



St. Michael's Newsletter

From the Rector

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March 5, 6:30 pm
- Parish Aid & Friends
March 17, noon

“Free snow! Please take!” “Whoever is praying for snow, please stop!” These are two of the many signs I’ve seen in photos sent via email, posted on Facebook and in newspapers commenting this year’s snow. One of my favorites was a picture of a snowman hitch-hiking on the side of a road holding a cardboard sign that read, “FLORIDA.” To the best of my knowledge, no one has hoped or prayed for a “white Easter.” We may just have one.

A few years ago I wrote in this newsletter about the word “subnivean.” It refers to life that takes place under the snow. This winter, it seems we have joined even more intimately with the rest of creation in New England in subnivean life!

The record amount of snow this year has been more of a concern and disruption than in past years. Commuter rail has shut down, streets have been narrower and sidewalks mostly non-existent. School cancelations and travel restrictions have had an impact on home life and the economy, not to mention the concern about roofs and ice-dams. Church services have been canceled, too. It all has been stressful on young and old alike. Still, we carry on, under, alongside and on top of the snow. Life continues to percolate. The good news is that the days indeed

lengthen. Soon clocks will turn back to Daylight Savings time (Sunday, March 8, 2:00 a.m.), and the spring arrives with the Vernal Equinox (March 20). Hard to imagine, but piles and banks of snow will diminish and disappear. There is hope, there is life, and there is grace abundant. We prepare and make ready for the season ahead, muddy as it may be this year!

The season of Lent is a time of preparation for the glory of resurrected life centered in God’s love for all of creation. The season concludes with the poignant liturgies of Holy

Subnivean Life

Week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 29. In addition to the Liturgy of the Palms and a reading of the Passion of Christ, St. Michael’s will celebrate “First Communion” at the 10:00 service for a number of children. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday lead us into the joy of the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve, and Easter Sunday – the Sunday of the Resurrection – from which we are set forth again in the light and love of God in Christ. The hardship and struggles of human existence are lifted with Christ. “By him and with him and in him,” we move forward in new light and renewed life.

Please join us for Holy Week services as noted on page 2. Meanwhile, I join with your prayers for no more snow! .

—Fr. Andrew.

Worship & Music

Evensong & Benediction Sunday, March 1 at 5:00 pm

The St. Michael's Choir is itching to sing, having missed three Sundays in a row! On March 1st, please join us for Choral Evensong at 5 pm, with the Choir singing music by Thomas Tallis, The Dorian Service, 'Wash me thoroughly' by S. S. Wesley, Psalm 12 by Herbert Howells and organ works by Davies and J. S. Bach. There follows a reception in the Parish Hall and all are invited.

Organ Recital: Brian Jones Sunday, March 15 at 5:00 pm

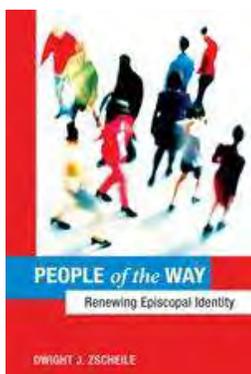
March 15th at 5 pm brings us Brian Jones, well-know Boston organist and conductor in our recital series. Brian always chooses a fun program and he's done it again. Here's the lineup: Fantasia and Fugue in C Minor - C.P.E.Bach; Four Noble Gases - Daniel Gawthrop, a Washington DC friend of mine; Prelude and Fugue in D Minor and Prelude and Fugue in A minor - J. S. Bach, and works by Ravel, Read and Arndt. Come experience the sheer beauty of our Fisk organ in the hands of a master player. Suggested donation is \$10; a reception follows in the Parish Hall.



Both the Youth Choir and the St. Michael's Choir are looking forward to singing the beautiful music of Holy Week, beginning March 29th. The hymns and anthems of this rich repertoire spanning 500 years always give insight to and magnify the story of the Passion. May we all have a blessed Lent and Holy Week.

