

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*

## Realignment

By the time you receive this edition of *Wings* we will be into the church season of Lent. That is a season characterized by the overarching theme of repentance.

Now, the image that always comes to my mind when I think of the topic of repentance is a New Yorker cartoon with a man in full beard, long hair, a robe and sandals carrying a sign in Times Square which says: "Repent—The End Is Near."

I have taken that cartoon personally at times, especially after I met a man who ran a safe house in Times Square for runaway teenagers. He looked in many ways like the man in the drawing and when I spoke to him he had a theology that seemed to match the one in the sign.

Over time I have become less intimidated but still serious about the season and have come to embrace Lent more and more, but not quite the same way that cartoon might encourage me. No, that cartoon was about judgment, with a heavy flavoring of condemnation and a limited sense of grace. As I learned more about Lent and about repentance I know that grace has a lot more to do with Lent than condemnation.

My understanding of Lent has evolved in many ways. The idea of repentance is now much more on the act of turning from following my ways to remembering and acting in the ways of God and Christ. Looking at repentance this way is more about embracing the opportunity to reorient myself, which is all about the grace of time, emphasis and action. It is intentional time of realignment.

Right now I can take some comfort in the idea that part of my new orientation just is. Watching the sun move across the sky, feeling the chill of the Bristol breezes off the water, encountering the rhythms of St. Michael's in worship and community, finding ways for my children to adapt to new schools and new friends are all ways that I am realigning my life to this community. These signs are reminders to me of other realignments that I must make in my life. Those other actions have to do with God's kingdom that can be summarized as realigning to the ways of personal holiness, corporate hospitality, public worship and community care.

During this season of Lent join us in the worship forms and activities of ministry that call us into that realignment of

life that leads to the fullness of God's love in Christ. The opportunities of eating, praying, singing, worshipping and serving together are part of this newsletter. Look them over. If you are already committed, then continue. If you have not joined in, try one or some. I look forward to sharing with you in this holy season of realignment.

In peace,  
David

## A Note From The Rev. Paul Twelves

Dear Friends at St. Michael's,

I left you on February 1 with memories of a happy send-off and of a similarly happy five months with you. Thank you for the water-color of St. Michael's, for the birthday cake and for your many words of appreciation. And, most importantly, thank you for your warm welcome of me into your life.

The water-color of the church stands prominently in a gallery of photos of some of the many churches I have served. Yes, the others are photos – St. Michael's is a painting!

One of the pleasures of being an interim, especially as a senior member of the clergy, is helping a congregation prepare to welcome a new leader. I have every sense that you are well prepared to welcome David Lucey as your new rector, and pray for God's continuing blessing upon you and him and your common ministry.

Faithfully yours,  
Paul 12s



**Don't forget to turn your clocks  
ahead by one hour on Saturday,  
March 7th.**



If you would like to be baptized or have a child to be baptized please contact the church office. Our next service of Holy Baptism will be held at 7:30pm on Saturday, April 11th at the Easter Vigil.

Palm Sunday-April 5  
8am, 10am and 6pm - Blessing of the Palms and  
Passion Narrative

Wednesday in Holy Week - April 8  
7:00am - Holy Eucharist  
6:30pm - Stations of the Cross

Maundy-Thursday-April 9  
6:30-8:00pm- Dinner and footwashing  
followed by Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday-April 10  
Noon and 7:00pm- Good Friday Liturgy and  
Passion Narrative

Great Vigil of Easter-April 11  
7:30pm- Baptism and the Great Vigil

Easter-April 12  
8am and 6pm-Holy Eucharist  
10am-Festive Holy Eucharist

## **Are You Ready To Be Confirmed or Received?? or Just Want to Learn More About The Episcopal Church??**

Are you ready to spend a few weeks learning about the Episcopal Church so that you can become a real live bona-fide Episcopalian??

Just in case you did not study the Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer when you were a kid, you can study it and other materials with others now and be received as an Episcopalian -- or confirmed in the Episcopal Church. There will be a service of confirmation at the Cathedral on May 2, 2009.

Get more information about the Church, about how our teaching is the same and where it varies from other traditions. It is a short and interesting series of classes... So join the fun...

We will have a six-week series of classes during Lent. Please speak to David Lucey or call the office -- 253-7717- - and give your name to Betty Vargas if you are interested in attending.

## **“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 possibly participating sometime in the future in the governance of St. Michael's, please come and join us.

The Vestry meets once a month usually the 3rd Tuesdays. Here is our scheduled meeting dates for the next three months. All meetings are at 7pm in the Tildesley Bldg.

Tuesday, March 17

Tuesday, April 21

Tuesday, May 19

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

**O'Michael's Irish Pub and Café**  
St. Patrick's Day

RAFFLE  
RAFFLE



RAFFLE  
RAFFLE

Saturday, March 21, 2009  
6:00 pm- St. Michael's Parish House  
Adult: \$10.00 Children 11-17: \$3.00  
10 and Under -FREE

Please sign up at the back of the church following services or at the church office Monday-Friday. Only 100 seats available

**O'Michael's own** Glazed Corned Beef  
Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots  
Irish Bread



Irish Stout and Lager will  
be available for sale.

