



Photograph by R. Williams

# St. Michael's Newsletter

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*Happy February  
Birthday to*

**Anna Hunt  
Tyson Miller**

## From the Rector

After the last the major snowstorm in February, the sculpted St. Michael stood waist deep in the snow in the Gorman Memorial garden. The dragon beneath him was completely covered. With his arm raised and spear pointed downward St. Michael looked to be chipping away at the snow and ice, just like his mortal counterparts. Art imitates life! By the end of February only a small patch of snow lay in front of granite pedestal. It is hard to imagine all that snow now, even though we all lived through it.

Thankfully the snow banks are receding on the streets and in front of homes. This is good news. Time marches on. As they slowly melt they often expose a mix of sand, grit and other debris. Bushes display broken branches and flattened limbs. It is all a bit messy and unattractive. March brings a mix of pre-spring days and the occasional late winter storm. No more snow, we hope, but likely fluctuating temperatures and weather. It is a period of uncertainty (will spring even come?) and hope (yes, it certainly will!). All the while, in the mud and mess, preparation for renewed life is under way.

As spring stirs the church enters the rich and fruitful season of Lent. As individuals and as a church community, Lent draws us into that same preparation for our spiritual lives. It asks us to draw deeper into an understanding of ourselves and the

work of Christ within us. Lent invites us to “make a right beginning of repentance” by examining our lives, acknowledging those things “done and left undone,” and to seek and to know God’s forgiveness. Like the receding snow banks, it is at once hopeful and sometimes a bit messy. It is well worth the effort.

In the weeks to come buds will appear.

In the months to come, our environment will bear a much different look - warmer and greener. Through reflection and renewal, our parish community will bear this fruit, too. God has a way of being in the midst of all our

transitions, and in all the mud and debris and unattractiveness that comes with it. Christ leads us through them, pointing us again and again to the hope of the kingdom.

- Fr. Andrew

**Lent draws  
us into  
preparation  
for our  
spiritual lives**

**Ash Wednesday**

**Holy Eucharist &  
Imposition of Ashes**

**March 9**

**9:30 am      Rite II  
7:30 pm      Rite II**

## From the Music Director

### **Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament Sunday, March 6, 5:00 PM with settings by Orlando Gibbons**

On March 6th at 5 pm, the St. Michael's Choir will sing for Evensong and Benediction, and the music we have chosen will include a very beautiful setting of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* by Orlando Gibbons. He was a brilliant composer and keyboard player of the late Elizabethan period, and was unique in that he was the first of the English composers that did NOT compose anything in Latin. His setting of the canticles (songs from the Bible) takes full advantage of the "one syllable per note" approach to composition, meaning that the words can be clearly understood. Many of his contemporary composers considered this approach very restrictive, but Gibbons' genius for setting the English language to music establishes him as one of the greatest British composers.

### **Organ Recital with Peter Krasinski Sunday, March 20, 5:00 PM**



On Sunday March 20 at 5 pm, we will host Peter Krasinski in our Organ Recital Series. Peter is a brilliant improviser and has won competitions in this challenging style of organ playing. In addition to works of Bach, he will improvise a four-movement symphony. I will provide him with a set of musical themes at the time of the recital, printed out for all the audience to see as well. Then, off he goes, using the themes for fast movements, slow movements, sets of variations, etc. as he sees fit. The art of improvisation is an ancient craft, practiced by Bach and many others throughout the last three to four centuries. There is a story about Bach and another organist auditioning for an important organist post in Germany - when Bach was heard by his competition warming up and improvising, his competitor was so overwhelmed by his skill that he fled without even bothering to play.

Please join us for these two musical events, and as always, I encourage you to bring a friend who has not been to St. Michael's before.

- Douglas Major, Music Director

## Lenten Programs

### **Exploring Our Faith as Episcopalians A Lenten Program with St. Michael's and Church of the Holy Name, Swampscott**

All are welcome:  
Inquirers, new parishioners,  
long-standing members

#### **Wednesday evenings in Lent 6:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.**

March 16 at St. Michael's  
March 23 at Holy Name  
March 30 at St. Michael's  
April 6 at Holy Name  
April 13 at St. Michael's

A light supper is provided,  
followed by a presentation and discussion.

### **Introduction to Holy Communion for Children**



Four Wednesday afternoons in Lent.

3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

March 23, 30 and April 6, 13

This class is for children who are preparing to receive Holy Communion for the first time, as well as for children who have been receiving but may benefit from a deeper understanding of the sacrament. This class is particularly appropriate for children in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. Please speak to Fr. Andrew and Aileen Ryder with questions or registration.

**Remember to bring food  
any day for the  
Marblehead Food Pantry**



## Church School - Aileen Ryder

### Church School

Godly Play classes for students pre-K through 5th grade meet Sundays at 9:30am.

### The Supper Club

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

Youth may stay connected through our Facebook page.

### March Highlights

**Pancake Supper**-Get ready for Lent with this Parish-wide Shrove Tuesday Celebration. It is a great evening for families to celebrate with the whole parish.

