

## St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Faith, Community and Hope ~ 50 Years and Growing

### NEWSLETTER

#### MARCH/APRIL 2014

#### from the InterimRector

I am aware of new beginnings here at St. Michael's as the search committee enters the next phase of the process -- receiving names of candidates for your next settled rector. New beginnings as Spring and melting snow and robins and the bulbs we planted begin to shoot up from the earth and push the last frigid moments of the winter of 2014 away. New beginnings as we take the opportunity offered to us in Lent to build a stronger and deeper relationship with God and one other. All of these new beginnings can offer us new opportunities for prayer, reflection, reading, retreat, silence, listening, asking, and calling on the Holy Spirit of God to awaken the hope, love, joy, mercy, forgiveness and grace that we are offered every minute of every day by our good and holy God.

Here is a prayer that I offer you from the book <u>Guerrillas of Grace: prayers</u> <u>for the Battle</u> by Ted Loder for these new beginnings.

#### Help Me To Believe in Beginnings

God of history and of my heart, So much has happened to me during these whirlwind days:

I've known death and birth;

I've been brave and scared:

I've hurt, I've helped;

I've been honest, I've lied;

I've destroyed, I've created;

I've been with people, I've been lonely;

I've been loyal, I've betrayed;

I've decided, I've waffled;

I've laughed and I've cried.

You know my frail heart and my frayed history – And now another day begins. O God, help me to believe in beginnings, and in my beginning again, no matter how often I've failed before.

Help me to make beginnings:

to begin going out of my weary mind into fresh dreams, daring to make my own bold tracks in the land of now;

to begin forgiving that I may experience mercy;

to begin questioning the unquestionable that I may know the truth;

to begin disciplining that I may create beauty;

to begin sacrificing that I may accomplish justice:

to begin risking that I may make peace;

to begin loving that I may realize joy.

Help me to be a beginning for others;

to be a singer to the song less:

a storyteller to the aimless;

a be-friender of the friendless.

To become a beginning of hope for the despairing:

of assurance for the doubting;

of reconciliation for the divided.

(cont'd on top of next page)

Sunday, March 23

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM

Sunday, March 30

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM

Saturday, April 5

Annual Auction 6 to 9 PM

Sunday, April 6

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM

#### Sunday, April 13

Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms and Eucharist at 8 & 10

#### Maundy Thursday, April 17

Agape Supper, Holy Eucharist, Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar At 6 PM

#### Good Friday, April 18

Solemn Liturgy at Noon Solemn Liturgy with Choir at 7:30 PM

#### Holy Saturday, April 19

Easter Vigil for Children and Families at 7:30 PM

#### Easter Day, April 20

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM Parish Breakfast at 9 Easter Egg Hunt at 11:15 AM

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#### From the Interim Rector (cont'd from previous page)

To become a beginning of freedom for the oppressed;

of comfort for the sorrowing; of friendship for the forgotten.

To become a beginning of beauty for the forlorn; of sweetness for the soured; of gentleness for the angry; of wholeness for the broken; of peace for the frightened and violent of the earth.

Help me to believe in beginnings, to make a beginning, to be a beginning, so that I may not just grow old, but grow new each day of the wild, amazing life you call me to live with the passion of Jesus Christ.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

Pat

#### SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Rector Search Committee is delighted to report that our parish profile has been accepted by the Diocese Office for Transition Ministry, and that our status on the Diocese website now indicates we are receiving names of potential Rector candidates.

You are invited to view our profile by visiting either the diocese website at <a href="http://www.diomass.org">http://www.diomass.org</a> and going to <a href="resources">resources</a> for congregations and clergy, then <a href="congregation">congregation</a> and clergy support, or our own website at <a href="http://www.stmichaelshollistonma.org">http://www.stmichaelshollistonma.org</a> and clicking on the parish profile tab.

The Search Committee expects to receive names of candidates and nominations through May 15, 2014, and will be reviewing potential candidates on a rolling basis.

We also encourage anyone in the parish who is familiar with a potential candidate, or wishes to nominate a candidate for consideration, to speak with any member of the Search Committee regarding the required submission materials and process.

#### **COMPANIONS IN CHRIST**



Companions in Christ will be using a Lenten program of short readings and videos prepared by the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. It is called

Lovelife and focuses on the Gospel of John. Go to <a href="https://www.ssje.org/lovelife">www.ssje.org/lovelife</a> to register your email and receive daily videos if you choose to do the daily program. Readings and other materials can also be downloaded from the link. Co leaders Nan Malone and Deb Ervin are excited about this program and it's opportunities for discussion and Prayer. We meet on Mondays through April 7 in the Meeting Room; 7:30 to 8, gathering, conversation and treats; 8 to 9:15, the program, prayer and discussion. For more information, call or email Deb (<a href="mailto:djemac@verizon.net">djemac@verizon.net</a>) or Nan (<a href="mailto:maxximilla@verizon.net">maxximilla@verizon.net</a>) or see us at church on Sunday.

