



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

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From the Rector

One of the joyous duties I enjoy at St. Michael's is the awarding of a financial gift to high school seniors who are about to graduate and who have served St. Michael's over the course of their high school years. The gift is to support their continued education goals. It is made possible by the Lucian Ladd Memorial Fund.

This fund was created in 1959 by the now defunct Service League of St. Michael's. In the 1950's Lucian Ladd was a member of St. Michael's and an active member of the St. Michael's Boys Choir. Sadly, he died of leukemia at the age of eleven. His mother, Hazel Ladd, was a member of the Service League and his father, Murray Ladd, was a former member of the Vestry. With the blessing of Hazel and Murray, the women of the Service sought to remember Lucian and support the family through this memorial fund. Its purpose is for the benefit of children and young people of St. Michael's, especially for their education and health.

Since the 1970's, the proceeds from the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper supplement the Lucian Ladd Fund. It is a small, generous way of continuing this thoughtful ministry, while at the same time enhancing our own spiritual life. The Pancake Supper symbolically uses the remaining butter and eggs and meat in the house – a clearing out, so to speak – to prepare for the fasting days of Lent. Who would have thought that eating pancakes is a means to further spiritual develop-

ment! The following day, Ash Wednesday, marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a time in which we are invited to our own self-examination and turning again to God, by prayer, fasting, study and reflection, to strengthen our spiritual life and relationship with God and our neighbor.

Lucian Ladd Memorial Fund

Lent is a particular time of growth and renewal. The word "lent" refers to spring and the lengthening of days of spring.

As we see, the days are getting longer. Though the ground lays barren, flora and fauna are preparing for regeneration. It is a yearly cycle in which our mindfulness and preparation in one phase leads to greater awareness, conscientiousness and practice in the next. Lent denotes a time of sacrifice – a setting apart, or a clearing out – to bringing us closer to who and what God longs for us to be.

I can only imagine the grief caused by Lucian's premature illness and death. Yet from that seemingly fallow ground compassion and grace arose in the members of old St. Michael's Service League and Lucian's parents, Hazel and Murray. They set apart some of themselves to further the education and health of young people to come. That same grace flows through us today.

Please join us for pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 21 and on the following day, Ash Wednesday, to mark the beginning of a holy Lent. .

- Fr. Andrew

*Happy February
Birthday to*

Ryan S. Clay

Worship & Music Events

From the Music Director

This month we are blessed to host two wonderful musical events at St. Michael's.

Festival Evensong and Benediction **Sunday, February 5, 5:00 PM**

Superbowl Sunday Evensong! Yes, we at St. Michael's support the NE Patriots, but, even so, the Choir will sing Evensong this Sunday, Feb. 5 at 5 pm. So that we can all get home for the game, there will be no reception this week as usual. We'll be singing works by Herbert Sumson, long-time Organist of Peterborough Cathedral in England, and a beautiful anthem by Mendelssohn, *There shall a star*. Join us and always, bring a friend!

Organ Recital with Rosalind Mohnsen **Sunday, February 19, 5:00 PM**

On Sunday, Feb 19 at 5 pm we continue our Organ Recital Series by hosting Rosalind Mohnsen, a wonderfully talented organist and performer. She has performed before on our series, but it was only 4 weeks after a broken foot – so, she asked for another date and we are glad to have her back.

Rosalind Mohnsen is Director of Music and Organist at Immaculate Conception Church in Malden, MA. She has performed in such venues as the National Shrine in Washington, D.C., Yale University, and City Hall in Portland, ME, for twenty national conventions of the Organ Historical Society, and in Latvia and Sweden. She served as Interim Organist and Director of Music at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, and has sung with Sharing a New Song Chorus on their tours of Cuba and Russia. She'll be playing works by Franck, Gárdonyi, and Karg-Elert. Do join us for what will be a very interesting and satisfying recital.



- Douglas Major, Music Director

Food and Fellowship

Parish Family Night **Sunday, February 12,** **5:00 PM**



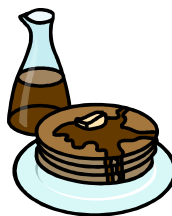
Parishioners of all ages are invited to a potluck supper and movie. We will be watching the original *Muppet Movie* (1979).

Come join us for fellowship and fun. Sign up is in the Parish Hall. Or email Aileen Ryder at drear@stmichaels1714.org.



The Parish & Greater Community **Are Invited to St. Michael's** **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

Tuesday, February 21
5:00—7:00 p.m.



Proceeds benefit the Lucian Ladd Fund for children.

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

Donations to defray expenses are welcome.

Church School - Aileen Ryder

Church School

Church School meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Students in pre-K-1st grade use Godly Play. Weaving God's Promises is for students in grades 2-5.

