



WINGS

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

NEWSLETTER --July 2011



*The Rev. Canon
David J. Lucey*

Where are we going?

It so happens that as summer has approached, a time when many Americans get mobile and get traveling, I have been reading a great deal about traveling.

Part of that reading has been about the travels of Abraham, one of the Old Testament patriarchs. He sets out on a journey to find a land of promise and to begin a great nation. All this begins when he is seventy-five years old, and along with his wife Sarah, who is not much younger, they begin the process of becoming parents. The travel begins first. Parenting comes later, about the time they are closing in on one hundred years old, or the perfect time to become a parent. Along the way the couple and their band face the private personal struggles of going and growing and the more public struggles of finding home in a strange land.

These Abraham stories come from our Revised Common Lectionary readings for the Sunday Eucharistic lessons. I think it is appropriate that as we annually enter the seasons after Pentecost, a season that is not about feasting or fasting, it is good to remember our spiritual forbearer who journeys, literally and metaphorically. It is a fine grounding in our path through life at this time of year.

My second reading in this area is a more recent publication by a Franciscan priest and scholar, Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for Two Halves of Life*. This is a book about journeying through life, and about there being a real purpose for what we do although many, if not most, never figure this out. Life's first half is about establishing identity outside of our home, following very important structures to get us to adulthood, and learning the basics of faith. The second half of life is about finding and carrying out the purpose for which God made us. But Rohr makes the very convincing case that we do not learn these very important lessons with-

Rector...continued on page 2



*Jackie Barrows
Sr. Warden*

Message From the Senior Warden

We had a wonderful turnout for the kick-off capital campaign at the DeWolf Tavern. We had 110 members of the congregation present to hear about our capital needs, how the program will work, introductions to the committee members and a wonderful talk by Ray Payson about what St. Michael's Church has meant to him. Clearly there is a great deal of love for our parish by our members.

The promotion's committee will be sending out the first newsletter with pictures of the event. So watch for your copy.

In addition to campaign gifts from our members we are looking at grants to help with our buildings. A grant application was submitted in April for assistance with the maintenance of the bell tower in our memorial garden. This was sent to the Champlin Foundation. We do not expect to hear from the foundation until later this year when they review all grant requests. Other foundations are being explored as well. Typically a foundation will not grant monies for interior work, but will provide grants for exterior work.

Larry Wilson and Gail Storms are the co-chairs for the campaign. I would like to thank them for their oversight and thank all the committee members who are working to make this a successful venture.

Please consider offering a gift, any amount is welcome and appreciated.



*The Clergy, Wardens, Vestry and Staff wish you a
Happy and Safe 4th of July.*

Rector...continued from page 1

out having failed. It is his belief that in falling into God's grace, we begin to move into deeper meaning and deeper service, and, therefore, eventually fall up.

Abraham is, as I pointed out on Sunday, June 27, one of the prime examples of falling into God's grace. He fell into the journey, he fell into the land of Canaan, and he fell into his family. In fact, Abraham's greatest successes are the result of what God did for him, not what he did for himself. Most of Abraham's enterprises were failures.

My musings on this theme are certainly intended for individuals reading this month's *Wings*. Where are you on your journey?

I am also intrigued by the place on the journey for the parish as a whole. Yes, institutions have journeys just as people do, and they have life spans as well. We are certainly not a new institution. If the first half of St. Michael's life has been three hundred years, then we will have had quite a long life by the second half's end.

But more than years; are we falling into grace? Can we fall into grace? Falling into grace is much harder than imagined because it takes our success out of the mix and puts God's strength, identity, and purpose right in the middle.

During this next year we will be working hard on the first half of life issues: building structures for the life of this parish. We will continue working on stewardship awareness, we will be renewing old buildings; we will be reworking long term ministries.

But assume that first and foremost we are called by God to be in relationship to this world through Christ, that we are mediators of Christ's love, and that we need to help train each other and those who are not yet in our midst on how to do this. Focusing on second half of life things is necessary for life beyond rebuilding and renewing. It is the very core of our calling from God. It is the real purpose of our journey together.



