



St. Michael's Newsletter

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November 2013

From the Rector

A Meditation on Stewardship

In California this week, for Marjorie's college reunion, I am astonished by the beauty and the bounty of God's creation that surrounds me. We stopped at a fruit stand in San Francisco and were able to sample produce that I know is part of a long legacy of growing and harvesting California crops that help sustain this nation's food supply. Woody Guthrie called this place "that ol' peach bowl, Californy," and knew the very land was "a Garden of Eden, a paradise to live in or see." And it's harvest season for much of it this week.

*The peach trees they are loaded, / The limbs are bending down,
I pick 'em all day for a dollar / As I go ramblin' 'round.*

The variety of fruit we sampled – berries, citrus, drupes (that's a peach, or any stone fruit) – was broad and ready to eat, but the man told us we'd missed the really big load by a few weeks. The fruits of harvest abound in the California of our visit, and of Woody Guthrie's music, and abound in Hebrew Scripture, where a tribe of former slaves wandering for years found in God's promise a place where they could settle long enough, and safely enough, to begin to contemplate an agricultural life. But abundance alone is not the point for the Hebrew tribes that survived by sowing and reaping from the land. Attentive lives live in gratitude, gratitude recognizes abundance in all its forms, and abundance is the accumulation of blessings that we must admit, if we are honest, are sourced in God. God instructs Moses at the edge of the promised land to honor the harvest, the harvest that is a culmination of blessings for the Hebrew people:

No one shall appear before me empty-handed. You shall observe the festival of harvest, of the first fruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall observe the festival of ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor.
(Exodus 23.15b-16)

The very fact that a nomadic people wandering the desert could finally settle long enough, and safely enough, even to contemplate agriculture of any sort was certainly the culmination of blessings received over the long duration of their wandering.

It seems fitting to offer something to testify to the gifts of God's blessing. The first fruits were a practical reality as well, helping to sustain the work of the Tabernacle and its priests. Setting this fruit aside as a separate and committed offering ensured that folks were placing their treasure where their heart was (or yearned to be); it served as an expression of the community's commitment to God, and the work God calls all of us to embrace; and it was the practical way of literally supporting that work. The bounty of a harvest is not in itself a saving grace if that harvest is governed alone by the principle of self-sufficiency and security. Woody Guthrie saw first-hand how the singular pursuit of wealth for a few came through the suffering and toil of the masses, a pursuit not in support of God's Dream of our shared humanity in any sense, even as it is the work of a broken world in any case.

*Sometimes the fruit gets rotten / And falls upon the ground.
There's a hungry mouth for every peach / As I go ramblin' round, boys.*

May our first fruits always be offered to support and heal our broken world. As each of us contemplates our financial commitments in the next calendar year, let us think about our own first fruits, and about our own role as stewards of God's Dream unfolding. It is my hope that each of us considers offering our first fruits to the work of God, broadly defined, and that St. Michael's Church – in all its various ministries – is part of your sense of the work of God being done. May we all come to share in God's Dream, and find new ways in which that invitation becomes a part of our lives.

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About the Parish

Deaths:

Anne Dexter Wheeler of Milton passed away October 3, 2013. A Memorial Service was held here at St. Michael's on October 8, 2013.

Belatedly: Marie J. Duff of Florida passed away on July 26th. Marie was the mother of John Duff, former warden, and mother-in-law of his wife, Diane Ferrari. A funeral service was held on Friday, August 2nd at St. Agatha's Church, 440 Adams Street in East Milton.



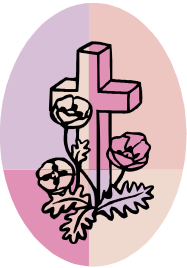
The Wired Generation Forum November 3rd

Deepen your loving connection with your child. Learn how to communicate, connect, and parent with confidence in this digital age.

Beth Greenwalt from Parent Solutions will conduct a forum at St. Michael's on Sunday, November 3rd. If there is interest, a continuing series may be available.

