



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Page 2

- Evensong Settings by Byrd & SS Wesley
- Organ Recital: Bach & Friends with Jack Russell
- Falling Upward
- Church Closed 3/12 & 3/13
- Prayer Shawl Ministry

Page 3

- Christian Story Through Film; Schedule

Page 4

- Parish Aid Society
- Monthly Fellowship

Page 5

- Steward of the Month: Sue Cool
- Thrift Shop Sale

Back Cover

- Organ Concert
- Lenten Program

March Calendar

*Happy March
Birthday to*

Anna Hunt

From the Rector

On a walk through the bird sanctuary on Marblehead Neck in late February, my wife, Sue, and I came across a stand of crocus popping up from their winter rest. This brought us great delight and some concern. Delight in seeing this annual harbinger of spring, and concern because of their appearance early by three or four weeks. What might our mild, relatively snowless winter portend for the spring and summer crops we wonder? Days later the crocus opened. Then cold and snow came. These hardy little flowers slowed down their exuberance and are still in bloom at this writing, continuing their spring announcement of new life.

I don't know if there are groves of crocus at Waterside Cemetery. My guess is they can be found if one looks closely, planted as offerings and reminders of those who completed this earthly journey. I do know that at the "St. Michael's plot" there is a Celtic cross. The cross stands in memory of the Rev. Roy I. Murray, rector of St. Michael's 1933-1947. It bears the standard design of a Celtic cross with a circle around the junction of the horizontal and vertical bars of the cross. The horizontal and vertical axis feature a carved inlay of an intricate knot, the pattern suggesting an eternal flow, like a Mobius strip. It is thought that the circle may represent the sun, or creation, in union with redemption found in the cross beams. "The round sun shot through with the cross; creation shot through redemption," as Martin Wallace wrote in a little book called "Celtic Reflections."

In this season of Lent we are asked to acknowledge the crosses we bear and turn again and again to the redemptive power of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We are asked to be a bit more disciplined in our spiritual lives in such things as "prayer, penitence and fasting, and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (The Book of Common Prayer, p. 265.) This is what we think of with the season of Lent. However, as I wrote last month, the word "lent" refers not to discipline but to spring and a lengthening of days. With daylight savings time now beginning in mid-March, the lengthening of days and natural cycle of spring meshes wonderfully with our spiritual season. We may well find that our Lenten disciplines of turning to God serve as harbingers of new and restored life for ourselves and community.



It is our hope that our mild winter is not a foretelling of a wet spring or cold summer. We don't have that extra sensory gene that can predict the future, so we persevere, showing our bloom and slowing down when necessary, always in risen life.

- Fr. Andrew

From the Music Director

**Evensong and
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Sunday, March 4, 5:00 PM
with settings by
W. Byrd, S. S. Wesley**

March 4, Sunday at 5 pm -Choral Evensong will feature a setting of the canticles by William Byrd, the greatest of the Elizabethan composers; and Samuel Sebastian Wesley's large-scale anthem "Blessed be the God and Father", a mid-19th century gem. Please join us for this serene musical service; a reception follows.

**Organ Recital
with John (Jack) Russell
Organist, Christ Church, Hamilton
Sunday, March 18, 5:00 PM**

John Russell is Professor Emeritus of Music at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. He received his undergraduate training at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music as an organ major, studying with Haskell Thomson. From 1974 through May, 2008 he taught organ and music theory, in addition to his work with choral

groups at Wooster. As Music Director and Conductor of The Wooster Chorus, Mr. Russell made 29 annual concert tours including concerts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City, as well as throughout the United States, from New England to California and the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Russell has concertized widely having presented recitals at the Busch-Reisinger Museum at Harvard University, Methuen Memorial Music Hall, Middlebury College, Kenyan College and at numerous churches in the Midwest and in eastern United States. Mr. Russell is currently Organist and Director of Music at Christ Church of Hamilton & Wenham .



The program, entitled, "Bach and Friends," will include works a chaconne by Buxtehude, sonatas by Mendelssohn and Paul Hindemith, plus two choral preludes and a passacaglia by Johann Sebastian Bach.

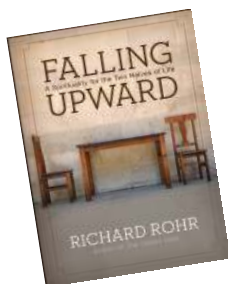
Suggested Donation - \$10 at the door - a reception follows, all are welcome .

