



Photograph by R. Williams

# St. Michael's Newsletter

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May Calendar

*Happy April*

*Birthday to*

Isabella Renney

William T. Hundahl

Hannah Atkinson

Kelsey Pruett

John Capshaw III

Rose H. Clark

Timothy J. Clay

Eroditia A. Suarez

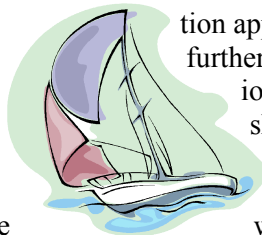
## From the Rector

I have been talking to people about boats recently. With spring in the air and being in Marblehead, this topic is not far from many people's minds. One person told me about his 28' long Pearson sailboat and how solid it is ("stiff" is the more accurate term, I've learned): "I found myself in forty-knot winds one day out on the water. The boat held up fine. However, the crew was a little shaken."

I doubt very much that while wrestling with the forty-knot winds he and his crew had the story of Pentecost in mind.

At the end of May, the church will celebrate the feast of Pentecost. We will hear from the Book of Acts about the disciples being all together in one place when "suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the *rush of violent wind*, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting...all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability."

I can imagine, however, that on the sea in that heavy wind the fellow's senses were heightened and his focus honed. He and his crew likely did not speak in different languages (though some choice words may have been uttered which may not have been said in different company). Obviously they made it back to port just fine. I also imagine their experience empowered them with a new understanding of their skills and abilities, and new perspective of the capability of their vessel.



The Holy Spirit is always present to us, sometimes nearly unperceivable, other times arriving like a forty-knot gust. It empowers the church and its members. It leads its members to new understanding of the grace of God and our response to that grace.

At the Annual Meeting last January, St. Michael's approved a new mission and vision statement. At its March meeting, the Vestry approved objectives to fulfill these statements. They have been reported last month's newsletter and more information appears later in this edition. Moving further into spring and summer, parishioners are being asked to impart their skills and abilities to accomplish these objectives. Some of actions likely will be a honing of things we already do; others may seem very new. The fruits of the work may appear quickly in some cases, and may take longer for others. On top of this work two important events will take place this summer: Moving the Thrift Shop into the Dav- enport House and the Lobster Luncheon over the July 4 weekend.

It may indeed feel like the Spirit is strongly gusting through all of this! From the Letter of the Ephesians comes the passage: "Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." (Ephesians 3:20, 21, Book of Common Prayer, p. 102) May the Holy Spirit continue to comfort, guide, and empower the parishioners and ministries of St. Michael's.

-Fr. Andrew

## From the Music Director - Douglas Major

Two musical events remain in our 2008-2009 season at St. Michael's.

- On Sunday, May 3 at 5 pm we will be having our final Choral Evensong of the year, followed by a reception.
- The Recital Series concludes on May 17 at 5 pm with a wonderful organist and performer, Henry Lowe presenting a recital.

**Henry Lowe's** career spans five decades as a church musician, recitalist, clinician, conductor and teacher and has taken him to many parts of the United States and Europe. He has served parishes in Baltimore, New York City, Hamilton, Massachusetts and Cincinnati, Ohio. Since 1984 he has been Organist/Director of Music at The Church of The Redeemer, Baltimore where he leads choirs of children and adults in weekly rehearsals, liturgies and concerts. He is Instructor in Organ at Towson University.

His program will include works by Clerambault – Second Suite (selected movements), Johann Sebastian Bach – Prelude and Fugue in d Minor (Dorian), Olivier Messiaen – Ascension Day (selected movements), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Fantaisie in F Minor, K. 608, and Dan Locklair – Rubrics.

Please join us for these events, and bring a friend!

- Douglas Major

### Season's Endings

**Choral Evensong**  
**Sunday, May 3**  
**5:00 pm**

**Organ Recital**  
**with Henry Lowe**  
**Sunday, May 17**  
**5:00 pm**

international  
 year of the  
 organ  
 2008-2009

American  
 Guild of  
 Organists



## Nursery School News

*April Showers bring May flowers!*

At St. Michael's Nursery School we say that the seed is planted in our 2 Day Class and our "flowers" bloom as each child learns and develops and moves on to kindergarten. The growth that happens in between always is amazing to watch and it is always our privilege to be a part of that process.

