

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Faith, Community and Hope ~ 50 Years and Growing

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

from the Rector

Dear Friends,

I am going to start off this letter with a quote. I want you to guess, without looking, who said it. It was in a book I read last month.

"I happen to love a church wedding, because I'm a practicing Episcopalian...Growing up, I loved church. I was in the choir for nine years. I loved going every Wednesday after school and every Saturday to practice. I loved singing loud up there at the front every Sunday. We were told that if you weren't singing loudly, God couldn't hear you...I had such a positive, accepting religious upbringing. Our church was traditional but progressive at the same time. The parish and ministry were both diverse. We learned that Christianity is about making people feel welcome and reserving judgment of them. The church for me has always been a safe place to learn about doing work for others, being respectful, and being part of a community...So naturally I love a church wedding."

So this is not from a book on Christianity or about churches. This book falls into the genre of part-cookbook, part-etiquette, and part-entertaining. What I love about this page in the book is that there really was no need for the author to make a witness to her faith. But she did. She put it right out there about why she loves church, and that she is a practicing Episcopalian. Opposite the page of where this above quote comes from is a beautiful photograph of the author's childhood church with the caption "This is my childhood church. Isn't glorious?" Not pretty. Not impressive. Glorious is the word she uses.

At a workshop I attended recently, the leader said to us "You know that famous quote from St. Francis that everyone in the Episcopal Church likes? 'Preach the gospel, use words if necessary'? Well, now is the time it is necessary." If we love our faith, our church, our church community, we need to tell people. If we believe that a life of faith makes our lives more full and more meaningful, we need to let people know. St. Michael's, or the Episcopal Church, or Christianity might be just the thing that your friend or acquaintance needs to hear about.

What I like about this quote from this book is that the author is not preach-y, she just tells her reading audience who she is and why the

(Continued on next page)

Sunday, April 7

Eucharist at 8 & 10 AM

Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms and
Eucharist at 8 & 10

Maundy Thursday, April 18

Agape Supper at 6:30 PM
Footwashing, Holy Eucharist,
and Stripping of the Altar
at 7:30 PM

Good Friday, April 19

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

Holy Saturday, April 20

Easter Vigil for Children and
Families at 6 PM

Easter Day, April 21

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



IN THIS ISSUE

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS.....	2
HOLY WEEK GUIDE	3
OUTREACH AUCTION	4
CATCHING UP	5
NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR	6
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS...	7
PRESIDING BISHOP VISIT	7
WOMEN'S GROUP.....	7
EASTER FLOWERS.....	8

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS ELECTED



Lisa Hazard

Hello my fellow St. Michael's parishioners, my name is Lisa Hazard (Brady). I currently live in Milis. I have three grown children, all in their twenties - college graduates working in their field of study. I am Blessed! I am originally from Cape Cod. I grew up in Barnstable Village. My parents and three of my four brothers all still live on the Cape. I am fortunate to be able to visit them often. I work in Wellesley for Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates as an Administrative Assistant in the Administration office. When I am not working, I love to spend my time with family and friends going on adventures to new places, mostly within a day's drive. I also love to travel. I really enjoy spending time outdoors doing all sorts of activities. In good weather, I like to garden, hike, bike, and go to the beach. During the winter months, I enjoy skiing (cross country and downhill). I love to read, and I am always listening to an audio book while I commute to and from work. I have been a member of St. Michael's for about six years, and I attend the 8:00 am service on a regular basis. I am looking forward to serving on the Vestry and getting involved with some of the inner workings of St. Michael's.

Trevor PinterParsons

Trevor PinterParsons is a new member of the St. Michael's Vestry. He has lived in Holliston for his entire life and has been going to mass at St. Michael's with his mother, father, and sister for as long as he can remember. He has been an acolyte for seven years before recently becoming a Eucharistic minister. In his free time, Trevor enjoys performing ballet at the Dancing Arts Center.