Garry Holmstrom Jr. Warden

From the Junior Warden

We must all take stock of our Stewardship to St Michael's in order to appreciate what we have collectively achieved over the past year of constructive dialogue, understanding and very importantly - action . The energies and generosity you extended to maintain our extraordinary heritage allowed the following: re-roof the leaking Tildesley Building roof, contract to replace the failing Holmes House furnace, and contract to preserve and paint the Holmes House. Soon to be added will be repairs to the Church and Parish Hall roof that is leaking and causing minor damage. We want to stop damage now to reduce maintenance costs in the future.

As we do these necessary acts of Stewardship we should also celebrate our continuing support and responsible nurturing of this community and needy causes where possible. Are these two connected? Yes – absolutely. We are a living Parish because we extend generosity to those in need. We maintain what we have in order to increase what we can afford further service. We can do more if we are good stewards of the impressive Missions that draws others to us. They seek a meaningful place to worship and to celebrate making a difference in the lives of young families and young adults. It is a complete cycle. These Youth will appreciate what you are now doing and will want to continue the outreach during their terms of leadership at SMC.

Thanks for your understanding and for continuing the cycle of Stewardship and Service to our Missions.

Garry

“The Campaign to Preserve Our Future”

- Total Amount Pledged to date: \$177,100
- Total Number of Pledges received: 31
- The range of Pledges made: \$300 to \$30,000
- The Average Pledge amount: \$5713

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.



OFFICE HOURS
JULY 1- SEPTEMBER 6TH
8:30AM- NOON



Matt Kirchner
Treasurer

Treasurer's Two Cents

What a difference a month makes, as the last installment of TTC was before the successful Capital Campaign dinner. Now with the hard work of our co-Chairs Gail Storms and

Larry Wilson and so many in the congregation, we are well on our way with the Campaign. Pledges continue to come in and work has already started on our buildings. Old fashioned and methods for the tech savvy are available to share in this effort. If you have any questions, please include me with the Co-Chairs as ever-ready to respond to your questions at m.kirchner@cox.net or 401.225.8392.

Your Finance Committee and Vestry are also providing other leadership for St. Michael's in our initiatives to be more self sustaining. It is a challenging and exciting time to be involved with so many talented committed colleagues in the pursuit of God's mission for us all here at St. Michael's.



EIGHT ST. MICHAEL'S FOYER GROUPS joined hands on June 25th and dined together in a pot-luck supper at the Bristol Highlands Community House. The program during the first six months of this year has been very popular, with new friends and old enjoying the hospitality of each others' homes. The program will begin anew in 2012. Co-chairs are Gail Storms, Nancy Grandgeorge and Marcia Bosworth.



Call for Ushers

Ushering is a vital and distinctive ministry of our church. Ushers do more than seat worshippers, bring the offerings to the altar, and manage the flow of traffic during Communion. Along with our greeters, the ushers welcome worshippers as they enter the church and deliver the Sunday bulletin which is our order of service. As usher you help to seat those who seem hesitant about where to sit, assist those who may need an arm to lean on, and guide those to available seating when the church is full. They are also among the first people called upon to help if worshippers have questions or if problems arise during the service (such as when someone needs direction to a rest room or when a medical emergency arises). After service, the ushers ensure that the bulletins have been collected from the pews and that the pews are in order. Ushers are assigned to their preferred time of service and generally volunteer once a quarter. We are in need of additional volunteers to fill this important role for both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. Please consider this opportunity for participation. You can call Jackie Barrows at 301-0686 or email Jackie at jbarrows3@cox.net. Once we have a list of additional volunteers a meeting will be scheduled for current and new ushers to retrain and review procedures.



SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: ST. MICHAEL'S CHICKEN BBQ
WHEN: SEPTEMBER 25TH
WHERE: MT. HOPE FARM
SERVICE AT NOON FOLLOWED
BY CHICKEN BBQ
VOLUNTEERS FOR PIT CREW :
(HEAVY LIFTERS) NOW BEING ACCEPTED!

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

First Annual “Art in the Close” a Great Success!

