

# St. Michael's MESSENGER



December 2017

*St. Michael's is called to live and proclaim the transforming love of God.*

**From our Rector**

Dear Friends,

Ready or not, here he comes! Advent begins on December 3 this year. This is the season when we prepare for the coming of the Messiah. It is also the time when we are getting ready for Christmas. Although these overlap, they are not the same. Preparing for the Messiah means looking forward with anticipation to the return of Jesus in Glory at the end of time. It means looking forward to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem in fulfillment of all the prophecies and longing of the Children of Abraham. It means looking for Jesus entering our lives and our hearts amid all the activity of our lives.

I don't need to tell you what getting ready for Christmas means: Buying gifts, decorating, planning travel, organizing family meals and parties with friends. All of this can be wonderful. Jesus has no interest in putting a damper on these celebrations. It is not that being spiritual means getting all serious and pious when everyone else is having fun. Rather, we make all the preparations for Christmas sacraments of our anticipation and hope and experience of the arrival, the advent, of Jesus in our lives.

Every gift we give is given in the name of Jesus. Every gift we receive comes as from the hand of Jesus. Every meal we share is the Eucharist. Every decoration we hang is an oblation to our God.

So let's plunge into Advent with both feet. Enjoy every bit of it. Use this time to offer all your love to God. And make that offering not only in Church but with every family member, friend, and stranger you may have the good luck to see.

God bless you, every one.

Bevan+

## **Donations for Christmas Flowers**



At Christmas, the Flower Guild will transform our church with greens, flowers, and candles.

Please consider making a Christmas flower donation in honor of or in memory of (a) loved one(s). Contributions received by Dec. 20th will appear in the church bulletin.

We will send a letter containing a donation envelope. There will also be envelopes available in the back of the Church and on the table outside the Church office. You can also mail your check to: St. Michael's Parish, P. O. Box 248, Litchfield, CT 06759. Indicate "flower donation:" and in whose honor or memory it is made.

Your contribution will add greatly to the beautification of the Church.

## **Advent Bible Study – The Book of Numbers**

During Advent, the 8 a.m. Bible Study on Wednesday mornings will engage in a study of the Book of Numbers. We will use the division outlined by Everett Fox in his translation of the Five Books of Moses.

December 6 Chapters 1-10: In the Wilderness of Sinai: The Camp

December 13 Chapters 11-25: The Rebellious Folk: Narratives of Challenge

December 20 Chapters 26-36: In the Plains of Moab: Preparations for the conquest of Canaan

As always the Bible Study meets at 8 a.m. in the Library. It is followed at 9 by an informal Eucharist held around the table in the Library. The Eucharist is followed by coffee and something sweet. Come to any or all of these. You will be glad you did.

