

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*

## What Happens to Your Thinking When All Your Children Are Pentecost Children

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

*Acts 2:2-4*

The title above is long winded. It also reminds me of the very descriptive but unimaginative titles of the academic articles I read in seminary. They almost always represented the contents fairly but they were hardly gripping.

I hope this one is a little better; it will certainly be shorter. The title above is a true title. Colbert, Carolyn, Diana, George, and Virginia Lee were all baptized on the Feast of Pentecost. What started as a coincidence became a family tradition, with all sorts of intended and unintended consequences, both good and bad.

Among the bad unintended consequences is that Gee, who was already two years old when she was baptized in Maine, put up the kind of fight one expects from a cat when giving it a bath. One of the good consequences of that moment was to cause me to focus on just how wild a thing baptism is. It is not a sacrament, no matter how we work to domesticate it, that should be viewed as a photo-op; full of cuddly and cherubic children, although that is nice when it happens. Instead baptism is a moment of Godly creativity, between the person being baptized and the Holy Spirit. And that moment and that event are not necessarily gentle or kind. Godly creativity is powerful and often wild. That verse in this excerpt from the first Pentecost talks about

the coming of the Holy Spirit as "the rush of a violent wind."

Now, I maintain, that the wind heard by those disciples was really the laugh of delight of a powerfully creative God. But being human, and fragile, variable, and all the frailties that we are subject to, I do not believe the people present in Jerusalem that Pentecost could have heard that moment and that wind in any other way. God is God and we are not. We do not, as a rule, move gently toward God. We move that way fearfully, fitfully, and I might add, wisely.

It is also true that in evaluating the presence of the Holy Spirit, the spirit is wilder by definition. The early church writings concerning the Holy Spirit recognized that where it showed up, wildness was often nearby—in the chaos of creation, in the parting of the Red Sea, in the coming from heaven at the baptism of Jesus, and, as I might add in the thrashing and discomfiture of Gee five years ago this Sunday.

What I think is also true about these moments is that whatever they initiated as the event unfolded, they were more about the aftermath than the event. The church was created at Pentecost, but it has been being created ever since. More has been done in the formation of life lived than the momentary thrall of the event. Israel may have been formed as a people at the Red Sea, but it was their living in faith that has become the hallmark of their character. Jesus may have been anointed at his baptism. But it was in his journey to and in Jerusalem that he set the standard of life in God.

*Rector continued on page 2...*

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## Rainy Day Reflections

by Marcia Bickford Torrey

We are so obsessed with the weather that we yearn for sunny skies and puffy clouds and we repeat the familiar rainy day chant from our untainted childhood—Rain, rain, go away, come again another day. I never felt that way as a child for I dreamed of an occasional rainy day so that I might explore the attic rooms and poke-holes of my Vineyard grandmother's house.

Sunny days I was sent outside to climb trees, go to the beach, push my mother's doll buggy to the nearby neighbor's garden or push myself on the old swing, higher and higher until I was certain that I would become one with the great cumulus clouds that hung over Edgartown on hot August days. For all this pleasure, I still wanted nothing more than my rainy day in the attic. It was really the top floor of grandma's house where mother and I slept but it was also a reservoir of family history and mementos from the past. Raindrops ran down the skylights like a widow's tears that fall on downy soft cheeks. The familiar smell of warm oatmeal drifted up the staircase while I read my grandmother's poignant poetry, discovered Enrico Caruso's golden voice on the oak gramophone where one had only to open the doors and the magnificent tones filled the attic rooms. I was certain the vibration would cause the glass in the skylights to shatter into a million pieces.

Who doesn't love to walk in the rain, all toasty warm and dry under your favorite umbrella? Several years ago my husband presented me with a Vineyard Gazette umbrella that I treasure. It is oversized with the words "Vineyard Gazette" embossed around the perimeter. The Gazette has been the weekly newspaper on the Vineyard for one hundred and sixty-nine years, semi-weekly during the summer months. It prints nothing but local news and the impressive photography that graces its pages consists of town meetings, spring births of baby lambs and of horses grazing in fields of wildflowers and of magnificent stone walls that were built by hearty souls who cleared the land in order to farm.

Rainy days are for making fudge, pulling taffy, reading a good book while listening to the classical station on my Bose radio. They are also for going to the movies with your best beau, for holding hands and eating popcorn with lots of salt and butter.

When I was seventeen, I fell madly in love with my third cousin who was eight years older than I. Needless to say our families were not overjoyed. He had served in World War II, was shot down and captured by the enemy and became a prisoner of war. We met shortly after his release. He was raised on the Vineyard. The war interrupted his studies at Bowdoin. We had a magical summer. The day we said our goodbyes was dark and rainy. We sat in his old Studebaker in a place where our ancestor, Thomas Mayhew preached to the Wampanoag. My heart was as heavy as the rain that obscured our view of the tiny Mayhew Chapel before us. I never expected that our goodbyes would be so permanent but our relationship was but a fleeting moment in time. He returned to finish his senior year at Bowdoin, and I, my senior year at Colt Memorial. During those days it was not considered a wise thing to do, to marry one's third cousin. Today, one thinks nothing of it. My cousin was stricken with polio during the epidemic of nineteen fifty-five. He became ill on a Monday and died on a Wednesday. I have never forgotten this gentle man who shared my love of the Vineyard. Today he lies on a Vineyard hillside in a tiny cemetery surrounded by lilac, songs of the birds and an afternoon breeze that stirs the American flag at his final resting place.

