

St. Michael's MESSENGER



October 2017

St. Michael's is called to live and proclaim the transforming love of God.

Our New Stained Glass Window

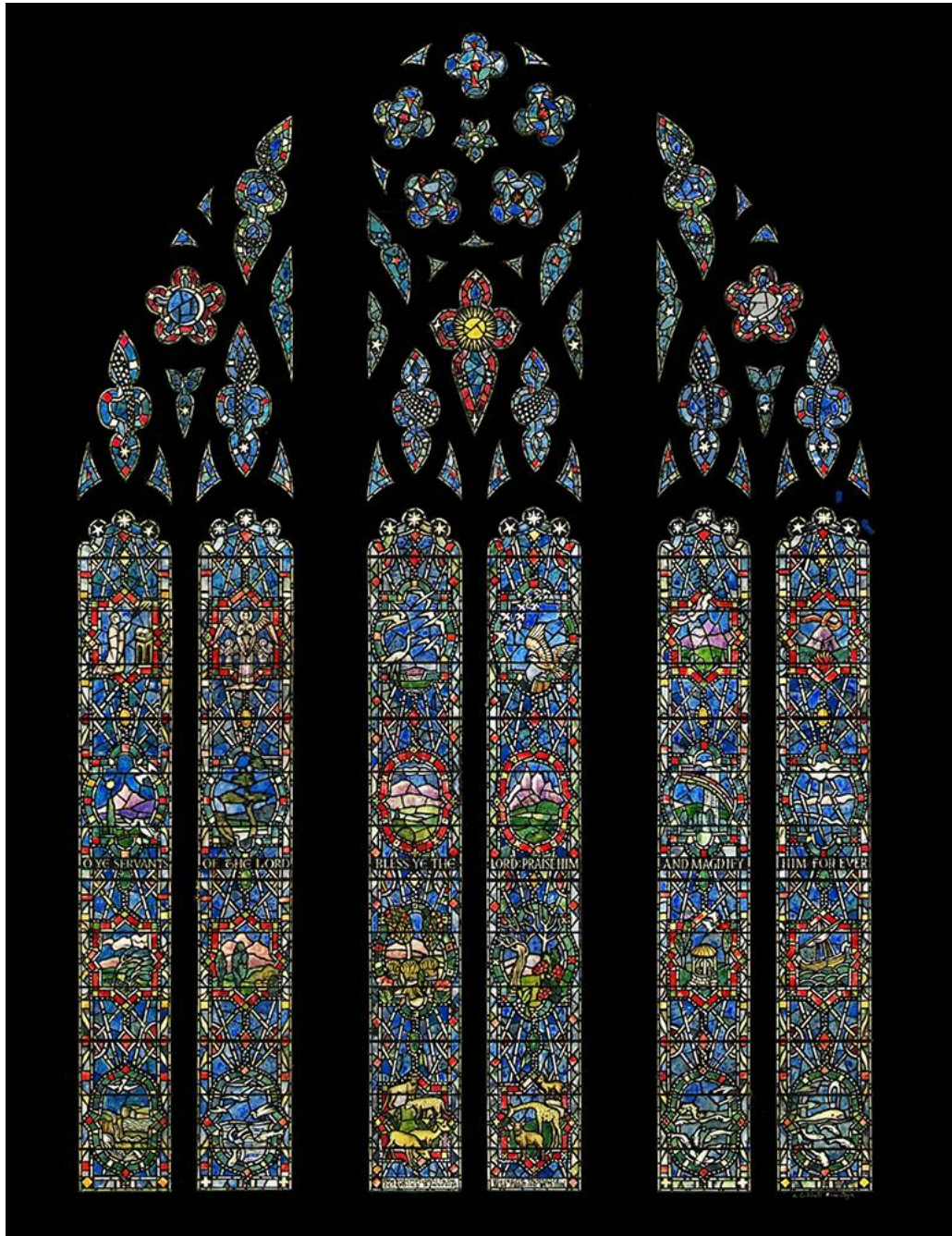
Stained Glass Resources, Inc. will be installing the stained glass in the west window starting on October 23.

This window depicts creation - oceans, rivers, earth, sky, heavens, and their inhabitants from whales to angels - which are described in Cantic I, on page 47 of the prayer book. Called a Song of Creation or the Song of the Three Young Men, the next to last stanza begins with, "O ye servants of the Lord, Praise ye the Lord, Praise him and Magnify Him forever," which is inscribed across the lower part of the window.