**Movie Night**-Children of all ages are invited to watch a movie together.

**Confirmation Class**-The 7-week class starts on March 17. Preparation is offered for youth grades 7 and up.

**First Communion Class**-This four week class starts March 23. It teaches school-aged children about Communion.

### Lent

Lent offers us a chance to slow down and examine our relationships with God. At first glance our schedule for March seem to exclude the possibility for that—there is so much going on! Then I remember that all these activities help bring us closer to God. The Confirmation Class enables our youth to deepen their faith. Our young children are invited to meet Jesus as they explore the meaning of Eucharist. The Supper Club will explore different ways of talking with God while the Church School learns more about Jesus' life. Even this month's social events bring us closer to God: each time we gather as Church we meet God anew. May this Lent be a time for us all to refresh and strengthen our relationships with God.

### Mark Your Calendar

**April 17**-First Communion for our school-aged children will be celebrated on Palm Sunday

**April 22**- Good Friday Stations of the Cross and lunch for children and youth.

*Watch the calendar and your email for a special youth event in April.*

## Church School Calendar

Date	Special Event	Middle School Youth	Godly Play	Weaving God's Promises
Sunday, March 6			One-Room Church School	The Season of Lent
Tuesday, March 8	Pancake Supper	No Supper Club		
Sunday, March 13			The Mystery of Lent	The Season of Lent
Thursday, March 17		Confirmation Class 7pm		
Sunday, March 20			Faces of Easter I & II	Stories of the Kingdom of Heaven
Tuesday, March 22		Supper Club: Talking with God		
Wednesday, March 23	First Communion Class 3:30pm			
Thursday, March 24		Confirmation Class 7pm		
Saturday, March 26	Movie Night 6pm			
Sunday, March 27			Faces of Easter III & IV	Be Ready! The Son of Man is Coming!
Wednesday, March 30	First Communion Class 3:30pm			
Thursday, March 31		Confirmation Class 7pm		

## Steward of the Month—the Miller Family

Barbara Miller came to St. Michael's at age five, from St. Louis, with her parents Louise and Howard Spiess. She was confirmed here and married Bill here. They lived in Everett so it was only Christmas and Easter attendance for them for a while. Soon, however, they moved to Marblehead with six-month old Meredith. "My parents brought me, I brought Bill, and we brought our kids," says Barbara. For Bill, who traces his roots on his mother's side to the Mayflower, St. Michael's history just adds to his family's New England story.

Both have served in many capacities at St. Michael's. Barbara taught Sunday School and was its director under the old Christian Education Commission. She has been on the Vestry several times and has been Junior and Senior Warden. She and Bill have worked the Lobster Luncheon for years, and co-chaired it at times. "The luncheon is a lot of work, but the camaraderie, the nice weather, and the new people helping make a great experience," they both agreed.



Bill is a trustee of the Parish and Parsonage Trust which oversees the Murray House, and he was involved with the former after-school program and nursery school. At one time he was the sexton on the weekends for about a year. He remembers working alone in the church late one night and feeling the weight of

all the history in the shadows. "That was the last time I worked late. I switched to early morning," he laughs. He often works the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Currently, he does usher and Sunday sexton duty.

Barbara and Bill both have special memories of St. Michael's. Barbara remembers being at the midnight service as a small child when her brother was an acolyte. "It was magical to be there and up so late," she says. Bill remembers just before his wedding waiting to enter the church with Fr. Westerberg who was calmly enjoying the music by organist Barbara Bruns.

*The rainbows of life follow the storms.*

Barbara is a nurse at Union Hospital in the Emergency Room, but she was a dance major in college, then worked at the Joy of Movement Center, and danced with a small modern dance company. Bill came to the National Grand Bank in 1984 and works in the Loan Department. "It's been nice to be in town for all the kids' activities," he says.



The Millers have three children. Meredith graduated from Connecticut College and is working at Tufts as the assistant technical director in its Theater Department. She will marry Kevin Thompson in August at St. Michael's. Melissa will graduate in June from Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington where she majored in art and minored in psychology. Tyson will graduate from Marblehead High School this June. He, like his sisters, is in the arts. He plays the flute and the piccolo, volunteers at the Arts Festival, works on the concerts at Crocker Park and on the technical aspects of the high school productions. He wants to study theater lighting design in college. About his artistic family Bill says, "Their talent is everywhere. I just appreciate it all."

Tyson has been an acolyte since the fourth grade. He particularly likes being the thurifer and admits to being a bit overzealous with the swinging at times. As part of an Eagle Scout project, he cleaned out and painted the old nursery downstairs in the Parish Hall. And he still finds time to run Track and Cross Country.



Barbara and Bill both like to hike. "Our midlife crisis project is to climb all the 4000 footers in the White Mountains. There are 48. We've done 6," said Barbara. Tyson will be backpacking, too, but in Alaska this summer with the Scouts.

