



Photograph by R. Williams

# St. Michael's Newsletter

## Inside this issue:

### Page 2

- Evensong 10/7 & Organ Recital 10/14
- Christmas Fair: pie making 10/18, planning 10/23, chutney chopping 11/3

### Page 3

- Church School: Blessing of the Animals, Circus Night, Children's Sabbath and more

### Page 4

- St. Michael's in Pictures

### Page 5

- Steward of the Month: Deborah Hall
- Thrift Shop needs cards
- Three Generations

### Page 6

- Join Us: St. Catherine's Guild & Parish Aid
- Remembering Friends: Louise Spiess & Betty Humphrey

## October Calendar

### Happy October Birthdays to

Matthew Thibert  
Annabelle Ayer  
Hanson Hundahl  
Hannah Bragdon  
Patricia Cool

## From the Rector

The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, celebrated at St. Michael's on Sunday, Sept. 30, held special meaning this year. Included in the liturgy (at announcement time) and at fellowship following the 10:00 service was recognition of ten years of our joint ministry at St. Michael's. It is hard to believe ten years have passed! Quite literally, the icing on the cake at coffee hour said it all: "Ten Years Together!"

I am especially grateful for the new Book of Common Prayer/Hymnal given to me by the Vestry for this tenth anniversary. It is a perfect gift. As Rector (or earlier as Priest-in-Charge), one of my roles is to officiate our worship and liturgy. The pronoun "our" is intentional and correct. Liturgy and our worship is joint venture. It is not something I do alone, nor you, but it is "of the people." I look forward to using this new BCP in all our sacramental and pastoral liturgical celebrations for years to come!

In 2005 the parish engaged in a series of "cottage meetings" – informal but focused small group conversations in people's homes – to garner a sense of St. Michael's mission and vision. Arising from those conversations was a "call" to invite me to become Rector, a change from "Priest-in-Charge." Seven years later the parish is engaged in another series of "cottage meetings" or "house meetings" as we sometimes refer to them. Again, the purpose is to gain a sense of the desires and hopes of the parish for the future. Included in these discussions are capital needs: what

improvements or changes to our buildings and property will we need to make to ensure that our mission and vision is best enacted. Like our liturgy, this is the work of the people – the work of all parishioners and friends of St. Michael's. A special capital campaign (a unique fundraising effort) will hopefully take place in 2013 to address the items arising from the cottage meetings.

## The Work of the People

While these conversations and ideas are rising, the ministry of the people continues through our worship, pastoral, outreach and mission, and evangelism efforts.

This all takes a balance of time, skills and talent, and treasure (our money) to carry out. Our annual stewardship drive commences this month. The Stewardship Committee, under the direction of new co-chair Karin McCarthy, invites your participation in this year's drive.

The late Henry Nouwen, in his book "A Spirituality of Fundraising," writes, "fundraising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission...fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission." (p.16)

It is my joy to be with St. Michael's and participate with you in strengthening and helping its mission and vision. May we be transformed in God's grace through our ministries together.

- Fr. Andrew

**From the Music Director**

October means Topsfield Fair, Michaelmas Daisies, and our FIRST EVENSONG of the season. Please join us on Sunday October 7 at 5 pm for Choral Evensong, when your St. Michael's Choir will be singing the beautiful Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in C by Charles Villiers Stanford, "O Lord the maker of all thing" by William Mundy as well as beautiful hymns and Psalm 145.

On October 14, we will again host organist Peter Krasinski in our second recital of the series. He'll be playing a varied program, but will also include improvisations based on submitted themes, and I can guarantee he will dazzle us like he did two years ago!

Thanks to all who have subscribed to our recital series - we appreciate your continued and enthusiastic support!