~Submitted by the Education Commission

All Saints' Day Service of Remembrance



Please consider joining us at our annual All Saints' Day Service of Remembrance at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 1st. For many years, St. Michael's has held a service on All Saints' Day that combines music, prayer and the lighting of candles in honor of those who have died in the

past year, and also to support all who grieve the loss of loved ones. This is a quiet and contemplative service at a time of year when the transition between life and death is evidenced everywhere in the natural world, and therefore is a fitting time to remember the different transitions that meet us in our own lives, and the ultimate transition of our own physical lives themselves. At this service, cards will be located at the back of the church, and you may fill out the name(s) of the loved ones you may wish to remember to bring forward at this service. Please feel free to use the reverse side for any prayer or message of love and thanksgiving for the person(s) you are remembering this year.

Children's Outreach News

It is a pleasure to welcome on board Liz Iacobucci as our new coordinator of Children's Outreach. Liz will be visiting classrooms and Children's Chapel in the coming weeks, talking with the children about sharing, but most specifically about the two children we sponsor in India and Vietnam through WORLD VISION. These children receive our help mostly through the generosity of children's offering - using our special, hand-stamped envelopes and collected weekly in the Children's Chapel (younger children), and in the regular collection plates in Church (older classes: 2nd-6th). Extra envelopes are available in the Church School office. UNICEF boxes will be handed out on Sunday October, 27th. Thanks to all for your ongoing support of Children's Outreach at St. Michael's.



Crafting for a Good Cause

Encouraged by the success of last year's New Orleans Christmas ornaments, we are planning a new design this year with a music theme. If you would like to help create the ornaments in support of the parish mission trip to NOLA, please join a dedicated and creative group on Wednesday morning, November 6th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon and/or Tuesday evening, November 12th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. We will meet and work in the Upper Parish Hall.

~Margery Buckinham



Save the Date! Women's Group



Come unwind, relax from your busy week or the past month. Join this "unagendad" group of women on Saturday, November 9th at 7:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of most every month for coffee and conversation in the Upper Parish Hall from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Coffee, tea and goodies provided. We'll see you there!

~Joyce Caggiano and Dina Roberts Bray

We Need St. Michael's and St. Michael's Needs Us

"For me, and I think many, if not all of us in this room, St. Michael's is our haven in a crazy/busy/pressure cooker world. It is the community we turn to when we are both celebrating our blessings and when we are grieving from our losses, or when we need guidance and reassurance to cope with inexplicable and devastating world events. St. Michael's centers us and strengthens us. How lucky I feel to have found St. Michael's!"

~ from a testimonial by Joan Faulkner at the Harvest Dinner, September 28th

Parishioners at the Harvest Dinner where Joan spoke were asked to respond to two questions:

What does St. Michael's mean to you today?
Where is God calling St. Michael's in the future?

Answers to the first question were compiled in a word cloud which was included in the annual pledge letter you received. The word cloud below reflects responses to the second question (varying font sizes indicate the frequency of a word).



These words are joyful and loving and full of abundance and hope. They reflect a place where, to quote Joan again as she describes her first service at St. Michael's, she felt "the presence of God there, with you all."

To be a church that reflects everything God is calling us to be and do, it needs to stand on a solid financial footing. In order to support the people, programs, and property that mean so much to us all, we need to meet our 2014 pledge goal of \$400,000.

Please think deeply about how you would answer the questions above, then demonstrate your commitment through your annual pledge. We need St. Michael's and St. Michael's needs us!

To those who have already answered the call:
THANK YOU

~ The Stewardship Commission: Bob Hiss, Bryan Haggerty, Libby Kinnealey, Peter Millington, Allison Norton and Mollie Stikeleather



**St. Michael's Christmas Auction
Friday December 6th**



"Making bourbon balls for the fair is where I first met...."
"I am still dreaming about that sunset over Caspian Lake"
"The church and the hall looked transformed...
so beautiful!"
"Can you believe Sam could even find high heels
in his size?"
"Who is the caterer? The food is great!"
"I don't know where I am going to put this....
but I just have to have it."