The Supper Club

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

February Highlights

One-Room Church School During the months of January & February all the children of the Church School will explore the stories of Jesus' ministry together in a One-Room Church School.

Souper Bowl of Caring Children and Youth will be collecting food and financial donations for the Marblehead Food Pantry on Sunday February 5.

Family Potluck Dinner & Movie Everyone is welcome to join the Church School Families at this potluck dinner on Sunday February 12. The children will enjoy The Muppet Movie while adults may enjoy a leisurely dinner and social time.

Pancake Supper The annual Pancake Supper is a great event for families to join with the whole St. Michael's community. Join in Tuesday February 19.

Holy Questions

This year the Supper Club has been using a curriculum that is based in questions. Recently one of the member commented, "You keep asking these questions, but not giving the answers." While there is truth in that statement, it isn't the whole truth.

The curriculum we use invites them to bring all this wonder to their faith. As we explore each question, "Does God Still Create Stuff Today?", "How Can God be Three-In-One?" etc., ways of answering the questions are offered. We explore ways people have answered the question in the past, how some answer today, and how our Church approaches the question. Yet no one definitive answer is given.

There is reason to this approach. The curriculum guides the youth in ways to think and pray about the questions so that they may find answers that aren't forced upon them but discovered as part of God's creation. A black and white world view with easy answers can limit the room we allow for God's action. If we have all the answers, then how can God surprise us with new lessons?

Remember that our youth's questions are holy. When they ask, honor their question with a response. Honor their questions even more by asking the youth for their own responses. This invites our youth to marvel at all of God's wonders and know they are important in God's Creation.

Date	Special Event	Youth	Weaving God's Promises
Sunday, February 5	Souper Bowl of Caring	Help collect for the Marblehead Food Pantry	The Judeans Turn Against Jesus
Sunday, February 12	Family Dinner & Movie 5-8pm		The Season of Lent
Tuesday, February 14		Supper Club: "Who Wrote the Bible, God or Humans?"	
Sunday, February 19	Start of School Vacation		No Church School
Tuesday, February 21	Pancake Supper 5-7pm		
Wednesday, February 22	Ash Wednesday		
Sunday, February 26			Jesus' Ministry Draws to a Close, Mary Prepares him for Burial
Tuesday, February 28		Supper Club: "Is the Bible True?"	

Stewardship - 2012 Pledge Numbers

Thank you all for a most successful Stewardship Drive! The final results were reported at the annual meeting.

And thank you to the hard-working Stewardship Committee—Avery Russell, Chair; Jeff Barnett, Karl Renney, Larry Robbins and Harriett Magee—for inspiring us all to dig deep into our pockets and for moving us toward our goal to bring down to zero the amount withdrawn from endowment principal. We also thank Tom Weber and others for extra assistance in the last weeks of our drive.

Pledge Endowment Budget and Pledge Figures:

	2012	2011	2010
Annual Pledge:	\$222,000	\$207,000	\$157,515
Number Pledges:	137	133	124
Average Pledge:	\$1,600	\$1,506	\$1,270
Endowment Withdrawal*:	\$35,000	\$42,000	\$77,000

* 2011 was budgeted withdrawal; actual was \$20,000.

Steward of the Month—Vivian & Sam Bennett

Sam Bennett was baptized at St. Michael's in 1955 and Vivian Bennett joined when she and Sam were married in 1999 at St. Michael's. She has served on the Vestry, 2006-09. She said, "When Sam wasn't able to accept, I did because his father served on the Vestry and I wanted the Bennett tradition to continue." She added, "It opened my eyes to how the church works and how hard it is." Currently Vivian serves on the Outreach Committee and has enjoyed supporting Esperanza Academy fundraisers.

Sam sang in the Youth Choir from 1962 until he went away to school in 1967. He recalls singing in his school's Christmas concert in Dedham and there in the audience, to his surprise, was Father Norton. He remembers that the night after his father died, Father Westerberg came to the house at 8 a.m. to comfort the family. "Suddenly I realized that the church is always there for me," he said.

Vivian and he said that when they met with Father Johnson to plan their marriage ceremony, their discussions brought deep meaning to the ceremony. And, more recently, their daughter Abby, now three this month, was baptized by Father Stoessel.

Vivian is a member of St. Catherine's Guild and she enjoys the Evensong services and the organ recitals. "I enjoy being part of a church that extends into the larger community. I have learned a lot about social justice," she said. She and Sam enjoy helping at the Lobster Luncheons.

They are both busy in their professional lives. Sam has been an attorney with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for 23 years. He works in the Waterways Division which handles coastal protection through permitting and enforcement. Vivian is a Family Nurse Practitioner at the Lynn Community Health Center. She gives direct patient care to families. Her patients come to her even before birth and her oldest patient is 94 years.