- Douglas Major, Music Director

Lenten Programs

A Dialogue with Our Rectors

**A Lenten Discussion of
Falling Upward by Richard Rohr
with the Rev. Andrew Stoessel of St. Michael's
and the Rev. Clyde Elledge of St. Andrew's**



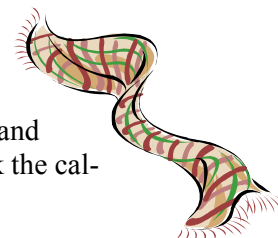
All are welcome.
Come to one, come to all.
**Wednesday evenings in Lent
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.**

March 7 at St. Michael's
March 14 at St. Andrew's
March 21 at St. Michael's
March 28 at St. Andrew's

A light supper is provided at 6:30 pm, followed by a presentation and discussion. The Church of St. Andrew is located at 135 Lafayette Street, Marblehead

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is now meeting Monday mornings at 11 am and Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. Check the calendar here and on the web for dates.



NOTICE

**St. Michael's Parish Office,
Parish Hall and Sanctuary
will be closed
Monday & Tuesday, March 12 & 13
while insulation is being installed.
The Thrift Shop will be open
and accessible from Pleasant Street.**

Church School - Aileen Ryder

Church School

Church School meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. Students in pre-K-1st grade use Godly Play. Weaving God's Promises is for students in grades 2-5.

The Supper Club

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

March Highlights

Children's Chapel Everyone is welcome to join with the Church School for this short Lenten worship service on Sunday March 4 at 9:30am. We gather at the altar in the parish hall.

Youth Service Trip Monday, March 5 members of The Supper Club will be serving dinner at Lifebridge in Salem.

All-Ages Movie Night Friday March 16 we will gather to watch a movie that is appropriate for Children and Youth of all ages. We will watch *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.



The Christian Story through Film

The stories of our faith are important to us. The stories teaches about who God is, who we are, and how we can worship God together. We find the most sacred of these stories in the Bible... the Words of God written down and placed together in one book. We have gotten so used to this book, that we can forget at times how powerful the stories of the Bible truly are. How can we recapture their strength, breath life into the stories? Artists have been doing this for centuries...murals, stained glass, sculpture and Christian architecture all try to tell our faith story. This month the church school and youth will be turning to film to examine the stories of our faith.

Everyone is invited to a children's movie night viewing of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. Meanwhile, the youth will be exploring the story of our faith community as they make a film. Their inspiration for their film is the experience of an acolyte. As they work on this, they challenge us all to consider the importance of a youth in our Sunday worship. How do they enrich our community?



Church School Calendar

Date	Special Event	Youth	Godly Play	Weaving God's Promises
Sunday, March 4	Children's Chapel		The Circle of the Church Year & The Mystery of Easter	Jesus' Hour Has Come: He prepares his Disciples for he Last Supper
Monday, March 5	Youth Service Trip 4-7pm	Serve dinner at Lifebridge		
Sunday, March 11			Baptism	Jesus' Arrest, Trial & Death
Tuesday, March 13		Supper Club: "Why should I pray when God doesn't Answer all my prayers?"		
Friday, March 16	All-Ages Movie Night 6-8pm			
Sunday, March 18			The Exodus	Abraham & Sarah Receive God's Promise
Sunday, March 25			The Ten Best Ways	Jacob & Esau
Tuesday, March 27		Supper Club: "If Jesus was God why did he have to die?"		

Parish Aid Society—'Helpers of the Joy' and 'Succorers of Many'

At a meeting of the Wardens & Vestry of St Michael's Parish, held on Friday afternoon, Jany. 19th, 1844, ... it was voted that the Ladies of the Parish, agreeable their request, have liberty to erect a building on the land belonging to the Church and it be connected with it, for a Vestry and Lecture room—*St. Michael's Vestry Records*

"These noble christen ladies continued their labors and by organizing in due time the present "Parish Aid Society," have ever since, by their successors, been "helpers of the joy" of the ministers of the parish and also in the care of the sick and the poor, like those pious women whom St. Paul commended to the church in Rome, "Succorers of Many." -The Rev. John W. Leeks, *Historical Sermon*: preached... September 29, 1872.

