



# WINGS

Saint Michael's Episcopal Church, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

NEWSLETTER --January 2012



*The Rev. Canon  
David J. Lucey*

## And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us

...  
*John 1:14a*

A few days ago I was making a pastoral call at the hospital. As I was driving away I noticed the following sign on display: Ambulatory Surgery. I could not help myself. I laughed imagining surgeon and patient walking down the hall while one was performing surgery on the other. It was a moment of channeling my inner George Carlin, a comedian best known not just because he was funny, but because he was vulgar at the same time. Certainly his coarse language was part of his act. Yet, he was also extremely perceptive and sharp-witted and sharp tongued when it came to our use of language and our pretensions around that use. At the corner of that hospital entrance I just could not help but think what George Carlin might think as he read that sign.

Words and what the images they evoke is a specialty of Episcopal preaching. We wax on, and on, about meanings, too often in trivial ways, to the exclusion of exhortation, or any other helpful mode that might get our communities fired up and moving in the ways of God's kingdom. But occasionally I think it is alright to stop, reflect, and even pray on what scripture is trying to reveal about God in the words which convey God's actions and our understandings of his character.

One of the densest encounters with this conveyance is in the Gospel of John, and most especially at its beginnings: "In the beginning was the Word . . ." The idea of the divine logos (word) predates this Gospel. But this rendering of a hymn about the character and action of God's Word on creation is covered in verses 1-18 of the first chapter. What I hear and see is that the *word* is not so much a concept as it is a being, which I guess, means that the *word* is an action. The *Word* walked and

*Rector...continued on page 2*



*Jackie Barrows  
Sr. Warden*

## Message From the Senior Warden

Dear Friends

2011 has been a remarkable year for our parish. We have been so blessed to have you join together to make our capital campaign a success, we have improved our Christian education for children and adults, we welcomed new members and, most of all, we are on the right road to improving the health of our parish.

We have continued to lend our support to Bristol Good Neighbors with monetary donations from our book club, our Christmas Concert, through our donation of food, and our wonderful volunteers. We look forward to a continued relationship with our good neighbors.

We still have work to be continued next year, but what a wonderful thought – we have a new year to look forward to! We have a new Bishop coming (soon we hope). We have a dedicated and virtuous rector who has provided the spiritual leadership we enjoy. I wish to thank David's family for sharing so much of his time with us.

The nominating committee has been working diligently for several months now to fill open vacancies. It is a thoughtful process that the committee takes to heart since our nominations provide the leadership to steer the course. Leadership is a continuous activity; I hope you will consider how you can participate.

Ted and I would like to wish you a Happy and Joyous Holiday. Although we plan to move on to the South, we always have St. Michael's in our heart.

Rector...continued from page 1

talked among us, and the *Word* brought light into the world. And, it is through the *Word* that we are able to become children of God. These may be metaphorical things, but they are also real things, tangible things, and actionable things.

For St. Michael's I wonder what folks might imagine if they heard that term about us. I am certain after having reread Canon Tildesley's book again this past year that it would mean different things in different times: struggling community, established church, generous people, proper folk . . . The blanks are there for us and others to fill-in.

During this next year, imagine that we had a blank slate upon which to write our image of what St. Michael's means. What would you place in that blank? Would your image be lighthearted, energetic, faithful, generous, giving? Or would it be something else? What would you want others to think of as they heard this name, and how would you contribute to this outcome?

Any community that is nearing its three hundredth birthday will have many images, some contradictions, and some inconsistencies. St. Michael's has come through many good and bad and indifferent times. My prayers for this year is that we become known as a church that can give itself away, a church of extravagant hospitality, and a church of great generosity, one where all the members are connected to the Word as an active force in Bristol.



Garry Holmstrom  
Jr. Warden

## From the Junior Warden

We start a new year at St. Michael's with even greater enthusiasm and energy than we enjoyed last January. In every aspect of this Parish, our combined efforts to realize areas in need of fresh approaches, to capitalize on our strengths and to focus both areas on our stated missions have made us a better place for families to be. Every member can take comfort and pride in helping to realize and sustain this momentum. Now our challenge becomes to continue the progress you have made possible and to be an even greater beacon for those seeking a church family of faith, comfort and support. Take time this season to reflect on how far we have progressed and what you will do to continue our progress. Are we doing what is needed for our families, youth, community? Can you help with one of our vital missions? May the New Year renew your energies, commitments and peace.

