

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Faith, Community and Hope ~ 50 Years and Growing

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2014

From the Rector

There is a saying that the first impression is the longest lasting. So, in the case of St. Michael's, it has been a pleasure to see that my first impressions of this congregation continue to be affirmed over and over again. Some of these first and lasting impressions include that St. Michael's is a congregation:

Full of warm and enthusiastic people eager to share their church and faith

Committed to the pastoral care of their members and their extended community

Willing to do the hard work to grow and develop

That cherishes the past yet is ready to embrace the future

This is committed to Outreach

That is responsive to new demands

That loves their music

That values youth

That seeks opportunities to continue to grow spiritually

That enjoys worshipping together

My single most important aim this year is to get to know St. Michael's. By getting to know the church, and you, the congregation, I hope to steep myself in the rich history, both distant and recent, to better understand where we are right now. The other aim is to start laying down the pathway to work towards the goals that were set long before I arrived which fit broadly into the categories of Christian Formation, Outreach, Finance, Parish Life and Membership. It should also be added that many of the steps towards these goals are already in the works and some goals even achieved.

I would also like to add, that I am most grateful for the call to serve at St. Michael's. I feel blessed. I feel blessed not only to be with such a dedicated and spirit-filled congregation that loves their church and their faith, but I also feel blessed to be following the gifted leadership of the Reverend Pat Stelz and the Reverend Christine Whittaker – their gifts, wisdom, and vision are firmly grafted into the abundant life of this congregation.

Yours in Christ,

Sarah Robbins-Cole



Saturday, October 18

Fall Clean Up 9 AM to 12 Noon

Sunday, October 19

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM

All Parish Dinner 5 to 8 PM

Anthony's on the Green at Pinecrest Golf Club



Sunday, October 26

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM
Annual Ghosting at 6 PM

Friday, October 31

Saturday, November 1
Diocesan Convention

Sunday, November 2

All Saints Day
Eucharist at 8 & 10
Stewardship Ingathering

Sunday, November 9

Eucharist and Recognizing Veteran's at 8 & 10

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GREETINGS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

We are currently planning our 2015 Annual Giving Campaign. This year, we have chosen a theme of "Growing Together in Faith and Community" now that our new Rector, the Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole, has arrived and we can begin the next part of our journey together as a parish.

During the upcoming weeks, you will be hearing more from us. For now, we want to alert you to a couple of important dates for the upcoming campaign. First, we will officially begin on Sunday, October 19. As in years past, we will have members of the parish talk about what stewardship means to them on several Sundays during the campaign. On Sunday November 2, we as a parish will celebrate our giving to God in response to the blessings God has provided to us at our Stewardship Ingathering.

Page four of this newsletter has a list of frequently asked questions about pledging, our parish budget, etc., but please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about stewardship or our annual giving campaign.

May the Lord's peace be with you.

*Dana Frye,
Stewardship Committee Chairperson*



LECHEF MEALS

St. Michael's serves Serenity House in Hopkinton, a residence for women in recovery from substance abuse, and Shadows House, a shelter in Ashland. We prepare and serve a monthly meal at each house. There are many different ways of helping with this project, including cooking and freezing a dish ahead of time, preparing meals to be picked up or coming to the house to enjoy a meal with the women we serve. If you are interested in joining this program please sign up in Eva's Room or contact Barbara Gardner at 508-429-6467 or bggedu@aol.com.

FALL CLEAN UP DAY OCTOBER 18

There will be a fall clean up this Saturday, October 18 from 9 AM to 12 Noon to spruce up the building and grounds. We'd like to do some weeding, pruning, raking, painting, cleaning and general maintenance. If you're willing and able to lend a hand, even if for just an hour or so, please let Carl Twomey know (at cjstwomey@verizon.net) so the work can be properly planned.

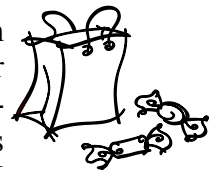


RITE 13 BEGINS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Thank you to Ken Rice, Pam Pracher and Michelle Tate for volunteering to teach Rite 13 this year! Rite 13 will begin on Sunday, October 19 at 9:45 AM in Ekwall Hall. Rite 13 is open to all youth in grades 6 and 7.

ANNUAL GHOSTING

The Rite-13, J2A and YAC youth groups will be ghosting the younger children of our parish on Sunday evening, October 26. The youth groups will meet at the church for pizza at 6 PM. If you have children in grades 4 or younger, listen for your doorbell after 7 PM and then look for the goody bag at your front door!



