Warrant of the One Hundred Twentieth
Annual Meeting
of
St. Michael’s Parish
of Milton, Massachusetts

To the Members of St. Michael’s Parish of Milton:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of St. Michael’s Parish of Milton will be held in the Church, 112 Randolph Avenue, Milton, Massachusetts, on Sunday, February 8th, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. for the following purposes:

1. To choose by ballot two wardens, a treasurer, and a clerk for the term of one year.

2. To choose by ballot four members of the Vestry for a term of three years.

3. To choose by ballot two delegates to the Diocesan Convention, and two delegates to the Deanery Assembly for 2015.

4. To choose by ballot three trustees for the Garden of Seasons.

5. To review the 2015 parish budget.

Sheila Monks
Warden

Martha Cotton
Warden
Call to Order

Minutes of the One Hundred Nineteenth Annual Meeting

Rector’s Remarks

Associate Rector’s Remarks

Warden’s Report

Treasurer’s Report

Strategic Plan Status Report

Nominating Committee Report

   Election of New Vestry Members and Officers
   Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates
   Election of Deanery Assembly Representatives
   Election of Garden of Seasons Trustees

Welcome to New Elected Leaders

Recognition of Outgoing Leaders

Blessing and Adjournment Hymn

All are invited to coffee hour and fellowship in the Upper Parish Hall following the meeting.
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Who We Are

We believe that every person is a beloved child of God, all of us have gifts to offer, and we each travel our own journey with God.

As a community of faith, our mission is to support and foster spiritual growth within our parish family, in the town of Milton, and in the world beyond. We do this through worship, education, stewardship, and outreach.

In 1895, several families requested that Episcopal services be offered in the town of Milton. Those seeking services would have otherwise worshipped at St. Mary’s or All Saints Churches in Dorchester, the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan, or Christ Church in Quincy. St. Michael’s Church was designed by Ralph Lincoln Emerson (1868-1899), who lived across the street, and built in 1898 as the first Episcopal Church in Milton. In 1904, a piece of stone from the Milton Abbey in Milton Abbas, England, arrived and was installed as the keystone over the inner entrance to the church. The chancel was expanded in 1916 to include a stained glass window designed by Ralph Adams Cram.

Today St. Michael’s is a faith community that welcomes all who seek to know and deepen their relationship with God. Our community supports each person’s individual spiritual journey, celebrates diversity, and serves Christ through worship, education, stewardship, and outreach.

Our parish is grounded in the rich tradition of Anglican Liturgy, and also embraces creative expressions of worship as a path toward holiness and spiritual growth. We invite all to join our community and to come and see what St. Michael’s is all about.
Reports from Clergy and Wardens

RECTOR’S REPORT

Sam Rodman once quipped, in an early Rector’s report, that writing the report in early January is rather like writing a Christmas Letter from the parish: what have we been up to? What can we tell you about what’s been happening? And I find, as I write these, that the notes change in color and texture just as our own lives move in patterns along our path. It is a great privilege for me to be able to reflect and share with you in this forum, and for all of us to reflect and share with one another throughout this entire report. This Annual report is the life of St. Michael’s in words, facts and figures - and offers exciting testimonial to what our life is like here - but it cannot obviously capture the spirit of our parish, its heart, and its goodness and possibility. Each of us is the vital element of all of that, each of us as varied as we are, and as hopeful in our steps as we are, and as yearning for God’s abundance as we do.

● Staffing Welcomes and Farewells

It is vitally important to us that families know their children are welcome in any capacity and configuration that is comfortable for them – in church, the nursery, or church school, or youth group – and that faith formation and worship can happen in each gathering. In the fall we hired Barbara Lenane as our Nursery coordinator, a loving and committed presence for the youngest members of our parish (and their parents!), and a person whose delight in children radiates outwards whenever they are around. Barbara is with us each Sunday – with few exceptions – from 9:45 until 11:30 a.m.

Our Youth Coordinator, Robert Goodridge, joined us in 2014 to build a program for middle and high school youth (SHYG Jr and SHYG), and Robert’s program began in earnest in September after extensive planning in the spring and summer. He has learned a lot in the months since the September launch, and he is tremendously fortunate to have a group of parents who are deeply committed to these two programs supporting his efforts. He has built and circulated his winter, spring and summer schedule, and these next several months will benefit from his experience and support over the last few months, as we carry the two groups towards their full potential. Creating a youth program is extremely difficult, especially as churches seek to discover what model and purpose is emerging for them in a changing religious landscape. Robert has done a commendable job getting these programs started, and I am excited to see how this progresses.

At the end of 2014, we saw the formal change in status of two staff members, Ken Conklin and Vicki Rugo, who have retired from service after 6 years and 25 years, respectively. Ken and Vicki will continue to worship at St. Michael’s as members of the parish, bringing their gifts of insight and wisdom in property management and maintenance (Ken), parish history and organization (Vicki), and considerable pastoral care, sensitivity
and kindness (both). We began planning for these retirements early – they kindly informed me with lead time that they were on the horizon – by finding in Nanette Diaute a parish secretary who would be able to eventually cover much of Vicki’s administrative work, and in Dennis Mackler a new Sexton who cares for the campus as if it were his own home. Both are wonderful additions to our staff and fit well within the community of care that we have built.

We have an opportunity to recognize during our Annual Meeting the tremendous service Vicki and Ken have given us, and to wish them every blessing ahead.

● Parish Growth and Transition

As a parish church, we have the opportunity to open our doors to people searching for a spiritual home, and to mark and hold the major life events of our parishioners. In 2014 St. Michael’s welcomed a host of visitors to our Sunday morning worship, and our evening and special services, many of whom have joined us as part of our regular gatherings.

In all, nearly 20 new families and individuals this year have found a spiritual home with us, and many have gotten involved in the life of the parish. We have baptized into the Body of Christ 14 children, married one couple, and bid farewell to four who have departed this life. Each of these events is a way St. Michael’s can offer a place where a person or a family can “touch down” in their life, and we can hold that life for a moment as a community, in joy or in sorrow, and then continue our journey together as the Body of Christ.

● Projects

My arrival in 2013 corresponded roughly with the launch of the Diocese of Massachusetts’s Together Now capital campaign to raise money for youth formation and leadership; local, national and overseas mission; improvements to the Cathedral; and investment and education towards improved environmental stewardship. The diocese invited each parish to help support these outreach goals, and towards the end of the year we began to think about our commitment in several different contexts, including a possible capital campaign that would encompass outreach to the diocese as well as other immediate needs for the parish.

The committee that was formed to initiate the St. Michael’s Capital Campaign was led by Bob Hiss, and included your Wardens Sheila Monks and Martha Cotton, your Rector (me), and parishioners Allison Norton, Veronica Guerrero-Macia, Sargon Donabed, Lindsay Pino, Libby Kinnealey, Becky Simonds, Marilyn Cheney, Barb Tennyson, Anne Aylward, Pat Schneider, Lana Agnew, and Jeffrey Swanson.
As we considered the scope and purpose of the campaign, it became clear to members of the committee that we would benefit from first establishing a strategic direction of our parish that would help clarify and give voice to not only immediate needs of the parish, but to the hopes and visions of our community as servants of God and followers of Christ’s Gospel. This is obvious enough on reflection, however, the extensive discernment process that took place during the rector’s search seemed an adequate body of information from which to take our steps forward, and yet the voices and witness emerging in our capital campaign conversations suggested that the parish had moved to a new place, and needed new conversations about the path ahead. To that end, we suspended the capital campaign and entered into a strategic planning process that would help us discover where we are being called now.

The Strategic Planning Committee has been hard at work since September, under the leadership of Bob Hiss, whose earlier work chairing the capital campaign committee has been immensely helpful, and Sam Thayer, a consultant from the Diocese of Massachusetts. We will anticipate the completion of its first phase sometime this winter, and enter the second phase following that. Other members of the Strategic Planning Committee are Abe Cardoza, Judy Rice, Lana Agnew, Lindsay Pino, Joan Faulkner and Sheila Monks. Jamie Herbert had been part of the committee, and had contributed significant work to several sections of the plan. During this process he began to see clearly that his sense of St. Michael’s as a spiritual home, and his sense of the Episcopal Church as a faith denomination, had diverged enough from his own needs as a person of faith, to warrant finding another faith community in which to worship. While a surprising and unfortunate consequence of his work on the committee, it is a step for him and his family towards the kind of church he has sought for a long time. We miss Jamie, Anke, Kim, and Malcolm on Sundays, and yet our shared affection remains; Jamie and I have assured one another of that.