We have had a framed cartoon of this design in the church for as long as anyone can remember. Designed by the French artist Edward Liddall Armitage, it appears to have been done in the 1920's or 30's. While many of the medieval gothic churches depicted the last judgement on the west, with the resurrection on the east, the group that met to discuss the windows agreed that this creation window was appropriate for our church and for Litchfield.

Scott McDaniel, the designer on the staff of Stained Glass Resources, received his early training at the Burnham studio, which designed some of our earlier glass. He has taken the cartoon and simplified some of the

details in the framework and enriched the colors in the images. There have been several field trips to visit the studio and watch how the glass is cut, painted, and assembled. It's impressive how much careful work goes into each panel of this huge window. We are all looking forward to seeing the final product.



Statement from Bishops United Against Gun Violence

We share in the grief and horror of people across our country and, indeed, around the world in the wake of last night's mass shooting in Las Vegas. We have spoken with our Bishops United Against Gun Violence colleague and brother in Christ, Bishop Dan Edwards of the Episcopal Diocese of Nevada, and we have offered him and the people of Nevada our prayers and promises of assistance. We stand in solidarity with the diocese and the people of Nevada as they cope with this massacre.

It has become clichéd at moments such as these to offer thoughts and prayers. But as Christians, we must reflect upon the mass killings that unfold with such regularity in our country. And we must pray: for the victims, for their loved ones, for all who attended to the victims in the immediacy of the shooting, for the first responders who do so much to mitigate the awful effects of these shootings, and for the medical personnel who will labor for many days to save the wounded. We must also enter into the sorrow of those who are most deeply affected by our country's crippling frequent outbursts of lethal gun violence. We must look into our own hearts and examine the ways in which we are culpable or complicit in the gun violence that surrounds us every day.

And then, having looked, we must act. As Christians, we are called to engage in the debates that shape how Americans live and die, especially when they die due to violence or neglect. Yet a probing conversation on issues of gun violence continues to elude us as a nation, and this failure is cause for repentance and for shame. It is entirely reasonable in the wake of mass killings perpetrated by murderers with assault weapons to ask lawmakers to remove such weapons from civilian hands. It is imperative to ask why, as early as this very week, Congress is likely to pass a bill making it easier to buy silencers, a piece of equipment that make it more difficult for law enforcement officials to detect gunfire as shootings are unfolding.

Even as we hold our lawmakers accountable, though, we must acknowledge that a comprehensive solution to gun violence, whether it comes in the form of mass shootings, street violence, domestic violence or suicide, will not simply be a matter of changing laws, but of changing lives. Our country is feasting on anger that fuels rage, alienation and loneliness. From the White House to the halls of Congress to our own towns and perhaps at our own tables, we nurse grudges and resentments rather than cultivating the respect, concern and affection that each of us owes to the other. The leaders who should be speaking to us of reconciliation and the justice that must precede it too often instead stoke flames of division and mistrust. We must, as a nation, embrace prayerful resistance before our worse impulses consume us.

We join with the people of God in fervent prayer that our country will honor those murdered and wounded in Las Vegas by joining in acts of repentance, healing, and public conversation about the gun violence that has ripped us apart, yet again.

<http://bishopsagainstgunviolence.org/>

From Our Rector

Dear Friends,

Fall is here! And we're off to a good start of our new program year. The Choir is singing, the Church School is in full swing, and many members have returned from their summer adventures.

On Sunday, October 1, we were blessed by a visit from the Reverend Canon Timothy Hodapp, the Canon for Mission Collaboration. He preached at both services and then offered a presentation on what being a missional church is all about. He used our brand-new audio visual equipment, which worked flawlessly. Thank you, Sky Post, for making that happen!

I am a lousy golfer. A few days ago, I took a golf lesson in the hopes of making some improvement. The pro was very helpful. At the end of the lesson he said, "You can come out here, and I can tell you some things, but you won't improve your game unless you practice the swing over and over until it is established in your muscle memory." Of course, this is true of most skills. Also on October first, we were privileged to hear Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson play the piano. Her mastery of some very difficult music was magical. And it comes from years of dedicated practice. This is also true of our spiritual practices. We will not improve our game unless we practice.

The practices of the Christian life are many: Prayer, meditation, Bible reading, worship, study, service to others, engagement in public life, building relationships with others, family nurture, self-care, hospitality, and so on. As I think about the list, I find it overwhelming. I am better at some things than others. I enjoy some things more than others. Yet for any of them that I want to improve, I can do so by simply starting small. Not used to praying? Just set aside five minutes a day to read some prayers from the Prayer Book or some other resource. Not used to meditation or conversing with Jesus? Again, five minutes a day sitting quietly and either talking or remaining silent with him. Want to help needy neighbors? Bring something for the Food Pantry. Help out with the Soup Kitchen. Volunteer at the Community Center. Offer a ride to the folks at Rose Haven.