#### VESTRY RETREAT

The vestry met from 9 to 3 on Saturday, March 8th to plan for the year ahead. We looked back at what St. Michael's has accomplished in the past 7 years, addressed the feedback from parishioners concerning volunteers and looked at a way to support both the mission and ministries of St. Michael's in a new and different way. Bob Malone spoke to us about the search process and Joan Clark informed us of some green grants that we may be able to take advantage of. You will be hearing about all of this in the coming months.

## A NEW MINISTRY FOR ST. MICHAEL'S – THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greetings! We now have a Finance Committee at St. Michaels. The committee members are: Pat Stelz, Ted Comstock, Joan Clark, Jane McIntyre, Steven Platt and Dana Frye. Our major focus initially will be to address the income shortfall in our 2014 budget that would require a withdrawal from our reserve fund of about \$9,000 to balance the budget. Thanks to new and increased pledges, that deficit is down from over \$14,000 at the beginning of the year, but still is sizeable and we cannot continue to draw from reserves to balance our budgets. It is also important to address the shortfall so that candidates interested in becoming the next rector at St. Michaels see that we are committed to being fiscally prudent. You'll be hearing more from us in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

ST. MICHAEL'S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_3

#### TOGETHER NOW CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Barbara Gardner, Junior Warden

St. Michael's is pleased to announce that the latest check received from the diocese for our own portion of the Together Now Campaign was for \$20,863.97. We are grateful to each and every family in our parish who has sacrificed to make good on their pledges to this important campaign and we extend our heartfelt thanks. As you may remember, we have used these special earmarked funds thus far to pay off our mortgage, purchase and install our beautiful stained glass windows and make some modest improvements to our building.

In addition to the proceeds of this campaign that benefit our own church, 30% of the money we pledged, unless otherwise specified, went to the diocese for 5 special categories of concern and outreach by the church as a whole. They are tithing for mission beyond our diocese, caring for God's creation (green grants), equipping congregations for strategic local mission, raising up new generations in faith and service (building leadership) and transforming our cathedral church, St. Paul's on Tremont Street in Boston.

In this edition of the newsletter, I'd like to focus on just one of those 5 critical areas — equipping congregations for strategic local mission. We often think of mission as something that is provided overseas, far away, in another continent instead of in our own backyard. With funds supported by the campaign , the call to mission now becomes possible in people's own neighborhoods by forming a mission hub.

A mission hub is a collaboration among 3 or more parishes to address a particular need in their communities and then work collaboratively to have an impact. Some examples include the Merrimack Valley Hub which includes Haverhill, Lawrence and Lowell, gateway cities with large immigrant populations and a lot of similar stubborn social and economic challenges. Their hub will focus on providing afterschool programming for children, with a special focus on music and arts education. Sites will also provide mentoring and homework help and are aided by two existing strong models.

Another hub model highlighted in the recent diocese newsletter was for Plymouth, the Cape and Islands, encompassing 18 small churches of the hub which are scattered from Wareham to Provincetown to Nantucket. This hub has a twofold mission: to care for people who are without community and to care for God's creation. Their parishioners want to reach out and serve groups who may feel isolated – the elderly, LGBTQ youth, returning veterans, migrant workers, prisoners and others. They are now providing training to the first cohort of 10 people who will begin mission work at nursing homes, assisted living (cont'd on next page)

SELECTING A NEW BISHOP

Barbara Gardner, Junior Warden
The long involved process of electing a new Bishop to replace Bishop Tom Shaw is nearing an end, with the expectation that the selection will be made on a special convention called for this purpose to be held on Saturday, April 5 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston. To give oppor-

April 5 at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston. To give opportunities to delegates, clergy and laity to interact with the candidates in advance of the convention, a series of 5 walkabouts have been organized throughout the state to meet them. There are seven candidates, each of whom will be in a separate room for 20 minutes when people can ask them questions and then move on to another candidate in another room. At the end of each session, there is about a half hour in which to meet them personally.

Susan Plume and I, your delegates to the April 5 special election convention, will attend the walkabout scheduled for Saturday, March 15 at 1 PM at Trinity Church in Copley Square. Below is a brief informal synopsis of each of the seven candidates. A more complete bio and an essay by each is provided on the diocese website at <a href="https://www.diomass.org">www.diomass.org</a>. Click on the tabs that relate to choosing a new Bishop.

