dec. 17. Bishop Harris will preach and celebrate at the 10:00 service, and will confirm eight high school students, one adult, and reaffirm the baptismal vows of another adult, all from St. Michael's. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ed and Warren Bachman, Olivia Chickering, Julia Christian, Mack and Miles Renney, and Julia and Lily Sansons, as they prepare for confirmation. And Jane McKenna and Anne Davis, too. Bishop Harris will meet with the parish following the 10:00 service, and then with the Vestry.

—Prepare Ye *continued on page two.*

Worship & Music

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany always bring light and life to St. Michael's Church. There are many wonderful events that bring our community together as well as enable us to welcome our Marblehead friends and neighbors. For the complete calendar, see elsewhere in this newsletter; here are the special musical events for the season:

Sunday, December 10th at 5 pm—

St. Michael's Church presents Advent Lessons and Carols, with traditional carols "O come, O come Emmanuel", "Sleepers, Wake, a voice is calling", "I sing of a maiden" and the Magnificat by Thomas Tallis. The service of readings and music is free open to all; a reception follows in the Parish Hall.

Our Christmas Eve Services—

- **At 5 pm**, a Family Service with Pageant and Eucharist, (Music by the St. Michael's Youth Choir), and
- **At 9:45 pm** the Festival Eucharist for the Nativity of Christ (Music by the St. Michael's Adult Choir) will feature traditional carols, beautiful anthems and seasonal organ music. Come one, come all: - O come all ye faithful!

Sunday, January 7th at 5 pm—

Choral Evensong and Benediction. This beautiful sung service of readings, prayers, anthems and hymns will feature the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis by Orlando Gibbons, and Felix Mendelssohn's "There shall a star from Jacob", highlighting the Feast of the Epiphany and the visit of the Three Kings to Bethlehem.

Saturday, January 20th at 3 pm—

The American Songbook with Sarah Hunter, Katie Hoyer, sopranos, Ian Hunter, percussion, Nick Yeager, bass, and Douglas Major, piano. Featured songs include music from Bernstein's "West Side Story", and songs by Cole Porter and others. Last year, this concert was enthusiastically received, and this year's line-up will be another great afternoon of music in the Parish Hall. (Suggested Donation - \$10).
—Doug Major



Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Special Services & Events

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday, Dec. 10 | 2 Advent |
| 5:00 p.m. | Advent Lessons & Carols |
| Sunday, Dec. 17 | 3 Advent |
| 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist & Confirmation with Bishop Gayle Harris |
| Sunday, Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve |
| 5:00 p.m. | Christmas Pageant with Youth Choir & Family Eucharist, Rite II |
| 9:45 p.m. | Choral and Organ Music |
| 10:00 p.m. | Festal Eucharist, Rite II |
| Monday, Dec. 25 | Christmas Day |
| 10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist with music |
| Sunday, Jan. 7 | 1 Epiphany |
| 5:00 pm | Evensong & Benediction |
| Saturday, Jan. 20 | |
| 3:00 pm | American Songbook |
| Sunday, Jan. 28 | 4 Epiphany |
| 9:30 am | One Service only at Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Annual Meeting followed by Lunch |

Christmas Poinsettias & Memorial List

Names are needed by December 18th.



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 Monday, Dec. 18th. 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.—Anne

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

Rector's Column continued from page one.

Yes, there is much going on at St. Michael's, not to mention what is going on in the world about us. With all that is going on we are still invited to prepare and make ready for God and the light of Christ to be revealed more fully in our lives and our community. By such intention and grace, "all people shall see it together."

Church School & Youth

The busy time of the year is here for Children and Youth Ministries at St. Michael's as the Christmas pageant approaches. The pageant has been cast, and more youth are welcome to participate in various roles -- such as angels and shepherds. The schedule for pageant rehearsals is posted in the church, and has been sent out to parents and grandparents.

In the Church School rooms we have been moving into learning about the church year. On December 3rd we will learn about the season of Advent, the incarnation (simplified terms of course), and what it means to await something. The children at Church School have very inquisitive minds, and their knowledge of theology is sometimes astounding. They often easily grasp large ideas about their faith, their community, and God. We have been utilizing the one room school model lately and lessons have been drawn partially from Weaving God's Promises - a curriculum which bridges all ages.

Recently the youth from Church School have made mittens for the Mitten Tree which is now up in the Parish Hall. All parents and parishioners are encouraged to take a mitten, and purchase a gift for a child in need here in Marblehead. Please bring unwrapped gifts back under the tree before December 19th. For any information please contact Diane Christian at dchristian2001@gmail.com.

Supper Club occurs again on Monday, December 4th, and Tuesday December 19th. Supper Club will now run for only an hour and a half from 6pm-7:30pm. On December 19th Supper Club will have a small Christmas Party to celebrate the season.

—Eric Fialho.

