



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

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- All invited:
St. Catherine's Guild
Corporate Communion
& Breakfast; Soup &
Dessert; Parish Aid
- Garden Thank You
- Profile: Lesley Tracy

May Calendar

Happy May Birthday to

Griffin Atkinson
Kaelyn Elizabeth
Attridge
Trevor Connolly
Malcolm Renney
Miles Renney
Elizabeth Russell

From the Rector

“Persistence and patience.” This was the advice given to me by the physician’s assistant in the surgeon’s office after I mentioned the swelling, stiffness and slow recovery of my broken hand. Later that day, the physical therapist added the word “perseverance.”

These words sprang to mind as I looked at the pile of cardboard boxes in our basement. They needed to be broken down and placed outside for pick-up by the recycling truck. It seemed an overwhelming task. My hand was feeling better, so I dove in. I broke the pile into thirds, doing just a little each week. I’m pleased to say that the pile is nearly gone and a small area of order in our basement has returned!

Persistence, patience and perseverance are apt words for our spiritual journey, too. Our spiritual disciplines help bring order to our often busy and overwhelming lives. The practice of stewardship is a spiritual discipline. How we work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God helps to clear space to receive more fully the grace of God

There are a variety of definitions regarding stewardship, and countless ways to go about doing it. Importantly, stewardship begins with God. From the

Episcopal Church web-site www.episcopalchurch.org are these words: “The ministry of stewardship is rooted in the understanding that the entirety of our life is a gift from God. The most precious gift is God’s self-gift, the person of Jesus Christ who came so that we may know life abundant.” Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori adds this insight: “The fundamental reason for all acts of stewardship - gratitude for the abundance we have been given.”

Stewardship includes the just use of our time, our talent, and our treasure. Later in this newsletter is an article about tithing and a proportional tithe. I hope you will read it, especially the section of a proportional tithe.

Patiently, persistently and with perseverance we can see all God has given us, and discover the abundance that flows through our lives. I realized that each one of those boxes in my basement contained a gift in one form or another. (I have to admit a number of them were left over from Christmas!) Many of the contents we delivered to others, and some were for our own benefit. How nice it is to put the space in order again and to renew the joy of giving and receiving.

- Fr. Andrew

Persistence, Patience & Perseverance

2010 Vestry Liaisons: *Outreach*—Linda Smidt; *Pastoral Care*—Sue Cool; *Evangelism & Welcoming*—Louise Hunt; *Worship & Music*—Tom Weber; *Education*—Joe Oliveira; *Communications*—Anna Onishi; *Leadership Development*—Barbara Miller; *Property Management*—Ian Hunter; *Historic Church*—David Bittermann; *Stewardship*—Avery Russell & Harriett Magee.

Worship & Music

Organ Recital: David Chalmers Sunday, May 16, 5:00 pm

A performer of wide-ranging interests and experience, David Chalmers has given numerous organ concerts in the United States and abroad, including engagements in New York, Pittsburgh, Nashville, West Point, many American Guild of Organist Chapters throughout the country, the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in S.C., Princeton University, and at Trinity Church in Boston, MA. His foreign appearances have included such notable churches as St. Sulpice in Paris, and St. John's College Chapel, Cambridge, at the invitation of the late George Guest.

He has also performed in Moscow's Conservatory Hall, Tchaikovsky Hall, St. Petersburg's Kapella Hall, and in 1992 was among the first American organists to perform in Siberia giving concerts in Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk. He appeared in Milan, Warsaw, and in the Festival Weeks in Sofia, Bulgaria. In 1994, Chalmers toured England, giving concerts at Westminster Abbey, King's College, and Oxford Town Hall, among others. In 1999, he performed at Methuen Memorial Music Hall, St. Thomas Church in New York City and in the Washington National Cathedral. Most recently, he made his debut playing American music at the Organ Historical Society National Convention in Southeastern Massachusetts.

A native of Newark, Delaware, Chalmers began organ studies with Lee Dettra, and received his Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster Choir College where he studied with George Markey. He received the master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music where he studied with David Craighead. The winner of a Fulbright fellowship, Chalmers spent two years studying in Paris with Daniel Roth, specializing in French organ music of the 19th century.



From the Music Director:

The month of May sees the final events of another successful year of Choral Evensongs and our Organ Recital Series.

On Sunday May 2 at 5 pm the St. Michael's choir will sing Choral Evensong and Benediction, and the music for the service will feature Sarah Hunter, soprano, singing one of our all-time favorite anthems, "Hear My Prayer" by Felix Mendelssohn.

And, our final Organ Recital of the season will be given by David Chalmers on May 16 at 5 pm. I have known David since the late 1980's when we were both studying organ in Paris, and have been trying to get him to play for us for a few years now (he is a busy guy!). Please take a minute to read about his interesting and extensive career.

