



SAINT MICHAEL'S  
LITCHFIELD  
*Nurture Your Spirit*

25 South Street, Litchfield CT  
[stmichaels-litchfield.org](http://stmichaels-litchfield.org)

# *The Messenger*

## FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Friends,

Welcome to two seasons that overlap: The Holiday Season and the Holy Day Season. They are both wonderful, and they both offer three themes to celebrate.

The Holiday Season begins with Thanksgiving. We give thanks to God for all our blessings: for the bounty of the earth and the harvest, for family and friends, for honorable work and well-deserved rest. Then comes Christmas when we give and receive gifts. We help those who have less than we. We instill in our children and restore in ourselves the virtues of generosity and compassion. Third, we celebrate the beginning of a new year. We reflect on the year past, and we look ahead to the year to come. We make resolutions for new beginnings.

The Holy Day Season begins with the beginning of new Christian year on the First Sunday of Advent (December 2 this year). During the following four weeks until Christmas we prepare for the arrival of God in our lives. We get ready for the Day of the Lord, when God will come to earth and set all things right. God will come with justice, healing, and peace. We practice a stance of anticipation, hope, and preparation.

Then comes Christmas when God shows up as a human baby. We are amazed at God's humility. We strive to understand the implications that the Lord of the

Universe should take on human flesh and live among us, what we call in theological language the Incarnation. We revel in the spiritual dimensions of our physical universe. We ponder how all material and physical things and events have spiritual meaning and import.

Then twelve days later on January 6, we celebrate the Epiphany, which means “Appearing” or “Manifestation.” This is similar to the Incarnation in that we celebrate the fact that God chooses to reveal God’s nature and divinity in the human person, Jesus of Nazareth. We take to heart the fact that what we need to know about God is fully displayed in the character, words, and actions of Jesus. When we look at Jesus, we see God. By seeing in Jesus what a fully mature and holy human being looks like, we can start to imitate Christ and strive to become as human as Jesus is.

These thirty-six days are full, some might say too full, of meaning and of invitations for us to consider who we are and who we would like to be. And, if who I am now is not the same as who I would like to be, I can think about things I might do and things I might say to myself that might help me become that better version of my self.

Anticipation and hope, gratitude and generosity, courage to change and face the future, delight in the physical world, the embrace of and welcoming of God into our lives. These are the themes of this time. May we be open to all that God wants to give us in these happy, holy days. Let enjoy God, life, each other, and the future.

In Christ’s love,

Bevan+



# CHRISTMAS DECORATING

The Flower Guild will be decorating the Church for Christmas on December 23 at 11:30 a.m. -Please join us the more the merrier!



# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

## **Christmas Eve:**

**4 p.m.** Family service.

*Children who are willing will be asked to place the figures in the creche while the Christmas story is being read.*

**10 p.m.** Festal Eucharist with choir

## **Christmas Day:**

**10 a.m.** Said Eucharist



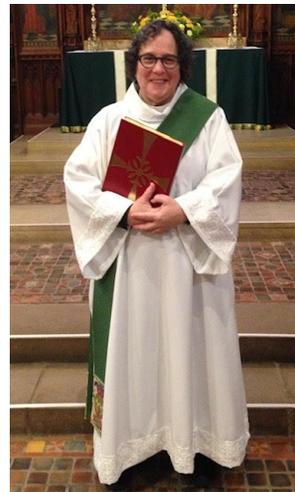
# FROM OUR DEACON

“What’s a nice Jewish girl like me doing in a place like this?” -- *Joan Rivers*

By the Rev. Deacon Amy Reichman

*This article was originally published in the November Clergy Newsletter of the Episcopal Church in CT (formerly known as the Diocese of CT)*

I have a Jewish name. It is Malcha, which translates as “Queen.” (I see the smiles and hear the laughter among those of you who know me, and I join you in the jolly making.) As I told the local Rabbi after the Community Memorial Service honoring the eleven murdered in the Tree Of Life Synagogue - I am not exactly a queen, but rather more of a princess. God has a sense of humor - of that we can be certain.



But seriously speaking, my heart stopped for a moment when Bishop Ian stopped the most recent ECCT Convention to report breaking news of the eleven Jews murdered while praying. In that instant, I was led back to thoughts of Columbine, Texas First Baptist Church, the Orlando massacre, Colorado Springs, and our own Sandy Hook. Fellow worshippers and I were moved to tears when this past Sunday, the Bishops’ Litany in The Wake of a Mass Shooting was read by our Intercessor of the day

I have a Christian Name. It is Amy Linda, which translates as “Loved One and cute or beautiful.” As a Christian, I belong to Jesus and you are my people. Shortly after “marrying” into the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement, I was baptized at age 24 in California.

I was both a “closet” Christian and a Jewish American Princess for most of my young life. I would question God about my unhappy experiences within the safety of my walk-in closet. My family was in the “rag trade,” manufacturing women’s

clothing. So, it was only proper for me to have a closet full of the latest fashions (even though I could never bring myself to wear some of them).