OUTREACH MINISTRY TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

In the month of October, we will be collecting for the Ashland Food Pantry. Each month a different neighboring town will be the recipient of your generous donations. Please consider bringing a non-perishable item each Sunday, or when you are able. The baskets are in Eva's room.

The following is a list of items most needed for Ashland at this time. As you can see from the list, they are serving young families. *Baby food, diapers (sizes 3 & 6), toothpaste, pancake mix/syrup, juice/ juice boxes, mayo, crackers, cookies, and non-peanut school snacks.*

Helping our local food pantries is one way you can be part of St. Michael's Outreach Ministry. If you have any questions about the Food Pantry Outreach, please contact Joan Clark at joan.clark.mail@comcast.net.



MANY THANKS TO OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

The process of forming a Search Committee began back in the spring of 2013. The charter for the SC was to select and recommend to the vestry the name of the next Rector to be called to St. Michael's. In June, 2014, the SC recommended we call the Rev Sarah Robbins-Cole; this recommendation was unanimously accepted by the Vestry, and subsequently agreed to by Rev Sarah, the Office of Transition Ministry and Bishop Shaw! St. Michael's was blessed to have such a committed, dedicated and capable group to serve on our behalf in this critical mission! Many heartfelt thanks to those who served: St. Michael's Rector Search Committee: Margaret Cardello (co-chair), Bob Malone (co-chair), Joan Clark, Helen Daly, Cathy Harper, Thomas Koshy, Craig Miller, Ken Rice, Ralph Stover, Stacey Thorner.

APPLEFEST FALL FAIR THANKS

Pat Weston

Applefest is over and done with for another season. Even with the gray clouds, we had a great turn out. Aunt Stella's was booming. The Country Store, Bake Table, and Quilting Table were busy. The Chinese Auction table was a hive of activity. This year we missed Bill's Grill and Bill, but thanks to Bob Malone and Linda Ouellette, Bob's Burgers was born. I can't say thank you enough to all the people who helped out. I was out of commission this year, but you'd never know it. It seems like everyone of my St. Michael's family members stepped up to make it a success. I'm so proud to be a part of this family and I'm so proud of all of you. Thanks a million. God Bless all of you.

RECTOR'S OFFICE GETS FRESH COAT OF PAINT

Thanks to Robert Daly for painting Sarah's office before her first Sunday with us! Thanks to Helen Daly for volunteering Robert!

ADULT FORMATION

SUNDAY FORUM

Please join us Sunday mornings in the Meeting Room from 9 to 9:45 AM for "What We Need To Know to Prepare for Retirement For Ourselves and Our Loved Ones." We have asked people in our community to come and speak with us about important subjects that can help us to prepare for the next stage of life.

Sunday, October 19th – Keefe Chesmore -- Planning a funeral

Sunday, October 26th – Doreen Nemeth, MetroWest Regional SHINE Director --will provide a basic overview of Medicare, so individuals can make educated and informed decisions about Medicare health-care coverage. She will also discuss the options available during the Medicare Open Enrollment Period, which runs from October 15 through December 7. The SHINE Program (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) is one of the few resources individuals can turn to for free, confidential, unbiased information about Medicare.



COMPANIONS IN CHRIST

Companions in Christ will meet in December for our Advent spiritual and spirited evenings. Deb Ervin and Nan Malone are working on details for this 2014 Advent season. We

hope you will consider joining us for these very special times together as we study and share and pray.

SAFETY REMINDER

Thanks to all of you who provide refreshments and make coffee on Sunday mornings. We could not have these valuable fellowship gatherings without your help. We want to remind everyone who cleans up afterward to **make sure all coffee pots are turned off and unplugged.** Leaving a coffee pot on is a serious safety risk. Please do everything necessary to keep our church safe.





IF YOU WERE WONDERING . . .

The following FAQs respond to questions that parishioners frequently ask about pledging, our parish budget, etc.

What is St. Michael's annual pledge campaign?

The campaign, which begins in mid-October, invites us to give back to God in gratitude for all that God has given to us. It asks us to commit to give financially, as well as offering our time and skills, to support our church. We ask for pledges to be returned no later than All Saints' Sunday, November 2.

What is an annual giving pledge?

An annual giving pledge is a commitment to proportional giving over the course of the year which means looking at your pledge as a percentage of what you have been given by God. (*see chart on back of pledge card.*) The money is used to support the operating budget of the church, including paying for all expenses such as salaries for the rector, organist, secretary and sexton, utility bills, building upkeep, insurance, diocesan pledge, church school supplies, etc., as well as assisting in support for ministries such as music, outreach, children and youth, and fellowship.

