



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Page 2

- Advent/Christmas
Worship Schedule
- Lessons & Carols
- Memorial Poinsettias
- Mitten Tree
- Guild & Parish Aid

Page 3

- Church School

Page 4

- Christmas Fair Pictures

Page 5

- Annual Reports due
- Nominating Committee
- New Heating System
- Centenarian Birthday
- Steward of the Month:
Laura Tamagno

December Calendar

Happy December Birthdays to

**Bryce Russell
Harry McDonough
Jack McDonough
Genevieve Riegler**

From the Rector

“O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.”

In late September the hard drive on our home computer stopped working. Fervent prayers for its resurrection went for naught. The salesperson at the computer store conveyed his sympathies and said, “Of course you backed everything up.” That would have been a good idea, I thought to myself. Fortunately we did not have a tremendous amount of critical data on our computer, though we did lose hundreds of pictures and I, ten years worth of sermon material. We now have a new laptop with more bells and whistles than our recently departed one. We are rebuilding our database. Yes, we are backing up our data.

I am not by nature a tech savvy person. I get by with the insight of manuals and more sophisticated friends. What makes perfect sense one minute is gone a day later. I know more ease of use comes only with my delving in, trying things and working through problems. I am gaining slowly a bit more knowledge and skill, even as occasionally my patience wears thin.

Our faith is new every day. Our hope for God's presence, protection and guidance is new everyday as well. The second verse from the hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” noted above is a plea for

knowledge and a right pathway. My computer is a small part of my life. No pun intended, it helps me connect to information and people. The world and my life in it, and God and God's life in me, are much bigger than my expertise (or lack of) with technology. Yet it is good to be proficient.

Our faith and the strength of our spiritual life needs its practice and patience, too. The season of Advent is a time of preparation, and a season of hopeful expectation. Obviously we prepare for Christmas and the celebration of God's incarnation. The name Emmanuel (Immanuel) means, “God is with us.” From Isaiah 7:14 is the name of the child whose birth is symbolic of God's guiding and protecting presence. Here is hope. Advent also invites one to prepare for God's reign, and a new way of being in that reign. As Jesus tells the disciples, we don't know when or where this will take place. We do know that God comes to us often when we least expect. We catch glimpses of the God's reign (the kingdom) and perhaps long for more. Therefore we are asked to remain alert to God's presence and be open to respond to it. We can prepare ourselves through our prayer and worship of God, and our service to one another. These are important steps to back up our spiritual data, so to speak. This brings us closer into the Christmas spirit and the abiding, hopeful sense that God is with us..

- Fr. Andrew

From the Music Director

On Sunday, December 2 at 5 pm, the St. Michael's Choir with guest organist Peter Krasinski will offer a service of Lessons and Carols for Advent. There are many beautiful Advent hymns and carols, and they are distinct from the Christmas or Nativity carols. All speak of preparation for the coming of Christ, with beautiful tunes and words. A special treat will be listening to Peter Krasinski play our instrument (one of his favorites, and he plays many different pipe organs...) and improvise several special pieces for the service. Please join us and bring a friend - a light reception follows, and all are welcome.

—Doug Major

Christmas Poinsettias & Memorial List

Names are needed by December 16th.

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. 16th. 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.



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 16.

- Aileen Ryder and Diane Christian

Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 2	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.	Advent Lessons & Carols
Sunday, Dec. 9:	2 Advent
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:30 a.m.	Church School
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, Dec. 16:	3 Advent
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, Dec. 23:	4 Advent
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Monday, 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
Tuesday, Dec. 25:	Christmas Day
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
	(No 8:00 a.m. Service)
Sunday, Dec. 30:	1 Christmas
8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday, Jan. 6	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

Parish Groups

St. Catherine's Guild
will not be meeting in December, but don't
forget to the Yankee Swap January 3rd!
Re-gift, or pick up an item from the Thrift Shop!

Parish Aid Society
Tuesday, December 18
at Noon

Church School & Youth—Aileen Ryder

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

Children's Christmas Party Friday, November 30. The children are invited to their own celebration during the Preview Party for the Christmas Fair. The evening will include crafts, food, and Christmas music. Youth are invited to participate in this event and help with crafts.