—Doug Major, Music Director

**Monthly  
Choral Evensong &  
Benediction  
Resumes  
Sunday, October 7  
5:00 pm**

**Organ Recital Series Begins  
Sunday, October 14  
at 5:00 PM**

**Peter Krasinski  
Boston Area Organist**



**Wanted: Choppers, Peelers, Bakers, Volunteers for the Christmas Fair!**

**Apple Pie Making Date -  
Thursday, October 18, 6:30 pm  
Parish Hall Kitchen**

Gregg Bates has kindly agreed to help make pie crusts for our apple pies. The proceeds will go to the Christmas Fair, but we like to sell the apple pies to parishioners in advance for their Thanksgiving enjoyment. If you can help, it only took about two hours last year to whip up about 22 pies. Please contact Pam Oppelt. Pam needs about 5-6 volunteers.

**Christmas Fair Bake Table  
– start baking and freezing ahead**

Although it is only October the Christmas Fair will be here before we realize it. If you are making a casserole for the family, try making two and freezing one for the fair. There is room in the church freezer downstairs if you don't have freezer space at home. Whenever you bake, if you can just make double and freeze one batch, the Bake Table at the Christmas Fair would appreciate it. Remember to label the item and if there are any "nuts" be sure to indicate "with nuts". Remember at Thanksgiving to bake two pies and freeze one for the fair, breads, cakes, squares all are popular sellers. - Pam Oppelt

**Save the Date & Volunteer!  
St. Michael's Christmas Fair  
Friday, November 30 —  
Saturday, December 1**

**Planning Meeting  
Tuesday, October 23  
7:30 pm**

*Contact Frances Nilsson or Tom Weber  
with your ideas*

**Chutney Chopping  
Saturday, November 3  
9:30 am to approx. 2  
(or stay as long as you can)**

Come and enjoy chopping and preparing several different kinds of chutney. Bring your favorite knife and apron and Pam Oppelt will supply a nice lunch. Please contact Pam. Pam needs about 5-6 volunteers. Jars of chutney make great hostess gifts for either upcoming holiday. The addition of chutney will also make your own holiday table special. By making chutney

early, we will have chutney available for "pre-Christmas Fair" sales for Thanksgiving.

**Christmas Fair Planning Meeting**

We need your ideas and expertise for new child-friendly, craft, food and marketing ideas. How can we draw in the crowds from the parade outside our door? Contact Frances Nilsson or Tom Weber or attend a planning meeting on Tuesday, October 23rd at 7:30 pm in the Lower Parish Hall.

- Frances Nilsson & Tom Weber, Fair Co-Chairs

## Church School & Youth—Aileen Ryder

### Church School

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

### Bible Club

Following Church Services, older children meet to explore the day's lesson.

### Supper Club

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

### October Highlights

**Children's Chapel** Sunday October 7 at 9:30am. Meet Fr. Andrew at the Altar in the Parish Hall. Students will go to Church School following prayers. Everyone is welcome to join in this worship service.

**Blessing of the Animals** Sunday October 7 at 1:00pm. On the Feast of St. Francis, bring your cherished pets for a special blessing. We meet on the Summer St. lawn.

**Faith & Fellowship Night at the Circus** Friday October 12 at 3:45. We will meet at St. Michael's Church for this special family trip to the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Families of all ages are invited.

**National Children's Sabbath** Sunday October 21 we will celebrate with an intergenerational service at 10am. This is a great opportunity for us all to appreciate the liturgical leadership of our children and youth.

### Patriarchs & Matriarchs

The Church School began the year as together with a special One-Room Church School focusing on Stewardship and saints. As we settle into our regular program of two separate rooms, we will be studying our faith ancestors from the Hebrew Scriptures. These foundational stories exemplify God's boundless love. These examples of faith are as human as we are. They love, they fight, they question, they even doubt God and all the while God continues to love.

### Who is God? Who is Jesus?

The Supper Club has welcomed three new members. We began our new year with an exploration of Scripture. This has quickly led to question of who *exactly* is God. In October, we will be deepening our exploration of God begun last spring. All Parishioners are welcome to contribute to youth formation as Supper Club guest chefs. Please speak to Aileen for more information.

