



St. Michael's MESSENGER

April 2018

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

From our Rector

Dear Friends,

Barbara Putnam has been doing a wonderful job of collecting the information and editing the Messenger for some time. She has other commitments now that prevent her from continuing in this ministry. So, we are looking for someone who would be interested in taking up this ministry. If you have an interest in doing this, please let me know, and I will review with you what is involved. This edition is tardy, because I said I would add this announcement that we need a new editor, and then I neglected to do so. As a result, a few of the items mentioned in it are already in the past. I have removed two announcements of two such events that have already passed. I am sorry for this delay.

Happy Easter. The Easter season continues for fifty days all the way to the feast of Pentecost, which this year is on May 20. The entire period is a time of celebration of new life, and victory over death. The Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed, also passed other legislation. One of its more famous actions was to forbid kneeling in the liturgy during the entire season of Easter. This is, of course, a symbol of our status as victors in Christ. While certainly no longer binding on us, many find it a way to remind ourselves of the victory and joy of the season.

On April 21, we will be celebrating the first anniversary of the founding of the Food Pantry at St. Michael's. All during April we will be engaging with all our Litchfield neighbors in a town-wide reading and discussion of *The Book of Joy* and *The Can Man*. Please see the schedule elsewhere in this newsletter and in the weekly enews and bulletin announcements.



SAINT MICHAEL'S
LITCHFIELD
Nurture Your Spirit

In the liturgical minute at the announcements in our worship service, I will be focusing on hymn texts. If there is a hymn that particularly touches you or nurtures your spirit, please let me know, and we will use it in one of these liturgical teachings.

The essence of Easter is that the worst thing is never the last thing. Sooner or later, all is made whole. After illness comes healing, after sin comes forgiveness, after alienation comes reconciliation, after bondage comes freedom, after death comes life. For us Christians hope is not mere optimism, but a choice we make every day. It is part of the air we breathe.

And for your contemplation, below is a poem by John Updike that I have shared before.

He is risen!

Bevan

"Seven Stanzas at Easter"

John Updike

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as His flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that-pierced-died, withered, paused, and then
regathered out of enduring Might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,
make it a real angel,
weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with hair,
opaque in the dawn light, robed in real linen
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are
embarrassed by the miracle,
and crushed by remonstrance.

Music

Sunday, May 6 at 4:00 p.m. - **Robert Fertitta, Piano**

Property

Our organist, Daniel Scifo, was the first to notice a deep throated hum emerging from the basement under the organ. As it grew slightly louder week by week, more of us were able to hear it. Further investigation revealed that the sound was emerging from the enclosure in the basement where the air pressure for the organ pipes is created by a blower. When it was time for the organ to be tuned, we asked for their opinion about what was wrong and what could be done about. They identified the source of the sound as a bearing around the shaft, and gave us a quote for a complete replacement that was over \$20,000. That got our attention! Ken Merz offered that he could find a source for a new bearing, and Ed Gadomski offered to go into the blower and find out the exact specifications of the offending bearing. With Ken's connections, Ed's skills, and Richard Quay's willing assistance, the blower now has new, quiet bearings, and our church budget is none the worse for it.

Church School

THE CHURCH SCHOOL IS ORGANIZING A REDEEMABLE CAN DRIVE IN APRIL
During St Michael's Month of Joy, the church school children will be organizing a redeemable can drive to benefit the Food Pantry at St Michael's. To get started we will be reading *The Can Man* by Laura E. Williams in class on Sunday, April 8th. The following is a brief description of the book from Amazon.com:



Tim's birthday is just a week away, and more than anything he wants a skateboard. But money is tight, and Tim knows his family cannot afford to buy him a board. As Tim ponders how he might earn money for a skateboard, he hears The Can Man down the street collecting empty soft drink cans. The clang of the cans in the homeless man's cart gives Tim an idea. He will collect cans too, and cash them in for the redemption money. By the end of the week, Tim has almost reached his goal--until a couple of chance encounters with The Can Man change everything.

Our Church School children will engage in a conversation about the book and how we might be led, like Tim, to think beyond ourselves and engage in a simple act of kindness and sharing that will make a difference in our community.

We will be decorating a large box and placing it in the back of the sanctuary for the month of April. Please rinse out and bring any redeemable cans or bottles your household accumulates and place them in the box. Examples of appropriate items include metal soda or seltzer cans, plastic club soda or tonic water bottles, glass beer bottles, or plastic water and athletic drink bottles. If it can be redeemed, we want it!