Sean Stearley

Sean Stearley and his family joined St. Michael's in 2017 coming from Trinity Parish in Wethersfield, Connecticut where they had been members for 20 years. The Stearley family--including wife Kristin, daughter Kat (17), and son Ethan (15)--moved to Medway in September 2017. After a brief tour of area Episcopal churches, they settled into St. Michael's regular 8:00 a.m. service. They are dedicated fans of the Disney parks and resorts and balance their free time between taking Disney trips every one to two years and planning their next one.

(Rector's note cont'd from page 1)

church is important to her. So, this Lent, Holy Week and Easter Season you may want to ask yourself, "if you were writing a recipe-entertaining-etiquette book – what would I say about why you are an Episcopalian? What would you say about your church? What is it about Jesus that makes a difference in your life in church on Sundays and all the other days of the week?"

So here is the reveal. The author is A-list actress Reese Witherspoon. The book is *Whisky in a Teacup*. And, after Easter, I am totally going to make you her Mud Pie Trifle. And yes, it does, in fact, call for a container of cool whip.

Yours in Christ,

Sarah Robbins-Cole

BARBARA C. HARRIS CAMP – REGISTER NOW!

Sarah Robbins-Cole

BCH Camp is a place where campers feel accepted and loved and are able to develop authentic lifelong friendships.



This outcome is achieved by providing opportunities for campers to explore their already established interests as well as try new things in a safe and affirming environment. BCH Camp offers sports, water activities, dance, drama, music, challenge courses, outdoor activities, and much more. Counselors work closely with campers to support their development in activities, building friendships and furthering their journey in faith formation. Campers learn important life lessons and gain new perspectives as they live and play in a community centered on Christian beliefs and values. All children who are entering fourth grade and up are welcome to attend camp. If you are interested in attending, I will be the camp chaplain during week five which is Sunday, July 28th – Friday, August 2nd. Camperships and financial aid are available. Just let me know, and I can give you the details.

A GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL'S

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 14

8 AM Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist

10 AM Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist (with choir)

*Children will leave Church School classes to join
in the procession of the palms and then return to classes.*

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 18

6:30 PM Agape Supper

You are invited to begin the evening with a simple supper in Eva's Room.

7:30 PM Holy Eucharist

*Our service, in its entirety, will start at 7:30 in the church
and will include the traditional liturgy of Footwashing,
Holy Eucharist, and Stripping of the Altar.*

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 19

12 Noon Solemn Liturgy

The traditional Good Friday liturgy.

7:30 PM Solemn Liturgy (with choir)

The traditional Good Friday liturgy.

HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 20

6:00 PM Easter Vigil

*This ancient service leads us from death to life through fire, light,
word, water, bread and wine. Please bring bells and noisemakers.*

EASTER DAY – APRIL 21

8 AM Festival Eucharist

9 AM Parish Breakfast

10 AM Festival Eucharist (with choir)

There will be no Church School Classes.

Child care will be available.

*Worshipers are encouraged to bring any sort of
hand-held bell they would like to ring during
the singing of the entrance hymn and closing hymn.
Following the service there will be an Easter egg hunt.*



21st Annual Outreach Auction

When: FRIDAY April 12th from 7-10 PM

Where: Holliston Town Hall 703 Washington Street

Why Attend: All the proceeds from our auction help our outreach ministries such as the food pantries in our local communities, Ashland, Hopkinton, Holliston, Medway and Millis, Serenity House and Shadows, B Safe Summer Camp for inner city youth, the youth mission trip and Fistula Hospital to name a few of our ministries.

How can you help:



- Donate an item or basket to the silent auction
- Do you have or know anyone who can donate sport/theater tickets, a weekend rental, a fun event for the Live auction?
- Sign up to help the night of the auction – we have short shifts for raffle, wine pull, replenishing food and clean up.

Sign up on the bulletin board in Eva's room or send an email to Cathy Harper at cathy@hahpah.com.