The greatest resource that St. Michael's offers to people is that we are a community. We cannot grow apart from being part of the Body of Christ.

We need each other, and others needs us. When we are absent, the Body suffers. We owe it to ourselves and to our brothers and sisters in Christ to be consistent in our showing up – for worship, for fellowship events, for work, for study. And it will improve our game. We will feel more connected to God and each other, and we will feel more centered as we move through our lives.

See you in Church!

Bevan

More Poetry!

On Monday, October 23, there will be another evening of poetry reading . Bring a few of your favorite poems to read or recite, and be prepared to say a few words about them, if you wish. We will listen to and talk about the words that touch our hearts. If you are shy about reading your poems, someone else will be happy to read them for you. Bring your poetry loving friends; all are welcome.

We will begin at 7 p.m. and hold the event in the church, where we won't inconvenience the 12-Step meeting in the Community House. There will be beverages and light snacks as always. This is open to the public and is a great chance to invite your spiritual but not religious friends.

Concert Series

Our First Sunday Concert Series began this Sunday Oct. 1 featuring Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson - always a popular event! She is a doctoral student at the University of South Carolina and presented works by Beethoven, Mussorgsky and a special premier.

On Tuesday, October 10 at 7:30, the Women's Chant Workshop will present an ecumenical Candlelight Chanted Compline (Night Prayer). Featuring chants from Anglican, Roman and Orthodox traditions, this service is a lovely way to enjoy beautiful music in the beautiful space of our church. Free admission.

Our Interim Organists

As we continue our organist search, we are blessed to have Amy Vinisko as our Interim Organist on Sundays and Daniel Scifo as our rehearsal accompanist. St. Michael's continues to be a center of musical excellence!

Food Pantry

We're on a mission to fill our pews again. In the past six months at the Food Pantry, we have fed 42 households, representing a total of 271 people. Our assistance has grown from 5 to 30 clients from our start. We have given out 4,551.5 lbs. of food.

We need to restock our STAPLES;

peanut butter	pasta sauce	powdered drink mix
jelly	canned vegetables and	pasta
cereal	fruit	juice
oats	soup	condiments
rice	lentils	
tuna	beans, granola bars	

We want to be able to offer:

fresh vegetables and fruit	cheese
half and half	eggs
orange juice	

It's fun to go a step above and add:

low salt/no sugar	hot dogs	coffee and tea bags
organic or gluten free	frozen vegetables	dish/clothes detergent
butter	sardines	toilet paper/paper towels
chicken thighs/breasts	pureed soup	
packages of	olive oil	
hamburger/patties,	flour, sugar, brown sugar	

Soup Kitchen Update

The Torrington Community Kitchen serves a hot meal to between 70 and 100 people every day. Our parish has sent a team of volunteers to help to heat, serve and clean up a meal on Saturdays of odd numbered months for many years. Over the years, the number of our volunteers has dwindled and other teams from other organizations have expressed an interest in helping. I have been the coordinator - scheduling the dates for the volunteers - for many years. Six months ago I decided to step down from this position and have not been able to find a replacement. It appears that St. Michael's is called to shift our attention to our new Food Pantry, and let other groups take over our Saturdays at the Soup Kitchen.

- Barbara Putnam

Hurricane Relief

Donate to Episcopal Relief and Development

Consider donating to Episcopal Relief and Development as they assist those affected by the recent devastation in the Caribbean Islands, Florida, and Texas. All contributions will help support church and other local partners to provide critical emergency assistance. Donate on the web at <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/give> or mail a check to Episcopal Relief & Development, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

Capital Campaign Update

We have applied for the final installment of the matching grant from the Seherr-Thoss Foundation this year, having already received over \$125,000 in donations during 2017. Thank you all for your faithful fulfillment of your pledges to the Capital Campaign.

Quarterly statements will be sent out soon, and will report your progress in fulfilling your pledges to both the annual budget and our capital project.

Community House programs

Sky Post singlehandedly took on the challenge of raising enough money to equip the church house with a good movie screen and up to date audiovisual equipment. Now he and Bevan are discussing how best to use it. They propose to form a couple of teams: One group would look for programs or films on cultural and religious topics that would be of interest to church members and the community, and another group would learn the hands-on operation of the equipment, and help run it when needed.