- Douglas Major, Music Director

Chalmers has won second place in the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, and has been a finalist in the Grand Prix de Chartres International Organ Competition.

Chalmers has been featured on the *Gloria Dei Cantores* recordings Leo Sowerby: American Master of Sacred Song, and Peace Be With You (J.S. Bach). He is a contributing author to *American Sacred Music - An Overview and Handbook* (Paraclete Press, 2001). Currently he is an organist at the Church of the Transfiguration, and Artist-in-Residence with Gloria Dei Artes Foundation. He is assistant conductor of the choir Gloria Dei Cantores with whom he frequently performs and records. Chalmers resides with his wife in Orleans, MA.



Worship & Music Committee Volunteers Sought

The ties that bind us together at St Michael's largely center around our worship services and musical participations. The committee's objective is to deepen our understanding and participation in vibrant worship and music. Our committee seeks a co-chair, as well as all interested members. Please anticipate a couple of short organizational meetings, followed by a more routine monthly schedule. If you are willing to explore this opportunity to contribute your thoughts and ideas, please see Father Andrew, or Tom Weber.

Altar Guild Invitation

Do you like to arrange flowers, make sure things are presented well and orderly, and even set tables? The altar guild is seeking additional members and invites you to consider this important ministry for the church. Please contact Anne Foster or Fr. Andrew for more information.



Church School - Aileen Ryder

May Events

Think back to your own childhood; what do you remember about attending Church? My fondest memories come from times I participated in the leadership of the service; reading the lesson, offering the gifts, singing in the choir, and even playing guitar at the folk mass. Although I remember complaining about going to church each week (Mom, do I have to?!), my stronger memories are of these special times. This month our children and youth will create these memoirs. On Mother's Day, May 9, we will celebrate an intergenerational service. In addition to serving as acolytes, our young people will read, usher and lead us in prayers. On May 5, the Godly Play II students are invited to bake bread for this service.



Last month, the middle school youth enjoyed a movie night just for them. Our youth, together with friends from outside of the parish gathered on a Friday night to watch a movie and discuss lessons for our own

lives. We had to reschedule the children's movie night. On Saturday, May 15, all children and youth of this parish are invited to join us for a movie.

Saturday May 8, Ben Clarke will be confirmed in a deanery-wide celebration at St. John's Church in Beverly Farms. Ben has been preparing for this since fall. Congratulations Ben!

Penny Drive



Please bring, your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and bills to Church School.

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 Mondays of the month at 6pm

High School Youth

Stay connected through our Facebook page.

Our youth have been invited to a Hunger Banquet at St. Andrew's Church on May 16. At a hunger banquet, guests are randomly selected to receive a first, second or third world meal, allowing participants an experience of world hunger.

Also, on May 16 we will celebrate Rogation

Sunday. Rogation days invite us to celebrate the sacredness of the land. Our Church School children will become gardeners and we will all be invited to join in blessing the wonders of creation as seen in the agricultural cycle.



Join us for a special Pentecost Church School on May 30!

Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Middle School Youth	Godly Play I	Godly Play II
Sunday, May 2			Parable of The Mustard Seed with Kristen Clay and Helen Riegle	Paul's Discovery with Barbara Miller and Avery Rusell
Wednesday, May 5	Youth Service Preparation			Bread Baking 3:30pm
Sunday, May 9	Mother's Day	Intergenerational Service	meet at 9:30 in the Church School	
Saturday, May 15	Movie Night	"The Prince of Egypt"	Children of all-ages	6:00-8:00 pm
Sunday, May 16	Rogation Sunday	Field Trip: Hunger Banquet	Gardening with Sue Cool & Kristen Clay	Gardening with Kate Renney & Joe Oliveira
Sunday May 23	Pentecost		Parable of the Good Samaritan with Kristen Clay & Joe Oliveira	Good Shepherd & World Communion with Kate Renney & Anne Ayer
Monday, May 24		Supper Club: Pentecost		
Sunday, May 30	One-Room Church School		The Mystery of Pentecost	With Aileen Ryder & Sue Cool

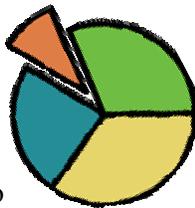
Stewardship & Tithing—Gratitude for Our Abundance

This is the second in a series of articles and communications to help all at St. Michael's better understand Stewardship and also our financial status. We will also be honoring the good stewards among us and how we can provide our money, time and talents to God's work.

The English word 'tithe', like its counterparts in the ancient languages, simply means 'the tenth' (from Old English *teogotha*, 'tenth'). It was applied to 'the tenth part' of one's income which was set aside as belonging to God from whence it came in the first place. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori says, "The fundamental reason for all acts of Stewardship is gratitude for the abundance we have been given."