The Rev. Holly Layman Antolini, Rector of St. James, Cambridge, Ma since 2008, has served parishes in Richmond, Va and the Diocese of Maine. Holly enjoys gardening, hiking, reading, swimming, playing the piano, and being entertained by her cat. She cooks with her two "foodie" daughters.

The Rev. Timothy Crellin, Vicar of St. Stephen's Church in Boston since 1999, is the founder of St. Stephen's Youth Programs. Tim lives in Jamaica Plain with his wife Jenny and their son, Adam, a student at Boston Latin School. Tim is an avid runner, cyclist, reader and Red Sox fan.

The Rev. Ronald D. Culmer, Rector of St. Clare's, Pleasanton, Ca, is enrolled in two doctoral programs. Ron is married with two children, two dogs and a goldfish. He enjoys poetry, scuba diving, yoga, and bird watching and has sung in choral groups nationally and internationally.

The Rev. Alan M. Gates, Rector of St. Paul's in Cleveland Heights, Ohio since 2004, has previously served in the dioceses of Chicago and western Massachusetts. Alan is married with two grown sons. He is passionate about collegial parish ministry and community involvements.

The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin, St. Peter's in Philadelphia, Pa since 1999, has served as parish priest in four very different dioceses. Ledlie and his wife have two grown children. With New England roots, he is an avid cyclist, enjoys reading poetry and loves hiking.

The Rev. Canon Margaret (Mally) Ewing Lloyd was the Assistant Rector, Christ Church, Needham and is

(cont'd on next page)

#### **TOGETHER NOW** (cont'd from page 3)

facilities and other locations within the hub's geographic reach. Deacon Helen Trainor of Christ Church in Plymouth said, "Jesus understood that....it takes courage to go where other people are, as opposed to having them come to you,....and you can't do that without a strong community to come back to that will support you and pray over you."

Again, we are so thankful for your generosity which enables us to help our own parish and contribute to good works throughout eastern Massachusetts.

#### **ELECTING A NEW BISHOP** (cont'd from page 3)

currently Canon of the Ordinary for the Diocese. Mally's soul is nourished by quiet, praying while walking, knitting, painting, writing, reading, the ocean and time with family and friends.

The Rev. Sam Rodman has served as Project Manager for Campaign Initiatives in the Diocese of Massachusetts since 2010 and served as Rector of St. Michael's, Milton for 16 years. Sam is married with two adult daughters and has been a retreat leader and chaplain at Bethany House of Prayer for the past four years.

If any of you have particular concerns, questions or wish to provide guidance and suggestions on what are the most important characteristics and background for our new Bishop, Susan and I encourage you to call or email either of us. We would welcome your input.

#### WHY DO CHRISTIANS SERVE?

What is it about Christian life that invites us to serve others? Why do we devote so much time to our churches and communities? Why is it that we serve? Spend some time this Lent praying, learning and discerning with others who have the same questions. On two Sundays in Lent, March 30 and April 6, from 7 to 8:30 PM at St. Peter's Church, 320 Boston Post Road, Weston, the Adult Education Program of The Concord River Deanery will explore what service is. Guest speaker will be Mary Beth Mills-Curran from the Episcopal City Mission, and a workshop will be led by the Rev. Dr. Regina Walton from St. Peter's. To make a reservation, email <a href="mailto:AtTheWatersEdge-AdultEd@gmail.com">AtTheWatersEdge-AdultEd@gmail.com</a>. For more information please call Sam Korab at korabsamuel@gmail.com.

#### HEIFER COLLECTION UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Heifer Advent Collection this season. We raised \$140 thanks to your contributions! Vot-



ing Tally Results were: Rabbits - 1 vote, Water Buffalo - 2 votes, Pigs - 2 votes, Honeybees - 3 votes, Llama - 4 votes, Chicks - 6 votes, Sheep - 12 votes. The Sheep is the clear winner this year! Your donation just gave someone in need sheep's milk to drink, sheep's cheese to eat, and sheep's wool to make warm clothing! One sheep costs \$120, leaving us a balance of \$20, which we will use to also buy a flock of Chicks (a flock of chicks was the runner up.) Let's give a special thank you to Joan Clark who tallies our collection every year. For more information, please contact Michelle Tate (508-893-0945 or michellefrancistate@yahoo.com).

