



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Page 2

- From the Music Director
- Advent/Christmas services
- Giving: the Mitten Tree, Food Pantry, Lectors & LEMs, Youth Choir

Page 3

- From the Church School

Page 4

- Stewardship Update
- Steward Linda Smidt

Page 5

- Heart of Christmas Fair Schedule: Thrift Shop hours, Rich Uncle, Baked Goods, Tours, etc.

Page 6

- Important Dates: No Parish Aid, Poinsettias, St. Catherine's Guild, 2010 Annual Reports, Nominating Committee
- Congratulations: Geoffrey van Wyck & Tom Hamond

December Calendar

Happy December

Birthday to

Bryce Russell

Harry McDonough

Jack McDonough

Cordelia Mae Roberts

Genevieve Riegle

From the Rector

I happened to be in my study one day early in Advent just as the sun was rising. High clouds graced the sky, but there was enough of a break at the earth's horizon to allow for the rising sun to shine through. A faint orange outline of the windows first appeared on the wall. It quickly grew brighter, illuminating the room in a warm glow. Moments later the room basked in the dawn light. The room quickly warmed. "The night heralds the dawn," a prayer says. "Let us look expectantly to new joys, new possibilities." The early morning light was infused with hope and expectation.

The season of Advent starts a new year in the church, a season of hope and expectation. It is not just the Christmas celebration that is anticipated (though try convincing a child or store owners otherwise!). The season points to the Second Coming of Christ as well. In the first,

Jesus comes to us the humbleness of the manger; in the second, he comes to us in great glory. Both extend the light of grace and the glow of love.

There is much to do at this time of year. The non-religious days of Black Friday (the great shopping day after Thanksgiving) and Cyber Monday (on-line shopping deals after the Thanksgiving weekend) can propel one into a host of external pressures and planning in getting ready for the holiday season. In contrast to the lists and plans to be carried out, Advent invites one to kindle inner renewal and readiness. Like the morning sun, the "Day-spring from on high" has the power to lift us the hope and expectation that God is with us.

- Fr. Andrew

Please join us for Advent and Christmas Services, including those listed below.

"O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh."

*Verse 6, Hymn 56;
5 "O Antiphons"*

Special Advent & Christmas Services

2nd Sunday in Advent, December 5

5:00 pm Choral Evensong & Benediction

4th Sunday in Advent, December 19

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II & Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve Friday, 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 Saturday, December 25

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

Lessons and Carols for Christmas will be sung on Sunday, January 2, 2011 at 5:00 pm.

From the Music Director—Advent Preparation

The Advent season has always been a special one for me. As a church musician, it is the New (Church) Year that directs my activities, as we turn to the beginning of the Lectionary, we turn to the beginning of the Hymnal for the Advent hymns and carols, and we “start over”, as it were.



We have four liturgical Sundays, when we prepare for the coming of Our Savior. But, I believe, the preparation is intended for us individually as well as communally. It is so easy to get caught up in the commercial/social busyness for this holiday that we forget what Advent is really all about. It is expectation, preparation and renewal in that most joyous time of year when we hear the touching and tender story of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Angels once again.

Our hymns, our Bible readings and our prayers and rituals like the lighting of the Advent Candles all ask us to take a moment to reflect on whether we personally are ready to receive the grace and joy that surrounds the baby

Weekly Services in Advent & Christmas

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 1, except 12/29

On Sunday, December 5th, join us for Evensong and Benediction with Mark Dirksen as Guest Organist.

Jesus.

So, enjoy the promise of His coming, through music, the Bible, the wonderful Advent carols and hymns and choral and organ music at St. Michael's. Let us celebrate the 28 days of Advent as well as the 12 days of Christmas, and let each season inform us and inspire us to live into the life of Our Lord.

- Doug Major, Music Director

Gifts of Time...

A Call for Lectors & LEMs

Participation is a wonderful way to enrich our worship experience. If you might be interested in reading the lessons and/or Prayers of the People (Lectors), or assisting on the altar with lessons and serving the Eucharist (LEM's), please see Tom Weber or Father Andrew. We will conduct training so you will be comfortable as you serve your fellow parishioners.

Young People's Choir.

If we have sufficient interest, Douglas Major, our Music Director, would be pleased to (re) start a Young People's Choir. Participation will involve weekly rehearsals, and periodic performances, particularly through our Christmas and Easter seasons. All those interested in learning more please see Doug Major or Father Andrew.