Tithing in the Bible.

The principle of tithing is an ancient practice and is rooted in scripture. Abraham, who lived perhaps in the 19th century BC, is described as paying tithe to Melchizedek as a priest of the most high God (Genesis 14:18-20). In a similar vein his grandson Jacob promised to devote 'the tenth' to God (Genesis 28:22).



Tithing was part of the religious covenant entered into by the children of Israel following their Exodus from Egypt. Israelites were to "set apart a tithe of all the yield of your seed that is brought in yearly from the field." (Deut. 14:22) Tithes supported the Levites (Numbers 18:24) as an "offering to the Lord." This payment was in lieu of the fact that the tribe of Levi received no allocation of land following the settlement of the Israelites in Palestine. Instead they were to work full-time as religious teachers and as priests officiating at the Temple services.

In early times the payment of tithes was often in kind - vegetables, cereals, fruits or livestock and their associated products etc. Later, those who lived some distance from the Temple and who encountered difficulty in paying their tithes in kind could change them into money.

Tithing was assumed in the New Testament. In ancient days, as in modern times, a tenth of one's income was and remains a significant commitment. It seems an awful lot! Most fall short of this standard of a tithe. Yet tithing is an important spiritual practice. In fact, Jesus speaks more about money and wealth than any other topic. It helps establish a healthy regard for money. It helps us to live the life God hopes we will have.

Proportional Giving—Working Toward a Tithe

One way to practice this spiritual discipline is Proportional Giving, or a Proportional Tithe. The Rev. Eric Hinds, Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, San Mateo, CA, explains Proportional Giving this way:

"Proportional Giving recognizes that stewardship is a journey and that the tithe is a level to work towards. It begins with our current level of giving, and asks that we raise that by one half a percent each year.

"For example, if one's current level of giving is a yearly pledge of \$2,000 based upon an income of \$100,000; then one is giving 2% of their yearly income to the parish. Proportional Giving asks that one increase their giving by ½ % of one's income. The household in this example would increase the percent given from 2% to 2 ½%, which yields a pledge of \$2,500. The advantage of Proportional Giving is that every household is challenged to increase their giving in a way that is balanced and equitable. In Proportional Giving, stewardship is spread out over the entire wealth of the parish. Proportional Giving provides a method to steadily work towards the goal of tithing and to ensure the continued vitality of the Church."

Giving Is a Spiritual Practice.

The ministry of Stewardship is rooted in the understanding that the entirety of our life is a gift from God. The most precious gift is God's self-gift, the person of Jesus Christ who came so that we may know abundant life.

The Rev. Terry Parsons writes regarding Stewardship: "Stewardship teaches that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God. We are, therefore, stewards of God's gifts during our lifetime. Discerning and carrying out God's purpose is the primary purpose of our lives. The gifts we have been given, time, talent, and money, are to be used for that purpose. The primary role of the church is to guide individuals in discernment of the mission for their lives and use of their resources in accomplishing it."

If all this seems a little overwhelming, here are some key concepts about Stewardship to remember as outlined on the Episcopal Church web-site:

- God loves us and wants us to have all that we need to live a joyful and productive life.
- All that we are and all that we have are gifts from God.
- Regularly giving of our time, abilities, energy, and money is a spiritual practice.
- Tithing is an important spiritual practice. It helps establish a healthy regard for money. It helps us to live the life God hopes we will have.

- *Written by Karl Renney, Stewardship Committee member, and Fr. Andrew. Upcoming articles will discuss the history of our endowment at St. Michael's, and other important means of giving: bequests and planned giving.*

Important Dates—Come Join Us!



**St. Catherine's Guild
Annual Corporate
Communion & Breakfast
All are welcome!**

Sunday, May 2
8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:00 am Breakfast

Soup and Dessert

Tuesday, May 11,
12:00 Noon



**Parish Aid
Luncheon**

Tuesday, May 18,
12:00 Noon

**Thank You
Garden Workers**



Many thanks to Tom Hamond and his wife Sheila who helped him do the spring cleanup in the James E. Gorman Memorial Garden and planted pansies in the two pots. Previously Tom also bought and installed a short hose with hanger. When Tom retired he volunteered to help with the garden.

In the spring and again in the fall Tyson Miller waxes and shines the statue of St. Michael so it won't get green. Many others have helped giving money to redo the garden several years ago. —*Martha Gorman*

Three things in human life are important:
The first is to be kind. The second is to be kind.
The third is to be kind—*Henry James, 1843-1916*

Parishioner Profile: Lesley Tracy

In Washington, D.C., Lesley attended the National Cathedral and when she visited Marblehead, she saw the Episcopal Church signs but never quite discovered where St. Michael's was. However she moved here in 2000, found St. Michael's and looked no further, especially when shortly after her arrival, the National Cathedral organist, Doug Major, also transplanted to become St. Michael's music director.