One more point – Have you noticed the growing number of children on Sunday mornings ?

Peace.

Garry

### “Vestry Meetings Open to Parish”

Did you know Vestry Meetings are open to the Parish? They are and you should come. See how and what we discuss and do. If you have something you would like to bring to our attention or suggest to the Vestry, you are more than welcome to attend. If you are interested in participating sometime in the future in the governance of St. Michael's, please come and join us.

The Vestry meets once a month usually on the 3rd Tuesday. Here are the scheduled meeting dates for the next three months; all meetings are at 7pm in the Tildesley Building.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012      Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Tuesday, March 20, 2012

Additionally, the Finance Committee usually meets the Monday evening before the Vestry at 6:30pm in the Tildesley Bldg. You are welcome to join us then as well.

Jacqueline Barrows, Senior Warden



**Mark Your Calendar.....**

**St. Michael's Church  
294th Annual Parish Meeting  
Sunday, February 5, 2012  
following the 10am service in the  
Parish House**



Matt Kirchner  
Treasurer

## Treasurer's Two Cents

First off, hope the Christmas magic works it's wonders for you all.

As we look forward to the first of the year, there are always a handful of certitudes. Patriots eyeing the playoffs, vacuuming pine needles, and for the

Finance Committee crafting the annual budget for 2012. At least one of these is fun!

Upon my arrival as Treasurer roughly two years ago, the outgoing Treasurer's message, based on St. Michael's financial realities was (justly) "something has to change". Well, things have. A fixation on expense management, a strong first six months of the Capital Campaign and an increased commitment to Stewardship have all taken place - thanks to you all.

With this success, it is mandatory to remain on the path to reducing our dependence on the endowment. Our 2011 expenses exceeded \$462K, of which almost \$253K was carried by endowment draws. Our financial managers have provided an end dates of available funds at the current drawdown rates! Think about that for a moment. Would we be able to maintain our current vision for ourselves as a church community then? While there is a "sustainable rate" of draws, we are well above it.

Time for despair? Never! Time to continue to be vigilant about controlling what we can. Never pledged or pledged in the past but yet to commit for 2012? Please do so. Reticent to invite a friend or family to experience the positive vibe of St. Michael's - go ahead and take that chance on adding to our church family. Thinking it is time to engage in a committee or volunteering to help in a "one off" undertaking, you are welcome. By the way, very evident examples of these acts took place in 2011 by the person in the pew next to you.

Our congregation's depth of talent and quality people continues to amaze. Things have changed here - let's keep it going.

## "The Campaign to Preserve Our Future"

Total Amount Pledged to date: \$297,582

Total Number of Pledges received: 77

Pledge forms are available at the back of the church and if you have any questions please feel free to ask any vestry member or campaign committee member.

## Growth and Development News

The Parish Growth meeting with Peter Saros was another great success to understanding what SMC offers to our community, our new members and growing number of visitors seeking a welcoming, committed Parish.



**The Events Committee** that was formed after the November meeting with Peter Saros will meet on January 8, 2012 after the 10 o'clock service and coffee hour. Our meeting will focus on further planning for a

Winter's Solstice (Speakers Forum), Bless the Animals (Fall) and Lessons and Carols (Dec.). Anyone interested in joining this group is more than welcome to come, we try to keep the meetings to a 30-45 minute exchange of ideas and assignments. Please contact Cathi Esselen for any additional information 401-523-1379 (cell) or email: [cesselen@gmail.com](mailto:cesselen@gmail.com)

**The Welcome/Greeter Committee**-As part of the Growth and Development phase of our current Campaign for the Future the Welcome/Greeter Committee will meet on Sunday, January 22, 2012 after the 10am service in the "triple room" in the Tildesley Building. If you are interested in helping plan and develop ideas and programs for making St Michael's a welcoming environment for everyone please join us. A light lunch will be served.

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*A Note From Gail Storms...*

Dear Friends:

Please know how much your cards and notes during these last few months have meant to me and my girls. I feel completely enveloped in the warmth of your love and kindness each time I go back and re read them.

Each of you has helped me along the way, with a smile or a hug, or some wonderful food you have prepared for me and my family. You have made me realize that I still have so very much that is an important part of my life that I can treasure and enjoy.