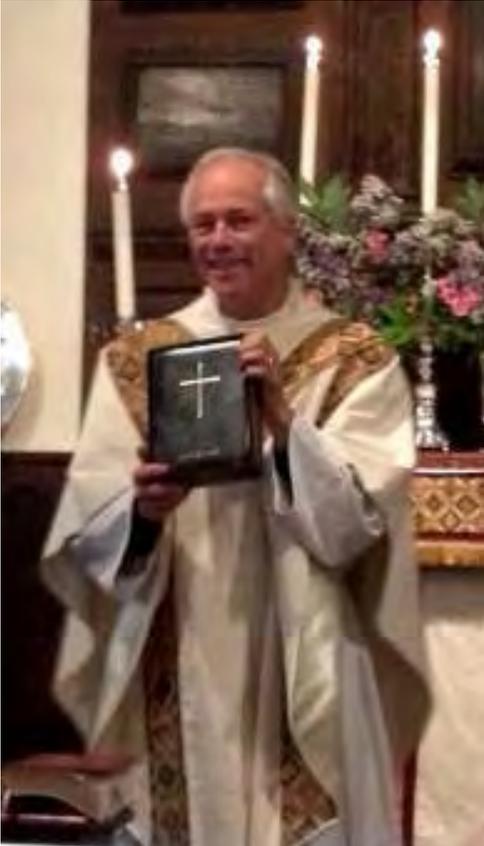
### Exploring the Lectionary

Perhaps you have noticed a gathering of Bible students following the 10am service? This is the Bible Club. Each Sunday they focus on one of the Lectionary Lessons and discuss it following the service.

## Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Supper Club	Godly Play	Weaving God's Promises
Sunday, October 7	Children's Chapel Blessing of Animals		One-Room Church School: The Feast of Saint Francis	
Tuesday, October 9		What am I really supposed to believe about Mary?		
Friday, October 12	Faith & Fellowship Night at the Circus			
Sunday, October 14			The Great Family	God Give Us Gifts of Love and Life
Sunday, October 21	Children's Sabbath	Intergenerational Service: Everyone attends together. Please meet in the Church School at 9:30 to prepare.		
Tuesday, October 23		Is God Male?		
Sunday, October 28			The Exodus	Hannah and Samuel

## St. Michael's in Pictures



On Michaelmas, September 30, 2012 the Vestry of St. Michael's presented Father Andrew Stoessel a new Book of Common Prayer/Hymnal in appreciation for his 10 years journey with us at St. Michael's. The prayer book/hymnal was presented at both the 8:00 and 10 am services. At the 10 am service Steve Clay also presented a new Rector board that continues the list of St. Michael's rectors for our next 300 years beginning with Andrew J. Stoessel 2002—. The board, crafted by father/son Gerald and Steve Clay was brought in by Bill Miller and Gerald Clay and will eventually be mounted at the back of the sanctuary with the list of rectors 1715 —2002.



On September 23rd Leslie Pendleton of the Episcopal Church Foundation explained the parish conversations happening in homes through October 9. Parish Conversations are discussing our desires and hopes for the future of St. Michael's and how we might further our mission. Ideas will be compiled and used to develop a survey of all St. Michael's parishioners.

## Our Steward of the Month: Deborah Hall

When Deborah Hall retired from investment work as a security analyst in New York City, she returned to her North Shore roots. Her father had had a summer house near the Boston Yacht Club and she spent time there in her youth. And she owned a house in Salem while she worked in NYC and lived in Connecticut.

So, in 1991, back permanently on the North Shore, she found that the music, history, and architecture of St. Michael's drew her to the church.

About that time she also began a new career. She enrolled in Boston University's unique seminary program. Half of the students were in the Methodist program and the other half were getting PhD's in theology. "It was a very broad program. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything," she says. In 1995 she received her Master's of Divinity. Her undergraduate degree from Wheaton College was in Art History.

Part of her Master's program included field work, so for clinical pastoral education she went to Brigham and Women's Hospital. Eventually she got a job there and became a board certified chaplain, working in an acute care environment and on the Women's Oncology floor. Deborah also supervised and trained people for the Volunteer Chaplaincy program. "Many of the volunteers were retired businessmen," she says.

She also did such work at Salem Hospital and Shaughnessy Rehabilitation Hospital. This last August, Deborah retired after 17 years in the field.