+Bevan

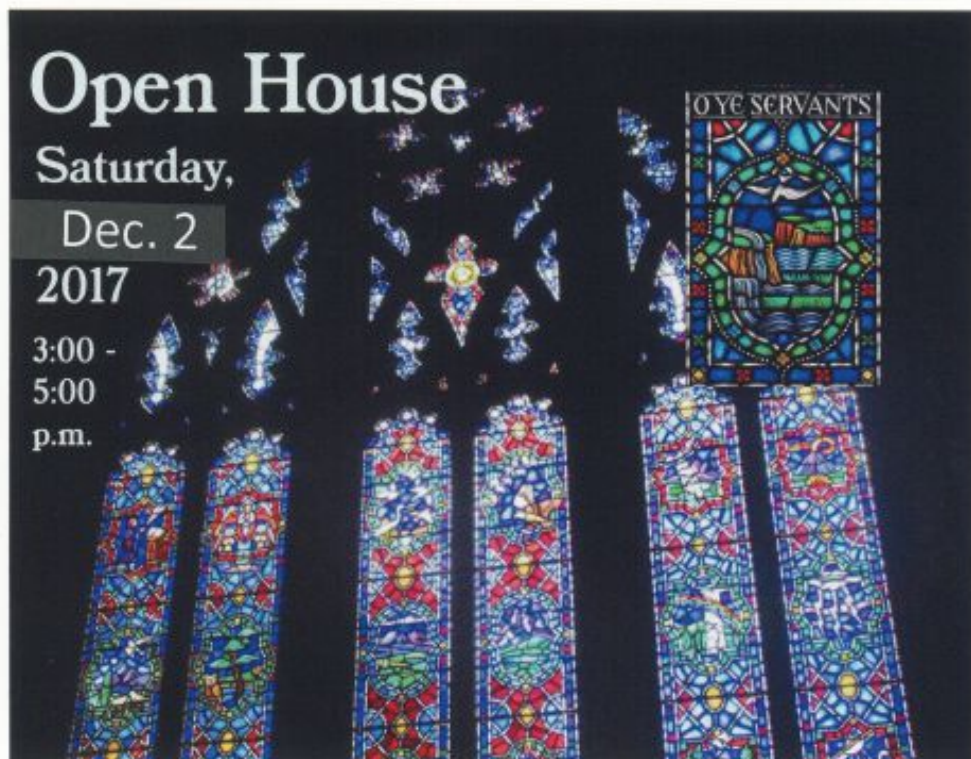
## Stewardship

We kicked off the 2018 Stewardship Campaign for St. Michael's with a well-attended brunch on November 5 in the Community House. Bevan and Stewardship Chair Richard Quay briefly described the church's finances, including our stewardship goal of \$240,000, and responded to questions. Our proposed budget for 2018 is very lean but still will depend upon increased pledges from the St. Michael's community. Individual home visits are ongoing and while the campaign ends formally on Sunday November 19, pledges are always welcome after that date. Experience the joy of giving!

- Richard Quay

## Window Celebration Dec 2

In the afternoon on a clear day, the sun shines directly through the west window. Hopefully we will have clear weather from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 2, when we have our open house to celebrate the completion of our stone and roof work, the new stained glass window, the generosity of our donors and the grace of God. All members of the community are welcome; light refreshments will be served.



Saint Michael's Litchfield

[www.stmichaels-litchfield.org](http://www.stmichaels-litchfield.org)

## **John Marshall and Mark Ingram**

### **Percussion Concert on December 3rd**

A percussion concert featuring both traditional drumming and original compositions will take place on Sunday afternoon, December 3 at 4 p.m. Virtuoso percussionists John Marshall and Mark Ingram's presentation will feature both melody and rhythm, performed on beautiful, handmade traditional instruments that capture the pulse of the Middle East, West Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, India and beyond.

John's parents, Duncan and Mary Marshall, were members of St. Michael's. John now leads the weekly drumming class that rehearses in the church on Thursday evenings.



John Marshall is an award winning Master Percussionist and Teacher, who performs on hand drums, including the West African djembe, North African dumbek , Afro-Cuban conga, frame drums from around the world, and North Indian tabla.



Mark Ingram is a virtuoso of the kalimba family of traditional African musical instruments including the Kalimba, M'bira, Sanza, Rhumba Box and the African-American Marimba Brett. They are members of the five man world percussion ensemble, Terra Coda.

More information about Terra Coda is available at [www.terracoda.weebly.com](http://www.terracoda.weebly.com)



## **Food Pantry**

Each month, we set a new record. In October, 47 guests came through the door, 15 guests were first time visitors, 105 people were fed, and 1,577 lbs. of food were carried out the door.

We are receiving growing donations from individuals and groups in the community: The Pantry was the designated recipient of the Community Thanksgiving service at the Methodist Church, in which all four of the clergy from the churches in the center of Litchfield participated.

Our next open Pantry day will be  
Saturday, December 16.

Contact the office or Amy Reichmann  
for information on how you can help.



## **Bishop with us on December 17**

On December 17, the Right Reverend Dr. Laura Ahrens, Bishop Suffragan, will make an “episcopal visitation” to St. Michaels Parish. That’s the formal way of saying that our friend Bishop Ahrens will celebrate and preach at both services, will speak with members of the parish after each service, and will meet with the Vestry over lunch.

We will dedicate our new west window and the repairs to our roof and stonework at the ten o’clock service. We will renew our baptismal covenant at both services.