At the end of the month we will be bringing all of the collected items to a redemption center, where we will receive 5 cents for each item. Again, all proceeds from this drive will be given to the Food Pantry.

We look forward to celebrating a successful outcome with you all with an announcement of the total donated amount in early May.
Thank you in advance for your support!

Outreach

Food Pantry

Our March Pantry Day welcomed 45 guests who took home 1556 pounds of food to 105 people. As we approach our one year anniversary, we are happy to have grown so much from our original five visitors.

Please check the weekly eBlast and the church bulletin for our current needs. Monetary donations are also needed and much appreciated.

Covenant to Care

Michelle Chase of Covenant to Care has been in contact with Deacon Amy. As you may already know, this organization connects Churches to children in need. With the leadership of Martha Babbitt, St. Michael's participated in their Christmas drive. If you would like more info, please be in touch with Deacon Amy.

Knitting for Neighbors

The knitting group continues to make warm hats, mittens, and scarves for our neighbors in need. We do have some extra yarn available. If you would like more info, please be in touch with Peg Sullivan.

The Month of Joy

Promoting joy through generosity and compassion

Featuring

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World, - His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams

and

The Can Man, by Laura E. Williams

Sunday April 8 through April 25 - St Michael's Church School redeemable can and bottle drive

Wednesday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. at the Litchfield Community Center - an evening of humor

Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oliver Wolcott Library- a book discussion with the spiritual leaders of St Michael's, the United Methodist Church, the First Congregational Church, and St Louis de Montfort Parish.

Friday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the St Michael's Library - a sampling of Joy Practices from the Book of Joy with Barbara Putnam

Sunday, April 21 at 3:30 in the St. Michael's Community House - David Pavlick on "The Science of Joy" expanding on the science presented in the Book of Joy.

Northwest Region Events

Lay Preaching Class: Update

Our first Lay Preaching Class has been a grand success! Lay preachers from three parishes have come together for three out of four classes, and we are set to be finished up on April 8!

We will have a "train the trainers" for clergy who are interested in becoming a lay preacher trainer on Saturday, June 16th (time and location TBD). If you are interested in becoming a trainer, please email, call or text Eliza Marth at emarth@epicsopalct.org or 860-387-2190.

If there is interest, we will have another round of lay preaching classes in the fall. If you are interested* in having a crew of lay preachers in your parish, please let Eliza know ASAP!

*support from the rector/priest in charge of your parish is required to participate in the class



Annual Northwest Region Convocation

Saturday, June 23rd, 2018 11am-3pm at White Memorial in Litchfield

Everyone is invited to join the Northwest Region Leadership Team for our 2nd Annual Northwest Region Convocation. We will have time to meet one another and build relationship across the 28 parishes in our Northwest Corner! We'll pray together and discuss what God is up to in our Region, while we are surrounded by the natural beauty of our glorious region. We will be joined by Bishop Laura and Bishop Ian for conversation about the New Missional Age, the future of the church and how God might be inviting us as a Region to join in God's Mission. Please save and share the date—we will send out an Eventbrite link for registration closer to the date of the event.

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

Eliza Marth

Northwest Region Missionary

emarth@episcopalct.org 860-387-2190

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, April 21 at 3:30 in the St. Michael's Community House - **David Pavlick** on "**The Science of Joy**" expanding on the science presented in the Book of Joy.

Saturday, May 5 at 11:00 a.m. - **George Ching memorial service**

Sunday, May 6 at 4:00 p.m. - **Robert Fertitta, Piano**

Sunday May 12 at 11 a.m.- **Jeanne Lancaster memorial service**

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 downstairs in the Parish House
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. -	Holy Eucharist in the Church
Mondays at 9:00 a.m. -	Morning Prayer in the Church
Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. -	Morning Prayer in the Church
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.	Handbell rehearsal in the Music Room
Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal in the Music Room
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
Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. -	Morning Prayer 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 & Vanessa Flint	Church School co-directors churchschool@stmichaels-litchfield.org

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

Diocesan Delegates

Meredith Penfield
Nancy Skilton
Alternate: Jo Ann Jaacks

Terms ending 2020

Martha Babbitt
Robert Rumsey
Andrea Wells
Richard Quay

Terms ending 2021

Megan Furtado
Michael LaHart
Mark Yanaway

Parish Historian

Martha Babbitt

