



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Faith, Community and Hope ~ 50 Years and Growing

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015

From the Rector

It is hard to believe that the Fall is on its way. Along with the Fall being a time of Back to School and Back to Church for many people, it is also a time when we turn our thoughts to stewardship – and in the plainest terms: giving money to the church to support its work for the upcoming year. As a New Englander there is probably nothing that I dislike more than talking about money. I am sure I was taught somewhere along the way that talking about money is gauche, a little embarrassing and uncomfortable. Quite frankly, the question that most clergy dread in their interviews for new positions is the question, “What is your experience of stewardship?” Most clergy would prefer to leave the topic of money alone altogether. Pastoral Care and Worship are safer topics that seem more Godly, however...

I was reading recently that in the Bible you will find the word “believe” is used 273 times, the word “pray” is used 371 times, “love” is used 714 times and the word “give” – well, that comes in at 2,172 occurrences. Giving back to God in the form of a tithe is a fundamental Biblical principle. The term tithe has traditionally meant 10% of your income – but some people claim that 5% makes a pretty decent tithe too. Percentages are helpful, but in a way, stewardship is a very personal matter – 10% for some is far too little, and for others, in their present circumstances, 10% would be crippling. For each of us, we have to ask ourselves, “what is asking me to do this year in my financial commitment to my church and the kingdom of God?”

This Fall we are looking for a new stewardship chair to help organize a stewardship committee and campaign. If you feel called to this ministry please see Dana Frye, our Senior Warden, who is willing to work side by side with you throughout the stewardship campaign (which runs generally from the mid-October to mid-November).

Also, this Fall there are two great resources available to help us in our Stewardship Campaign – starting on September 12th from 9 AM to 1 PM at Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan, there will be a “God the Giver” workshop which aims at strengthening, or starting, the congregation’s annual pledge campaign. I will be attending this resource day and would be delighted to have anyone join me who is interested in helping out with Stewardship. The second event coincides with Applefest. On October 3rd, from 9 AM to 2 PM there will be a Diocesan Resource Day at Bentley University in Waltham. The focus of this day will be youth ministry, leadership, communications, social media, and financial stewardship. Again, if interested, please see me.

Yours,

Sarah Robbins-Cole



Sunday, September 6

Eucharist & Hymn Sing at 9 AM

Sunday, September 13

Celebration Sunday
Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM
Guest Celebrant John Finley
Blessing of the Backpacks &
Blessing of Teachers & Children
at 10 AM
Church School Registration

Sunday, September 20

Eucharist at 8 AM
Eucharist with Blessing of
the Choir at 10 AM
Church School Begins
All Parish Community
Meeting At 11:15 AM

Sunday, September 27

Feast of St. Michael and
All Angels
Eucharist with Blessing of the
Altar Guild at 8 & 10 AM
Parish Ministry Fair at 9 & 11 AM

Saturday, October 3

Applefest Fall Fair
10 AM to 2 PM

Sunday, October 4

Eucharist at 8 AM
Eucharist & Blessing of
the Animals at 10 AM

IN THIS ISSUE

Celebration Sunday	2
Parish Ministry Fair	2
St. Michael's Bunnies	3
The Koshys	3
Questions for God.....	4
Church School Registration	5
Youth Programs.....	6
Applefest - Can You Help?..	7
Invite a Friend.....	10



HYMN SING ON SEPTEMBER 6

Do you have a favorite hymn that is seldom sung at St. Michael's? Or is there a hymn with special meaning for you that you'd like to tell us about? On Sunday, September 6, we'll continue our annual tradition of a hymn sing in place of the sermon. Everyone is invited to come and say a word or two about a favorite hymn – we'll sing a verse or two of each hymn. If you would like to choose a hymn, please choose one from the Red Hymnal.