When I was a pre-teen, I accepted the invitation of a Roman Catholic friend to accompany her family to Christmas Eve Mass. In the midst of smoky incense, the birth narrative was read aloud, and I simply believed it. Ever since then, Jesus has been my constant companion, offering hope during troubling times, celebration in joyful experiences, pushing me forward in service to others, and always available to me in prayer.

To be named by someone is to belong to them. I am named both as a Jew and as a Christian. I belong first and last to God and God's people, the God of the Jews and of the Christians. Once so named, I have a Jewish soul, "for at least 120 years," teaches the Rabbi. I am Christian; I belong to Christ, no less than forever. I am rooted in the Abrahamic tradition. Thus, I have Islamic cousins as well.

Christians are rooted in Judaism's Tree of Life, no less than forever. We are all family, branches of the same tree.

When clergy read the Gospel and interpret the Christian Message, I think we need to be thinking about our common humanity. What is really meant by the Biblical use of "the Jews?" When reading scripture aloud, what is the appropriate emphasis and tone of voice regarding "the Jews?" Perhaps we can interpret this for our own people as something like, "the people" or "the religious leaders," or whatever most closely ties the Jews in any particular context to Jesus, a Jew Himself. In this sense, we are the Jews.

So what is a nice Jewish girl like me doing in a place like this anyway? Perhaps the better question to ask might be to remember, ponder, pray, and preach, "What was a nice Jewish boy like Jesus, the Christ, doing in a place like that?"

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*Amy hails from Sharon where she lives with her wife and life partner of 43 years, Constance, and their eighth pet rabbit Rosita. She has had the honor of serving or attending several parishes in the NW Corner of ECCT during her 13 years as a Deacon. Amy has worked in the mental health field with transition aged youth and adults. She continues a spiritually based community ministry in healing.*

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As we come to the end of 2018, we also celebrate the end of our three-year Capital Campaign. Back in the fall of 2015, 66 parishioners pledged \$949,964. To date, \$788,128.30 has been paid. Of the original 66 pledges, there are 15 with a remaining balance that we hope will be honored.

In addition to the pledges, funds came to us through a grant from the Seherr-Thoss Foundation, the Brubeck concert, and donations from the community. The grand total taken in to date is \$1,358,846.82.

We have reason to celebrate what we have accomplished in the past three years. We thank you all for your commitment.

Those of you who have joined us in the last three years and were not part of the exciting days at the onset, might want to join in and make a one time contribution now, in celebration of the beautiful space that we share. It's not too late!

On December 31, 2018, the money remaining in the Capital Campaign fund will be transferred to the Towne Fund, which is designated for repairs and improvements to our buildings.

--Nancy Moore, Vestry Clerk



# MUSIC

The music program at St. Michael's is up and running for the 2018-19 season.

On Advent Sunday, December 2, at 4 pm, St. Michael's annual Advent Carol service (including music for choir and congregation, known and unknown) will be sung by candlelight.

Compline will be sung on Sunday December 16, at 8 pm.

—Mark Johnson, Music Director

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Children's Chapel, on the south side of the nave, is equipped with a carpet, comfortable furniture, and materials for our school-age children to use during the service. There are copies of The Sunday Paper every week in the Chapel. This is a cartoon version of the readings for each Sunday at two different age levels. They are suitable for coloring and are excellent summaries of the ideas in the readings. They make a wonderful resource for parents and children to discuss the Bible readings together at home. Please check them out.

# OUTREACH

## Reverse Advent Food Collection



On the first Sunday of Advent, Dec 2, households are invited to take home a basket (no decorating required) or a box (decorating material provided) to participate in St. Michael's Reverse Advent Food Collection. Children attending the 10 am service will be invited to leave the service early to decorate boxes in the Community House. During each day of Advent, households are asked to add a non-perishable pantry item to the box. Add to the fun and create a theme for your box: favorite after school/work snacks, favorite morning beverages. Please return

the filled basket/boxes to church on December 23rd as a gift to the Food Pantry in honor of Jesus birthday. If you miss church on 12/2 stop by church during the week and pick up a basket or box kit (all you provide is the glue) which will be located on the back pew.

## **Adopt a Local Child for Christmas**

We are working with Covenant to Care for Children. There is a board in the back of the Church with Post-It notes to take to buy gifts for local children. Please consider taking one or more post-its to help make a child's Christmas a little brighter. Please put unwrapped gifts in a gift bag with the post-it attached and leave in the office or give to Jo Ann Jaacks at church services. Thank you!



## **Food Pantry**

**Food Pantry Stats for November:** 52 guests representing 35 seniors, 69 adults and 41 children for a Household total of 145 people. 2158 lbs of food and supplies was bagged and taken out the door. Ten new families found us!

### **Where to Put Donations:**

Canned and packaged food should be placed on the pew in the aisle closest to the entrance to the church.

Food needing refrigeration goes on the left side of the refrigerator in the Community House.

The freezer is kept locked. To arrange for frozen food deliveries, please contact Karen in the office 860- 567- 9465, or Nancy Moore at 860- 387- 3742 or 860- 491- 9494.