While she was in seminary, she was active at St. Michael's in many capacities.

"I was looking to learn about church life," she says. She served on the Social Concerns Commission, the Finance Committee, the board of St. Michael's Nursery, and the Vestry when Victor Wild was warden.

One of her most rewarding experiences was starting the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with Liz Brown. Maria Montessori had developed the program for a young man to prepare him for communion. Part of the program meant making all its materials from scratch. "So many people helped to make the materials," says Deborah. The second floor of the Dav- enport House became an atrium for the young children. She remembers many special moments when the children discovered spiritual truths naturally through the program and materials.

Deborah is also a companion in the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross which runs a retreat house, Adelynrood, in Byfield. Of the companions, she says with a smile, "There is good news and bad news: these are 900 independent Episcopal women who work closely with the Episcopal church!"

Deborah has two children: her son Alex, a financial adviser in NYC, who lives in Connecticut and her daughter Gabrielle, who has an MBA, who lives in San Francisco.

Her two grandchildren, Annabel who is five and William who is two, are nearby in Connecticut. "They are the light of my life, of course," she says. — Marilyn Day



Three generations in pink: Anne Foster who was profiled in our September newsletter, daughter Emily, and granddaughter Chloe

### St. Michael's Thrift Shop Calling All Cards!

One of the most popular items at the Thrift Shop are greeting cards—birthday cards, thank yous, blank cards—and calendars, too. If you have unused extras, please pass them on to the Thrift Shop. All items—clean and in good condition—can be left in the designated bin in the parish hall or brought to the Thrift Shop during open hours:

**Fall Hours**  
**Tuesday—Saturday, 1- 4 pm**

## Join With Us

### St. Catherine's Guild Invites All Women of St. Michael's to Join

St. Catherine's welcomes back all current members and invites all women of the parish to join us for our first dinner meeting on October 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We usually have a guest speaker. Our guest speaker for our first meeting will be Nancy Lusignan Schultz. Nancy is the Chairperson of the English Department at Salem State University. She will talk about her latest book: *Mrs. Mattingly's Miracle: the Prince, the Widow and the Cure that Shocked Washington, DC*. This is a return visit for Nancy who spoke several years ago on her book *Fire and Roses: The Burning of the Charlestown Convent, 1834*.

If you are not currently a member and would like to be our guest, please contact Linda Smidt or Valerie Wyckoff.

—Aileen Day, President & Pam Oppelt, Vice President

### The Parish Aid Society Tuesday, October 16 at noon

Parish Aid has long roots at St. Michael's evolving from a group of St. Michael's women who first organized as early as the 1850s to assist the rector and the church in its various activities. Today the group welcomes **all retired men and women** to join with them for lunch and social hour on the third Tuesday of the month at noon in the Parish Hall. Of course, you don't have to be retired, just available for lunch! The meeting this month will be Tuesday, October 16th. Please bring a sandwich. We will provide pickles, chips, dessert and coffee or tea.

Call Martha Gorman for further details.

## Remembering Friends



### Louise (Johnson) Spiess

September 27, 1918 - September 1, 2012

Louise (Johnson) Spiess and her husband the late Howard Spiess (December 7, 1917—December 19, 2008) came to St. Michael's in 1955 from Ohio. Louise completed her nursing training and then served as a nurse, educator and nurse volunteer. She also actively participated in life at St. Michael's serving on various commissions and was a member of St. Catherine's Guild. Howard served on the Vestry and participated in the campaign to build the new Parish Hall in 1964. In particular she and Howard instilled in their children service to others through the church and their professions. Louise and Howard include Barbara Miller and Gary Spiess of St. Michael's and Mary Louise Benda of Exeter NH and Paul Spiess of Amherst, NH.

