



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Faith, Community and Hope ~ 50 Years and Growing

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014

from the Interim Rector

Highlights From the Annual Meeting

At our recent annual meeting, Carl Twomey, our Senior Warden, took a look back to St. Michael's beginning and middle years as well as some recent history. It was a very interesting look back because we were reminded that coming together as a community to accomplish a shared goal is part of the DNA of St. Michael's. In your short history you worked hard to plant an Episcopal Church in Holliston to raise the funds necessary to build a building for worship, education and fellowship. Then you turned your efforts to moving from a mission church to a parish. Finally, you worked together to expand the building to accommodate your growing ministries. Coming together around a stated need is who you are. Take a moment to go to the newly developed web site and read the history of St. Michael's, and think about how we can come together today as we develop a volunteer system that offers more opportunities for coming together, and is respectful of people's busy lives and family and work commitments. The other area of our life together that needs our attention is our financial stability. You will be hearing about these areas of our life together in the months ahead. If we look at these two new challenges of our life together as a way for us to work together to insure our continued good health and strength as a community, we can carry on the good work that has been such an important part of St. Michael's from the very beginning.

Then Barbara Gardner, our Junior Warden, talked about stepping into our future together. On the following page please read the text of her talk at the annual meeting.

Blessings,

Pat Stelz



Sunday, February 16

Eucharist at 8
 All Ages Eucharist at 10
 No Church School

Sunday, February 23

Eucharist at 8 & 10

Sunday, March 2

Eucharist at 8
 Jazz Eucharist at 10

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday
 Eucharist and Imposition of
 Ashes at 12 Noon and 7:30 PM
 Children's Liturgy at 6 PM

Saturday March 8

Vestry retreat 9 to 3 PM

Sunday, March 9

Eucharist at 8 & 10

Saturday, March 15

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
 at 6:30 PM

Sunday, March 16

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM
 Evensong Service at 5 PM

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THE PATH FORWARD – JANUARY 26, 2014*Barbara Gardner*

Carl has done his usual excellent job of discussing our history and our many accomplishments. With the advent of a new minister this year, this is an appropriate time to reflect on what lies ahead for St. Michael's. We certainly want to capitalize on and strengthen those areas of our community life together that we value, as expressed by parishioners during the search committee process as we explored what most mattered to us – involvement by our youth, a strong outreach program, a vibrant music and worship program among others. Thanks to your generosity and funds generated through the Together Now Campaign, we want to use our endowment to complete our planned improvements to Buildings and Grounds by repaving the rest of the driveway and replacing our roof. We have welcomed many new families in the last few years and we want to continue that trend, growing our average Sunday attendance. And finally, we want to develop and nurture new lay leadership. While all of these are important, I've chosen to focus my remarks on getting and maintaining more volunteers.

For those of you who remember Patty Waltner, perhaps you'll recall that during her 6 year tenure as your Senior Warden, each year she found new and imaginative ways to ask all of you to give more of your precious time for the betterment of your church. I used to marvel at her skits, her prayers, her poetry all to make the same point. And, as clever and cordial as she was about it, unfortunately it didn't generate the needed results.

Patty has been gone for two years. Carl served as 6 years as Junior Warden and is now Senior Warden. I've served almost two terms on the Vestry, two years as Senior Warden and am now Junior Warden. Joan has served 6 years as the Treasurer, a very demanding job. This year we had a Nominating Committee of Bob Daley, Seth Flannery and Karen Girard who made calls to over 12 parishioners to ask them to serve on the Vestry to no avail. If a few slots are not filled, we will be right back where we started, with vacancies again, fostering the feeling that you simply can't serve on the leadership board of our church because too much is expected of you. It reminds me of that old joke - What is insanity – it's doing the same thing over and over again. IT IS A CRAZY CYCLE which simply perpetrates and extends the problem into the future.

Volunteerism, whether on the vestry or off, is at the very heart of what makes an organization sustainable, vibrant and effective. So what is the solution? One solution is not to keep asking endlessly to no avail but to take action to find a better way to function. Rev. Pat, who has worked with many churches as a Transition Minister, believes we can come up with new creative ways to accomplish what needs to be done so it won't just fall to a few overburdened and sometimes resentful people. Another solution, not the preferred one, is to simply scale back our expectations and do less.

