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St. Michael's Newsletter

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December Calendar

*Happy December
Birthday to
Bryce Russell
Harry McDonough
Jack McDonough
Cordelia Mae Roberts
Genevieve Riegler*

From the Rector

Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

- Luke 1:38.

When Gabriel, the Angel of the Lord, first appeared to Mary and told her God's plan for her, she was "greatly perplexed and pondered what sort of greeting this might be." Incomprehensible news can leave one momentarily overwhelmed and stunned. She asked further questions of Gabriel. "Don't be afraid," Gabriel said. "For nothing will be impossible with God." Assured, empowered, and trusting, Mary responded, "let it be with me according to your word."

We can do no worse than to follow Mary's faithful example. I don't know if this is any harder to do today than it was in her time, but it seems so. Life seems faster, busier these days. As one example, and one example only, technological advances give us new means and dimensions for information and social networking. I readily admit that I am woefully behind on text messaging, Facebook and Twitter, just to name three. I can barely keep up with emails! This alone is nearly overwhelming and incomprehensible. (I am thankful for Aileen Ryder establishing a new Facebook page for our middle and high school youth.)

*Here I am, the
servant of the
Lord;
let it be with me
according to your
word.*

Meanwhile, a new liturgical year begins with the season of Advent. Advent is a four week period to prepare and wait expectantly for the impossible becoming possible. Perhaps it is no coincidence that the season begins with one of the busiest times of the year! No sooner have the dishes been put away from Thanksgiving than we are off and running towards Christmas and New Year. School vaca-

tions loom on the horizon, end of the year reports need filing, holiday music (some good, some not so good) greets us in nearly every store and on the street. Not to mention the encouragement to shop (don't delay, act now!).

Advent asks us to find a moment in the busy-ness of the season to ponder quietly the mystery unfolded before us: the message of an angel, the trusting response of a young woman, the incarnation of the Word of God through her. "The Word became flesh and dwelled among us." (John 1:14) Advent leads to the joy Christmas, the celebration of God with us.

In these seasons of Advent and Christmas may we hear the message of the angel, live by faithful response, and allow the grace of God to be born anew in our hearts.

- Fr. Andrew

From the Music Director—New Anthem Premiere

Weekly Services in Advent

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Wednesdays

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Special Advent & Christmas Services

2 Advent Sunday, December 6
 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong & Benediction

4 Advent Sunday, December 20
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 & Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve Thursday, December 24
 5:00 p.m. Family Festal Eucharist, Rite II
 10:45 p.m. Organ and /Choral Music
 11:00 p.m. Festal Eucharist, Rite II

Christmas Day Thursday, December 25
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Lessons and Carols for Christmas will be sung on Sunday, January 3, 2008 at 5:00 pm.



Advent and Christmas are here, and it seems that this autumn was particularly short. In any case, your St. Michael's Choir has prepared some wonderful music for our services this December.

On December 13th, we'll sing a favorite piece of mine by my mentor and friend, Paul Callaway, who was Organist and Choirmaster at the National Cathedral in Washington from 1939 – 1977, entitled "An Hymne of Heavenly Love." And on December 20th, we will sing the first performance of a new anthem of mine, commissioned by a parishioner, and entitled "Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding."

May all the blessings and joy of this wonderful season be with you and your families as we celebrate the birth of Our Saviour Jesus Christ.

- Douglas Major, Music Director

Church School Schedule

Date	Special Event	Middle School	Godly Play I	Godly Play II
Saturday, December 6	Pageant Rehearsal 11:30-12:30	Invited to join St. Andrew's Rite-13 event	Advent I & II with Kristen Clay & Sue Cool	St. Nicholas with Kate Renney & Anne Ayer
Tuesday, December 8		The Supper Club: Advent		
Sunday, December 13	Pageant Rehearsal 11:30-12:30		Advent III & IV with Kristen Clay & Sue Cool	The Mystery of Christmas with Kate Renney & Sue Bragdon
Saturday, December 19	Pageant Rehearsal 10:00-1:00			
Sunday, December 20	Christmas Pageant 10:00		Meet at 9:30	Meet at 9:30
Tuesday, December 22		The Supper Club: Christmas		
Thursday, December 24	Family Christmas Eve Service 5pm			
Sunday, December 27				No class

Church School - Aileen Ryder

Classroom Musings



Have you ever sat around a campfire telling stories? I recall nights at summer camp, each person trying to share the best story. There was something so special about the way friends gather at a fire and share; the stories seem to take on a special significance.