● Closing

Ending reflections like these always seems impossible to me; how do I offer anything that doesn’t sound trite, or expedient? I am moved and humbled by the incredible commitment of members of this parish in being the Body of Christ they are called to be, and the children of God they are endowed to be. People step forward and help, from offering prayers for one another in and outside of church, to helping with fellowship and hospitality after services and on special occasions, to teaching our children in church school, volunteering in one of our many ministries, and serving on a committee or commission that guides those ministries, participating in our liturgy as lay Eucharistic ministers, choir members, acolytes and preachers.
All of this is a profession, a witness, to faith, whether any individual believes their faith is great or small, intact or in pieces, worthy or unworthy. It all, every bit of it, makes God smile, in love and deep affection for each of you. I offer you that love as well.

With God’s peace,

The Rev. Hall Kirkham
ASSOCIATE RECTOR’S REPORT

Over the last twelve months, I have become increasingly aware of the caring community of St. Michaels through my work in pastoral care, education and spiritual development. What follows is a summary.

For me, the excitement of last year began with travel to New Orleans in January with the NOLA outreach group. I thought that the time there would “warm my bones” from the snowy winter in New England. I was quickly disillusioned to discover that the cold in New Orleans on those January days were just as uncomfortable as here in Boston! The great pleasure to serve there, however, was increased by the need for many extra hands at the Mission, a New Orleans shelter that serve a large community of homeless. While the city was closed down because of freezing temperatures and lack of salting and sanding equipment, the homeless were still “out there”. When they deluged the Mission, we were there and served over three hundred people two meals on one day, and another meal again the next day. You should have seen our kitchen crew covered in kitchen slime and huge aprons with smiles for all the guests. I was proud of being there with St. Michael’s.

Then we celebrated Mardi Gras and I volunteered to burn the palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday for the Ash Wednesday Service. I was delighted with the help I received from parishioners, and especially the youth who joined me with great curiosity about this process. They watched, crouched over the fire, as the flames changed dusty palms into the sacred ash to be used the next day. All this happened as we were surrounded with the hustle and bustle of preparing pancakes!

During Lent, we have traveled the road together through Joan Chittister’s, In Search of Belief. After these thought provoking Wednesday evenings in Lent, many wanted to continue and so was born what we call today our “Spirituality Group.” I was able to help organize a place for those in our parish who crave a quiet time to reflect on God’s presence in the world and in their lives. The group has grown, but each week we are surprised that one more has joined us, and maybe one or two can't be there. So, although we have included up to 16 people over time, we are about 4 to 8 each Sunday evening for one hour at 6:30 p.m.

I was delighted to be given the opportunity to spend three months during the summer free. This included two months in our beloved Italian home. Thank you to the Vestry for their wisdom and generosity.

In the fall Hall and I began a program (Inquirer’s Class) designed for those who are inquisitive and questioning, and for those who delight in being part of a theological discussion. We met for five weeks in the Chapel after church. We called our group “The Crooked Journey” in respect for the many different ways that we come to receive and respond to God’s call. Many were blessed by this wonderful sacred sharing.
In preparation for the 2015 mission trip to New Orleans, we gathered on three Wednesday evenings to talk about the book, *Nine Lives* by Dan Baum. It is a remarkable book that helped us understand more clearly the complexity of New Orleans, politically, socially, and culturally.

All of these projects were undertaken in my position as Associate Rector, and in cooperation with the Rector. I feel honored and blessed to be at St. Michael’s. Surely God is smiling at us all.

Respectfully submitted,

_The Rev. Dr. Joyce Caggiano_
WARDENS’ REPORT

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.  There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.”  1 Corinthians 12:4-5

As Paul states in his letter to the Corinthians, each has his own gifts and each his own ministries, each receives his gifts from one Spirit and manifests his ministry for one Lord.  St. Michael’s is a place where people come to value each other and find their identity in being part of something bigger than themselves.  Whether serving within St. Michael’s or the community around us, the parish is busy and engaged.  One cannot deny that the Holy Spirit is with us and guiding us as we discover God’s calling.

As you enter the door of the church, vestry members, along with the ushers, greet parishioners.  We encourage newcomers to fill out a pew card so we can get to know their interests.  The rector invites all to coffee hour so we can get to know each other.

We invite people to take leadership roles in commissions and committees.  There are many Outreach opportunities for parishioners.  Suggestions for new ministries are encouraged.  This year witnessed the advent of the Spirituality Group and the resurrection of the Newcomers’ Committee.  People find their passion in the varied ministries, taking on leadership roles and projects.

We began the year, planning for the Vestry Retreat at the Bethany House in Arlington.  It was agreed that members wanted more spirituality at vestry meetings.  As Paul said in his letter, we have many different talents but are one church.  We reflected on how our spiritual life influenced our vestry participation and how Christ is calling the Vestry.  We worked on guidelines to help us listen more deeply to each other, creating an atmosphere where every member felt comfortable expressing their thoughts, opinions and sharing their talents.  So not only the loudest voice gets heard.  It was agreed that members wanted more spirituality in vestry meetings.

Each vestry meeting opens with a member sharing his spiritual autobiography or faith journey.  Even though it is necessary for the Vestry to attend to the business and finances of the parish, we wanted to be open, inclusive, and spiritual in our deliberations.  We also instituted a consent agenda.  Vestry members, as commission liaisons, present important information to the Vestry before the meeting for their approval.  This allows more meeting time for dialogue on important topics.

With the rector, we began with a search to fill the treasurer’s position vacated by Matt Kennard’s decision to relocate.  John Ahonen agreed to be interim treasurer and working with assistant treasurer, Jeff Swanson, made sure our financial obligations were met.  Peter Millington joined their efforts, as he will take over the position in 2015.
The possibility of a capital campaign was explored. After visioning meetings and with the help of Johanna Gurland, our consultant, we realized that embarking on a campaign without a clear mission was like sailing a ship with no destination. It became clear we needed to define our mission, so the process of creating a Strategic Action Plan was born. The committee, after many tireless diligent hours of surveying, interviewing, and discerning, will present a plan to the parish in early 2015. The parish will then be called on to implement the plan. We have faith we will rise to the task.

Ken Conklin, the Sexton and Vicki Rugo, the Parish Administrator, announced their plans to retire, giving the parish ample time to find replacements. Fortunately, they both will remain as parishioners and be involved in the life of the parish. Dennis Mackler began in December under the tutelage of Ken. Vicki will remain part time and her duties will be taken over by Nanette Diaute, with the assistance of Barbara Hurlbert, a bookkeeper.

As wardens, we attend commission meetings. We are aware of what is happening in all facets of the fabric of the parish. It is amazing how many events, activities are occurring, sometimes simultaneously. Sometimes it is difficult to find a free evening to schedule a meeting. We believe this is a good problem. We must, however, be cognizant that we are not just buzzing around the hive, but making the honey. Our work is God’s work in an effort to make our broken world a better place.

Read through the annual commission reports and if you are not currently involved, consider joining a committee or guild. We all have different gifts to share, but are one body.

Faithfully Submitted,
Sheila Monks and Martha Cotton, Wardens
St. Michael’s Parish One Hundred Nineteenth Annual Meeting Minutes

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

Hall began the meeting at 11:05 a.m. by leading the congregation in, *If I Had a Hammer*, by Pete Seeger who had died recently.

**Call to Order**

The 119th annual meeting was called to order by Warden Mary Truslow. Vicki Rugo moved and Judy Rice seconded that the Minutes of the 118th Annual Meeting, as included in the Annual Report, be approved. The congregation voted unanimously to accept.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Matthew Kennard referred to the report included in the printed Annual Report and opened the floor to questions which included the following:

Veronica Guerrero-Macia:  How are the pledges coming?  Answer:  There is a slight decrease in the number of pledges.


Lana Agnew:  How can we plan a capital campaign for the fall in light of the decrease in pledging income?  Answer:  We need to fund our $75,000 pledge to the diocese, increase our endowment for outreach and set up a maintenance endowment.

Dina Roberts Bray:  Do we have a feasibility consultant?  Answer:  Yes, we have a capital campaign consultant.

Chuck Tufts:  How are the endowment funds allocated?  Answer:  Matt referred to page 2 of the Treasurer’s Report (included in the Annual Report) which lists and describes the endowment funds.

