

# St. Michael's Newsletter



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## February Calendar

## From the Rector

Blessed be the light! In between snow storms and chilly polar vortex, slowly but surely daylight hours are lengthening. Early morning departures to the Swampscott train station now are met with dawn light and sunrise. The timers for the walk-way lights and lamps on the church building have been re-adjusted a half-hour later, from 4:30 to 5:00, and will need to be changed again soon. I find my spirits lifted.

On Feb. 2 the Church celebrated the Holy Day, "The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple." This is day is also known as "Candlemas", a celebration that commemorates the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and includes the blessing of candles. Candles "which are blessed, distributed, and lit whilst the Nunc Dimittis is sung, are carried in a procession commemorating the entrance of Christ, the 'True Light' (John 1.9), into the Temple." (From the *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*). While a formal procession did not take place at St. Michael's this year, the Nunc Dimittis was sung at Choral Evensong on Feb. 2 with the church glowing from the candles in the chandelier, window sills and on the altar. The warm glow marked a notice-

able contrast with the later strobe effect and pyro-glyphic booms from the Super Bowl half-time show. The candle light was more soothing and grounding, maybe not as exciting per se, but in my view, more sacred.

Outside the spruce tree on the Summer Street lawn glowed with lights first lit at Advent. Again, these lights and the work to provide electricity to the tree to illuminate them, were made possible by a generous donation from the Renney family and the late Ronald Renney. On Feb. 2, forty days after Christmas, the time was appropriate to extinguish them until next year. There was not ceremony, just the simple flicking of a switch. Still, the "true light" glows.

For 300 years St. Michael's has sought the light of Christ that it may glow brightly through its members, in the community of Marblehead and beyond. Moving fully into this Tercentenary year, this light continues to guide our way. It glows and grows through the parish's mission and vision. It leads the parish into its fourth century of worship and praise to God.

*Fr. Andrew*

**From the Music Director**

**Evensong, Sunday, February 2 at 5 pm**

Please join us at St. Michael's Church for Evensong on Sunday, February 2 at 5 pm. The Choir will be singing Canticles (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis) by Charles V. Stanford in B Flat. He composed four complete settings of the Evening Canticles, and this one is the most popular among Stanford fans. The anthem will be Douglas Major's 1998 setting of Psalm 96, "Sing unto the Lord a new song" which was composed for an Episcopal Church choir in the Washington, DC area. A reception follows, and all are welcome!

**Sunday, February 9—1789 Book of Common Prayer Services**

On Sunday February 9th at 10 am, we will celebrate Holy Communion according to the 1789 Book of Common Prayer. The music for this service comes from the 17th and 18th centuries, including hymns, organ voluntaries and choral works. We will have an anthem by William Billings, the first composer to publish music in America, and whose music was engraved by none other than Paul Revere; an anthem by Christopher Tye, early 17th century English composer; and organ music by Handel and Pepusch, who was a German who immigrated to England and worked with Handel at Cannons, the Duke of Chandos' estate. Please join us!

- Douglas Major, Music Director

**Judy Anderson: Marblehead in 1714**

On Wednesday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m., social and cultural historian Judy Anderson will speak about "Marblehead: 1714" – the year St. Michael's Church was erected. Her illustrated talk will discuss community and social life of the period – including how Marblehead residents dressed and furnished their houses – and describe the many domestic and public buildings being constructed in the seaport town in the early years of the 18th century.



Formerly curator of the Jeremiah Lee Mansion and a frequent lecturer on Marblehead topics, Judy Anderson is author of the award-winning *Glorious Splendor: The 18th-Century Wallpapers in the Jeremiah Lee Mansion*.

**Late Breaking News!**

St. Michael's youth raised more this year than ever before in their 6th time contributing to the "Souper Bowl of Car-ing." Over \$300 was raised and 47 food items were donated to the Marblehead Food Pantry. On the right are just some of our Church School students who participated.



**Tercentenary Year Events**

**FEBRUARY 2 SUNDAY**

5:00 pm Evensong & Benediction

**FEBRUARY 9 SUNDAY**

Services according to the 1789 Book of Common Prayer

8:00 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Holy Communion

**FEBRUARY 26 WEDNESDAY**

7:30 pm Judy Anderson on Marblehead: 1714

**MARCH 2 SUNDAY**

5:00 pm Evensong & Benediction

**MARCH 4 SHROVE TUESDAY**

5:00 pm Pancake Supper for the Lucian Ladd Fund for Children

**MARCH 5 ASH WEDNESDAY**

5:00 pm Evensong & Benediction

**MARCH 11 TUESDAY**

7:30 pm Bob Booth on "Who Filled the Pews at St. Michael's 1714-1750?"