These are just some of the quotes from people who have attended the St. Michael's auction over the years, and they represent a wide range of the number of ways in which you can be involved with the auction.

You can meet new friends by volunteering to help with collecting auction items or setting up on the day of the auction. You can make new memories or re-visit old ones by bidding on and winning a stay in a vacation home in the live auction.

You can get some of your Christmas shopping done and maybe have a chance to clean out your attic by donating a treasure or two.

You can forget all those Thanksgiving calories and enjoy some new ones, while being entertained in a beautiful setting with old and new friends.

The Christmas Auction is our biggest fund raiser of the year, and an important line item in our yearly operational budget. We hope that you will come and join in the fun that not only helps our bottom line, but is a great way to build fellowship, and to strengthen our commitment to the greater community.

This year your invitation will come via your email, so be sure to take a look and save the date.

"Come and See"
and make some new quotes happen.

For more information contact Becky Simonds at
617-333-0561 - (olsenfamily1053@gmail.com)

or

Anne Wood at 617-894-0280 - (amwood55@yahoo.com)

or

fill in one of the inserts in the weekly bulletin.



Christmas Pageant News

After directing the Christmas Pageant for about 10 years, I have decided to step down and pass on the torch. St. Michael's is looking for someone to step in and take over this wonderful, inspiring, and time specific volunteer position.



Directing the pageant is a sweet and meaningful task. Helping children tell this important story has helped me stay in touch with what is most important during what can be such a busy, even hectic, time. It is my hope that someone (or ones!) will hear the call and embrace this lovely experience. I promise you will get much more out of it than you put in. Several hours of service will give you the best Christmas gift of all. It is truly one of the most rewarding of times.

Passing the pageant torch feels bittersweet. My girls are older, and ready to try a different Christmas Eve service. If your kids love being in the pageant, this is a great opportunity to share the time with them, and give back to our amazing St. Michael's community. However this job is really open to anyone willing: senior or junior - we would be very grateful! Please seriously consider this mission. Not only do we need one or two adults to take the lead, but there are also a number of jobs to be done to help make the pageant run smoothly. The script and costumes are ready to go! Marilyn Cheney and I will happily support you in any way you need for this transition year.

Rehearsals for the pageant take place after church in Advent, for about 35-45 minutes. Pageant organizers will be working closely, as before, with the Cathedral Choir.

All parents who are interested in having their children take part in the pageant please come to the pageant transition meeting on Sunday, November 10th after church in the Lower Parish Hall. Marilyn and I will be there to answer questions, and to help get the St. Michael's Christmas Pageant 2013 off and running!

Sincerely,
Pam Walker

BAPTISM

If anyone is interested in baptism,
please contact the parish office.



Women of St. Michael's Winter Book Group

My admiration for Francy Hays has grown ten-fold. How can one possibly choose just three books from so many wonderful authors? My top contenders ranged from Peter Gomes, Harvey Cox, C. S. Lewis and William Sloan Coffin to Elaine Pagels and a host of others. Hopefully you will all enjoy the ones I have chosen. I am eternally grateful for Sheila Monk's final push to help me narrow the field down from over twenty contenders.

Friday Evening, January 10th at 7:30 p.m.
at the home of Ingrid Beattie
A Geography of Faith, An Altar in the World
by Barbara Brown Taylor

Our group read her acclaimed novel, *Leaving Church*. She is now a teacher and highly acclaimed author. In her latest book, she "reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer. She shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do" - *Harper Collins'* publishers. Her prose turns the mundane into joy. A five-star read.

Friday Evening, February 7th at 7:30 p.m.
(location TBD)

***I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai**

The riveting biography of the young Pakistani activist who took a bullet in the head from a Taliban fighter who leapt on her bus shouting, "Who is Malala?" Her crime? Speaking about the God-given right of girls to attend school. When she spoke at the U. N., the entire body stood up to cheer for this brave sixteen-year-old girl. An amazing journey.

