



Photograph by R. Williams

# St. Michael's Newsletter

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February Calendar

*Happy February  
Birthday to*

Ryan S. Clay

Eliza Clark

Sarah A. Bittermann

## From the Rector

*“Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may honor thee with our own substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.”*

These words are a prayer for stewardship. If they sound familiar to some, it is because they are repeated every Sunday at the 8:00 a.m. service. They are adapted from Eucharistic Prayer I in the Book of Common Prayer, p. 329. *“Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people...”* The prayer petitions that all may see God in all that is around them. *“That we may honor thee our own substance...”* This brings us individually into the picture, offering our skills, our labor and the fruits of our labor to God and community. *“And be faithful stewards of thy bounty...”* Here we ask God to help us manage justly and wisely all that we have and use. These words remind me of those beautiful words in the marriage ceremony: *“With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you in the name of God.”* (BCP, p. 427)

Later in this newsletter I hope you will read the article from the Stewardship Committee. It speaks about stewardship, and about the finances of St. Michael's. The finances of the church is not always the most enthralling topic, but it is an im-

portant one. Money is important. The upkeep of our buildings and programs are important. Paying our staff is important. Why? They all help to ground, feed, and shape our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God. Offering our substance - prayers, skills, hearts, minds, and yes, money - builds a deeper spiritual life.

As we reflect on the gifts we receive and offer at St. Michael's, Haiti needs our substance, too. In the aftermath of the earthquake on Jan. 12, first response relief agencies such as Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) and Partners in Health (PIH) are helping to mend broken bones, feed hungry bodies, quench dry mouths, and shelter homeless beings. The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, and our partnership parish, St. Thomas, Arcahaie, join in this effort. We help them with our substance.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. We are invited to observe the season *“by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.”* (BCP p. 265) Now and always we may add the invitation to honor God with our substance, and be faithful stewards of God's bounty.

- Fr. Andrew

## Online Newsletter Subscribers

E-mail subscribers, welcome to our newsletter online! The online version is the same as the print, but available sooner. Thank you for helping us be *“good steward's of God's creation.”* If you know of others who would like to receive e-mail notices, please send an email to [office@stmichaels1714.org](mailto:office@stmichaels1714.org).

**From the Music Director—Friedell's Music & Organist Christensen**

Mark your calendars for two musical events this month:

On Sunday, February 7 at 5 pm the St. Michael's Choir will sing Choral Evensong, featuring music by Harold Friedell, who was organist at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City in the 1950's and 1960's. There he directed the very fine professional choir and composed beautiful music for them to sing. We will sing his Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in F Major, an energetic but lyrical setting of these beautiful canticles.

On Sunday, February 21 at 5 pm, Heinrich Christiansen, organist at King's Chapel in Boston, will present an all Bach program, playing the complete Clavierübung Part III. This is a wonderful collection of organ preludes based on the Lutheran Chorales that made up the Communion Service of Bach's time.

Both events will be followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Please come and bring a friend.

- Douglas Major, Music Director

**Special February 2010 Events**

**Latino Festival**  
**Saturday, February 6, 6 pm** (see page 7)

**Choral Evensong & Benediction**  
**Sunday, February 7, 5 pm**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 5-7 pm** (see page 7)

**Ash Wednesday**  
**Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes**  
**February 17, 6:45 am, 9:30 am and 7:30 pm**

**Organ Recital with Heinrich Christensen**  
**Sunday, February 21, 5 pm**

**Officer, Vestry Nominations**

The following parishioners were nominated to fill Vestry positions to be elected at the January 31, 2010 Annual Parish Meeting. Biographies are posted on the Parish Office bulletin board. Terms expire in January of year in parentheses.

- Senior Warden: Barbara Miller (2011)
- Junior Warden: David Bittermann (2011)
- Clerk: Walter Haug (2011)
- Treasurer: Sarah Bates (2011)
- Assistant Treasurer: Larry Robbins (2011)

- Vestry: Ian Hunter (2013)
- Jose (Joe) Oliviera (2013)
- Thomas Weber (2013)

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:  
 Jan Barnett & Denise Shea (2011)

Returning Vestry Members are Sue Cool (2012), Louise Hunt (2011), Anna Onishi (2011), Avery Russell (2012) Linda Smidt (2011), Richard Wood (2012) with Deanery Delegates Jan Barnett, Frances Nilsson & Denise Shea .