We love our parish and we love our church community. We owe it to ourselves to fully explore a different way of getting things done – one that doesn't feel burdensome, one that unites us in new friendships we might not have made if we hadn't participated, one that ensures that we can call on others to come and help on a given task, one that is mindful that everyone needs support, one that fosters leadership potential through baby steps, starting first as a volunteer in a particular area, one that feels the fun and the fellowship of working with others.

I sincerely hope you will not construe my comments this morning as complaints. They are not. They are plain talking statements about the predicament we find ourselves in as we move along on the path forward. We are a growing healthy parish. We do much that is right and honorable and good. We have much to celebrate and we are grateful to so many of you for your countless contributions, large and small. Many members go well beyond what any organization could rightfully expect. But the conversation about helping has to begin. Our first chance will be this morning in small groups right after breakfast in Eva's Room. Please please be a part of it.

With unswerving faith and with God's help and continual guidance, we will use this new and promising year to unite behind the vision of a SHARED responsibility.



NEW VESTRY MEMBERS ELECTED

Ted Comstock, Frankie Gartner, Pamela PinterParsons and Pat Weston

were elected to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting on Sunday January 26. We're grateful to each of them for their willingness to serve in leadership positions.

Ted Comstock

I have lived in Holliston with my wife Beth for the past 30 years. We have two grown daughters, Diane and Leslie, both of whom live on their own. I have attended St. Michael's since 1989 and served as a LEM for 20 years. My wife belongs St. Mary's in Holliston. For the past 24 years, I have worked for a company called Reed Elsevier, a UK based publishing company, where I am currently Director of Finance for the U.S. Holding company, located in Newton. I have over 37 years of accounting and financial management experience having worked for a major accounting firm and two other large corporations. For several years I coordinated the audit for St. Michael's. I'm one of the 'few and the proud eight o'clockers'. I look forward to helping in whatever way possible to strengthen the financial position of St. Michael's.

Frankie Gartner

I've been coming to St. Michael's for the past couple of years and was previously a member of St. Paul's in Millis. I am happy to serve on St. Michael's Vestry. I live in Medway with my husband Tom and we have two grown daughters, Katie and Amy. I am the Director of Noah's Ark Preschool in Needham and have been at the helm there for the past 11 years. I love to sing and I'm an alto in the choir. When I have enough time, I bake bread, sew, bird watch, and write silly puppet plays and songs for my preschoolers.

Pamela PinterParsons

I live in Holliston with my husband Jeff and kids Abigail 14, and Trevor 11 and began my relationship with St. Michael's behind the scenes as a renter for my music program. We officially joined in 2005. I currently own a healing studio here in town called Soul Spirit Studio and help people of all ages heal and grow through movement, workshops, Reiki and yoga. My background is in criminal justice, nonprofit management and training. I am originally from Girard, Ohio where I conducted fundraisers in my backyard as a small child. I believe it is in my blood and hope to parlay some of those skills to helping St. Michael's grow and prosper!

Pat Weston

I joined St. Michael's in 1976 and this will be my third tour on the Vestry. I have been a Holliston resident for 38 years. I have been an active member of every committee at St. Michael's since the beginning of time and look forward to serving again.

NO CHURCH SCHOOL FEBRUARY 16

On Sunday, February 16 there will be an All Ages Eucharist at the Ten O'Clock service. There will be no Church School, Rite-13 or J2A that day due to the start of the school winter vacation. Children are welcome to sit with their families, there will be a children's sermon.



COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

The Annual Parish Report for 2013 contains a comprehensive account of life at St. Michael's during the past year and goals for the future. If you missed the annual

parish meeting on Sunday January 26, copies of the report are available in the narthex or by request to Parish Secretary, Amy Plante, at 508-429-4248 or stmich-holl@aol.com.

RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Bob Malone and Margaret Cardello

All of the information that the Search Committee needed to submit to the Diocese has been submitted, including our draft profile, statistical information on our parish and financial data. Rev. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Director of Transition Ministry, is reviewing all of this information. Jeff Tate has also been working on formatting the profile, making it much more visually appealing. The profile serves as a sort of marketing piece to attract candidates to our position. We thank him for offering his talents to this important task. Bob Malone is making his way across the sometimes frozen south and will return in late February, just in time for us to start receiving the names of interested candidates in March. We ask that the parish continue to pray for the Search Committee and for those who may be called to submit their names to become our next rector.

UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC AND SERVICES AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Matthew Jenkins Jaroszewicz
Organist and Choir Director

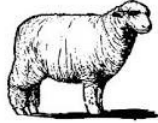
- * Jazz Eucharist on March 2, featuring a combo made up entirely of St. Michael's parishioners
- * Ash Wednesday on March 5, featuring William Byrd's *Miserere mei, Deus*
- * The First Sunday of Lent on March 9, featuring the chanting of the Great Litany
- * Choral Evensong on Sunday March 16 at 5 PM, featuring a setting of the Preces and Responses by Thomas Tompkins, and a setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by Carolus Andreas

We hope you can join us!



HEIFER COLLECTION

This year the church's total donation collected for Heifer International is \$135. Thanks to children who participated in the Advent Box collection and to adult parishioners who made donations. Donor votes have decided that this year's collection will be earmarked for sheep.



WE STILL NEED YOUR 2014 PLEDGE!

Our current pledge total is \$119,218. This is a bit short of our goal of \$125,000 to \$130,000 which is the amount needed to fully support the current mission and ministries of St. Michaels. Please consider making a pledge if you haven't already so that we may continue to serve Christ through all of our mission and ministries. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Frye our Stewardship Committee Chairperson, (978-257-9327 or dana.g.frye@gmail.com).

ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAY FORUM

Please join us this month in the Meeting Room at 9:10 AM as we discuss the Massachusetts Diocese Epiphany Papers study series. This study series, for use in Epiphany by individuals and small groups, explores themes of Christian symbols, old and new, and spiritual growth, using Scripture, poetry and a newly produced video focusing on the nautilus pediment sculpture unveiled at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in May 2013. For more information please speak to Deb Ervin at djemac@verizon.net, and use the following link to access locate study materials or to find out more: <http://www.diomass.org/video/cathedral-nautilus>.



COMPANIONS IN CHRIST LENT 2014

Nan Malone and Deb Ervin

Companions in Christ will begin on Monday, March 10 at 7:30 PM for the Lenten session. Please join us for reading, sharing, praying, and fellowship. More details about which text we will use will follow soon. All are welcome. For more information, contact Deb Ervin, djemac@verizon.net or 508-435-5814.

CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS WITH A JAZZ EUCHARIST

On Sunday March 2, which is the Last Sunday after Epiphany (and thus the last before Lent begins) there will be a Jazz Eucharist at 10 AM. Join us as our talented choir director and organist Matthew Jaroszewicz leads on tenor sax, and also featuring a combo made up entirely of St. Michael's parishioners.

MARDI GRAS COFFEE HOUR

Kristen Walters has generously offered once again to host our Mardi Gras celebration at coffee hour on Sunday March 2. Join us for traditional New Orleans style food as we mark the last Sunday before Lent begins. Kristen will provide most of the food but needs some additional desserts and someone to start the coffee while she is teaching Church School. Please contact Kristen at keawalters@comcast.net if you can lend a hand.

ASH WEDNESDAY INCLUDES CHILDREN'S SERVICE

There will be celebrations of Holy Eucharist, with the imposition of ashes, at 12 Noon and 7:30 PM on Ash Wednesday, March 5. There will also be a children's Ash Wednesday liturgy at 6 PM. This short service will include the imposition of ashes and some simple explanations of the meaning of Lent.



GIRL SCOUT RECOGNITION SUNDAY

On Sunday March 9 all Brownies and Girl Scouts are invited to wear their sashes or vests to church for Girl Scout Recognition Sunday. This annual observance marks the faith and community service that Girl Scouts practice. For several years, Brownie and Girl Scout troops have enjoyed free use of meeting space at St. Michael's, which we give as a service to the Holliston community. In appreciation, Brownies and Girl Scouts have done various projects for St. Michael's, including hosting coffee hour and planting bulbs.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER

Be sure to sign up for Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, happening on Saturday, March 15, at 6:30 PM. Sign up to be a guest and have dinner at a "mystery location" with other undisclosed guests. Sign up to be a host, and have surprise guests for dinner! Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex and via email. Please contact Lisa Ahronian (508-429-2772 home or lisa.ahronian@yahoo.com) **The deadline for signing up is Friday February 21.** Come join the fun!



AUCTION TEAM LEADERS NEEDED

On Saturday, April 5th St. Michael's will be hosting its annual Auction – our “big money fundraiser” that helps to fund our outreach programs – and here are some essential Team Leader positions that need to be filled:

Raffle

- *Select 10-14 items for a raffle in consultation with Donation team leaders or solicit donations on your own.
- *Set up raffle display and begin ticket sales on Sundays 3 weeks before the Auction.
- *Manage advance ticket sales and sales at Auction.
- *Oversee drawing.
- *Document winners and follow up on distribution of items to winners.