This year is no exception and, as it comes to a close, we'll celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of our students with our annual end of year events that provide opportunities for everyone to join together and share memories and excitement.

As we think about those children who are heading to kindergarten in the fall, we also prepare for our new and returning student who will be joining us in September. With that in mind, we will be hosting an

Open House in the Nursery School classroom on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Please pass along an invitation to anyone who may wish to enroll in our Fall 2009 classes or wish to find out more about our Pre-school Program.



We can always be reached by phone at the Nursery School directly (781-631-7977) and are happy to answer any questions or schedule a visit to tour our school.

Wishing Everyone a happy spring season!

- The Nursery School Staff.

## Church School - Aileen Ryder

### Classroom Musings

The Godly Play curriculum has a few stories that repeat again and again, it allows the students to get to know these stories well, and invites them to enter into and each year to enter more deeply and hear what new lesson God has in the story for them.

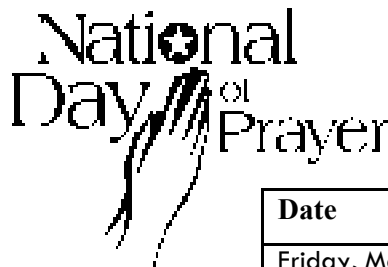
Recently, I was able to use the story of Adam and Eve (entitled "Things fall apart") to talk about the importance of prayer. When Adam and Eve leave the garden, the story relates, "God goes with them to help them be with God in a new way." Well this "new way" includes prayer...all the different ways we reach out to God to be in relationship with our Lord. We have so many ways of praying—liturgy, silence, meditation, etc. The Book of Common Prayer offers us many corporate and individual prayers as excellent guides in our relationship with God.

### Family Prayer Booklet

Fr. Andrew and I have been discussing how to share our rich heritage of prayer with our children.

We now have our own booklet of "prayers for families." This includes prayers appropriate for children of all ages drawn from a variety of sources. There are also several blank pages so that children and families can add their own favorites to this collection. Since creating this publication I have already received some beautiful favorites from families here!

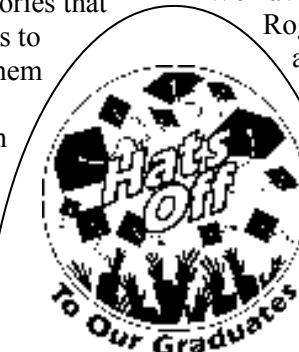
This is a collection for "children of all ages" so that even if you are not in the church school or youth groups, please feel welcome to take a copy home and make it your own. This can be very timely as this month our nation celebrates a "National Day of Prayer," Thursday, May 7.



### Entering the Story

We have the great opportunity to celebrate Rogation Sunday this month. These are special days within the church when we celebrate God's work of creation. The Church School will celebrate Rogation Sunday by planting flowers on the Church grounds. We all have the chance to celebrate this as we process through the grounds praying the Great Litany.

May this be a chance for us all to celebrate the great work of creation in which God invites to take part through the process of planting and tending to all life.



Let us congratulate Erodita Suarez who will be graduating High School. May she know the love and peace of God as she moves forward in her life and may she always know Saint Michael's as her home.

### Youth Groups

Recently we have invited youth from St. Andrew's Church here in Marblehead to join us. We have a series of event coming forward. Perhaps the most special of these events is the "Youth Service" on Mother's Day May 10. Fr. Andrew is working with the Rite-13 youth to help deliver the sermon. Please join us on this special day as the children and youth of this service show their gratitude to this community by taking leadership roles in this special service.



Date	Time	Event/Class
Friday, May 1– Saturday May 2	7pm– 9am	Rite-13 Lock-In
Sunday, May 3	9:30	Godly Play I: Parable of the Good Shepherd Godly Play II: Synagogue & the Upper Room
	12:00	Rite-13: Lunch with Fr. Andrew Planning for Youth Service
Thursday May 7		<b>National Day of Prayer</b>
Sunday, May 10 <b>Mothers Day</b>	10:00	Youth Service No Christian Education Classes
Sunday, May 17 <b>Rogation Sunday</b>	9:30	Church School will be planting flowers, please dress appropriately.
Sunday, May 24	9:30	Godly Play I: Mystery of Pentecost Godly Play II: Mystery of Pentecost
Sunday, May 31 <b>Day of Pentecost</b>	9:30	Godly Play I: Good Shepherd and World Communion Godly Play II: Paul's Discover

## Strategic Plan — Next Step: Forming Teams

On May 31st, the Day of Pentecost, team leaders and all of St. Michael's will commit to a renewed Mission and to our transformation toward St. Michael's Vision for 2014. Our Mission and Vision have evolved from many conversations with individuals, groups and large congregational gatherings and from research into our demographics, our timeline, and trends in Marblehead, religion and the world today.

