

Parish Newsletter of St. Michael's Church in Bristol, RI 02809-0414

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out on this earth, yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now.*

*Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582*



*The Rev. David J. Lucey*

## The Great Yes

*Stewardship is everything we do with the rest of our lives after we say Yes to God.*

In the column next to this one my colleague in ministry here, John Reskusich, reflects on some of the financial aspects of stewardship in church. His reflections are important and they are on the topic which we associate most often with stewardship; namely money. And this topic is crucial and vital to the functioning and ongoing life of any church community. That focus, however, does not encompass all that stewardship is. In fact, the true nature of stewardship is summarized in the line I have used above; borrowed from some source I cannot locate but which hung on the door of my rector's office in Lake Forest.

Stewardship really happens in that moment when we recognize that all that we are and all that we have are a gift from God. I think the most appropriate response to that knowledge is this: awe, wonder, and *yes*. Awe and wonder are sort of the typical characterizations of personal response to God's communication, given and received. *Yes*, is something necessary for everything else to proceed, but is not the first thing people talk about when they sense God in Christ moving in their lives.

I can remember a rector of mine talking about the *yes* I am referring to as being similar to the cheer of the crowd at a baseball game, one of his favorite diversions. It came to me the other night as I was watching the *College World Series* with my son Colbert. In that game played in Omaha, Nebraska two teams, Texas and LSU, were battling it out. There were plentiful runs scored, at least six by each team, so there was ample opportunity for the feelings of elation to pour forth from each fan base. And pour forth they did. Those affirmative cheers at the runs scored were like an exclamation of *yes* at what had just transpired.

In that *yes* the fans formed their emotional life of the game around their team. Each succeeding mo-

*Rector continued on page 2...*



*John Reskusich*

## Senior Warden's Corner

Aloha! Nancy and I had planned a Hawaiian vacation for over a year. We went to Kauai for the first week in June with my sister and brother-in-law and truly loved the relaxed atmosphere Kauai had over the other islands. A couple of months before we went, I searched the Internet to find Episcopal churches on Kauai. And what luck and coincidence! We found Saint Michael and All Angels Church in Lihue, the largest city on the island. This Saint Michael's was founded in 1963.

The Episcopal Church in Hawaii has a long history, though not as long as ours. I learned that an Anglican Mission was established in Hawaii at the request of King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma in 1862. [You might recall from your history that England had claimed Hawaii for a time. Captain James Cook of the Royal Navy first landed at Kauai there in 1778 and named the islands the Sandwich Islands. He died on a follow-on voyage to the islands in 1779.] The Kauai Saint Michael Church's web site (<http://stmichaels-kauai.org/>) also mentioned a Rhode Island connection!! Bishop George Hunt, previously our Bishop here in Rhode Island, was the Interim Bishop for Hawaii in 1996.

I delivered one of our ball caps to the rector, Father Bill Miller, though I had to settle on the mail slot because their office hours didn't coincide with our visit. They don't have a stained glass window of Saint Michael, but you'll see here they have a beautifully carved main door to their Church.

*Sr. Warden continued on page 2...*

## ...What's Inside???

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ment was set-up to elicit the next run, from shouts of encouragement to the donning of rally caps. All was given over to the cause of making their team winners. It was a stewardship of their baseball fandom.

Stewardship is the great *yes* to the transforming work of God and Christ in our lives, something of the donning of rally caps and the shouted urges to the team. Only in the face of the mystery of God's revelation, our *amens* are accompanied by things like a life ordered around regular worship, a serious prayer life, acts of sacrifice and self-giving, and financial commitments to give back what God has provided for us.

Over the coming summer and autumn I hope to explore this more extended view of Stewardship with you. What does this view mean for our worship services? What does this view mean for our ongoing conversations with God in and through Christ? What does this view mean for our outreach? Finally, what does this view mean for our budgeting and spending? All of these aspects of Stewardship are necessary for St. Michael's to thrive and be faithful. They also lead to the kinds of support that will allow St. Michael's to thrive, grow, and fulfill our obligations of Stewards of God on earth.

During my research of this Church, I read a couple of their monthly newsletters, "The Herald", on their web site. Their March 2009 issue had the minutes of their January Vestry Meeting in the newsletter. The rector's report discussed their 2009 Stewardship status. And what amazed me was their average pledge amount... averaging over \$3,000 per pledge!!! This was from 89 pledges. In 2003, the pledging statistics for Hawaii are not that different from Rhode Island's (\$200 more on average.) Kauai's Saint Michael's does not appear to be very different in size from Bristol's Saint Michael's. But their stewardship giving is nearly 3 TIMES ours!!! Why?



