



Photograph by R. Williams

St. Michael's Newsletter

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September Calendar

Happy September Birthdays to

Lavinia Oliveira
Sarah Comeau
Paige Thibert
Joshua Robertson
Madison Howie
Emma Clark

From the Rector

What is God calling us to do? St. Michael's 300th Anniversary is just around the corner. For the past three years we have been embarking on a strategic plan which will bring us to this anniversary. What comes next? How might we prepare ourselves and enhance our ministries into the fourth century of this parish? What is God calling us to do?

Ideas are germinating on what improvements or additions might be done to our church and buildings to further strengthen St. Michael's ministries. Some things are necessary, such as replacing a rusted oil tank, repairing a chronic water leak, and fixing broken windows. Others, however, will better enable the parish to carry forth God's mission. These include such suggestions as handicap accessibility from Summer St.; environmental improvements to our energy use (solar panels and new lighting fixtures); and re-erecting a steeple. (Did you know that St. Michael's originally had a steeple? It was torn down, due to rot, in 1793.) These are a few of the ideas that have come forward. There may be many more.

Later this month each member of the parish will be invited to share his or her thoughts in a series of informal conversa-

tions. The conversations will take place in individual homes, and hence we are referring to them a "house meetings" or "house conversations." On Sunday, Sept. 23, Leslie Pendleton, a consultant with the Episcopal Church Foundation, will help explain the steps and format to bring these ideas into reality. She will be at St. Michael's following the 8:00 and 10:00 services. I hope as many as possible can attend her presentation. Sign-up sheets for house meetings will be posted then.

In addition to our capital needs parishioners are engaging in how we might best celebrate our anniversary. Special events, lecture series, commemorative issues are being raised up. Celebrating our three hundred years we will both look back and look forward.

Whether one has been here ten years or just arrived or has been here a lifetime, God's Spirit dynamically moves through this parish community and through each of us. "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

What is God calling us to do? We'll discern together!

- Fr. Andrew

What Is God Calling Us To Do?

From the Music Director

Greetings to all, and happy end of summer! We've enjoyed such a beautiful summer, but it certainly has gone by quickly.

As we begin another program year, I want to welcome back the St. Michael's Choir who will rehearse on September 6, Thursday at 7:30 and sing at the 10 am Holy Eucharist on September 9. Once again, if any of you would like to join the Adult Choir, please be in touch with me and I would be happy to speak with you about singing with us. We are a friendly bunch who support each other in our music-making; all interested persons are welcome to join us.

Our Organ Recital Series begins in September this year, when I'll be playing the first recital on September 23 at 5 pm. I've chosen some wonderful music by Bach, Franck, Messaien and a set of new pieces that I composed this summer. Please join us and bring a friend!

Some other dates to note: Sunday October 7 is our first Choral Evensong; October 14 we will host Peter Krasinski as our guest recitalist. Many of you will remember his stunning recital a couple of years ago. I hope you can join us for these special events at St Michael's.

—Doug Major, Music Director

Organ Recital Series Begins

**Sunday, September 23
at 5:00 PM**

Douglas Major

**Will Perform Works by
Bach, Franck, and Messaien
plus new pieces**

Sunday, Sep. 9 at 10 am - Choir returns
Sunday, Oct. 7 at 5 pm - Choral Evensong resumes
Sunday, Oct. 14 at 5 pm - Organ Recital with
Peter Krasinski

-Invite a friend. Grow our community.

Celebrate with St. Michael's

Sign-Up Sunday!

**Please Join Us for
A Very Important Presentation**

**Sunday, September 23rd
at 9:00 am and 11:15 am**

**Leslie Pendleton
of the Episcopal Church Foundation
will start our Conversation:**

**What is God Calling Us to Do
to further St. Michael's Mission?**

Sign Up for one of the House Conversations that will be held in different homes Wednesday, September 26—Thursday, October 4. See the calendar for probable times. Watch for a letter coming soon with more details.

—David Bittermann & Frances Nilsson, Wardens

Celebrating 10 Years Ministry at St. Michael's Sunday, September 30

In August 19, 2002 the Rev. Andrew Stoessel attended his first Vestry meeting at St. Michael's and celebrated Holy Eucharist the following Sunday. Father Andrew came to us as Priest-in-Charge at the recommendation of the diocese. And three years later we called him as our Rector. Father Andrew has brought healing, pastoral presence and inspiration to St. Michael's and a vision for St. Michael's next 300 years.