On Saturday, June 4th, the St. Michael’s Choristers hosted Art in the Close, an outdoor art sale to help raise funds for our RSCM program. Organized primarily by Parish Choir member JP Fernandes, the event was a great success. Fourteen artists displayed their paintings, photographs, and sculptures in the Close and on the church’s iron fence along Hope Street. The weather was picture picture perfect, and our participating artists were very happy with foot traffic and art sales. Many thanks to all our parishioners and Choristers for their help in making this first year a remarkable success!



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ART
IN THE
CLOSE



Choristers Move Up in *Voice for Life* Curriculum

Congratulations to all our Choristers who successfully completed the requirements to move to the next level in the *Voice for Life* curriculum. On June 5 at the 10 a.m. Eucharist, Fr. Lucey promoted the following Choristers to their new levels:

Dark Blue

Ophelia Fernandes
Colin Redlich*

Light Blue

Gianna Boothman
Lydia Wilson

White

Jenna Goulart
Mark Orban

* denotes Head Chorister

Now Recruiting Singers for All Choirs

If you or someone you know loves to sing, you are invited to sing in one of our choirs at St. Michael's. No matter your age, we have choir for you!

- The St. Michael's Angel Choir (ages 4-7) is an exciting preparatory music program that combines music, movement, and play to teach fundamental music making skills that prepare our young ones for a lifetime of successful music making. Rehearsals are held on Friday afternoons from 3:45 to 4:15 and conclude with a light snack (beginning after Labor Day).

- The St. Michael's Choristers (ages 8-16) is a Royal School of Church Music in the centuries-old tradition of the cathedral choir schools of England. The program provides a first-rate music education for free to anyone interested, regardless of religious affiliation. The Choristers rehearse weekly on Friday afternoons from 4:30 to 6:30 (starting after Labor Day). Beginning in September, they will vest weekly along with the Parish Choir at all 10 a.m. Eucharists!

- The St. Michael's Parish Choir (ages 17+) is a wonderful way to use your talents and skills as a musician to the service of the Church and the glory of God. We rehearse weekly on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. and vest each week at the 10 a.m. Eucharist from September to June. The Parish Choir also sings three Evensongs annually. Prior training and the ability to read music is not required but is helpful and desired.

We are always looking for new, enthusiastic singers to join our program. If you think you might be interested, please contact our organist and choirmaster, Waylon Whitley, by phone at 253-7717 or by email at waylon.whitley@gmail.com.



'The Glass Castle' is a 2005 memoir by Jeannette Walls. The book recounts her and her siblings' unconventional, poverty-stricken upbringing at the hands of their deeply dysfunctional parents

The Walls family roams across the American Southwest during the first half of the book, living briefly in various trailer parks and obscure desert mining towns. They live for a time in Battle Mountain, NV before moving to Phoenix and eventually settling in Welch, WV. The second half of the book recounts the family's descent into a life of abject poverty in Appalachia. As soon as the Walls children are able, they flee to New York City where the final chapters take place. Lori leaves first, right after she graduates from high school, Jeannette leaves next and stays with Lori until she has enough money to get her own place. Then later on Brian moves out there too, eventually followed by Maureen a few years later. Many years after that, their parents move to New York, but since they don't have any money they decide to be homeless, stating that it is simply an adventure.

You can order this book for under \$10.00 at Amazon.com.

The meeting will be held on Monday, July 18 at 7 p.m. at the home of Jackie Barrows, 41 Ridge Road. Please RSVP at 301-0686 as refreshments are served.

"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 19

Tuesday, August 16





Tuesday, September 20

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

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Please place on your refrigerator.