- Donate a bottle of wine for our new wine pull
- Purchase raffle tickets
- Invite your friends/neighbors
- Spread the word, 'like' our auction posts on Facebook and share it to your timeline and local community boards
- Pray that the auction is a success in our new venue
- Attend the auction and have a fun night while helping those in need!





CATCHING UP WITH GRACE BALLENGER

Sarah Robbins-Cole

Where are you now?

Mattapoisett, MA.

When did you attend St. Michael's and with whom?

I attended St. Michael's from roughly 2000 to 2015, while my family lived in Holliston. It was my childhood church.

Where have you been since you "left"?

For the first few years, I was still pretty close by, at Wellesley College. I took every chance I could to travel on the college's dime, so I guess you could say I've been to some pretty cool places, though I didn't live in any of them for more than a few months. After graduating in 2017, I moved down to live just outside of Washington D.C. for a year and some change. And now, I'm back in Massachusetts.

What are you up to now?

Serving as editor of a tiny local newspaper and still trying to cram too many hobbies into not a ton of free time outside of work.

What's your new church like? How are you involved?

My new church is lovely. It's a bit older in terms of demographics which reflects the general trend in the three towns that make it up. But the people are lovely -- most of the people I've gotten to know here over the last few months have been from church.

I've discovered that singing in church choirs is a flexible and low-cost way to stay involved with music, so I am now a faithful choir member.

What do you love about your new job?

I've wanted to be a full-time journalist for a long time, so I am thrilled to finally be doing that. I've always been interested in writing, so I love the fact that I get to do that almost constantly (though my job title is "editor," and I get to oversee one person, the staff size is small enough that I will keep writing as well). I also get to talk to and meet the most interesting people for work. No two days are the same.

What advice would you give churches in terms of communicating what they do to the public?

Oh gosh, who am I to answer this? Well, I might be a bit biased because of the job, but I would say local newspapers could be a good resource for communicating. I know we will always run church press releases because they are nonprofits and community organizations.

Outside of the "how to communicate" question, I feel like most people who aren't religious hear "church" and think "conservative and unaccepting." Well-told stories from parish activities or from individuals in the parish can go a long way in proving those stereotypes untrue.



ELIZABETH PLUME – NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR

I understand you just finished your master's degree. Tell us a little bit about what you were studying? What is your passion around this work?

I just received my Masters in Public Administration (December 2018), focusing specifically on Human Service Management. My passion lies within the realm of developing programs for nonprofit organizations!

I am very excited to be the new Youth Director for the Fall 2019-Spring 2020 – I have a lot of experience with creating educational and transformational programs for different age groups and was a youth group member in Rite-13 and Y2A myself – so, being able to work alongside the St. Michael's teens should be a fun and rewarding experience!

So, you are a homegrown St. Michael's person. How long have you been attending? What is your favorite memory of St. Michael's?

My mom, Susan Plume, and I first came to St. Michael's when I was about eight or nine years old. We knew the moment we walked in that this was the church we were meant to be a part of.

My favorite memory was traveling to and volunteering in the Appalachian Mountains for our youth group mission trip. We made so many amazing memories as a group, and looking back is one of the transformational experiences that helped me realize that I wanted to get my Bachelors in Public Health!

We had a conversation a little while ago about hobbies. I know you are interested in fitness. What kinds of things do you do to keep fit?

I am interested in fitness and have always been quite active through sports, hiking, biking, and more. Lately, I have been quite involved in indoor cycling, Vinyasa (hot) yoga, and strength and HIIT training at the gym. However, when it is warm, I prefer to be outdoors in nature getting my exercise.

To add to this question, I am also an avid traveler -- I believe that one of the best forms of education is made through cultural immersion. By the end of September, I will have traveled to approximately seven different places just this year.

I am also a cat lover. I have a cat named Fluffy who wound up at my college apartment door three years ago in a snowstorm.

And, I am also a Student Organizer at the UMass Lowell campus. I currently work for a MA nonprofit called the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts. They advocate for higher state funding for MA public universities/colleges, and lower student debt.

