



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

From the Rector: Movements of the Spirit

On May 11 St. Michael's celebrated with the larger Christian church the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost is often referred to as the "church's birthday." It is the day the church celebrates the infusion of the Holy Spirit to the disciples that they may carry forward the ministry and message of Jesus. St. Michael's, along with the wider church, is now entrusted with this ministry. As in the early church, today's disciples are asked to do so "not only with our lips, but in our lives."

The movements of the Spirit bring us into new situations which require new ways of seeing and doing things. While exciting on the one hand, this can be challenging on the other. It often causes a shift in the status quo. We need only look at rising oil prices, the global and local economy, and renewed and heightened concern for the environment to realize that new challenges are at hand and new responses are required.

The Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church (these small parts of the wider Christian Church) continue to work through new understandings of movements of the Spirit. This summer the bishops of the Anglican Communion gather for the Lambeth Conference in England to pray and reflect on the message and ministry of Jesus in this day and age. This includes a renewed sense and understanding of what it means to be part of the Anglican Community— what unity is—and how the Church carries forward the important work of the gospel.

At St. Michael's, the movements of the Spirit lead the parish into new times as well. In June we will say goodbye to Candace and Forrest Johnson, our Church School and Youth directors, who depart New England for western North Carolina. They have been a joyful and valued part of our parish life to young and old alike. A search has started to find a new Church School and Youth director.

Carolyn (CC) Winder, our parish administrator and bookkeeper, continues to deal with an illness that has kept her out of the office since early January. The church prays for her recovery. Reluctantly but necessary, steps are underway to find a permanent replacement for her position. Please contact the church office if you know of someone you feel would be qualified as parish secretary and/or bookkeeper.

St. Michael's Strategic Planning Committee is meeting regarding a vision and strategic plan for St. Michael's for the years to come. The question of how St. Michael's best carries forward the message and ministry of Jesus to Marblehead and surrounding area is before us. This is exciting and challenging work and will take many months to complete.

The movements of the Spirit are leading St. Michael's to a renewed sense of purpose and mission. The journey may seem daunting at moments. Yet we are mindful of Jesus' words to his disciples, "This is the Spirit of truth...You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." In God's Spirit, we can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

- Fr. Andrew

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Happy May

Birthday to

Trevor Connolly

Elizabeth Russell

Malcolm Renney

Miles Renney

Kaelyn Attridge

Griffin Atkinson

Music

On Sunday, May 11 at 5 pm our Organ Recital Series will present a very talented and musical player, Rosalind Mohnson, in our final concert of the 2007-2008 series. I have been trying to engage this wonderful player for our series for several years, and finally last spring was able to get her on our schedule. She has chosen a wonderful program which will include works by Bach, Langlais, Durufle and her teacher, American composer Myron Roberts. Please join us for what will be fine recital to close our season.

A special thank-you to all who attended my recital at Holy Name Church last month. I hope you enjoyed yourself as much as I did! Enjoy the spring, and "Go, Red Sox"!

Douglas Major, Music Director

Church School

In his book *Teaching Godly Play*, Jerome Berryman speaks of God and the "Church God." God is that nameless power whom everyone has felt in one-way or another. The "Church God" is often masked. He is the one we are told about. We are told that this God is powerful. We are told how to think and feel about this God. We are given a "Mask of God" to know.

God's mask is important. We can be overwhelmed by the limitlessness of God. On the other hand, when God is given a mask to "protect" children we make a mistake. The children already know the terror in the night and that joy beyond words. They cry out already to the God who has no name. A mask held in place by being polite, being quiet, never asking questions, and always saying the right words can block the experience of God. Berryman speaks of his own experience with this, saying:

"In my own life I remember being about five years old and staying with my grandmother. I cried out in the night, "I don't want to die!" Her presence in the dark helped put me in touch with a larger presence, the Power without a name, that enabled me to relax and go to sleep.

About the same time, I came home from Sunday School and proudly announced that 'He eats carrots for me.' I vaguely understood this was something about Jesus. I hated carrots and Jesus did hard things for people. Then I was told that I had made a mistake. The sentence I was supposed to have memorized was, 'He *careth* for me.' That was not understandable or impressive, so I lost interest."

The beauty of Godly Play is that it provides the children with the ability and opportunity to make the connection between God and the "Church God." It allows them to enter the language of the Christian faith in a way that is most meaningful to them, in a way they can understand. It attempts to do away with the "mask of God" that so many of us have unfortunately known. It embraces statements like "He eats carrots for me" by engaging and developing the child's own experiences in their own language.