Gifts for Those in Need

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 19

See St. Michael's youth for more ideas for Gifts for Life for those who have everything! Information is on page 3.

- Aileen Ryder and Diane Christian

Marblehead Food Pantry Christmas Dinner Shopping



St. Michael's is helping the Marblehead Food Pantry with its annual Christmas dinner shopping. Four teams from St. Michael's will shop for food for the Christmas Holiday for the Marblehead Food Pantry and drop the food off at the Pantry on Dec. 20, 2010 between 9 am and 3 pm. The funds for shopping will be provided by the Pantry. It is not necessary to make money or food donations. Rather, this is a gift of labor and an opportunity for fellowship amongst the teams. Please see the sign-up poster in the parish hall for more details.

-Peg Bittermann

Church School - Aileen Ryder

Church School

Godly Play classes for students pre-K through 5th grade meet Sundays at 9:30am.

The Supper Club

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

Youth may stay connected through our Facebook page.

December Highlights

Fri. Dec. 3 Bring your family to the Christmas Fair Preview Dinner, a great time to connect with Church friends.

Sat. Dec. 4 Crafts created by the Church School will be sold by our youth. Check out the Gifts for Life display.

Sun. Dec. 5 Choose a gift to purchase from the Mitten Tree. Pageant Rehearsal 11:30-12:30

Sun. Dec. 12 Pageant Rehearsal 11:30-12:30

Sat. Dec. 18 Pageant Dress Rehearsal & Party 10am-1pm

Sun. Dec. 19 Christmas Pageant at 10:00 service, participants meet at 9:30. *Snow Date January 2*

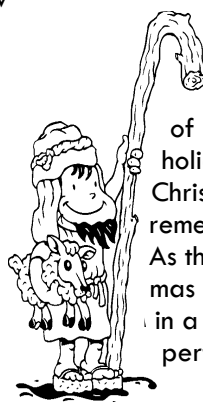
Gift Giving

Episcopal Relief and Development offers an unique gift-giving opportunity—**Gifts for Life**. The youth will have a catalog available at the Church School craft table. You can share gifts that bring life to communities in need.

The **Mitten Tree** is an opportunity to share Christmas cheer with local families in need. Choose a mitten from the tree in the Parish Hall and go shopping as a family. Help your child practice generosity during Advent.

Christmas Pageant

Advent is a great season for slowing down and remembering the great gift of Jesus. Yet we often become so busy with holiday preparations that we forget this. The Christmas Pageant is a great opportunity to remember the reason we celebrate Christmas. As the children play roles in sharing the Christmas story with us, the story comes alive for them in a whole new way. Please enjoy our performance December 19.



Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Middle School Youth	Godly Play I	Godly Play II
Friday, December 3	Christmas Fair Preview Dinner			
Saturday, December 4	Christmas Fair	Volunteer at Fair 8:30-2:00		
Sunday, December 5	Pageant Rehearsal 11:30-12:30		The Holy Family with Joe Oliveira & Kristen Clay	The Prophet Ezekiel with Noah Bitterman
Sunday, December 12	Pageant Rehearsal 11:30-12:30		The Prophets with Kristen Clay	The Story of Daniel with Avery Russell
Tuesday, December 14		Supper Club: Hopeful Expectation		
Saturday, December 18	Pageant Dress Rehearsal & Party 10:00-1:00			
Sunday, December 19	Christmas Pageant		Meet at 9:30	Meet at 9:30
Friday December, 24	Family Service 5pm			
Sunday December 26	1st Sunday of Christmas		No class	No Class

Stewardship Update

Thank you all who have pledged helping us to draw less from our endowment in 2011. As of November 30 we have received 115 pledges totaling over \$182,000, nearly \$25,000 more than pledges for 2010!



Pledges continue to trickle in. Please submit as soon as possible so the Vestry can plan for 2011.

- *Stewardship Committee: Avery Russell, Jeff Barnett, Harriett Magee, Karl Renney, Larry Robbins.*

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.

Steward of the Month: Linda Smidt

Linda grew up Episcopalian in Ohio, but she took a hiatus in her youth from church-going. "I was too busy having fun," she said. Then in the nineties she wandered into St. Michael's and immediately felt comfortable. When Father Westerberg came down the aisle and greeted her: "It felt like coming home, friendly and spiritual. It filled a void."