NURSERY CARE RESUMES SEPTEMBER 13

There is no nursery caregiver during the month of August and Sunday, September 7. Parents and infants are always welcome in church and, if they wish, may use the quiet room at the rear of the church.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 13

Celebration Sunday marks the beginning of the parish's program year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back from summer vacations. We return to the usual times for services at 8 and 10. Our guest celebrant that morning will be The Reverend John Finley. Parents will have an opportunity to register your child for Church School and meet with teachers. Our Ten O'Clock Service will include a Blessing of the Backpacks and a Blessing of Teachers and Children. We will invite all teachers, children and young people, and others who work in schools, to come forward (with their backpacks or lunch boxes) for a blessing.



ALL PARISH COMMUNITY MEETING - SEPTEMBER 20 AT 11:15 AM

After the Ten O'Clock Service on Sunday, September 20, we will hold an All Parish Community Meeting. It will be time for you to ask questions and for the Vestry to update you on important parts of our life together.



COFFEE HOUR— WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST?

Nan and Bob Malone and Linda Ouellette will help any who are interested in hosting Coffee Hour. Not sure what to do? Want to provide treats but not do the setting up? Want to partner with another host family? We can help. With the return to our fall church season and families back from summer adventures, we will be looking for more helpers for this ministry of fellowship and getting to know each other. Please call Nan Malone at 508-429-2135 if you would

PARISH MINISTRY FAIR – SEPTEMBER 27

John 12:26 *If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*

Join us in celebration of all we do and seek out ways for you to join in the fun! On Sunday September 27 join representatives from the various ministries to see where your skills and time can make the best impact for our dear St Michael's Church and find out opportunities to be in fellowship with other parishioners. Maybe it is time to take on a leadership position or perhaps you would rather "work" on a variety of small short term commitments. Maybe you have always wanted to be part of Companions in Christ or Quilters but just needed a bit more information. This is your time to explore and find what is right for you! Here are a few ways of the many that you can get involved ~

Acolytes needed ~ for those in 3rd grade and up.

Outreach has a variety of ways to get involved ~ cook a meal, pick up at Panera, or coordinate Stockings of Hope.

Fellowship – like party planning? This one may be for you ~ help with a variety of events throughout the year!

There really is something for everyone! Please come and find what is right for you! Have questions. Feel free to email Pamela at newpam-ela@comcast.net.

BCH PERSUASIVE

Tyler and Cole Megathlin

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You could call it Barbara C. Harris Camp or you could call it Best Coolest High-spirited Camp. BCH Camp is very enjoyable for anyone. You get to choose your own activity! What can be better? Like sports, free swim, drama, arts and crafts. Get ready to get down and dirty for the counselor scavenger hunt. You might find a couple in the woods! No one can forget about the magical music in the morning and evening worship, which is extremely high-spirited with all the clapping and dancing. BCH Camp is a very fun-filled, learning experience, where you can make new friends, try new things, and take leaps of faith, which was the motto for the summer. We want to go back to BCH Camp next year, do you?

ST. MICHAEL'S BUNNIES*Nan Malone*

On May 16th Pat Weston was weeding and mulching in the Memorial Garden and uncovered a nest of 5 tiny baby bunnies. Hoping for the best, she covered them up and marked the area with a piece of leafy foliage. The next day, Sunday, it was evident that the mother had not returned, and it was more than 24 hours later. At my call, my son Jim came and gathered up the bunnies in a box with towels in it, and brought them to our house. After an online search, we found that we might be able to feed them with powdered kitten replacement milk formula with a bit of heavy cream added to the water. Kate was best at feeding them, at first with droppers, their eyes were just opening, and then in a couple days with a tiny bottle. By Thursday, they were nibbling on hay and dandelion greens and by Friday they were jumping to try to get out of the box. Still tiny, they were very alert and strong and eager eaters; so much change in a few days! And although, we would love to have kept them, we released them with prayers and blessings at St. Michael's in the tangled brush behind the church on Sunday, May 24th. That's the factual story, but does not relate how precious and cute they were.