"Paradise on Earth", if Hawaii can be considered such a place, doesn't make money more available for giving. Kauai is not an inexpensive place to live. In fact, their standard of living is more than here. (We saw a loaf of sliced bread in a market for \$6!)

But what I sensed there was a greater feeling for Church community. That Stewardship was not all about money. It is about giving what you can give, whether your time, your talent, or your treasure, it really doesn't matter. You don't have to be "In Paradise" to build and enjoy one. Saint Michael's in Bristol is our bit of "Paradise" here. Paradise, I think, is a place where we can create a community of giving; a community where it's not just about "me", but a place about "us". Caring and Sharing.

Mahalo!!!  
John Reskusich

## Free Christian Yoga



A group of people looking to enhance their prayer life and overall health through yoga meets in the Ivy Room on Thursday evenings at 6pm. These sessions will last through the summer. If you would like to join us, bring your mat or beach towel. If you have question, please call Louisa Jones at 401-396-5067.

## "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, July 21      Tuesday, August 18  
Tuesday, September 22

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

John Reskusich, Senior Warden

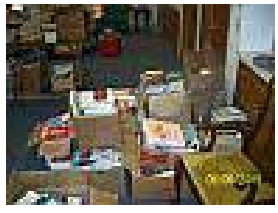
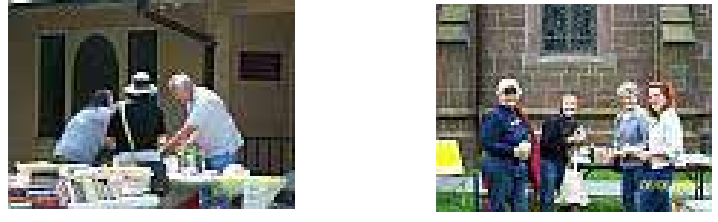
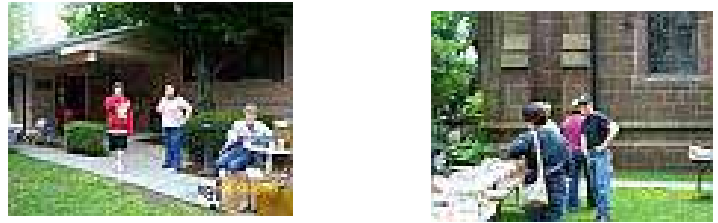
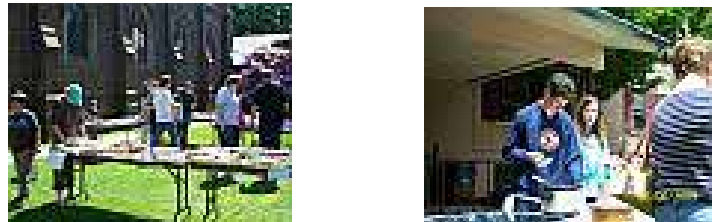


Our thanks to the following volunteers who helped to make the Book Sale and Ice Cream Social such a great event that we are planning another in July. Stay tuned for more information.

**Committee:** Elaine Cohen, Joanna Ziegler, Jackie Barrows;  
**Publicity and flyers:** Beth Fay;  
**Sorters:** Elaine Cohen, Candace Stanley, Bill and Leta Cain, Cathy Holmstrom, Jo and Rob Ziegler;  
**Event Workers:** Elaine and

MaxCohen, Ed, Sandy and EJ Sevigny, Eddie Teixeira, Rachel Magers, Cathy Holmstrom, Ann Hamm, Dinah Baker, Katherine and Carolyn Lucey, Leta and Bill Cain, Jo and Rob Ziegler.

Please keep an eye and ear open to the announcement of another Book Sale in August. Possibly August 8th. So save your books!



## Mindfulness

(a meditation)

by R. H. Grenville

Sitting--

Just sitting:

mind at ease and fully present;

receptive, open, observant

to whatever happens:

shifting pattern of leaves in a dance

with their shadows;

slant of sunlight on a wall:

a flutter of wings to the birdbath;

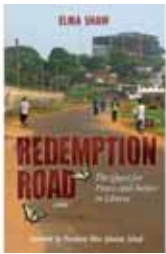
mingled scent of flowers and mown grass.

Beyond boundaries of purpose or expectation,

Serenely centered in the here and now.

