



St. Michael's Newsletter

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October Calendar

From the Rector: A Michaelmas Sermon

Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. The actual “feast day” is September 29, but rubrics allow for the celebration to be transferred to a primary day, such as a Sunday, on occasions such as celebrating the church’s namesake. So here we are, celebrating our namesake, St. Michael, the great archangel. Yet the day is St. Michael and All Angels.

I’ve said in past years, but it bears repeating, that the English word “angel” comes from the Greek word, “angelos”, which means, “messenger.” Angels are God’s messengers. They can take on many forms, but are generally thought to be divine, supernatural beings, who help do God’s bidding.

While such heavenly messengers appear in the earliest, oldest writings of scripture, it is thought that the development of an understanding of angels took on greater force beginning in the 6th century before the “common era”, about 500-600 years before Jesus’ time. Their presence has continued to develop and grow since. One scholar of the period, Carol Newsom, wrote in the Anchor Bible Dictionary, “the increase in discourse about angels [in this time] indicates that those authors found the speculation on the heavenly world a useful way to explore serious religious and theological issues – the weakness of Israel in a world of empires [around them], the difficulty of understanding the cosmos and history, the existence of evil, the failure of human religious institutions, the hope and experience of transformation, and so on...” (Carol Newsom, ABD, p. I-249)



This is a bit historical literary and theological information, which may sound a bit dry. Yet even with our enlightened, modern intellects, it seems we face the same issues and concerns today. How and why do bad things keep happening? What are we going to do about the drought, about global warming? Will the threat of terrorism and terrorist acts here and around the world disappear? The list goes on.

Angels carry out a number of tasks on behalf of God: they announce births; they commission people to their tasks, (as with Moses); they communicate God’s word to prophets, (as with Elijah); they intervene at crucial moments to change or guide a person’s actions, (as with Hagar); they communicate divine promises and hopes, (as with Abraham).

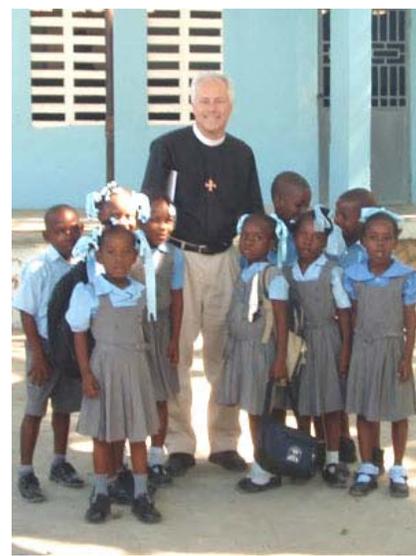
In the New Testament, angels are incidental but important characters in the story

Continued on page 5. Photo: Michaelmas 2014

Children & Youth - from Kelley Callahan



Blessing of the Backpacks 2016



Father Andrew in Haiti

A Look Back at the 'Welcome Back'...

In spite of the heat and intense humidity, we had a great turn out for Welcome Back Sunday on September 11! It was really heart-warming (no pun intended) to see familiar little faces greet one another after the summer hiatus. At the end of the service, Father Andrew blessed the children and their backpacks (some bigger than the children themselves) as they head off into a new school year.

Immediately following the service, the kids joined Father Andrew in the chapter room for Children's Chapel.



They began by learning the hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and then Father Andrew read them a story about how Jesus loves children and how they are just as important to Him as adults. Following a brief discussion, they practiced saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Our next Children's Chapel will be November 6, celebrating All Saints Day.

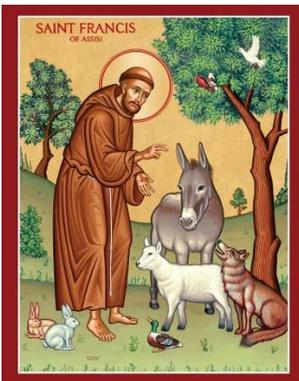
Forming a Connection ...