Publicity

- *Publicize Auction via posters, flyers, media announcements, banner and yard signs.

AUCTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In addition to the team leaders described above, there will soon be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for volunteer helpers to assist with each of the areas below. Please consider helping with one of the following:

Closing

- *Supervise team to close each of the rooms at specified times.
- *Gather bid sheets and take information to database manager on the night of the Auction.
- *Receive payments from successful bidders.

Live Auction

- *Select items and solicit for live Auction items.
- *Coordinate with auctioneer and help him/her at the event.

Logistics Coordinator

- *Plan overall coordination and set up of rooms and flow.

Clean Up

- *Organize team to clean up building following Auction in preparation for Sunday services.

Sound System

- *Set up sound system and be available on night of Auction to troubleshoot.

Post Auction Sale

- *Arrange sale for unsold items.
- *Keep records of these items.
- *Follow up to ensure payment received and items collected.

Decorations

- *Contact nursery and other flower vendors for discounts, donations and large quantities of flowers which will be used this year to decorate the rooms and be auctioned off.
- *Set up each room with lights and flowers, including table covers, the day before the auction.

Please contact Craig or Debi Miller, Auction Co-Chairs, to sign up for one of these essential positions. We can be reached at 508-429-5909 or by email at cmiller108@gmail.com or debimiller108@gmail.com.

MARCH AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Eucharist at 8 AM Jazz Eucharist at 10 AM Church School at 9:45 AM No Rite 13 or J2A	3 Search Committee at 7PM	4 BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM	5 Ash Wednesday Eucharist at 12 Noon Children's Liturgy at 6 PM Eucharist at 7:30 PM	6 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	7	8 Vestry Retreat 9 AM to 3 PM
9 Eucharist at 8 & 10 Church School at 9:45 AM Quilters at 5 PM J2A at 6:30 PM	10 Search Committee at 7PM Girl Scouts 3:30 to 5 PM Companions in Christ at 7:30 PM	11 BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM Girl Scouts 4:30 to 6 PM	12	13 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	14	15 Guess Who's Coming to Dinner at 6:30 PM
16 Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM Church School at 9:45 AM Evensong Service at 5 PM	17 Search Committee at 7PM Companions in Christ at 7:30 PM	18 BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM	19	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	21	22
23 Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM Church School at 9:45 AM Quilters at 5 PM J2A at 6:30 PM	24 Search Committee at 7PM Companions in Christ at 7:30 PM	25 BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM	26 Vestry Meeting 6:30 PM	27 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	28	29
30	31 Companions in Christ at 7:30 PM					

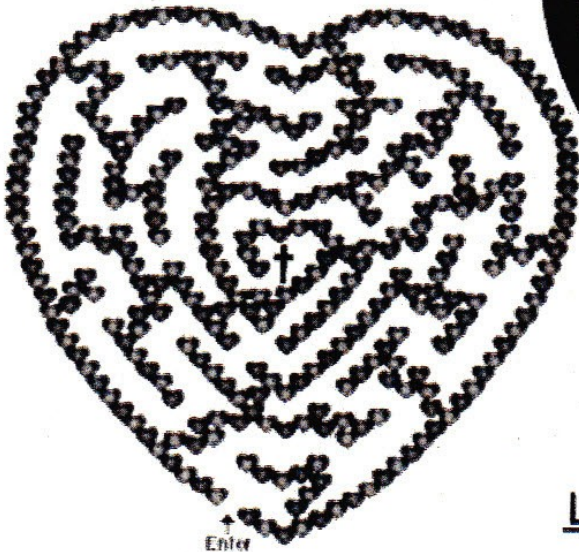
St. Michael's Kids Page

L is for

Love

Write love above.
All mixed up, can you put this verse
back in order? You can find help in
your Bible: Matthew 22:37

Can you find your way to
the cross where God
showed us His love?

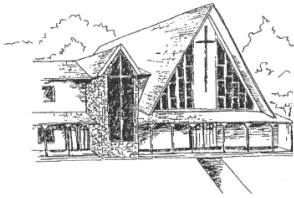


Matthew 22:37

Love

**ASH WEDNESDAY
MARCH 5**

**Holy Eucharist
with
Imposition of Ashes
12 noon and 7:30 PM
Children's Service 6 PM**



**St. Michael's Episcopal Church
1162 Highland St.
Holliston, MA 01746**