The oldest records of the Parish Aid Society in our archives begin in January 1860 with a record of donations: mittens, lamplighters, sheets, pillowcases, infants caps, flannel shirts and later soldiers' slippers, shirts and socks. There are also assessments of 10c a month or \$1.20 a year. Outlays include yarn, cloth and monies for the rector's salary, \$20/month in 1862.

Groups met weekly in people's homes with larger monthly events. Lenten meetings were devoted to making and gathering items for various missions sponsored by the Diocesan Auxiliary for Missions, but in 1899 they were proud that they had also been able to answer calls for assistance to poorer parishes, schools and families in the area..

Annual meeting reports indicate that the Society held cake sales, summer sales (the last Thursday in July), teas and an Easter sale which was later given over to St. Catherine's Guild, "a younger society" which Parish Aid helped launch in the 1890's. There were 24 members in 1860 and 96 in 1899, after St. Catherine's had been formed. By then men had joined the group: "Gentlemen are cordially invited to give us their money if not their society—though we would be very glad of both." (1899 Parish Aid report)

The Parish Aid Society continued helping younger members of the Church in the 20th century. At Christmas in 1939 a gift was sent to Dorothy Fogg (Dorothy Miles) who was studying in Marburg, Germany. In 1941 when a local boy, Harry Gallison Trefry, was ordained a Deacon, Parish Aid made a hand-embroidered Stole for him. In the 1940's packages of food and clothing were sent to the Rev. Joseph Bessom O.H.C. (also ordained as a Deacon at St. Michael's) to help in his work in the Holy Cross Mission in Liberia, Africa.



Appleton Window given in memory of Maria Appleton, president of Parish Aid Society at the time of her death in 1885.

Monthly Fellowship

Parish Aid Luncheon

Tuesday, March 20
12:00 Noon

St. Catherine's Guild

Thursday, March 1, 6:30 p.m.

Father Andrew spoke of his 2010 sabbatical and on Celtic Christianity

Thursday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.

Helen Marie Casey on
Florence Hosmer's Achievement

Both of these men died in 1965. In 1946 the Society gave a gift of money to Miss Marion Carey entering St. Margaret's Convent in Boston. The Parish Aid sends her a personal check at Christmas, and money to the convent for Haiti.

And the Society continues to help St. Michael's. If you are in the church kitchen making coffee, you will notice the

name of Ruth Holbrook go across the little screen. Ruth Holbrook was the latest of many who have left money to Parish Aid. The Society voted to use the money to renovate the kitchen in 2008. This is just the latest of many donations to the church to build, furnish, renovate and maintain parish halls in 1893 and 1964, and in 1955 to buy the Gershwin property abutting the rear of the church and church yard, later called the Murray House in memory of the Rev. Roy I. Murray, rector 1933-1947.

Today Parish Aid members meet at noon on the third Tuesday of the month to have lunch and socialize. Take a break and join a group of friendly folks. Singles and couples are welcome. Dues are still \$1.20 a year. Bring your own sandwich and for \$1.00 a committee provides dessert, chips, cheese curls, pickles, coffee or tea.

—from Martha Gorman
and Frances Nilsson

Steward of the Month—Sue Cool

An ongoing series profiling parishioners who contribute their time, talent and treasure at St. Michael's.

"It was one of those chemistry things," Sue Cool says of her joining St. Michael's about four years ago. A cradle Episcopalian, she was checking out the local parishes when Jenny Armini invited her to come to St. Michael's. "Something just felt right even though the service was different than I was used to," she says. She remembers talking at the coffee hour with Connie Denault, who made her feel at home.

And she has been busy at church ever since. She just finished a term on the Vestry. She serves on the Education Committee as well as co-chairing Pastoral Care. On Sundays you will often see Sue teaching Sunday school.

The Potluck Suppers are her favorite activity at St. Michael's. "I enjoy the fellowship of the other families, sharing a common bond," she says.

She and her husband Chris have an 8 year-old daughter, Patsy, who is a second grader at the Glover school. Patsy loves school, dance, painting at the Acorn Gallery, and Brownies. Sue says Patsy also loves church with its community feeling of extended family.