When the Bishop is present, it is appropriate to celebrate Holy Baptism, be formally received into the Episcopal Church from another Christian denomination or church, or to reaffirm one’s baptismal vows. If any would like to do any of these things, please contact Bevan Stanley as soon as possible.

Rosamond Quay will be looking for some help making the Coffee Hour a little more festive than usual. Above all, please make every effort to be in church on December 17<sup>th</sup> to welcome our Bishop.

## Christmas

This year we pack a lot of church into one day. The Fourth Sunday of Advent is always the last Sunday before Christmas Day. Since Christmas falls on a Monday this year, it means that the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the same day as Christmas Eve. Soooo, here is how it will go:

### Sunday, December 24

8:00 a.m.	Advent IV	Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Advent IV	Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church
4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve	Christmas Eve Children's Pageant with Holy Communion in the Church
10:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve	Festal Eucharist with the Choir using the high altar in the Church

### Monday, December 25

10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day	Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Chancel
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### Sunday, December 31 The First Sunday of Christmas

8:00 a.m.	Morning Prayer Rite I in the Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Christmas Lessons and Carols in the Church

### Sunday, January 7 The First Sunday after the Epiphany

8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite I in the Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist Rite II with the Colossal Puppets in the Church

*O come, let us adore Him!*

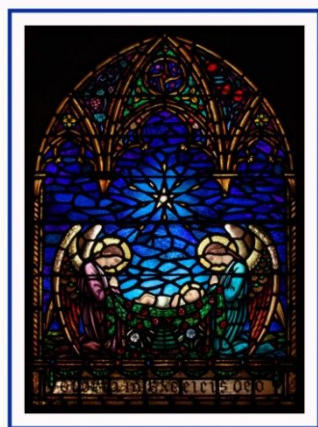


Photo of stained glass nativity in St. Barnabas Church, Irvington, NY by Robert Fertitta. [www.robertfertitta.org](http://www.robertfertitta.org)

## Children's Christian Education

Church school is going strong at St. Michael's. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, the children sang as a choir during the 10 a.m. Eucharist. Over the past few weeks they made Rice Krispy treat "pottery" to represent that made by the prophet Jeremiah, and were given an art history lesson about Peter Paul Reubens' painting of Daniel in the Lions' Den, among many other things. We are looking forward to a busy Advent season as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

## Upcoming children's events

on **Sunday, December 10**, the children are invited to sing during the regular 10 a.m. Eucharist under the guidance of choir director Marguerite Mullée. This is meant to be a low-key introduction to singing in church as a group.



on **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**, we are planning to have our traditional Christmas Eve pageant. All children are welcome to participate. Please let us know if your child, grandchild, niece, or nephew is interested in participating by emailing [sarahsadams7@gmail.com](mailto:sarahsadams7@gmail.com). Come one, come all!

## **Children's Music Program**

The St. Michael's Children's Choir sang at the 10 a.m. Sunday service on November 5. They have been working hard at rehearsals during Church School and did a lovely job. Very special thanks to all the singers and their parents for their time and commitment!

- Marguerite Mullée

## **The Handbell Choir**

On Sunday, November 19, the St. Michael's Handbell Choir rang the Prelude and the Offertory at the 10:00 a.m. service. The Handbell Choir consists of both church and community members, and meets every Tuesday morning to practice. We will be ringing again at the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist on Sunday, December 17, when the Bishop will bless the completion of the roof and stonework and of our new stained glass window.

- Marguerite Mullée

## **Our New Organist: Daniel Scifo**

We are delighted to announce that Daniel Scifo will be our new organist, beginning in January 2018. Many of you remember Daniel when he served at St. Michael's as assistant organist. He has held positions as organist/choirmaster in Episcopal cathedrals in Maine, Rhode Island, Albany and New York City.

Most recently, Daniel served as the Organist at Christ Episcopal Church and the Taft School, both in Watertown, where he supervised the ongoing restoration of their Gress-Miles pipe organ. He studied music education at Central Connecticut State College and studied organ playing with Claude O. Means at Trinity Church-Torrington and John Holtz at the Hartt School of Music. He has participated in organ and vocal recitals throughout the northeastern United States and England.

