



# St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Faith, Community and Hope ~ 50 Years and Growing

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

*from the Interim Rector*

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:7-14)

Happy New Year!!!

Next Sunday, St. Michael's will gather for their annual meeting. In addition to the regular business of the parish, the vestry invites all of us to gather after the meeting for lunch and to go deeper into one of the themes that came out of the information gathered by the search committee. It is the feeling of the vestry and search committee as well as others throughout our congregation that the one theme that is the most important to address at this time is: “More lay involvement (creative opportunities for shared tasks, sensitivity to time needs, helping with stewardship, fight the “burn-out” factor).” As I said in my homily this past Sunday, there are two things that people consistently said to me when I first came to St. Michael's. One was how proud the parish is that every penny raised by the auction goes to outreach. This, in my opinion, is something that we should celebrate. It is a wonderful gospel ministry and you are to be commended for your effort and commitment to those less fortunate than ourselves. The other thing that people said was that it is so hard to get people to volunteer. People won't step forward because they are afraid that they won't get the support they need. You told me that the burn-out factor is a serious concern.

There are two VERY important reasons to address this now. One is that you are calling a ¾ time rector and second you want a “friend” or what I call a clergy companion. When the search committee is ready to interview candidates, they want to be able to have a meaningful conversation about what the parish is doing to address the “burn out” factor. The candidates will want to know what the parish is doing to address this concern so that parishioners can be companions in ministry with your new rector. The desire for a companion in ministry is a shared desire for both clergy and lay people.

The Annual Meeting is a good time to go deeper into this area of concern. The vestry wants to hear from you; what do you need from them in order for you to offer your gifts to the parish; what holds you back; how can

your gifts be used; what do you have a passion for and how can the vestry help. Do you have new ideas or ways to do ministry together that you would like to share?

**Please accept the vestry's invitation to gather as a community on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup> to brainstorm how we can empower, nurture, be open to new ideas, and new ways of doing ministry together that allows for flexibility, that honors time constraints and other responsibilities, that provides fun, meaning and a sense of accomplishment; a sense that you are involved in something that is bigger than yourself; something that is meaningful and contributes to the common good. Are ministry teams (people with the same passion and excitement about a ministry) a possibility? Please come and join the conversation!!!**

Blessings,

*Pat*

**Sunday, January 19**

Eucharist at 8 & 10

**Sunday, January 26**

Eucharist and Annual

Meeting at 10

*One Service Only*

Parish Brunch, Voting and

Conversation at 11:15

**Sunday, February 2**

Eucharist at 8 & 10

**Sunday, February 9**

Eucharist at 8 & 10

**Sunday, February 16**

Eucharist at 8

All Ages Eucharist at 10

No Church School Classes,

Rite 13 or J2A

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“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well” (Romans 12:6)

**RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE***Bob Malone and Margaret Cardello*

The Rector Search Committee has now spent some time assembling and reviewing all responses received from parishioners who were invited to share thoughts and ideas about our church and community. In response to the several questions we asked, a number of themes arose in multiple responses. These key themes were reflected in several ways, but all pointed to the main ideas.

In addition to the major themes, we also received a number of other comments, suggestions, and observations, some of which were issues for vestry consideration, or to be considered once we name a new Rector. These have all either been forwarded as appropriate, or will be retained for further consideration. No comments have been ignored.

Below are outlined, with brief comment, the major themes that we identified.

Things Personally Valued by Individuals

- \* Worship, Including music (specifically mentioned were dedicated and loyal choir and a creative music director)
- \* Welcoming atmosphere reflected in warm community and shared fellowship Outreach
- \* Inclusion of children in parish life

Things Most Important to Us as a Parish

- \* Worship, including variety of services
- \* Outreach programs
- \* Welcoming atmosphere
- \* Fellowship opportunities
- \* And, to a lesser degree, children's programs and financial stability

Things We Do Particularly Well

- \* Outreach efforts (variety and response to needs)
- \* Welcoming atmosphere
- \* Fellowship
- \* Music
- \* Inclusion of children (specifically mentioned were youth education and very dedicated teachers and leaders)