The children of St. Michaels have had many of their own "carrot" moments. Whether through morning conversations attempting to discern if Jesus lives in the clouds (and why we don't see him when we fly in airplanes) or through brilliant art interpretations of the morning's story, the children here are beginning to make the connection between God and the "Church God." It is so very exciting to watch!

Candace Johnson

<i>Date</i>	<i>K-2</i>	<i>3-5</i>
<i>June 1st</i>	<i>Children's Chapel</i>	<i>Paul's Discovery</i>
<i>June 8th</i>	<i>Books of the Bible</i>	<i>Holy Trinity</i>

Youth—Rite 13: Over \$1,000 Raised for Nets for Life!

The Rite 13 Youth thank St. Michael's—parents, youth and children—for generously donating towards "Nets for Life." Through the Hunger Simulation and a Lenten collection by the church school, St. Michael's Youth and Children raised **\$1,100** for the Nets for Life program sponsored by Episcopal Relief and Development. This program provides mosquito nets for people in Africa to combat malaria.

Forrest Johnson

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Group Feeds People

Do you know that St. Michael's has group of really good cooks who enjoy preparing easy, warm-up meals for their fellow parishioners? It's true, the group exists! Perhaps you know of a parishioner who is recovering from surgery, or there has been an illness or death in the family, or you know of a recent birth. If so, we're glad to provide them with a meal. If you know of a parishioner who would benefit from this service, please call, e-mail or speak to Sue Cool, 781-990-1445, suecool2002@yahoo.com or Pat Spaberg, 781-631-3181, patspaberg.travel@comcast.net.

And if you are occasionally available to prepare a casserole please join our group. We would love to have your help.

Pastoral Care Group Provides Rides

This is a little known fact but we have a small group of dedicated drivers who are willing to pick up and deliver parishioners to Church (and bring them home!). If you know of someone who could use this service, please call or email Sue or Pat. The drivers do need advance notice. Thanks so much. Please give us a call or -email.

Lay Eucharist Ministers, Lay Readers, Ushers, Altar Guild members needed!

Have you ever felt drawn to serve as a Lay Eucharist Minister (helping to administer the chalice), or as Lector (reading one of the lessons during the service), or as an usher (seating and directing people, taking the collection), or helping to prepare the church for worship as a member of the Altar Guild? St. Michael's is in need of additional people to serve in these ministries. Training is provided! Please see or contact Fr. Andrew.

A Few Reminders....

Add Your Story to the Time Line

Have you added your stories of St. Michael's to the Time Line? Don't worry about precise dates. We want your memories – events, people, programs, activities – that have meant the most to you. Fill up the wall before Bishop Gayle Harris's visit on Sunday, May 4th. –

from the Strategic Planning and Historic Church Committees



Please Let Us Know!

Please let us know if you, a relative or friend is in the hospital and would appreciate a visit or being included on the St. Michael's Prayer List.

Because of a Federal "Privacy" law, there is no way for the clergy at St. Michael's to know that you are hospitalized unless we are informed. We need to know your name exactly as it is given to the hospital, and the name of the hospital and your room number, if possible.

If unable to let us know yourself, please have a relative or friend call the church office to make sure your information gets onto our Prayer List, should you desire.

Families and Youth: Young and Old "The Food Project" - Preparing Fields

May 31, 9:30-12:30 in Beverly (Long Hill)

Sponsored by the North Shore Deanery

Sign-up in Parish Hall (or speak to Forrest Johnson)

Thought for the day:

Start each day with a smile;

You may not feel like it later.

(from an always smiling parishioner)

Haskell Memorial Ascension Window

‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

- Acts of the Apostles 1:8-9

The Ascension window reminds us of the messages of the late Easter season and Pentecost. Jesus is shown with arms raised above the clouds with light radiating from him. Above him the Dove of the Holy Spirit is descending, reminding us of Pentecost ahead, and holding an olive branch, a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Radiating from the Dove are stylized peacock feathers, often used as a sign of immortality. There was a myth that a peacock's flesh did not decay. A peacock was also an early symbol of resurrection as each of its new feathers is more brilliant than the one shed.

The lower part of each window speaks particularly of our role in the church.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. -John 15:5

Note the brown woody vine with the root at the bottom and the greener branches. The square with the four rays reminds us to spread the news “to the ends of the earth.”

