



# St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Faith, Community and Hope ~ 50 Years and Growing

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

### *From the Rector*

Dear Friends,

Two months ago, I was inducted into the Holliston Lions Club. My husband, Adrian, was so impressed with the organization when he came to my induction, that, on the way home, he decided to join. We thought that being a part of the same service organization might be really fun. This month Adrian was also inducted into the Lions Club. When we lived in New Hampshire, we were a two-service organization family. I was in Kiwanis and Adrian was a Rotarian. What we like about being part of a service organization is that they have a clear mission, focus their attention on serving, and you get to meet all sorts of interesting people that you might not meet in one's own house of worship or peer group. Having been nearly four years out from being a Kiwanian, I realized how much I missed it. When I mentioned that to Pat Duffey, she invited me to check out the Holliston Lions.

Although the Holliston Lion's is a fairly large club, other service organizations have seen a decline in membership over the last several decades. This is not something that is just part of the culture in the United States. It was certainly true in England as well. There have been studies to see why attendance at church, membership in service organizations, and even pub patronage have fallen. All of these decreases happened at about the same time. Do you know what else happened at the same time? The television became part of every household. The studies show that the advent of having a television in every home is one of the highest contributing factors for the decline in attendance and membership. The pity with that is that there are very few television shows, drama, comedy or news, that will give you the memories and the satisfaction that service will. The same is true with gaming, Instagram, Snap Chat and FaceBook.

My point is not to bash the television. I will never have a "Kill your television" bumper sticker on the back of my car. I love looking at what's up on social media. I also know this is not a message you need to hear because those of you who are reading this, I am fairly certain, are engaged in all sorts of service work, and are involved in your communities. You know how good it feels to serve!

This edition of our newsletter is littered with information about how to get involved with St. Michael's. Over the summer, you may want to contemplate some change in what you do at church. Don't worry about whether you are up to something – we will train you, we will buddy up, and we will do this together. So check out all the things that we are up to here at St. Michael's. All ministries are open to all people.

I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Yours in Christ,

*Sarah Robbins-Cole*



### **Sunday, June 5**

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM  
Guest Celebrant: John Finley

### **Sunday, June 11**

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM

### **Sunday, June 18**

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM

### **Sunday, June 25**

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM  
Guest Celebrant:  
Margaret Schwarzer

### **Sunday, July 2**

Summer Schedule Begins  
Eucharist at 9 AM  
Guest Celebrant: Edie Donolkowski

### **Sunday, July 9**

Eucharist at 9 AM  
Guest Celebrant: Edie Donolkowski

### **Wednesday July 12 through Friday, July 14**

B-SAFE Summer Program at  
Epiphany School

### **Sunday, July 16**

Eucharist at 9 AM

### **Sunday, July 23**

Eucharist at 9 AM

### **Sunday, July 30**

Eucharist at 9 AM

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## PARISH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

Beginning the week of June 19, and for the months of July and August, the office hours of our Parish Secretary, Amy Plante, are Wednesdays 9:00-11:00 AM and Thursdays 9:00 AM – 12 Noon.

## SUMMER SCHEDULE

The usual Sunday schedule, with Holy Eucharist celebrated at 8 and 10 AM, will continue through June 25. On July 2, the summer schedule will begin and Holy Eucharist will be celebrated only once at 9 AM. This schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend. During the summer, the liturgy will alternate weekly between Rite I and Rite II.



## PASTORAL COVERAGE

Sarah will be away on vacation and out of town from Wednesday, June 21 to Saturday July 15. If you have a pastoral concern during this period, please speak to Senior Warden Dana Frye at 508-881-2726, or Junior Warden Cathy Harper at 508-429-7504. They will make arrangements, as needed, with clergy from St. Andrew's, Wellesley.



## GUEST CELEBRANTS AND PREACHERS

On Sunday, June 4, we will welcome The Reverend John Finley as Guest Celebrant and Preacher while Sarah attends the Wellesley College Reunion Memorial Service. John is the head of the school at

Epiphany School, Dorchester, and was a much-loved priest associate at St. Michael's from 2006 to 2008.