**Wardens’ Report**

Mary spoke of her personal feelings for St. Michael’s. Sheila Monks quoted T.S. Eliot, “And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and to know the place for the first time.” She then projected slides showing her expectations for the coming year.
Mary and Sheila read the slate of names for new vestry and officers, convention delegates, deanery representatives, and Garden of Seasons Trustees, followed each by a vote:

Parish Officers:
Sheila Monks, Sr. Warden
Matt Kennard, Treasurer
Martha Cotton, Jr. Warden
Erin Lehman, Clerk

Vestry Members:
George Corbett
Monika Cormack
Steve Weld
Juliana Duff
Lorna Martin

Motion to approve was moved by Lana Agnew, seconded by Kathy Almeida, and approved unanimously by the congregation.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:
Kathy Almeida
Judy Rice

Deanery Representative:
Anne Wood.

Motion to approve was moved by Kricket Seidman, seconded by Norman James, and approved unanimously by the congregation.

Garden of Seasons Trustees:
Lana Agnew
Laura Onessimo
James Hamblet

Motion to approve was moved by Charles Truslow, seconded by Kricket Seidman, and approved unanimously by the congregation.
Nominating Committee Report

Hall recognized and thanked the nominating committee: Judith Sandonato, Michael Theobald, and Jamie McKnight. Instead of giving books to the outgoing officers and vestry members, this year donations were given in their names to the following organizations:

Margery Buckingham - Be Safe
Joan Faulkner - Milton Animal Shelter
Bryan Haggerty - Monday Lunch Program
Jane Lundquist - Quincy Books for Prisoners
Bill Mullen - World Vision International
Mary Truslow - All American Dachshund Rescue

Matt Kennard thanked Vicki Rugo and Ken Conklin for their service.

Closing

Hall gave the blessing. The congregation sang Hymn 525, The Church’s One Foundation. The meeting closed at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margery Buckingham, Clerk of the Vestry
Reports of the Commissions

- Nursery
- Children's Chapel
- Church School
- Confirmation
- SHYG (Sr. High Youth Group)
- Adult Education
- Inquirers' Class
- Bible Study

Outreach
- Mission Trips
- Mission Giving
- Episcopal City Mission
- Outreach Programs
- Special Events

Christian Education
- Nursery
- Children's Chapel
- Church School
- Confirmation
- SHYG (Sr. High Youth Group)
- Adult Education
- Inquirers' Class
- Bible Study

Worship
- Adult/Youth Choirs
- Altar Guild
- Flower Guild
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Lectors/Chalice Bearers
- Acolytes
- Prayer Chain
- Healers
- Ushers
- Sermon Group

Stewardship
- Finance
- Property
- Annual Appeal
- Village Church
- Capital Campaigns
- Planned Giving
- Christmas Auction
- Harvest Dinner

Parish Life
- Communication/Publicity
- Social Activities
- Coffee Hour
- Ministry of Caring
- Men's Group
- Women's Group
- Newcomer's Group

Rector, Associate Rector and Wardens (2)
Clergy and Treasurer
Vestry Members (12)
Youth Representative (1-2)
WORSHIP COMMISSION REPORT

The worship commission meets approximately each quarter to review past services and plan upcoming services, as well as discuss the needs and hopes of the guilds that contribute to our worship, and of the congregation that attend our various services.

In 2014, we continued the practice of offering Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. on the first Sunday of “5-Sunday” months (Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m.), and put the Wednesday 6:30 a.m. Morning Prayer service on hold. We continue to offer Holy Eucharist on Thursday mornings in the Upper Parish Hall, which has been a consistent tradition with a loyal following, and have put the 5 p.m. Sunday evening Holy Eucharist (which coincided with our Confirmation Class) on hold until Confirmation Class resumes with the first High School students seeking confirmation. Our Junior High Youth Group (SHYG Jr.) has enjoyed its own informal Holy Eucharist – in the Garden of Seasons and in the Lower Parish Hall – on a couple of Sunday mornings this fall and winter during the 10 a.m. church service. Finally, we have purchased (and are gradually cycling into the pews) new prayer books to replace those that have become worn or are missing pages.

Guild leaders who are members of the Worship Commission include The Rev. Hall Kirkham (Acolytes), Charlie Truslow (Altar Guild), Fred Carter and Frank Van Atta (Choir), Lucinda Larson (Flowers), Bob Hiss (Ushers), and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (Joan Faulkner, who also scribes notes). Juliana Duff and Martha Cotton attend on behalf of the Vestry, and we have a wonderful core of additional members who offer their gifts of discernment, observation and support for the worship tradition here.

The Rev. Hall Kirkham

● Acolytes

Liturgy is, in one sense, one of the many things we “do” well in the Episcopal Church: we worship in a reasonably consistent style, oriented intentionally towards what our tradition and experience show are meaningful ways to enter and dwell in sacred space and time, and draw from scripture and prayer in our teaching, preaching and contemplation.

Clergy lead worship, lectors read from scripture, intercessors pray and invite prayer, Eucharistic ministers help to administer communion, and acolytes provide leadership for the movement of the liturgy through sacred space and time. They light and extinguish candles, carry the cross and the torches that open worship, lead clergy into the midst of the people to hear the Gospel, they collect oblations and alms, and lead us out
into the world to love and to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God! Acolytes provide much of the image we have of worship in the Episcopal tradition, and we are “complete” as a liturgical team when acolytes are leading us.

Our group of acolytes this year are a combination of new seventh graders (and some younger!), and seasoned eighth graders and older, each of whom is dedicated to being the final pieces in our liturgical party each Sunday. This year, we have over 25 acolytes who stand by ready for their Sunday commitment, and who – when called to “fill in” – arrive front and center, robed and ready.

We try to secure three acolytes at each 10 a.m. service – one crucifer and two torchbearers – and believe that the experience of serving in this capacity brings anyone another step closer to their faith, while providing another opportunity for discovery of God at work through the Holy Spirit. The responsibility of a single crucifer at 8 a.m. is met ably by the lay Eucharistic minister serving that morning. If you are interested in serving, or simply in learning more about the experience, please don’t hesitate to contact clergy!

The Rev. Hall Kirkham

● Altar Guild

Is it a chalice or a chasuble? How many host will we need for this 10:00 a.m. service? Should the candelabras or Eucharistic candlesticks go out for this service? Do we have enough clean purificators to cover all the Christmas services? These are the decisions and activities done quietly behind the scenes each week by the Altar Guild. This is a very dedicated group who provide this contemplative service to St. Michael’s worship. Ensuring our celebrants can perform flawlessly, not just at the weekly services but also baptisms, weddings and funerals. I wish to thank all of our current members, especially our new members, Anne Alyward and Rich Jackmaugh. You may find preparing the altar in the quiet of the church may just be your calling. If you have wish to know more please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Truslow

● Flower Guild

St. Michael’s Flower Guild prepared flowers for weekly arrangements, confirmation, baptisms, Palm Sunday, Easter and Christmas celebrations, memorials, funerals and renewal of vows celebration for a couple and their group of Nigerian Anglicans in the area. St. Michael’s Flower Guild has enjoyed another wonderful year during 2014 bringing the enjoyment of flowers to our parishioners. Through the continuing program of weekly memorial, Thanksgiving and Christmas flower donations, we have been able to provide interesting and beautiful flower arrangements throughout the year. Contributions for memorials on a weekly basis are really
important to keep us on track with funding each week. Your contributions are appreciated, and thank you for participating. Please continue to support the program so that we can have a fifteenth successful year.

Thank you to our Flower Guild: Ingrid Beattie, Roxanna Hurst, Cat Malone, Linda MacLean, Pat Rudovsky, Sally Ann Thomas, Mary Truslow, Rachel Wohanka, and Leslie Will. They have been active members not only at Christmas and Easter, but weekly also. We enjoy the arranging and learning experience and would like to invite anyone who is interested in joining the Flower Guild to let us know. We will continue to have different individuals do the weekly flowers and would like to pair up experienced floral arrangers with novice arrangers, so please call Lucinda Larson to express your interest. We enjoy our wonderful ministry and the great learning experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucinda Larson

● Healing Ministry

Being part of the Healing Ministry is a rewarding and ever deepening experience. Our ministry continued to thrive over the past year, by offering prayers for healing during the morning Eucharist at both services on each third Sunday. Prayers for healing are also offered at our midweek Eucharist, on the first Thursday of the month. Ongoing thanks to all who share their gift of love and prayer: Hall Kirkham, Joyce Caggiano, Ruth Dillard, Marge Mayall, Sandy Conklin, Ken Conklin, Mark Hilgendorf and Marilyn Cheney. Interested parishioners are most welcome to explore this ministry with this wonderful group, at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Cheney

● Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors/Intercessors

St. Michael’s is very lucky to have an active group of over 40 parishioners who participate in our Sunday services by helping as Chalice Bearers (aka Lay Eucharistic Ministers) and reading the lessons (Lectors) and Prayers of the People (Intercessors) at both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. These are all ways to participate more fully in our shared worship experience and most people find they are a lot of fun, too.