**MARCH 16 SUNDAY**

5:00 pm Organ Recital: Nancy Gainert

**MARCH 29 SATURDAY**

2pm-5pm St. Catherine's Antique Appraisal Day

## Church School—from Kelley Howells

### February Dates to Remember

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Feb. Ongoing | Sign-ups for First Communion Class            |
| Feb. Ongoing | Sign-ups for Church School volunteers         |
| Feb. 2       | Children's Chapel and "Souper Bowl of Caring" |
| Feb. 9       | Historic 1789 Book of Common Prayer Service   |
| Feb. 16      | No Church School                              |

### Church School in January

Church School has been using a one-room school house model, and will until the beginning of Lent, as we learn about the life of Jesus. We have learned about Jesus' early years, his baptism, his disciples, his teachings, and the miracles he performed. We have also worked to learn a new song this month "Hymn to Joy" (Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee), and have learned some new "Grace before meals" prayers.

### Volunteers Needed!

Now is the perfect time to join us as a Church School volunteer if you haven't before. Please consider this worthwhile opportunity to share your gifts, and be part of the children's religious education experience here at St. Michael's. We really need your help!

It isn't hard, please give it a try if you haven't already! We will need two-four adults each week. The Storyteller position is the job for the person leading the lesson. The lesson is all set up for you and I will get you a copy in advance. The Activity Leader is the person who helps with a craft, which will be all set up for you also. This person also helps setting up snacks and taking care of odds and ends as they come up. Please consider volunteering and sign up on the St. Michael's Sign-Up Genius or contact Kelley at [kelly@stmichaels1714.org](mailto:kelly@stmichaels1714.org)

### Church School Outreach

Also in January, we began working on our annual St. Michael's "Souper Bowl of Caring". This is a national effort. So many Americans celebrate the Super Bowl with abundant food, this gives us the opportunity to remember



that not everyone has that luxury.

On behalf of St. Michael's, the youth of our parish will collect canned goods and money to donate locally to the Marblehead Food Pantry. To contribute to this endeavor, just drop off unexpired non-perishables to our food pantry box at any time, or make a cash donation to our soup pot on "Souperbowl" Sunday, February 2, 2014. Please support this effort and help our young people develop a giving spirit that can last a lifetime!

### February Highlights

We will begin the month with a Children's Chapel service on February 2nd at 9:30am in the lower hall. Church school will follow.

### Historical Service

This month we look forward to another special historical service to help us celebrate our Tercentenary. On February 9th we will be treated to a 1789 Book of Common Prayer service at 10 am. This is the second in a series of historical services presented to commemorate services held in the past within our very own walls! Children in the "Weaving God's Promises" group (grades 3-5) may choose to attend this special service in its entirety, or may choose to attend Church School as usual.

On Sunday February 16, there will be no church school, as many of our families travel for the February School vacation.

### First Communion Class

With the sacrament of Baptism, we are each invited to partake in the Eucharistic Feast. Here at St. Michael's we will be offering a special "First Communion" class for elementary school children so that they may deepen their appreciation for the sacrament.

This class will be geared toward children in grade 2 and up, but may also be appropriate for some first graders. This class is not a requirement for the sacrament, rather it is an invitation. It is for children who have already been receiving communion, as well as those who have not yet done so.

Father Andrew and I will meet with children on March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, and April 10. We will meet from 3:30pm until 4:30pm here at St. Michael's parish hall.

The celebration of First Communion will be held on Palm Sunday, April 13th at 10 am.

Please sign up for this class by emailing at either [revajs@stmichaels1714.org](mailto:revajs@stmichaels1714.org) or [kelly@stmichaels1714.org](mailto:kelly@stmichaels1714.org)

## Stewards of the Month—Harriet Diamond

Harriet Diamond first came to St. Michael's in her parents' arms to be baptized on June 27, 1931. "Nancy Carvill and I were baptized together that day," says Harriet. "I have attended ever since except for some time when I did not live here."

