



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

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January Calendar

From the Rector

"Life is short, and we have not too much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk this journey with us. So be quick to love and make haste to be kind."

Many will recognize this petition as part of the final blessing concluding many of the services I celebrate. As I wrote in 2009, it is an adaptation of a statement written by Henri Frederic Amiel, a Swiss poet and professor of aesthetics who lived in Geneva in the late 1800's.

I mention it again here as an appropriate resolution for the new year! Here is a practice to strengthen our spiritual life, a means of bringing the light of God a bit fuller and brighter. The season of Epiphany is a season of light: the remembrance of a star guiding the Magi; the reminder of the light of Christ glowing brightly through the days and years; the gift of this same light within each of us. Love and kindness stoke its brightness.

**So be quick
to love and
make haste
to be kind.**

I don't mean to sound trite or passive. There is indeed darkness about us, and we have witnessed or experienced it in recent months in our various ways. My hope is that you have experienced love and kindness, too. Perhaps they have dispelled the darkness with new or renewed hope. At a recent memorial service at St. Michael's came the reminder that "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lam. 3:22)

We have entered into the new year of 2013 and we have entered the season of Epiphany. Life indeed marches on, no matter what our resolutions! Just as the days are slowly but surely getting longer, so too the love of God and the light of Christ are with us. They beckon us to a hopeful day and year, and to gladden the hearts of those with whom we walk.

- Fr. Andrew

Special January Worship Services

The Epiphany, Sunday, January 6

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 5:00 pm Lessons & Carols for Epiphany

First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord, January 13

- 10:00 am Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 27

- 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- One service only followed by Annual Meeting & Lunch

Happy January

Birthday to

Benjamin G. Clark

Theo G. Bachelder

Tucker D. Atkinson

Clive Connolly

From the Music Director



**Lessons and Carols
for the Feast of Epiphany
5 pm, Sunday, January 6
with premiere of
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis
by Douglas Major**

Best wishes to all for a Happy, Healthy New Year!!!

The music for Epiphany Lessons and Carols will include "A Child my choice" by Richard Dirksen, one of the most moving carols from this prolific composer (and my mentor at Washington Cathedral); "Bethlehem Down" by Peter Warlock and "What sweeter music" by John Rutter. We will also present the world premiere of "Magnificat and Nunc dimittis" newly composed by yours truly. At the request of the patron, I have assigned the solo in the Magnificat to our tenor Thom Smoker and the solo in the Nunc Dimittis to Sarah Hunter, our soprano.

I hope you will be able to join us for this beautiful service of readings and music, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Bring a friend!

- Douglas Major, Music Director

Annual Meeting

**Annual Meeting
January 27, 2012
after the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service**
There will be
only one service on January 27
at 9:30 a.m.

St. Michael's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 27, 2013. There will be one Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. — an opportunity for the entire community to worship together — followed by the annual meeting. This is a time to hear highlights of the past year, vote for officers and new Vestry members, and look at goals for the year ahead. Vestry members provide a light lunch of sandwiches and dessert after the meeting.

Nominating Committee Seeks Suggestions

The Nominating Committee is considering candidates for leadership positions in the church. Each year at the Annual Meeting of the parish, St. Michael's elects two wardens, clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, 3 Vestry members for 3-year positions, and 2 delegates to the Diocesan convention. For 2013 there is also an opening for a one-year Vestry position—a great opportunity for short-term commitment.

If you know of a good candidate, or if you are interested yourself, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: David Bittermann, Frances Nilsson,

Joseph Oliveira and the Rev. Andrew Stoessel.

We also thank our outgoing Vestry members: Treasurer Sarah Bates and Clerk Walt Haug who have served their maximum 6 years as officers; Ian Hunter, Joe Oliveira, Thomas Weber completing their 3-year terms on the Vestry, and Victor Wild who is stepping down with one year left in his term. Their participation will be missed on Tuesday evenings.

Annual Reports Due January 11th

Committee/Commission Chairs—Please turn in your annual report for 2012 to Jane Maihos by Friday, January 11, 2013. The early date facilitates combining, copying and collation and advance distribution the Sunday before the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 27th, 2013.

Also, please send reports electronically, preferably single-spaced in Times New Roman 11-point font. This year we hope to combine reports into one document to save paper and enable automatic pagination.

