



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

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January Calendar

Happy January

Birthday to

Benjamin G. Clark

Theo G. Bachelder

Tucker D. Atkinson

Oliver K. Hersey

From the Rector



“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you.” (Isaiah 60:1)

These words from Isaiah set the tone for the season of Epiphany: God’s light has shined on you. Let it lift you and guide you; let it shine through you. Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning “showing forth, appearance, manifestation, revelation.” The season celebrates the light of Christ to the world, taking the proclamation of Christmas one step further.

It is a safe assumption that the words “strategic planning” do not engender the same inspiration or reception of God’s glory as Isaiah’s do eloquent words. “Strategic planning” suggests something more defined and intentional - a course of action and plan. It also suggests work! Yet we might say that Isaiah words are the first steps in a strategic plan: a vision of renewed and restored and peace-filled life, even in the midst of all that the world throws at us; a mission of restoration in God’s grace.

The Strategic Planning Committee at St. Michael’s is an inspiration group, and has been hard at work over the past months drafting a Mission and Vision statement for the church. You’ll find them later in this newsletter. The Vision statement we hope helps to shine light on the aspirations this community for the next five years. In other words, it helps us see into the future a bit, to experience and live into a way of being that we might already know, but can always develop further.

This vision rests on a mission of seeking transformation in God’s grace for ourselves and the community as followers, disciples, seekers, of Christ. This in turn rests on the foundation of God’s mission to reconcile all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. We, the church, are privileged to take part in this mission.

Your feedback, insight and reflection of our mission and vision are very important. The Committee makes no assumption that this is the absolute truth, but rather offers their insight and work to the parish to help it arrive at a shared Vision. We will have a chance to reflect and discuss this material in January. Meanwhile, may the light of Christ, which never fails, shine in and through you this Epiphany season.

Fr. Andrew

Annual Meeting, Jan. 25, 2009

Parish Hall

Following the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

There will be only one service on January 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Mission/Vision Discussions

Sunday, January 11, 9:00 am & 11:30 am

Sunday, January 18, 9:00 am & 11:30 am

From the Music Director - Douglas Major

A Happy and Blessed New Year to you all! I would like to thank all the members of the St. Michael's Choir and the Children's Choir for their wonderful singing this Christmas season. Everyone worked hard, and through the bad weather, to make our worship services beautiful and meaningful – thank you.

Please join us for Lessons and Carols on Sunday, January 4 at 5 pm – we have prepared some new music for the season – come and bring a friend!

Doug Major

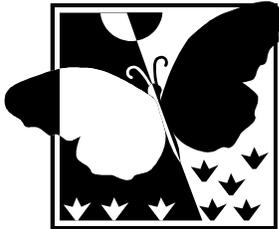


Draft Mission & Vision Statement

The Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting over the last 10 months to develop a vision for how St. Michael's can live God's mission for the Church. We reviewed our own current mission statement and the statements of many other churches and past reports and questionnaires. We analyzed internal and external demographic trends, timeline data and our strengths, weaknesses, and external opportunities and challenges ahead. The parish's dialogue at Michaelmas was very helpful in developing a vision based on our core strengths.

Below is a draft of a new mission statement and a vision for St. Michael's. As Father Andrew states in his column this month, your "feedback, insight and reflection on our mission and vision are very important." It will take all of us working together to fulfill St. Michael's mission. The Strategic Planning Committee will have table discussions after each of the services on January 11 and 18. Please join us for one of these sessions.

- Strategic Planning Committee: co-chairs Robert Howie, and Frances Nilsson, Barbara Miller, Paul Pruet, Deirdre Robbins, Linda Schmidt, Andrew Stoessel, Carri Wild.