Harriet remembers well her Sunday school years and her teachers, Grace Brown, Miss Reed, and Mrs. Hodges. Miss Reed had the girls meet at her house on Wednesday afternoons to work on projects for the church fair. And the students who had perfect attendance in either the 7th or 8th grades received little crosses to wear. Harriet had two years of perfect attendance so her cross was the largest and it was engraved, but regrettably she found it was too heavy to wear. During the war, there were not enough men to fill the choir so girls were allowed to sing. "I sang with the choir, but we girls were not allowed to process. We went directly to the choir loft," she remembers.

At that time, the high school youth group was large and active, meeting every week. "It was your whole life. If you lived in Marblehead, there wasn't much else going on."

She remembers that St. Michael's used to have a summer fair with pony rides and a doll carriage parade. One time the children wore old-fashioned costumes and used the church steps as a stage. Her role was to blow bubbles for the singing of the song, "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles."

Over the years Harriet taught Sunday school herself, sang in the choir, served on the Vestry several times, and helped with Christmas Fairs and the Lobster Luncheons. She is a member of the Altar Guild, Parish Aid, and St. Catherine's Guild. And she has a special goal for the church's tercentenary year. "I want to keep the Parish Aid going. We meet on Tuesdays at noon and we want new members!" she says.



Before she retired at 70, Harriet taught elementary and then middle school in Peabody. After retirement, she went on to supervise student teachers at Lesley College (now Lesley University), the college from which Harriet, her mother, and her daughter all graduated.

"I never planned to be a teacher," she says. "I wanted to be a Girl Scout professional. However, along came Bob!" Her late husband Bob was an electronic engineer and Harriet says that the industry was just beginning to grow so he grew right along with it.

She and Bob had three children, Pamela who became a teacher, Will, and Tom who also became a teacher. Now she has six grandchildren, five boys and one girl plus six great-grandchildren, five girls and one boy. And one grandson is a teacher, following the family tradition.

Harriet has lived in Salem for ten years now, but St. Michael's is still her church as it always has been since she was baptized.

### Thrift Shop Winter Hours

Tuesday—Saturday, 1—4 PM

Last chance donate winter clothing to the Thrift Shop. Our winter sale will be in March. The Thrift Shop welcomes winter coats, jackets, etc. Items should be clean with working zippers and no missing buttons or snaps.

Could you volunteer at the Thrift Shop on Saturday mornings, 10 am—1 pm? Adding those hours will help us increase sales for St. Michael's ministries. Contact Jacqui Williams or Liz Grader if you can help.

### 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.

## Joseph H. Price, Rector, 1831-1832

The Vestry of St. Michael's continued to meet through spring 1828 after the Rev. Thomas Mott resigned in 1827. Services were probably led by Reading Clerk John Smethurst with visiting clergy occasionally celebrating Holy Communion or other services. Smethurst was the nephew of Woodward Abraham, the lay leader who led services in the years after the Revolutionary War.

There is a gap in the Vestry Records from spring 1828 until November 28th, 1831 when the Vestry, led by Capt. Samuel Trevett and Ralph H. French, called a meeting of the proprietors. At the December 5th meeting they voted to form a committee to ask the Revd Mr. Price to officiate as Minister for a certain number of months.

Joseph Henry Price was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1799 and graduated Brown University in 1825. After graduation he returned to Boston to study for ordination with the Rev. George W. Doane of Christ Church and the Rev. Alonzo Potter at St. Paul's, both of whom later became bishops<sup>1</sup>. Bishop Alexander V. Griswold ordained Price to the diaconate on April 26, 1829 at St. Paul's Church. For the next two years Griswold sent Price as missionary to churches across Massachusetts. During this time he was ordained to the priesthood and married Hannah Maria G. Nicholson. St. Peter's in Salem was one of the churches where Price served as temporary rector, and where St. Michael's Vestrymen may have come to know him.

The Rev. Price served at St. Michael's only through spring 1832, as the following July the Proprietors met again to call a new Rector. From Marblehead Price went as an assistant Rector to St. Thomas, New York City, then as Rector at St. Paul's, Albany, 1834-1837, and back to New York City where he became Rector of St. Stephen's until retirement. St. Stephen's grew in the early years of Price's leadership. "Many people have spoken of the fine voice, as well as the rhetorical power of Dr. Price. He was a most impressive reader of the Church's service."<sup>2</sup> In 1847 he received the Doctor of Divinity degree from Columbia College.