— Doug Major, Music Director

Lenten Program Wednesdays at 6:30 PM



Come on Wednesday evenings for a light supper of soup and bread as we discuss Dwight Zscheile's book *People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity*. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian? How do we reach out to others beyond our doors? If you would like a copy of the book, please notify Father Andrew or the church office.



Easter Memorial Flower List

If you wish to have an Easter flower in memory of a loved one, please submit their name(s) by Monday, March 23rd. The flowers are displayed for Easter and the list of names is included in the Easter Vigil and Easter Day bulletins. The suggested donation per listed name is \$20. The flowers may be taken home following the 10:00 service Easter Sunday. Children are especially invited to take a smaller flower.

- Anne Foster, Altar Guild Director

HOLY WEEK 2015

MARCH 29 PALM SUNDAY

8:00 am Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 am Blessing of the Palms & Holy Eucharist, Rite II and First Communion

APRIL 1 WEDNESDAY

9:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II

APRIL 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II Stripping of the Altar, Begin Prayer Watch

APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY

Prayer Watch Continues
12:30 pm Simple Lunch for Children, Families & Friends
1:15 pm Stations of the Cross
7:30 pm Solemn Good Friday Liturgy: Sung Passion of St. John with Eucharist from Reserved Sacrament

APRIL 4 HOLY SATURDAY

9:00 am Holy Saturday Liturgy (brief liturgy of the Word)
7:30 pm The Great Vigil, Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and First Eucharist of Easter

APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 am Feast of the Resurrection— Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am Feast of the Resurrection— Holy Eucharist, Rite II

No Evensong this April

Church School & Youth



Our Seminarian, Eric Fialho, meets with some members of Church School for Children's Chapel.

Church School in February

Church School used a one-room school house model, as we learned about the life of some "Easter People". These are people who although not considered "Saints," have lived their lives pursuing justice and freedom with the help of God. Some of these Easter people include, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr., Amelia Bloomer, and John Newton. We have also worked hard to learn a new song this month, "Amazing Grace", written by John Newton, a former slave trader who had an epiphany and dedicated the remainder of his life to God.

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!

Please consider volunteering, and sign up on the St. Michael's Sign-Up Genius or contact Kelley at kelley@stmichaels1714.org

Church School Outreach

Once again St. Michael's Parish participated in the Superbowl of Caring which is a national effort on Super Bowl Sunday to raise funds and foods for the less fortunate. On behalf of St. Michael's, the youth of our parish collected canned goods and money on February 1st to donate locally to the Marblehead Food Pantry. Thank you so much for all of your donations! Even though it was a snowy Sunday we had an incredible response and collected \$401 and 280 food items! Our group was even featured in an article in the February 12th edition of the Marblehead Reporter.

Outreach Opportunity

We currently have a donation box in the Parish Hall where we are collecting gloves, hats, scarves, and toiletries to give to Sister Linda Bessom of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless to distribute to the families she serves. We also welcome CVS gift cards which can be left in the church office and labeled "for Sister Linda".

Sister Linda will be coming to St. Michael's Church on March 8th to speak to us following the 10 o'clock service. She will talk about service projects including the 'A Bed for Every Child Initiative' that provides beds to children who have transitioned from homelessness to a home of their own. Many of these children grow up never having a bed of their own. She will also speak about her work to update and strengthen the state funded program EAEDC, Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children. Following her talk we will present her with our donation box. Please come to hear her thoughts on outreach!

Participating in the donation collection and listening to Sister Linda are great ways to begin the season of Lent, we hope you will join us!

March Highlights

We will begin the month with a Children's Chapel service on March 1st at 9:30am featuring a visit from our Seminarian Eric Fialho who will act as officiant. Church school will follow.

In March we will go back to the two classroom model and will prepare the children for the coming of Easter with stories about the Last Supper, Jesus' death on the cross, and the Mystery of Easter.