**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.

**Wednesday Evenings in Lent**  
**at St. Andrew's & St. Michael's**

*Reflections on the Prodigal Son*

7:30—9:00 pm  
 (Light supper at 7:00 pm)

February 24—March 24  
 Location to be announced

# Church School - Aileen Ryder

## Outreach with Children & Youth

We are continuing our relationship with Haiti. The children remember their fundraising efforts for the Latrine Project last year and are ready to participate in a Penny Drive for earthquake relief. Members of the outreach committee have offered to host a "Haiti Day" at the Church School in April, at which point the children will be invited to become pen-pals with students at St. Thomas School.



*Please bring, your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and bills to Church School each Sunday.*



The youth will once again be sponsoring the Souper Bowl of Caring in our parish. More than 20 years ago the Souper Bowl of Caring started with a simple

prayer from a single youth group "Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat." Since then youth groups across the country have participated in raising

### 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

### High School Youth Group

funds for local charities each Super Bowl Sunday. Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. This year all proceeds will be donated to the Haiti fund of Episcopal Relief and Development.

The Church School and youth are beginning a new relationship with Marblehead Food Pantry. During the month of February the Church School will be collecting brown paper bags. In the children's hands these recycled grocery bags will become donation bags. The handy shopping bags will serve as reminders of food needed at Marblehead Food Pantry.

### Mark your Calendar

Souper Bowl of Caring is Sunday February 7. Bring your donations.

There are no classes Sunday February 15.

## Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Middle School Youth	Godly Play I	Godly Play II
Sunday, February 7	Souper Bowl of Caring	Lunch with Fr. Andrew 11:45am	The Mystery of Easter with Kate Renney & Kristen Clay	The Mystery of Easter with Barbara Miller & Aileen Ryder
Tuesday, February 9		The Supper Club: Lent		
Sunday, February 15	February Vacation		No Class	No Class
Tuesday, February 17	Pancake Supper 5-7pm			
Sunday, February 21	One-Room Church School		Holy Trinity	With Aileen Ryder
Tuesday, February 23		The Supper Club: Where Jesus lived		
Sunday February 28	Parent-Teacher Meeting 11:45 am		Children's Chapel: The Holy Eucharist	With Fr. Andrew & Aileen Ryder

## Stewardship—2010 Budget and Pledges

*This is the first in a series of articles and communications to help all at St. Michael's better understand Stewardship and also our financial status. We will be honoring the good stewards among us and how we can provide our money, time and talents to God's work. Watch for a thank you list of those who have pledged for 2010.*

Dear Parishioners,

The new Stewardship Committee is excited about our new Mission and Vision Statement! The Committee has specifically been charged with the following objective: "S1 – Achieve sufficient, sustainable funding" for the operation of the parish and fulfillment of its mission.

Unfortunately, the parish finds itself in a significant shortfall regarding its 2010 operating budget. In January, the Vestry has approved a 2010 operating budget of \$304,015 (2009 was \$302,957). As of this writing, 2010 pledges total \$157,515, leaving a balance of \$146,500. The income to balance this difference comes from the open plate at worship services, the Christmas Fair, contributions from the Thrift Shop and Murray House, and a small amount from miscellaneous income. However, importantly and of concern, the bulk of income to balance the budget is from the interest and principal of our endowment. More detail about the operating budget is found in the Annual Report under "Finance Committee."

St. Michael's is currently running on a bare bones budget. The only things left to cut would be staff or programs, which no one wants to do. To avoid such a step we withdraw principal from our endowment in excess of parish and diocesan guidelines. This means that we are eating away at the endowment, which this parish and many generous individuals have worked so hard to create.

As outlined in the Annual Report, the parish has established the following operating guidelines regarding its finances:

- Principal and interest withdrawal from the endowment should not exceed 5.5%
- Principal withdrawal should be limited to the amount of appreciation in the endowment
- Pledge income should be at least 50% of the operating budget

At this point we have met just one of these guidelines. Our pledges for 2010 just made it over the guideline at 52% of the operating budget, which is down from last year's 58%.



At the January vestry meeting, it was voted to supplement the budget with \$77,000 from endowment principal to balance our operating budget, which is \$16,000 more than was withdrawn last year. This is 13% of the principal and interest and it exceeds the 5.5% recommendation. If we continue to withdraw from the endowment at a rate of \$77,000 per year, it will likely be gone by 2020. This will leave our children and future generations without the financial cushion we now enjoy. This is clearly not ideal; a healthy parish should be growing. We all feel that our best days are yet ahead of us!

As a point of interest, the following table categorizes by percentage the pledging units (individual pledgers) and dollar amounts for 2010 at St. Michael's.