Balancing the Budget

Help us balance the budget for 2013. While many have increased their pledges, as of December 15th the Finance Committee projected a \$78,000 withdrawal from the endowment, compared to just \$20,000 in 2012! This is a step backwards from our goal to balance our budget by 2014. There is no fat to trim from the budget without hurting programs and maintenance. Pledge forms are available at the church office and at the [web site](#).

Church School - Aileen Ryder

Church School

Church School meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Students in pre-K-2nd grade 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.

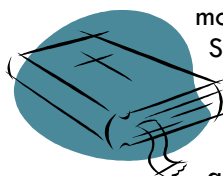
Supper Club

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

January Highlights

Children's Chapel Sunday January 6 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 Bible Club will resume Sunday morning meetings following Church Services. 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.



TO YOUTH AND PARISH

The (Supper Club) Dinner Table

Twice a month, our middle school youth gather for a meal in the parish hall. The meal is lovingly prepared by parents of the group. But so much more happens in the Supper Club than just a meal. As the youth share a meal together they form friendships, they learn that St. Michael's is a special place for them, and they explore their faith together. The Supper Club is a place for the youth to know the love and support of God.

This fall, the youth decided they wanted to share some of that love they have felt with our community. They invited members of the community, including staff, volunteers and wardens to a special dinner. With the help of Carl Hyam the youth prepared a meal, extended hospitality to adults and led prayer. The evening's program started with a prayer from Evening Prayer *phos hilaron*, included a gospel story about the dinner feast that is the coming Kingdom of God and ended with a prayer in which each participant shared what they like about St. Michael's Church.

This evening did offer us all a glimpse of the Kingdom. Thank you youth.

Parish Generosity (the Mitten Tree)

Special thanks to Diane Christian who once again organized our parish Mitten Tree. Your gifts were shared with Marblehead families in need.

Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Youth	Weaving God's Promises
Sunday, January 6			Jesus Grows Up
Tuesday, January 8		Why should I follow Jesus; can't I just say I believe in	
Sunday, January 13			"Whose Am I?" Jesus Models the Baptismal Answer
Sunday, January 20			Jesus Makes People Well
Tuesday, January 22		Why should I pray when God doesn't answer all my	
Sunday, January 27			Around and About with Jesus

Steward of the Month—Pam Oppelt

How long has Pam Oppelt been at St. Michael's? "Forever!" she says. She was baptized and confirmed here. She was married, however, in an Episcopal church in Washington D.C., but soon left for Hawaii where her two children were born. After a few years, she returned to Marblehead and St. Michael's for good.

Over the years, Pam has been Junior Warden, clerk of the Vestry, President and now Vice President of St. Catherine's, team leader for Lifebridge for 30 years, in the choir for years, has taught Sunday School, did the parish cookbook a few years back, has chaired the Bake Table for the Fair for years, was on the Kitchen Committee, does Hostess/Oblations, is a lector, and always heads up the chutney and apple pie making for the Fair.

And it all started in her childhood. "It was different then. Parish life was our whole life. We went on picnics with Father Norton," she recalls. She remembers that she and her sister Lissa couldn't be in the youth choir because at that time it was a boys choir only. "We could sing and my brother couldn't, but he was in the choir," she says.



Then there was the time, Pam had worked her way through pageant roles to portraying Mary. The baby Jesus was actually a large flashlight thickly swaddled and she was supposed to switch it on at the dramatic moment... only it wouldn't switch on.

One of her favorite memories also involves a performance at church. As Mary Magdalene in *Godspell*, she sang in the parish hall and threw her boa around the neck of a startled music director, Tom Holland.

Pam graduated from Endicott Junior College with her Associate's degree. She took the Civil Service exam, went to Washington D.C. to join the Foreign Service to see the world. "I got as far as Hawaii," she laughs. After Hawaii, she spent 25 years with General Telephone and Electric/Sylvania, starting in safety and then in human resources. "I was a generalist," she says. She also went to school at night, earning a BS at Salem State and a Master's at Emmanuel. Now she says she is in her last career, the Benefits Manager and Leave Administrator for over 900 people at Salem State University. She plans to retire in July. "I have to learn how to relax. I just took a course for baby boomers to plan retirement," says the person who has counseled others on retirement.

No doubt she will have more time for family. Her two children are nearby. Laurie, who teaches pre-school music and is a church soloist, lives in York, Maine. She has three children: Joshua 16, Jonah 14, and Carly 9. Pam notes that former St. Michael's music director Barbara Bruns was instrumental in guiding Laurie toward a career in music. Son Mike, who is in IT, lives in Gloucester. He has two sons Grady 14, and Nolan 11. "Four boys and one little princess," says their grandmother.