#### \*SAVE THE DATES\*

## STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU DINNER FOR EVERYONE - SUNDAY MAY 18

The Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee will host a Thank-You dinner on Sunday, May 18 at 6 PM in Eva's Room. We'd like to say thanks to all at St. Michael's for their stewardship contributions of time, money and skills. EVERYONE IS INVITED! All you need to do is let us know if you will attend (and how many) by Friday, May 16. Please RSVP to Dana Frye by email (dana.g.frye@gmail.com) or by phone (508-881-2726). Again: All we ask is that you let us know if you will attend. This is a thank-you dinner and not a solicitation. So please come and enjoy some Italian cuisine and fellowship.

#### ST. MICHAEL'S SPONSORS B-SAFE IN JULY

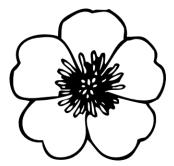
St. Michael's will once again be sponsoring three days of B-SAFE on **Wednesday**, **July 23**, **Thursday**, **July 24** and **Friday**, **July 25**. Friday will be our day at Hopkinton State park. Look for upcoming details on how you can support this wonderful program.

## St. Michael's Community Outreach Spring Auction Donation Form Completed forms due <u>March 23</u>

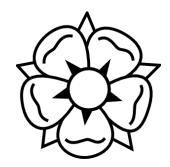
Name	
Business or Group Name (if applicable)	
Street Address	
Town, State, Zip Code	
Phone	
Email	
Donation Description	
Donation Value	
Please check if you	want the donor on your donation to be
listed as anonymous	
Submitted B	у

Please return forms to Bob and Kim Murphy by March 23rd

Forms can be emailed to <u>bobkimmurphy@gmail.com</u> or left in the auction folder in the office



# ANNUAL SPRING AUCTION FOR OUTREACH SATURDAY APRIL 5 7 to 10 PM



Our Spring Auction for Outreach is only two weeks away! We know you want to be involved – here is how you and those you invite can help us reach new heights in raising funds to support outreach projects here and overseas.

Check the board in Eva's Room for details but here's a quick view:

**DONATE** — Get together with friends or family and put together a gift basket that reflects you, or perhaps an experienced you would like to share or a service that could help another. All items must be new and forms must be returned by March 23. Donation forms are available on the bulletin board in Eva's Room. They can be emailed to <a href="mailto:bobkimmur-phy@gmail.com">bobkimmur-phy@gmail.com</a> or left in the auction folder in the office.

**RAFFLE TICKETS** - BUY them yourself and SELL them to neighbors and friends who may not be able to make it that night. Email Lynne DiGregorio <a href="markandlynned@gmail.com">markandlynned@gmail.com</a>.

EARLY BLOOMERS -Don't forget to place your "Early Bloomers" bid online - for parishioners only. Email Debi Miller (debimiller108@gmail.com) to place your bid. We need your name, the best telephone number to reach you at and your best/highest bid! You can place your bid at church on Sunday, March 16 and March 30. All bids must be received by noon on Wednesday, April 2. All winners will be notified on the evening of April 2.

INVITE your friends NOW to the Auction and then outbid them or at least have fun trying! A personal call or invite will get them there. It's up to you!

VISIT THE WEBSITE for the latest listing of items that will be available to bid on. It's updated regularly. Remember to print out the listing if you want to have it available at the Auction. www.stmichaelshollistonma.org.

HELP US DECORATE with items you lend us. We are in need of white twinkle Christmas lights. If you have any to spare, please label your items with name and contact information and place them in the box in the Narthex. For more information, contact Paul or Tanya Vecchione at 508-816-3850 or <a href="mailto:vecchit@gmail.com">vecchit@gmail.com</a>.

NEED HELP? Are you overwhelmed by all the wonderful opportunities before you and need some friendly guidance? Watch the board in Eva's Room for opportunities to help out. Or contact Craig or Debi Miller, Auction Co-Chairs (508-429-5909 or <a href="mailto:cmiller108@gmail.com">cmiller108@gmail.com</a>).

#### **HOLY WEEK IN APRIL**

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER**

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 6 PM, when we commemorate Jesus' last meal with his disciples, our tradition includes a simple supper of soups, pastas, salads and breads. If you would like to a dish, or if you can help with set up or clean up, please sign up in Eva's Room, or contact Vestry Members for Fellowship, Dana Frye (dana.g.frye@gmail.com), Craig Miller (cmiller108@gmail.com), or Ralph Stover (ralph.stover@verizon.net).

#### **EASTER BREAKFAST**

Once again this year Nan and Bob Malone will be cooking and serving Easter Breakfast between the 8 and 10AM Easter services. The menu this year includes scrambled eggs, French toast, beans and cornbread, sliced ham with pineapple, veggie sausage, homefried potatoes, hot and cold cereal, fruit, juice, tea and coffee. All are invited, but we request you sign up on the sheet in Eva's Room so an accurate count for breakfast is available. Donations of fruit and pastry for breakfast and Easter coffee hour will be gratefully accepted, but again please note if you will be bringing a donation. For more information please contact Bob or Nan Malone (KRMalonel@verizon.net) or maxximilla@verizon.net).