In 1843 St. Stephen's was honored to be chosen as the site for the ordination of the latest group of seminary graduates. A controversy arose around one of the candidates whom several examiners felt was too "Roman." By supporting the candidate and Bishop Benjamin Onderdonk, Price was caught between the Evangelicals and the Tractarians, the low churchmen and the high. Opinions were strong on both sides and he even received threats.

And in the years to come the parish was also caught in the changing demographics of the city. Many parishioners moved to other neighborhoods, and Italians, German Lutherans and then "Israelites" moved in. In 1866 the Vestry voted to sell the church building and move to a new location, to be determined. The church moved 6 times until finally merging with another in 1873. Price stayed on for two more years as Rector before retiring. The Rev. Joseph Price died in 1887.

*- Part of an series of articles on St. Michael's, by Frances Stith Nilsson, Historic Church Committee*



*A copy of a portrait of the Rev. Joseph H. Price, 1853, originally by Donald Alexander from the History of St. Stephen's Parish in the City of New York 1805-1905, p. 94.*

### Candlesticks at St. Michael's

Puritans considered candlesticks on the altar as another sign of "Popery." So when were candlesticks first used at St. Michael's? The earliest mention is in a 1819 letter to Dr. Drury from the Rev. William Morton who supplied at St. Michael's: "may your candlesticks still remain to which end thou who can count it their glory to support the church & to supply it with a [illegible] of the word of life."

*Records 1799-1833, section 2, page 48.*

<sup>1</sup>Doane became Bishop of New Jersey in 1832 and Alonzo Potter, Bishop of Pennsylvania in 1845 after a professorship at Union College 1831-45. Bishop Potter founded the Philadelphia Divinity School which merged with the Episcopal Theological School to become the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. St. Michael's Archives has a large framed image of Alonzo Potter as Bishop of Pennsylvania. Potter may have led an occasional service at St. Michael's when he was rector of Christ Church, Boston, 1826-1831. The departure of both of Price's mentors from Boston may have been a reason for Price to head to New York.

<sup>2</sup>*History of St. Stephen's Parish in the City of New York 1805-1905, page 116.*

## Ministries of Fellowship & Care

### St. Catherine's Guild

Thursday, February 6th at 6:30 pm

Parishioner Octavia Moniz will be speaking about home health care and the many options it offers today as we and our family members face the different medical issues in our lives.

Dinner will include lasagne with meat sauce, salad, bread and ice cream with chocolate sauce and strawberries. Liz Grader is chairing the dinner committee with Anne Davis, Anne Foster, Barbara Ramsey (caller), CiCi Winder, Carole Davidson and Pat Beamish.

### Parish Aid Luncheon

Tuesday, February 18  
12:00 Noon

Bring a sandwich and join this group for fellowship and dessert. Parish Aid meets on the third Tuesday of the month. All are welcome!

## Annual Meeting Notes

The 2014 annual meeting of St. Michael's was held on Sunday, January 26 with the election of officers and Vestry members, reports from committees and organizations and several special presentations.



Twenty-five years ago a number of St. Michael's parishioners donated into a fund to be accumulated and then given to the Vestry in 2014. At the annual meeting Dana Denault presented the proceeds of the Fourth Century Fund with a check for \$392,240. The Vestry has voted to place the funds in the endowment with a percentage set aside for our 300th celebrations.



Barbara Miller reported that we have passed our initial capital campaign goal to raise funds for Parish Hall and Historic Church improvements, and are \$7,000 shy of our stretch goal. The Campaign will remain open through this Tercentenary year. Our annual stewardship drive is continues its request for pledges to reduce our budgetary gap.

Rob Howie formally announced 300th Celebration Events. These events are outlined at our new Tercentenary Celebrations web site: [www.stmichaels2014.org](http://www.stmichaels2014.org), created by Steve Clay. One page lists are in the Parish Hall lobby.

Marblehead's cable stations MHTV interviewed Rob Howie, Jr. and filmed the ringing of our bell, a view of the crypt, chandelier, the 1833 organ case, and the reredos above the altar. You can see Rob's interview online via the link at our main web site [www.stmichaels1714.org](http://www.stmichaels1714.org).