In days of pain  
And days of hope  
My heart feels  
The joy of love again

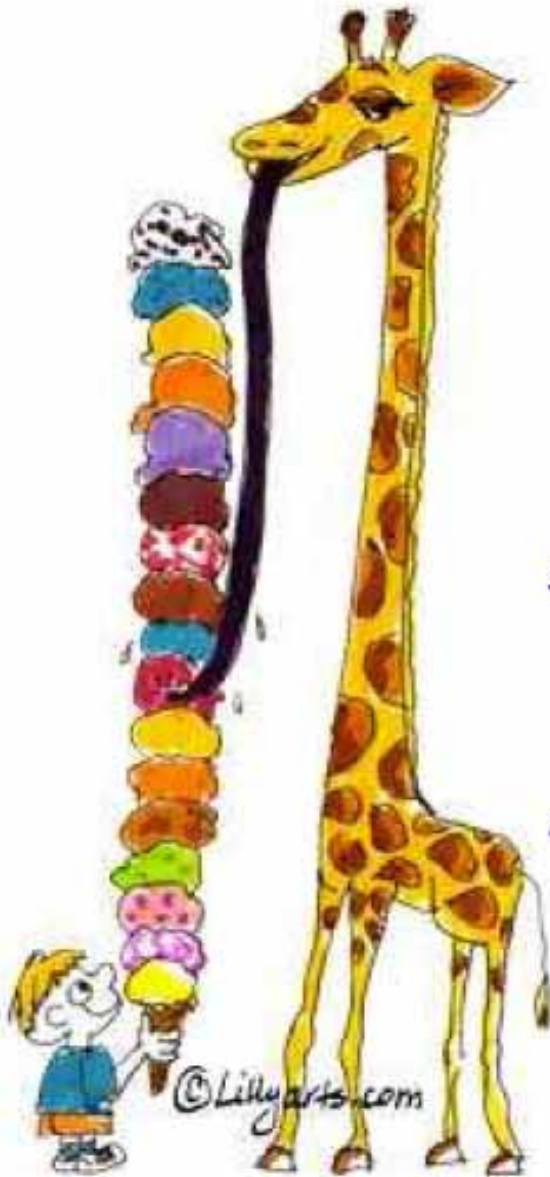
*MBT*



## Free Yoga at St. Michael's for the Summer

The benefits of yoga for physical well being are well documented and widely endorsed. The benefits of yoga's spiritual well being are not as well understood in our culture. Christians are exploring the connection between physical and spiritual health with yoga. A group is forming at St. Michael's to experience what yoga can do for them. Join us in the Ivy Room for these free sessions which will be lead by Louisa Jones. The sessions will be at 6pm on Thursdays June 11, 25 and July 9 and 23. Wear comfortable clothes, good socks and bring a mat or beach towel. If you have questions, please call Louisa at 396-5067.

# Ice Cream Social and Book Sale!



at St. Michael's

June 6, 10am-3pm

in the parish courtyard\*

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

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



\*If it's raining, the event will be held across  
the street, in St. Michael's parish hall.

## Upcoming June Event Seeking Donations!!

As you are doing your spring cleaning and sorting through your books over the coming weeks, please keep St. Michael's in mind. We are seeking donations of used, "clean and in good condition" child and adult books for re-sale. Please drop them off at the church office or call one of the following for pickup arrangements. For information on volunteering opportunities at this event, please contact: Elaine Cohen: 401-644-9414, Joanna Ziegler: 401-396-9738, or Jackie Barrows: 401-253-0462.



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

Sunday, June 7, 2009 at the 10am service we will recognize all children in the Sunday school and Angel Choir as well as the dedicated teachers who give so generously of their time and talents to the Christian formation of our children.

The children will be participating in this service as ushers, readers, acolytes, and as singers in the Angel Choir. Come and hear a little bit about the *Royal School of Church Music Program* that St. Michael's will be starting. This is a very important day in the life of your child(ren) as well as that of St. Michael's Church.

***WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!!!!***





Anne McCarthy

## Spirit

Last month, I attended the Celebration of Life service for a woman I had known for many years; a woman, named Catherine, who always smiled and was loving and giving. Her former daughter-in-law gave the eulogy and Kathy's choice of words (She's an English professor) succeeded in depicting the essence, the spirit of my former neighbor, a woman for whom I had occasionally babysat as a young girl.