Also, while Sarah is away on vacation and out of town (June 21 through July 15), we will have two Guest Celebrants visiting: The Reverend Margaret Schwarzer, Associate Rector of St. Andrew's, Wellesley, on Sunday, June 25, and The Reverend Canon Edie Donolkowski, Canon for Ordained Vocations at the Diocese, on Sundays, July 2 and July 9.

We look forward to making them feel welcome during their visit to St. Michael's.

## CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

The last day of Church School classes will be Sunday, June 4.

## CHILD CARE RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER

There is no child care during the summer months of July and August. Parents and infants are always welcome in church, as well as The Sacred Playroom, which is on the right as you enter the church. It is available for all of those who would like to use it.

## B-SAFE SUMMER CAMP— JULY 12, 13, 14

This year, St. Michael's will be sponsoring three days of B-SAFE on July 12, 13, and 14. We will be serving lunch at Epiphany School in Dorchester for the first two days and the BBQ at Hopkinton State Park on Friday the 14th. This will require some planning so we hope that each of you will mark your calendar and put at least one of these days aside. We would love to involve as many people as possible. Again this year, we will use the on-line sign-up "Sign-up Genius" to coordinate volunteers and responsibilities. We are looking for people to help lead and coordinate the Hopkinton BBQ. If you would like to help please contact Vestry Member Frankie Gartner at [fgartner5583@comcast.net](mailto:fgartner5583@comcast.net) or 508-321-1144.



## LITANY FOR LIGHT

*Sheila Constance Forsyth*

Let us rejoice for Spring  
and the return of luminous light;  
the sweetness and the glory  
of blossom and bud,  
fruit and foliage;  
the balm of softer winds and restorative rain.  
Let us give thanks for lengthening daylight  
after months of shadows;  
more light for the sprouting of seeds,  
added light for emerging animals;  
a purity of light to awaken the soul  
to a shining re-dedication  
to appreciate Earth's wondrous fragility.  
Let us praise  
the gift of each lustrous day  
from dawn's rippling bird-choir ebullition  
to twilight's blue silence of serenity.





## UPDATE FROM THE WARDENS

On April 30, our Wardens Dana Frye, and Cathy Harper updated us on several areas in the life of the parish. For those that were not able to attend that day, a summary of their updates are presented below. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Cathy or Dana.

*From Cathy Harper, Junior Warden:*

Vestry – we had a retreat in March at the Edwards House in Framingham. At the retreat, we had formation, fellowship and planning time.

For part of our formation, we watched and discussed a Ted Talk by Simon Sinek on inspiring leaders. We also had a discussion on being organized and turning great ideas into action. There is always much to work on and lots of great ideas so we decided to focus on three priorities to work on over the year.

1 – Attracting new members and advertising – we do a lot of great things at St. Michael's, and we need to get the word out and bring new people in. We need to let outsiders know that all are welcome.

2 – Stewardship and volunteering – time, talent and treasure. We need to let people know how they can become involved in small and big ways depending on what they are interested in.

3 – Communication - publish the awesome things we do in papers, update our website and keep it current, and have an online presence.

Hopefully, the next time I am up here giving you an update I can tell you some of the things we accomplished!

Another activity we did at the retreat was choosing our Bubbles! Pat Stelz brought us this idea. She had us write down everything we do and categorize them into groups. They are Outreach, Christian Formation and Fellowship, Pastoral Care and worship, Admin, finance and property, stewardship and communication. We all chose which bubble to work in (at least two people per bubble) and helpers, too. This way, it isn't one person in charge of something big like the auction, rather it is a team approach. The team oversees the ministries, and they don't have to do it all. The Bubble chart will be on the board in Eva's room.

Finances - First quarter numbers in our income are behind by 4k, and our expenses are up by 2k (mainly due to the septic issue we had the last week in March). That is a 6k swing that we have to make up – doable by the end of the year. As Dana mentioned, we have some big expenditures with HVAC costing about 25k and retiling of Ekwall Hall costing about 8k which will come from our Together Now Campaign. For those of you not familiar, it

was a campaign run by the diocese in 2012. They keep a portion of the funds, and we keep a larger portion of the funds to be used for big expenses such as these.