#### **EASTER VIGIL**

On Saturday, April 19 there will be an Easter Vigil at 7:30 PM. This one hour service designed for families starts with the ancient tradition of lighting the Paschal Candle from the new fire which we will start outside and then move into the church for the saving stories of creation and exodus followed by ringing in the first Eucharist of Easter with bells and noise makers. We will start the service with candle light from the new fire and when the time comesto celebrate the resurrection of Jesus we will celebrate with light and music and bells and noise makers. Come and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the Easter Vigil.

#### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

On Easter Day, April 20, there will be an egg hunt for young children, through fourth grade, following the Ten O'Clock Eucharist. Children in grades one through four may hunt out front and children in kindergarten and younger on the playground. Bags will be available at each door and from the Easter Bunny. Please open up all the eggs, keep the candy and return the eggs to the containers for collecting empty eggs. We ask parents to speak to their children about taking a fair share and behaving in a safe and respectful manner. There are plenty for everyone.

#### **EASTER FLOWER RECIPIENTS**

After Easter, the Altar Guild plans to deliver lilies from the altar to housebound, sick, or elderly parishioners and friends. If you would like to help us spread the joy of the season, or if you have suggestions of recipients, please contact Vestry Members for Pastoral Care, Nan Malone (508-429-2135), Jane McIntyre (508-376-2471, and Pat Weston (508-429-6455.

#### SAVE THE DATES—HOLY WEEK IN APRIL

#### **PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 13**

8 & 10 AM Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 17**

6:00 PM Agape Supper, Holy Eucharist, Foot-washing and Stripping of the Altar

#### **GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18**

12 Noon & 7:30 PM Solemn Liturgy

#### **HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 19**

7:30 PM Easter Vigil for Children and Families

#### **EASTER DAY – APRIL 20**

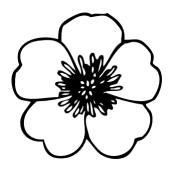
8 & 10 AM Festival Eucharist 9 AM Parish Breakfast

		APRIL A	APRIL AT ST. MICHAEL'S	:HAEL'S		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM	2	3 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	4	5 Spring Auction 7 to 10 PM
6 Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM Church School at 9:45 AM J2A at 6:30 PM	7 Search Committee at 7PM Companions at 7:30 PM	8 BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM Girl Scouts 4:30 to 6 PM	6	10 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	11	12
Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM Church School at 9:45 AM Quilters at 5 PM No Rite 13 or J2A	Search Committee at 7PM Girl Scouts 3:30 to 5 PM	HSMI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM Vestry Meeting at 7 PM	16	Maundy Thursday Agape Supper, Holy Eucharist, Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar at 6 PM	Good Friday Solemn Liturgy at 12 Noon & 7:30 PM	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil for Children and Families at 7:30 PM
Easter Day Festival Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM Parish Breakfast at 9 AM No Church School Classes	21 Search Committee at 7PM	<b>22</b> BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM	23	<b>24</b> Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM	25	26
Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM No Church School Classes Quilters at 5 PM J2A at 6:30 PM	<b>28</b> Search Committee at 7PM	<b>29</b> BNI Group 6:30 to 8:30 AM	30			

## St. Michael's Kids Page

## Lent

	2
Give  LENT  Propose  B  B	5 6
9	
11	WORD BANK Prayer Holy Thursday Fasting Abstinence
1. Lent continues until  5. The Church gives us weeks of Lent to prepare for Easter.  8. The day Lent begins.  9. The liturgical color for Lent is  10. Lent is the time that we prepare for Jesus'  11. Giving to the poor.	Almsgiving Six Ash Wednesday Violet Abstain Paschal Penance Resurrection
Down  2. To go without.  3. Easter celebrates the Mystery, the mystery of our dying to sin Christ to the new life of grace.  4. We open our hearts to God's love by the Lenten practices of  6. Lent is a time of  7. Going without food.  8. Not eating meat.	and rising with

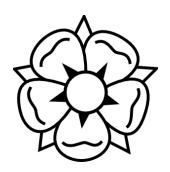


## **SPRING OUTREACH AUCTION**

## SATURDAY APRIL 5 7-10 pm

Raffle—Silent Auction—Live Auction Hors d'oeuvres, Wine, Beer, Soft Drinks

All net proceeds are given away to support outreach projects locally and further afield.





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