

St. Michael's

MESSENGER

September 2017

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



From our Rector

September 2017

Dear Friends,

Some years ago, when I wrote my doctoral thesis, I outlined thirteen “ingredients of culture and method to be used in parish development.” As we begin a new program year, I thought I might write a few words about each of these ingredients in the Messenger each month.

The first ingredient is: “***Grounding all action and culture in the Biblical standards of the identity and mission of the Church as the People of God and the Body of Christ.***” In that document, this was further explained: “We are the church. We are called to live and proclaim the transforming love of God. We are to make disciples and build the Kingdom. Our lives are centered on God and our interrelationships should imitate the relationships among the three Persons of the Trinity.”

Since we are the Body of Christ, our mission is the same as Jesus’ mission, and that is to reconcile everyone to God and to each other. We are peace makers, forgivers, reconcilers. We are to proclaim in every way we can that God loves

everyone and there is nothing that can separate us from that love. We can turn our backs or refuse to acknowledge it, but God yearns to draw every human being into the embrace of divine love.

We are also called to participate with God in building the Kingdom of God. This is the realm in which God's love orders all things. There are many visions of this Kingdom—the parables of Jesus, the New Jerusalem revealed to John the Divine, the Peaceable Kingdom of Isaiah, as well as the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We all know that the world, as it is; is not the world as it should be. We are called to work on making our world more like the world as it should be.

In the course of this work and as part of this work and as a result of this work, our relationships with each other in the Church should and will reflect the divine interchanges of love that occur within the Trinity. Those relationships of love are nurtured by speaking the truth, listening with compassion, being vulnerable to one another, and being open to learning from one another. Very often the word of God we need most to hear comes through the words or actions of a brother or sister in Christ. We begin the work of building the Kingdom of God by building a Christian community here within the congregation.

Here at St. Michael's we are blessed with a variety of people with different backgrounds, skill, abilities, personalities, perspectives, and interests. I am grateful for all of you and how we get along. I am proud every time there is a difficulty and one of you goes directly to another to work out the problem. The two Bible Studies are wonderful places for people to share their hearts and explore new ideas and old ideas new to them. Worship, committees, and fun all are part of our life together and bring joy to us and to God.

As we return from our travels and vacations and begin a new program year, I hope we all can help each other remember what our purpose is. Thank you for being so wonderful a congregation, and an outpost of the Kingdom.

In Christ,

Bevan+

Parish Social Events

We had perfect weather and a good turnout for our **summer Parish Picnic**. Thank you to all who helped and brought salads and desserts to share.



On **Wednesday, September 6, at 7 p.m.**, there will be an **Evening of Poetry**. Bring your favorite poem to read or recite, and be prepared to say a few words about it, if you wish. We will listen to and talk about the words that touch our hearts. We will hold the event in the church where we have amplification, and we won't inconvenience the 12-Step meeting in the Community House. There will be beverages and light snacks, as always.

Church School

Church school will begin on Sunday, September 17 at 9:45 a.m. We look forward to welcoming children ages 4 months through 12th grade down in the undercroft for Bible-related stories, crafts, and games. The church school will be using the same curriculum as last year, with all new lesson topics. Please come a little early on your first day to allow time for registration.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to our steadfast creche caregiver Lilah Hoffmann at the end of September. Lilah has been with St. Michael's for several years and we will miss her! If anyone knows of a high school student who would be interested in working as a creche caregiver, please ask them to email Sarah Adams at sarahsadams7@gmail.com.

This year, we will have three different teachers in the Kindergarten-6th grade room: Kristin "Diddins" Eaton, Vanessa Flint, and Sarah Adams. Thank you to Diddins and Vanessa for volunteering to share in the joy of teaching our youth the stories and traditions of the Episcopal church. It's going to be a great year!

Music

Marguerite Mullee, Music Director

Children's Choir



St. Michael's Church is pleased to announce a new children's choir program, for students from both the Parish and the community, who enjoy singing, learning about music and making new friends. Students age 4 years through Grade 6, from the church and the community, are welcome.

The choir will be directed by St. Michael's Music Director, Dr. Marguerite Mullee. The 2017 Fall semester will begin Wednesday, Oct. 4, and run through Wednesday, Dec. 6. In addition to weekly rehearsals, the choirs will sing **Sunday, Nov. 5 (10 a.m. service) and Sunday, Dec. 10 (4 p.m. Lesson & Carols)**. Opportunities for singing at community events will be scheduled at the beginning of the semester.

In addition to rehearsing music, there will also be instruction in musicianship, vocal technique and music theory. Students combine into one choir for services/performances and will also rehearse occasionally as one choir.

DETAILS

Dates: Wednesdays, Oct. 4 through Dec. 6 (choir will **not** meet November 22)

Times: Cherubs (age 4 through Grade 2): 3:30 – 4:14 p.m. Parents are required to stay onsite during rehearsal.

Archangels (Grades 3 through 6): 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. Parents must commit to staying for one rehearsal per season. A rota will be emailed prior to the first class.

Cost: \$30. Checks are payable to St. Michael's. This fee covers all materials for the semester. Scholarships are available.