### Elizabeth (Wood) Humphrey

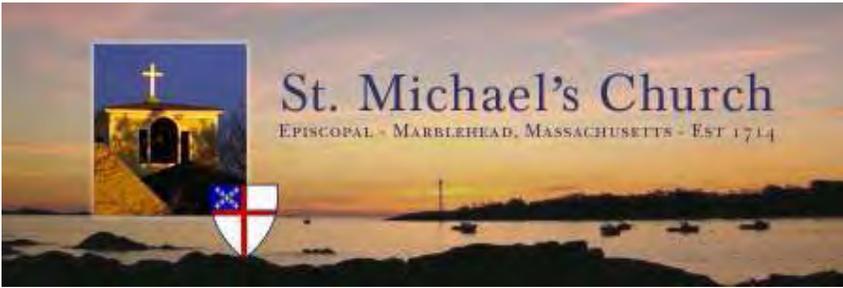
August 20, 1916—September 13, 2012

Betty and her husband Ellsworth Humphrey came to St. Michael's around 1950. Betty worked for the state as a supervisor at the state house for unemployment security before she retired. While she and her husband lived in Marblehead she served as a lector and was an active member of the St. Catherine's Guild. While she could not attend meetings in her more recent years, she was listed as a lifetime member.

### A Note of Thanks

I would like to express my most sincere gratitude for the many kind expressions of sympathy and support following the death of my mother, Louise Spiess, on September 1<sup>st</sup>. St. Michael's was always a special place to both my parents. Although they weren't here as often during their retirement, spending at least half their time in New Hampshire, they always considered St. Michael's to be their church home. The many kindnesses extended to my family have made this trying time a little easier. On behalf of all the Spiess Family I say a heartfelt thank you.

—Barbara Miller



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## **Sunday, October 7**

**8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I**

**9:30 am Children's Chapel**

**10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

**1:00 pm Blessing of the Animals**

**Bring your pets to the Summer St. lawn**

**5:00 pm Choral Evensong**

## **Organ Recital**

**with**

**Peter Krasinski**

**Sunday, October 14**

**5:00 pm**

### **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*, *Thomas 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 Director, *Jane Maihos*, Parish Administrator; *Jennifer Hill*, Sexton.

# Saint Michael's Church

# October 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1)</b> 10:00 am House Conversation  7:30 pm House Conversation	<b>2)</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting  5:00 pm St. Michael's Team at My Brothers' Table, Lynn 7:30 pm House Conversation	<b>3)</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study  7:30 House Conversation 8:00 pm AA	<b>4)</b> 10:00 am House Conversation  6:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm House Conversation 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>5)</b>	<b>6)</b>
<b>7) 19TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST</b> <b>Proper 22</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Children's Chapel 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 1:00 pm Blessing of the Animals  5:00 pm Choral Evensong-Benediction	<b>8)</b> <b>Columbus Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>9)</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting  6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm House Conversation 7:30 pm Wardens'	<b>10)</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm North Shore Clericus  8:00 pm AA	<b>11)</b>   7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>12)</b>  3:45 pm Circus in Boston	<b>13)</b>  10:00 am – 1:00 pm St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge, Salem with Ed & Michelle Baillie
<b>14) 20TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST</b> <b>Proper 23</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II  5:00 pm Organ Recital, Peter Krasinski	<b>15)</b> 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>16)</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Parish Aid  7:30 pm Vestry	<b>17)</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study  8:00 pm AA	<b>18)</b>   6:30 pm Apple Pie Making 7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>19)</b>	<b>20)</b>  2:00 pm Wedding
<b>21) 21ST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST</b> <b>Proper 24</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II – Intergenerational Service	<b>22)</b> 8:00 am Communications Committee	<b>23)</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting  6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Christmas Fair planning	<b>24)</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 12:00 pm Church Audit  6:00 pm Deanery Pre-convention Meeting, Trinity Church, Topsfield 8:00 pm AA Meeting	<b>26)</b>   7:30 pm Adult Choir	<b>27)</b>	<b>28)</b>
<b>28) 22ND SUNDAY OF PENTECOST</b> <b>Proper 25</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II,	<b>29)</b> 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>30)</b> 11:00 am Staff Meeting	<b>31)</b> <b>All Hallow's Eve</b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study  8:00 pm AA Meeting	<b>27)</b> Office Hours Monday-Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm		<b>28)</b> Thrift Shop Hours Tuesday-Saturday 1 pm – 4 pm