Our first church school on September 18 was very well-attended. Parishioner Marilyn Day visited to tell the children about the trip to our sister parish, St. Thomas, Archaie, Haiti, last spring. The kids were so fascinated by her pictures and stories that they forgot all about their snack and activity! Since we didn't have time to write pen-pal letters to the St. Thomas children as planned, we're hoping all the children will write/draw one at home and return it. Even if your child wasn't there, please ask them to create one as well! (There are pen-pal templates on the bulletin board in the parish hall if you would like one.) Once we get them all back, we will mail them to St. Thomas and hope for a pen-pal response!

Dates to Remember!	
October 2	No Church School-Rosh Hashanah weekend Blessing of the Animals, 1 pm on the Summer St. lawn
October 9	No Church School-Columbus Day weekend
October 16	Intergenerational Service
October 18	Supper Club, <u>5-7 pm</u> , Parish Hall
October 22	Church School
October 29	Church School
November 6	All Saints Day observed Child Care, Children's Chapel and Church School

Continued on page 4.

Church School—Continued



Blessing of the Animals

We will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 1:00 PM on the Summer St. lawn. All animals, stuffed animals, pictures of animals, or even memories of animals are welcome to attend and be blessed by Father Andrew.

Supper Club

Supper Club kicked off the year on September 26 with six VERY enthusiastic pre-teens. We learned about The Parable of the Good Samaritan and discussed helping and serving others in need - particularly the homeless. The kids were eager to form their own youth sub-group of St. Michael's walkers in the Family Promise 3.1 mile Walk to End Homelessness on October 15. If anyone is interested in coordinating their efforts, please contact either myself or Karin McCarthy. Our next Supper Club will be Tuesday, October 18 from 5:00-7:00 (please note time change) .

Fall Intergenerational Service, October 16

Please let me know ASAP if your child would like to participate, as well as a role that they may (or may NOT) be interested in. This is a great opportunity for children to learn more about our liturgy and to connect with the parish.



Like to Sing?

The youth choir is looking for recruits! Children who are strong readers (3rd grade and up) are most welcome to join in! Practices are every Thursday from 4:30-5:30. Contact Doug Major for more information.

majordrmus@verizon.net

Like to Walk, Have Fun, Help Others??

On Saturday, October 15, St. Michael's will be fielding a team to walk in the Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness. This is a 3-mile walk from 8-11 AM, in Lynch Park, Beverly. [Family Promise](#) is a local organization committed to ending family homelessness on the north shore of Boston. We are hoping to have ALL the St. Michael's children to walk together in a youth group outreach effort. Let's see if we can outnumber the adults! The cost of admission is \$10/child and \$25/adult.

Help Wanted...

There are still LOTS of open spots to fill in the church school on Sunday mornings. If you have some time to give and would like to help out the children, we would LOVE to have you! Please see me or the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

With Peace and Blessings,

Kelley Callahan

P.S. If you have not yet registered your child for church school yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the parish hall or see me. Thank you!



Michaelmas Sermon—continued from page 1

of redemption. Only two angels are named, the archangels Gabriel and Michael. Gabriel, of course speaks to Mary, to tell her she will conceive a son and name him Jesus. Gabriel also tells her, “Do not be afraid.”

Michael is a warrior. As we heard this morning's reading from the Book of Revelation, a war breaks out in heaven. Michael defeats Satan, who is cast to the earth. In those warning words, “the devil has come down to you with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short.” (Rev. 12:12). Short because he knows that Michael and other angels are working to protect our souls, and he wants to get to us before the angels of good God do, or short because his time is short because, Jesus, the great fair glory of the holy angels, with Michael, will defeat him soon, so he needs to work quickly? These are thoughts to ponder.

As we think of this battle between good and evil, within ourselves and seen in the wider world, we may recognize presence of fallen angels and the presence of evil; or if not evil, chaos and disruption. I've had a number of conversations this past week where the topic has been, “what's going on in the world today?” From heavy traffic, to overwhelmed schedules, to anxiety over the election, body-cameras, shootings, overdoses, and on and on, it seems there is an extra edge in the air as we move into the fall.