He also sings tenor and counter-tenor with Cantus Excelsus, a semi-professional vocal ensemble associated with Christ Church and the Taft School, and with a quartet that made its debut in the natural acoustic environment of the train tunnel on the Shepaug Railroad Trail in Steep Rock Nature Preserve.

- Marguerite Mullée

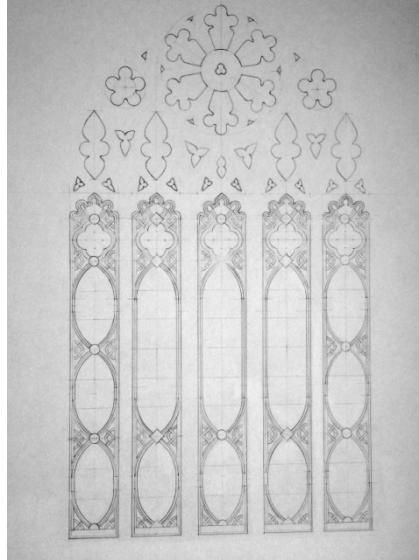


## **The next stained glass window**

Now that we have installed the west window, the church has been transformed. The colors are rich and the images are fascinating. The large window depicts the variety of creation - rivers and mountains, storms and sun, animals and plants, stars and planets, humans and angels. On the south transept, we await the completion of a new window that will depict the last verses of Revelation, describing the end. This is the last part of the construction work that our capital campaign is financing. We expect to see the south transept window installed in the spring of 2018.

Our last large temporary window is in the north transept. Fred Shea and Scott McDaniel of Stained Glass Resources, Inc. are eager to see us continue our progress, and have offered to do a proposal for this window at no charge. The group that helped them design the south window has met with them once, and brainstormed ideas about beginnings and the holy spirit with Scott, the designer. He will be working up some ideas for the north window over the next few weeks.

The next meeting of the group will be held on November 30 at 1:30 p.m. Scott will bring his first draft, and get our input.



While we do not currently have the resources to build this window, we are happy to have the generous offer of a preliminary design. The design for our west window was over 75 year old before we were able to build it. It remains to be seen how long it will be before it will be possible to build the north transept window.

## **A Note about our Sandwich Board Signs**

Recently, one of the Burgesses of the Borough of Litchfield met with the pastors of the four churches in the Borough to discuss the rules about signs in the Borough of Litchfield. The upshot of that conversation was that the Borough regulations forbid any temporary signs, but the leaders turn a blind eye to signs for events at the four churches and the Historical Society. This allows us to have our sandwich boards.

However, they now expect us to avoid having two such signs out at any one time. Additionally, they want to see periods of time when we have no signs at all.

With the holiday events and concerts coming up, we will have a lot of events to publicize. The officers have agreed that signs publicizing St. Michael's events will have precedence over those publicizing the events of outside organizations.

--Sarah Melcher

## **Milestones**

George Ching

*May light perpetual shine upon him*

## **Our Last Saturday at the Soup Kitchen**

Our last Saturday morning in the Soup Kitchen: we served 85 meals with a team whose average age was 70. (This ministry has clearly reached retirement age! ) Thank you to all the volunteers who have served over the years. The list below only includes those who have served since 2011, and does not include the many people before them who served in the soup kitchen since its inception, in 1986.

Alie Hanson, Andrea Wells, Ann McKinney, August Zeidler, Augie Delves Broughton, Barbara and Jack Balaguer, Denise Taylor, Carol and Dick Query, Dick Loyer, Kristin Eaton, Ed and Sarah Gadowski, Geoff and Stephanie Round, Greg Bachmann, Jean Scanlon, Jennifer Zeidler, Judy Fisher, Judy Radasch, Julia Zeidler, Katie Aziz, Kristian Kuegler, Laura Wichman, Margret Delves Broughton May Bogdanovics, Meredith Penfield, Michele Veseskis and George Ziemba, Mike Delay, Nancy and Don Moore, Brett Moore, Nancy Skilton, Peter Aziz, Rebecca's Barrett and John Edwards, Rindi Losee, Ryan Longley , Rose Brooks, Sandy Mason, and Sarah Melcher, Suzanne Shrady, Vanessa Flint.