Fulfill a wish by taking a mitten from our Mitten Tree

- Nov. 30 Annual Tree Lighting + Carols, 7 pm
& chili bags & cider, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 1 Heart of Christmas Fair Preview Party
with Craft Night for Children, 6-8 pm
- Dec. 2 Heart of Christmas Fair, 9 am—3 pm
- Dec. 3 Church School, 9:45 am
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:15 am
- Dec. 6 Supper Club, 6:00 pm
- Dec. 10 Church School, 9:45 am
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 11:15 am
- Dec. 16 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 10:00 am
- Dec. 17 Church School, 9:45 am
Holy Eucharist & Confirmation, 10:00 am
- Dec. 19 Supper Club Christmas Party 6:00 pm
- Dec. 23 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal
and Cast Party, 10:00 am
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Pageant & Service, 5 pm
- Dec. 31 No Church School
- Jan. 7 Church School 9:45 am
- Jan. 14 No Church School
- Jan. 21 Church School, 9:45 am
- Jan. 28 Church School, 9:15 am
Child care extended through Annual Meeting

Reaching Out



Please jot a note in your calendars that the UU will be hosting families during the week of Christmas. The number of guests in the program that week is as yet undetermined, as our families often are with their own families, but please stay tuned as we anticipated being needed for at least a few shifts that week. We will keep you posted as we learn more. Families will arrive on December 24 and depart for the next church on December 31. We understand this is a very busy time for all, and we appreciate anyone who can contribute an hour or two, especially if you are local for the holidays.

- Katie Hoyer and Annette Nicolas

St. Michael's Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop wishes to thank all for your wonderful donations and the extra helpers that are allowing us to extend hours during the fair.

Now is the time to bring in those winter sweaters skirts and warm clothing you no longer wear. And don't forget to save your clean paper bags of all sizes for the Thrift Shop.

Listening to You and Next Steps

As you are aware, the Strategic Thinking Committee has been busy this fall! Thanks to the guidance provided by the Episcopal Church Foundation, the process began in August with discernment about the Listening Process. The first step was to determine the content of the questions that parishioners would be asked during the Listening Sessions. The answers to the questions would provide us with an understanding of what our core values are. Going forward, the information gleaned from these sessions will provide us with a filter or lens, through which future decisions will be made and goals will be set.

The Listening Process: Throughout the month of October, and into November, St. Michael's Church took part in eleven Listening Sessions, including one for the Confirmation class and one for Supper Club. About half were held at church and half were held at parishioners' homes. In all, we heard from 73 people. As of the middle of November, the link to the online survey was provided via Enews. We expect to hear from an additional 20-25 people through this mechanism.

We have also gathered twice this fall with three other parishes in the Diocese that are engaged in the same Strategic Thinking process. Though we covered several topics, most of the time was spent sharing our experiences with the

Listening Session and learning how to prepare the information that we have gathered for the final analysis, as well as learning more about how this information will help us in the future.

One of the things that became clear from the last Plenary Session was the idea that we will have a stronger sense of our identity through this process. Most of us are aware that Episcopal Churches come in a variety of flavors, shapes and sizes. While we are also aware of socio-economic threats to our religious livelihood, we can be stronger and more attractive to outsiders when we have a solid sense of who we are as a parish. Likewise, when the congregation has an understanding of this lens or filter that will be used to make decisions or set goals, people will feel more supported as parishioners and supportive of the decision making process.

- Sue Cool on behalf of the Listening Committee

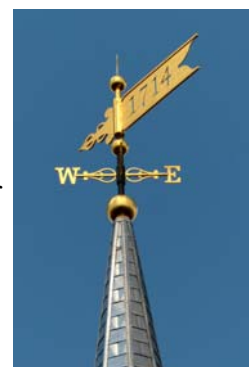


Photo: Ulrike Welsch

January Preparations for Annual Meeting January 28, 2018

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: Karin McCarthy, Sue Cool, Sarah Bates, Kelley Callahan, Justin Hintlian and The Rev. Andrew Stoessel.

Annual Reports Due January 9th

Committee/Commission Chairs—Please turn in your 2017 annual report to Jane Maihos **by Tuesday, January 9, 2018**. The early date facilitates combining, copying and collation. Please send electronically, preferably single-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font. Thank you.

End-of-Year Annual Pledge & Capital Campaign Donations

We appreciate all of your generous pledge and capital campaign contributions. Please be sure to write on the check whether it is for annual pledge, including pledge number and year or for capital campaign.

For stock donations please be sure to email or call the office to indicate whether the donation is a pledge or capital campaign donation and to confirm the new transfer instructions. This year we have changed the custodian from ETRADE to Fidelity. Anyone who has previously donated stock and used those instructions must let their custodian know of the updated securities transfer instructions for The Episcopal Church in Marblehead at Fidelity.

You can call the office, email the office at office@stmichaels1714.org or the treasurer at stmichaels1714@gmail.com for wiring information or other questions..

- Diane Christian, Treasurer

Heart of Christmas Fair

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

And it's never 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 and wine for a merrier evening. It's your first opportunity to buy those items you have spotted through the library door—perhaps a painting, china, linen, collectible or antique, artisan fine wares, bookmarks from the Church School children, *Marblehead Light* by our own Bill Conly and the pick of the best jewelry, table arrangements and crafts plus special silent auction items Friday night only!

Parents, don't forget that there will be activities for Church School children in the chapter room to give 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 clam chowder, hot dogs & grilled cheese sandwiches inside.