Why should I pledge? Isn't putting money in the collection plate the same?

The importance of pledging, rather than putting money in the collection plate, is that pledging allows the vestry to plan the budget for the coming year. Church-wide pledging allows the vestry to act in a responsible way to the church's needs and priorities over the course of the year.

What happens if I make a pledge and then am unable to meet my pledge obligation?

We understand that circumstances may change significantly over the course of a year and make it impossible to fulfill a pledge promise. It is helpful if you notify the Rector so that income projections may be adjusted as necessary (without, of course, divulging the identity of the individual or household).

If St. Michael's receives money from pledges, as well as money put in the collection plate, why does the church need to hold fundraising events such as the Auction?

Pledge income provides only part of the operating

budget income. Two annual fundraisers are held to meet additional income needs. The Silent Auction proceeds are committed to supporting our hands-on outreach projects and Applefest Fall Fair proceeds go towards the operating budget.

Does St. Michael's have any additional sources of income?

St. Michael's is completely self-supporting; it does not receive any financial support from the diocese or any other Episcopal organizations. The great majority of church income for the parish derives from pledges and other donations. Additionally, about 12% of income is received from rental of the parish hall and other areas of the church building.

What is St. Michael's operating budget this year, and how much of that has been promised in stewardship pledges?

The operating budget (expenses) for 2014 is \$177,125. Of this, \$127,000.00 (70.6%) has been promised in stewardship pledges. The balance of the budget is planned to be met by special donations, plate collections, hall and space rental, fundraising.

How may I arrange to pay my pledge?

Your pledge may be paid by the week, month, quarter, or year. New pledges are always welcome at any time of the year, although most parishioners make their pledge at the time of the annual campaign in the fall, to allow the vestry to plan a budget for the coming year.

Do I have to use envelopes to pay my pledge?

No. We particularly welcome pledge payments made by regularly scheduled bank payments. Envelopes make it easier to count and record check and cash payments against pledges. Checks will be recorded as pledge payments (if received from a household that has pledged) whether in an envelope or not. Envelopes are available in early December for the coming year.

Are my pledge payments tax deductible?

St. Michael's Church is a tax-exempt organization, so contributions such as pledge payments are deductible from income tax in the year they are given, regardless of whether they are given for the current, past, or future calendar year. Pledges paid in 2014 for 2015 will be reserved for use for the 2015 budget.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

As part of our All Saints' Sunday celebration, Church School children build shrines (at the Mother's Altar and in the narthex) to honor the dead. We invite you to bring photographs of those you would like remembered and to write their names in a Book of Life that will be brought to the altar on All Saints' Sunday, November 2. Families are invited to make memorial cards for loved ones to be displayed at the shrines. Materials will be available in Eva's room on October 26. A photograph is encouraged but not necessary. Please leave completed cards in the basket provided and the cards will be displayed on November 2. Please contact Kristen Walters (508-435-3847 or keawalters@comcast.net) for more information.



BAPTISMS ON ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

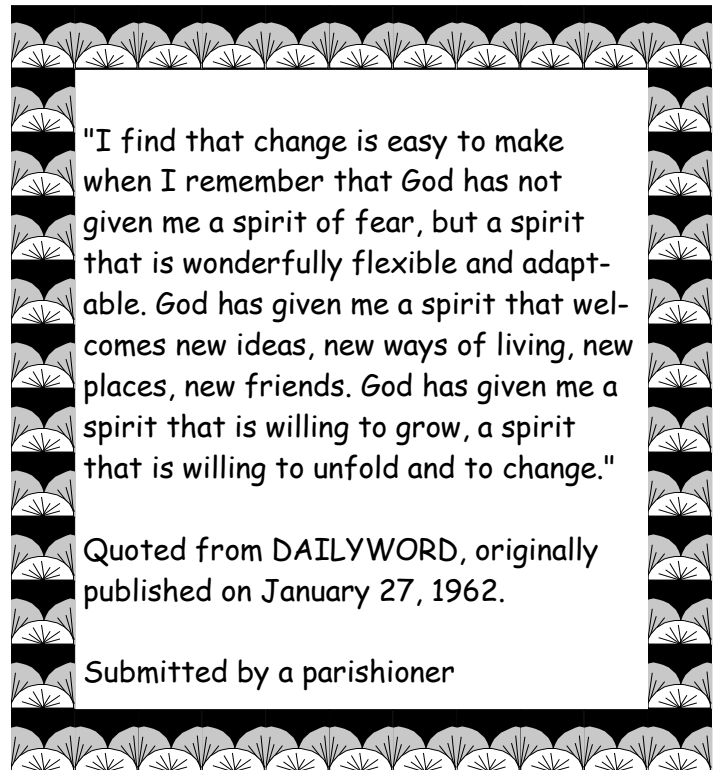
The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated at the 10 AM service on All Saints' Sunday, November 2. If you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child, please contact Sarah Robbins-Cole (603-831-4711 or sarahrob-binscole@yahoo.com) as soon as possible.