I also want to announce a change on the vestry for treasurer. Joan Clark, who has been our beloved treasurer for many years, just retired in April. We are now lucky to have Ted Comstock take the helm as treasurer. Joan has been showing Ted the ropes over that last couple of months. We will formally recognize and thank Joan for her many years as treasurer in May. More details to come.

*From Dana Frye, Senior Warden:*

### Building and Grounds

There are several upcoming projects that the Building and Grounds committee plans to complete during the summer and fall this year. Those projects include:

—Removal of the existing tile flooring in Ekwall Hall and replacement with tile that is easily maintained and meets the décor of the school. The committee will coordinate work with the Sexton and the Montessori School. As you may recall from previous communications, the tile flooring in Ekwall Hall contains a small amount of asbestos. The committee feels that it is more prudent to remove the tile now, than to cover it up and possibly face more expensive abatement work later. This work is to take place in the summer when the school is not in session.

—Complete the restoration work in the back stairwell and re-tile the main corridor. Likewise, this work will also take place in the summer so as not to affect the school.

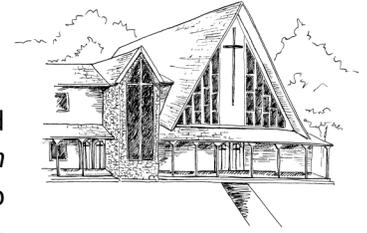
—Replace the five (5) HVAC units. We have had multiple failures over the last several years and incurred roughly \$7,000 of repair costs last year alone. These units appear to be at or nearing the end of their useful life. An additional benefit of replacing the units is lower energy costs as the new units will be more energy efficient.

—Further down the road, the committee will look at replacing the roof shingles. Although stained, the shingles are still in decent condition and should last for several more years. When the committee looks to replace the shingles, it will also evaluate solar power options as the orientation of the south facing roof may well lend itself to this green energy alternative.

Of course, all these projects require funding. The good news is that there is still about \$49,000 in the Together-Now campaign balance that is meant for capital improvement for the church (and funds continue to come in quarterly). The Vestry is also looking at the restricted funds the church has as it appears that some were chartered with capital improvement projects in mind. The committee is also investigating the possibility of obtaining a Green Grant or low-interest loan from the Diocese.

*(Continued on the bottom of page 4)*

## Sunday Opportunities to Serve



Have you ever thought about playing a role during Sunday services? Or wondered how your children can get involved? There are many ways to participate – *as you can see from the following list* – and our quieter summer months are a perfect time to contemplate ways you can serve and speak to Sarah about how to do so. To be an intimate and integral part of Sunday worship is very rewarding, and we invite all who are interested to contact Sarah Robbins-Cole (508-429-4248 or [stmichholl@aol.com](mailto:stmichholl@aol.com)) for further discussion or preparation.



### Choir - Adults or Young Adults

If you enjoy music and like to sing, think about joining the St. Michael's Choir. We would love to have you join us as we make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord! The choir takes a break during the July and August months, but start up again in September, heading into full swing with rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7 PM, and performing at the 10 AM service on Sundays. Please talk to Roy Kelley, our Organist and Choir Director, if you are interested.

### Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers - Adults or Young Adults

A lector 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. *Lector positions are open to young adults in middle school or older and Eucharistic Minister positions to those in high school.*



### Acolytes - Children from seven years old & up

Young parishioners are eligible to serve as acolytes beginning in the third grade. The younger children begin with tasks appropriate to their abilities, and as they grow, they take on more duties.



### Greeters and Ushers - Adults or Young Adults

Greeters and Ushers have the very important task of greeting both parishioners and newcomers as they enter the church before services, and to do their best to make everyone feel welcome. *Young adults aged twelve and up are eligible to serve as a greeter or an usher.*

### Altar Guild - Adults or Young Adults

The Altar Guild is an important part of parish life because the people involved handle all preparations for worship, including setting the altar before services and cleaning items afterwards. Anyone who thinks he or she is a "behind the scenes" type of person would probably enjoy being a part of the Altar Guild. *High school students are also invited to be a part of Altar Guild.* If you are interested in joining this integral part of our parish life, please contact Camilla King (508-429-0784 or [camillaking@verizon.net](mailto:camillaking@verizon.net)).