We are also looking forward to some of our Lenten annual traditions including pretzel making and weaving Palm crosses. We hope that you will participate with us!



Church School continued and Parish Outreach

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 5, 12, 19, and 26, and will celebrate First Communion on Palm Sunday, March 29th at 10 am.

Please sign up for this class at either vajs@stmichaels1714.org or kelley@stmichaels1714.org.

-Kelley Howells.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

March Ongoing

- Church School Volunteers Sign-up
- Donations being collected for the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless

- March 1 Children's Chapel 9:30 followed by Church School
- March 5 First Communion Group 3:30-4:30
- March 8 Church School, and Outreach talk by Sister Linda Bessom at coffee hour
- March 9 Supper Club
- March 12 First Communion Group 3:30-4:30
- March 15 Church School
- March 19 First Communion Group 3:30-4:30
- March 22 Church School

March 26 First Communion Group 3:30-4:30

HOLY WEEK

- March 29 Palm Sunday, Church School 9:30, and First Holy Communion
- April 2 Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm -Youth Choir to Sing
- April 3 Good Friday, 12:30pm light lunch-RSVP kelley@stmichaels1714.org, 1:15pm Stations of the Cross; 7:30pm service
- April 4 Easter Vigil 7:30pm
- April 5 Easter Sunday - No Church School 9:30am Child Care
- April 7 Supper Club

March 8th: Sister Linda Bessom to Visit



**MASSACHUSETTS
COALITION
FOR THE HOMELESS**

In our continuing effort to promote local outreach we are pleased to have Sister Linda Bessom speak to us after the 10 am service on March 8th. Sister Linda is the Outreach Coordinator and Senior Community Organizer for the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. She will speak to us about her current activities to update and strengthen the state funded program EAEDC, Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled and Children.

She will also talk about service projects such as 'A Bed for Every Child Initiative' that provides beds to children who have transitioned from homelessness to a home of their own. Many of these children grow up with never having a bed of their own.

Donate Toiletries, Gloves, Hats and Scarves

We have a donation box outside the Parish Hall for toiletries, gloves, hats and scarves. Please help fill this box so we can present Sister Linda with a generous donation for homeless families. Also CVS gift cards are welcomed and should be left in the church office with Jane and labeled 'for Sister Linda'.

In addition to being a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Sister Linda received her MA in Theological Studies from Maryknoll School of Theology in Ossining, NY and a BA in Elementary Education from Emmanuel College, Boston. She was the 2003 Bishop Arnold Award recipient from Episcopal City Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and 2003 award from the Shelter Legal Services Foundation for her work in advocating for people who are homeless.

Invite your friends and bring your older children to this Lenten presentation. Hear how we can help as a community those less fortunate outside our back doors!

-Outreach Committee

Edward Ballard, Rector, 1848-1851



The Rev. Edward Ballard, c.1860. Photo from the Pejepscot Historical Society via mainememoryproject.net

After the resignation of The Rev. N.P. Tillinghast in October 1847, services at St. Michael's were lead by supply priests until The Rev. Edward Ballard was called. Ballard 'entered his duties' the Sunday after Easter in 1848.

Edward Ballard (1804-1870) was born in Hopkinton, NH and graduate from General Theological Seminary in NY in 1829. Shortly after he was ordained a deacon in NY and received into the priesthood in his hometown by Bishop Griswold in 1830.

Ballard served churches in NH and Vermont before moving to Pittsfield, Mass. On December 7th, 1832 the new stone church of St. Stephen's, Pittsfield was consecrated and Ballard was installed as their rector. The next year Ballard married Sarah Ludlow Morris. They had 3 daughters although only one survived. Ballard was well-loved at St. Stephen's but had hard shoes to fill. Then in 1847 Sarah died and Ballard moved on to Marblehead the spring.