Things To Improve or Develop More Effectively

- \* More lay involvement (creative opportunities for shared tasks, sensitivity to time needs, helping with stewardship, fight the "burn-out" factor)
- \* Involving children (with recognition of youth participation in service responsibilities)
- \* Promotion/publicity (of communication and volunteer efforts within the parish, and information on our services and contributions in the community; membership drives)
- \* Continue strong effort in retaining membership and re-inviting those who leave, and in meeting and welcoming newcomers

Most Important Characteristics of a New Rector

- \* Personable and approachable, welcoming and warm. "A Friend to us and our parish"
- \* Sermons – Bible-based and theologically sound, but relates Gospel to today's life and times and personal needs.
- \* Respect Episcopal tradition (use of Book of Common Prayer), yet open, imaginative, and creative in offering different worship and services (jazz Eucharist, Lessons and Carols, Blessing of the Animals, Blue Christmas, etc.)
- \* Spiritual (prayerful) and Pastoral (comforting to those in need)
- \* Ability to relate well to and encourage children Children's sermons; youth groups, etc.)
- \* A Leader – communicator, not procrastinator, guide staff, financially capable, motivator, understands stewardship

The next steps for the Search Committee will be to draft language that succinctly and faithfully captures and describes these themes in a Parish Profile. That Profile, once approved by the Diocese, will be made available or published in a number of sources, including our own and the Diocese websites, the national Office of Transition Ministry, and the Massachusetts Clergy Association and Diocese newsletters. Once completed and available, the Parish Profile will serve to begin the process of receiving names of candidates interested in our new Rector position.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this material or the search process, please feel free to contact any member of the Search Committee. We welcome and encourage your continued participation and assistance with this most important task.



### To all the Saints of St. Michael's, Thank You!

What a pleasure and surprise it was to receive an emmissary from St. Michael's at the recent luncheon celebrating my retirement from parish ministry--and one bearing a wonderful gift at that! These past eight years of ministry at St. Paul's in Hopkinton, and then at Christ Church in Medway have been truly a blessing, and part of that blessing has been those occasions that allowed me to fill in for my dear friend and colleague, the Reverend Christine Whittaker, on occasions of pastoral need at St. Michael's. It has my honor to serve you, and to meet so many of you over the years. My wife, Judy and I are truly grateful for your kind gift.

Faithfully,

*The Rev. Michael Billingsley*

### PAGEANT THANK YOU

*Mike Teuber*

A huge thank you to all the kids, teenagers and parents who made this year's pageant such a meaningful event. Everyone did a fantastic job! Many thanks to all who volunteered their time to help with costumes and practice, and in guiding the children through the production.

### ATTENTION PARENTS—NURSERY CARE

St. Michael's Nursery Care is provided only for children under the age of three. Children ages three and older are welcome to go to Church School or stay with their parents. If you are not sure what Church School your child should be participating in, please ask one of the church school teachers when you arrive Sunday morning, or call Karin Protas (508-435-1041 or protask@hollistonk12.ma.us).

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you to all parishioners and friends of St. Michael's who have responded generously to our Christmas Appeal. As of January 5, we have received \$1,760 in donations.



### ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26 – ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10 AM

Next Sunday, January 26, the Annual Meeting offers a chance for the entire parish to get together. We will follow last year's successful pattern of holding the majority of the meeting during the 10 AM service. Following the Eucharist, there will be a potluck brunch and an opportunity to continue the conversation that we started with the search committee. There will be activities for children.

### IN SEARCH OF VESTRY CANDIDATES

As of now, there are still two seats on the vestry that need to be filled for the upcoming term that starts next month. If you have an interest in serving, or would like more information, please contact Barbara Gardner (508-429-6467 or [bggedu@aol.com](mailto:bggedu@aol.com)) or Carl Twomey (508-881-7790 or [cjstwomey@verizon.net](mailto:cjstwomey@verizon.net)).

### IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE!

We give thanks to all of you who have made generous pledges to St. Michael's for 2014. As of January 7, 61 parish households have made pledge commitments for 2014 totaling \$111,798. This is encouraging progress but we still need your pledge if you haven't yet made one. Please send your pledge to Dana Frye ([dana.frye@gmail.com](mailto:dana.frye@gmail.com)) our Stewardship Committee Chairperson, who is happy to answer any questions about pledging.

### HEIFER COLLECTION AND VOTING

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Heifer Advent Project. Please bring your collections any Sunday in January, when we will tally the votes and count our total collection. You may bring your collection up during the church collection and leave it in front of the altar. It's not too late to participate! We are still accepting collections, and everyone may write their name on one of the voting sheets hanging in Eva's Room. Questions? Contact Michelle at 508-893-0945 or [michellefrancistate@yahoo.com](mailto:michellefrancistate@yahoo.com).

### 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.

### ST. MICHAEL'S SUPPORTS LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

Each Sunday the *Life at St. Michael's* insert lists items needed by the local food pantry. Often people do not donate to the pantry because their personal schedules conflict with when the pantry is open. People want to help, but find it hard to do. All you have to do is bring your items to St. Michael's and put them in the container labeled Food Pantry, located behind the curtains in the Narthex. You do not have to bring the requested items, but everything should be non-perishable. Volunteers from St. Michael's routinely take the donations to the Food Pantry. Easy enough? One more thing you can do as an individual or family to help those in need. If everyone brought one canned item or one roll of paper towels, the bucket would be overflowing. We hope you will consider being a part of this outreach opportunity.



### GUEST PREACHERS

We welcome back The Rev. Maureen Kemeza who will be visiting St. Michael's on all four Sundays in February as guest preacher and celebrant while Pat is on vacation. Maureen, who recently retired, currently serves as a priest associate at Trinity Church, Concord. She was previously priest-in-charge of Emmanuel Church, Boston and before that, rector of St. Paul's Church, Newton Highlands.

### INTERIM RECTOR'S VACATION

Pat will be on vacation from January 30 through February 25. She will be in Ireland with her daughter and her daughter's family as they welcome their second child. If you have a pastoral concern during this period, please speak to Senior Warden Carl Twomey at 508-881-7790 or our Parish Secretary, Amy Plante at 508-429-4248.



### SPRUCING UP ST. MICHAEL'S

Efforts are underway to spruce up the premises at St. Michael's to help make a better impression on Rector candidates when they come in for interviews. Eva's room and the rear hallway have been given fresh coats of paint by Karen Ballenger. Thank you Karen!

Also, the ladies room has been given a facelift. This includes a new floor, paint, lights, mirror and stalls. Cost for this renovation is approximately \$3000, which will be paid for with funds received from the "Together Now" campaign.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joshua Rice led a team that cleared away about 1300 square feet of brush at the rear of our main parking lot. This resulted in more free space which can be used for a possible picnic area, or surge capacity parking for big events such as Easter. Thank you Joshua!

In the spring, the focus will shift to exterior projects, such as carpentry repairs, painting and pressure washing.

### NEW WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE!

St. Michael's now has a new and improved website that features more user friendly navigation and more information. Thanks to those who made contributions, especially Cathy Harper from the search committee and Website architect, Jeff PinterParsons! Check it out at <http://www.stmichaeshollistonma.org/index.shtml>

### STATUE OF ST. MICHAEL

We thank the Fatima Shrine for donating a statue of St. Michael. He is in the Meeting Room if anyone would like to see him.

### 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](mailto:djemac@verizon.net) or 508-435-5814.



### RITE 13 & J2A/YAC HAPPENINGS IN DECEMBER

*Cathy Harper*

All youth groups were busy this past December! Our J2A and YAC youth kicked off both of their fundraisers for the upcoming mission trip to Kentucky. The first was their cookie sale. This year we did it a bit different and took pre-orders.

Each youth was required to bake 8 dozen cookies! The cookies were assembled and tied up with ribbon and looked beautiful! We had over 80 orders that resulted in over \$800. A huge Thank You to all who bought cookies and to the parents that helped!