Love, Gail Storms

**Saint Michael's Church  
Bristol, Rhode Island  
Nominating Committee  
December 2011**

The members of the Nominating Committee: Linda Arruda, Jacqueline Barrows, Terry Lewis, Anne Lohr, Frank Munro and Jo Zeigler, are pleased to submit the following names of those persons to be voted on at the 2012 Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 5, 2012.

**Senior Warden:** Garry Holmstrom

**Junior Warden:** Marcia Bosworth

**Treasurer:** Matthew Kirchner

**Clerk:** Deborah Fowler

**Vestry for 1 year (2013) to fill an Unexpired Term:**

Glenn Donovan, Jr.

**Vestry for 3 years (until 2015)**

Judith Arruda

Catherine Esselen

William Turner

**Delegates for the 2012 General Convention of the Diocese:**

Candace Turner

Barbra Lewis

Karen Santolupo

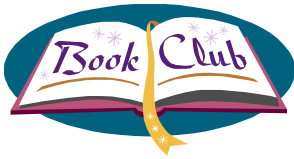
**Alternates to the Convention:**

Linda Arruda

Jeremiah deRham

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,  
Linda C. Arruda

(Bios of each nominee will be published in the February issue of WINGS.)



## The St. Michael's Book Club

The book group will kick off the New Year with *Mighty Be Our Powers* by Leymah Gbowee. Ms. Gbowee was recently awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for her work.

We will meet to discuss this book on January 23, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the home of Linda Arruda, 159 High Street, Bristol, RI. Please let Linda know by phone or email if you plan to attend as refreshments are provided. Home phone: 401-253-3795, email: [lcarruda@fullchannel.net](mailto:lcarruda@fullchannel.net)

On Monday, February 13, 2012 at 6 p.m. we will meet in the Community Room at the Rogers Free Library, Bristol to view *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, followed by discussion of the movie and book. The movie will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. There is plenty of room at the library so we encourage anyone who might be interested to attend.

If you wish additional information about our group, please contact: Cathi Esselen ([cesselen@gmail.com](mailto:cesselen@gmail.com), cell 401-523-1379) or Jennifer DeWolf ([jenmarkdewolf@aol.com](mailto:jenmarkdewolf@aol.com), cell: 401-935-3359)

From Amazon about our reading:

**Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War**

**WINNER OF THE 2011 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE**

*In a time of death and terror, Leymah Gbowee brought Liberia's women together—  
and together they led a nation to peace.*

As a young woman, Leymah Gbowee was broken by the Liberian civil war, a brutal conflict that tore apart her life and claimed the lives of countless relatives and friends. Years of fighting destroyed her country—and shattered Gbowee's girlhood hopes and dreams. As a young mother trapped in a nightmare of domestic abuse, she found the courage to turn her bitterness into action, propelled by her realization that it is women who suffer most during conflicts—and that the power of women working together can create an unstoppable force. In 2003, the passionate and charismatic Gbowee helped organize and then led the Liberian Mass Action for Peace, a coalition of Christian and Muslim women who sat in public protest, confronting Liberia's ruthless president and rebel warlords, and even held a sex strike. With an army of women, Gbowee helped lead her nation to peace—in the process emerging as an international leader who changed history. *Mighty Be Our Powers* is the gripping chronicle of a journey from hopelessness to empowerment that will touch all who dream of a better world.

Synopsis of *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*:

*Pray the Devil Back to Hell* is the gripping account of a group of brave and visionary women who demanded peace for Liberia, a nation torn to shreds by a decades-old civil war. The women's historic yet unsung achievement finds voice in a narrative that intersperses contemporary interviews, archival images, and scenes of present-day Liberia together to recount the experiences and memories of the women who were instrumental in bringing lasting peace to their country.

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## FOYER GROUPS

It is time once again for the Foyer Groups to begin organizing. I think all who were involved with the groups last winter will agree that it was a positive and fun experience. We ended our season with a picnic composed of all the foyer groups, and it was generally thought to be a wonderful time.

Come be a part of this social activity at St. Michael's. This is your opportunity to meet new people in your parish family, even those who chose a different Sunday morning service from yours, as you spend one evening a month together having a meal and getting to know one another in a new way. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church very soon. Look for it, and seriously consider signing up. Groups will be formed in January.

If you would like further information, please call or see Nancy Grandgeorge (245-2155) or Gail Storms (253-4902).



If your name is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact the church office and give us the appropriate date, either wedding anniversary or birthday.