The Bennett family includes three grown children as

well as toddler Abby. Pedro Pacheco is 26 years old. He served in the Army in South Korea and now attends North Shore Community College. Sylvania Suarez is 22 years old and studying accounting at Salem State University while Erodita Suarez is 20 years old, studying legal studies and Latin American studies at UMASS Amherst. Both girls were baptized at St. Michael's and served as acolytes. "We can't wait for Abby to start acolyting," said Sam.

Like many families asked about what they do for recreation, Sam said, "Sleep at night! We are going, going, going." Nonetheless, they like to get out on the water when possible. Sam plays guitar and Vivian finds time for flamenco classes as well as yoga and water aerobics.

Vivian remembers feeling welcomed when she first came to St. Michael's, "Bob and Alma Howie were almost like my parents at church. Bob told me all about church history and took Sam and me up in the bell tower. They made me feel a part of the community. The church is part of our journey. We touch each others' lives and when we are gone, that remains."

- Marilyn Day



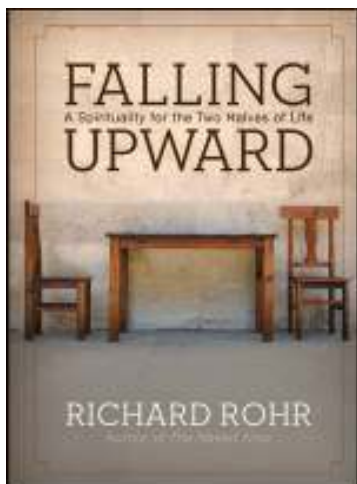
Marriage of Vivian and Sam Bennett at St. Michael's in 1999.

Lenten Program 2012

St. Michael's and St. Andrew's, Marblehead
Present

“A Dialogue with Our Rectors”

Featuring Richard Rohr's book,
Falling Upward:
A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life



Each session, will be self-contained but you will benefit from reading and coming to the other sessions.

Fr. Andrew Stoessel and Fr. Clyde Elledge will begin with a discussion of the material (approx. 30 pages each week) and then open the conversation to everyone present.

A light supper will begin the evening.

February 29th at St. Andrew's
March 7th at St. Michael's
March 14th at St. Andrew's
March 21st at St. Michael's
March 28th at St. Andrew's
6:30 p.m. till 8:00 p.m.

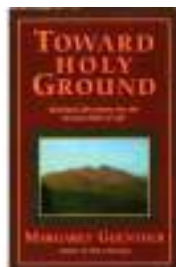
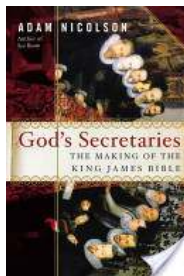
You will walk out the door at 8:00 p.m.!

The book may be ordered through your favorite bookseller. Fr. Andrew will be placing an order on Tuesday, Feb. 15, for books for those who are interested.

New Reading Selections in the Library

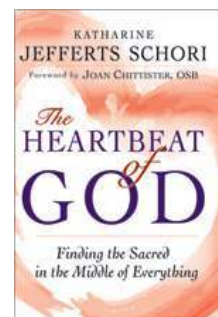
Anne Davis, a long time parishioner at St. Michael's Church, has recently donated ten books to the Church Library. These include:

- a fascinating account of the making of The King James Bible—**God's Secretaries**;
- two books with daily readings and homilies by and about Christian Saints—*The Joy of the Saints* and **For All The Saints**;



- a manual of spiritual direction for those in the “second half of life”—**Toward Holy Ground** by Margaret Guenther;
- a very readable account of Fundamentalism in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—**The Battle for God** by Karen Armstrong;

- our Presiding Bishop's insight about how to “find the sacred in everything”—**The Heartbeat of God** by Katharine Jefferts Schori.



These and the other donated books will be on display on the shelf below the window in the library.

If you wish to borrow any of these newly received books, or any other book you find in the library, just copy down the book's title in the small sign-out book with the date and your name. When you are ready to return the book, simply cross off your name and the book you borrowed in the same sign-out book.

—Martha and Fred Alling

Ministry Notes

Winter Thrift Shop Hours

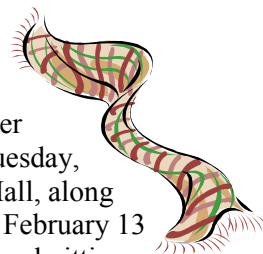
Tuesday—Saturday, 1:00—4:00 pm
Closed Sunday & Monday

With our mild winter weather, perhaps you are already looking through your spring wardrobe. Well, bring spring items you no longer wear to the Thrift Shop! We are accepting spring and Easter items now.

Meanwhile, come visit the Thrift Shop for something 'new' for winter, for a vase for hostess flowers, a book to read, or just to browse.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

An evening session of the prayer shawl ministry is being offered Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, along with the usual Monday mornings, February 13 and February 27 at 11:00 a.m. Prior knitting experience is not required! Contact Anne Clark for more information.