Friday Evening, March 7th at 7:30 p.m.
at the home of Martha Cotton

***Help, Thanks, Wow* by Anne Lamot**

One of the *New York Times* best-selling authors writes brilliantly about "the three simple prayers essential to coming through tough times, difficult days and the hardships of daily life." We have read Anne Lamot in the past and trekked into Boston to hear her speak in the middle of a raging snowstorm. This book will not disappoint you!

All women of the parish are invited to come and share their insights on these three very different books.

~ Heather Putnam
(617-513-0881)

REMINDER!

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday,
November 3rd. Don't forget to "Fall Back!"

♪ Notes ♪ from the Director of Music

A Different Kind of Steward

Dear Friends,

As we move ever so quickly into the “most wonderful time of the year,” I want to encourage you to be stewards of our parish. No, this type of stewardship does not involve an offering envelope, but rather your presence and support. The Music Ministry's Advent and Christmas offerings at St. Michael's are a wonderful way to involve the entire Milton community, whether they regularly attend St. Michael's or not, and enjoy the Christmas spirit with family, friends, and neighbors.

Our annual **Advent Processional** will be held on **Sunday, December 1st at 5:00 p.m.** This year is unique in that the service falls at the end of Thanksgiving weekend, and I cannot think of a better way to kickoff the Christmas season than with this beautiful, candlelit service. The Chancel Choir and Schola Cantorum will once again be joined by the Canterbury Strings, which comprises some of Milton High School's finest musicians. This is just one of the many ways that St. Michael's is working to involve our community, and is a wonderful way to reflect, pray, and prepare for the Advent season.

This year's **Service of Lessons and Carols** entitled, *Sing, Choirs of Angels*, will be held on **Sunday, December 22nd at 5:00 p.m.** with a light reception to follow. Join the entire music ministry including the Chancel Choir, Cathedral Choir, Schola Cantorum, and Westminster Brass as we jubilantly celebrate the coming of Christmas. This service features your beloved Christmas readings, carols, hymns, and anthems - and perhaps a few new favorites as well.

This is your chance to be a steward of St. Michael's and show everyone what an incredible church home we share! These services are truly unique and a wonderful way to welcome Christmas and begin or continue a holiday tradition. All services are free and all are welcome. Look for future posts on the St. Michael's Facebook page or follow the Music Ministry on Twitter @SaintMMusic so that you can share these events with friends and family. On behalf of the entire Music Ministry at St. Michael's, I wish you and yours a safe, happy, and blessed Advent and Christmas season.

~ Frank Van Atta, Director of Music

October Vestry Highlights

The following are highlights from the October 8th Vestry Meeting:

- In support of the Stewardship season, Matt Kennard (Treasurer) and Jeff Swanson (Assistant Treasurer) proposed ideas that would provide the Stewardship Commission with opportunities to explain the importance of annual pledge commitments for the upcoming 2014 year.
- After careful discussion, the Vestry voted unanimously to ask commissions and the parish-at-large to refrain from making fundraising requests, outside of an approved list of holiday-related activities, from October through calendar year-end. This provides the parish time to fully understand St. Michael's needs and consider individual commitments for 2014.

We are grateful for your support of these efforts.

The next Vestry meetings will be held on October 22nd and November 5th.

~Margery Buckingham, Vestry Clerk

FOLLOW ST. MICHAEL'S ON FACEBOOK!



Check out our parish “Facebook” page! Follow St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Milton, MA, for information on parish and community news, events, and opportunities. Our fun and informative posts will provide visual updates and interactive conversation on parish projects and goals, and strengthen relationships with parishioners and the local community. The “Facebook” page is the first step in creating a robust online and social media presence for our parish. Moving forward, “followers” and “fans” of the “SHYG” and “Music at St. Michael's” “Facebook” pages can continue to receive updates and information by “liking” the page. All are encouraged to visit and “like” our page at: www.facebook.com/StMichaelsEpiscopalChurchMiltonMa.