The youth also worked a booth at the Holliston Stroll to begin our Flamingo Flocking fundraiser. We have done about 10 flockings so far and it has been lots of fun! We even had publicity on the local cable show! However, we are going to let the birds migrate south until spring and then we will begin in earnest again! So be thinking of who you want to flock once the weather is nice!

The Rite 13 youth baked Christmas cookies and frosted/decorated Christmas cupcakes for Serenity House in early December. This has been an annual event that both the kids enjoy doing and the women enjoy receiving.

Our final activity, by far my favorite of the season, was Christmas Caroling! This is a new tradition we started last year for both the Rite 13 and J2A/YAC youth and their families. We assembled at the church, rehearsed our songs, under Matthew's direction and off we went in carloads to 5 homes bringing Christmas cheer!

Thank you to all who were involved in making these activities a success!



## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL AUCTION FOR OUT-REACH—SATURDAY, APRIL 5

As you fill out your 2014 calendars, be sure to write in the date of the Annual Auction for Outreach, which this year will be held on Saturday April 5. There are many ways to participate and make this year's auction a success. If you would like to help with the planning, please contact Barbara Gardner ([bggedu@aol.com](mailto:bggedu@aol.com) or 508-429-6467).

## RECYCLING AT COFFEE HOUR

Please take advantage of the recycling at coffee hour. Following the few guidelines will help tremendously in this effort. Signs are posted by each receptacle. When paper products and/or food are put in the liquid only bucket, it means the liquid cannot be used to water outdoor plants for many months of the year, and makes for a more difficult clean-up in the winter months. The food waste can be used for composting when it does not have paper products and liquid mixed in. Likewise, the recycling bucket becomes soggy when liquid is added to the otherwise recyclable materials. Please consider recycling as one way you can be a better steward of this earth that our God created.

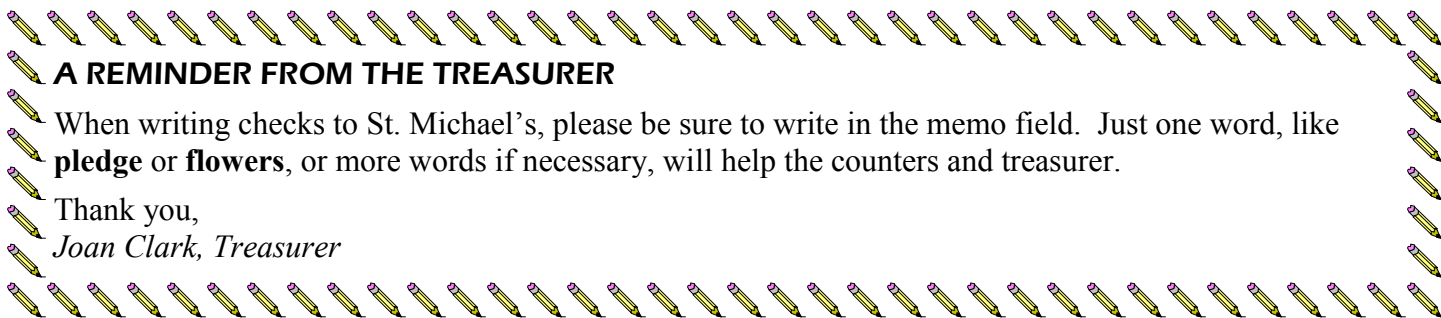
## DONATIONS FOR APPLEFEST AUCTION TABLE

Pat Weston is looking for gifts for the fall Applefest Auction Table. Did you get a gift for Christmas that can be regifted? If so, please consider donating it to Applefest. We will need lots of goodies for our very successful Chinese Auction Table. Call Pat and she will pick it up, or you can leave them in the Parish Office with Pat Weston's name on it. For more information or to help in any way contact Pat Weston at 508-429-6455. Thanks, God Bless and Happy New Year.

