



Photograph by R. Williams

# St. Michael's Newsletter

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*Happy February  
Birthday to*

**Ryan S. Clay**

## From the Rector

“At mealtime, eat sensibly, but I suggest not too much: leave yourself just a little hungry.” This was gentle direction from the leader of a retreat I participated in a number of years ago. The thought had crossed my mind about what I might do to take full advantage of my retreat time. Here was concrete direction. I found it worked. Being a little hungry honed my focus and intent. Physically and spiritually, it left space for sustenance, both the energy produced by calories and the energy of drawing on God’s grace.

This simple little direction has never left me. I must admit my practice of it ebbs and flows, and I admit even further there has been much more ebbing in recent months. Happily and thankfully the season of Lent nears. With it is the invitation again to make space and be a little hungry. As one church organization writes regarding their Lenten program:

“We celebrate a holy Lent both by taking on those disciplines that bring us closer to God, and shedding those indulgences, habits, and practices that steal our attention. There becomes

during this liturgical season a holy interplay between feeding and fasting.

Seems ironic, we sometimes are fed only by fasting---by denying ourselves that which distracts us from what is truly nourishing. When we fast, we clear out space for God. We forego the diversions that keep us occupied and

instead make room inside for an expanding spirit, one that is nurtured in prayer and worship and the feast of love that is offered to us.” - *CREDO Lenten Series, Jan. 29, 2013*

**At mealtime,  
eat sensibly,  
but I suggest  
not too much:  
leave yourself  
just a little  
hungry.**

St. Michael’s will join again with St. Andrew’s for a joint Lenten program on the “emergent church” conversations taking

place in the wider church. There is more info about the program elsewhere in this newsletter and at the parish. A question we may ask is how our Christian faith and practice feeds and nourishes us, and how do we feed and nourish others? What emerges or longs to emerge in our understanding and practice? The season of Lent invites one to fast to make room, in the hope of making fast (as in secure) a deeper relationship with God and neighbor.

- Fr. Andrew

### Ash Wednesday, February 13

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II and Imposition of Ashes

7:30 PM Holy Eucharist Rite II and Imposition of Ashes

## From the Music Director

### Festival Evensong and Benediction

Sunday, February 3, 5:00 PM

This Sunday, February 3, the St. Michael's Choir will sing Choral Evensong at 5 pm. The music will include beautiful Gregorian Chant canticles, a wonderful anthem by Leo Sowerby entitled, "Now there lightens upon us a holy daybreak" and my new choral setting of the Psalm of Adoration. There will not be a reception afterward so all may get home to watch the BIG GAME.

### Organ Recital with Hatsumi Miura

Sunday, February 24, 5:00 PM

On Sunday February 24 at 5 pm, our organ recitalist will be Hatsumi Miura, from Yokohama, Japan.

Hatsumi Miura is no stranger to the Boston area where she received the coveted Artist's Diploma from New England Conservatory in 1997, studying with Yuko Hayashi. During her two years in Boston she was the assistant organist at All Saints Church, Ashmont. After

returning to Japan in 1998, she was appointed organist for C.B.Fisk's just completed Opus 110 organ at Yokohama Minato Mirai Hall. Her concert series at Yokohama regularly draws large and enthusiastic audiences. She also teaches organ at Ferris University in Yokohama, and is organist at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Yokohama, which has an 1889 Hook and Hastings organ originally built for a church in Providence, Rhode Island.



Her program will include works by Kerll, Cabezon, Carriera, Bach, Brahms and Robert Schumann. Please join us to hear this extremely talented Japanese artist; a reception will follow this concert.

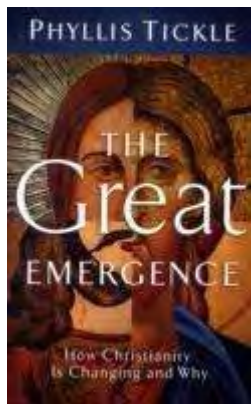
- Douglas Major, Music Director

## Lenten Food, Fellowship and Formation

### "Our Faith in a Changing Time"

Children and adults of St. Michael's and St. Andrew's are invited to come together on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a light supper and a discussion.

A light supper is provided at 6:30 pm. At 7:00 Aileen Ryder with Shauna LeBlanc of St. Andrew's will lead a program on prayer for children. The adult program will consider the "emerging church" movement using the book "The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why" by Phyllis Tickle. The book can be ordered through the Spirit of '76 or through Amazon or Barnes and Noble.



### The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why by Phyllis Tickle

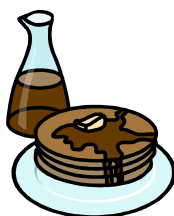
Wednesdays  
6:30 p.m. till 8:00 p.m.