She found the ritual with its incense was calming and the history of the church felt protective. St. Michael's outreach programs spoke to her as well, with both local and international caring. "It wasn't just all about me, but about the giving to others as part of being a Christian," she says.

Soon she was working with the Mission Committee, then chaired by Aileen Day, which she later co-chaired and chaired. In 1996 she was part of the medical mission to Haiti. She remembers that those who went saw over 700 people in just a week. The Days and their daughter Rebecca, Lee and George Jacoby with their daughter Sarah, Robert Sides, five nurses from Holy Family in Methuen, and Linda brought 22 suitcases of medical supplies and toiletries with them. "It was so meaningful and moving. Everyone came back changed by the beautiful people of Haiti," Linda says. In 2008 she returned to Haiti with Fr. Andrew to attend the Haiti Connection conference which meets yearly to initiate coalitions and provide information and support for educational, medical and spiritual projects.

Now she is co-chair of the Outreach Committee with Peggy Bittermann and is active with Life Bridge, the Food Pantry, Esperanza, and of course Haiti. She is also on the Vestry and is treasurer of St. Catherine's Guild. For the Christmas Fair, she co-chairs the jewelry table and in the

summer, she is very involved in the Lobster Luncheon.

In her professional life, Linda provided information support for a re-insurance

company. Now she runs the front office part-time for her husband John's factory in Peabody. "I'm winding down," she says of her professional life. But, she feels fortunate to have the time and opportunity to put her administrative skills to work at St. Michael's.

Her family includes two step-daughters, Emily, an art teacher, who is working on her Master's degree and Anne who has her own graphic arts company. While husband John is Jewish, Linda says, "He spends a lot of time at St. Michael's!" She and John have been avid sailors for 30 years and now sail a Sabre 38.

Her favorite place is a family camp on a lake in western Maine where she and her family hike, canoe, cross-country ski, and snow-shoe. "It is a spiritual place in the woods, quiet and still," she says. Over the years, all her family's ashes have been spread in the lake.

She and John have a goal for next year: to spend New Year's in Sidney, Australia with friends after a trip including Hawaii and Fiji. "It will take a lot of planning," she says with a laugh.

—*Marilyn Day*



Linda in Haiti in 2008.

Heart of Christmas Fair—More Treasures & Volunteers Welcome!

Thrift Shop Expanded Hours During the Christmas Walk

The Thrift Shop will be open Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm and Sunday noon to 4 pm during the Christmas Walk, December 3-4 with Christmas decorations as well as clothing, house wares and Christmas cards. The Thrift Shop will also have a table at the fair with overflow and a sampling of Christmas items.



Thursday, December 2
5:30 until done
Set-up

Friday, December 3
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 4
8:30 am—2:00 pm

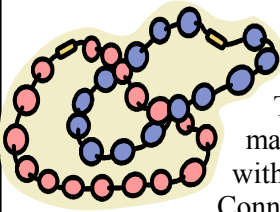
with Morning Goodies
Lunch 11 am-2 pm
Silent Auction ends at 2 pm

Historic Church Tours 9 am—2:30 pm

Sunday, December 5
Thrift Shop
noon—4 pm

Many thanks to all who are lending a hand!

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:

Church of Our Fathers by Dorothy Miles

Bob Howie's rendering of St. Michael's as built in 1714 plus
St. Michael's Colonial Clergy by Frances Nilsson-in color and
St. Michael's *Stained Glass Windows* series-in color.

Children & Youth Crafts



St. Michael's children and youth have wonderful gift packets to cheer up a friend this winter, plus a selection of gift tags.

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.



This year we have our popular apricot and cranberry/orange chutneys, good hot or cold with meat, fish or poultry. Many thanks to the wonderful crew of choppers and canners who helped us in November.

If you have any questions please contact Pam Oppelt or Lissa Simard.

"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,
Carole Davidson &
Aileen Day



Important Dates



Doug Major and Trumpeters performing in Methuen

The Methuen Memorial Music Hall will have a Merry Music Hall Christmas concert with Doug Major on the organ and Eric Berlin and Richard Watson on trumpets on Saturday, December 4 at 7:30 pm.