Maybe they stay with you longer than you would typically expect. Maybe there is something about the gathering that lets you hear the stories in a new way. You can treasure these stories in your heart, let them have greater meaning in your life.

Before it was written down, Scripture was passed along in such circles around a campfire. In the Godly Play classroom we try to recreate this experience (sans fire!). Each week the children gather in a circle and listen to a storyteller. The Circle is created around the images and manipulatives that display the story. Suddenly the story is more than words on a page, but a communal experience that is alive with meaning!

As the children reflect on the story before them, they are encouraged to think about where they fit into the story. They are reminded that there is something different in this story. It has more meaning than the stories lining their bookshelves at home. This story, the one in the center of the circle, is special. Even though they may not be mentioned as characters of the story, they are intimately involved in the Scripture.

Middle School Supper Club!!!

This new group meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month 6:00-7:30. We gather together to share faith, food and fun. Please join us.

Entering the Story

The Godly Play story for Advent starts by reminding us of the importance of the holiday for which we are preparing. Christmas is so important we have four weeks to prepare for the mystery of it all. Mystery is such a great word for describing the feast of the Incarnation. We hear the Christmas story so often that we some times forget how mysterious it all is!

In our Godly Play story, we are reminded that God coming into this world as a human is such a great event that prophets have been foretelling this for ages. At his birth, angels appear to shepherds, and a star appears in the sky to guide seekers from all over to the Christ child. This is such a great event, that even the Holy Family had to adjust their lives; Mary and Joseph didn't give birth in their home town of Nazareth, but travelled to the ancient city of kings, Bethlehem.



We are told of all this preparation that took place in order to welcome Jesus into the world and are invited to make similar preparations in our own lives. Advent is an opportunity to examine our lives and see how we can make more room for God. Maybe including grace at meals, or praying evening prayer together as a family, even one night a week.

The students have received Advent Calendars. Open a door for each day of December. Inside each door is either a Scripture or activity that can invite you to become closer with God.

New for Youth

St. Michael's High School Youth group now has a presence on Facebook!

This social networking site allows the youth a place to stay connected with St. Michael's, each other, and our faith.

Christmas Pageant



Sunday, Dec. 20 10:00

Rehearsals:

Sunday, Dec. 6 11:30

Sunday, Dec. 13 11:30

Saturday, Dec. 19 10:00

Heart of Christmas Fair—More Treasures & Volunteers Welcome!

Thrift Shop Expanded Hours and A Christmas Annex During the Christmas Walk

The Thrift Shop will be open on Saturday and Sunday afternoon during the Christmas Walk, December 5-6. And, through the generosity of Betty Breuhauf, the Thrift Shop will have a Christmas Annex with Christmas decorations and related items. Watch for more information!

- Liz Grader & Mary Williams



**Thursday, December 3,
5:30—8:30 pm**
Set-up (pizza too!)

**Friday, December 4
6:00 pm—9:00 pm**
Evening Preview Sale and
Ham & Bean Supper

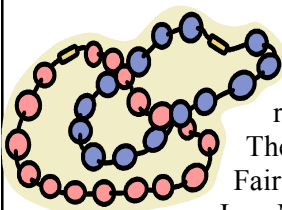
Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.
Children ages 2-11 are \$5.

**Saturday, December 5,
8:30 am—3:00 pm**
with Morning Goodies & Lunch

10:00 am—3:00 pm
Historic Church Tours

Many thanks to all who are lending a hand!

- Christmas Fair Committee: Lesley Tracy,
Sarah Bates, Vivian Bennett, Carole Davidson,
Pam Oppelt, Lissa Simard, and Linda Smidt.



Jewelry Table

Do you have earrings, necklaces, pins, or rings you haven't worn in the last year?

Then it's time to donate them to the Christmas Fair. Please leave jewelry in the office with Jane Maihos for Jewelry Table leaders, Connie

Denault and Linda Smidt.

St. Michael's Table at the Fair

Evangelism & Welcoming committee will have a table with information on St. Michael's, as well as items for sale: Dorothy Miles book *Church of Our Fathers*, Bob Howie's rendering of St. Michael's as built in 1714, and Frances Nilsson's stained glass windows series in color.