February 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's  
February 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Andrew's  
March 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's  
March 13<sup>st</sup> at St. Andrew's  
March 28<sup>th</sup> at St. Michael's

A light supper will begin the evening.  
Look for the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall Lobby.

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

Tuesday, February 12  
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-2nd grades 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.

### Supper Club

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

### February Highlights

#### Children's Chapel

Sunday February 3 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.

#### Epiphany Studies

The Church School will have a One-Room Church School for the months of January and February. They will be examining the life of Jesus as recounted in the Gospel of Luke.

#### Church School Coffee Hour Hosts

In preparation for Lent, the Church School will practice hospitality. They will be making pretzels to share with the parish on Sunday February 10. This will be their debut as coffee hour hosts. We hope you all enjoy their hospitality.

#### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday February 6 will be our annual Pancake Supper. It is a great evening for families.

#### Lenten Program for Children

Wednesdays in Lent, starting February 20, we will have a special children's Lenten Program. Our parish will gather with families from St. Andrew's to share a meal. Following the simple dinner, the children will have their own program while the adults discuss their reading.

#### No Church School

Sunday February 17, the first Sunday of February vacation.

#### The Souper Bowl of Caring

Each year, our youth sponsor the Souper Bowl of Caring. On this day of national celebration, the youth remind us that there are some "without even a bowl of soup to eat."



This year, the youth collected over \$260 and 35 food items.

Date	Special Event	Supper Club	Church School
Sunday, February 3	Souper Bowl of Caring		Never Give Up: Stories of Unending Prayer
Sunday, February 10	Church School hosts Coffee Hour		The Season of Lent
Tuesday, February 12	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	No Supper Club	
Sunday, February 17	February Vacation		No Church School
Wednesday, February 20	Lenten Program with Dinner		
Sunday, February 24			Zachaeus Comes Down from the (Money) Tree
Tuesday, February 26		Why should I pray when God doesn't answer all my prayers?	
Wednesday, February 27	Lenten Program with Dinner		

## Weddings and More



Leslie Marquette and Patrick Rousseau were married at St. Michael's on Saturday, October 20, 2012. Congratulations, Leslie and Patrick!

William Henry Howie Stark, son of Alexandra and Randolph Stark (married at St. Michael's in 2011) and grandson of Marian and Rob Howie, was born on Jan 7th, 2013 in New York City. Henry will be baptized at St. Michael's on Easter Saturday, March 30, 2013.

## Stewards of the Month—the Clark Family

When the Clark family moved to Marblehead in 1994 daughter Eliza wanted to meet other children so Anne enrolled her at the Davenport House Nursery School. From there Anne says, "We sort of fell into St. Michael's." They wanted a high church, liked the music, and it was within walking distance for a family with young children.

Anne has been a Sunday school teacher and for a time chaired a Children's Craft Table at the Heart of Christmas Fair. One year they sold fleece headbands and hats. "All the children wore them to school and it was so nice," said Anne. Currently Anne has organized the Prayer Shawl Ministry and the group has completed two, one by Marcia Koopman and one by Skip Phillips who sent it from her home in New Bedford. The shawls were blessed during a Sunday service and then given to Doris Bartlett and to Jean Landreth who passed away in January.

Laurance has been active also: he has served on the Vestry and the Stewardship Committee. Currently he serves on the Investment Committee.

A special memory they have of St. Michael's is during their daughter Rose's baptism. Brother Ben, at three and a half, watched in the front row pew as the adults participated and busied himself by stacking up all the hymnals to stand on.

Anne, who is at home now, was a technical editor in the software industry. She worked for Aspen Technology working on help screen usability for a chemical engineering program. Laurance is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley.

The four Clark children have all been acolytes. Eliza, who also sang in the choir, is a junior at the University of Chicago studying International Relations as well as Spanish



*Laurance, Anne's mother Rose Dyrud, Ben, Rose, Emma, Eliza and Anne Clark at Emma's graduation from Middlesex School.*

and Portuguese. Emma, who sang in the choir as well, is a freshman at the University of Virginia, majoring in the Classics with perhaps a second major in psychology. Ben, 17, is a junior at Middlesex School in Concord. He is interested in biology, sciences, and math. Rose, in the eighth grade at Tower School, enjoys drama and singing among her many interests.

The whole Clark family likes to ski on winter weekends at Sunday River in Maine. In the summer they enjoy both their lobster boat and a sailboat they share with Jim Ayer.

Anne said, "St. Michael's is a good place, a happy place, and we are pleased to be a part of it."