Sue currently enjoys being a substitute teacher in the Marblehead elementary schools. In the past she worked for 18 years in student travel for a company in Boston. She managed their toll-free call center and later managed their website. When the company was bought out, she went into real estate until a move to Florida. Perhaps the job she loved most, though, was being part of the hut crews for the Appalachian Mountain Club in New Hampshire during her college summers. "When I returned in September to St. Lawrence University, I couldn't wait for the next summer," she says.



Sue, Patsy and Chris Cool at the Grand Canyon.

Her husband Chris works in technology for a Boston investment firm. As a family, they are getting back into skiing now that Patsy is showing an interest. Chris and Sue also like to golf and of course they all enjoy the beach come summer.

"For me, with no family nearby, St. Michael's is like family. We will always find support here," Sue says.

- Marilyn Day

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.

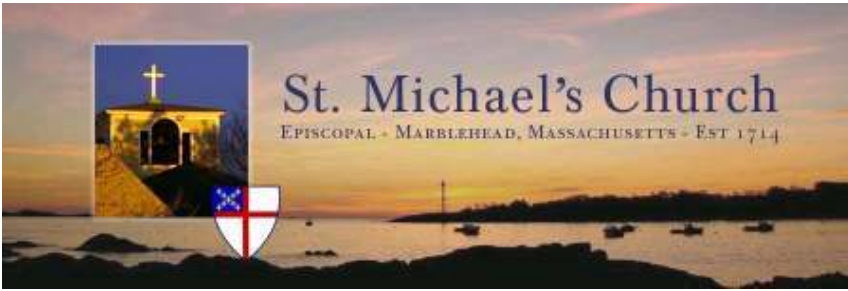


Thrift Shop Winter Sale 50% Off

on winter merchandise

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

Now welcoming spring clothing
& merchandise



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

Phone: 781/631-0657
Fax: 781/639-2866
E-mail: office@stmichaels1714.org
www.stmichaels1714.org

**Bach and Friends
An Organ Recital with
John "Jack" Russell**

Sunday, March 18, 5:00 PM

The program includes
works of J. S. Bach plus
Buxtehude, Mendelssohn and Hindemith.

A Dialogue with Our Rectors

**A Lenten Discussion of
Falling Upward by Richard Rohr
All are Welcome!**

**Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00 pm
March 7 & 21 at St. Michael's
March 14 & 28 at St. Andrew's**

St. Michael's Church

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

Vestry: *Melissa Amberik*, *Jenny Armini*, *Lynn Bragdon*, *Stephen Clay*, *Ian Hunter*, *Karin McCarthy*, *Joe Oliveira*, *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 & Youth Director, *Jane Maihos*, Parish Administrator; *Jennifer Hill*, Sexton.

Saint Michael's Church

March 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Office Hours Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am – 12:00 pm		Thrift Shop Winter Hours Tues. – Sat. 1:00 – 4:00 pm		1) 1:00 Marblehead Ministerial Association Lunch 6:00 pm St. Catherine's 7:30 pm Adult Choir	2)	3) 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Vestry Retreat, Church of the Holy Name, Swampscott
4) LENT 2 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Children's Chapel 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:45 am Outreach Committee 5:00 pm Choral Evensong & Benediction	5) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00 – 7:00 pm St. Michael's Youth, Life-bridge, Salem	6) 5:00 pm St. Michael's Team, My Brother's Table, Lynn 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl 7:30 pm Property Committee	7) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Lenten Program, St. Michael's 8:00 pm AA Meeting Downstairs	8) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	9)	10) 11:00 am St. Michael's Team Lifebridge, Salem TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
11) LENT 3 Daylight Savings Time Begins 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	12) Church Office Closed for Insulation	13) Church Office Closed for Insulation 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Wardens'	14) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 12:30 pm North Shore Clericus at St. Michael's 6:30 pm Lenten Program at St. Andrew's 8:00 pm AA Meeting	15) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	16) 5:30 - 8:00pm Family Movie Night	17)
18) LENT 4 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Organ Recital – John Russell	19)	20) 12:00 pm Parish Aid 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	21) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Lenten Program, St. Michael's 8:00 pm AA Meeting Downstairs	22) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	23)	24)
25) LENT 5 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	26) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	27) 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club	28) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Lenten Program at St. Andrew's 8:00 pm AA Meeting	29) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	30)	31)