Bake Table

Frozen casseroles, cupcakes, cookies, pies, candy, fudge, yeast & quick breads, etc.—Bring in your gourmet items and family favorites on Friday, or early Saturday. Frozen items can be stored in the freezer or refrigerator downstairs. Please use clear wrap and mark "the name of the item" and mark "nuts" or "no nuts." Putting a half dozen cookies in a pretty bag, or putting a colorful holiday ribbon or bow on your item really helps to market and sell the item more quickly.

Besides our popular apricot and cranberry/orange chutneys, this year we have a new Christmas Chutney—fruity and spicy with dates, apricots, plums, currants, raisins and spices. All are good hot or cold with meat, fish or poultry.

If you have any questions please call Pam Oppelt or Lissa Simard at 781-631-3106.

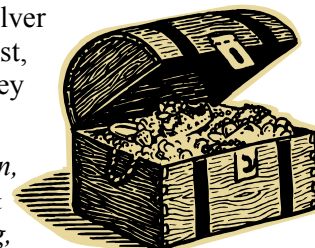


"Rich Uncle"

Antique and Collectables Room

Dust off those unused treasures and bring them down for others to buy and enjoy! We love crystal, silver, china, small working appliances, frames, collectibles, paintings, and more. Just leave items in the library, and return Friday evening and Saturday to pick out new treasures such as, a crystal punch bowl & stand, a Carol Eldridge original, silver flatware set and chest, and more, before they disappear.

- Peggy Bittermann,
Aileen Day &
Pat Spaberg,



Deepening Pastoral Presence Within Our Parish

Pastoral care is a trans-formative experience, for those who give, as well as for those who receive...

While the Pastoral Care team's efforts have always been a critical function within our parish, in November the Vestry voted to formally include a Pastoral Care Objective in the Strategic Plan:

C4-Deepen pastoral presence in our parish.

As many of you have heard before, a successful parish functions with a sound administrative body, with worship and music, and with pastoral care. With this addition to the Objectives, we are reminded of the crucial role that it plays within our parish.

Pastoral care has a great deal to accomplish over the coming months! We welcome those of all ages to assist in the following efforts, so that we can continue to carry out and expand our range of services to our parishioners. Some examples are:

Meals brought to the ill, to those recovering from surgery, or to families welcoming home a new baby.

Visits to those who need some company or those who are not able to get to church. In addition, we have a group of Lay Eucharistic Ministers who bring communion to a parishioner's home. Also, training opportunities exist for anyone interested becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister.

Operation and administration of the Greeting Card rack (located outside the Parish Hall). Pastoral care sends holiday greetings to parishioners unable to attend special services, or cards to those in need of support or a little cheering up.

Soup and Dessert--On the Second Tuesday of each month (Sept-June), a group of approximately 20-30 parishioners assemble at noon for soup, dessert and fellowship. Pastoral Care coordinates the rotating schedule of food preparers, along with the setup, servers and cleanup crews. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Come join our team or let us know if you can help with a specific activity. Please direct your questions, concerns or suggestions to: Sue Cool 781-990-1445 or Pat Spaberg, 781-631-3181.

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.

**To deepen relevant discipleship
to transform lives**

Cards

A NEW selection of greeting cards is now available for purchase at 50 cents each in the Parish Hall Lobby. Please take **ONLY ONE** envelope per card so there are enough envelopes for each card. We cannot sell cards without envelopes. The Pastoral Care Group appreciates your support. Many thanks



- Pat Spaberg, Pastoral Care.

*You cannot live a perfect day
without doing something for someone
who will never be able to repay you.*

Important Dates

Christmas Fair 'Pot Luck' Soup and Dessert Tuesday, December 8 12:00 Noon

Come enjoy some pre-holiday fellowship and warm your tummy at the same time! Walt Haug will transform Christmas Fair 'leftover' soup and Peggy Bittermann will provide desserts. We would also like to recognize a few other individuals who make this enjoyable event possible, as they work quietly behind the scenes...Connie and Dana Denault will be managing the kitchen while Marion Buescher, Sylvia Johnson, Frances Nilsson and Lou Zumstein will set-up and serve. We hope to see you on the 8th! If anyone is interested in helping in these efforts on any given month in 2010, please let us know.