I am currently doing the scheduling in four blocks per year and do try to accommodate your weekends away or other conflicts so that, hopefully, your Sunday assignment is never a chore. As a group, we are always there to substitute for each other, even if something last minute comes up that prevents you from being at church on your assigned Sunday.
St. Michael's currently could use more people in all capacities at both services, but especially needed are Chalice Bearers and Intercessors. Please consider joining us and helping out on Sunday mornings! I was initially nervous about becoming a Chalice Bearer, but have found that I really enjoy being up on the altar during communion. We will teach you everything you need to know to perform any of these roles and Hall and Joyce are very nice and forgiving if you do forget something! Please contact me if you’d like more information about any of these important ways you can help on a Sunday morning. All are welcome! Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Faulkner

- Music Ministry (report forthcoming)

- Prayer Chain
The Prayer Chain takes requests for healing of all kinds for those both within and outside the parish. All information is kept confidential, and requests can either be made through the parish office or to the prayer chain coordinator (jrice327@aol.com). Many have often told us how much they appreciate the prayers of those who do not even know them! New members are always welcome to join the prayer chain, and most requests are forwarded through e-mail. Thanks to Karen Carpenter, Marilyn Cheney, June Daiber, Pat Hogan, Jo-ann Lee, Barb Phinney, Judy Rice, Leslie Sheehan, Joan Torney, and Carol Young for their gifts of prayer throughout the year.

Faithfully submitted,

Judy Rice

- Sermon Group
We are so blessed here at St. Michael's to have the opportunity for regular lay preaching in addition to the excellent preaching of our clergy. The Sermon Group meets monthly for Bible study on the lessons of the next preaching Sunday - hopefully someone feels called to preach, and the group offers suggestions, support, and prayers, as well as feedback. Each member of the group approaches the scriptures in his or her own unique way, but all are filled with the spirit of God. We welcomed our seminarian, Christopher Whiteman, along with Dina Bray, Juliana Duff, and Jane Lundquist, to the group this year and said sad farewells to Mary Truslow and to long time member Jamie Herbert. New members are always welcome!
Special thanks to Hall and Joyce for their ongoing support throughout the year. Current members of the group are Dina Bray, Joyce Caggiano, Fred Carter, Martha Cotton, Juliana Duff, Richard Jackmauh, Hall Kirkham, Erin Lehman, Jane Lundquist, Sheila Monks, Judy Rice, Adam Tanney, Christopher Whiteman, and Anne Wood.

Faithfully submitted,

Judy Rice


EDUCATION COMMISSION

● Children’s Education

The Church School at St. Michael’s continues to flourish on a weekly basis, thanks to the enthusiastic involvement of scores of parishioners. Our teaching force is a great mix of veteran teachers and parents, taking their turn by teaching over a three-week period. It is clearly a great benefit to our children to witness the faith of so many people, as they teach and share stories of Jesus and his followers.

Overseen by five class leaders, each class creates its own atmosphere and routine while being flexible and adaptable week to week. The leaders are Michelle Cardoza, Erin Hooker-Thomas, Malinda Polk, Anne Millington, and James Scott. Susie Swanson leads the Children’s Chapel while Lorna Martin is the Children’s Education representative from the Vestry. Liz Iacobucci is our faithful Children’s Outreach Coordinator. How lucky we are! A big thank you to all who are involved in Children’s Education at St. Michael’s.

Our popular curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit, is our lectionary-based curriculum - featuring mostly New Testament lessons for our children. Very user-friendly, the lesson plans are, for the second year, accessed completely on-line.

We are pleased to have teen helpers on many Sundays as helpers in our younger classrooms. Thanks to Robert Goodridge, Youth Coordinator, for making these connections possible.

Highlights of 2014 were Earth Day activities in early May. Barb Phinney and Marilyn Cheney began one morning with demonstrations of water as a precious resource and the problems of littering, with special emphasis on the harm of plastic bags and plastic water bottles. Barb gave a convincing pitch for the Massachusetts Bottle Bill (defeated in November). Following our group gathering, Tiffany York and other teachers led a craft project – decorating individual canvas bags for children and families to use for shopping.

We had several Sundays throughout the year when we gathered the children to hear Old Testament stories from storyteller Meg Higgins.

Our end of year Children’s Service was a great success, with lots singing and joint activity, followed by a Parish Picnic. We thanked outgoing Church School Leadership Team Leader, Jim Peyser, for his many years of teaching and leading the 5th and 6th grades.
We welcomed back many children and greeted new families in September. Malinda Polk joined our Leadership Team. From the start the classes have been full! This fall found us adding a great addition to our Sunday mornings – ten minutes of singing. With the musical leadership of different parishioners including our talented rector, we’ve been delighted with the development of this brief group sing each Sunday. After several weeks of practice, the children sing in church – during a family service.

The Christmas Pageant, as always, was a grand culmination of a terrific year. John Higgins did a fabulous job as Director for his second year, with dedicated help from the parents. Piles of toys and gifts for The Grow Clinic gave this service special meaning.

Thanks to all who give so much of their time and focus to help make our program the important experience it is for our children.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marilyn Cheney*

*Director of Christian Education*

● *Children’s Outreach*


**World Vision**

Our two World Vision children, Rahul Uikey, age 15 from India and Tran Quoc Hai, age 8 from Vietnam are supported by donations given during Children’s Chapel.

In January, there were presentations and activities with the Church School classes that focused on Rahul and Tran. The classes learned something about India and Vietnam. The children wrote letters to the boys. We sent packages to them that included letters, pictures and small gifts. It was exciting to receive a letter back from Tran translated from Vietnamese.

**Heifer**

In February, the Bake Sale to benefit Heifer International was a big success. We included the children in a baking activity to directly involve them with the event. It was also a great opportunity to learn more about Heifer and what they do to help reduce poverty around the world.
UNICEF

Just before Halloween, we did a presentation on UNICEF during Children’s Chapel. Once again, it was another wonderful opportunity to get the children thinking about poverty and helping others from around the world. We shared tips for collecting money for UNICEF while trick or treating. All the collected funds were sent to UNICEF.

Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center

Toys were collected on Christmas Eve from parishioners and delivered to the Grow Clinic. This year an extra supply of diapers was included in the delivery.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Iacobucci

● Children’s Chapel

2014 was a great year for this vibrant and growing parish ministry, with lots of new faces! Children’s Chapel at St. Michael’s is a wonderful way for children to experience fellowship, learning and growing in their Christian faith. For many of our youngest students in preschool through grade 2, Children’s Chapel is where they are first introduced to the sacred rite of the Eucharist and begin to explore the miraculous nature of our special relationship with Jesus Christ. The creativity and thoughtfulness of the children in the parish never ceases to amaze me. We had many interesting discussions, learned new songs to share with the parish during family services, explored Old and New Testament Bible stories and prayed together. Through our Children’s Chapel offering, we sent our love and support to our two sponsored World Vision children in Vietnam and India. Children’s Chapel at St. Michael’s is a joyful team effort lead by a loving group of individuals: Mark Hilgendorf, Anne Crawford, Jen Daly, Anne Wood, Joyce Caggiano, and Hall Kirkham. We welcome anyone in the parish to participate: come read a story, teach a song, or lead some prayers. Children’s Chapel is a wonderful way to renew your spirit and feel the Spirit renewed in you!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Swanson

● Senior and Junior High Youth Group (SHYG and SHYG, Jr.)

Senior and junior high teenagers at St. Michael’s have the opportunity to experience a great youth program that will transform the way they are connected to the church and the community. The church’s youth groups, SHYG (senior high youth group) and SHYG, Jr. (junior high youth group) provide this offering.