On Sunday, September 30 we will celebrate Michaelmas—the feast of St. Michael and All Angels—and Father Andrew's 10 years ministry. There will be Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 at 8:00 am and a Festal Eucharist at 10:00 am followed by a festive reception.

If you have questions, contact Frances Nilsson, Sarah Bates or David Bittermann.

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.

Regional Youth Day The Diocese has a new youth offering—a day to gather with youth from parishes throughout the North Shore. This first meeting will take place at Trinity Church in Topsfield on *Saturday, September 22*.

A Day of Godly Play This is a special one-day training event with an official Godly Play Trainer. It is planned for both experienced and new teachers. It will be held at All Saint's Church in Belmont on *Saturday, September 15 9am-3pm*.

Acolyte Day All acolytes are invited for this special day with Fr. Andrew. The gathering will include a review of Sunday's procedures, lunch and a special conversation. This is the youth's opportunity to join in the parish-wide conversation about St. Michael's vision for the future. Each voice is important, including the youth's. New and experienced acolytes meet *Saturday, September 29 11am-1pm*.

New This Fall

We have a new formation program this fall—Bible Club. This program is for students who regularly attend services with their parents. Following our Eucharistic celebration they will be guided in a Bible study. To facilitate this, they will receive that week's lesson and questions ahead of time. If your student wishes to participate please contact Aileen.

September Highlights

Blessing of the Backpacks

As our younger generations start a new school year, Fr. Andrew shares a special blessing during Sunday's Service. Children and youth are encouraged to bring their school bags to church *Sunday September 9*.

Church School & Youth Schedule

Date	Special Event	Supper Club	One-Room Church School
Sunday, September 9	Blessing of Backpacks Registration		God Made the World and Loves It
Tuesday, September 11		"Why does the Bible contradict itself at times?"	
Saturday, September 15	A Day of Godly Play @ All Saint's Belmont 9am-3pm		
Sunday, September 16	Godly Play Teaching Team Meeting @ 11:45		God Begins a New World with Noah
Saturday, September 22	Regional Youth Day @ Trinity Topsfield 10am-4pm		
Sunday, September 23			Stewardship: Caring for ALL of God's Creation
Tuesday, September 25		"Is the New Testament more important than the Old Testament?"	
Saturday, September 29	Acolyte Day 11am-1pm (lunch will be served)		
Sunday, September 30			The Story of St. Michael

Fellowship & Formation

Bible Study Resumes

On Wednesday, September 12 at 10:30 am, Bible Study resumes its weekly review of readings for the following Sunday. Drop in any week and try it out. Meets in the Parish Hall.



Diocesan Congregational Resource Day The Church Is Changing! Are You Ready?

Saturday, September 29,

8:30 am -3:30 pm at

Mass Bay Community College, Wellesley

Expand your faith horizons with workshops on faith formation, liturgy, digital ministry, leadership, being inclusive & welcoming, telling our story, etc.

Find out more at www.diomass.org/ and contact Father Stoessel or Frances Nilsson if you would like to attend.

Parish Aid Society

Parish Aid opens their fall season of lunch meetings at noon on Tuesday, September 18, the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Join for fellowship with an organization that has supported St. Michael's beginning in the 19th century.

St. Michael's Thrift Shop Fall Goods (& Helpers) Needed!

Take those fall items you did not use last year to the Thrift Shop! Clothes, linens and housewares—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

Our Steward of the Month: Anne Foster

Anne Foster is a cradle Episcopalian. When a girl, she liked to go sailing on a Sunday, but her mother always told her, "Only after you go to church." She remembers a time when she and her brothers encouraged their toddler brother to crawl under the pews to the side altar. She said, "I thought my mother would kill us!"

When Anne came to Marblehead, she first attended St. Andrew's, but after Ward Gamble left, she began to miss the high church so familiar to her from childhood. CC Winder suggested she come to St. Michael's and so she began to attend and stayed. She added, "I love all the music. We are blessed with Doug Major."