*- Sue Cool & Pat Spaberg
Pastoral Care Co-Chairs*

Christmas Poinsettias & Memorial List

Names needed by December 13th

If you wish to have a poinsettia in memory of a beloved one, please submit their name(s) by Sunday, Dec. 11th. The poinsettias are displayed in the church at Christmas through 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 perpetuity remembrance.



St. Catherine's Guild

Thursday, December 10th at 7:30 pm

The Guild will meet at 7:30 pm on Thursday, December 10 for our annual Christmas party. There will be hors d'oeuvres and dessert only and the choir will join us for Christmas carols.

Liz Grader is chairing with Anne Davis, Anne Foster, and Debby Hall assisting. Barbara Ramsay will be calling members.

Bring food for the Food Pantry!

**Parish Aid Luncheon
Tuesday, December 15
12:00 Noon**

**New Members
Welcome!**

Annual Reports Due January 8th

Committee/Commission Chairs—Please turn in your 2009 annual report to Jane Maihos by Friday, January 8, 2010. The early date facilitates copying and collation.

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

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Senior Warden | Junior Warden |
| Treasurer | Assistant Treasurer |
| Clerk | |
| 3 Vestry members | 2 Convention Delegates. |

If you know of a good candidate, or if you are interested yourself, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Barbara Miller, David Bittermann, Jack Attridge, and Vivian Bennett.

**The Annual Meeting is scheduled for
Sunday, January 31, 2010.**

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

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www.stmichaels1714.org



Worship Schedule St. Michael's Church

Sundays:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

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

Wednesdays:

9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

1st Sunday of Each Month (Oct.—May):

5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong and Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament.

Schedule for Christmas Eve / Day

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Family Festal Eucharist, Rite II

10:45 p.m. Organ and Choral Music

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

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

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

*A service of Lessons and Carols celebrating the
Christmas season will be held on January 3, 2009.*

St. Michael's Church

Officers: *Barbara Miller, Sr. Warden; David Bittermann, Jr. Warden; Laurence Pierce, Treasurer; Sarah Bates, Asst. Treasurer; Walter Haug, Clerk.*

Vestry: *Jack Attridge, Vivian Bennett, Susan Cool, Louise Hunt, Anna Onishi, Paul Pruett, Avery Russell, Linda Smidt, Richard Wood.*

Delegates for Convention: *Jan Barnett, Denise Shea. Deanery Delegates: Jan Barnett, Frances Nilsson, Denise Shea*

Staff: *The Rev. Andrew J. Stoessel, Rector; Dr. Douglas Major, Music Director; Aileen Ryder, Church School Director, Jane Maihos, Parish Administrator; Ron St. Pierre, Sexton; Donna Hingston, St. Michael's Nursery School.*

Saint Michael's Church

December 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1) 7:30 pm Property Committee	2) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	3) 5:30 pm Heart of Christmas Fair Set-up 7:30 pm Adult Choir	4) No Polarity Exercise Class 5:00 pm Vendors set-up begins downstairs 6:00 pm Fair Preview & Ham & Bean Supper	5) 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Heart of Christmas Fair
6) 2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Pageant Rehearsal 5:00 pm Choral Evensong and Benediction	7)	8) 12:00 pm Soup & Dessert 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Wardens	9) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	10) 7:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild Christmas Party 7:30 pm Adult Choir	11) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	12)
13) 3 RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Pageant Rehearsal 11:45 am Communications Comm. <i>Poinsettia Order Deadline</i>	14)	15) 12:00 pm Parish Aid 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	16) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting downstairs	17) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	18) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	19) 10:00 am – 1:00 pm Pageant, Dress Rehearsal and Lunch
20) 4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School - meet for Pageant 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II & Christmas Pageant	21)	22) 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club	23) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 Devereux House Nursing Home Visitation 11:45 am Staff Meeting 7:30 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm AA Meeting	24) CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 pm Family Festive Eucharist, Rite II 10:45 pm Choral & Organ Music 11:00 pm Festive Eucharist, Rite II	25) CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	26)
27) 1 ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I No Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	28)	29)	30) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist No Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	31) NEW YEAR'S EVE Office Open	Looking Ahead: Sunday, January 3 rd 5:00 pm Christmas Lessons & Carols	