



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

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October Calendar

Happy October

Birthday to

Patricia Cool

Matthew Thibert

Annabelle Ayer

Hanson Hundahl

Hannah Bragdon

From the Rector—Sabbatical

Last June, during the first month of my three-month sabbatical, I took an introductory course in sailing navigation at the Wooden Boat School in Brooklin, Maine. There were only four of us in the program, five including the teacher. As we got to know one another, I realized after a few days that no one knew what I did for a living, what my “job” was. I wasn’t keeping my vocation as priest and role as rector a secret. No one asked and I did not volunteer. Just so no one is reading anything between the lines, I greatly value my call to ordination and being rector of St. Michael’s. However, tell people you are a priest (or minister, or pastor), and people often treat you differently and start telling you all kinds of things. I was enjoying the anonymity and being one of the novice navigators.

On the fourth day of the course we visited the Mary Day, a “windjammer” schooner that sails out Camden, Maine. I recalled that a St. Michael’s parishioner sails on the Mary Day each year (he shall remain nameless here, but I did share with him this story). I also remembered that he would be arriving on the schooner the following week. I asked the captain of the Mary Day if he knew this fellow. He was silent for a moment, but I could see his eyes light with kind recollection. “I’ve known him for over twenty years,” he said. “He helped me deliver my first boat from Marblehead to Maine. I consider him a close friend. I’m picking him up Saturday in Rockland. So how do you

know him?”

I had to come clean at this point. “I’m a priest in the Episcopal Church, and the rector of St. Michael’s, Marblehead. He is a parishioner.” My classmates’ ears perked up and their heads turned. “We were wondering what you did!” one said. “I was on the Vestry of my church, twice!” said another. Stories about faith and church and people were shared over the next days in between charting our sailing routes.

My sabbatical was a wonderful gift and I am profoundly appreciative of the opportunity to take it last summer. Many have asked if I had a specific focus or project during my sabbatical. I didn’t per se, at least not one that was mapped out to the “t”. I did learn some important fundamentals of navigation. Later I took an insightful course on Celtic Christianity in north Wales. I studied, read, rested, and sailed. However, in the back of mind I did have an overarching plan, and what I hoped for emerged: spiritual nourishment, a deeper understanding of faith, vocation and the church. Walter Haug (who does not sail on the Mary Day as far as I know) often speaks of “relationship” as the key element in our earthly and spiritual journey. The connections made that morning on the Mary Day was one of many such moments that affirmed for me Walt’s insight. It was a special gift, one divinely given. .

- Fr. Andrew

From the Music Director

Please join us (and bring a friend!) for our first two special musical events of the season. A reception follows each event. Many of you have graciously hosted these receptions in the past, and we are asking for your help. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall, or call me or Jane Maihos at the church if you have any questions. Many thanks.

Sunday October 4 at 5 pm
Choral Evensong and Benediction

Sunday, October 18 at 5 pm
Organ Recital
Mark Dwyer
Church of the Advent, Boston

Mark Dwyer is a Worcester native and 1985 graduate of the New England Conservatory (also earning a Master's Degree in 1990), where he studied with Yuko Hayashi, William Porter, Frank Taylor and Charles Krigbaum. An active recitalist, Mark has performed in North and South America and Europe. He is featured on several recordings by the Advent Choir as both accompanist and conductor, and is the performer on a JAV recording of the Advent's Aeolian-Skinner organ in the series "Great Organ Builders of America: A Retrospective."

- Douglas Major, Music Director

Organ Recital Series Sundays at 5:00 pm

- October 18 Mark Dwyer,
Church of the Advent, Boston
- November 15 Doug Major,
St. Michael's Church
- February 21 Heinrich Christensen,
King's Chapel, Boston
- March 21 Carolyn Day Skelton
Andover
- April 18 Eric Anderson
St. John the Evangelist,
Swampscott
- May 16 David Chalmers

Please join us for these concerts,
 and plan to bring a friend!