2012 Parish Directory

Our new 2012 Parish Directory is now available. Copies are in the Parish Hall lobby along with the 2011 Annual Report. Please report any changes to Jane Maihos in the parish office.

Reminder

St. Catherine's Guild and the Parish Aid Society are not meeting this February.

Officer, Vestry Elections

The following parishioners were elected into office and the Vestry at the January 29, 2012, Annual Parish Meeting. Biographies are posted on the Parish Office bulletin board. Terms expire in January of year in parentheses.

Senior Warden:	David Bittermann	(2013)
Junior Warden:	Frances Nilsson	(2013)
Clerk:	Walter Haug	(2013)
Treasurer:	Sarah Bates	(2013)
Assistant Treasurer:	James Dearborn	(2013)
Vestry:	Melissa Amberik	(2015)
	Lynn Bragdon	(2015)
	Karin McCarthy	(2015)

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:
Jan Barnett & Denise Shea (2013)

Returning Vestry Members are Jenny Armini (2014), Stephen Clay (2014), Ian Hunter (2013), Jose (Joe) Oliveira (2013), Thomas Weber (2013), & Victor Wild (2014) with Deanery Delegates Jan Barnett, Frances Nilsson & Denise Shea.

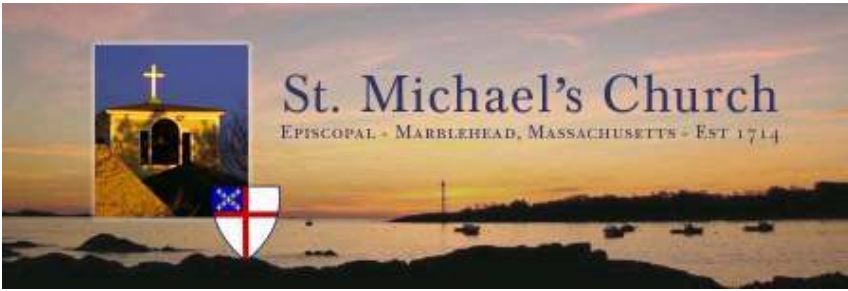
Our greatest appreciation to outgoing Vestry members Sue Cool, Harriett Magee and Avery Russell, and to outgoing Asst. Treasurer, Larry Robbins. Larry Robbins has

been backing up our Treasurer while also serving on the Stewardship Committee led by chair Avery Russell with Harriett Magee. Sue Cool co-chaired Pastoral Care and pitched in maintaining the gardens. It's Sue who organizes the summer watering brigade.

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.



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
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www.stmichaels1714.org



Sunday, February 5
5:00 pm
Evensong & Benediction

Sunday, February 19
5:00 pm
Organ Recital with
Rosalind Mohnsen

Tuesday, February 21
5:00-7:00 pm
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 22
Ash Wednesday
9:30 am Holy Eucharist with ashes
7:30 pm Holy Eucharist with ashes

St. Michael's Church

Officers: David Bittermann, Sr. Warden; Frances Nilsson, Jr. Warden; Sarah Bates, Treasurer; James Dearborn, Asst. Treasurer; Walter Haug, Clerk.

Vestry: Melissa Amberik, Jenny Armini, Lynn Bragdon, Stephen Clay, Ian Hunter, Karin McCarthy, Joe Oliveira, Thomas Weber, Victor Wild.

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

February 2012

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Thrift Shop Hours
Tuesday – Friday
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

			1) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	2) NO St. Catherine's Guild in February 7:30 pm Adult Choir	3)	4)
5) EPIPHANY 5 Souper Bowl of Caring 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Children's Chapel 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (No reception will follow)	6)	7) 5:00 pm St. Michael's Team to My Brother's Table, Lynn 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Knitters 7:30 pm Property	8) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	9) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	10)	11) 11:00 am St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge, Salem
12) EPIPHANY 6 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am One-Room Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	13) 11:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry	14) 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club	15) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	16) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	17)	18)
19) LAST EPIPHANY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am One-Room Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Organ Recital - Rosalind Mohnsen Performing	20) Presidents' Day <i>Office Closed</i>	21) Shrove Tuesday NO Parish Aid Meeting in February 5:00 pm Parish Pancake Supper	22) ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Imposition of Ashes 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Imposition of Ashes 8:00 pm AA (Downstairs)	23) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	24)	25)
26) LENT 1 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am One-Room Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	27) 11:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry	28) 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Vestry	29) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Lenten Program Week 1 at St. Andrew's 8:00 pm AA Meeting	Wednesday Lenten Program Weeks 1,3,5 at St. Andrew's Weeks 2 & 4 at St. Michael's		