JULY 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26  8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 1:00 PM 4th of July Interfaith Service	27 7:00 PM Book Group	28 8:00 AM BUZZ Group	29 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM Centering Prayer	30 6:30 PM Yoga	1 (Greyed out)	2  9:00 AM Used Book Sale and Ice Cream Social
3 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	4  OFFICE CLOSED	5 8:00 AM BUZZ Group	6 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM Centering Prayer	7 6:30 PM Yoga	8 (Greyed out)	9 (Greyed out)
10 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	11 (Greyed out)	12 8:00 AM BUZZ Group 6:00 PM Reach Out Committee	13 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM Centering Prayer	14 6:30 PM Yoga	15 (Greyed out)	16 (Greyed out)
17 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	18 6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting	19 8:00 AM BUZZ Group 7:00 PM Vesty Meeting	20 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM Centering Prayer	21 6:30 PM Yoga	22 WINGS deadline	23 (Greyed out)
24 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	25 (Greyed out)	26 8:00 AM BUZZ Group	27 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM Centering Prayer	28 6:30 PM Yoga	29 (Greyed out)	30 (Greyed out)
31  8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist	1 (Greyed out)	2 8:00 AM BUZZ Group	3 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 8:30 AM Centering Prayer	4 6:30 PM Yoga	5 (Greyed out)	6 (Greyed out)



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

Kathleen Marabello	07/04	John Godwin	07/23
Logan Medeiros	07/05	Carole Cargill	07/25
Virginia Kinder	07/06	Linda Arruda	07/25
Carol Landry	07/06	Jana Cabral	07/25
Joseph Farrell-Teixeira	07/09	Thomas Breslin	07/27
Susan Donovan	07/11	Glenn Donovan	07/27
Jennifer Giles	07/13	Carol Wardwell	07/28
Madison Medeiros	07/13	Hannah Kirchner	07/28
Erich Heilborn	07/14	Nancy Moger	07/29
Charlotte Silvia	07/16	William Wardwell	07/30
Pearson Handley	07/19	Nicole Cote	07/30



Attics, Poke Holes, Button Boxes and Barns

by Marcia Bickford Torrey

My entire life I have been fascinated by the castoffs of my ancestors. Rainy days, in the summer, found me poling about in my Grandmother Dexter's dusty attic that smelled like old wood and warm oatmeal. Button boxes were particularly fascinating. I remember a small black box which contained numerous brass eagle buttons. Somewhere in a dusty photo album is a picture of me at age six wearing a navy blue coat with replicas of those same buttons. My hair is short and straight and a hair ribbon hangs at half mast. There are glass buttons, pearl buttons, and jet black mourning buttons. My favorites are of the Eiffel tower and the other with the medical symbol as no one in my family ever visited Paris and none were inclined to enter the medical profession, I can only surmise that they were ripped from a lover's dress or jacket during a moment of passion.

I must be brief as grammas' attic was like the Smithsonian, filled with history. An old RCA Victor phonograph contained a goodly supply of Enrico Caruso's records. By today's standards the sound was tinny and hard to control but when Caruso hit the high notes, I feared for the state of my grandmother's skylights!

Without ever realizing it, I collected replicas of grammas' attic. My walls are covered with painting, etchings and prints all of tiny cottages tucked into a sand dune or beside lichen covered stone walls that meander through fields of green. They are all reminiscent of my past and give me great comfort. As an only child I often had to compensate for my lack of companionship by using my imagination and delving into the past and lives of others.

My Bristol grandmother who lived on Constitution Street in what had been her family homestead had two great barns on the property, the remnants of an 1800 ropewalk called Sparks Ropewalk. It was where large coils of rope were made for the sailing ships. Sparks was Bristol's last ropewalk. The barns stand today as a reminder of a profession that has gone the way of the great sailing ships.

I was not allowed to roam the upper levels of the barns but the beauty of the great beams and the distorted landscape I saw through the wavy glass windows fascinated me. I dreamed that one day I would have the south barn converted into a delightful loft. At today's prices it will have to remain a figment of my overactive imagination.

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

Summer Office Hours: M-F 8:30am - Noon

Worship Services:

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

visit our WEBSITE at:
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 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.



July 3, Sunday 2:00pm
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol
Celebrant: The Rev. Mark DeWolf

July 5, 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.

Book Sale and Ice Cream Social!



at St. Michael's Church

Saturday, July 2, 2011
9:30AM - 4:00PM

in the parish courtyard*

Stop by for good
neighbors, good reads,
and good eats!

St. Michael's Church
Corner of Church and Hope Streets
Bristol, RI

*If it's raining, the event will be held across the
street, in St. Michael's Parish Hall