## UPDATE FROM THE WARDENS (Cont'd from page 3.)

### Stewardship

Currently, we have 51 confirmed pledges totaling \$133,364; the goal for 2017 was \$150,000. In speaking with our pledge treasurer, Pete Johnson, it appears that there may be 7 other pledges for which we don't have confirmation of the total commitment (i.e., neither Pete, Sarah or I have a pledge card or statement from these pledgers confirming the intended amount). Nonetheless, we believe these to be actual pledges based on their regularity and markings. If so, then the updated pledges totals, if these 7 pledges remain at the same commitment amount as last year, are 58 pledges totaling \$142,144.

Over the last four years we have seen two trends: a decrease in the number of pledgers, and an increase in the average pledge amount. From 2014 to 2017, the number of pledgees was 71 in 2014, 67 in 2015, 64 in 2016, and 58\* in 2017. The average pledge in 2014 was \$1,789. The average pledge in 2017 is \$2,451. The Vestry will be looking at these trends this year as Stewardship is one of the three Vestry priorities for this year.



## Outreach Opportunities

As you can see from the following list, St. Michael's offers many opportunities for parishioners of all ages to participate in Outreach. Our quieter summer months are a perfect time to contemplate ways to become involved.

### 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 and also make weekly deliveries of breads and pastries donated by Panera Bread. If you are interested in joining this program, please contact Linda Ouellette (617-686-5606 or [attylao1958@gmail.com](mailto:attylao1958@gmail.com)).

### Food Pantries

As well as giving grants to the food pantries in Ashland, Holliston, Hopkinton, Medway and Millis (*from the proceeds of our annual Auction for outreach*), we invite parishioners to bring food donations for the Holliston pantry and place them in a box in the narthex at St. Michael's.



### Stockings of Hope

We give each resident of Serenity and Shadows Houses a Christmas stocking with small items such as toilet-ries, socks, etc. Parishioners are invited to donate items or to sponsor the cost of a stocking or to help in assembling and delivering the stockings. For more information, please contact Pamela PinterParsons (508-277-9230 or [newpamela@comcast.net](mailto:newpamela@comcast.net)).



### The Appalachian Reading Project

St. Michael's supports schoolchildren in Kentucky by collecting and sending children's books. You can support the ministry by donating your gently used children's books. Donations can be placed in collection boxes in the church narthex. For more information, please contact Anke Geurtsen (508-429-1132 or [fgeurtsen@aol.com](mailto:fgeurtsen@aol.com)).

### B-SAFE Summer Day Camp

St. Michael's partners with B-SAFE, the summer day camp program started by Bishop Tom Shaw, former Bishop of Massachusetts, to provide academic enrichment and fun activities for inner-city children in the Boston area. Our parish sponsors three days of the camp by providing meals at Epiphany School in Dorchester, (one of the camp locations) and organizing a day's outing at Hopkinton State Park, including a cookout. You can help by preparing food or going to Epiphany School to serve or helping with activities or food at the state park outing. For more information, please contact Sarah Robbins-Cole at 508-429-4248 or [stmich-holl@aol.com](mailto:stmich-holl@aol.com).

### Youth Mission Trip

Young people in our *Journey to Adulthood* programs, together with adult leaders, spend a week in Appalachia working to repair and renovate houses for low income families under the auspices of the Appalachia Service Project. This mission trip occurs every two years and is the culmination of the J2A program for high school teenagers. Our young people raise funds for their mission, and St. Michael's assists with an outreach grant from the proceeds of our annual auction. For more information, please contact Sarah Robbins-Cole at 508-429-4248 or [stmicholl@aol.com](mailto:stmicholl@aol.com).



## A GUIDE TO PASTORAL CARE AT ST. MICHAEL'S

*Annette Hamlet, Nan Malone*



### ***Keeping Connected***

Pastoral care is an important way for us to help stay connected with one another at St. Michael's. At certain times in our lives, whether occasions of joy or sorrow, we may have particular needs for pastoral care. The following guidelines have been written to help you know how our Rector, Sarah, and people of St. Michael's will seek to assist you at such times.

### ***Illness***

If you or someone in your household is ill, please make sure that our Rector, Sarah, or Parish Administrator, Amy Plante, know. We would like to be able to offer the prayers of the parish and to provide whatever other support would be helpful.