### 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.

On March 17 the Vestry committed to 15 objectives which together will move us toward achieving our vision. At its April 14 meeting, the Vestry decided on the formation of new and current teams needed to develop, coordinate and implement initiatives to bring our Vision into reality.

**New teams are being formed** for Stewardship, Communications, Evangelism & Welcoming, Outreach, Education and Worship & Music. Property Management, Historic Church and the Nominating Committee will have new charges, and other groups, such as Missions, Finance and Pastoral Care will be working with the new teams as needed. Each team will be responsible for one or more objectives. The Vestry and a Steering Committee will help teams keep on track and coordinate collaboration amongst teams.

**What team would you like to work on?** The teams and their charges are on the right. The Strategic Planning Transition Committee is identifying team leaders and team members. Let us know how you would like to help.



- Strategic Planning Transition Committee: The Rev. Andy Stoessel, David Bittermann, Rob Howie, Jr., Barbara Miller, Frances Nilsson, Deirdre Robbins, Linda Smidt

### New Teams to Implement St. Michael's Vision

#### Outreach:

- C2-Achieve greater mutual impact in our local partnerships
- C3-Achieve greater mutual impact in our international partnerships

#### Evangelism & Welcoming\*

- C1-Deepen relevant discipleship to transform lives
- P4-Grow weekly attendance
- P5-Develop welcoming, caring, diversified membership reflective of Marblehead demographics

#### Worship & Music

- P1-Deepen understanding and participation in vibrant Episcopal worship and music

#### Education

- P2-Expand participation in children's and youth discipleship programs
- P3-Expand adult formation for lay discipleship
- P6-Increase cross-generational involvement in programs, commissions, and committees

#### Leadership Development/Nominating Committee

- PR1-Broaden/expand leadership participation and development

#### Communications\*

- PR3-Use technology effectively for communication and record keeping

#### Property Management

- PR2-Provide mission-optimized space utilization and parking/transportation options
- S2-Improve environmental stewardship.

#### Stewardship\*

- S1-Achieve sufficient, sustainable funding

#### Historic Church

- S3-Celebrate our history as it informs our theological understanding and spiritual development for the future.

\* Current Priorities

**Important Dates**



**St. Catherine's Guild  
Corporate Communion  
& Breakfast**

Members of St. Catherine's Guild will have their annual Corporate Communion on

Sunday, May 3 at the 8:00 am Holy Eucharist. Following the service, officers of St. Catherine's will be serving breakfast. Officers are Lesley Tracy - President, Aileen Day - Vice President, Linda Smidt - Treasurer, and Rene Conly - Secretary. Members are encourage to attend to celebrate our service together.

St. Catherine's annual dinner will be Thursday, June 4th at the Corinthian Yacht Club. Gather for fellowship 5:30 to 6:30 pm with dinner following. Please send in your check and entrée selection to Linda Smidt by May 18. Forms have been emailed, but will also be available at the Corporate Communion Breakfast. Contact Rene Conly at 781-631-1025 if you have questions.

**Soup and Dessert  
Fellowship and Nourishment!  
Tuesday, May 12**

12:00 Noon

Parish Hall, St. Michael's Church



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, the Pastoral Care Group prepares a Soup and Dessert lunch. The group provides homemade soup, dessert, tea and coffee—you provide the fellowship. At May's gathering Walt Haug will be ladling the soup made by Sue Cool, Pastoral Care Co-Chair & Vestry Member. Frances Nilsson will bring dessert. Sylvia Johnson and others will be setting and cleaning up.

Bring a sandwich, if you wish. There is never a charge at this event, just the pleasure of your company.