In St. Michael's parochial report to the Diocese, Ballard reports in 1849 that "The Ladies Sewing Society continues its useful labors; and through the activity of its members,

aided by the liberality of the members of the parish, the Church has been supplied with a set of beautiful lamps." The bishop notes that "The church is now thoroughly and beautifully lighted on occasions of evening service." Services are held on Sunday evenings and on evenings during Lent and the Easter season along with Friday night lectures on Missions. And in 1849 Ballard marries Elizabeth M. Cutter in Pine Point, Maine.

Ballard had several good years in Marblehead with the Sunday School Scholars increasing from 83 to over 100. Then in 1851 he resigned to take a position as Headmaster of The Episcopal Academy in Cheshire, Connecticut. These were not easy years at the Academy, but when Ballard left in 1857 Cheshire was already beginning to take in students with 27 Cuban students enrolled that fall. It is at Ballard's next position at St. Paul's in Brunswick, Maine that he finds his true niche as minister, historian and specialist on Native American language.

Encouraged by professors at Bowdoin College Ballard began researching and publishing works on the "Indian Mode of Applying names," "Character of the Penacocks", and "Geographical Names on the Coast of Maine", and the *Memorial Volume of the Popham Celebration*, and receiving honorary degrees from Bowdoin and Trinity colleges. At his sudden death in 1870 at age 65 he was Secretary of the Maine Historical Society and member of many other organizations.

- Frances Stith Nilsson



March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2ND SUNDAY IN LENT 1 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Children's Chapel 9:30 am Child Care 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Evensong	2 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	3 5:00 pm My Brother's Table, Lynn	4 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 6:30 pm Soup/Lent Program 8:00 pm AA	5 3:30 pm First Communion 4:45 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm St. Catherine's 7:30 pm Adult Choir	6	7 Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, Spring Forward One Hour.
3RD SUNDAY IN LENT 8 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 9:30 am Child Care 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Sister Linda Bessom on Homeless	9 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Supper Club	10	11 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 6:30 pm Soup/Lent Program 8:00 pm AA	12 8:30 am Wardens 3:30 pm First Communion 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	13	14 9:00 am Vestry Retreat at Holy Name, Swampscott 10:00 am St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge*
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT 15 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Historic Church 9:30 am Church School 9:30 am Child Care 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Organ Recital: Brian Jones	16 11 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6 pm Deanery Trinity Topfield 7 pm Prayer Beads Crafts	17 Noon Parish Aid & Friend 7:00 pm Vestry	18 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 6:30 pm Soup/Lent Program 8:00 pm AA	19 3:30 pm First Communion 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
5TH SUNDAY IN LENT 22 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 9:30 am Child Care 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	23 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	24	25 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 6:30 pm Soup/Lent Program 8:00 pm AA	26 3:30 pm First Communion 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	27	28
PALM SUNDAY 29 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 9:30 am Child Care 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	30 10:00 am AA 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	31	APRIL 1 9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff ~ 8:00 pm AA	MAUNDY THURSDAY 2 7:30 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II, Stripping of the Altar, Begin Prayer Watch	GOOD FRIDAY 3 12:30 pm Light Lunch 1:15 pm Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm Good Friday Liturgy	HOLY SATURDAY 4 9:00 am Liturgy of the Word 7:30 pm Easter Vigil

*St. Michael's Lifebridge Co-Captains this month are Pam Oppelt & Valerie Wyckoff

March 16—a Lenten Craft Day

The use of prayer beads is a practice common to many religions — Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Bahai. The beads are used to help one focus and then count repeated prayers. The word 'bead' comes from the early English word 'bede' or prayer. Later the word was transferred to the round objects on a string used to count prayers. In the 1980s an Episcopal priest created a 33-bead design specifically for Anglican prayer. In contrast the Roman Catholic rosary usually has 54 beads.