Church School Schedule

Date	Special Event	Rite-13	Godly Play I	Godly Play II
Sun, Oct.4 Feast of St. Francis	Blessing of the Animals at 2pm	Parents meeting 11:30—noon	“Circle of the Eucha- rist” with Sue Cool	“Sarah” with Diane Christian & Kate Renney
Sun. Oct. 11 Day Weekend	One-Room Church School	No class	“Prayer: a story” with Aileen Ryder	“Prayer: a story” with Aileen Ryder
Sat. Oct. 17	Rite-13 Field Trip to Corn Maze	Field Trip to Maze, meet at 10am.		
Sun. Oct. 18	National Children's Sabbath	No class	Attend service together	Meet at 9:30 to prepare
Fri. Oct. 23	A Morning of Reflection 9am-12pm			
Sun. Oct. 25	Crop walk with St. Andrew's Rite-13		“Creation” with Kaki Ianchulev	“Jacob” with Anne Ayer

Church School - Aileen Ryder

Classroom Musings

As I write, the Church School year has just begun. As the story moved off the shelf and began to be told. "Oh, I know this one," cried the children.

As a teacher this can almost feel like a defeat. "Oh they know this already," I find myself musing. "What if I they get bored? What if I have nothing new to offer them?" However, the truth is this is a great triumph. We share the stories of our faith year after year so that children will come to know the stories. The Godly Play program is designed so that our stories of faith, become the children's stories. The repetition of stories invites students to truly learn the story and make it their own.

Oh, and don't we hear the same stories year after year in services...we have a three year cycle of Sunday lectionary readings (Scripture read in service). By reading and re-reading the same stories Scripture can come alive. The Bible is intended to have an impact on our lives, where we are in life can have an impact on what we hear. The Godly Play curriculum invites children into this same dynamic. Even when they are presented a story they have heard before...their changing life allows them to hear God speaking in a new way through each story.

Entering the Story

This year the story cycle in Godly Play II invites students to reflect on examples of Christian living. This fall we focus on stories of some of our heroes of faith from the Hebrew Scripture. We are delving into the story of "The Great Family" by hearing stories of the individuals of the story: Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Joseph and Moses.

These individuals show lives turn upside down and all around by faith in God. But my favorite part of these stories is the humanness of each character...God chooses these people to carry a special message with their lives, yet they make mistakes just like you or I. Each attempt by Abraham to fulfill God's promise of many descendants is met with a small disaster (he needs to split his family from his nephew's, he sends away his son by a concubine). Sarah experiences great jealousy when her maid has her husband's child (what spouse wouldn't be jealous!) Jacob tricks his brother and father for the birthright of the firstborn. Joseph made sure his brothers knew of his favored status within the family. Moses ran away from Egypt because he accidentally murdered a foreman. These people, with all their human failings are nonetheless examples of faith because they shaped lives trying to follow God's will.

Throughout the year students will be introduced to several saints (from St. Michael to St. Patrick to the Apostle Paul). We will hear stories of our church traditions and some of Jesus' parables teaching us how to interact with each other and with God. This culminates with our final lesson, "I am a Disciple" in which students will tell the story of their own lives as examples of people of faith today.

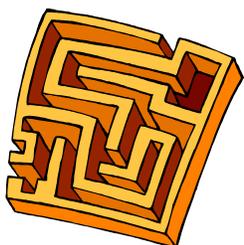


Rite-13

This program for our middle school youth (grades 6-8) is designed to explore question of faith in the context of the changes of adolescence. It is also designed to invite children to view the Church as their adult home. Hosting youth events specific to this age group lets our youth know that their church community values their participation and respects their maturation.

We have a small, but dedicated group of youth here (they faithfully serve as acolytes on Sundays). I invite all parishioners to consider involvement in this group either as teachers or as chaperone for special events.

Experience has shown that high school students and young adults have closer relationship with their church



community when they have had a positive experience at this age. Hopefully we will expand involvement and breadth of activity by sponsoring social/service events with St. Andrew's Rite-13 group. To that end, we at St. Michael's will be hosting an apple-picking trip, and St. Andrew's has invited us to join them in the North Shore Crop Walk (October 25).

The Diocese's Congregational Resources Day Workshops

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts provides a Congregational Resource Day in late September. This year David Bittermann, Ed Nilsson, Frances Nilsson and Father Andrew attended inspiring workshops on Making Electronic Connections, Discipleship for Eco-Justice, Spirituality of Stewardship, Parish Property, Ice Breakers & Team Building with Youth, Work to Sustain the World & Ways to Sustain the Workers, Reimaging Church and Possibilities, and the Gospel According to Starbucks.