The scripture passage in the window is a modified version of Proverbs 31:28, part of the passage on Praise of a Good Woman, Proverbs 31:10-31.

10 Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies. ...



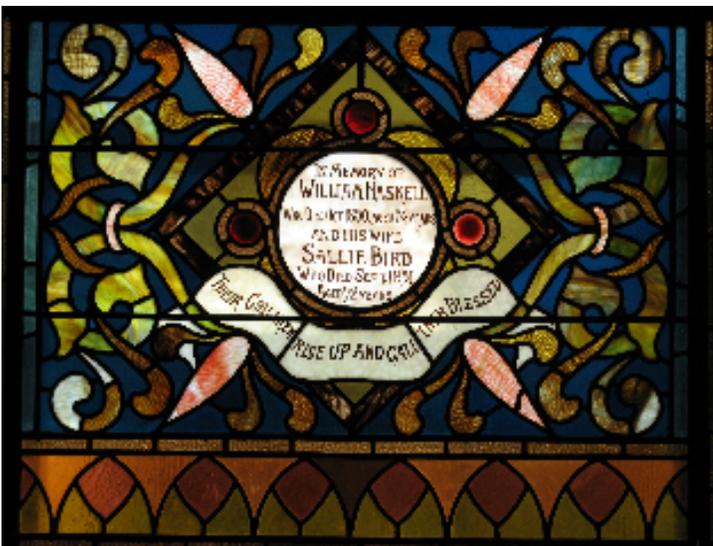
28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

If we look at the entire passage we must wonder how much applied to William Haskell and Sallie Bird. William was son of Mary (Prentiss) and Thomas Haskell, a master mariner and ship owner. William was first married in 1818 to Joanna Evans, sister of Thomas Evans who is remembered in our St. Michael's window. William and Joanna had two children, William Thomas Haskell and Joanna Evans Haskell, before his wife Joanna died in June 1822. The children were young, so William married Sallie or Sarah Bird in December 1822. William and Sallie had seven children one of whom died young. They were at St. Michael's Church by 1832 when William became a Vestryman and Sally became a communicant. The four older children of William and Sally were all baptized at St. Michael's on July 31, 1834, and the girls were later communicants.

But which children donated the windows? William Thomas Haskell served on the Vestry 1851-57 but died in 1866. One of his daughters married an Episcopal priest William D'Orville Doty. Joanna (Haskell) Knowland died in Feb. 1888 in the midst of the renovations. One of the chancel chairs is given in her name. Four of William and Sallie's daughters—Sally Jane Stevens, Mary Prentiss Evans, Ruth Coombs Brown, and Grace Harriet Haskell—were all doing well. Mary's husband Richard was a nephew of Thomas Evans and also active at St. Michael's.

Frances Stith Nilsson
Historic Church Committee

This is the second of a series of articles on our stained glass windows.



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*Lifelong spiritual guidance
through
service and celebration.*

*Soup and Dessert
Fellowship and nourishment!*

May 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 other's company. Bring a sandwich, if you wish. Please join us!

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

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; Candace Johnson, Church School Director; Forrest Johnson, Youth Coordinator; Carolyn C. Winder, Parish Administrator; Ron St. Pierre, Sexton; Donna Hingston, St. Michael's Nursery School*

Saint Michael's Church

May 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1) ASCENSION DAY 4:45 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II 7:30 pm Adult Choir	2)	3)
4) 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Bishop Gayle Harris visitation)</i> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School Chapel 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Evensong <i>(final one of the year)</i>	5)	6) 2:30 – 4:00 pm Fred Alling - book discussion at St. Andrew's	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 Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	9)	10)
11) THE DAY OF PENTECOST <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Youth Service 5:00 pm Organ Recital Rosalind Mohnson	12)	13) 12:00 pm Soup & Dessert 2:30 – 4:00 pm Fred Alling book club discussion at St. Andrew's	14) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	15) 4:45 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	16)	17)
18) 1ST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST TRINITY SUNDAY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I St Catherine's Guild Corporate Communion & Breakfast 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	19)	20) <i>News Letter Deadline</i> 12:00 pm Parish Aid Luncheon 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	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 Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	23)	24)
25) 2ND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	26) <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>No School</i>	27)	28) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 2:30 pm Lafayette Visitation 8:00 pm AA Meeting	29) 4:45 pm Children's Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	30)	31)