When I hear the word "spirit" I think of it in a personal way - the character, goodness, generosity, courage - the sum of a person, "the non-corporeal you". When someone leaves the corporeal world, a part of that person remains with us - their spirit remains with us. For me, their light still shines and their love LASTS.

But we are among the living and I know, as you do, that when we leave church after a conversation, an encounter, a smile, a wave of the hand in acknowledgment, that the spirit of that person or persons accompanies us. The essence remains with us that day and even days later. I know this happens to me. My spirit is lifted by input from another spirit and the encounter sustains me.

As a young girl, I had occasion to meet a dental hygienist, who influenced me by creating an increased awareness on the importance of good dental care. Muriel gifted me with an inspirational card upon my graduation from Jr. High School (Middle School). The card read: "Let me be Joy, be Hope, let my life Sing."

The spirit encourages hope, joy and song in us to be shared with others." Muriel's card inspired me then and the words have remained with me in good times and difficult times. Hope, joy and song keep my spirit uplifted. I have to remind myself of those positive words because there are occasions when I can't feel uplifted because I am exposed to situations that are HEAVY. The "still small voice" reminds me not to miss the spirit.

Note: As a Parish Nurse, my commitment is to spirit care and opportunities to offer this care come by way of referrals, encounters, and visits.

- Anne McCarthy

June Observances... The observances for this month include Home Safety, National Safety, and Vision Research.

## Recap of Sr. Adult Luncheon

The Sr. Adult Luncheon, sponsored by monies in the Parish Nurse Fund, was successful. Those who attended enjoyed the good food prepared by Frangelica, a local caterer and the socialization afforded them as they sat and ate their meal. Candace Stanley wrote invitations, made telephone calls and secured the caterer. Her mom, Edith Turner, helped Candace serve the food. My sister, Louise DelVecchio (Woodridge Congregational Church) helped me wash dishes and set up tables and chairs the day before the luncheon. Elaine and Max Cohen were the dishwashers the day of the luncheon. What a group of people! Thank you.



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







Barbara Albee	06/01	Mary Millard	06/16
Ted Barrows	06/01	Caroline Nash	06/16
Fredric Rounds	06/01	Kevin Handley	06/17
Terry Taylor	06/01	William Moger	06/18
Mason Kachapis	06/01	Nicholas Castigliero	06/21
Thomas Harden	06/03	June McNelis	06/22
Manuel Furtado	06/07	Maxwell Handley	06/23
Melissa Black	06/07	Richmond Cargill	06/25
Joseph Faulkner	06/08	Dinah Baker	06/26
Jillian Landry	06/11	Gretchen Gammons	06/26
Ryan DiPippo	06/11	Douglas Darnbrough	06/26
Cara Donovan	06/11	William Wardwell	06/27
Joseph Kinder	06/12	Freda Doyle	06/28
Alexis Dodge	06/12	Edward Gammons	06/30
Lydia Wilson	06/14	Martha Fulton	06/30

### Wedding Anniversaries

Jeffrey and Mandi Mascola	06/01
Mary Beth and Arthur Manuel	06/03
Jennifer and Mark DeWolf	06/05
David and Meredith Cassick	06/05
David and Jaclyn Vargas	06/05
Bryon and Debra Waddell	06/10
Erin and Glenn Donovan	06/11
Joseph and Linnea Kinder	06/16
Raymond and Marcia Payson	06/21
George and Kerri Duarte	06/23
Martha and Kevin Handley	06/24
Beth and Chris Fay	06/24
Betty and Kenneth Burkhardt	06/28
Helen and Manuel Sousa	06/28

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR

*Please place on your refrigerator.*

JUNE 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31  8am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Child Care 10:00 AM Baptism and Holy Eucharist	1 6:30 PM Finance Committee	2 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist-Silver Creek NH	3	4	5	6  10:00 AM Book Sale & Ice Cream Social
7  8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Child Care 10:00 AM Recognition Sunday	8 6:30 PM Finance Committee	9 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist-St. Elizabeths Manor	10	11 6:00 PM Christian Yoga Classes 7:30 PM Book Group	12	13
14  8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Child Care	15	16 3:00 PM Holy Eucharist-Grace Barker NH 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	17	18	19	20
21  8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Child Care	22	23 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist-Haven Health NH	24	25 6:00 PM Christian Yoga Classes 7:30 PM Book Group	26	27 Bristol Good Neighbors Tag Sale
28  8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Blood Drive 9:00 AM Child Care	29	30	1	2	3	4

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

June 7, Sunday 2:00 pm  
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol  
Celebrant: The Rev. Mark DeWolf  
June 2, Tuesday 11:00am  
Silver Creek Nursing Home, Bristol  
June 9, Tuesday 10:00am  
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol  
June 16, Tuesday 3:00pm  
Grace Barker, Warren  
June 23, Tuesday 10:30am  
Warren Nursing, Warren  
Celebrant: The Rev. David J. Lucey

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**  
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*Founded in 1718*

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

**Office Hours:** M-F 8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

#### **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.