# PARISH NEWS



## What's Next for Evening Study?

Lent prepares us for the mystery that is Easter. One of the major events in the days before Easter is the celebration of Passover by Jesus and his disciples. Passover is a Jewish tradition that celebrates G-d leading his people out of bondage and into the Promised Land. This traditional feast of the Jewish faith is also part of the Christian heritage. In the early days of Christianity, the Eucharist was virtually indistinguishable from a Passover Seder. What does a Seder teach us today about our faith? St. Michael's will hold a Christian Seder on Thursday, April 2 at 7pm in the parish house. In order to prepare, we will dedicate our Evening Study program to an exploration of Passover and its traditions. These sessions will be March 12 and 26 at 7:30pm in the Ivy Room of the Tildesley building. Whether or not you can make these meetings, please plan to participate in our Seder. There are important parts for everyone from the youngest to the oldest and even for the visitor. More details will be provided as the time approaches. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call Louisa Jones at 396-5067.

## Benefits of Volunteering

*Submitted by Elaine Cohen*

Whether it is important to you to solve a community problem, advance a worthy cause or to develop as a person, volunteering offers many benefits in appreciation for the gift of your time and expertise. Volunteering can help you:

- Make important networking contacts
- Learn or develop skills
- Teach your skills to others
- Enhance your résumé
- Gain work experience
- Build self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improve your health
- Meet new people
- Feel needed and valued
- Express gratitude for help you may have received in the past from an organization
- Communicate to others that you are ambitious, enthusiastic and care about the community
- Make a difference in someone's life



Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

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

Gavin Palombo	03/01	Colin Mascola	03/14
Christine Medeiros	03/02	Logan Levesque	03/15
Gail Storms	03/03	Eldred Jones	03/16
Sylvia Bray	03/04	Robert Curran	03/18
Gregory Whritenour	03/04	Madeline Nash	03/20
Stephen Scolamiero	03/04	Manuel Vargas	03/22
Ryan Butler	03/05	Lynel Cote	03/22
Samuel Hollands	03/05	Eunice Hanson	03/23
Isoke Samuel	03/06	Joanne Teixeira	03/23
Elijah Ramsay	03/06	Stephen Knapman	03/23
Candace Stanley	03/07	Enzly Ramsay	03/24
Olivia Bennett	03/08	Marcia Robitaille	03/25
Waylon Whitley	03/09	John Barker	03/26
Will Fernandes	03/11	Thomas Santolupo	03/26
Elizabeth Munro	03/12	Elaina Cardullo	03/28
Andwele Samuel	03/13	Laura Butler	03/29
Kenneth Robitaille	03/14	Hunter Millan	03/29
Shawen Williams	03/14	Miles Millan	03/29
		Nancy Grandgeorge	03/31

### Wedding Anniversaries

Jonnie and Sandra Greer	03/01
Kenneth and Marcia Robitaille	03/20
Robert and Mary Bush	03/23

### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE FOR 2009

Pledging units: 93  
Amount pledged to date: \$111,720

*"Thank you"* to those who have already submitted their pledge for 2009, your quick response allows the Finance Committee to better prepare the budget for the new year.

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR

*Please place on your refrigerator.*

MARCH 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Child Care	2	3 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist-Silver Creek NH	4 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	5	6 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	7
8 8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Child Care 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Angel Choir Rehearsal	9	10 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist-St. Elizabeths Manor	11 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 7:30 PM Lenten Study Group	13 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	14
15 8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Child Care 9:45 AM Sunday School	16 11:30 AM Women's Group	17 3:00 PM Holy Eucharist-Grace Barker NH	18 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	19	20 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	21
22 8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Child Care 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:15 AM Angel Choir Rehearsal	23	24 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist-Haven Health NH	25 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	26 7:30 PM Lenten Study Group	27 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	28
29 8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Child Care 9:45 AM Sunday School	30	31	1 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	2	3 6:00 PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal	4



Anne McCarthy

# CONFIDENTIALITY

by Anne McCarthy, Faith Community Nurse

If you have been a patient in a hospital or have visited a physician's office (for an exam) you are already familiar with the signing of papers that read: "I have read..." or some words to that effect, which acknowledge your reading the privacy rules with regard to release of your medical information.

In 1996, HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability act) was enacted. Essentially, this act protects individuals (patients) from having their medical information released to insurers and providers without the individual's written consent.

In 2002, some churches reacted by having parishioners sign releases for information on specially designed cards in the anticipation of one's hospitalization. Some clergy anticipated rigid interpretation of the HIPAA regulations and rightly so. I have encountered this a number of times and it has been a national trend for Parish Nurses when they visit a hospital patient. That is why I have encouraged notifying the church office when one is being admitted to the hospital. "Churches are not specifically included in the HIPAA rules but they are encouraged to be sensitive to the person's right to have personal health information kept confidential." In trying to clarify the card issue, I contacted a Roman Catholic priest active in Health Ministry programs. The response I got was "let the hospital worry about it."