--submitted by Anne McCarthy

## The Evening Study Group Spends the Summer in Liberia ...



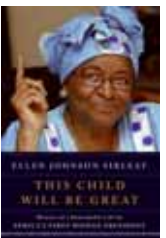
... without having their passports stamped or passing through customs. We've been reading two books by women authors from Liberia. The first book, *Redemption Road: The Quest for Peace and Justice in Liberia* by Elma Shaw, tells the story of one woman's personal struggle to understand the meaning of justice in the context of a recently ended war in which she was both victim and participant. This is a poignant story that treats the brutality of war with frankness without compromising the humanity of the characters. In fact it is the humanity of the characters that gives the story its power. In this book we met Bendu, a young Liberian woman who learns to forgive and accept forgiveness while helping others along their paths to healing. Shaw's narrative reveals a world that is not completely understood by the participants who struggle first to survive, and then to recover the people they were meant to become.

*Redemption Road* left us with many questions which led us to the second book, Helene Cooper's *The House at Sugar Beach*. Ostensibly this is the story of a little girl growing up in a privileged family in and around Monrovia, Liberia. But that childhood is abruptly interrupted by a series of brutal events that force her to leave her home and become a refugee. It is about her realization of whom and what is important in life. Her childhood home is transformed from a palatial country estate, where she lived with her mother and sisters, into a squatters' community housing several extended families. Along the way she discovers that her life had been based on an illusion glossed over by fear and supported by injustice. The new Liberia lacks the prosperity of the old, but retains the strength and vitality it needs to hope for a better future.



Hope is the common theme presented in both books. We've been learning about the setting for Bromley Mission and the circumstances that have led to the need for safe places where girls can grow and learn. Copies of both of these books are available for you to read. Look for them on the bookshelves in the Ivy Room.

Our third and final book in this series is *This Child Will Be Great*, a memoir of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The first session for this book is Thursday, July 30 at 7:30pm in the Ivy Room. The other sessions will be Thursdays, August 14 and 28 at the same place and time. A Novel Idea has ordered copies of this book, and more copies can be ordered if needed. Everyone is invited to join the group as we take a look at "Africa's Iron Lady". If you have questions, please contact Louisa Jones at 401-396-5067.



This September St. Michael's is starting a Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) program! Young people grades 3 through 10 will get a comprehensive musical education, preparing them for high-level music making for the rest of their lives.

The program is born out of the centuries-old tradition of cathedral choir schools in England, one of the best music training programs in the world. We are excited to be able to offer this extraordinary opportunity to the families in our parish.

As a chorister, your child will:

- Learn to read music
- Receive free voice lessons
- Study music theory
- Build confidence and maturity
- Explore a rich heritage of sacred choral repertoire
- Develop lasting friendships
- Vest and sing with the Parish Choir

The program is ideal for students already studying music in school or privately. It is also a great way for young people who have little or no musical training to get started.

If you have any questions, please call our organist and choirmaster, Waylon Whitley, at the church office (253-7717) or email him at [waylon.whitley@gmail.com](mailto:waylon.whitley@gmail.com).



## 5-Week Music Reading Workshop

Ever wondered how some people can just look at a piece of music and know how it sounds? Now you, too, can be one of those people! This summer, we invite you to learn to read music. Over the five Wednesdays in July, you will learn to decode musical notation in a five-part series presented by our organist and choirmaster, Waylon Whitley. The class is open to all ages, and no experience or background is required to participate. Non-church members are welcome, so bring a friend! The first session will be held on July 1st from 7:30-8:30pm. Questions? Email Waylon at [waylon.whitley@gmail.com](mailto:waylon.whitley@gmail.com).



## Bench Sitting

by Marcia Bickford Torrey

I've never given much thought to the importance of bench sitting until the last year of my husband's life,

when on pleasant days we often sat at water's edge at either Walley or Union Streets. We were drawn to the water like homing pigeons. The days when the air smelled like salt and the breeze was up were our favorites.

My first memory of bench sitting was in Rose Earle's garden. She lived next to my Vineyard grandmother. Of Scotch lineage and who never lost her distinct brogue, she was dedicated to the care of her many gardens. As a toddler, I found my way through the lilac hedge to her garden where I sat upon a tiny metal bench amidst the sapphire blue hydrangeas, a doll or two beside me on the bench.

My grandmother had wonderful built-in benches or settees, as my elders referred to them. They were on either side of the front door surrounded by pale pink roses that I now know were New Dawn roses as I have them growing up the lattice on the side of my side steps. We often sat out on summer evenings the scent of roses an aphrodisiac to our senses and the mournful song of the bullfrog from across the way in the swamp drowned out the sound of the lone Model T going up the hill towards Katama.

Loafers Corner on State Street sports a bench where "the locals" gather to reminisce about the good old days when Bristol was indeed a very small town. The bench sitters are often joined by the passers-by eager for a bit of Bristol talk.