The rest of the story: Before the Vestry Meeting on August 5th, members were weeding in the Memorial Garden and there was a bunny nearby which seemed fairly tame - maybe one of ours?

**THE KOSHYS –
FROM INDIA WITH LOVE***Barbara Gardner*

Many of us have come to know the composed, quiet, and dignified presence of Tom and Gracy Koshy in our midst, whether being greeted at the door by Tom on Sunday mornings or beholding Gracy's gorgeous smile. The Koshys have been worshipping at St. Michael's since 2002, on the recommendation of friends and have been active and enthusiastic parishioners ever since. When asked what they like about our church community, they describe it as warm and welcoming with no internal strife and as having a strong outreach program that they hope will become even stronger. Tom has served in many capacities on the Vestry, Rector Search Committee, as well as Eucharistic Minister, Stewardship Committee Chair, and Usher.

Tom participated in the annual *Walk For Hunger* for 23 years, raising money for *Project Bread*. The couple delivers meals every Tuesday for the elderly in Hopkinton (*Meals on Wheels*) and collects food from the *Panera Bread* restaurant in Milford for Serenity House in Hopkinton.

Their association with the Anglican Church is a long and interesting one. Tom's grandfather in the state of Kerala, India, bought land and built the then Anglican (now Church of South India) parish in his hometown. Six generations of his family have been an integral part of the Anglican Church, and then the Church of South India which is the union of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Congregational, and Methodist faiths.

Grace and Tom both grew up in Kerala (Kerala means the land of coconut trees), a tiny strip of land on the southwest side of India by the Arabian side. Gracy describes Kerala as being very similar to Hawaii, which the couple visited last year.

There is a strong and long tradition of Christianity in Kerala. Apostle Thomas brought Christianity to Kerala in 52 A.D. About 20 percent of the population in Kerala are Christians, compared to only 2 percent in India.

Another strong thread of influence running through their lives was the importance of education. Tom and Gracy both hold advanced degrees – Tom holds a Ph. D. in Mathematics and Gracy a Masters in Chemistry. After graduate work in Kerala, he taught there for 3 years and then came to Boston University

(Cont'd on page 6)

MY LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR GOD

I wonder late one evening, as I'm sitting in my room
I wonder what it takes to make the flowers bloom?

It's one of many questions that I've had for quite some time.
Like - what's the use for hornets? Why is a nickel bigger than a dime?

I wonder why the rain falls and spoils a sunny day
And makes me run for cover with my book and lemonade

A pleasant walk on a wooded path brings mosquitoes - the blasted things!
I just don't get it! Why are they here? With the bite and itch they bring?

The thunder and lightning in a storm put on an impressive show,
But why make things so scary for the children we love so?

My daughter brings her school work home, and I don't have a clue
About these math equations her teacher makes her do.

Why do sea turtles live a hundred years? Why do birds eat worms?
Why are avocado pits so big? Why do I always trip on sidewalk burms?

The cowlick on the side of my head, the gap and overbite
I had to fix with braces - it just does not seem right!

Why does goldenrod make me sneeze? Why don't we learn from the past?
Why does the work week pass so slow, and the weekend pass so fast?

Why do some flowers smell nice, when others don't? Why is my head so small?
In children's hats I wear a large - that doesn't make sense at all!

The sun rises in the east and sets in the west - why not the other way instead?
Why are bananas only good for a day before you have to make banana bread?

How come orange doesn't go with pink? Both colors are perfectly nice.
Why are whales so big and gerbils so small? Why does China grow so much rice?

Why do Octopus only live two years? Making *medicine* from *mold*?
86 years before the Red Sox win? And still no cure for the common cold?

If I live to be a thousand I will never understand
Why deer ticks were created, or why He made that canyon so grand.

He has a sense of humor, of this I have no doubt
And how I want to talk with Him to find these answers out!

But not right now! I'm in no rush! The waiting I can stand.
But when I finally get my chance, I just pray He's not a Yankees fan.