With guitar, song and a "Green Bible" Bishop Bud Cedarholm led "Discipleship for Eco-Justice: Spiritual & Practical Ways to Join God in Healing Creation." In *The Green Bible* all passages relating to the environment are printed in green to bring out the theological basis for Christian care of the environment. Introductory commentary from Bishop Desmond Tutu and others are included. Cedarholm also discussed the UN's Millennium Development Goal MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability and the coming October 24 Climate Action Day (www.350.org).



Two young Episcopalians who work at Starbucks led the session "The Gospel According to Starbucks: Doing Mission and Evangelism in a Changing World." Jason Long and Kendyll Hilleger demonstrated how the concepts that Starbucks instills in their employees can be used in churches to build relationships and community. Starbucks' mission is to "To inspire and nurture the human spirit – one person, one cup, one neighborhood at a time."

Employees are asked to be welcoming, genuine, knowledgeable, considerate and involved. Based on Leonard Sweet's book *The Gospel According to Starbucks: Living with a Grande Passion*, Jason and Kendyll translated this to



Be Welcoming: offer everyone a sense of belonging.

Be Genuine: connect, discover, respond

Be Knowledgeable: love what you do, share it with others.

Be Considerate: take care of your self, each other and the world

Be Involved: in your church, in the Church, in your community.

They even included a Values Walk checklist to train us to see our church through the eyes of a visitor and to regularly evaluate how welcoming we are.

Talk to David, Ed, Frances or Father Andrew to learn more and to get copies of handouts.

- Frances Nilsson & David Bittermann, Steering Committee

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.

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.

The Davenport House—Home, Church School, Shops, Enrichment, Thrift Shop

At the November 9, 1950 Vestry meeting, Father Norton announced that the property at 20 Pleasant St. was up for sale. By December 20, 1950, the Parish at St. Michael's had met in two special meetings and the Vestry almost weekly, and voted to buy the house and land for \$8500 with a \$3000 down payment from the Thrift Shop of the St. Catherine's Guild, a \$4750 mortgage with donations and fundraisers to pay for the renovations and the remaining amount. On April 12, 1951 the Vestry recommended "that the Graves House be...completely renovated, to be used primarily for the Sunday School. They further recommend that particular rooms be designated for the use of parish organizations and groups with the understanding that all the rooms be available for the use of Sunday School classes."

The house at 20 Pleasant Street was built about 1830. By 1850 it was occupied by Benjamin Thompson, a partner in the stagecoach service from Marblehead to Boston, and stationmaster and first conductor for Eastern Railroad's train from Marblehead to Salem. Thompson died in 1869 and by 1870, retail clothier Samuel Graves, Jr. moved in with his wife, Elizabeth, their only daughter Alice and his mother-in-law Mary Baker. All four lived in the house until their deaths, Mary Baker in 1874, Elizabeth in 1899, Samuel by 1910 and later Alice. At some point Mary I. Graves, took ownership and moved in. Mary was born in 1868, the daughter of Joseph H. and Mary Graves, and with her parents lived in a variety of places—Marblehead, Salem, Revere and Lynn before returning to Marblehead.

The parish knew that much work was need to make the house ready for use. In his Rector's Annual Report for 1951, Father Norton stated that "The present contract calls for the replacement of foundation and sills where needed, reinforcing floors, replacing window sashes with those of colonial type, construction of a stone platform and steps and the building of a colonial doorway for the main entrance, construction of a fire escape ... and renovating the chimneys. With the addition of interior decoration and exterior painting the building should be ready for use." The ell was not removed, as originally planned, perhaps because the space was needed and it was an early part of the house. The following June 1952 as repairs continued the Vestry voted to name the building the Davenport House



20 Pleasant Street in 1950/1951.

in honor of Orlando and Sarah Davenport who left a large bequest to St. Michael's. The Davenport House opened for Sunday School in fall 1952, but it was in 1955 when the mortgage had been paid that Bishop Anson Phelps Stokes Jr. dedicated the building. At that time the building was used by 250 children meeting in two shifts!

The Sunday School has continued to use the Davenport House as its primary space ever since. Intensity gradual lessened with the construction of the new Parish Hall in 1964 and the sharp decrease in the number of children after the baby boom. By the 1970s Parish organizations began to think of new ways to use the space during the week and to bring in funds to the parish:

- The Fish—1971 arts & crafts consignment shop
- St. Michael's Tea Room—1975 English-style tea room with lunch and "Tea Things"
- Rentable office space
- Davenport House Children's Enrichment Center After School Program—1985-1997
- Davenport House Nursery School—1989-1997

From 1997 to 2009 the space was used solely by the Sunday School and youth programs with office space for the Music and Church School directors. Today with the Thrift Shop open on the first floor, the church campus is alive afternoons Monday-Saturday, 1 pm to 4 pm.