Christmas Fair Saturday December 1 youth are encouraged to support our parish as volunteers during the Christ-

mas Fair. Children may find a way to volunteer with their parents.

Children's Chapel Sunday December 2 at 9:30am. Meet Fr. Andrew at the Altar in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to join in this worship service. Students will begin Church School following Chapel.

Pageant Rehearsals After services on December 2, 9, 16, and 23.

Cast Party following the dress rehearsal on December 23.

Christmas Pageant will be presented during the 5pm Service on Christmas Eve, December 24.

No Church School on Sunday December 30. We will return to regular Church School on January 6.



Mitten Tree/Gift Giving

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.

Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Supper Club	Godly Play I	Weaving God's Promises
Friday November 30	Children's Christmas Party	Volunteer at Christmas Party		
Saturday December 1	Heart of Christmas Fair	Volunteer at Christmas Fair		
Sunday, December 2	Children's Chapel Pageant Rehearsal		Advent I	Advent
Sunday, December 9	Pageant Rehearsal		Advent II	The Eyes of the Blind Shall be Open
Tuesday, December 11		Is God Male?		
Sunday, December 16	Pageant Rehearsal		Advent III	God's Kingdom of Peace
Sunday, December 23	Pageant Dress Rehearsal & Cast Party		Advent IV & Epiphany	Jesus Is Born!
Monday, December 24	Christmas Pageant	All performers and narrators meet at 4:30 downstairs. The Pageant will take place during the 5pm Service.	All performers and narrators meet at 4:30 downstairs. The Pageant will take place during the 5pm Service.	All performers and narrators meet at 4:30 downstairs. The Pageant will take place during the 5pm Service.
Sunday, December 30			No Church School	No Church School

Heart of Christmas Fair—Thank You!



The Christmas Fair was a great success with many innovations this year! Chili in a Bag was served on the lawn...



...by Gail Michaud, Karen McMahon, Diane Christian & Lynn Bragdon (not shown) to Mike Porter and many others.



Free homemade hot cocoa drew people inside where Jacqui Acevedo organized a crew to make and serve it. On the left volunteer Tristan Burke came from college to serve with Kate Renney, Avery Russell, & Karl Renney (left), while Patsy Cool enjoys her cup with her mother Sue and Kate Renney. Pam Oppelt had a wonderful selection of baked goods and chutney made by many.

Thank You



to all who participated in the [Heart of Christmas Fair](#), including organizers Jacqui Acevedo, Peggy Bittermann, Lynn Bragdon, Carole Davidson, Connie Denault, Karen McMahon, Gail Michaud, Diane Mills, Linda Smidt, Pam Oppelt, and David Winder many other assistants too lengthy to list. We are also grateful for many who donated items, chopped and baked, created wonderful ornaments, knitted goods and other crafts. And do take note of our new signs put together by Tom Weber, Ed Nilsson and David Bittermann and the new poster by Chris & Helen Riegle. And thank you to those who handed out coupons (thank you, youth!), served, ate, shopped, and set everything aright afterwards. The fair was a great success supporting St. Michael's many programs. *- Frances Nilsson & Tom Weber, Co-Chairs*



Traditional handmade items, jewelry, baked goods, antiques & collectables were sold along with blind silent auction items.



Stewardship

Annual Reports Due January 8th

Committee/Commission Chairs—Please turn in your 2012 annual report to Jane Maihos by Tuesday, January 8, 2013. The early date facilitates combining, copying and collation. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th, 2013.

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.

New Heating System In the Works



As part of being good stewards of our environment, St. Michael's is converting the Parish Hall and Church heating systems from oil to gas with new more efficient furnace and boiler. We apologize for returning to traditional 18th century indoor temperatures when running out of oil before the new installation is complete - a process that involved a delay in underground gas line installation and contractor's equipment purchases with weather projections.

Steward of the Month: Laura Tamagno

Although they lived next door to Old North Church, Laura and her family went looking for a church home in 2001. With a Roman Catholic background, Laura and husband John McDonough found the Episcopal tradition familiar so they came to St. Michael's and stayed. Laura says, "We love being in a beautiful place and having a high service."