A life-long Episcopalian, she loves the ritual, the music, and the quaintness of St. Michael's. She remembers Doris Bartlett as being especially welcoming when she first attended church. "Doris made a big impression on me," she says.

Soon Lesley became a vestry member, and chaired the Christmas Fair, which at one point almost seemed like a full time job, she says. But she had a lot of help, she added, and that is one important part of church for Lesley - the sense of community. At present Lesley is president of St. Catherine's Guild and her special interest is Esperanza, the Episcopal school for girls, in Lawrence.

Lesley is a consultant for Hewlett-Packard in management of organizational change, and such change is constant, she says, in a technology based company. She hopes

to continue work as long as she can although as a change consultant, she is open to change herself. Her philosophy is "Always be aware, be conscious."

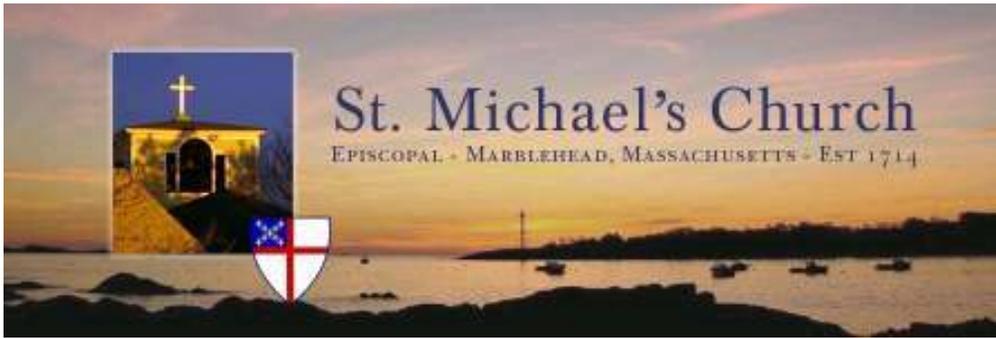


The part of her life for which she is most thankful is her family. She has two daughters and six grandchildren. Daughter Meegan Baglieri has 4 and a half year old triplets, and daughter Liz Pruett has three children, 9, 11, and 13 years old.

Aside from work and family, Lesley loves to exercise: walking, swimming, going to the gym. She also likes to cook and in addition, she says, "I am pretty social." Reading is another pastime and she just finished *Everyman Dies Alone* by a German author, Hans Fallanda, who was famous in the 1930's before World War II. The novel is about WWII as seen through German eyes. And if she gets the opportunity to travel, she would love to visit Vienna again. "It is a fabulous city with its music, opera, and beauty."

- Marilyn Day

Part of an ongoing series of profiles honoring good stewards of our Parish.



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Choral Evensong
Sunday, May 2, 5:00 pm
Last Evensong until October!

Day of Pentecost
Sunday, May 23
8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Organ Recital

Sunday, May 16
5:00 pm

David Chalmers
Organist,
Chapel of the Transfiguration,
Orleans

Last Recital of the Season!

St. Michael's Church

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

Vestry: *Susan Cool, Ian Hunter, Louise Hunt, Harriett Magee, Joe Oliveira, Anna Onishi, Avery Russell, Linda Smidt, Thomas Weber.*

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 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Office Hours Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm	Thrift Shop Spring Hours Tuesday – Saturday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm				1)
2) 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I & St. Catherine's Corporate Communion and Breakfast 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Choral Evensong	3)	4) 7:30 Property Mgt.	5) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 3:30 pm Youth Bread Baking 8:00 pm AA	6) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	7) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	8) Deanery Confirmation Bishop Cederholm, Celebrant St. John's Church, Beverly Farms
9) 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER Mother's Day 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Intergenerational Service 11:30 am Communications	10)	11) 12:00 pm Soup & Dessert 7:30 pm Wardens	12) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 7:00 pm Marblehead Interfaith Covenant Service – Star of the Sea 8:00 pm AA	13) ASCENSION DAY 7:30 pm Adult Choir 	14) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	15) Armed Forces Day 6 – 8 pm Children's Movie Night
16) 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School & plantings 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 5:00 pm Organ Recital, David Chalmers (Last of the season) 6:00 pm Youth Trip-Hunger Banquet	17)	18) 12:00 pm Parish Aid 7:30 pm Vestry	19) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	20) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	21) Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	22) Confirmation/Reception St. Paul's Cathedral, Boston Bishop Barbara Harris, Celebrant
23) THE DAY OF PENTECOST 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Historic Church 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 	24) 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club	25)	26) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	27) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	28) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	29)
30) TRINITY SUNDAY 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I NO Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II,	31) Memorial Day <i>Office Closed</i>					Just Bag it for the Pantry 