CHURCH SCHOOL: CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

We want to make our wonderful program, the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, accessible to all children at St. Michael's. We consider *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* to be outstanding, and the best formation in faith that we can offer our children. The *Catechesis* program is designed to enable children to recognize and develop the experience of God that they already possess. It introduces the language, symbols and practices of worship as well as the stories of the Bible and Church history.

This program would not be possible without the remarkable commitment of our dedicated Church School teachers, who are in the atrium classrooms almost every Sunday of the school year. Since our volunteer Lead Teachers need assistance, we ask parents to volunteer. **We have flexible volunteer requirements and ask parents with one child to help in the classroom for at least four Sundays during the Church School year.** We hope that parents who have more than one child in *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* will volunteer more often. Depending upon what best fits your schedule, you may volunteer for consecutive Sundays or for staggered Sundays during the year.

If you cannot assist in the classroom on Sunday mornings, there are other ways you can help the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* program. While the program cannot exist without the help of parent volunteers, our first priority is the spiritual wellbeing of all children in our parish, including children whose parents may not be able to volunteer.

If circumstances prevent you from assisting in any way this year, we still encourage you to register your children for the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* program.



Registration

Registration for Church School is available both by email and in person. Parents of returning Church School students may register by email

(stmichholl@aol.com) from August 31 onwards.



Registration for new Church School students will be held at St. Michael's on **Sunday, September 13 from 9:15 to 9:45 AM and from 11:15 AM onwards.**

Registration remains open throughout the school year. If your child is not yet ready to join *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* in September, he or she may join in the fall, winter, or spring. Even if your child misses a number of classes, all classes your children are able to attend will help them benefit from the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* program.

Catechesis Levels

In the **Level I Atrium** (for 3 to 6 year olds), The lead teacher in the atrium will be announced very soon. This atrium is in the upstairs classroom at the front of the building.

The **Level II Atrium** (for children entering 1st through 3rd grade) is in the Stephen Hagen Atrium downstairs. Mike Teuber will be the lead assistant this year.

The **Level III Atrium** (for children entering 4th, 5th and 6th grades) meets in the upstairs classroom at the rear of the building, with Kristen Walters as lead teacher.

Classes Begin on September 20

The *Catechesis* program will begin on Sunday morning, September 20 in Levels I, II and III.

Please make every effort to get your children to class on time. The time is necessary to cover the wealth of material and give the children time to work with the materials presented. Late arrivals can be disrupting to other children and the teachers.

Your Comments Welcomed

If you have any further suggestions, comments or questions, please contact Cathy Harper at cathy@hahpah.com or 508-429-7504.

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Jarvis Wyche, Youth Minister



This year at St. Michael's our Youth Program will consist of Rite 13, Confirmation, and Young Adults in Church. A description of each course is detailed below. In addition to these classes our program will be augmented with additional youth fellowship opportunities and the planning of a mission trip for the summer of 2016. Youth registration will take place following the 10 AM Service on September 13.

Youth Sundays Worship

Our young people are an important part of the St. Michael's community – and their presence in worship enriches them and all of us. This year we plan exciting Youth Sundays, when young people in Rite-13 and Confirmation will not have classes but instead will participate in the Eucharist at 10 AM. This will provide a chance for those who wish to serve as ushers, greeters, lectors or Eucharistic Ministers. The sermon will aim to address issues of interest to teens as well as adults. Youth Sundays will usually take place on the first Sunday of every month, starting in October with Blessing of the Animals on October 4.

Rite-13 for 6th & 7th grades - Meets during the 10 AM Service (youth returns at Eucharist)

Our Rite-13 group will continue this September for young people in grades 6 and 7. Rite-13 is the first two-year phase of the Journey to Adulthood youth education program, widely recognized as an excellent program providing a Christian foundation for young people as they prepare for successful adulthood.

