

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holliston, Massachusetts



Who We Are

St. Michael's is a warm, vibrant and growing community of faith and support. First and foremost we are a community that comes together for worship - to experience, share and treasure our relationship with God, and together to make known our love for God's presence and His mercy and care for His people.



Abounding with activity, our demographics are younger than many parishes in our diocese. We welcome all newcomers to bring them into our family of faith, as well as honor and respect all members of our parish. Our parishioners come from not only Holliston, but many surrounding communities, including Hopkinton, Millis, Ashland, Medway, Franklin, and Milford. People of all ages and backgrounds are invited to join us.

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Our Values

St. Michael's is a Christian community whose vision is to strengthen our relationship with God and one another and to spread God's love. We join together in Eucharistic worship, fellowship, and service. We pray, work, and learn together to explore and grow in faith, worshipping God in prayer, music, tradition, and love. We foster fellowship in our church and our community and truly care for one another. Our parish strives to bring God's love and comfort through our outreach programs, as we are able, to those needing help. We provide Christian education and opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal for all ages, valuing our children and youth as full participants in the life and worship of the parish. We invite and welcome others of all ages and backgrounds to join with us in this mission.

Our Worship

Our congregation numbers about 110 households, and average weekly attendance at our two Sunday services (8AM and 10AM) totals approximately 95 adults and children. We conduct traditional, but not rigid, Rite I and Rite II services from The Book of Common Prayer. Music is an extremely important part of our worship, and we have a small but active and dedicated choir, and an enthusiastic music director. We delight in alternative forms of worship, such as Jazz Eucharist, Lessons and Carols, and Blessing of the Animals.



We have an active group of ushers, Altar Guild members, lay readers, acolytes, and lay Eucharistic ministers, and one Sunday every month our youth serve as ushers and lectors. Child care is provided for the 10AM service.

We celebrate Eucharist every Sunday at both 8AM and 10AM services, and all members of God's family are welcome.



Our Outreach

In carrying God's love to others, we strive to support those in our parish, our community, and beyond. Our community outreach projects, funded through our operating budget, our special fundraising annual silent auction (whose receipts are fully dedicated to outreach), and personal contributions, involve many parishioners as volunteers, and include:

- Le Chef, providing meals to a women's halfway house
- B-Safe summer camp week
- Youth mission trip with Appalachia Service Project
- Children's Heifer Project
- Christmas Stockings of Hope
- Lay Pastoral Care Committee
- Support of a number of area food pantries



Fellowship and Education

We enjoy opportunities to nourish and enhance our social connections, including weekly coffee hours, annual dinners, and celebratory breakfasts (Easter and visit with St. Nick). St. Michael's has a strong commitment to our families and youth, and has a team of dedicated teachers for our Christian education program - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, with approximately 15 students each Sunday - and loyal volunteers leading our J2A (Journey To Adulthood) and Rite 13 youth programs.



We are open to small group learning and spiritual growth programs, including occasional retreats, Bible Study and Companions in Christ.



Our Church Building

Our church building, located on a main street less than 1 mile from the center of town, was constructed in 1966, with a much-needed addition completed in 2002. The sanctuary seats approximately 150 for worship services. In 2013 we were the grateful recipients of six beautiful stained glass windows now framing the altar, which were a gift from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Millis, Massachusetts, after its closure.



Our Finances

While finances are always a challenge, we have been able to maintain a balanced operating budget, and even experience modest growth over the past 10 years. Our annual budget of \$170,000 in 2013 supports our priest three-quarters time. We have \$135,000 in 4 endowment funds, one of which is unrestricted and has a balance of \$56,154. In 2013 we withdrew \$7,155 from reserves to balance our budget and an additional \$4,529 at the end of the year. For 2014, we project a \$9,468 deficit which would result in a reserve balance of \$52,645. The finance committee and the parish are taking steps to reduce this deficit and are confident the gap will be closed by the end of the year. We have paid for several capital expenses in the past 5 years with special fund drives. In 2013 we paid off our mortgage with funds from the Diocese's Together Now capital campaign. There is an average of 65 families or individuals who make annual pledges, funding 70% of our budget. Other sources of revenue are rental income of 13% (we rent space to a thriving Montessori school and several community groups), 6% plate, 3% special offerings (flowers, etc.), and 8% other.



Our Town

Holliston is a suburban community located 21 miles west of Boston, with a population of approximately 13,500. The town is family and recreation oriented, has a limited light industrial base and some apartment housing, but is predominantly single family homes. We are conveniently located near major highways for access to New England's many recreational and cultural opportunities.



Our Goals for the Future

We have identified some challenges for the years ahead:

- Continue the work the parish has begun to develop leaders and volunteers to support our new rector and the ministries of St. Michael's.
- Nurture and grow our parish leadership, lay staff, and volunteers and share responsibilities to reduce "burn-out"
- Improve communication about and visibility of our activities within the parish, and our presence, outreach, and activities in the greater community
- Maintain our strong commitment to being a warm and welcoming community of faith, facilitate growth in newcomers, and encourage the return of those who have left
- Broaden and develop spiritual growth opportunities for adults.
- Increase pledges to allow for future growth