**St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Marblehead, Massachusetts**

Draft Mission and Vision Statements

<p>Mission Statement</p>	<p><i>A statement of identity and purpose.</i></p>	<p>Our Mission is to seek transformation in God's grace by worshipping God in prayer and song, loving our neighbor in and outside our parish community, and being good stewards of God's creation.</p>
<p>Vision Statement</p>	<p><i>A word picture of what our congregation will look like as we fulfill our mission statement.</i></p>	<p>Our Vision is to be a Mission-driven Episcopal congregation that will be recognized by 2014 as an open and inviting community, known for worship and music in the high Anglican liturgical tradition, pastoral presence and service to communities near and far, good stewardship of our resources, and celebration of our legacy within the Anglican Communion and historic Marblehead.</p>

Church School - Aileen Ryder

Classroom Musings

One of the goals of Godly Play is to instill in participants a sense of how to be with God. When the students ran into the Church so anxious to begin their first pageant rehearsal, their first response was to play as they might in a playground, not with God. To correct the behavior and explain how one acts in Church I asked them to emulate their behavior in the sacred space of the classroom. Well the kids took this even further, one boy responded "but this place is more sacred than the classroom." Wow! One of those teachable moments where the kids teach themselves! At that I was able to introduce the kids to showing respect for the altar and why it is so special. When we separate something from the rest and imbue it with meaning, it becomes sacred... thus the "table" at the front of the church becomes The Altar. Likewise, children can take something common, like a blanket and turn it into a "prayer shawl" or a teddy bear and call it a spiritual-buddy. By assigning sacredness to an object that object takes on a special meaning and can serve as an aid in prayer or a reminder of God's constant presence.



High School Youth Group

Thanks to volunteer Jose Oliveira, the high school students have been exploring how to enter into the mission of Jesus through a close study of Lk 4: 18-19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." In identifying who these marginalized people may be in our society, the youth have seen how each of us can at times be on the margins. Like Jesus, it is not enough to just talk about bringing good news to the marginalized, but to *live* the good news. The first step in doing this is to get to know those on the margins. I have recently received invitations to events and group meetings, as well as those who have asked to come here. Hopefully in the next couple of months we can spend time visiting others.

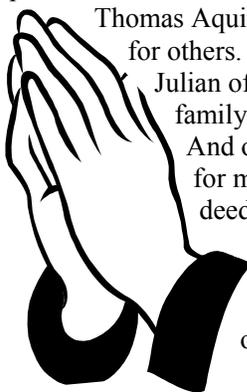
Engaging the Story

Godly Play II will continue their study of the saints this month. Their study will include one of our more recent saints, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There is so much to learn about being Christian from his story.



He demonstrates the strength of a prophet willing to speak truth to political power. He demonstrates care for all God's children with his dedication to the civil rights movement. In his commitment to active non-violence Martin Luther King, Jr. embodies the dictum "love your enemies." The nice thing about studying Rev. King within the context of the Communion of Saints is that we are reminded that there are many different ways for us to live out our Christianity. Not many of us will be called to engage in the struggle for justice in the way Martin Luther King was. Some may be called to physically care for the poor and or sick like Mother Theresa. Scholarship, like

Thomas Aquinas or St. Augustine, may be the path for others. Some are called to a life of prayer like Julian of Norwich, while others are called for family life like St. Margaret of Scotland. And of course the church is always looking for missionaries, those who in word and deed spread the Divine Love. Each of us has our own call within the Church; studying the saints gives us an opportunity to explore and imagine what our own call may be.



Rite-13

This fall Jan and Jeff Barnett have been leading the Rite-13 group through a study of self-identity, including intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual ways of knowing oneself. In their final lesson the youth explored how relationships can be damaged and the need to repair them.



Come January Tom Connolly will take over as teacher (*calling all teachers...anyone interested in this ministry please contact Aileen*). He will lead the youth in an exploration of how to mend and deepen relationships through prayer.

Important Dates

Soup and Dessert Fellowship and Nourishment!