- Marilyn Day

## Important Dates

### Shrove Tuesday

### Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 8

5:00—7:00 p.m.



Proceeds benefit the  
Lucian Ladd Fund  
to assist children

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

### Monthly Fellowship

### St. Catherine's Guild

Anne Parrott on prison ministry  
Thursday, March 3, 6:30 p.m.

### Parish Aid Luncheon

Tuesday, March 16  
12:00 Noon

### St. Catherine's Book Group

March 20, 2:00 PM



St. Catherine's a book group is reading Barbara Brown Taylor's *An Altar in the World: a Geography of Faith*—discover the sacred in small things.

Copies can be requested and borrowed at the Abbot Public Library. The discussion will be on Sunday, March 20 at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Anne Davis on Orne Street.

All are welcome! Contact Anne Davis or Leslie Tracy if you questions.

### Thrift Shop

### Winter Sale

50% Off

on winter merchandise

Now welcoming spring clothing  
& merchandise

Hours: Tuesday—Saturday,  
1:00—4:00 pm

Closed Sunday & Monday



### 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.



### Did you miss February's Evensong?

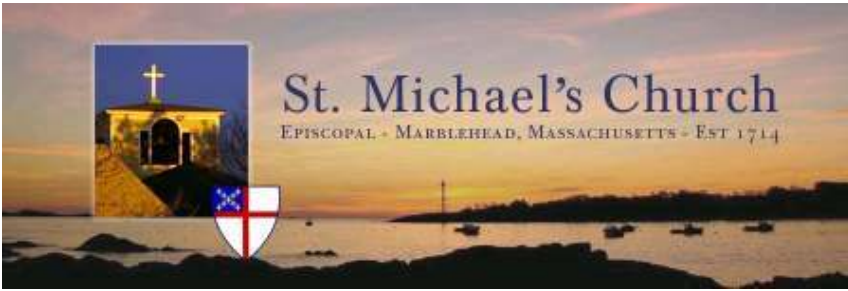
Or do you wish  
you could hear it  
again?

Check out our new online audio player with selected tracks from this very special service, featuring the combined choirs of St. Michael's and St. John's, Beverly Farms. With kudos to Steve Clay, you can listen online or download the files. Just head for our web site-[www.stmichaels1714.org](http://www.stmichaels1714.org)

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

A few individuals are starting a prayer/knitting ministry making shawls. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, contact Ann Clark, Karin Atkinson or Kate Renney.





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### March Events

**Sunday, March 6, 5:00 PM**  
**Choral Evensong & Benediction**  
with music of Orlando Gibbons

**Sunday, March 20, 5:00 PM**  
**Organ Recital with**  
**Peter Edwin Krasinski**  
including works of Bach  
and an improvised 4-part symphony



**Holy Eucharist &**  
**Imposition of Ashes**

**March 9**

**9:30 am Rite II**  
**7:30 pm Rite II**

#### St. Michael's Church

**Officers:** *David Bittermann*, Senior Warden; *Frances Nilsson*, Junior Warden; *Sarah Bates*, Treasurer; *Larry Robbins*, Assistant Treasurer; *Walter Haug*, Clerk.

**Vestry:** *Jenny Armini*, *Stephen Clay*, *Susan Cool*, *Ian Hunter*, *Harriett Magee*, *Joe Oliveira*, *Avery Russell*, *Tom 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; *Ron Warburton*, Sexton.

# Saint Michael's Church

# March 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm		1)  St. Michael's Team at My Brother's Table, Lynn 7:30 pm Property Management	2) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting  8:00 pm AA	3)  6:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm Adult Choir	4)	5)
6) <b>LAST SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Strategy Plan Chairs/Liaisons  5:00 Choral Evensong & Benediction	7)	8) <b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b>  Parish Pancake Supper 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  7:30 pm Wardens	9) <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes 8:00 pm AA	10)  7:30 pm Adult Choir	11)	12) 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Life Bridge, Salem– St. Michael's Team  <b>TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR</b>
13) <b>LENT 1</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Outreach	14)	15)  12:00 pm Parish Aid   7:30 pm Vestry	16) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting Lenten Program at St. Michael's: 6:30 – 8:30 pm 8:00 pm AA	17)  7:30 pm Adult Choir	18)	19)
20) <b>LENT 2</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 2:00 pm St. Catherine's Book Group at Anne Davis' 5:00 pm Organ Recital – Peter Krasinski	21)	22)  6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club	23) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 3:30 pm First Communion Class Lenten Program at Holy Name: 6:30 – 8:30 pm 7:30 pm Evangelism/Welcoming 8:00 pm AA	24)  7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir	25)  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	26)  6:00 pm Movie Night
27) <b>LENT 3</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Historic Church Committee 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	28)	29)	30) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 3:30 pm First Communion Class Lenten Program at St. Michael's: 6:30 – 8:30 pm 8:00 pm AA	31)  7:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Adult Choir	Thrift Shop Winter Hours Tuesday – Saturday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	