Pledge Amount	Pledges	%
\$10,000+	1	1%
\$5,000 - \$10,000	1	1%
\$2,000 - \$5,000	21	17%
\$1,000 - \$2,000	53	42%
\$500 - \$1,000	28	22%
< \$500	20	17%
Total	124	100%

Average Pledge: \$1,270  
 Median Pledge: \$1,000

The economic crisis of 2008-9 has been devastating for many people across this country and indeed most of us have been impacted in some way. Nevertheless, as you assess your charitable giving for 2010, we implore you to consider the importance of St. Michael's in your spiritual life as well as in the world. It is an exciting time at St. Michael's and the parish is alive with a renewed sense of spirituality and a commitment to furthering God's mission on this earth. The money, time, and talents that each of us brings to the Parish are the raw materials through which we can make a difference; we can't do it without you!

The Stewardship Committee

Our grateful appreciation to the stewardship of outgoing Vestry members:  
**Jack Attridge, Vivian Bennett, Paul Pruet**  
 and especially **Laurence Pierce.**

Since 1968 Laurie has served as a Vestryman, Junior Warden, Chair of Stewardship & Evangelism and Finance Commissions as well as the Investment Sub-Committee, and Assistant Treasurer & Treasurer.

## Haiti Relief Fund

After the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, January 17, interested parishioners met to discuss which relief agency St. Michael's should choose for immediate donations to Haiti. After much discussion the group chose Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) as this organization would be able to get money and services to the disaster area very quickly. Parishioners can either write a check to St. Michael's and reference Haiti Relief on the check or donate directly on the ERD website. Father Andrew suggested if parishioners give online, that they let the church office know the amount so we can have a total figure of donations from St. Michael's. It was also mentioned that part of the proceeds from the Esperanza Latino Night will be contributed to the St. Michael's Haiti Relief Fund.

### Good News from Haiti

On January 18th Father Andrew and Linda Smidt received an email from Father Irnel Duveaux stating that he and his wife and child were okay, that the school and church (St. Thomas) in Arcahaie was not too damaged, and that the water supply was still in tact. It was a brief email but brought much relief and joy to know they had survived the disaster in Port-au-Prince. Also Linda Schmidt found out that the school and orphanage (operated by Hope for the Children of Haiti) located in Bolosse, an impoverished section of Port-au-Prince, survived the earthquake and all the children were alive. St. Catherine's Guild has supported a child, Kattia Chevry, at this facility for many years. *- Linda Schmidt*

## Our Outreach is Local, in the Diocese, and International

*Each month the Newsletter will focus on the activities of different teams that are moving us toward St. Michael's mission and vision for 2014.*

The vestry of St. Michael's Church has charged the newly-formed Outreach Committee with the objective of achieving greater mutual impact in both our local and international partnerships, with an over-arching objective to facilitate deepening, relevant discipleship to transform lives.

The Outreach Committee initially convened in the fall of 2009. After much discussion and with input from the Steering Committee, the Outreach identified the following broad initiatives:

- Assess needs of outreach programs
- Communicate needs to the parish and community
- Increase participation or involvement

Also in these meetings, Outreach organized itself into three geographically logical sub-committees. These sub-committees are Local, Diocesan and International. During December 2009 and the early part of January, the Local and Diocesan sub-committee members met to further refine their activities and began meeting with directors of local programs to assess their needs and how we at St. Michael's can help more effectively in ways that transform the lives of others as well as ourselves. On January 11, 2010, the Outreach Committee met to review the work of the sub-committees, to act as a sounding board for ideas raised, and to brainstorm.

In future newsletters, we will describe the major Local, Diocesan and International programs that St. Michael's

### Save these Dates!!!!!!

#### Outreach Lenten Series:

**March 7th-** Haiti Presentation including Father Andrew, Linda Smidt, and Richard Sides on their November 2008 trip to Haiti

**March 14th-** Esperanza Presentation

**March 21st-** Local Outreach Presentation

supports through direct involvement as well as donations.

### Communications and Sharing Ideas

Although many of the finer points of the initiatives are in the development stage, the members of the Outreach Committee are excited to share with everyone some of our plans for the coming months, year and forward. We might even go so far as to reveal our "pipe dreams"! We will be working with the Communications Committee to keep the Parish abreast of our outreach activities in the Sunday Bulletin, Newsletter and on the website.

In March the Committee will host three presentations to the Parish during Lent in which we will provide more information about Local, Esperanza and Haiti initiatives. We are also excited at the prospect of working with Aileen Ryder, Church School Director, and parents as to ways to include youth and children in our activities. The Committee welcomes additional members and ideas!

