

*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*



## Let Me Tell You Something about Myself

I've been invited to be your interim priest for the next several months while the search for a new rector continues. Let me tell you about myself.

I've been a priest for nearly 55 years. Thirty-one of those years were in long-term rectorships of 20 and 11 years, and 15 years in interim ministry (nine years full-time and six part-time). The rest, as you've guessed is retirement.

I'm married to Joy, who is a physical therapist, doing home health care with the Visiting Nurse Association. Between us we have five children, near (East Coast) and far (Scotland and The Netherlands) - and four grandchildren (Philadelphia and Scotland). Joy is an active member at St. John's, Barrington, but will worship with us occasionally.

We've lived in Bristol, at North Farm, for 14 years. How did we come to move here? It was time to settle down in one place. We wanted to be near the water. We looked up and down the east coast, Maine to North Carolina. Gradually, our focus became Narragansett Bay - and then Bristol. We first considered North Farm when we were in Kansas City!

Why do I choose interim ministry, with its uncertainty about what's next - and where? (We moved eight times in nine years, spending time in New York, Ohio, Virginia, Missouri and Massachusetts before moving to RI and doing part-time ministry.)

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## Senior Warden's Corner

In the June issue of "Wings" I wrote about a birthday party. On September 28th we will celebrate the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels. We have normally gathered after the 10am service and had a large reception in the Rectory. This year we will honor our namesake, Saint Michael, by having a Birthday Party in the Parish House. This year marks the 290th Anniversary (er, Birthday) of Saint Michael's Church when some original Bristolians founded it. So, watch your mailboxes for an invitation to mark this milestone.

The Parish Development Group continues to meet and discuss enhancing our parish. We are planning on holding a parish gathering to meet with you sometime in October or November to discuss the 12 key areas that can make or break a church. I have participated in efforts like this elsewhere and it boils down to "doing the main thing". What we need from you is helping us discerning what IS our main thing. What do we do best. What are our strengths. Our next meeting is at 7pm, Tuesday, September 23rd, and I invite everyone who is interested to come to this meeting. What do you think the "12 Keys" are to be an effective and successful church? Come and join us.

See you at the BBQ on September 7th at Mount Hope Farm.



I like interim ministry because:

® I can say what I think needs to be said. It's often not welcomed initially but is ultimately. Am I suggesting that a "settled rector" cannot say what she thinks? It depends on how long he wants to stay settled!

® Interim ministry makes it easy for me to make a fresh start. People come to expect certain kinds of behavior from the rector - and resist when she tries to modify that behavior. Going to a new job every year makes it easier to change the way I do things. And, although I'm very senior, I need to be open continually to change in myself.

® Interim ministry is task oriented. The task is helping a congregation answer three questions: Where have we been? Where are we now? Where do we want to go? Your Self-Study Committee, along with David, has put those questions before you. You have answered with insight. Forget not those insights.

® It is short-term. To be sure, there's a lot to be said in favor of long-term ministry: the relationships nourished over the years, and the opportunity to be present pastorally over the long pull. There's nothing quite like officiating at the marriage of someone you baptized. But there's also much to be said in favor of short-term ministry: landing running, being upfront about challenges, tackling problems right off, getting to know people quickly and well.

I look forward to my time with you. I have a good feel for St. Michael's. David and I meet regularly for lunch to talk about the principles and practice of interim ministry. Not surprisingly, St. Michael's has often come up in our discussions.

We all need to be clear: my commitment to St. Michael's is part-time (16 hours weekly). That's not a lot, but it's what I'm ready to give. Given my experience, I can work efficiently. And with the support of our interim priest associates, strong staff and lay leadership much can be accomplished.

P. 12s

## **“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 rest of the year. All meetings are at 7pm in the Tildesley Bldg.

Tuesday, September 16th  
Tuesday, October 21st  
Tuesday, November 18th  
Tuesday, December 16th

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

## **Search Committee**

The Search Committee will have their first meeting on September 16 after a summer hiatus. Betsy Fornal from the Dioceses Office will join the meeting and bring new candidate profiles. The group is dedicated to meet weekly and develop enhanced interviewing techniques based on previous dialogues with candidates. The committee would like to thank Kevin Handley for his participation and insight. Vestry representation has passed on to Cathy Holmstrom. Our members are:

Susan Donovan  
Candace Stanley  
Cathy Holmstrom  
Frank Munro  
Linda Arruda  
Jackie Barrows  
Steve Scolamiero  
Nancy Grandgeorge

Please feel free to contact us anytime to discuss our mission and progress.