### Birthdays

Jack Fitzgerald	01/02
Shirley Nunes	01/03
Janice Williams	01/04
Louisa Jones	01/05
David Mesagno	01/05
Rosemarie Dion	01/06
Joseph Turner	01/07
Lisa Wilson	01/08
Jason Grandgeorge	01/08
Roger Boucher	01/10
Douglas Coates	01/12
Dillon Darnbrough	01/13
Lyla Birch	01/13
Beatrice Russo	01/15
Alice Cullen	01/15
Gary Mesagno	01/15
Mark Grandgeorge	01/18

Stephen Coelho	01/18
Sharon Gordon	01/19
Lisbeth Ramsay	01/19
Anders Holmstrom	01/20
Arthur MacKeith	01/20
Julie Caldwell	01/21
Beth Fay	01/22
Ayanna Samuel	01/22
Glenn Donovan	01/25
Brian Grandgeorge	01/25
Michael Grandgeorge	01/25
Joyce Rodrigues	01/27
Marcia Bosworth	01/28
Jane Mesagno	01/28
Oliver Browne	01/28
Heidi Klages	01/29
Elizabeth Vargas	01/30

### Anniversaries

Mark & Pam Pfeiffer	01/01
Nancy & Bill Grandgeorge	01/12
Judy & AuggieArruda	01/16
Frances & George Sousa	01/19
Elizabeth & Robert Hazlett	01/26
Mary & Charles Millard	01/27



## St. Michael's Selected to Host Rhode Island's Annual Youth Evensong!

St. Michael's has been chosen to host the prestigious Diocesan Youth Evensong for the state on Sunday, April 29 at 5 p.m. Choristers from around the state will gather to sing Evensong, the traditional sung evening prayer service of the Anglican tradition. Since starting our RSCM program in September 2009, St. Michael's has rapidly become one of the state's leading programs!

In order to successfully host such a large and important event, we are looking for folks willing to serve on the organizing committee starting immediately. If you have a knack for events planning/receptions and would like to help out, please contact our organist and choirmaster, Waylon Whitley, at [waylon.whitley@gmail.com](mailto:waylon.whitley@gmail.com) or by phone at the church office (253-7717).

**January – April 2012  
10am Sunday School Schedule**

Date	1/1/2012	1/8/2012	1/15/2012	1/22/2012	1/29/2012	2/5/2012	2/12/2012	2/19/2012
Description/ Lectionary	New Year's Day, Year B	Baptism of the Lord, Year B	2nd Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B	3rd Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B	4th Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B	5th Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B	6th Sunday after the Epiphany, Year B	Transfiguration Sunday (last Sunday before Lent), Year B
Sunday School Curriculum/Gospel Reading	Matthew 25:31-46	Mark 1:4-11: The Baptism by John	John 1:43-51; Jesus Calls Phillip and Nathanael	Mark 1:14-20; Jesus Announces the Good News and Calls his First Disciples	Mark 1: 21-28; Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit	Mark 1: 29-39	Mark 1:40-45; Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy	Mark 9:2-9
10am Teachers	No Sunday School - First Sunday of the Month				Bill Grandgeorge	No Sunday School - First Sunday of the Month		No Sunday School - President's Day
Date	2/26/2012	3/4/2012	3/11/2012	3/18/2012	3/25/2012	4/1/2012	4/8/2012	4/15/2012
Description	1st Sunday of Lent, Year B	2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B	3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B	4th Sunday of Lent, Year B	5th Sunday of Lent, Year B	Palm Sunday	Easter, Year B	2nd Sunday of Easter, Year B
Sunday School Curriculum Reading	Mark 1:9-15; The Baptism and Testing of Jesus	Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9	John 2:13-22; Jesus Clears the Temple Courts	John 3:14-21; For God So Loved the World	John 12:20-33; Jesus Predicts his Death	Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40- 47)	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8	John 20:19-31; Jesus Appears to his Disciples
10am Teachers		No Sunday School - First Sunday of the Month				No Sunday School - First Sunday of the Month	Easter - No Sunday School	

## St. Michael's Sunday School for all ages.

*Sundays - Two Groups  
9am (every Sunday)*

*10am (every Sunday except  
1st Sunday of the month).*

*Child Care is available at 9:45 am for younger children*

*Please come and join us!*

*Sunday School schedule is above*



## JUST FOR PARENTS

Raising children is challenging and rewarding and the most important job that many of us do. In this time of the internet, school demands, peer pressure, and often conflicting advice from “experts”, parents can find themselves confused, exhausted and alone.