*- Outreach Committee: Co-chairs Peggy Bittermann and Linda Smidt, Vestry Liaison Vivian Bennett, Aileen & David Day, Connie & Dana Denault, Gordon & Pat Spaberg, Lesley Tracy and Valerie Wyckoff.*

## Important Dates

### Monthly Fellowship

#### Spring Thrift Shop Hours

Tuesday—Saturday, 1:00—4:00 pm  
Closed Sunday & Monday  
Now accepting spring clothing!

#### St. Catherine's Guild

no meeting this month

#### Soup and Dessert

Tuesday, February 9  
12:00 Noon

#### Parish Aid Luncheon

Tuesday, February 16  
12:00 Noon

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Tuesday, February 19

5:00—7:00 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Lucian Ladd Fund  
to assist children

Tickets  
Adults—\$6 Children under 12—\$3

*Life is like an ever-shifting  
kaleidoscope—a slight change,  
and all patterns alter.  
—Sharon Salzberg*



### Forget the Wintry Weather Think Latino Festival Dinner & Dancing for Esperanza Academy of Lawrence & Haitian Relief Fund

Saturday, February 6  
Snow Date: February 13

6:00 p.m. Salsa Dance Lessons  
7:00 pm Appetizers, Dinner, Dancing & Music  
Parish Hall

Latino appetizers, Latino main dishes,  
desserts and beverages. Pinata surprises!

Donations: \$20.00 per person.  
Sponsors: \$100.00 or more.  
A portion of proceeds to go to Haitian Relief.  
For tickets call Renee Conly: 781-631-1025.

Sixty singles and couples attended  
this worthwhile, happy event the first year.

#### What is Esperanza Academy in Lawrence?

A new, private faith-based school (mostly Catholic or Episcopalian) of approximately 42 fifth and sixth grade girls, expanding to 80 fifth through eighth graders. Free or minimal tuition with enrollment by lottery upon initial screening. Nurturing small classes, 11-hour school day, from morning chapel to evening study and tutoring. Three meals a day, sometimes prepared by the girls' parents or guardians. Required parental involvement. Enrichment activities, including horseback riding and violin lessons. Cheerful, light-filled rooms. 'While Esperanza's young students may have arrived with financial or other disadvantages, they will leave for high school well equipped for a hopeful future.

Excerpted from "A Trip to the School of Hope" by Jennie-Rebecca Falcetta, *St. Michael's Newsletter*, December, 2006.

Visit [www.esperanzaacademy.org](http://www.esperanzaacademy.org) for more info.

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### **February Events**

**Sunday, February 7, 2008**  
**Choral Evensong & Benediction**  
**5:00 pm**

**Sunday, February 21**  
**Organ Recital with**  
**Heinrich Christensen**  
**5:00 pm**



**Holy Eucharist &**  
**Imposition of Ashes**

**February 17, 2010**

**6:45 am Rite I**

**9:30 am Rite II**

**7:30 pm Rite II**

#### **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

# February 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1)	2)	3) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting  8:00 pm AA Meeting	4) (St. Catherine's Guild does not meet in Feb.)  7:30 pm Adult Choir	5) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	6) Haiti/Esperanza Latino Festival  6:00 pm Dance Class 7:00 pm Dinner
7) <b>EPIPHANY 5</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II <i>Souper Bowl of Caring collection</i>  5:00 pm Choral Evensong	8)	9) 12:00 pm Soup & Dessert  6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 Wardens' Meeting	10) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting  8:00 pm AA Meeting	11) 2:30 – 5:00 pm Children's activities for Marblehead Family Fund project  7:30 pm Adult Choir	12) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	13) Snow date for Haiti/Esperanza Latino Festival events originally scheduled for Feb. 6
14) <b>LAST EPIPHANY</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Communications Meeting	15) <b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b>  <i>Office Closed</i>	16) (Parish Aid does not meet this month.)  5:00 – 7:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	17) <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 6:30 am Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes 9:30 am Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes 8:00 pm AA Meeting - downstairs	18)  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>  7:30 pm Adult Choir	19) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	20)
21) <b>LENT 1</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Holy Eucharist, Rite II  5:00 pm Organ Recital – Heinrich Christensen Performing	22)	23)  6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Vestry	24) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting  7:30 pm Lenten Study <i>location to be determined</i> 8:00 pm AA Meeting	25)  7:30 pm Adult Choir	26) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	27)
28) <b>LENT 2</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Holy Eucharist, Rite II						