Call 603-898-5702 to reserve tickets. The hall is located at 192 Broadway St., Methuen, Massachusetts. Go to mmmh.org for details.

Christmas Poinsettias & Memorial List

Names needed by December 19th.

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. 19th. 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 perpetuity remembrance.



St. Catherine's Guild Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 pm

The Guild will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 9 for our annual Christmas party. There will be hors d'oeuvres and dessert only, and the choir will join us for Christmas carols.

Bring food for the Food Pantry!

Parish Aid will not be held in December 2010. Please join us at noon on Tuesday, January 18, 2011!

Peace begins with a smile.

Annual Reports Due January 11th

Committee/Commission Chairs—Please turn in your 2009 annual report to Jane Maihos by Tuesday, January 11, 2011. The early date facilitates copying and collation. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30th, 2011.

Congratulations

To **Geoff Van Wyck**, son of Elizabeth Ayer, who played the role of Mark in "The Philadelphia" on the Black Box Stage at Curry College.

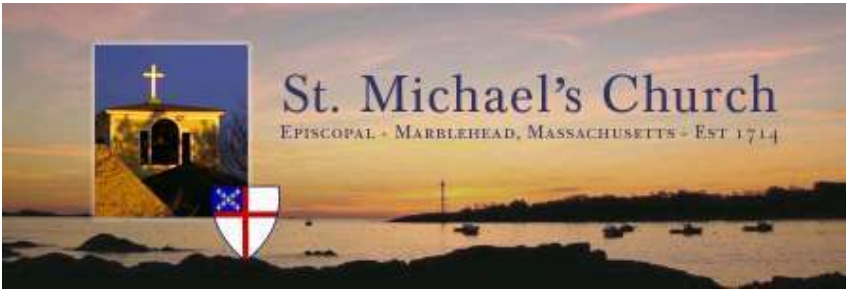
To **Tom Hamond** who was named Person of the Year by the Old Marblehead Improvement Association for "his many years of dedication as the superintendent of the Recreation, Parks and Forestry Department, and whose knowledge and dedicated service to the town have contributed to making Marblehead a better and more beautiful place in which to live."

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 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: Barbara Miller, David Bittermann, and the Rev. Andrew Stoessel.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 30, 2011.



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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.

*Join us for Evensong on
Sunday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m..*

Schedule for Christmas Eve / Day

Christmas Eve, Friday, 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, Saturday, 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 2, 2009.*

St. Michael's Church

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

Vestry: *Susan Cool, Ian Hunter, Louise Hunt, Harriett Magee, Joe Oliveira, Anna Onishi, Avery Russell, Linda Smidt, Thomas Weber.*

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 Warburton, Sexton.*

Saint Michael's Church

December 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Parish Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm		Thrift Shop December Hours Monday – Saturday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	1) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Parish Staff 8:00 pm AA	2) 5:00 pm Heart of Christmas Fair Set-up 7:30 pm Adult Choir	3) No Polarity Exercise Class 5:00 pm Vendors set- up downstairs areas 6:00 pm Fair Preview Supper	4) Heart of Christmas Fair 8:30 am – 2:00 pm Christmas Concert at Methuen Memorial Music Hall with Dr. Douglas Major 7:30 pm
5) 2ND 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 (Mark Dirksen Guest Organist)	6)	7) 5:30 pm St. Michael's Team, My Brothers' Table in Lynn 7:30 pm Property Committee	8) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Parish Staff 8:00 pm AA	9) 7:00 pm St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm Adult Choir	10) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	11) 11:00 am St. Michael's Team, Lifebridge, Salem
12) 3RD 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	13)	14) <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Wardens	15) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Parish Staff 8:00 pm AA	16) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	17) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	18) 11:00 am Pageant, Dress Rehearsal and Party
19) 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Christmas Pageant <i>Deadline for submitting poinsettia memorial names & thanksgivings.</i>	20)	21) No Parish Aid Meeting this month 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	22) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Parish Staff 8:00 pm AA	23) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	24) CHRISTMAS EVE t-b-d Polarity Exercise 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) 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I No Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	27) OFFICE CLOSED	28) No Middle School Supper Club	29) No Holy Eucharist No Bible Study 10:45 am Devereux House Visit 11:45 am Parish Staff 8:00 pm AA	30) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	31) New Year's Eve OFFICE CLOSED	