The Rite-13 group will meet from 9:45 to 10:40 on Sunday mornings. The Rite-13 program addresses four themes – self, society, spirituality, and sexuality – through Bible study, group discussions and special extra-curricular activities. Look for further information about Rite-13 at Celebration Sunday on September 13, including plans for the upcoming year.

Confirmation Class 2016 for 8th, 9th, & 10th grades - Meets Sunday at 11:30 AM or 6:30 PM

Our Confirmation course will examine what it means to be a Christian, an Episcopalian and invites participants to examine what a Christian Community does and means.

Young Adults in Church (YAC) - Gathers the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 AM

This programs supports older teens (10th, 11th, 12th grades) discern and carry out a ministry within our church or in the larger community. Vocation and development of a personal credo are emphasized. A final rite of passage sends them out into the world as ambassadors of Christ.

THE KOSHYS (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

in 1967 for his doctorate. He had met Gracy who was a neighbor of his first cousin in a town about 12 miles from his own, two weeks prior to leaving for the U.S. A week later, they got married. She stayed behind, but not for long. After securing admission and scholarship at Boston College, Gracy joined him nine months later.

Tom's intention was to return to India after completing his degree. But the couple already had their first child and there were many more opportunities here than in Kerala. Tom says, the decision was very hard on his father. In 1970, he joined the faculty at Framingham State University and remained there for 40 years, retiring in 2011. Tom would never tell anyone this, but he is the author of several math textbooks and numerous mathematical articles. After receiving a second Masters in Chemistry, Gracy worked initially in the Genetics Lab at Children's Hospital, Boston. She eventually received a degree in computer science from Framingham State, working at Prime Computer for 5 years and Tufts Health for 18 years, retiring in 2013.

Their married life has taken them from a dorm for married graduate students in Boston to apartments in Jamaica Plain and Framingham Center, to a house in Holliston for 13 years, and to their present house in Hopkinton. They have two grown-up children, a son in Baltimore with a nine- year-old boy and a daughter in Houston who has a six-year-old girl. They visit them often as well as returning to India to see family and friends. They enjoy traveling, socializing with friends, attending cultural events, and of course, gardening.

When asked to reveal one thing about each of them no one at St. Michael's would know, Gracy revealed she hates to cook and Tom shared that he was on the college field-hockey team for three years. We are lucky indeed to have this intelligent and gracious couple so much a part of our special church community.

'NOTES' FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

Roy Kelley, Organist and Choir Director

Hello there,

This is the 'voice' from the choir loft being put into print.

First, I would like to say THANK YOU for my seamless transition into the music worship at St. Michael's. I feel like I've been here for quite awhile and I'm very comfortable in the balcony! Thank you for your sincerely warm welcome.

Secondly - the first rehearsal for the Senior Choir will be on Thursday, September 10 at 7 PM - in the choir room - second floor. Yes, it's late - but we'll manage!

I'm also extending an invitation to all those who might be interested in being in the choir to come to the first rehearsal and see what we're all about. This church year will be a choir building one - and new membership will come from within the parish. Even if you haven't sung in some time - give yourself a chance to be reacquainted with your music ministry. You'll be pleasantly surprised - I guarantee it!

Looking forward to seeing everyone September 10 - 7 PM - in the choir room.

May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.

Roy



WHO IS THE *OTHER* ROY KELLEY?

Helen Daly

You have seen the bio sent on Roy when he first joined us at St. Michael's as our Organist/Choir Director – but there is another side to the teacher, Church Organist, past President of the Orff-Schulwerk Association, member of the America Choral Director's Association as well as American Guild of Organists. As well as having served 30 years as Artistic Director of the Charles River Chorale and a number of years of the Snug Harbor Community Chorus plus his many years as Church Organist/Choir Director at The United Church of Christ, Millis and 20 years at St. John's Episcopal Church in Duxbury before he came to us.