## THE ART OF PILGRIMAGE

*Have you ever wanted to go on a pilgrimage?  
Don't know what a pilgrimage is?*

Please join the Concord River Deanery on **January 22, 2014 at 7 PM at Library of St. Andrew's Church, 1 Maple St., Framingham, MA** for a discussion of the book, *The Art of Pilgrimage, the Seeker's Guide to Making Travel Sacred*, by Phil Cousineau, as we explore the idea creating a pilgrimage for adults, similar to the ones for the Journey to Adulthood teens. The book is available online used or new (we suggest [bookfinder.com](http://bookfinder.com)) or from the Minuteman Library Network. RSVP to [AtTheWatersEdgeAdultEd@gmail.com](mailto:AtTheWatersEdgeAdultEd@gmail.com). Or call Chris Visminas at 508-820-7335.



## A REMINDER FROM THE TREASURER

When writing checks to St. Michael's, please be sure to write in the memo field. Just one word, like **pledge** or **flowers**, or more words if necessary, will help the counters and treasurer.

Thank you,  
*Joan Clark, Treasurer*

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1162 Highland St., Holliston, MA 01746 , 508-429-4248

E-mail [StMichHoll@aol.com](mailto:StMichHoll@aol.com) Website: [www.stmichaelshollistonma.org](http://www.stmichaelshollistonma.org)

Interim Rector: Pat Stelz ([patstelz1217@gmail.com](mailto:patstelz1217@gmail.com) or 484-356-8119)

Organist and Choir Director: Matthew Jaroszewicz  
Parish Secretary: Amy Plante  
Senior Warden: Carl Twomey  
Junior Warden: Barbara Gardner  
Treasurer: Joan Clark  
Clerk: Lisa Ahronian  
Adult Education: Deb Ervin, Nan Malone  
Building and Grounds: Carl Twomey  
Children/Youth Ministries: Craig Miller, Jane McIntyre  
Communications: Lisa Ahronian  
Fellowship: Pat Duffey, Seth Flannery  
Fundraising: Barbara Gardner, Seth Flannery

Newcomer Ministry: Ralph Stover, Carl Twomey,  
Craig Miller

Outreach: Pat Duffey, Joan Clark  
Pastoral Care: Jane McIntyre, Seth Flannery  
Stewardship: Dana Frye, Deb Ervin  
Worship: Nan Malone, Ralph Stover  
Altar Guild: Pat Weston  
Pledge Treasurer: Pete Johnson  
Catechesis Level I: Karin Protas  
Catechesis Level II: Mike Teuber  
Catechesis Level III: Kristen Walters  
Rite 13 and J2A: Cathy Harper  
Nursery Caregivers: Tess May, Abigail PinterParsons

## FEBRUARY AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM Church School at 9:45 AM No Rite 13 or J2A	<b>3</b> Search Committee at 7PM	<b>4</b> BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Eucharist at 8 & 10 Church School at 9:45 AM Quilters at 5 PM J2A at 6:30 PM	<b>10</b> Search Committee at 7PM Girl Scouts 3:30 to 5 PM	<b>11</b> BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM Girl Scouts 4:30 to 6 PM	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Eucharist at 8 All Ages Eucharist at 10 AM No Church Classes, Rite-13 or J2A	<b>17</b> Search Committee at 7PM	<b>18</b> BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM Church School at 9:45 AM Quilters at 5 PM J2A at 6:30 PM	<b>24</b> Search Committee at 7PM	<b>25</b> BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM	<b>26</b> Vestry Meeting 6:30 PM	<b>27</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	<b>28</b>	

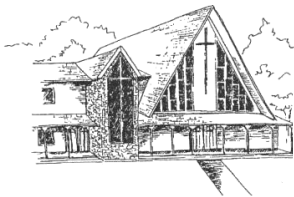
**St. Michael's Kids Page**





**ANNUAL MEETING  
AND  
EUCHARIST AT 10 AM  
JANUARY 26  
One Service Only**

**PARISH BRUNCH  
AND CONVERSATION  
AT 11:15**  
*Activities for children*



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