Now from the general to the specific and how confidentiality applies to Health Ministry in this church; I have not unnecessarily worried because most times a family member has briefed me on the medical history of a parishioner who has been hospitalized. But in my encounters with a parishioner I am oftentimes given information that cannot be shared, based on the stated wishes of that person and application of Professional Standards with regard to privacy. There have been instances where I have been asked not to share confidences with the clergy. I have honored the request but when a situation became unsafe or unstable used judgment in securing the clergy's input.

In the faith community, parishioners freely choose to share or not to share information about their medical condition(s) and that is a choice. When we as a church are aware of a member's illness we feel free to call on the phone, visit or send a card. There has been no problem up to this time and I would suggest it is because we are a close knit family at St. Michael's.

## 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**



- March 1, Sunday 2:00 pm  
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol  
Celebrant: The Rev. Mark DeWolf
- March 3, Tuesday 11:00am  
Silver Creek Nursing Home, Bristol
- March 10, Tuesday 10:00am  
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol
- March 17, Tuesday 3:00pm  
Grace Barker, Warren
- March 24, Tuesday 10:30am  
Warren Nursing, Warren  
Celebrant: The Rev. Cecilia Perry



## ST MICHAEL'S WOMENS 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.



# GOD SENDS HIS ANGELS IN MANY FORMS TO BRING US COMFORT, JOY AND PEACE

by Marcia Bickford Torrey

For a long time I didn't think that I could use this article for it is very personal but in my heart I feel compelled to do so. The events that follow brought my husband and me such comfort and, yes, unimaginable joy, at a time when we knew Dick's life was coming to an end.

It all began with the appearance of an owl that perched high upon the telephone wire outside of our kitchen window, its back to me. A week later, it appeared again on the rail of the back porch landing. This time we were eyeball to eyeball. It showed absolutely no fear. I was mesmerized by the feeling that it was there for a specific purpose. At the sound of a car, it flew off toward the north.

On Mother's Day in May, my daughter Jenny brought me a pot of variegated pansies which I immediately placed upon the rail of our front porch, directly opposite from the bedroom window. Two days later I went out to water. Raising my trusty watering can, I was amazed to see a perfectly shaped birds' nest smack dab in the middle of the pansy bed. I called my daughter who assured me the plant had not come with any extras.

It wasn't long before a fat robin appeared and periodically sat upon the nest – day and night. I managed to keep the edges watered so that the pansies would hide this strange chain of events. One morning, upon raising the window shade, I was surprised to see four gorgeous robin's egg blue eggs in the nest. I wasn't always sleeping well during those nights and I would raise the curtain and feast my eyes on this sweet robin who manned her post in rain and wind. I wanted to dash out with an umbrella but didn't want to draw attention to the maternity ward on my porch rail.

One morning when I raised the bedroom shade, I saw four balls of downy feathers in the nest. Mother robin was off gathering nourishment to keep up her strength and papa robin sat upon the telephone wire telling me in no uncertain peeps to back off. Eventually the balls of fluff turned into charming baby robins with mouths as big as Martha Rayes's. Mother robin still covered them at night. Neither wind nor rain could keep her from her motherly duties.

Their last day dawned bright and sunny. I went out with my watering can. The babies were lined up in the nest like sentinels facing me. As I raised my watering can they flew off in all directions. I was heartsick but my husband


said it was time for them to leave. As sick as my husband was, I would see him go into the bedroom and stand by the window to watch those endearing little creatures. Even our mailman would take a peek at them when he came up on the porch to deliver the mail.

Three months after Dick's death I was sitting on what was our bench during the days when he was able to watch the three-thirty Prudence Ferry. I heard a sound over my head; a very loud whoosh, whoosh whoosh. Looking up I saw a lone white swan heading north along the shoreline. Swans mate for life; if one dies the other remains alone.

My friends tell me that the owl was an omen, the birds meant a new life for me and the swan was Dick's way of telling me that he was fine but that it was time for him to leave and I must go on with my life.


I felt a strange sense of comfort from these phenomena. It has made me more alert to my surroundings. I feel that all of these tiny creatures were a gift from God. They brought me comfort, they made me smile and they gave me hope for the future.

## Step #6 of Effective

**6. Be willing to let people go in order to stay focused on your core mission.** 

It is more important for your church to be clear and steady about its core mission than it is to make everyone happy. Some people may be better off in another congregation. When folks are unhappy, connect, talk and pray. If things remain stuck, let them go with your blessing, giving priority to your mission.

## Step #6 of Ineffective

**6. Make it clear to all that the job of the Pastor(s) and staff is to keep every one, meaning church members, happy.** 

Think of your church as "The Love Boat," and the Pastor as the cruise director and activity planner. The job of clergy and staff members is to keep everyone on board happy. If someone is unhappy, it's a sure sign your Pastor is not doing the job.

\* Taken from *The 7 Habits of Highly Ineffective and Effective Churches* by Anthony B. Robinson

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 with the name and address to be removed and we will make the correction. Thank you.

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**

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*Time Dated Material -- Please Do Not Delay*



*Founded in 1718*

**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.