Her plan for retirement may also include gardening, reading, perhaps the sewing she used to love. But, it is certain that the music and outreach of St. Michael's will always be part of her life.

- Marilyn Day



Martha and Frank Gorman in St. Michael's Church Yard with daughters Lissa and Pam (right) with their hands on the gravestone of their ancestor Penelope (Hazard) Stacey.

Penelope (1733-1764) was first wife of Capt. Richard Stacey and mother of Hannah (Stacey) Gardner. * Penelope's sister Abigail was the wife of the Rev. Peter Bours who is buried in the raised tomb to the left of Lissa.

*Tapley, Harriet Sylvester. "Captain Richard Stacey of Marblehead." *Historical Collections of the Essex Institute*, April 1920.

Chanting at St. Michael's and the Rev. Thomas Fitch Oliver, Rector 1786-1791

Excerpts From Letters & Records

The Hon. Andrew Oliver in Salem, MA to his son Dr. B. Lynde Oliver:

...delivered Your Bro. Fitch's Letter, and you will probably hear from him. As tomorrow is X[Christ]mas he designs to introduce Chanting in to his Church, as he has some Adepts to carry it on.

...The chanting mentioned above was performed at Marblehead before a very crowded Audience of Churchmen and Dissenters, and to General Acception.

The Rev. T. Fitch Oliver to his brother Dr. B. Lynde Oliver, February 11, 1788:

Will it give you any pleasure to learn that our choir at St. Michael's do constantly chant the Venite, the Te deum & in the afternoon the Cantate & Nunc dimittis to great acception. This I assure you is the case & I believe mine is almost the only Church on the Continent in which this is done.

St. Michael's Church, Marblehead, Mass. *Records 1716-1784*, leaf 149 (Myles Standish transcription, p. 183)

at a meeting of the Rector Clerk Wardens and Vestry of St. Michaels Church held at this Day at the House of Capt. Samuel Hooper it was unanimously voted that their most grateful Acknowledge[ment] in their own Name and in that of the Congregation of said church be Returned to the Gentlemen and Ladies who have so cheerfully assisted in the year past in performing the Vocal Musick in said church that they be assured in the most public and Acceptable manner that their Exertions have given the Highest Satisfaction to all that have had the Pleasure to hear them and have undoubtedly added greatly to the Decency and propriety of Publick Worship and that the Rector be requested to Communicate this vote in such manner as will best do Justice to his as well as their feelings and will be most Honourable to those who are so deserving of our highest applause.

Marblehead April 7th 1788

The above correspondence is the earliest documented evidence of chanting in a parish church. However in 1847 Wilkins Updike stated "it is believed that in the Church at Narragansett, the *Venite* was first chanted in America" (Vol. iii, p.19). Their rector 1787-1789, the Rev. William Smith, advocated chanting and later compiled the *Churchman's Choral Companion to his Prayer Book* (1809) with chants.

The Rev. Thomas Fitch Oliver

On the 5th of July 1786 the Proprietors of St. Michael's, led by Wardens Capt. Richard Stacey and Capt. Edward



The Rev. Thomas Fitch Oliver (1757-1797), Rector of St. Michael's Church 1786-1791. c.1795. Artist Unknown. From Faces of a Family, compiled by Andrew Oliver, 1960

Bowen, met and voted to call the Rev. Thomas Fitch Oliver as their first rector since the Revolutionary War. T. Fitch Oliver graduated from Harvard College in 1775 and briefly served as a Congregational minister in Pelham, Mass. But he soon realized that he would like to be an Anglican. He moved to Providence, R. I. where he stayed throughout the War serving as lay reader at St. John's. Perhaps he was persuaded by his uncle the Rev. William Walter, who was rector of Trinity Church, Boston before the war. The many political and family ties with Gov. Hutchinson and other Anglicans may have been an influence as well.

In 1778 Fitch married Sarah Pynchon and quickly started a family. By 1783 he had obtained a master of arts from Harvard and Brown. In 1785 the newly consecrated Bishop Samuel Seabury

returned to America from Scotland and on August 7 at Middletown, CT ordained Fitch Oliver into the diaconate and into the priesthood in Providence on September 18. Accepting a call in Marblehead brought him closer to family. His mother Mary (Lynde) Oliver grew up in Salem and his father was there as the only Oliver family member to stay in the colonies during the Revolutionary War.