And yet, there are grand moments of grace we encounter, moments of joy, moments of deep compassion. In these moments perhaps there is a presence making itself known, saying, “I am with you,” or “I will help you,” or “do not be afraid.”

We have stories this morning bearing the image of angels ascending and descending from heaven. The angels herald the voice of God, who reassures Jacob with a blessing of progeny and land, and just as important, reassurance of God's presence to Jacob wherever Jacob's travels take him. Jacob has a vision of angels ascending and descending along a great stairway to heaven. (No reference to Led Zeppelin here!). Living as he does and as we do, there is great affirmation of the intersection of the divine and earthly.

The promise of incredible things is promised to Nathanael, including a conduit to heaven where angels ascend and descend. In both these images heaven is something that is above us. These messengers bring that world that is above us near. They inspire us to move above ourselves as well. Again, angels are “messengers from God can be visible or invisible, and may assume human or non-human forms.” (Lesser Feasts and Fasts) They are meeting us, and

taking our prayers and concerns heaven ward, only to return again.

The Anglican priest Herbert O'Driscoll writes, “Since angels come primarily to guide or to warn us, we need to ask ourselves about the times in our lives when we have been guided or protected – often from our worst selves. When we remember, then we need to recall the people we encountered at those times, realizing that in them we were encountering angels. Their wings and their glory were hidden, their voices were familiar and they spoke of everyday things. Yet when we remember such times and such people, we realize how much we have been guarded, protected, and guided, most often when we were completely unaware.” (“For All the Saints – Homiles for Saints & Holy Days, p. 124)

“Christ, our fair glory of the holy angels,” we sang at the beginning of this service. (Hymn 382). “Send thine archangel Michael to our succor,” we sang in the second verse. “Succor,” for those who need the reminder, means, “relief”, “help”, and “aid”. “May he banish from us striving and hatred, so that for the peaceful all things may prosper.”

This is our hope in faith, in an often broken and injured world. We can't do it alone, but we can with God's help, and God's angels. Maybe, just maybe, you are one as well, providing help, assurance, comfort to someone in need, carrying their prayers heavenward. —Fr. Andrew

Hold the Dates!

**Tree Lighting and Carols
Thursday, December 1**

**Christmas Fair Preview Party
Friday, December 2**

**Heart of Christmas Fair
Saturday, December 3**

Mark your calendars for 3 days of fun, fellowship and fund raising for ministries at St. Michael's.

Bead making and craft groups have been meeting this spring, summer and fall working on wonderful items for the fair. Watch for notices of more events as we craft, cook and gather items for sale. Contact Jennifer Oliveira, Karen McMahon, Charlene Tyler or Pam Oppelt if you would like to join in.

Fellowship and Ministry Are One

Prayer Shawl Knitting Ministry

This ministry is now meeting on Mondays at 11:00 am in the Parish Hall. New members are welcomed!! Participants meet for prayers, knitting, and fellowship to make shawls for celebration (given to those newly baptized) and care (given those in any need or concern). Contact Anne Clark if you have questions.

St. Catherine's Guild, Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 6:30 pm

Jeanne Louisos, curriculum chairman for Explorers Lifelong Learning Institute in Salem, will be our speaker at this first dinner in our program year. She will also have brochures for anyone interested.



The October dinner will include Sue Cool's curried chicken and rice, a green salad, bread and Swedish apple cake. The dinner committee includes Peggy Bittermann, Frances Nilsson, Barbara Miller, Marion Buescher, Gillian Petty and others.

Most months from October through April, women of St. Michael's get together to enjoy a meal, learn, converse, and plan events to support programs at St. Michael's. If you would like to join us this month, please contact Frances Nilsson.

St. Michael's Thrift Shop

The October Thrift Shop Meeting will occur the 2nd Sunday of the month, October 9 at 9 a.m., Columbus Day Weekend. We hope you can attend. We need your ideas for a more efficient, financially successful and fun place to shop and volunteer. All parishioners and ideas are welcome. Nine a.m. following the 8 a.m. service. Coffee and cake will be served. We hope you can come.