- Marilyn Day

## Woodward Abraham, St. Michael's Lay Reader, 1780—1786

As the Revolutionary War came to an end, the Anglican Parish of St. Michael's could meet, but the Rev. Joshua Weeks had fled along with many other Anglican priests who could not break their oath to the king of England. On March 27, 1780, Woodward Abraham was elected Proprietors' Clerk and a member of the Vestry. The Parish "Voted That Woodd. Abraham officiate in Readg Prayers & a Sermon for the time being." Abraham continued as Clerk until Easter 1785, and continued leading services as Lay Reader and moderating Parish Meetings until the arrival of the Rev. Thomas Fitch Oliver in 1786.

Woodward Abraham was born on or about August 28, 1727 in Charlestown, Massachusetts to William and Martha Abraham. William Abraham came from Buckinghamshire, England arriving in Boston by 1704. Most members of the Abraham family attended Christ Church, "Old North" in Boston. The name Woodward Abraham was a popular name in the family, dating back to his great, great grandfather born in 1656 to Richard Abraham and Judith Woodward.

On November 28, 1751 in Salem, Massahcusetts, Woodward Abraham married Tabitha Smithers or Smethurst of Marblehead. The couple settled in Marblehead. The Rev. Peter Bours at St. Michael's baptized their first six children, including son Woodward, and the Rev. Weeks, their next five.

Abraham was shopkeeper and merchant. By 1758 Benjamin Franklin and William Hunter, Post-Masters-General, commissioned Abraham the Postmaster of Marblehead. In 1762 he was commissioned a customs-house officer. At St. Michael's April 1, 1771 annual meeting, Woodward Abraham was elected Proprietors' Clerk, an office similar to our Vestry Clerk today. Abraham was re-elected annually through Nov. 11, 1776 when he was also elected a warden. In 1774 he bought pew 37 on the "great Alley" or central aisle at St. Michael's.

On May 26, 1777, Marblehead Town Meeting elected Thomas Gerry Esq. to collect the names of those who were "inimical to the Town." Among the names were Rev. Joshua Weeks, and Mr. Woodward Abraham. (History & Traditions of Marblehead by Samuel Roads, Jr., page 125). While the Rev. Weeks soon left, Abraham stayed, and according to the *Essex Antiquarian* (1897, p. 274), "performed services in the Army in the early part of the Revolution, when he was called to Salem."

After the Revolution there were but 5 Anglican clergymen in Massachusetts with 6 or more churches served by

Lay Readers such as Woodward Abraham. As clergymen in the former colonies began to convene, the Rev. Samuel Parker of Trinity Church called a convocation of Massachusetts and Rhode Island clergy. This September 8, 1784 group in Boston agreed to meet again, but with clergy plus lay representatives from each church. Woodward Abraham was selected on August 29, 1785 by St. Michael's Vestry to "meet in Convention at Boston on Wednesday the 7th of Septemr next with a view to deliberating upon some plan for Maintaining uniformity of Divine Worship &c&c&c---" On September 26th the Vestry heard Abraham's report and reviewed the papers from the Convention. They then voted:

That the Proprietors of this church, Consent to the Omissions and alterations, which were made at convention by the Clergy and Deputys, of the several churches, in the States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island & New Hampshire, and likewise to any other omission and alteration, that may be made by the said convention at their next meeting for the purpose of obtaining uniformity of Worship throughout the churches in the several States.

Upon the arrival of the Rev. Oliver in 1786, Woodward Abraham took a break from the Vestry. He later held several one-year terms. From April 1792-1793 (*Records 1716-1784*, p. 207, 211), he served as Treasurer, relieving his brother-in-law Gamaliel Smethurst who had been Treasurer 1790-1792. Abraham served on the Vestry again March 1799 to May 1800 when St. Michael's received its new charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The *Boston Gazette* published the following notice on November 28, 1813:

At Marblehead, Woodward Abraham, Esq., Post Master, aged 86—In the office of Post Master (which he held for many years) as well as in several other public capacities to which he was called by the voice of his fellow townsmen, he conducted with that integrity, which insured him universal approbation. His numerous relatives, his extensive circle of acquaintance, and the church of God; of which he was a worthy and exemplary member, are left to mourn this dispensation of divine Providence. After a long and useful life, he was "gathered as a shock of corn fully ripe, into the garner of his heavenly Redeemer." (*Records 1716-1784 [1799]*, p.241 )

Woodward Abraham died on the 17th of November, 1813 and was buried from St. Michael's. His brother Nathaniel died shortly after on Dec. 27.

- Frances Stith Nilsson, Historic Church Committee

## Ministry Notes

### Winter Thrift Shop Hours

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

Spring and Easter are right around the corner! The Thrift Shop is looking for baskets, bunnies and other Easter and spring decorations.