During the summer days, when Gray's Ice Cream opens its doors to those who yearn for a chocolate walnut with jimmies, the crowds line up while a small Bristol mutt sits patiently for the cone that goes plop upon the wooden deck. We settle in upon the benches that line the deck fronting upon the beauties of Bristol Harbor. The ice cream melts rapidly in the scorching heat and runs down one's arm. We lick faster, ever mindful of the greedy seagulls who eye us with anticipation. The older couples sit close together, often holding hands. They are more appreciative of the beauty that surrounds them and of one another, for time is precious and they want to use every moment for those things that are so meaningful to them. When my husband died, I could not bear to see an older couple holding hands. I wanted just one more day to hold my husband's hand.

Up at the new Cremation Garden at North Burial Ground, a bench has been placed in a strategic spot, beside the pond that soon will be dedicated to the late chairman of the Cemetery Commission, Ralph Peters. It will be known as Peters Pond, a fitting tribute to a man who served Bristol well and whose love of Bristol was so evident in all that he did. I have been a Cemetery Commissioner for a little over a year. I feel such a responsibility to those who have their final resting place at North Burial Ground. My paternal ancestors

are all here, as are so many fine people from my past. I often find myself gravitating to the bench at Peters Pond. I remember all those from the past who called Bristol home. Their labors made it possible for those of us who came after to enjoy the beauty and friendly atmosphere that is so dear to our hearts. Bristol is an extraordinarily special place.

My last bench was discovered by me a month ago. It is located at the foot of Union Street. I can see up harbor, parts of Prudence, Patience, Papoosesquaw, and Hog Island from the confines of this bench. I discovered a dedication on the back of the bench. What I read has affected me greatly. I feel comforted by these words:

"Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life;  
 God will lead you safely through all things...  
 Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts..."

I end this with a little verse I wrote.

We sat and watched the waters flow  
 Until it was time for him to go.  
 Now I sit here all alone  
 For God has called my darling home.



## St. Michael's Women's Group

We gather the 3rd Monday of every month, at 11:30 am, in the Ivy Room of the Tildesley Building, and everyone brings their own lunch and drink. We would love to have you join us as we come together to support our faith and each other in Christ.



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

Denise Carbone	07/02	Jana Cabral	07/25
Kathleen Marabello	07/04	Linnea Fulton	07/25
Virginia Kinder	07/06	Thomas Breslin	07/27
Carol Landry	07/06	Glenn Donovan	07/27
Eddie Teixeira	07/09	Carol Wardwell	07/28
Susan Donovan	07/11	Hannah Kirchner	07/28
Jennifer Lial	07/12	Aden Abdulcareem	07/28
Charlotte Silvia	07/16	Nancy Moger	07/29
Olivia Borgia	07/17	David Fernandes	07/29
Pearson Handley	07/19	William Wardwell	07/30
John Godwin	07/23	Manuel Canario	07/30
Mary Ann Allen	07/24	Nicole Cote	07/30
Carole Cargill	07/25	David Cairrao	07/31
Linda Arruda	07/25		

### Wedding Anniversaries

Courtney & Manny Canario 07/09 Alan & Kathy Berry 07/29

# MALAWI, AFRICA, AND GAIA

On Friday night, June 19, at St. Michael's Parish House in Bristol, the Rev. Dr. David Ames of the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance used a power-point presentation to illustrate his ongoing work in Malawi, a small country located in Central East Africa and often called the "warm heart of Africa," because of the warmth and friendliness of its people.

Dr. Ames is a retired priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island and for many years was the Protestant chaplain at Brown University in Providence. He also has served in many parishes in our Diocese as an associate or interim priest.

Dr. Ames told us that the Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance (GAIA) is a "non-profit, non-governmental organization that was founded in June 2000 in response to the global HIV and AIDS catastrophe." The Alliance is working to help meet several of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations that were first presented in the year 2000 and adopted by the 2003 General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Our parish of St. Michael's has helped in assisting the girls' school in Liberia and thus are addressing several goals that relate to education, to extreme poverty and hunger, and to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

Dr. Ames has worked with GAIA for the past two years, and last year traveled to Malawi to work with friends, other clergy, and the community. He showed us pictures of the people, the land, and the community. The GAIA group has established relationships with grass-roots and village-level groups in Sub-Saharan Malawi. They work closely with local councils to identify and address the needs of those living with AIDS in the community. Malawi is a land-locked country about the size of the state of Pennsylvania. The people live with their extended families in huts that are grouped together in villages. Family members share both work and their resources. The country has a population of approximately 13,600,000 people. There are roughly 80,000 deaths each year and it is estimated that 550,000 children have been orphaned by AIDS. Life expectancy is about 41 years of age.