Last year, changes were made to make SHYG a better and more meaningful experience for our young people. Instead of being a group that meets every week in the Upper Parish Hall eating pizza and watching movies (which we will do from time to time), SHYG is now a community service-based group that focus on
volunteerism and outreach. Last year, they engaged in various volunteer activities such as Common Cathedral in Boston, the St. Francis House in Boston, and Heifer International in Western Massachusetts. For 2015, activities include City Reach in May, the Boston Food Bank, and the church’s annual summer program B-Safe.

Equally exciting was the creation of SHYG, Jr. The group also has the same mission as its senior counterpart. Our hope is to continue the trajectory of kids transitioning from sixth-grade church school with activities that will stimulate a sense that the Gospel of Christ has relevance to the real-world, and can be practiced in ways that inform decision-making, encourage a sense of wonder, meaning and purpose, and cultivate awareness and embrace of our sibling humanity across conventional boundaries. Last fall, the group went to Honey Pot Hill to make pies for Thanksgiving, volunteered at Common Cathedral and the Milton Food Pantry. This year, SHYG, Jr. will also participate in City Reach, tour the Black Freedom Trail tour in Boston, and will have monthly youth services in the Lower Parish Hall.
Last year, SHYG and SHYG, Jr. had a great fall and we hope to continue that momentum this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Goodridge

● Adult Education

The Adult Education component of the Education Commission tries to plan programs that address parishioners’ desire for knowledge about the Episcopal faith, foster their spiritual growth, and provide an avenue to discuss topics relevant to today’s society. The commission meets 7 to 8 times during the calendar year and always welcomes suggestions and new members.

2014 Highlights

The year began with a January Wednesday evening book series. The group read On God’s Side by Jim Wallis. Instead of asking God’s help, it asked readers to think how God wants us to solve the problems of today’s society.

In February, a forum on responsible investing by BYN Mellon was presented. This is a very complex issue to try to link our money with our beliefs and requires further exploration.

In March, we had a series of Lenten forums titled, “Ever wonder why Episcopalians and Roman Catholics are different?” With the guidance of Ray Bronk and Joyce Caggiano, we explored Henry the VIII and his separation from Rome, the beauty of the shared faith, and differences in structures and moral authority. We
also did a Lenten book series titled, *In Search of Belief*, by Joan Chittister. The book generated much discussion over four successive Wednesday nights during Lent. A small group decided to continue discussions and eventually became the Spirituality Group which continues to meet weekly.

On Saturday, April 26th, a group met to make soul cards. Participants produced some beautiful and amazing cards which were displayed on the following Sunday.

Green Day on May 4th morphed out of *The Green Boat* book discussion from fall, 2013. Water bottles were sold to remind folks of recycling and some environmental awareness activities were presented in the church school.

On Sunday, September 21st, Rev. William Beers from “Food for the Poor” preached on the subject of abject poverty and conducted a forum. This was very eye opening and members wanted to know how they could help.

Inquirer’s forum entitled, “The Crooked Journey,” was presented by Rev. Hall and Rev. Caggiano. Six sessions were held after church during the months of September, October, and November. Each session had a different topic including the Nature of God and exploring our beliefs.

The first fall book series was *I heard the Owl Call My Name* by Margaret Craven. This was a story about an Episcopal priest serving a Native American tribe and what he learned.

The second fall book series was *Nine Lives: Mystery, Magic, Death and Life in New Orleans* by Dan Baum. We are hoping for a possible 2015 Skype with the author. The book was very interesting and relevant to St. Michael’s as a mission trip was planned to New Orleans in 2015.

To end the year, we made Advent Wreaths on the first Sunday of Advent and on December 3rd, watched the movie, “Whistle Down the Wind.” The film starred a very young Haley Mills and Alan Bates. It is about some children in rural England who mistake a common thief as Christ.

Looking back it was a busy year, thanks to members of the committee for coming up with great suggestions for our spiritual fulfillment. They are Don Almeida, Lana Agnew, Marilyn Cheney, George Corbett, Rev. Joyce Caggiano, Heather Putnam, Lorna Martin, and Sheila Monks.

Faithfully submitted,

*Martha Cotton, Chair*
**Bible Study**

St. Michael's has had for many years a group of loyal and energetic parishioners gather on Thursdays at 11 a.m. to study the Bible. Of course scripture is core to our conversation, but not always the topic of conversation, as we share life events, challenges, celebrations, and concerns for others, all of which is placed in the context of the great legacy of prose and poetry our scriptural tradition offers. We read, mark, and inwardly digest our passages, and we pray together. It is a strength of St. Michael's parishioners that our Bible Study is broad-ranging, themed in many directions and traditions, and informal.

Gatherings this year have been primarily sessions drawn from the lectionary for the upcoming Sunday, as well as periodic excursions into different books: portions of Isaiah, the books of Hosea, Jonah, and Micah, and St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, as well as thematic readings addressing the different birth narratives in Matthew and Luke.

Joyce Caggiano, Marilyn Cheney, Ray Bronk and Hall Kirkham typically run sessions but this is by no means fixed, as several members of the group will offer their leadership on a given Thursday. We number – more regularly than not – gatherings of 10 to 12 souls in the Upper Parish Hall, and find sustenance from our time and readings together, as well as from coffee and baked items offered by folks who volunteer to schedule themselves as hosts for a morning. Please join us! This is not a closed nor forbidding group; rather, you might be surprised at how much you have to offer.

*The Rev. Hall Kirkham*

**Women's Book Group**

The Woman's Book Group met monthly during the winter, to discuss the three books picked by various members of the parish. This small, lively group truly enjoys the fellowship and conversation these Friday evenings bring.

On January 10th, we read *An Altar in the World, a Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor, at the home of Ingrid Beattie; on February 7th, we read *I am Malala: The Girl Who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban* by Malala Yousafzai, at the home of Martha Cotton, and on March 7th, we read *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers* by Anne Lamott, at the home of Mary Truslow.

Respectfully submitted,

*Heather Putnam*
The Outreach Commission continued to serve as God's hands on Earth in 2014. Some of our ongoing local and national projects include the Milton Food Pantry, the Monday Lunch Program, the Epiphany School, the New Orleans Mission Trip, B-SAFE, St. Mary’s Drive for Thanksgiving Baskets, the Milton Animal Shelter, the Boston Medical Center Grow Clinic, the Prisoner Book Program, and the Boston Post Office Santa Letters. Internationally, we continued our long-term relationships with UNICEF, World Vision, Heifer International, and Safe Passage/Guatemala.

Parishioners have long supported Outreach’s activities through their generous response to our fund-raising efforts—to wit, bake sales, and other events. In addition, we are blessed with monies from the Outreach Endowment Fund which enabled us to seek out and fund organizations and individuals who needed our help. We applied for and received several deanery grants—recipients included Masakhane Trust, Safe Passage, and the Prisoner Book Program.

In 2014, we aided a local family with their rent (Helen and Chichi Omeje), funded a women’s cooperative in Tanzania, supported a home for veterans’ families in Brookline, responded to a need for supplies at a girl’s school in Haiti (St. Jeanne d’Arc), reached out to a local woman’s situation after a fire damaged her home, and contributed to a parishioner’s walk with Project Bread. We were pleased to help a Milton High School student (in conjunction with the Interfaith Social Services in Quincy) in his effort to purchase backpacks for kids who had none. Recognizing the need to fund the continued fight against cancer, we donated to Dana Farber.

Judy and Jane were inspired by a Maine woman’s solo canoe trip to raise money and awareness for the children of Guatemala City, and several parishioners attended a fund-raiser for Safe Passage at Susanna Place’s home. The commission and others are currently planning a mission trip to Guatemala City in February of 2016.

Our scope extended to the Middle East, where we sent money to the Relief and Reconciliation (an organization working toward peace, to Syria, where we supported UNICEF in its outreach efforts in the crisis there, and to Africa, where we have begun what we hope will be a long-term relationship with Masakhane Trust, an organization in South Africa which is working to improve early education teacher training. St. Michael’s parishioners responded generously to a book drive gathering books for the schools involved.
Members in 2014 included Judy Rice, Jane Lundquist, Bill Mullen, Michael Theobald, Sheila Monks, Barb Tennyson, Marilyn Cheney, Ruth Dillard, and Erin Lehman.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Lundquist

● Milton Food Pantry

The Milton Food Pantry, located in the basement of Parkway Methodist Church, 158 Blue Hills Parkway, serves low-income Milton residents by providing them with groceries, other household items, and vouchers for dairy products. The number of clients approved by the social worker, Diane Ferrari, and/or pantry administrators, currently number about 178 families, with 480 clients total, 210 of whom are children, and 58 of whom are seniors. Two co-directors currently coordinate the pantry’s activities: Pat Brawley Norise and Jini Connors.