## Upcoming Special Events

Saturday, December 2 at 3:00 p.m. - **Open House** to celebrate the completion of the roof and stonework and the west window.

Sunday December 3 at 4:00 p.m. - **First Sunday Concert** - John Marshall and John Ingram, percussion

Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. - **Property Commission** meeting in the Library

Thursday, December 7 at 3 p.m.- **Festive Flute & Harp Concert** presented by the Women's Forum

Saturday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m. - **Waterbury Chorale** concert in the Church

Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. - **Lessons and Carols** in the church with a reception afterwards in the Community House

Friday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. - **Christmas Angelicus** concert in the church

Saturday, December 16 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - **Food Pantry** open

Sunday, December 17 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - **Bishop Laura Ahrens** will celebrate the Eucharist at both services, visit with us at coffee hour, and meet with the Vestry.

Sunday, December 17 at 11:30 a.m. - **Vestry meeting** in the Library

Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 a.m. - Fourth Advent, Rite I

Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m. - Fourth Advent, Rite II

Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. - **Christmas Eve, Pageant, no choir**

Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 p.m. - **Christmas Eve, Choir**

Monday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. - **Christmas day**, no music, Rite I

Sunday, December 31 at 8:00 a.m. - **Morning Prayer**

Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 a.m. - **Christmas lessons and carols**

Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. - Baptism of our Lord, Eucharist Rite I

Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. - **Epiphany Puppets and Eucharist.**

## Ongoing weekly events

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. -	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> in the Chapel
Sundays at 9:45 a.m. -	<b>Creche care</b> downstairs in the Parish House
Sundays at 9:45 a.m. -	<b>Church School</b> downstairs in the Parish House
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. -	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> in the Church
Mondays at 9:00 a.m. -	<b>Morning Prayer</b> in the Church
Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. -	<b>Morning Prayer</b> in the Church
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.	<b>Handbell rehearsal</b> in the Music Room
Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. -	<b>Bible Study</b> in the Library
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. -	<b>Holy Eucharist</b> in the Library
Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. -	<b>Bible Study</b> in the Library
Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. -	<b>Evening Prayer</b> in the Choir
Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. -	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b> in the Music Room
Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. -	<b>Morning Prayer</b> in the Church
Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. -	<b>Caregivers' group</b> in the Library
Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. -	<b>Drumming class</b> in the Church

# Saint Michael's Parish

25 South Street Litchfield Connecticut 06759

860.567.9465 (voice)

860.567.4820 (fax)

[www.stmichaels-litchfield.org](http://www.stmichaels-litchfield.org)

[office@stmichaels-litchfield.org](mailto:office@stmichaels-litchfield.org)

## Staff

The Reverend Dr. E. Bevan Stanley

Rector, [rector@stmichaels-litchfield.org](mailto:rector@stmichaels-litchfield.org)

The Reverend Amy Reichman

Deacon, [deacon@stmichaels-litchfield.org](mailto:deacon@stmichaels-litchfield.org)

Dr. Marguerite Mullée

Music Director, [music@stmichaels-litchfield.org](mailto:music@stmichaels-litchfield.org)

Karen Ackerman

Administrative Assistant & Bookkeeper,  
[office@stmichaels-litchfield.org](mailto:office@stmichaels-litchfield.org)

Sarah Adams, Kristin Eaton and

Church School co-directors

Vanessa Flint

[churchschool@stmichaels-litchfield.org](mailto:churchschool@stmichaels-litchfield.org)

## Officers and Vestry 2017

### Officers

Sarah Melcher, *Senior Warden*

Mark Yanaway, *Junior Warden*

Nancy Moore, *Clerk*

Barbara Putnam, *Treasurer*

### Vestry

#### Terms ending 2018

Peggy Terhune

Miles Borzilleri

Vanessa Flint

#### Terms ending 2019

Kristin Eaton

John Cox

Denise Butwill

#### Diocesan Delegates

Meredith Penfield

Nancy Skilton

Alternate: Jo Ann Jaacks

#### Terms ending 2020

Martha Babbitt

Robert Rumsey

Andrea Wells

Richard Quay

#### Parish Historian

Martha Babbitt