English is the official language and is widely spoken. Chichewa is the common national language. About 75% of the people are Protestant/Christian, 20 percent of the people are Muslim and 5% are of other indigenous groups. Dr. Ames in one of his statements on the country said, "Although HIV and AIDS are major health issues in Malawi, malaria, TB, meningitis, chronic diarrhea and pneumonia are also common. The lack of clean water, problems of hunger during the long rainy season (November to April), and inadequate transportation from the rural villages to the district clinics and hospitals are major concerns."

Dr. Ames and GAIA are working to accomplish a number of objectives in Malawi. They are working to train, equip, deploy, and mentor 4 to 5 village women in each of 40 southern region villages to deliver intensive, comprehensive HIV-related care to orphans and patients, and to get people tested and treated for HIV and other diseases. They are working to operate 2 mobile medical clinics in remote areas to keep 98 young Malawi women, many of them orphans, in nursing school for 3 to 4 years.

They have a micro-loan program for 925 women in a remote part of the country and want to construct a "safe birthing" facility at St. Joseph's Hospital, Ludzi, to reduce the alarming numbers of maternal deaths in the region.

How do we help?? There are many ways. Become informed about the work of GAIA ... Invite members of GAIA to speak to groups at local parishes ... Organize fundraisers... Donations go a long way ..



·\$10 provides school supplies to two orphans for a full year.  
·\$50 supplies supplemental food for one orphan for a year  
·\$70 provides a woman entrepreneur with a micro load that empowers her to support herself and her family  
·\$125 supports an orphan to attend high school for a year  
·\$160 pays the room and board of a nursing student and helps to build healthcare capacity in Malawi  
·\$200 buys a bicycle ambulance that transports sick villages to distant clinics and hospitals



·\$500 pays a Community Caregiver's salary for a full year  
·\$1,200 provides a young woman with a full scholarship to attend nursing school  
·\$5,000 supplies a Mobile Health Clinic with a year's worth of HIV test kits.

For further information contact  
The Rev. Dr. David Ames  
Congregational & Community Relations  
Global AIDS Interfaith Alliance  
130 Slate avenue  
Providence, RI 02906

Web: [www.thegaia.org](http://www.thegaia.org)



# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR

*Please place on your refrigerator.*

JULY 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
28 8am, 10am and 6pm - Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Blood Drive 9:00 AM Child Care	29	30	1 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Music Reading Group	2 6:00 AM Yoga classes	3	
5 8am, 10am & 6pm Holy Eucharist 9:45 AM Child Care	6	7	8 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Music Reading Group	9 6:00 AM Yoga classes 6:00 PM Christian Yoga Classes	10	
12 8am, 10am & 6pm Holy Eucharist 9:45 AM Child Care	13	14	15 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Music Reading Group	16 6:00 AM Yoga classes	17	
19 8am, 10am & 6pm Holy Eucharist 9:45 AM Child Care	20 11:30AM Women's Group 6:30 PM Finance Committee	21 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	22 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Music Reading Group	23 6:00 AM Yoga classes 6:00 PM Christian Yoga Classes	24	
26 8am, 10am & 6pm Holy Eucharist 9:45 AM Child Care	27	28	29 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:30 PM Music Reading Group	30 6:00 AM Yoga classes 7:30 AM Book Group	31	

On Sunday July 12, 2009 after the nine o'clock mass, the NAFI Main Street Program will be selling homemade baked goods to benefit their yearly Project Turkey event. All of the proceeds raised will be used to create food baskets for families in need and supplies for the Warren Headstart Program. Please help the girls give back to members of our community.

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**

**Non-profit Organization**

02809-0414  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
Bristol, RI  
**Permit No. 41**



*Founded in 1718*

***Time Dated Material -- Please Do Not Delay***

**Summer Office Hours: M-F 8:30a.m. - Noon**  
July-August

**Worship Services:**

Sunday: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School 9:45 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.

This newsletter is also available on the website.Thank you.

**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. *Anne McCarthy, FCN*



Our Nursing  
Home Ministry

No Service on July 5th  
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol  
Celebrant: The Rev. Mark DeWolf  
July 7, Tuesday 11:00am  
Silver Creek Nursing Home, Bristol  
July 14, Tuesday 10:00am  
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol  
July 21, Tuesday 3:00pm  
Grace Barker, Warren  
July 28, Tuesday 10:30am  
Warren Nursing, Warren  
Celebrant: The Rev. David J. Lucey