# PARISH NEWS

## What is Parish Development?

by Louisa Jones

### **Acts 21: 17 - 19, Paul's Arrival at Jerusalem**

When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers received us warmly. The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present. Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

Parish development, stewardship, every member canvas, ingathering; we have many labels for our re-evaluation of our shared mission. Each autumn, you receive a letter outlining the worthy ministries that were done in the name of the church and the many more that are needed. This represents a great effort in meeting attendance, budget development, and phone tree activity. Your stewardship committee labors to ensure that our work together continues to reflect Gospel teaching. Although we receive our brothers and sisters warmly when asked to participate in this labor, there is a sense of relief when the effort is concluded, the totals are reported and we can go back to life as usual.

### **2 Corinthians 3: 1-3, Letters from God**

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

This year your stewardship committee is doing something different to help focus the direction of our mission. We seek to involve everyone in the planning process, and are studying a book by Kennon Callahan, *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*. Callahan's work serves as a guide to the parish development process, and has been successfully used in many parishes across the country. Soon your committee will ask you to search your heart to help discern God's purpose for Saint Michael's.

### **1 Thessalonians 4: 1-2, Living to Please God**

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

We have learned a lot about what it means to respond to God's call and each other in the last few years. It is time to be renewed in the Spirit as we enter a new chapter in our lives together. Each of us has a contribution to make in the Kingdom. The committee is eager to know your heart in the matters that are important to all of us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone from the committee. Our work together is full of hope and promise and we can not wait to share it with you.

# PARISH NEWS



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.

## Wedding Anniversaries

Edith and Bill Turner	09/08
Andrew and Susan Nash	09/08
Sal and Sarah Abate	09/09
Amy and Kevin Fitzgerald	09/12
Jennifer and Scott Lial	09/14
Anne and Glenn Turgeon	09/15
David and Nicole Cairrao	09/20
Joseph and Kimberly Pires	09/23
Eric and Kathryn Dodge	09/23
Carol and Peter Willauer	09/30

## Birthdays

Ros Bosworth	09/02	Ronald Rodrigues	09/15
Priscill Usher	09/02	Veleta Almeida	09/17
Alan Storms	09/03	Gerald Furtado	09/17
Karen Vandermyde	09/03	Emma Santolupo	09/17
Leanne Gablinske	09/03	Alexandra Winnes	09/17
Maddox Canario	09/04	Veleta Curran	09/19
Franklyn Lohr	09/06	Daryl Wilbur	09/19
Shawn Keyser	09/08	Mandi Mascola	09/19
Lillian Barr	09/10	Jill Fernandes	09/20
Linda Levesque	09/11	Connor Mascola	09/21
Erin Donovan	09/11	Michele Bennett	09/23
Kristen Cordeiro	09/11	Ethan Collins	09/24
Charles Faulkner	09/11	William David Dobbins	09/25
Robert Faulkner	09/11	Susan Woodman	09/26
Jerry Pimental	09/12	Christopher James	09/26
Anthony Scolamiero	09/13	Eleanor Knapman	09/26
Kenneth Burkhardt	09/14	Rachel Magers	09/28
Ella Fitzgerald	09/14	William Fox	09/29
		Anthony Santolupo	09/30

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## SEPTEMBER 14 - 9:45 AM

Registration will take place on September 7 at the chicken BBQ or on Sunday September 14. All classes will take place on the upper level of the Tildesley Building. Child care is also available during the 10am service. We look forward to seeing everyone!

# PARISH NEWS

## Evening Book Study Resumes 11 September 7:30pm in the Ivy Room of the Tildesley Building.

For the remainder of Pentecost we will be studying Tom Sine's *The New Conspirators: Creating the Future One Mustard Seed at a Time*. We will be meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays at 7:30pm. Louisa Jones will be leading the group through the five conversations in the book.

Sine explores how Kingdom Come becomes Kingdom Now in these conversations by exploring how God is working on our generation. According to Sine, "God is doing something new through a new generation of innovators, risk takers and entrepreneurs." These new conspirators can be found in at least four streams: emerging, missional, mosaic {multi-cultural} and monastic. Some are creating innovative missional expressions of church; some are creating sustainable communities that work with the poor. Others are using the arts to create imaginative forms of environmental advocacy. Still others are creating new ways to celebrate the in-breaking of God's new order. These conspirators are all imagining new ways, in these uncertain times, to give creative expression to that new world Jesus told us is already here. These new conspirators are not only creating new models but they are also raising important questions about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, be the church and do mission that need to be discussed by the entire church. "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed," Jesus says in the Gospel of Matthew, "nothing will be impossible for you." Tom Sine invites readers to join a new generation of conspirators and discover how God can more fully use our mustard seeds to be a difference and make a difference that reflects something of God's kingdom.