The 33 beads represent the 33 years of Christ's life, 4 of which form a cross and can also represent the 4 compass points of the earth. A 5th bead next to the cross is the Invitatory, an invitation to prayer, similar to an opening collect. The Cruciform bead divide the remain 28



beads into four Weeks of 7 beads. A heart representing God's love may also be added.

On Monday, March 16, parishioners are invited to participate in a prayer bead workshop lead by Valerie Wyckoff, Pat Spaberg, Frances Nilsson and others. We will be making prayer beads for the Heart of Christmas Fair but each participant will receive instructions for making additional ones, or can donate to keep what they have made. There will also be materials on using prayer beads.

Please RSVP to Frances Nilsson or Pat Spaberg so we have enough supplies. A sign-up sheet will also be available in the Parish Hall lobby.

Image from the Kingofpeace.org/prayerbeads.htm & a good source for more information.

March Gatherings

Walt Haug at St. Catherine's Guild Thursday, March 5 at 6:30 pm

St. Catherine's Guild will hold their next dinner meeting on Thursday, March 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Walter Haug will be our guest speaker and will talk to us about the history of Glover's Regiment.

Guests (both male and female) are invited to attend, but are requested to contact Deirdre Robbins, Chairman, by March 3rd to make a reservation. Guests can attend dinner for a cost of \$4.00 per person, or attend the lecture only (at approximately 7:15 p.m.). Dinner will consist of meat and vegetable lasagna, salad, garlic bread, with cookies for dessert.

- Pam Oppelt, President.

Parish Aid Society & Friends All Are Welcome—Members & Not!

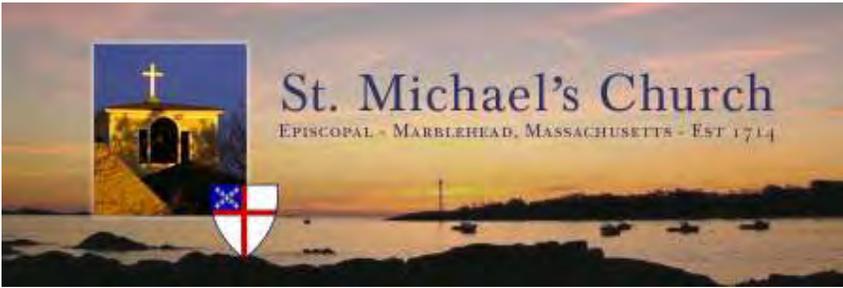
March 17 at noon
St. Michael's Parish Hall
Please bring a sandwich and yourself!
We will provide a cup of soup, dessert,
tea and coffee.

All are welcome to participate in an informal lunch and fellowship on the third Tuesday of the month.



Walt Haug (right), member of Glover's Regiment, and David Day, member of the Sons of the American Revolution, prepare for the July 4th noon-time march to ring St. Michael's bell for Independence Day.

Photo by Crystal Nilsson.



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March 1, 5 pm
Sunday Evensong and
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
Music of Tallis, S.S. Wesley, Howells & more

March 15, 5 pm
Organ Recital
Brian Jones
C.P.E. & J.S. Bach, Ravel, Gawthorp & more

March 8, 2015
after the 10 am Service
Sister Linda Bessom
On homelessness in Massachusetts

Bring donations
of toiletries, gloves, hats, scarves
and CVS gift cards
for the Massachusetts Coalition
for the Homeless.

St. Michael's Church

Officers: Stephen Clay, Sr. Warden; Karin McCarthy, Jr. Warden; Sue Cool, Clerk; James Dearborn, Treasurer;
Diane Christian, Asst. Treasurer.

Vestry: Sarah Bates, Kelley Callahan, Brian Carlson, Zavier Chickering, Jennifer Davis-Oliveira, Ellie Doyle, Rory Gaunt,
Justin Hintlian, Robert L. Howie, Jr.

Delegates for Convention: Brian Fizer, Denise Shea. **Deanery Delegates:** Brian Fizer, 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.