Tuesday, January 13
12:00 Noon
Parish Hall, St. Michael's Church

On the 2nd Tuesday of each month, the Pastoral Care Group hosts a Soup and Dessert lunch. The group provides the soup, dessert, tea and coffee----you provide the fellowship. There is never a charge for this, just the pleasure of each others company. To all of you work-at-home parents who might like some adult company during the lunch hour before the children come home...please drop by! Bring a sandwich, if you wish.

For our first gathering of the New Year, Sue Cool will prepare a Beef Vegetable Soup. Pat Spaberg will be whipping up some yummy cupcakes! At the December gathering, over 20 people enjoyed delicious chili and great conversation.



For questions, call Pat Spaberg, 781-631-3181 or Sue Cool, 781-990-1445. Also please call Pat or Sue if you would like to help prepare or serve.

We hope you'll join us!

Annual Report Deadline Friday, January 9th!

Please submit your annual commission, committee and other reports by January 9th.

To love is to receive a glimpse of heaven.

Nursery School News

Happy New Year to everyone, and hoping that your holidays were safe and filled with the joy and blessings of the season. Winter themes abound in the classroom as cold weather with its ice and snow provide inspiration for projects, events, stories, songs and academic pursuits. Pajama Day is a highlight; children and staff dress for cozy comfort, make hot chocolate, and bake cookies. Future events include "take home-sleep over" with our class "pet" (stuffed animal), "Star of the Day" and "Let's go to the Museum."



Parent conferences will be scheduled for February as will our "Open House" to enroll students for our 2009-2010 classes.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested in enrollment you may reach us directly at 781-631-7977 or through the Church office 781-631-0657. We do accept children throughout the year especially in January when children who may not have been age eligible in September become ready for a pre-school experience.

Again a Happy New Year to All
From the Nursery School

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
26 Pleasant Street
Marblehead, MA 01945-3432

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www.stmichaels1714.org

*Lifelong spiritual guidance
through
service and celebration.*

Sunday, January 4, 2009

Second Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
& Christmas Pageant

5:00 pm Lessons & Carols



Parish-Wide Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2009

Parish Hall

Following the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

There will be only one service on
January 25 at 9:30 a.m.

St. Michael's Church

Officers: *Sarah Bates*, Sr. Warden; *Barbara Miller*, Jr. Warden; *Laurence Pierce*, Treasurer; *Paul Roberts*, Asst. Treasurer;
Walter Haug, Clerk.

Vestry: *Jack Attridge*, *Jeff Barnett*, *Vivian Bennett*, *David Bittermann*, *Louise Hunt*, *Anna Onishi*, *Paul Pruett*,
Christopher Riegle, *Linda Smidt*.

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

January 2009

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Thrift Shop Hours

Monday – Friday
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Thrift Shop Hours Monday – Friday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm		1) New Year's Day The Holy Name <i>Office Closed</i> No Choir Practice	2)	3) 10 am Pageant Rehearsal
4) CHRISTMAS 2 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II & Christmas Pageant 12:00 pm Rite 13 lunch 5:00 pm Lessons & Carols 	5)	6) THE EPIPHANY 7:30 pm Strategic Planning	7) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	8) 4:45 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm Adult Choir	9) Annual Reports Due!	10)
11) EPIPHANY 1 THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:45 am Rite 13 Meeting 9:00 am Mission/Vision 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Baptism & Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Mission/ Vision	12)	13) 12:00 pm Soup & Dessert	14) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	15) <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	16)	17)
18) EPIPHANY 2 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I No Church School 9:00 am Mission/Vision 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Mission/Vision	19) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day <i>Office Closed</i>	20) Inauguration Day 12:00 pm Parish Aid Luncheon 7:30 pm Vestry	21) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	22) 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	23)	24)
25) EPIPHANY 3 ANNUAL MEETING ONLY ONE SERVICE - 9:30 AM 8:45 am Rite 13 Meeting 9:30 am Church School 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:45 am St. Michael's Parish-wide Annual Meeting and Luncheon	26)	27)	28) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	29) 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	30)	31)