Why don't you discover why there is such a buzz about *The New Conspirators: Creating the Future One Mustard Seed at a Time*...and join the conspiracy???. Books are available at A Novel Idea on Hope Street in downtown Bristol. If you plan to join us at the September 11 meeting, please read through the end of the first conversation. If you have questions, please call Louisa Jones at 396-5067.

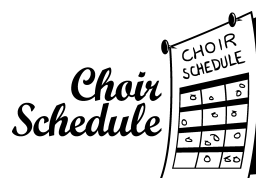
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## ??...INQUIRER'S CLASSES...??

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 -- the next time that Bishop Wolf comes to our Deanery for a service of Confirmation. 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...

The first class will meet on September 10 at 7 PM in the Tildesley Building. Speak to one of the clergy or call the office -- 253--7717-- and give your name to Betty Vargas.



**COME AND  
JOIN US!**

**Adult Choir Rehearsals Begin September 3**  
Wednesdays - 7-9pm -Chantry

**Handbell Choir Rehearsals Begin September 12**  
Fridays - 6pm

Accepting new members, ages 12 through Adult, until the end of September. If you are interested please join us at the first three rehearsals. Bell choir is a great way for people with less musical experience to get involved in the music program at St. Michael's.

**St. Michael's Angel Choir Begins September 21**  
First and third Sundays-After the 10am service  
Children ages 3 through 11 are invited to participate. We will be singing, moving, learning some sign language, and playing percussion instruments!

## Buddy is Placed in a Good Home

You will remember Buddy, our service dog in training. Buddy graduated at the beginning of this summer and has been placed with an army veteran who lost both legs in Iraq. His name is Darryl and his wife's name is Tiffany. They have a 4-year old son and live in Georgia. We met Darryl and Tiffany for breakfast and had a wonderful opportunity to see Buddy in action. Darryl and Buddy make a good team and we couldn't be more proud of them both. We would like to thank St. Michael's for helping us work on Buddy's social skills. Jackie and Ted Barrows.



## The Episcopal Church Women will hold their annual meeting this year on November 8 at 10 AM at Holy Trinity Church in Tiverton, RI.






Our Nursing Home Ministry

September 7, Sunday 2:00 pm  
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol  
Celebrant: The Rev. Mark DeWolf  
September 2, Tuesday 11:00am  
Silver Creek Nursing Home, Bristol  
September 9, Tuesday 10:00am  
St. Elizabeth's Manor, Bristol  
September 16, Tuesday 3:00pm  
Grace Barker, Warren  
September 23, Tuesday 10:30am  
Haven Health, Warren  
Celebrant: The Rev. Cecilia Perry

All women are invited to take part in the brief meeting and luncheon. This year's speaker will be Sister Grace of the Sisters of St. Margaret, one of the oldest Episcopal Orders in the United States. There are several houses/residences for the Sisters of St. Margaret in the United States -- Sister Grace lives in Roxbury, MA, and happened to be visiting in New York at the time of September 11, 2001. She stayed on to assist at St. Paul's Chapel next to the World Trade Towers. She will talk about her experience in New York City and also tell us about her calling to a life as a nun and the life the sisters follow.. For more information, please speak to the Rev. Cece Perry, or call 253-8620.

# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH CALENDAR

*Please place on your refrigerator.*

SEPTEMBER 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sa
31 8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:45 AM Child Care	1	2 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist-Silver Creek NH 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6
7  8am and 6pm-Holy Eucharist 12:00 PM Waterside Eucharist/BBQ-Mt. Hope Farm	8	9 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist-St. Elizabeths Manor	10 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 6:00 PM DVD for Stewardship Mtg. 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Inquirer's Classes	11 7:30 PM Book Group	12 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	13
14  8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:45 AM Sunday School/Child Care	15 6:30 PM Finance Meeting	16 3:00 PM Holy Eucharist-Grace Barker NH 7:00 PM Search Committee 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	17 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Inquirer's Classes	18	19 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	20
21 8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist 9:45 AM Sunday School/Child Care 11:15 AM Angel Choir	22	23 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist-Haven Health NH 7:00 PM Parish Development Mtg.	24 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Inquirer's Classes	25 7:30 PM Book Group	26 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	27
28  8am, 10am and 6pm -Holy Eucharist FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS 9:45 AM Sunday School/Child Care 11:30 AM St. Michael's Birthday Bash	29	30	1 7:00 AM Holy Eucharist 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Inquirer's Classes	2	3 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	4

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 email a note to us with the name and address to be removed and we will make the correction. Thank you.

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on the people of St. Michael's Parish and so guide us as we look forward to the call of a new Rector that we may be readied to receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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



*Founded in 1718*

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

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

**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.