St. Michael’s has responsibility for the food pantry on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, and shares responsibility for the fifth Saturday, when there is one, along with supervisors from other churches. I serve as the supervisor for the second Saturday, and Judy Rice supervises the fourth Saturday. Volunteers work from 8:30 a.m. to noon and help in a variety of activities such as registering clients, checking dates on donated food, stocking shelves, carrying in deliveries, helping clients carry bags to their cars, picking up food from distributors, and delivering food to the homebound. The work is not difficult and is very rewarding, since volunteers can see direct, positive results from their efforts. And volunteers do not have to stay for the whole morning-- the pantry can always use volunteers to help deliver food to the homebound, a job that might just take half an hour or hour between 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon. Those with questions can call me at 617-696-6487 or email me at njmck@bu.edu.

Food donations can be brought to St. Michael’s and put in the shopping cart in the vestibule (sometimes it is in the coat closet), or they can be brought to the pantry on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Soups, canned fruits and vegetables, jams, muffin/bread mixes, and hygiene items are particularly needed year-round.

This year, as usual, the Milton Food Pantry distributed turkeys and all the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner, including fresh produce and pies, the week before Thanksgiving. There was a special distribution for Christmas, too, including turkeys and holiday candy. These special distributions are particularly valued by the clients, who might not otherwise be able to celebrate the holidays.

St. Michael’s continues to make extremely valuable contributions to the food pantry, both in terms of food donations and volunteer help, and my deepest thanks go to every person who has donated food and/or time
to the pantry in 2014. I'd particularly like to thank the members of the Outreach Commission who sponsored a very coordinated and effective food drive this fall that has kept the pantry shelves well-stocked for months. I would also like to thank the following people for their help at the pantry (or behind the scenes): John Ahonen, Ken Conklin, David and Yvonne Corbett, John Duff, Diane Ferrari, Robert Goodridge, Barbara Claire Keene, Bill Mullen, Judy Rice, Anne Schnell, Becky Symonds, Michael Theobald, Anne Wood and the Youth Group (and my sincere apologies to anyone who I’ve left out; keeping an accurate attendance list of all volunteers is a great idea that often falls by the wayside in the confusing reality of running the place). I continue to be extremely proud of St. Michael's for playing such a huge role in maintaining this vital service in our community. There are many churches in Milton, some much larger than St. Michael's, but none is as well-represented at the pantry as ours.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie McKnight

* The Epiphany School

Epiphany School in Dorchester is an independent, tuition-free middle school for children of economically disadvantaged families from Boston neighborhoods. Once a month, we travel there to prepare dinner for the students. The chef leaves the ingredients and menu and we do the rest from setting tables, to cooking, serving and clean-up. By having dinner prepared for them, the students can remain at the school into the evening for tutoring and study halls, which is necessary for their success. The following parishioners helped serve dinner at Epiphany during 2014: Roxanna Hurst, Debbie Haggerty, Rich Jackmah, Jane Lundquist, Barb Phinney, Mary Wendell, Anne Wood and Ann Schnell and Martha Cotton.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha A. Cotton

* Monday Lunch Program

The Monday Lunch Program (MLP) is one of St. Michael's oldest continuing outreach programs. We serve lunch to 130-160 guests (mostly homeless and working poor) the first Monday of each month at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral on Tremont Street in Boston. A hard-core group of volunteers from St. Michael's comes regularly, and others join us throughout the year. We have a small number of people who are "leaders," who pick out the menu, contact the shopper, provide announcements, and oversee the lunch. We have a good number of "shoppers" who buy the food at their favorite discount store (BJ's, Costco, or with the card available in the church office, Restaurant Depot in Needham). There are several "cooks" who help prepare the meals and a group of volunteer "servers" who join the cooks in serving the meal and cleaning up afterwards. This is a fantastic group of parishioners who give their time, even on holidays, such as Labor Day.
and the occasional New Year’s Day or Fourth of July. We can always use more help and we are especially in need of new leaders.

The biggest news in 2014 was the closing of St. Paul’s Cathedral for major renovations. MLP has shifted operation to St. John the Evangelist, which is just over Beacon Hill from St Paul’s, on Bowdoin Street. The transition was pretty smooth, and we have established standard operating procedures for the new kitchen and dining room. The number of guests we are serving at St. John’s has decreased a bit compared to St. Paul’s, even with the closing of the shelter on Moon Island (due to the aging bridge). This is likely due to the more remote location of St. John’s. We expect the number of guests to go right back up when St. Paul’s opens this spring.

Please join us on one of the first Mondays. The Monday Lunch Program is a tremendous service, a lot of fun, and an experience from which we each gain as much as we give. There is a sign-up sheet in the Upper Parish Hall, or you can contact Jamie McKnight, the current MLP coordinator, directly. The Monday Lunch Program has a website with information about the schedule, meals, and volunteers: http://people.bu.edu/cjmck/MLP/MLP.htm

Many thanks to all of you who have participated in the Monday Lunch Program this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie McKnight

● Mission Giving

This committee, in operation for some twenty-five years, has the rewarding responsibility of distributing funds on behalf of the parish to local, national, and international organizations serving those in need. The monies available to us in 2014 amounted to $2,800, and we were able to make fifteen grants, ranging from $100 to $350.

One of our policies is to applaud and support outreach initiatives by our own parish members. Judy Rice takes part each year in the Boston AIDS walk, and James Scott rode his bicycle again in the Pan-Mass Challenge to raise funds for cancer research.

We continued our support for vital location organizations, Milton’s Council on Aging, the Food Pantry, and the Residents’ Fund. We donated again to DOVE and Father Bill’s Place in Quincy, and Epiphany School in Dorchester. We were pleased to make another grant to Bridge Boston, the school for inner-city children established by our own Deacon, Jennifer Daly, and to the Grow Clinic, serving at-risk infants at the Boston Medical Center. We also committed funds to Boston’s Bridge Over Troubled Waters.
Internationally, we joined our own church school in sending a gift to the well-known Heifer Project and World Vision Program. We renewed our commitment to Doctors Without Borders for their outstanding work around the world.

A new addition to our list last year was Share Our Strength, a national organization which supports low-income families by teaching cooking and menu-planning.

The complete list is published on the bulletin board in the Upper Parish Hall. We are grateful to all parishioners for making these grants possible, and we welcome your ideas for future donations. I must also add my personal thanks to committee members Jeanne Burns, Sandy Conklin, George Corbett, John Duff, Ron Iacobucci, Judith Sandonato, and Joan Torney.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Theobald

Mission Trip

In January of 2014, 11 parishioners from St. Michael’s went on the sixth annual Mission Trip to New Orleans to help those in need. We worked on Miss Barbara’s house, a great-grandmother of seven, as well as doing construction at a shelter for homeless youth. We also prepared and served meals at the New Orleans Mission for the homeless, as well as at Loaves and Fishes, a food truck which brings meals to homeless around the city.

We were especially grateful to the Diocese of Massachusetts for a matching grant of $4,000 from the Mission Tithe program, the Outreach Commission for a donation from the Endowment Fund, and to the countless parishioners and friends who gave donations large and small, as the trip is not funded from the parish budget. Special thanks to Vicki Rugo who kept track of our finances, Margery Buckingham for designing and producing the Christmas ornaments which we sold as our fundraiser, Ellen Bradley for our Mission Team T shirts, Alana Wilson and the church school children for our origami prayer boats, which we floated down the Mississippi, and to James Scott for the Café due Monde supplies.

This year, we stayed at a youth/mission house renovated and operated by Trinity Episcopal Church, where we cooked our own meals and ate together as a group. Once again, we invited homeowners Bev, Joe, and Gloria, whose homes we had worked on in previous years, to dinner, as well as Matt Holt, the Director of Youth and Mission at Trinity Church, who also provided us a very informative orientation. We encountered an ice storm while we were there which shut the city down for a few days, but we managed to make the best of it while we adjusted to changes in our plans.
Donations were made to St. Paul’s Homecoming Center, Project Homecoming, the New Orleans Mission, Loaves and Fishes, and to Dodwell House, a ministry of St. Anna’s Episcopal Church, which provides after-school arts programs for children.