RECOGNIZING VETERANS NOVEMBER 9

On Sunday, November 9 at both the 8 and 10 AM services we will be honoring all veterans, living and deceased. Please send the name of a loved one or friend that is a veteran (both living and deceased) and we will make a list of the names to be recognized. You can either email the church office at stmichholl@aol.com or call the office 508-429-4248 or leave the name in the office. Please let us know if the person is living or deceased and your name in case we have any questions about spelling names. Veterans present at the 8 and 10 AM services will be invited to come up and stand around the altar during the reading of the Eucharistic Prayer.

HELP ST. MICHAEL'S GO GREEN - RECEIVE E-COPY OF NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive an e-copy of the Newsletter instead of a paper copy via regular mail, please contact Amy Plante (stmichholl@aol.com).



AN INVITATION FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are currently looking for adults and young adults to serve as readers and Eucharistic Ministers during our Sunday services. A reader is generally scheduled to read one lesson once or twice a month. A Eucharistic Minister helps to lead the liturgy, including reading prayers and serving communion. To be an intimate and integral part of Sunday worship is very rewarding and we invite anyone interested in this type of service to contact Sarah Robbins-Cole (508-429-4248 or stmichholl@aol.com). Reader positions are open to young adults in middle school or older and Eucharistic Minister positions to those in high school.



NEW ACOLYTES BEING ACCEPTED

We invite young parishioners who would like to be part of our Sunday services to consider serving as acolytes. Children are eligible to serve as acolytes beginning in the third grade. If your child is interested, or if you would like more information, please speak to Sarah Robbins-Cole (508-429-4248 or stmichholl@aol.com).

NOVEMBER AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Diocesan Convention
2 All Saints Eucharist & Annual Giving Ingathering at 8 & 10 AM Sunday Forum at 9:15 AM Church School at 9:30 AM J2A at 6:30 PM	3	4 Girl Scouts 4:30 to 6 PM	5	6	7	8
9 Eucharist & Recognizing Veterans at 8 & 10 AM Sunday Forum at 9:15 AM Church School at 9:30 AM J2A at 6:30 PM	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15
16 Eucharist at 8 AM Eucharist & Blessing of Acolytes at 10 AM Sunday Forum at 9:15 AM Church School at 9:30 AM J2A at 6:30 PM	17	18 Vestry 7 PM	19	20	21	22
23 Eucharist at 8 & 10 Sunday Forum at 9:15 AM Church School at 9:30 AM J2A at 6:30 PM	24 Girl Scouts 3:30 to 5:15 PM	25	26	27	28	29
30 Eucharist at 8 AM All Ages Eucharist at 10 AM No Church School						

St. Michael's Kids Page

PROMISES OF GOD

F P I Y E J M M M W V
L O V E R C O M E R R
D T R N F O Y L B H N
I X C G A I T T J E C
F P D I I R L C V P R
A F A E F V P A I L K
R A H I H X E M F V T
N T L I T H A N G F S
X U I T O X C Z E A D
F U O J M F E T L S K
W B H Q J Y E P I I S

Below are the Promise Word's of God. You can go up, down, sideways, and diagonally. Some areas may have more than one word in the same area.

Forgiveness * Heaven * Life * Love * Peace
Overcomer * Victory

Recognizing Veterans

Sunday, November 9

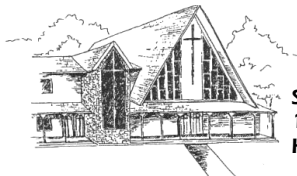
at

8 & 10 AM



*If you have a name of a veteran to be recognized
(both living and deceased), please send it to Amy Plante
in the Parish Office (stmicholl@aol.com or 508-429-4248).*

Veterans present will be invited to come up and stand around the altar
during the reading of the Eucharistic Prayer.



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