Registration forms are at the office and on the website.

Music

We have many ways to get involved in the Music Ministry at St. Michael's.

St. Michael's Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room and will begin singing at the 10:00 a.m. service Sunday, September 17 with Sunday morning rehearsal beginning at 9:00 a.m. All voice parts are welcome - please come and help us make a joyful noise! If you are new to singing, come and try a rehearsal. (We also have excellent parties.)



The **Handbell Choir** will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, October 3 at 10AM in the choir room. Ringers of all levels of experience are welcome.

The **Chant Workshop** will resume on Tuesday, September 12 at 7PM in the choir room and continue for five weeks. We will present a Candlelight Chanted Compline to the community on Tuesday October 10 with chants and motets from the Anglican, Roman and Orthodox traditions.



Contact Marguerite at music@stmichaels-litchfield.org or 860 927 5265 to register or for more information.

Jim Bush's departure - New Organist search

Jim Bush has been accepted into a two year graduate landscape architecture program in Sheffield, England. September 10th will be his last Sunday with us. We wish him success and happiness in this new chapter of his life.

We have begun the process to find a new organist, with both word of mouth and advertising in the American Guild of Organists publications. In the meantime, Amy Vinisko has graciously agreed to be our Interim Organist. Daniel Scifo will be our rehearsal accompanist on Wednesday evenings.

Outreach

The **Food Pantry at St. Michael's** continues to serve more people and give away more food to our neighbors each month. Our parishioners have been joined by volunteers from the community who contribute their time, and there are Pantry guests who have begun coming to church with us.



The **Concert to End Hunger** given by the Jen Chapin Trio raised funds for the Food Pantry at St Michael's, the Goshen Green Garden, the Northwest Connecticut Chapter of Food Rescue USA, and WhyHunger.org, founded by Jen's late father, Harry Chapin.

Community Kitchen of Torrington

Empty Bowls Fundraiser to support the Torrington Soup Kitchen

The Empty Bowls Fundraiser, which supports the work of the Community Kitchen of Torrington, will be on Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 5:00 -7:30 p.m. at the Elks Main Ballroom, 70 Litchfield Street in Torrington. The \$10 donation/person entitles the donor to a ceramic bowl (while supplies last), and a bowl of soup and bread donated by area restaurants.

Hurricane Harvey response

Your contribution to the Hurricane Harvey Response Fund helps Episcopal Relief & Development support Church and other local partners as they provide critical emergency assistance. Checks to "Episcopal Relief & Development" may be mailed to P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield VA 22116-7058 or go to :

<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-harvey-response>

Construction Update

The major construction - stonework, roofing, plasterwork and painting - is complete, with the exception of the cornerstone, which still needs repairs. (It's a reversal similar to what we hear in the Bible; what is usually first is going to be the last.)



Our organ is being reinstalled with new valves.

The new west window is due to be installed in October.

Bishop Ahrens is planning to visit on December 17th. That will be a good time to bless the new construction and give thanks for all our blessings.

Among those blessings are the many people of this parish who have helped the progress of the project with their attention, time and skill. Here we see Sarah Gadomski and Peg Sullivan washing all the kneelers, which had to be removed from the church when the plasterwork began.



Capital Campaign Update

We are eligible for the final installment of the matching grant from the Seherr-Thoss Foundation this year. To receive the full amount, we need to confirm that \$125,000 in donations have been received during 2017. Quarterly statements will be sent out at the end of September, noting both your pledges to the annual budget and your three-year pledge to our capital project.

Stewardship Campaign for 2018 Calendar Year to Begin in September

The Stewardship process for St. Michael's 2018 calendar year expenses begins in September. Chair Richard Quay is assembling the Stewardship team, and the congregation should receive a mailing in late September describing the process, which will differ in several respects from past years. During the month of October all parishioners will be invited to participate in small group meetings both to discuss the church's finances and to address any particular concerns they may have. In addition, during regular church services over the next several months, several parishioners will provide their own personal views on the importance of supporting St. Michael's. The campaign is scheduled to be completed by mid-November.

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.

Church Tours

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.

Milestones

Marriage: Diane Waters and Richard Podolske on October 3

Upcoming Special Events

Wednesday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. - **Poetry night** in the church

Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m. - **Chant Workshop** rehearsals begin for a five week session

Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. - **Adult Choir rehearsals** resume, in the choir room

Sunday, September 17 at 9:45 a.m. - **Church School** resumes

Sunday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m. - **Adult choir** returns to the 10:00 a.m. service

Saturday, September 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – **Food Pantry** in the Community House

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

Tuesday, October 3 at 10:00 a.m. - **Handbell Choir** rehearsals begin

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

Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. - **Candlelight Chanted Compline** by the chant workshop students

Ongoing weekly events

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| Sundays at 8:00 a.m. - | Holy Eucharist in the Chapel |
| Sunday' and 9:00 a.m. | Choir Rehearsals begin on September |
| 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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860.567.9465 (voice) 860.567.4820 (fax)
www.stmichaels-litchfield.org office@stmichaels-litchfield.org

Staff

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| 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