While in New Orleans, we updated the St. Michael’s blog daily so those back at home could be a part of our trip, and we offered a group homily after we returned. We also offered a New Orleans-style dinner at the auction, and put on our own Café du Monde at St. Michael’s, complete with live jazz, courtesy of local high school students, beignets and chicory coffee straight from New Orleans, and decorations in the New Orleans colors of purple, gold, and green.

Although only 11 were able to physically go, the whole parish went with us spiritually and financially, and the people of New Orleans continue to be very touched that our parish cared enough to send a group on their behalf. Members of the 2014 trip were: Lana Agnew, Ellen Bradley, Dina Bray, Bob Bray, Joyce Caggiano, Marilyn Cheney, Ken Conklin, Sandy Conklin, Martha Cotton, Barb Phinney, and Judy Rice.

Faithfully submitted,

Judy Rice
STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

Stewardship is a critical priority that supports the Christian mission and fiscal operation of St. Michael’s. There are three main goals that the Stewardship Commission supports throughout the year; managing the annual pledge campaign, hosting the Harvest Dinner, and managing the annual Christmas Auction. Stewardship is also cognizant of the need to increase our membership base, and works with Parish Life to that end. Annual pledging is the largest source of financial support for St. Michaels, followed closely by the Christmas Auction.

● Pledge Campaign
This year, the annual pledge campaign to support St. Michael’s in the 2015 calendar year started later, on November 1st, and continued through December. Our goals were to raise $370,000 from 160 households. As of January 20th, 81% of each goal has been achieved ($300,153 from 131). The 2013 campaign closed at $309,742 from 141 households.

Generous members of the parish offered to match both new and increased pledges. Campaign messaging included spending goals, among which were repairs to the roofs of both the church and the Village School, as well as upgrades to the Hill House and contributions to the Diocese. The matching program and the communication of spending needs have produced positive results. The number of increased pledges is currently at 59, compared to 40 last year. Fourteen households made pledges for the first time - an impressive 55% increase over 2013.

● Christmas Auction
The Christmas celebration and auction was held on Friday, December 5th, in the Upper and Lower Parish Hall and the main church. To defray costs, we sent out invitations via paperless post. Additional invites were mailed to those without email. Over 125 guests were in attendance. The auction cleared over $22,000 thanks to generous parishioners who volunteered their time and donated items for both the silent and live auction.

The church was transformed into a glittery Christmas wonderland with lights and flowers everywhere. The evening is our major fundraiser and community builder and offers our parishioners a chance to mingle, laugh, eat, meet new people in a joyous atmosphere and help add funds to our budget. We chose a new catering company from within the parish. Didi Emmons and her helpers put on a delicious spread!

Two hours were allocated to cocktails and the silent auction before we headed promptly into the church for the live auction at 8 p.m. This year we had four auctioneers rather than two, as there is much preparation by
the auctioneers ahead of time. We gratefully thank Bob Hiss, Tony Will, Charlie Truslow, and Jamie McKnight for putting on a hilarious show. A special thanks as well to Matt Sandonato for putting together a wonderful slide show to accompany the auctioneers banter. As always, it was fast moving and funny. Due to the extraordinary generosity of several members of the congregation, including Peter and Cat Malone, Ted and Mary Wendell, and parishioners who made monetary donations, the evening’s food, drinks and cost of the invitations and decorations were all covered so that the proceeds of the auction were able to go directly to the church.

We are extremely grateful for the creative talents and hard work of those who helped set up and decorate the Upper Parish Hall and church and clean up the following day: Norman & Leslie James, Susie Swanson, John Duff, Rich McCampbell, Heidi Vaughn, Veronica Guerrero-Macia, Susan Lachevre, Becky Simonds, Kirby Files, John Ahonen, Martha Cotton, Ted Daiber, Bill Mullen and grandchildren, Ken and Sandy Conklin, and Anne Wood and Richard Jackmauh for the raffle baskets.

In addition, we couldn’t have done it without the help of Vicky Rugo and Nanette Diaute, who edited and copied flyers and programs, made spreadsheets and tracked tickets and items, and gave us continuous support.

Respectfully Submitted,

● Harvest Dinner
The Harvest dinner of 2014 was held on September 27th at the Wollaston Golf Club. About 100 parishioners attended this evening of feasting and fellowship, at which the guest speaker was our well-remembered, former pastor, Sam Rodman, speaking to us on stewardship from a diocesan standpoint.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Norton, Libby Kinnealey and Steve Weld

● Garden of Seasons
The Garden of Seasons had some planting additions over the year that included several daffodils bulbs planted along the ha-ha, and red daylilies along the Walke walkway leading up to the Chapel. All plantings were approved by the Trustees.
Generous donations were used for the spring cleanup and ongoing maintenance with service provided by Atlantic View, assuring that the garden got off to a healthy start at the beginning of the growing season. Atlantic replaced four rhododendrons near the driveway entrance to the ha-ha. Thankfully volunteers kept the garden weeded during the summer and fall.

A quick reminder of the policies that were mandated last year including: nothing may be planted or placed in the garden without the permission of the trustees (if families choose to bring memorial flowers, we will allow the flowers to remain for a short time before they are removed). If anyone wants to donate a tree or planting in honor of a loved one, they should speak to a trustee, and if approved, it will be noted at the annual meeting. A record of all gifts will be kept by the trustees.

This year, we worked more closely with the volunteers and members of the Property Committee. Lana Agnew, a longtime member of the Property Committee and stalwart volunteer, now serves as Property Committee Liaison.

The trustees plan to continue to work more closely with the Property Chairman and Nanette Diaute. In this way, we will be better able to coordinate the finances and care of the Garden of Seasons with the overall care of all the property of St. Michael's.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Onessimo for the Trustees and Lana Agnew, Trustee

● St. Michael’s Property Committee

The Property Committee oversees St. Michael’s buildings and grounds. We meet at least once monthly to review and resolve pending, on-going and completed projects, including decisions as to the allocation of work defined by the Annual Maintenance Budget.

The church was blessed in 2014 by the dedication and commitment provided by the following members of the Property Committee: Lana Agnew, Michael Blutt (co-Chairman), Ken Conklin, Ted Daiber, George Lovely, Bill Tennyson (outgoing Chairman), George Thomas, and Mary Wendell (gardens, landscaping coordination and other related work). We are excited to welcome 2 new members Matt Cotton and Frank Barrows, as well as new Sexton Dennis Mackler.

The committee gratefully acknowledges the support and work provided by Ken Conklin (outgoing sexton), Vicki Rugo, Sheila Monks, Martha Cotton, and Hall Kirkham, who are our frequent contacts regarding project implementation, follow-up and/or announcement of problems that occurred. Thank you very much for your proactive assistance.
In 2014, the committee continued with the implementation of the most urgent projects as well as normal improvements associated outside and within the buildings:

**Church/Village School Building**

- The communication process between the Village School and St. Michael’s for emergencies, work performed or requested, etc., was revisited and formalized and improved so both parties can anticipate or react in a clear and timely manner.
- Due to trouble with the boiler (multiple controls failures), an automated call system was installed to contact Hall via phone upon low temperature warning. Williams Oil repaired the controls and installed the warning system.

**Church**

- Michael Blutt completed repairs and re-installed a broken steel-framed, leaded-glass window in the basement office (Ranjit’s old office) with the assistance of a neighbor who is a specialist in this type of construction. This method will be used on future repairs as required.
- In order to facilitate a cooler summer temperature in the nave and chancel, we investigated the possibility of getting the existing cupola vent operational. Due to the lift expense, it was decided to postpone the project to a later date.
- The church slate roof was in need of urgent repair in some localized areas, these were addressed in two phases by two different contractors.
- A quote from an engineering firm (CBI Consulting) was obtained for a full roof inspection report on the slate, underlayment and flashings ($7,500). The inspection will not be performed in 2015. We will continue performing repairs on the areas identified needing immediate attention by the slate roofing contractors.
- The choir stall handrail project is still in progress. George Lovely drafted plans and details for locations; the committee reviewed and decided to install handrails at the stall fronts only initially. The project will be undertaken by Michael Blutt and Ken Conklin.
- A parishioner mentioned that hearing of readings, sermons, and announcements was difficult when sitting in the chancel. We will investigate the cost of adding an altar-facing speaker to our existing sound system.

**Upper/Lower Parish Hall**

- We were informed by the elevator inspector that the elevator cables needed replacing in 2014; this work was not performed, but will be scheduled for early 2015 (budget $5,000).
• We continued to look at ways to re-zone the Upper and Lower Parish Hall heating system separate from the office heating to save on heating oil costs. Frank Barrows has proposed adding a new separate forced hot water zone for the offices, then splitting the UPH/LPH into 2 separate zones in a later phased project.