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1 <u>All Saints' Day</u> 7:30 All Saints' Service of Remembrance (w/ Reception)	2 6:30 AA Diocesan Convention 8 AA
November						
3 <u>Pentecost</u> <u>All Saints' Day</u> <u>Daylight Saving Time</u> <u>Ends</u> 8 HE 10 HE and Family Service 11:30 Cathedral Choir 11:30 Church School Leadership 11:30 Forum - Wired Generation	4 9 MLP 4:30 Ministry of Caring 7:30 Worship Comm. 7:30 Property Comm.	5 7 Support Group 3:30 Staff Meeting 3:30 Epiphany Dinner 7:30 Vestry Meeting	6 6:30 MP 10 NOLA Ornament Making 6:30 Yoga 7:30 Ed Series	7 7 Support Group 10 HE/Healing 11:00 Bible Study 7 Chancel Choir	8	9 6:30 AA 8:30 Milton Food Pantry 8 AA
10 <u>25 Pentecost</u> 8 HE 10 HE 11:30 Cathedral Choir 12 Common Cathedral 11:30 Pageant Meeting (LPH) 11:30 SHYG Thanks-giving Pie Baking	11 <u>Veterans' Day</u> - Office Closed -	12 7 Support Group 3:30 Staff Meeting 7-9 NOLA Ornament Making	13 6:30 MP 6:30 Yoga	14 7 Support Group 10 HE 11:00 Bible Study 7 Chancel Choir 7:30 ACIM	15	16 6:30 am AA 8 AA
17 <u>26 Pentecost</u> 8 HE/Healing 10 HE/Healing 11:30 Cathedral Choir 11:30 SHYG Pie Sales	18 7:30 Ed. Commission	19 7 Support Group 3:30 Staff Meeting 7:30 Parish Life	20 6:30 MP 6:30 Yoga	21 7 Support Group 10 HE 11:00 Bible Study 7 Chancel Choir 7:30 ACIM	22	23 6:30 am AA 8 AA
24 <u>Last Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8 HE 10 HE 11:30 Cathedral Choir 11:30 SHYG Pie Sales 2 Scouts Meeting	25	26 7 Support Group 3:00 Staff Meeting	27 6:30 MP 6:30 Yoga	28 <u>Thanksgiving Day</u> 9 HE - Office Closed -	29 - Office Closed -	30 6:30 am AA 8 AA

St Michael's Harvest Dinner September 28, 2013 Testimonial

For me, and, I think, many, if not all of us in this room, St. Michael's is our haven in a crazy/busy/pressure cooker world. It is the community we turn to when we are both celebrating our blessings and when we are grieving from our losses, or when we need guidance and reassurance to cope with inexplicable and devastating world events. St. Michael's centers us and strengthens us. How lucky I feel to have found St. Michaels!

Like many of us, neither my husband, Ted, nor I were raised as Episcopalians. When our son was 3, we started looking for a church home in the Milton area, and took turns visiting every church in town. I had the St. Michael's assignment one Sunday and I'll never forget my first worship service with you all. I think it was Christ the King Sunday, and Victor Kazanjian had gone to Burger King and gotten paper Burger King Crowns for everyone to wear in church. It was a wacky, wonderful, joy-filled service and I immediately fell in love with you all - for you are St Michael's - whether you were present that Sunday 26 years ago or not! In that first service, I glimpsed great spiritual depth, holiness, sincerity, love of God and of mankind, openness, humor, humility, genuineness and an equality that I had not felt at church before. I felt the presence of God there, with you all. Our Mission Statement in the front of last year's Annual Report describes St. Michael's as a community of faith that empowers us to be Christ's love in the world. It says that love is the substance of God's dream. Wow. To be part of God's dream. That's heavy. Is that what God is asking of us? Is that our future? Can we get there And how can we invite others to come with us and share the dream?