**To all you work-at-home parents who might like some adult company during the lunch hour before the children come home—please drop by!**

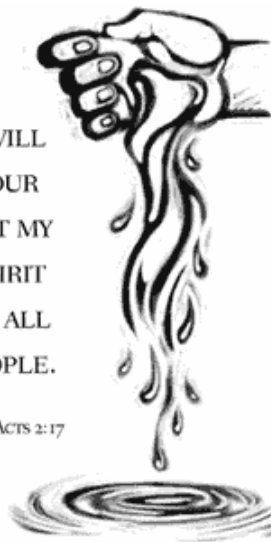
Call Pat Spaberg, 781-631-3181 or Sue Cool, 781-990-1445, if you have questions, or would like to prepare or serve.

**Parish Aid  
Tuesday, May 19  
at Noon**

Bring a sandwich and join this lively group for fun and fellowship. A 3-person committee provides pickles, chips, dessert, coffee and tea. Parish Aid meets the third Tuesday of the month. The date for May is the 19th.

I WILL  
POUR  
OUT MY  
SPIRIT  
ON ALL  
PEOPLE.

ACTS 2:17



**Day of Pentecost  
Sunday, May 31  
Come Celebrate!**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Holy Eucharist,  
Holy Baptism

with Recognition of  
High School Graduates.

Join in the commitment to our Strategic Plan, and wish the Rev. Andrew Stoessel well as he leaves for his summer sabbatical in Wales.

*The bridge from challenge to reality  
is built with inspiration.*

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

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

**Sunday, May 3, 5:00 pm**  
**Choral Evensong & Benediction**

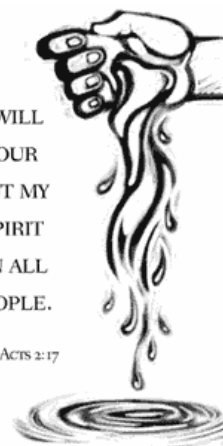
**Sunday, May 17, 5:00 pm**  
**Organ Recital with**  
**Henry Lowe**  
**Organist/Choir Director**  
**Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore, MD**

**Sunday, May 31**  
**Day of Pentecost**

**8:00 am Holy Eucharist**  
**10:00 am Holy Eucharist**  
**and Holy Baptism**

I WILL  
POUR  
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ON ALL  
PEOPLE.

ACTS 2:17



**St. Michael's Church**

**Officers:** *Barbara Miller*, Sr. Warden; *David Bittermann, Jr.* Warden; *Laurence Pierce*, Treasurer; *Sarah Bates*, Asst. Treasurer;  
*Walter Haug*, Clerk.

**Vestry:** *Jack Attridge, Vivian Bennett, Susan Cool, Louise Hunt, Anna Onishi, Paul Pruett, Avery Russell, Linda Smidt, Richard Wood.*

**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 St. Pierre*, Sexton; *Donna Hingston*, St. Michael's Nursery School.



# Saint Michael's Church

# May 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1) 5:00 pm Rite 13 Youth Evening with Lock-In	2)
3) <b>4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I & St. Catherine's Corporate Communion 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 12:00 pm Rite 13 Lunch with Fr. Andrew 5:00 pm Choral Evensong	4)	5)  7:30 pm Wardens Meet	6) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting  8:00 pm AA Meeting	7) <b>NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</b>  4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm Covenant Service at St. Andrew's Church	8)	9)
10) <b>5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:45 am Rite 13 Meeting 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Intergenerational Service	11)	12) 12:00 pm Soup & Dessert  7:30 pm Nursery School Board Meeting	13) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting  8:00 pm AA Meeting	14)  4:45 pm Youth Choir  7:30 pm Adult Choir	15)  <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16)
17) <b>6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:45 am Rite 13 Meeting 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Organ Recital, Henry Lowe of The Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore, Maryland	18)	19) 12:00 pm Parish Aid 2:30 pm Lafayette House Visitation  7:30 pm Vestry	20) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting  8:00 pm AA Meeting	21) <b>ASCENSION DAY</b>  4:45 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II 7:30 pm Adult Choir	22)	23)
24) <b>7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:45 am Rite 13 Meeting 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	25) <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  <b>Office Closed</b>	26)	27) 9:30 am - Noon M'head 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Tour 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	28)  4:45 pm Youth Choir  7:30 pm Adult Choir	29)	30)
31) <b>THE DAY OF PENTECOST</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:45 am Rite 13 Meeting 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, Holy Baptism, Recognition of High School Graduates, Strategic Plan Commitment	<b>FATHER ANDREW BEGINS HIS 3 - MONTH SABBATICAL SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 31</b>					