She served on the Vestry and now she has served on the Altar Guild for about ten years. When Nancy Carvill moved to Florida, she asked Anne to take over the Flower Fund.

This summer she is trying a new idea: flowers from parishioners' gardens. It is not quite as simple as it seems: flowers for Sunday must be ordered by Tuesday. Should a storm or hard rain come through between Tuesday and Saturday there might be no garden flowers available. However, so far so good. "We can't afford to buy all the flowers so it is nice that people are willing to share their flowers," said Anne. "Valerie Wyckoff, Pam Oppelt, and Martha Gorman have been generous," she noted.

Sometimes she has to ask people to help move or

hang things for services. "Bill Miller, Walt Haug, Collie Williams, and Gene Amirault are all so helpful," she said. The men in the choir also help out.

Anne worked for the Carlson company for many years and still works in real estate and property management. In her spare time she likes to cook and she likes gardening, but since she now lives in a condo, her garden is limited to tomatoes in pots.

She has a daughter, Emily, and two grandchildren Sarah, 10, and Chloe, 4. A special memory is Chloe in her first Christmas pageant last year, in angel wings, waving from the altar.

As for her favorite service, it is Evensong. "It is such a lovely way to end the day," she said.

- Marilyn Day

Garden Flowers for the Altar

Flowers and foliage from the garden add beauty and variety to the altar on Sundays—an offering from your heart and hands to all who worship, and then a healing gift to someone at home. Contact Anne Foster if you have flowers or foliage available—fall asters, late-blooming daisies, chrysanthemums, ferns or more.



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Weekly Service Schedule

Sundays

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Michaelmas Celebration on Sept. 30

Wednesdays

9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Key Dates

Sunday, September 23
Parish Visioning at 9 am, 11:15 am
Organ Recital with Douglas Major
at 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 30
Michaelmas Celebration
8:00 am & 10:00 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

September 2012

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Parish Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Thrift Shop Hours
Tuesday – Saturday
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

*Items in italics
may change.*

						1)
2) 14 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Proper 17 9:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II One service only	3) Labor Day Office Closed	4) 5:30 pm St. Michael's Team at My Brothers' Table, Lynn 7:30 pm Property Comm.	5) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 11:00 am Staff Meeting 8:00 pm AA Meeting	6) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	7)	8) 11:00 am – 1:00 pm St. Michael's Team at Lifebridge, Salem, led by Pam Oppelt & Valerie Wyckoff
9) 15 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 18 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School Open House & Registration 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II Blessing of Backpacks	10) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	11) 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club 7:30 pm Wardens Mtg.	12) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	13) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	14)	15)
16) 16 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 19 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Historic Church 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:45 am Godly Play Teaching Team	17) (Rosh Hashanah - School Holiday)	18) School Holiday 11:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 noon Parish Aid 7:30 pm Vestry Meeting	19) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study 8:00 pm AA Meeting	20) 7:30 pm Adult Choir	21)	22) Regional Youth Day Topsfield 10 am – 4 pm Conversation Hosts & Facilitators Training 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
23) 17 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 20 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:00 am Parish Visioning 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II 11:15 am Parish Visioning 5:00 pm Organ Recital with Douglas Major	24) 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	25) 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Middle School Supper Club	26) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study <i>7:30 pm House Conversation</i> 8:00 pm AA Meeting	27) <i>7:30 pm House Conversation</i> 7:30 pm Adult Choir	28) <i>7:30 pm House Conversation</i>	29) St. Michael & All Angels 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Diocese Resource Day in Wellesley, MA <i>10:00 am House Conversation</i> 11 am – 1 pm Acolyte Training & Youth Conversation
30) MICHAELMAS CELEBRATION 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:30 am Church School 10:00 am Festal Eucharist, Rite II <i>3:00 pm House Conversation</i>	1) OCTOBER <i>10:00 am House Conversation</i>	2) 11:00 am Staff Meeting <i>7:30 pm House Conversation</i> 7:30 pm Property Comm	3) 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Bible Study <i>7:30 pm House Conversation</i> 8:00 pm AA Meeting	4) <i>10:00 am House Conversation</i> 6:30 pm St. Catherine's <i>7:30 pm House Conversation</i> 7:30 pm Adult Choir	5)	6)