Particular thanks were given to capital campaign leaders Barbara Miller and Sarah Bates, outgoing Vestry member, Jenny Armini, and to the Thrift Shop for its annual contribution (with Jacqui Williams & Liz Grader's pleas for donations and Saturday volunteers). The Karl Renney family was also thanked for enabling the lighting of our tree, to the pleasure of neighbors and parishioners. The tree lights will be turned off on February 2nd.

The meeting ended with birthday balloons as we sang Happy 300th Birthday to St. Michael's!





ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL 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)  
Web: [www.stmichaels1714.org](http://www.stmichaels1714.org)

## **Sunday, February 9**

**Services according to the  
1789 Book of Common Prayer**

**8:00 AM Holy Communion**

**10:00 AM Holy Communion**

## **Wednesday, February 26 7:30 PM**

**Judy Anderson on  
Marblehead: 1714**

**Culture, social life, dress, music and  
architecture in Marblehead**

### **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, Sarah Bates, Brian Carlson, Xavier Chickering, Ellie Doyle, Rory Gaunt, Robert L. Howie, Jr., Karin McCarthy, Jennifer Oliveira.

**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; Kelley Howells, Christian Education Director; Jane Maihos, Parish Administrator; Jennifer Hill, Sexton.

# Saint Michael's Church

# February 2014

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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

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

|  |   |  |  |   |     |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|-----|---|
|  |   |  |  |   |     | 1)<br>11:00 am Sandler Funeral,<br>with Reception in the<br>Parish Hall                             |
| 2) <b>THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS</b><br>8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I<br>9:30 am Children's Chapel<br>10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II<br><i>Donate to the Church School</i><br><i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i><br>5:00 pm Choral Evensong &<br>Benediction | 3)<br>11:00 am Prayer<br>Shawl Ministry   | 4)<br><br>5:00 pm<br>St. Michael's Team,<br>My Brother's Table,<br>Lynn        | 5)<br>9:30 am Holy Eucharist<br>10:30 am Bible Study<br>11:45 am Staff Meeting<br><br>8:00 pm AA   | 6)<br><br>4:45 pm Youth Choir<br>6:30 St. Catherine's<br>Guild<br>7:30 pm Adult Choir | 7)  | 8)<br><br>10:30 am – 1:00 pm<br>St. Michael's Team at<br>Lifebridge, Salem<br>Captain, Dana Denault |
| 9) <b>5TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b><br><i>Services according to the</i><br><i>1789 Book of Common Prayer</i><br>8:00 am Holy Communion<br>9:00 am 300 <sup>th</sup> & Historic Church<br>9:30 am Church School<br>10:00 am Holy Communion                   | 10)<br>11:00 am Prayer<br>Shawl Ministry  | 11)<br><br>6:00 pm Middle<br>School Supper Club<br>7:30 pm Wardens'<br>Meeting | 12)<br>9:30 am Holy Eucharist<br>10:30 am Bible Study<br>11:45 am Staff Meeting<br><br>8:00 pm AA  | 13)<br><br>4:45 pm Youth Choir<br>7:30 pm Adult Choir                                 | 14) | 15)   |
| 16) <b>6TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b><br>8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I<br>9:00 am Historic Church<br>9:30 am Church School<br>10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II  | 17)<br><b>President's Day</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br>Ringing of Bells:<br>7:30-8:00 am<br>noon-12:30 pm<br>6:00-6:30 pm | 18)<br>12:00 pm Parish Aid<br><br>7:30 pm Vestry<br>Meeting                    | 19)<br>9:30 am Holy Eucharist<br>10:30 am Bible Study<br>11:45 am Staff Meeting<br><br>8:00 pm AA  | 20)<br><br>4:45 pm Youth Choir<br>7:30 pm Adult Choir                                 | 21) | 22)   |
| 23) <b>7TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b><br>8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I<br>9:00 am Thrift Shop Meeting<br>9:30 am Church School<br>10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II  | 24)<br>11:00 am Prayer<br>Shawl Ministry  | 25)<br><br>6:00 pm Middle<br>School Supper Club                                | 26)<br>9:30 am Holy Eucharist<br>10:30 am Bible Study<br>11:45 am Staff Meeting<br>7:30 pm Lecture Series:<br>Judy Anderson<br>8:00 pm AA (downstairs) | 27)<br><br>4:45 pm Youth Choir<br>7:30 pm Adult Choir                                 | 28) | <b>March 1)</b><br><br>Vestry Retreat<br>9 am – 3 pm<br>Church of the Holy Name,<br>Swampscott      |