Their goal would be to have one movie and one cultural/religious program per month.

Have you recently heard a speaker or seen a film that informs, inspires or uplifts you? Please talk to Bevan or Sky about contributing your insights.

Do you like making machines do what they are supposed to do? Talk to them about learning more about our equipment so we can share this gift with wider community.

Leadership Positions for 2018

At our annual meeting in February 2018, the Parish will elect three new Vestry members, a Warden and a Treasurer. The officers are now starting to consider candidates for these offices. If you have an interest in serving in one of these leadership positions, please talk to Sarah Melcher or Bevan Stanley.

Milestones

Marriage: Diane Waters and Richard Podolske on October 3

Church Tours

With the advent of fall's foliage colors, we expect to receive more visitors to our church. We currently have two volunteers who are prepared to give tours of the church on Saturdays from 11-2. They would love to have you join them, and are happy to train new volunteers. It's an opportunity to get to know our building better, and meet admirers of our historic neo-Gothic church. For more information, contact Peg Sullivan at 860 567 5721 or gstc@optonline.net.

Parishioner Notices

I know a really wonderful woman (she's been our family's babysitter for years), who is looking for a living situation anywhere in the greater Litchfield area. She is willing to work cleaning in exchange for a place to live. I've known her for almost 10 years, and would trust her with absolutely anything. She's sweet, quiet, loves animals, and happens to work part-time with the EMS team at Bantam ambulance. If you call, text or email me, I can put you in touch with her.

Margret Delves-Broughton - margretdb@gmail.com - 646 784-1180

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, October 1 - The **Rev. Tim Hodapp** preaches and leads a forum after the 10:00 a.m. service

Sunday, October 1 at 4:00 p.m. - **First Sunday Concert:** Annie Rose Tindall-Gibson, piano

Wednesday, October 4, after school - **Children's Choir**, ten week session begins.

Sunday, October 8, at 11:30 a.m. **Vestry Meeting** in the Library

Tuesday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m. - **Handbell Choir** rehearsals begin in the Choir Room

Tuesday, October 10 at 7:30 p.m. - **Candlelight Chanted Compline** by the chant workshop participants

Monday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. - **Poetry evening**

Sunday, November 1 at 4:00 p.m. - **First Sunday Concert:** Suzanne McDonald, organ

Sunday, November 12, 11:30 a.m. **Vestry meeting** in the Library

Ongoing weekly events

- Sundays at 8:00 a.m. - **Holy Eucharist** in the Chapel
- Sundays at 9:45 a.m. - **Creche care** downstairs in the Parish House
- Sundays at 9:45 a.m. - **Church School** starts on 9/17/2017
- Sundays at 10:00 a.m. - **Holy Eucharist** in the Church
- Mondays at 9:00 a.m. - **Morning Prayer** said in the Church
- Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. - **Morning Prayer** said in the Church
- Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. - **Chant Workshop** begins on 9/12 for five weeks
- Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. - **Bible Study** in the Library
- Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. - **Holy Eucharist** in the Library
- Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. - **Bible Study** in the Library
- Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. - **Evening Prayer** in the Choir
- Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. - **Choir Rehearsals** start on 9/13/2017
- Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. - **Morning Prayer** said in the Church
- Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. - **Caregivers' group** in the Library
- Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. - **Drumming class** in the Church

Saint Michael's Parish

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Staff

The Reverend Dr. E. Bevan Stanley	Rector, rector@stmichaels-litchfield.org
The Reverend Amy Reichman	Deacon, deacon@stmichaels-litchfield.org
Dr. Marguerite Mullee	Music Director, music@stmichaels-litchfield.org
Karen Ackerman	Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper, office@stmichaels-litchfield.org
Sarah Adams, Kristin Eaton, and Vanessa Flint	Church School co-directors churchschool@stmichaels-litchfield.org

Officers and Vestry 2017

Officers

Sarah Melcher, *Senior Warden*
Mark Yanaway, *Junior Warden*
Nancy Moore, *Clerk*
Barbara Putnam, *Treasurer*

Vestry

Terms ending 2018

Peggy Terhune
Miles Borzilleri
Vanessa Flint

Terms ending 2019

Kristin Eaton
John Cox
Denise Butwill

Terms ending 2020

Martha Babbitt
Robert Rumsey
Andrea Wells
Richard Quay

Diocesan Delegates

Meredith Penfield
Nancy Skilton
Alternate: Jo Ann Jaacks

Parish Historian

Martha Babbitt