October brings us Halloween on the 31st. For this very popular holiday please think ghoulish and ghostly with your donations appropriate for the season. Do you have any clothes that would make spooky costumes or scary table decorations? Black and orange are the colors of the month. Of course we welcome stylish and sensible clothing that is suitable for Fall. Please stop in the Thrift Shop for a friendly welcome and visit.

—Liz and the volunteers

Friday Friendship

Join this faith based support group for elders living alone, caring for others, or who just want to deepen spiritual friendship. The meetings will focus on what it means to have the love of God in our lives as our needs change. There will be opportunities for sharing both our wisdom and our challenges.

The group meets every other Friday at 11:00 am (October 14 and 28). For more information or transportation, call Annette Nicolas, Anne Davis, or Father Andrew.

St. Michael's Church Newcomer's Welcome Reception

New or newish to St. Michael's? Brian Fizer and Tim Braughler invite you to their home for an evening of fellowship, drinks, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Children are welcome! Join us!

**Saturday, October 15
6 pm—8 pm
4 Forest Avenue, Salem**

RSVP by 10/12/16 to
Brian Fizer at
brianfizer@gmail.com
or 412-867-1021



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

26 Pleasant Street
Marblehead, MA 01945-3432

Phone: 781/631-0657
Fax: 781/639-2866
E-mail: office@stmichaels1714.org
Web: www.stmichaels1714.org

Evensong & Benediction

Sunday, October 2

5:00 pm

with the joint choirs of St. Michael's
and Christ Church, Andover

Douglas Major Organ Recital

Sunday, October 16

5:00 pm

St. Catherine's Guild

Fashion Show

Saturday, October 22

6:00 pm

Tickets: **\$25 in advance,**
\$30 at the door

Available Sundays &
in the Parish Office

St. Michael's Church

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

Vestry: Sarah Bates, Kelley Callahan, Ellie Doyle, Brian Fizer, Rory Gaunt, Justin Hintlian, William Miller, Octavia Moniz,
Jennifer Oliveira.

Delegates for Convention: Brian Fizer, Denise Shea.

Delegates to the North Shore Deanery: Brian Fizer, Annette Nicolas, Frances Nilsson, Denise Shea

Staff: The Rev. Andrew J. Stoessel, Rector; Dr. Douglas Major, Music Director; Kelley Callahan, Acting Christian Edu-
cation Director; Jane Maihos, Parish Administrator; Jennifer Hill, Sexton.

Newsletter: Frances Nilsson, Editor; Marcia Koopman, Mailings.

October 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 2 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care No Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 am Lector/reader training 1:00 pm Blessing of the Animals 5:00 pm Choral Evensong with Christ Church, Andover choir	3 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	4 5:00 pm St. Michael's Team at My Brother's Table, Lynn	5 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	6 1:00 pm Marblehead Ministerial Association Lunch at St. Michael's 4:30 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild 7:30 pm Adult Choir	7	8 10:30 am - 1:30 pm St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge Co-Captains Ed & Michelle Baille
21TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Thrift Shop Meeting 9:30 am Child Care No Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	10 <i>Columbus Day Office Closed</i>	11	12 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study No Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA	13 4:30 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	14 11:00 am Wisdom Friendship Group	15 8 am - 11 am Family Promise Walk to End Homelessness Lynch Park, Beverly 6 pm - 8 pm Newcomers, Salem
22TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 16 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Intergenerational Service 5:00 pm Organ Recital with Douglas Major	17 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	18 5 pm - 7 pm Supper Club 7:00 pm Vestry	19 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff 8:00 pm AA	20 4:30 pm Youth Choir Fashion Show Setup 7:30 pm Adult Choir	21 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 7 pm Fashion Show Dress Rehearsal	22 10:30 am Confirmation, St. Paul's, Boston 6 pm Parade of States Fashion Show
23TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 23 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	24 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	25 Noon - 4pm Church audit	26 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Church Staff	27 4:30 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	28 11:00 am Wisdom Friendship Group	29
24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 30 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Child Care 9:45 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	31 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	Thrift Shop Tuesday-Saturday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm		Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm		Turn Clocks Back One Hour for Sunday, Nov. 6