I think God started this dream for St. Michael's a long time ago. It was 118 years ago, actually, in 1895, when a group of Episcopalians first started meeting for worship services in a house in Milton Lower Mills. 118 years ago they began planning for the building of St Michael's church, and 115 years ago they laid the cornerstone. Our founding families had great faith and courage. They also had big dreams. They worked together to realize their dream of starting this church. In saying "Yes" to this dream, they created a lasting and visible representation of their faith and love of God. We need to continue to tap into their courage and live into our mission statement to be Christ's love in the world. Maybe 118 years ago was when God's dream began for St. Michael's.

St. Francis of Assisi is one of my favorite saints. I am a real animal lover - my husband would say that's an understatement - and I absolutely identify with the way he loved the birds of the air and the beasts of the field as fellow children of God. St. Francis was a rebel in his time and he

was a dreamer, too. He changed the way people thought about how to live a holy life in the 13th Century. People responded to his call and became part of Francis' dream. They joined with him and said "Yes," and this legacy lives on 800 years later. One of the quotes attributed to St. Francis is "Start by doing what is necessary,...then what is possible, ... and suddenly you are doing the impossible." It all starts with DOING. We are a DOING church. We say "YES" when people have a need and ask us to help. We are simultaneously both reaching into our community and out of our safe surroundings. By our collective actions, we are moving the impossible into the realm of possible. One person at a time.

Think about all the wonderful inreach and outreach projects that St. Michael's is part of. I am constantly awed by this parish's generosity as you all give so freely and easily - sharing your many talents and skills for the good of our immediate parish and in service to our larger world community. It's been a wonderful privilege to serve alongside you all - whether dishing out food at the Monday Lunch program at St. Paul's Cathedral, or covered with sawdust in New Orleans as we struggled to lay a new floor in a home being rehabbed after Katrina, or preparing food for B-Safe children, or helping build a Habitat for Humanity House many years ago in Hingham, or just delivering a meal to someone home from the hospital. And that is only a fraction of the many wonderful, loving offerings that St. Michael's parishioners are involved in on a weekly basis. St. Michael's says YES to Teaching Church School, Visiting the Sick, Honoring our Seniors, The Milton Food Pantry, Epiphany School, Milton Animal Shelter, The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center, Globe Santa, Children's Outreach, Books for Prisoners, Tutoring at Holy Spirit/Mattapan, and the many other ways you all act as Christ's hands and heart..

And along the way, my family and I have been the recipients of countless acts of kindness and love from all of you. More than we can ever repay.

I feel like what I do matters at St Michael's. Thank you. You've helped me be a better Christian, a better parent, a better person. You've laughed with me. You've listened to me. You've taught me a lot. Your actions have modeled God's caring heart and have opened the door for me to share my love for others through service and fellowship. You've helped me be a part of God's dream. I hope we're dreaming together for a long time to come because together we have wonderful things to accomplish.

I'll end with another quote from St Francis. "Preach the Gospel at all times...and when necessary, use words."

~ Joan Faulkner

ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH
 112 RANDOLPH AVENUE
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FALL CLEANUP



Fallen leaves are already blanketing the grounds around St. Michael's. All willing hands are needed for a cleanup, Saturday, November 16th, 8:30 a.m. till noon, rain date, Sunday, November 17th, 11:30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. Coffee will be provided on Saturday, as will yard-waste bags. Bring rakes, clippers, loppers, chainsaws, hedge clippers, and leaf blowers. "Many hands make light work" and will put us in good shape for spring. Thanks in advance!

Lana Agnew
 Property Committee/Grounds

If you've received this newsletter by mail, it's because you have requested it by mail or because we may not have your email address. In order to curtail costs and speed delivery, we're now sending the newsletter electronically. If you would like to receive the newsletter this way, please send your email address to mail@stmichaelsmilton.org. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter by US mail, please call the office at 617-698-1813 to confirm. If we don't hear from you within the next month, we will assume that you no longer wish to receive the newsletter in either form and will remove your name from our mailing list.

DATED MATERIAL

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