St. Michael's new Vestry and their new rector had high hopes for Marblehead's return to prosperity. And apparently they were off to a good start with a talented choir whose members and organist are not known. St. Michael's had obtained it's first organ in 1754 from St. Peter's in Salem, and expanded the south gallery in 1767 to accommodate a new organ and larger choir. Members of the Oliver family appeared to have a strong interest in music. And later in 1818 St. Michael received a 3rd organ when Fitch's brother Lynde gave his own organ to St. Peter's and St. Peter's organ was sold to St. Michael's.

But Marblehead did not improve as hoped and Fitch Oliver began to write relatives and friends searching for a better position. In 1791 he left for Johnstown and Fort Hunter, NY near Albany but then on to St. Thomas Church in Garretson Forest, now the Garrison section of Baltimore. There his health declined and the Rev. Thomas Fitch Oliver died of consumption in 1797. Sarah and their children returned to Salem.

- Frances Nilsson, Historic Church Committee
Reference listed on page 6.

Thrift Shop Needs

Thrift Shop Winter Hours

Tuesday—Friday, 1—4 PM

Brrrr...it's cold out there. Take that extra coat you're not wearing, give it a good cleaning, and donate it to the Thrift Shop for those who need one. The Thrift Shop needs winter coats, jackets, fleeces, etc. for the winter season. Please, items should have working zippers and no missing buttons or snaps.

Thrift Shop donations can be brought to the Thrift Shop at the Davenport House during open hours, or left in the green bin in the Parish Hall near the coat rack.



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.

Ministries of Fellowship & Prayer



St. Catherine's Guild Annual Yankee Swap

Thursday, January 3rd at 6:30 pm

The Guild will meet at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 5th for our annual Yankee swap with hors d'oeuvres, dessert and carols with the choir. Bring a wrapped gift—a re-gifted item, a fun item, but definitely inexpensive—and see which gift is swapped the most!



Doris Bartlett at her 100th birthday celebration Sunday, December 30th at the Devereux House.

Parish Aid Luncheon

Tuesday, January 15
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!



Prayer Shawls Blessed

On Sunday, December 23rd two shawls were blessed and given to Jean Landreth and Doris Bartlett. These shawls are the first two knitted by St. Michael's Prayer Shawl Ministry first formed in January 2012. New members are welcome to join this group which usually meets the first and third Monday mornings of the month from 11 am to 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Contact Anne Clark if you have questions.

Early Chanting at St. Michael's References —*continued from page 5*

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Sprague, William Buell. *Annals of the American Pulpit*, Vol 5. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1859, 383-384.

Wilson, Ruth M. *Anglican Chant and chanting in England, Scotland, and America 1660-1820*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996.

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Epiphany Lessons & Carols

Sunday, January 6, 2013

5:00 PM

**Featuring the world premiere of the
"Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis"
by Douglas Major.**

See page 2 for more information.

Parish-Wide Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2013

Parish Hall

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

There will be only one service
on January 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 9:00 a.m.

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.*

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

January 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Office Hours Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	1) New Year's Day <i>Office closed</i> 5:00 pm St. Michael's Team, My Brothers' Table in Lynn	2) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	3) 10:00 am Alarm Inspection Wayne Alarm 6:30 St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm Adult Choir	4)	5)
6) THE EPIPHANY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Children's Chapel 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 Epiphany Lessons and Carols	7) 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	8) 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 Wardens' Meeting	9) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	10) 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Property	11) Annual Reports Due for All Ministries <i>Send electronically, single spaced in Times New Roman, 11 pt. font</i>	12) 11:00 am St. Michael's Team, Lifebridge, Salem with Ed & Michelle Baillie
13) EPIPHANY 1 THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am 300 th Steering Group 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist, Rite II	14)	15) 11:00 Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Parish Aid 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	16) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	17) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	18) 11:00 am Assemble Annual Reports	19)
20) EPIPHANY 2 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Historic Church 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	21) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day <i>Office closed</i>	22) 11:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club	23) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	24) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	25)	26)
27) EPIPHANY 3 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, (One Service only) 9:30 am Church School 11:00 am Annual Parish Meeting	28) 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry in Parish Hall	29) 11:00 Staff Meeting	30) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	31) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	Thrift Shop Hours Tuesday-Saturday 1 pm – 4 pm	