### ***Compassionate Cooks***

A group of parishioners will provide some meals to parish households at times of special need, for example, during an illness or following the birth of a child. Please contact Amy Plante in the Parish Office if you would like help with meals, and she will let our pastoral care team members know.

### ***Angels on Wheels***

Several parishioners have offered to provide rides to medical appointments for parishioners. Please contact Amy Plante in the Parish Office and she will contact pastoral care team members to arrange a ride if a driver is available.

### ***Parish Prayers***

If you would like to pray for someone, please let our Rector, Sarah, know or get in touch with Amy Plante in the Parish Office, and let her know the name and other relevant information.

### ***Hospitals and Emergencies***

Please tell Sarah if you expect to be hospitalized. If there is an emergency, please do not hesitate to call Sarah at home, day or night.

### ***Death***

In the event of a death, please call Sarah right away. She would like to be able to come and say prayers with you or the deceased.

The Episcopal Church strongly urges that all burial services be held in the church, rather than in a funeral home. Sarah will talk with you about plans for the service.

It is helpful if parishioners make a note of their preferences for the funeral service, including thoughts about readings and music, so that their family will not have to worry about such decisions during a time of grief.

### ***Pastoral Counseling***

Our Rector, Sarah, is available by appointment to provide short-term pastoral care and support. If it appears that more intensive or longer-term counseling would be helpful, Sarah will help you find a qualified therapist with training appropriate to your needs. Sarah will remain available to you for pastoral support once you begin such therapy.

### ***Spiritual Guidance***

Sarah is also available to talk about spiritual or theological questions and provide guidance about topics such as prayer. Sometimes such a conversation can be helpful to a person's journey in faith. Sarah is also available by appointment for private confession.

### ***Baptisms***

Please tell our Rector, Sarah, as soon as possible following the birth of a child. She will be glad to visit the mother and baby and to offer the brief Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child (Book of Common Prayer, page 439) either at the home or at the hospital close to the time of the birth.

Baptisms are usually held at the Ten O'Clock Service and are held throughout the year with the exception of the seasons of Advent and Lent (unless in the case of an exceptional circumstance).

### ***Marriages***

A marriage may be celebrated at St. Michael's, subject to the agreement of our Rector, Sarah, and the availability of the church building, at any time except during Lent (the seven weeks before Easter). Before making plans for a wedding date, please call Sarah to discuss the wedding at least three months before the proposed date. Marriage preparation is required and usually takes four sessions. A short booklet, *Getting Married at St. Michael's*, is available in the tract rack in the narthex or by calling the Parish Office. This booklet provides important information to be read before getting in touch with Sarah.

If one or both of the couple wishing to be married has been divorced, the Bishop's permission must be obtained before the marriage may be celebrated. Six months is often required to complete the necessary counseling, prepare the paperwork, and await the Bishop's decision.

# St. Michael's Kids Page

## Do Not Worry!

Jesus tells us not to worry about our life, and to consider how God feeds the birds, and dresses the lilies.

You can find all the words in this word search mentioned in Matthew 6: 25-34. They can be across, down, or diagonal, and backwards.



BARNS  
BIRDS  
CLOTHES  
DRINK  
EAT  
FATHER  
GIVEN  
GOD

GROW  
HEAVEN  
KINGDOM  
KNOWS  
LABOR  
LILIES  
PAGANS  
REAP

RIGHTEOUSNESS  
SOLOMON  
SOW  
SPIN  
TOMORROW  
TROUBLE  
WORRY  
FEEDS

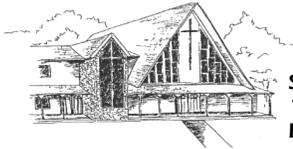
## **ST. MICHAEL'S SPONSORS B-SAFE**

(our Bishops' Summer Academic,  
Fun and Enrichment program  
for children in inner-city Boston)



**July 12, 13, 14**

**SIGN UP TO PREPARE FOOD,  
AT EPIPHANY SCHOOL, DORCHESTER  
OR HELP WITH ACTIVITIES  
ON PICNIC DAY  
AT HOPKINTON STATE PARK**



St. Michael's Episcopal Church  
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Holliston, MA 01746