Hill House

• The window replacement project continued, now focusing on replacement of the operable sash only on casement windows with sound frames. Andersen Co. stocks replacement sash for windows dating back to 1945. The Hill House windows were likely installed in 1953. A first test sash was ordered and received; it will be installed in Jan 2015.
• After a walk-thru by vestry members and the rector, it was determined that the 2nd floor bathroom is in a condition that merits minor renovation. This will be undertaken early 2015.

Grounds

• Throughout the year, John Driscoll’s Landscaping Service does the mowing and snow removal. Our willing volunteers help keep the grounds in shape by weeding, planting, pruning, and leaf raking during the spring and fall clean-ups, as well as during the summer. Our volunteers have saved the parish a great deal of money in labor costs. Their names will not be listed here, as they’ve been previously thanked in past newsletters and in person. Some plantings have been added. Valerie Schindler has re-landscaped the front of the Hill House. We cleared out the beds on the side of the Hill House. Pat Rudovsky generously provided a white rosebush, which has been planted beside the Hill House garage. Red tulips and red daylilies were planted along the walkway to the chapel. More daffodils were added to the Ha-Ha, also to the Prayer Garden beside the back entrance to the Village School. Four rhododendrons were planted by Atlantic View at the entrance to the Ha-Ha. Thanks to everyone who helped in keeping the grounds looking so lovely. The wishing well is in need of repair/reconstruction. Ken Conklin stabilized the rotting columns until reconstruction in the spring (led by M Blutt). George Thomas removed, leveled and reinstalled heaving pavers at the courtyard that had become trip hazards, as a result of the previous winter freeze/thaw cycling. A special thanks to Ken Conklin, our sexton, who watered, disposed of lawn debris, delivered mulch, fertilizer, etc., and performed uncountable acts of kindness.

General

1. The Vestry requested the committee develop a facility condition assessment report to formally identify future maintenance and repairs, as well as a budget of anticipated yearly expenditures. We engaged
diocesan consultant architect, Jeffrey Brown, to submit a proposal. Mr. Brown has submitted his proposal and we are reviewing his references and past condition assessment reports he has completed. The vestry expects to make a decision on proceeding with this survey in early 2015.

2. The campus buildings exterior painting must be scheduled in 2015; it has been 9 to 10 years since last repaired, sealed and painted. It is recommended that the cycle for this work be every 5 – 7 years.

Some of the above projects were funded from the Capital Campaign and the church operating budget, which was exceeded to perform the necessary maintenance and repair of a large facility and its aging infrastructure.

_The Property Committee can always use new talents and energy. We are looking for persons with interest as well as experience with repair and maintenance of buildings/its systems and grounds. Please contact Hall Kirkham, Michael Blutt or Martha Cotton. Thank you._

Respectively submitted,

_Bill Tennyson, Outgoing Chairman_
PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

The Parish Life Commission provides attention to, and oversight of, the community life of the parish. The commission is responsible for the planning and implementation of certain parish events, such as the reception after the Service of Remembrance. Parish Life also assists other St. Michael’s groups in accomplishing events such as the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Talent Show and the end-of-year all-parish picnic. Some of these events - like the Service of Remembrance and its reception - are not only publicized by direct invitation, but also through local media. The commission’s role is to be sure that important events are successfully carried out, and to help spread the workload associated with these celebrations. Additionally, we try to keep an eye on the pace and distribution of the overall calendar of our parish events.

Since 2013, Catherine Troutman, St. Michael’s media consultant, has been working to build St. Michael’s presence in the community through the local press and media. The Parish Life commission works with Ms. Troutman to make the community aware of certain events occurring. These events have included, the Service of Remembrance, the Lessons and Carols service, and a musical concert series open to the public. Additionally, we continue to collaborate with a professional web designer on the revamping of the St. Michael’s website, with the hopes that the website will be a valuable source of information highlighting the vibrant life of our parish. We provide content for the website and the electronic newsletter of upcoming events and activities around the parish. Additionally, our commission continues to facilitate and streamline parish communication via traditional sources such as the parish hall bulletin boards.

Another aspect of parish life that falls within the purview of this commission is the welcoming and inclusion of newcomers. Michael Theobald continues his invaluable work as the “newcomers’ point person,” with the support of the Parish Life group. This past year, in the commission’s continuing effort to strengthen the integration of new members into the parish, two of the members of Parish Life, Abe Cardoza and Michael Theobald, worked with members from the Stewardship Commission to draft a “Newcomers’ Handbook.” The Newcomers’ Handbook will provide an introduction to St. Michael’s church and answer the questions that many newcomers might have.

● Coffee Hour

Over 100 people helped with Coffee Hour this year. We give thanks to all of you for providing delicious food, comforting beverages, and service with a smile, on Sundays following the 10 a.m. service. Judith Sandonato was St. Michael’s Coffee Hour coordinator for 6 years. For her quiet, calm, and cheerful leadership we give special thanks. It has taken three of us to fill her shoes - literally. Don and Kathy Almeida have taken on the job of shopping for the church’s coffee hour staples (coffee, sugar, plates, napkins, utensils, you name it!) and I have taken on the job of coordinating the schedule of hosts. Our September 2014 - June 2015 schedule
was pulled alphabetically (with a few exceptions) from the directory starting with the letter "B" and going through the letter "L." Many have kindly volunteered to change their scheduled date or take on another to help out. That is a good and joyful thing, and we are so appreciative to all of you. It is a pleasure to be part of St. Michael's lovely coffee hour tradition.

Respectfully submitted
Debbie Haggerty, Coffee Hour Scheduling Coordinator

● Ministry of Caring

The Ministry of Caring is a guild that falls directly under the auspices of Parish Life. This group looks after the needs of our senior parish members, with home visits, fall and spring luncheons, and celebratory cards. The lay ministry also brings communion to our home-bound members.

In our Parish Life meetings, we have also discussed the need to encourage and support the involvement of our long-time parishioners in the celebration of our traditions.

Amory Files is the leader of the Parish Life Commission. The dedicated members of our commission include Abe Cardoza, Kate Hamblet, Sheila Monks, James Scott, Becky Simonds, Michael Theobald, and Steve Wilson. We would happily welcome new members to assist in any area of the commission’s work that interests you!

Respectfully submitted,
Amory Files

● Newsletter

My colleague, Katherine Campbell, and I much enjoy editing the monthly newsletter, and your help us enormously by contributing a wide range of reports, new items, and commentary. Each newsletter first provides a thought-provoking, and indeed inspirational, message for us all from Hall, Joyce, or Jennifer. It then typically describes the breadth of parishioners' interest and involvement: our increasingly comprehensive and exciting music program; opportunities to volunteer in vital concerns like the Monday Lunch Program or the Milton Food Pantry; the highlights of recent vestry meetings; the collecting of gifts for Boston’s Grow Clinic; news of our very active Church School and Youth Groups, or of the Women’s Book Group; the exciting preparations for the much-lauded annual mission trip by parishioners to New Orleans; and, most recently, the Sunday evening meetings of the Spirituality Group. We have a wonderfully vibrant and compassionate church, and your newsletter, now distributed to most parishioners by email, does its best to reflect appropriately all the varied energies of St. Michael’s.
We are fortunate to enjoy the skills and devotion of Nanette Diaute, increasingly well-known throughout the parish for her patient and cheerful helpfulness to all, and especially to us when deadlines are missed and layouts get complicated. We thank both her and Vicki Rugo, who takes a lively interest in our work and provides us with the latest news of individual parishioners in her column, “About the Parish.”

We hope to encourage you to be as involved as you can possibly be in parish life. We welcome your suggestions and criticisms and of course, your further contributions to your newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Theobald
COMMUNICATIONS

St. Michael’s currently utilizes the assistance and guidance of an external team of two consultants – Catherine Troutman and Wendy Berman – who support our print and internet media, and our website. Our regular and special offerings have been visible to the local Milton and greater Boston communities, as well as the Diocese of Massachusetts, to a degree greater than ever before.

We do this through an active Facebook page, our website, occasional posts on Twitter, and through regular articles and announcements to the Milton Times, local Patch, and My Town Matters outlets, Boston.com and Milton Cable Access television. These have been productive efforts, as our regular and special offerings have been well-attended by local parishioners as well as members of the greater community.

The Rev. Hall Kirkham