- Frances Nilsson, Historic Church Committee.



*Signs of the times
1971 and 2009*

Important Dates

Gary Kissell on Marblehead Dory Fishing All are invited!



**St. Catherine's Guild
Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm**

St. Catherine's Guild will meet on Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Gary Kissell who will talk about the "Marblehead Dory Museum—Fishing in Marblehead off of the Dory."

Guests are welcome! Dinner is \$5.00 for guests, \$4.00 for members and no charge for clergy. Non-members should RSVP by Thursday, October 1st by calling Connie Denault.

The dinner committee is co-chaired by Connie Denault and Anna Onishi with Marian Buescher, Jean Landreth, Vivian Bennett and Kim Hunt. Martha Gorman will be calling members.

Bring food for the Food Pantry!

**Parish Aid
Tuesday, October 20
12:00 Noon**

*Flexible people never get bent
out of shape!*

Second Tuesdays

**Soup & Conversation
Tuesday, October 13
12:00 Noon**



"Soup and Conversation" Luncheons resume on Tuesday, October 13, at 12 noon, (the SECOND Tuesday of each month). Pat Zumstein is providing dessert and Pat Spaberg is preparing home made soup. If you are available for good company, good conversation, and a nice lunch, please stop by. Bring a sandwich if you wish, and/or a friend. There is never a charge, just the pleasure of your company.

Please call Sue Cool or Pat Spaberg or the Church Office at 781-631-0657 if you have questions or are able to help with the luncheons."

Polarity Energy Exercise Classes Friday Mornings, 9:00 am

Looking to put more balance in your life, reduce your stress level or just feel better overall?

Try Polarity Energy Exercises, a program of gentle movements, postures and breathing techniques developed to help re-balance your bodies underlying energetic circulation. Polarity Exercises are appropriate for all ages and fitness levels, most can be adapted for physical limitations and they work to release tension, reduce pain, and calm the nervous system. Centering prayer time and/or mindfulness meditations are part of the class.

Every Friday at 9 am in the St. Michael's Parish Hall. NO CLASS Oct 16 and 23. \$5 fee; drop-in anytime.

Comfortable clothing that moves and breathes and bare feet are recommended. Some yoga blankets will be provided, feel free to bring your own.

Questions: Contact Jan Barnett

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
26 Pleasant Street
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Evensong
Sunday, October 4
5 pm

Organ Recital
Sunday, October 13
5 pm
Mark Dwyer
from Church of the Advent, Boston

Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 4
2 pm

On the Summer Street lawn
In honor of St. Francis

All are welcome!

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

October 2009

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1) 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	2) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	3)
4) 18TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Proper 22 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:50 am Rite 13 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:30 Rite 13 Parents Meeting 2:00 pm Blessing of the Animals 5:00 pm Choral Evensong and Benediction	5)	6)	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 Youth Choir 6:30 pm St. Catherine's Guild Dinner, Gary Kissell, speaker 7:30 pm Adult Choir	9) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	10)	
11) 19TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Proper 23 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I No Rite 13 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II	12) Columbus Day Office Closed	13) 12:00 pm Soup & Dessert	14) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	15) Newsletter Deadline 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	16)	17) Rite 13 Trip to Corn Maze, Connors Farm, Danvers	
18) 20TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Proper 24 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:50 am Rite 13 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Intergenerational Service for National Children's Sabbath 5:00 pm Organ Recital Mark Dwyer Performing	19) 10:00 am – 11:30 am AA Meeting	20) 12:00 pm Parish Aid 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 Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	23) 9:00 am Quiet Morning Retreat-Reflection for Church School Teachers and Parents	24)	
25) 21ST SUNDAY OF PENTECOST Proper 25 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 8:50 am Rite 13 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:45 am High School Brunch	26)	27)	28) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 11:45 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	29) 4:45 pm Youth Choir 7:30 pm Adult Choir	30) 9:00 am Polarity Exercise Class	31) Turn clocks BACK one hour.	