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.

—Karen McMahon and Charlene Tyler

Tree Lighting on the Lawn during the Christmas Walk Preview

Thursday, November 30
6:30 pm Chili-in-a-bag & Cider
7:00 pm Tree Lighting & Carols



St. Michael's Heart of Christmas Fair

Friday, December 1
6:00 pm—8:30 pm

Wassail! Hors d'oeuvres & Preview Sale
Tickets are \$20 through 11/30, \$25 at the door.
Children ages 2-9 are \$5.

Saturday, December 2
9:00 am—3:00 pm

Hot beverage & more beginning 9am
Hot chowder, grilled cheese, hot dogs,
beginning 11 am

Historic Church Open House 11am—2 pm

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 before Tuesday, December 19th. A \$30 gift limit is suggested.



Where: Mittens are on the tree in the Parish Hall.

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 before Tuesday, December 19th.

Gifts will be distributed to The Marblehead Food Pantry on Tuesday, December 19th.

-Diane Christian

St. Catherine's in January

With all the Fair doings, St. Catherine's does not meet in December. The next meeting is Thursday, January 4 with our Yankee Swap! Details to come in late December.

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.



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Photo: Ulrike Welsch

Advent Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 10, 5 pm

Evensong & Benediction
Sunday, January 7, 5 pm

American Songbook
Katie Hoyer, Sarah Hunter & Douglas Major
Saturday, January 20, 5 pm

**Schedule for
Christmas Eve / Day**

Christmas Eve, Sunday, 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, Monday, December 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music

St. Michael's Church

Officers: Karin McCarthy, Sr. Warden; Sue Cool, Jr. Warden; Walt Haug, Clerk; Diane Christian, Treasurer;
Kristin Carlson, Asst. Treasurer.

Vestry: Sarah Bates, Vivian Bennett, Kelley Callahan, James Dearborn, Brian Fizer, Justin Hintlian, William Miller,
Octavia Moniz, Edward Nilsson.

Delegates for Convention: Annette Nicolas, Denise Shea.

Delegates to the North Shore Deanery: Annette Nicolas, Frances Nilsson, Denise Shea

Staff: The Rev. Andrew J. Stoessel, Rector; Dr. Douglas Major, Music Director; Eric Fialho, Christian Education Director;
Jane Maihos, Parish Administrator; Isaac Martinez, Seminararian; Ernesto Menendez, Sinclair Cleaning Services.

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

December 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Office Hours Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am - 12:30 am		<i>Thrift Shop Hours Tuesday-Saturday 1pm – 4 pm</i>	November 30 6:30 pm Chili bags & cider 7:00 pm Tree Lighting & Carols	December 1 4:00 pm Vendor Setup 6:00pm–8:30pm Heart of Christmas Preview Party	2 Heart of Christmas Fair 8:00 am Vendor Setup 9:00 am – 3:00 pm 11 am – 2 pm Lunch inside & out
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 3 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:15 am Pageant Rehearsal 12:30 pm Confirmation Class	4 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Supper Club	5 5:00 pm St. Michael's My Brother's Table 6 pm Deanery Swampscott	6 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	7 6:15 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	8	9 St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge Pam Oppelt & Valerie Wyckoff Co-Captains
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Thrift Shop Meeting 9:30 am Child Care 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:15 am Pageant Rehearsal 5:00 pm Advent Lessons & Carols	11 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	12	13 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	14 6:15 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	15 11:00 am Wisdom & Friendship Group	16 10:00 am Pageant Rehearsal
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 17 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II & Confirmation with Bishop G. Harris	18 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry <i>Memorial Flowers Deadline</i>	19 6:00 pm Supper Club 7:00 pm Vestry	20 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	21 6:15 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	22	23 10:00 am Pageant Dress Rehearsal and Cast Party
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 24 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist 9:45 pm Choral/Organ Prelude 10:00 pm Festal Eucharist	CHRISTMAS DAY 25 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music No child care	26	27 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 8:00 pm AA	28 No Choir Rehearsals	29	30

January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 31 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care No Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 5:00 pm St. Michael's My Brother's Table	3 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	4 5:45 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm St. Catherine's 7:30 pm Adult Choir	5 11:00 am Wisdom Friendship Group	6 EPIPHANY
1ST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 7 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Thrift Shop Meeting 9:30 am Child Care 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Evensong/Benediction	8 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Supper Club	9 Annual Reports due	10 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	11 5:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	12	13 St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge Ed & Michele Baile, Co-Captains
3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 14 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Thrift Shop Meeting 9:30 am Child Care No Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	15 Martin Luther King Day Office closed	16 7:00 pm Vestry	17 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	18 5:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	19 11:00 am Wisdom Friendship Group	20 3:00 pm American Songbook Recital - Parish Hall
4TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 21 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	22 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	23	24 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	25 5:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	26 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	27
5TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 28 One Service Today 9:15 am Child Care 9:15 am Church School 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II followed by Annual Meeting and lunch	29 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	30	31 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 12:30 am	Thrift Shop Hours Tuesday-Saturday 1pm - 4 pm	