To address some of the above concerns, St. Michael's will offer a parent support group in the new year. What is a support group? It is an eight to ten session discussion with other parents and led by trained professionals with knowledge of child development to sort through some of the issues that trouble parents today. Discussion topics will be generated by group members but may include discipline, sibling rivalry, setting limits, effective communication, building self esteem or working with your child's teacher. The group format will observe rules of confidentiality to provide a trusting environment for discussion. A day and time will be established when we have a better idea of when interested participants are available. Child care can be arranged as needed.

If you are interested in participating in a parent support group, would you please contact Jennifer DeWolf at [jenmarkdewolf@aol.com](mailto:jenmarkdewolf@aol.com) or call (401)935-3359 or Cecilia and Eric Russell at [russellcecilia@yahoo.com](mailto:russellcecilia@yahoo.com).

After 5 Days Return to  
**St. Michael's Church**  
P.O. Box 414  
399 Hope St.  
Bristol, RI 02809-0414  
**Change Service Request**

**Telephone:(401)253-7717 Fax: (401) 253-7785**  
**Email:stmichaels@fullchannel.net**  
**Website:stmichaelsbristolri.org**



*Time Dated Material -- Please Do Not Delay*

**Office Hours:** M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm

**Worship Services:**

Sunday: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist -Wednesday: 7:00 a.m.

visit our WEBSITE at:  
[stmichaelsbristolri.org](http://stmichaelsbristolri.org)

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter or if you are receiving it by mistake, please call the church office or e-mail a note to us at [stmichaels@fullchannel.net](mailto:stmichaels@fullchannel.net) with the name and address to be removed and we will make the correction.

You can also receive this newsletter via email. Just email us your address and we will send it to you. This newsletter is also available on the website. Thank you.



January 1, Sunday 2:00pm  
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol  
Celebrant: The Rev. Mark DeWolf

January 3, Tuesday 11:00am  
Silver Creek Nursing Home, Bristol  
Celebrant: The Rev. David J. Lucey

**HOSPITAL VISITATION**

Please let the church office know (401-253-7717) if you or someone in your family is in the hospital so that we may extend Pastoral Care. With government regulations, Health Information Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA), if a hospitalized person does not choose to be listed in the hospital directory, one would not know about his/her being in the hospital.

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR

*Please place on your refrigerator.*

JANUARY 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00 PM Tai Chi 8:00 PM <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>3</b> 11:00 AM HE-Silver Creek NH 7:30 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Parish Development Group Bible Study 7:00 PM Parish Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>5</b> 5:30 PM Scout Meeting 6:30 PM Yoga	<b>6</b> 4:00 PM Angel Choir Rehearsal 4:45 PM RSCM Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 7:30 PM <b>NA Meeting</b>
<b>8</b> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Events Committee Mtg. 7:00 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM Tai Chi 8:00 PM <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>10</b> 6:00 PM Reach Out Comm. 7:30 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Parish Development Group Bible Study 7:00 PM Parish Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>12</b> 5:30 PM Scout Meeting 6:30 PM Yoga	<b>13</b> 4:00 PM Angel Choir Rehearsal 4:45 PM RSCM Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 7:30 PM <b>NA Meeting</b>
<b>15</b> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School 6:30 PM <b>East Bay Citizens for Peace</b> 7:00 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.</b> -DAY- OFFICE CLOSED 6:00 PM Tai Chi 6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting 8:00 PM <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting 7:30 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Parish Development Group Bible Study 7:00 PM Parish Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>19</b> 5:30 PM Scout Meeting 6:30 PM Yoga	<b>20</b> 4:00 PM Angel Choir Rehearsal 4:45 PM RSCM Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 1:00 PM Youth Evensor Rehearsal 7:30 PM <b>NA Meeting</b>
<b>22</b> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Welcome/Greeter Comm. 7:00 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>	<b>23</b> 6:00 PM Tai Chi 7:00 PM Book Group-J. Arucci Home 8:00 PM <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM Parish Development Group Bible Study 7:00 PM Parish Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>26</b> 5:30 PM Scout Meeting 6:30 PM Yoga	<b>27</b> 4:00 PM Angel Choir Rehearsal 4:45 PM RSCM Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7:30 PM <b>NA Meeting</b>
<b>29</b> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Sunday School 7:00 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00 PM Tai Chi 8:00 PM <b>AA Meeting</b>	<b>31</b> 7:30 PM <b>Alanon Meeting</b>				