You were once a camper at the Barbara C Harris Camp and now you are on the board. What kind of work are you doing with them?

I certainly am! I went to the Barbara C. Harris camp for two years as a child/pre-teen, and was asked by Sarah Robbins-Cole to step up as a Board Member this January 2019. Currently, I am on two of the Board's committees. One where we are re-writing the mission statement to better reflect the organizations current and future aspirations, and the other one where I am helping to create an alumni support network!

JERUSALEM GREER BOOKS*Sarah Robbins-Cole*

In this edition of the newsletter, the theme seems to be books. I just want to mention some books by Jerusalem Jackson Greer who is the Staff Officer for Evangelism in the Office of the Presiding Bishop for the Episcopal Church of the United States. I was fortunate enough to spend three days with her in March at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center. Besides being an expert on Christian Formation, she is also an author of books that bring Christianity into the home through crafting, cooking, and coming together as a family as well as a community. She shares with her reading audience ways to live a slower version of modern life, admitting that sometimes it works and sometimes it does not.

I recommend two books of hers that I have read recently. The first is *At Home in this Life: Finding Peace at the Crossroads of Unraveled Dreams and Beautiful Surprises* (2017). It is a book of reflections on life and spirituality. In one of the headings of a chapter called "The Plan," she quotes C.S. Lewis: "The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's "own," or "real" life. The truth is of course that what one calls the interruptions are precisely one's real life – the life God is sending one day by day." Greer's book shows us how that sentiment is at work in her life and ours.

The second book is *A Homemade Year: The Blessing of Cooking, Crafting, and Coming Together* (2013). This book is filled with recipes, crafts, and tips for bringing the Christian year into your home. It includes many of the festivals of the Christian Year – some which are well known, like Advent, Christmas and Easter, and some that are less well known but important like the Feast of Christ the King and Corpus Christi. These books are available from your local bookseller by order, Amazon, and your library through interlibrary loan.

**WALK IN LOVE***Karen Girard and Dana Frye*

This year in Sunday Forum, we have been reading *Walk in Love* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shrobe, published by Forward Movement. This is a wonderful, easy to read book that explains the beliefs, traditions, and practices of the Episcopal

Church. If you are a "cradle" Episcopalian, new to the church, or somewhere in between, you will learn something from this book.

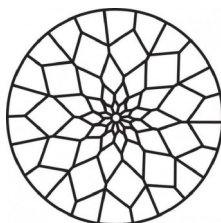
The book also includes page references to our prayer book so that you can easily see where certain practices are implemented. In addition, the book includes questions for reflection at the end of each chapter which are great for individual exploration or group discussion. We have been discussing one chapter each week at the Sunday Forum which always yields a new perspective and a lively discussion. We highly recommend reading this book.

COME AND GATHER WITH PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL B. CURRY

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry will be making a visitation to the Diocese of Massachusetts, Friday-Monday, April 26-29. In addition to several ministry visits and meetings with designated groups that Bishop Curry will be making around the diocese over the course of the weekend, there will be public gatherings with him on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28 to which all are welcome. For more information and to register for events, go to www.diomass.org/pb-visit.

**WOMEN'S GROUP TO WORCESTER ART MUSEUM**

On Sunday, May 5, the Women's Group will go on a field trip to the Worcester Art Museum to see a stained glass window exhibit. The first Sunday of the month is free. If you are interested in going, please contact Cathy Harper at cathy@hahpah.com.





Easter Flowers and Music

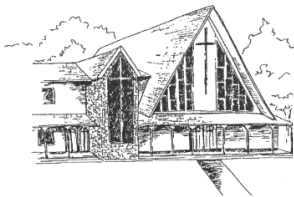


If you would like to make a donation to the cost of Easter flower decorations and music “in memory of” or “in thanksgiving for” a loved one or loved ones, please fill out this form and return it to Amy Plante in the parish office or place it in the offering plate. All memorials and thanksgivings received by April 15 will be listed in the Easter bulletins.

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Thanksgiving for _____



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