And she has been very active ever since. She helped with Godly Play, the Supper Club, was on the Board of the Lamb's Den, and was a Vestry member. She does receptions for the organ recitals and Evensong as well as doing oblations and hostessing coffee hours. The Food Pantry is another of her interests. Her favorite activities are attending Evensong and working the Lobster Luncheon, two shifts if she can. "The church community and the music are important to me," she says.

Her twin sons, Jack and Harry, have been acolytes since the sixth grade. Now, as tenth graders at Marblehead High School, they help out on the holidays.

Professionally, she works for Radiance Aveda Salon and Spa. "I am a professional shop girl," she says with a laugh. "I do everything: marketing, customer relations: I love it." Her husband John is a facilities manager.

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: David Bittermann, Frances Nilsson, Tom Weber, Joe Oliveira and the Rev. Andrew Stoessel.

**The Annual Meeting is scheduled for
Sunday, January 27, 2013.**

Doris Bartlett, Centenarian!

The family of Doris Bartlett invites the entire church to her hundredth birthday party, to be held on Sunday, December 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Devereux House, 39 Lafayette Street, Marblehead, in the downstairs dining room. In lieu of gifts, donations may be made to the Female Humane Society, P.O. Box 425, Marblehead, MA 01945-0425.



See a profile of Doris in the [January 2012 Newsletter](#).

For relaxation she says, "I love to read, memoirs, novels." John's passion is skiing while their sons play football, sail, and ski.

Laura, who was a secondary education English major at Emerson College, also has an MBA from Suffolk University. "But, I am none of those things, never taught, never went into business." However, she does love the written word. She used to own a resume service and she does all the website writing for the salon. In fact, she would love to be a writer. "Everyone has their own journey," she says.

One of her favorite memories of St. Michael's is Father Andrew's installation as rector when a piece composed by Doug Major was played on the trumpet. "His sensibility about music is amazing," she says.

- Marilyn Day



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**Schedule for
Christmas Eve / Day**

Christmas Eve, Monday, 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, Tuesday, December 25

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



**Epiphany
Lessons & Carols**

**Feast of the Epiphany
Sunday, January 6**

5:00 p.m.

St. Michael's Church

Officers: *David Bittermann*, Senior Warden; *Frances Nilsson*, Junior Warden; *Sarah Bates*, Treasurer; *James Dearborn*, Assistant Treasurer; *Walter Haug*, Clerk.

Vestry: *Melissa Amberik*, *Jenny Armini*, *Lynn Bragdon*, *Stephen Clay*, *Ian Hunter*, *Karin McCarthy*, *Joe Oliveira*, *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; *Jennifer Hill*, Sexton.

Saint Michael's Church

December 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					30) 4:00 pm Vendor Set-ups 6:00 pm Heart of Christmas Fair Preview Party & Children's Party	1) Heart of Christmas Fair 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Thrift Shop 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
2) 1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Begins Lectionary Year C) 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Children's Chapel 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Pageant Rehearsal noon – 4:00 pm Thrift Shop 5:00 pm Advent Lessons & Carols	3) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	4) 11:00 am Staff 5:00 pm St. Michael's Team, My Brothers' Table in Lynn	5) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	6)	7)	8) 11:00 am Memorial for Beverly Seamans 11:00 am St. Michael's Team, Lifebridge, Salem with Pam Oppelt & Valerie Wyckoff
9) 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	10)	11) 11:00 am Staff 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Wardens'	12) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	13) 7:30 pm Property Comm. 7:30 pm Adult Choir	14)	15)
16) 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	17) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	18) 11:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Parish Aid 7:30 pm Vestry	19) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Adult Choir 8:00 pm AA Meeting	20) 11:00 am Bulletin Assembly 7:30 pm Adult Choir	21)	22)
23) 4 TH 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 & Cast Party	24) CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 pm Family Eucharist Christmas Pageant 10:45 pm Choral & Organ Music 11:00 pm Festal Eucharist	25) CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 am One Service Holy Eucharist, Rite II	26) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist NO Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	27) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	28)	29)
30) 1 ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I NO Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 2:00 pm Doris Bartlett's 100 th Birthday Party at Devereux House	31) New Year's Eve	1) FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME New Year's Day <i>Office Closed</i>				