The *OTHER* side of Roy, the 'outside of church' Roy, has been involved in music theater ever since college. While at the University of Vermont (decades ago!!) he appeared in UVM's productions of OKLAHOMA (dancer), WONDERFUL TOWN (dancer), CAROUSEL (Billy), WHERE'S CHARLIE (Jack) (not all the same year!!) and opera performances of THE TELEPHONE (Ben) and CARMEN (Escamillo). After college there were performances in BRIGADOON, THE KING AND I and THE MUSIC MAN.

During his teaching years at Brookline High School he became a member of the CAPE-TASTICS – a cabaret trio that kept him on the road for 10 years!!

At present he is the keyboard for THE OLD KIDS ON THE BLOCK – a 17 piece 'big band' playing music of the 30's and 40's and THE TINKERTOWN BIG BAND doing the same thing.

So there you have it – the *OTHER* side! And we don't know what adventure awaits!



APPLEFEST – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

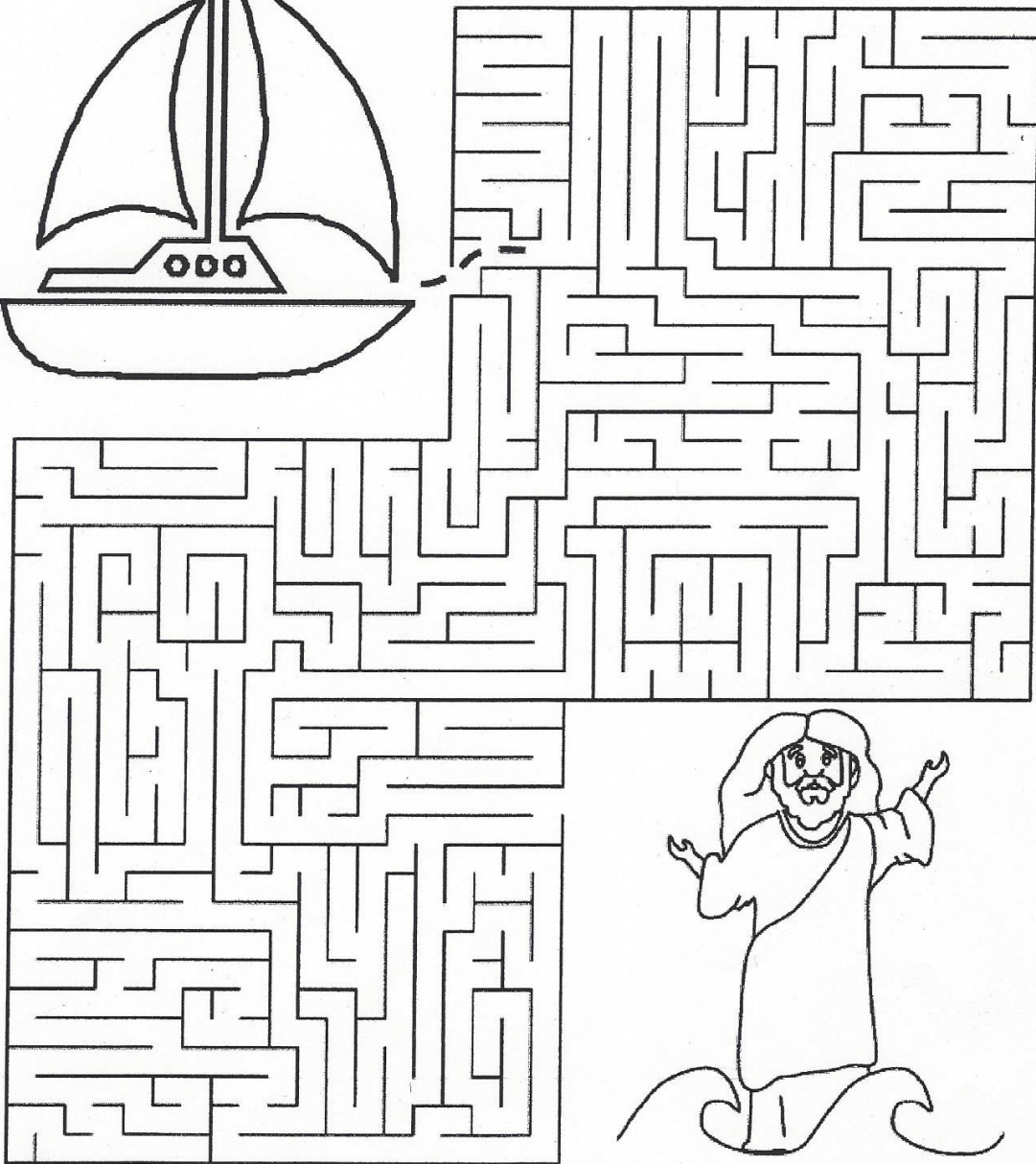
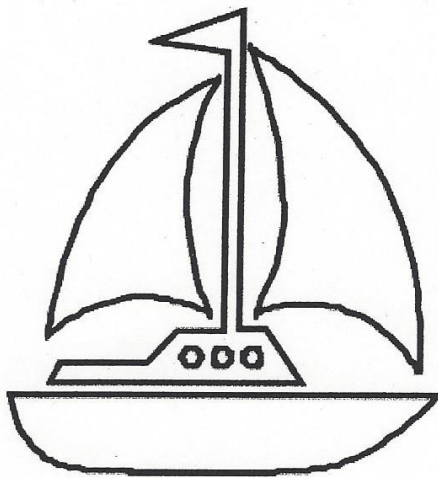
Saturday, October 3, is the date of our Annual Applefest Fall Fair. Linda Ouellette, our Applefest Coordinator, would like to thank those who have already volunteered, and is also asking for assistance in help with getting the word out in local papers, social media, and posting signs advertising our event. She also needs assistance with locating and arranging for vendors. Both of these areas require some advance work, so if you can help please let Linda know as soon as possible (617-686-5606 or louellette@lawson-weitzen.com). Thank you!