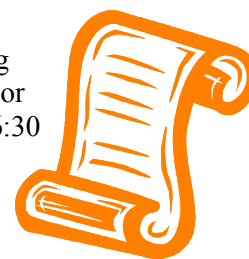
Meanwhile, come visit the Thrift Shop for something 'new' for winter, for a vase for hostess gift, a book to read, or just to browse.



### The First Amendment

On Thursday, February 7th, Deirdre Robbins will be speaking to the St. Catherine's Guild on the origins of the First Amendment with emphasis on the roles of Virginia and Massachusetts. Church and State were not separate in St. Michael's first 100+ years adding to the struggle of those who did not adhere to the established congregational church in Massachusetts.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, contact Sarah Bates or Pam Oppelt. The Guild meets at 6:30 p.m.



## Officer, Vestry Elections

The following parishioners were elected into office and the Vestry at the January 27, 2013, Annual Parish Meeting. Biographies are posted on the Parish Office bulletin board. Terms expire in January of year in parentheses.

Senior Warden:	Frances Nilsson	(2014)
Junior Warden:	Steven Clay	(2014)
Clerk:	Sue Cool	(2014)
Treasurer:	James Dearborn	(2014)
Assistant Treasurer:	Karl Renney	(2014)
Vestry:	Brian Carlson	(2016)
	Chick Chickering	(2016)
	Robert L. Howie, Jr.	(2016)
	Sarah Bates	(2014)
	Rory Gaunt	(2014)

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:  
Jan Barnett & Denise Shea (2014)

Returning Vestry Members are Melissa Amberik, Jenny Armini (2014), Lynn Bragdon (2015), Karin McCarthy (2015) with Deanery Delegates Jan Barnett, Frances Nilsson & Denise Shea.

Our greatest appreciation to outgoing Senior Warden David Bittermann, Clerk Walt Haug, Treasurer Sarah Bates and Vestry members Ian Hunter, Joe Oliveira and Tom Weber.

### 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  
26 Pleasant Street  
Marblehead, MA 01945-3432

Phone: 781/631-0657  
Fax: 781/639-2866  
E-mail: [office@stmichaels1714.org](mailto:office@stmichaels1714.org)  
[www.stmichaels1714.org](http://www.stmichaels1714.org)

**Tuesday, February 12**

**5:00-7:00 pm**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**

**Wednesday, February 13**

**Ash Wednesday**

**9:30 am Holy Eucharist with ashes**

**7:30 pm Holy Eucharist with ashes**

**Sunday, February 24**

**5:00 pm**

**Organ Recital**

**with**

**Hatsumi Miura**

**St. Michael's Church**

**Officers:** Frances Nilsson, Sr. Warden; Stephen Clay, Jr. Warden; Sue Cool, Clerk; James Dearborn, Treasurer; Karl Renney, Asst. Treasurer.

**Vestry:** Melissa Amberik, Jenny Armini, Sarah Bates, Lynn Bragdon, Brian Carlson, Xavier Chickering, Rory Gaunt, Robert L. Howie, Jr., Karin McCarthy.

**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 2013

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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

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

1)	2)
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<p><b>3) EPIPHANY 4</b> <b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Children's Chapel 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:15 am Outreach Committee 5:00 pm Choral Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (No reception will follow)</p>	<p><b>4)</b> 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p><b>5)</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting  4:30 pm St. Michael's Team at My Brother's Table, Lynn David Winder, coordinator. 6:00 pm Deanery Meeting, Grace Church, Salem</p>	<p><b>6)</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study  7:30 Wardens Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting</p>	<p><b>7)</b>  6:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>8)</b></p>	<p><b>9)</b> 10:00 am – 1:00 pm St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge, Salem led by Connie &amp; Dana Denault</p>
<p><b>10) LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am 300<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p><b>11)</b></p>	<p><b>12) SHROVE TUESDAY</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting  5:00 pm Pancake Supper 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club</p>	<p><b>13) ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Imposition of Ashes 10:30 am Bible Study  7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Imposition of Ashes 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>14)</b>  7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>15)</b></p>	<p><b>16)</b></p>
<p><b>17) FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Historic Church 9:30 am One-Room Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	<p><b>18)</b> <b>Presidents' Day</b>  <b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p><b>19)</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Parish Aid  7:30 pm Wardens +</p>	<p><b>20)</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study  5:30 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Lenten Program at St. Michael's 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>21)</b>  7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>	<p><b>22)</b></p>	<p><b>23)</b></p>
<p><b>24) SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b> 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, Katsumi Miuri Performing</p>	<p><b>25)</b> 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p>	<p><b>26)</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting  6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Vestry</p>	<p><b>27)</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study  5:30 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Lenten Program at St. Andrew's 8:00 pm AA Meeting (Downstairs)</p>	<p><b>28)</b>  7:30 pm Adult Choir</p>		