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S

## Ongoing weekly events at Saint Michael's

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. -	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> in the Chapel
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. -	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> in the Church
Mondays at 9:00 a.m. -	<b>Morning Prayer</b> in the Church
Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. -	<b>Morning Prayer</b> in the Church
Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. -	<b>Bible Study</b> in the Library
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. -	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> in the Library
Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. -	<b>Bible Study</b> in the Library
Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. -	<b>Morning Prayer</b> in the Church
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. -	<b>Caregivers' group</b> in the Library

## Special Events at Saint Michael's

- December 2 at 4 p.m.— Advent Lessons & Carols in Church
- December 6 at 2:30 p.m. — Women's Forum - Music for the Holiday Season
- December 7 at 7:30 p.m.— Waterbury Chorale Concert
- December 9 at 11:30 a.m.— Vestry meeting in Library
- December 14 at 7:30 p.m.— Chorus Angelicus Concert
- December 16, at 8:00 p.m.- Compline will be sung by the Chant Choir.
- December 24, at 4:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Eucharist with the Christmas Story and the Creche
- December 24, at 10:00 p.m. - Christmas Even Eucharist with the choir
- December 25, at 10:00 a.m. - Christmas Eucharist, no music



# IN THE COMMUNITY



BY THE GRACE OF GOD  
**THE RT. REV. IAN T. DOUGLAS**  
WILL ORDAIN  
*Brett Michael Figlewski*  
TO THE SACRED ORDER OF PRIESTS IN CHRIST'S  
ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH

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**THURSDAY, DECEMBER TWENTIETH  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2018  
AT SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING**

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
536 MILTON ROAD  
LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06759**

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*Your prayers and presence are requested  
Clergy: Red Stoles | Reception to follow*



Seating is limited. Please R.S.V.P. by December Tenth  
to [bfiglewski@yahoo.com](mailto:bfiglewski@yahoo.com).

***Do you have something you want to share with other members of St Michael's? Contact Karen at [office@stmichaels-litchfield.org](mailto:office@stmichaels-litchfield.org) with your information to include in the Messenger.***

# IN THE REGION

Camp Washington  
190 Kenyon Rd, Lakeside, CT 06758 -- (860) 567-9623 --  
[www.campwashington.org](http://www.campwashington.org)

## Sunday, December 2 from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. - **Family Advent Day at Camp Washington**

As the family awaits the coming of Christmas, spend an afternoon together at Camp Washington, Sunday, December 2 from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. Make an Advent wreath (one per family), dip Advent candles, participate in crafts, & more. The afternoon ends with worship and dinner together. Go to [campwashington.org](http://campwashington.org) to register.

## Friday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 18 at 11 AM -- **December Book Discussion Group at Camp Washington**

(12:30 lunch to follow, \$10 donation appreciated) An hour-long book discussion, led by Bishop Laura J. Ahrens, with a continued conversation over lunch. The discussion is open to everyone; even if you have not read the book, you are welcome to join in! There is no cost to attend, however, registration is required. More information is available at [campwashington.org](http://campwashington.org)

This December we will be discussing the book Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor.

## Get Connected

Check out our Northwest Region – The Episcopal Church in Connecticut Facebook page! Like us and we will like you – share your parish events – find out about

Northwest Region events:

[www.facebook.com/NorthwestRegionECCT](https://www.facebook.com/NorthwestRegionECCT)

Eliza Marth, Northwest Region Missionary

[emarth@episcopalct.org](mailto:emarth@episcopalct.org) 860-387-2190

# Saint Michael's Parish

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860.567.9465 (voice) 860.567.4820 (fax)  
[www.stmichaels-litchfield.org](http://www.stmichaels-litchfield.org) [office@stmichaels-litchfield.org](mailto:office@stmichaels-litchfield.org)

## Staff

The Reverend Dr. E. Bevan Stanley	Rector, <a href="mailto:rector@stmichaels-litchfield.org">rector@stmichaels-litchfield.org</a>
The Reverend Deacon Amy Reichman	Deacon, <a href="mailto:deacon@stmichaels-litchfield.org">deacon@stmichaels-litchfield.org</a>
Mark Johnson	Music Director, <a href="mailto:music@stmichaels-litchfield.org">music@stmichaels-litchfield.org</a>
Karen Ackerman	Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper, <a href="mailto:office@stmichaels-litchfield.org">office@stmichaels-litchfield.org</a>

## Officers and Vestry 2018

### Officers

Sarah Melcher, *Senior Warden*  
Richard Quay, *Junior Warden*  
Nancy Moore, *Clerk*  
Sky Post, *Treasurer*

### Vestry

#### Terms ending 2019

Kristin Eaton  
John Cox  
Denise Butwill

#### Terms ending 2020

Martha Babbitt  
Robert Rumsey  
Andrea Wells

#### Terms ending 2021

Megan Furtado  
Michael LaHart  
Mark Yanaway (RIP)

#### Diocesan Delegates

Meredith Penfield  
Nancy Skilton  
Alternate: Jo Ann Jaacks

#### Parish Historian

Martha Babbitt