SEPTEMBER AT ST. MICHAEL'S

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Eucharist, Healing Prayers and Hymn Sing at 9 AM	7 LABOR DAY	8	9	10 Holliston Senior Citizens Quilters 9 to 11:30 AM CFMS Meet & Greet at 5:30 to 7 PM Choir Rehearsal at 7 PM	11	12
13 Celebration Sunday Eucharist at 8 AM Eucharist & Blessing of the Backpacks & Teachers & Children at 10 AM Quilters at 5 PM	14	15	16	17 Choir Rehearsal at 7 PM	18	19
20 Eucharist at 8 AM Eucharist & Blessing of the Choir at 10 AM Parish Community Meeting at 11:15 AM Church School at 9:30 AM Rite 13 at 9:45 AM Confirmation Class at 11:30 AM	21	22	23	24 Holliston Senior Citizens Quilters 9 to 11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal at 7 PM	25	26
27 Eucharist at 8 AM Eucharist & Blessing of the Altar Guild at 10 AM Parish Ministry Fair at 9 & 11 AM Church School at 9:30 AM Rite 13 at 9:45 AM Quilters at 5 PM Confirmation Class at 6:30PM	28	29	30			

St. Michael's Kids Page

Help the fishermen find their
way to Jesus.



Upcoming Events

Invite a Friend!



SEPTEMBER 6 - HYMN SING at 9 AM

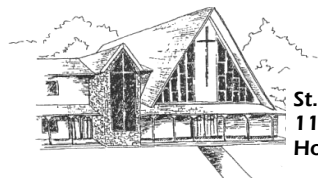
SEPTEMBER 13 - CELEBRATION SUNDAY at 8 & 10 AM

**SEPTEMBER 20 - ALL PARISH COMMUNITY
MEETING at 9 & 11 AM**

SEPTEMBER 27 - PARISH MINISTRY FAIR at 9 & 11 AM

OCTOBER 3 - APPLEFEST FALL FAIR 10 AM to 2 PM

OCTOBER 4 - BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS at 10 AM



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