



St. Michael's Labyrinth is Launched!

Adam Kuegler, 16, recently gathered a crew of Boy Scout companions to assist him in building a labyrinth on St. Michael's side lawn as his Eagle Scout project. Adam is a Life Scout in Troop 140 in Oakville. He chose St. Michael's as the location for his project since he is a member and acolyte here. The labyrinth represents a service project but it also requires demonstration of leadership since Adam had to seek donations for all materials, as well as organize and supervise the construction. Once completed, St. Michael's will hold an "Open Labyrinth" celebration to which all are welcome.



Elaine and Olivia Swanson and Diane Damerau hosted the Stewardship Festive Fellowship Hour on September 20th for the blessing of the pledge cards.

Thanks & Praise to St. Michael's Members



~ To Sara Gadomski and Peg Sullivan for ushering and greeting at the Waterbury Symphony concert and all the helpers who set up the church and then put it back together.

~ To all those who quietly do acts of kindness and service, moved by the spirit of God.

~ To Kris Kuegler for spearheading this year's Stewardship Campaign and for all those who pledged.

~ To Martha Babbitt and Susie Pollock who took on the responsibility of displaying and selling items for the African Ministries Team Craft Fair.

~ To Marjorie Morris for her exceptionally generous donation at the Community Thanksgiving service to benefit the Litchfield Social Services.



Thanksgiving Offerings Benefit Local Families

St. Michael's hosted the Community Thanksgiving service "We Gather Together" on November 22nd with the three other Litchfield churches participating in the service and joining our choir. The collection of food and cash (\$154) was given to Litchfield Social Services. LSS is currently assisting a local family whose house was lost in a fire.

Celebration of Christmas

Join us at Advent Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 4 at 4pm for a sweeping and swift review and celebration of God's saving deeds through scripture and song.

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24: 4pm 1st Eucharist with Choir & 10pm Lessons & Carols

Christmas Morning – Sunday, December 25: 10am – a quiet celebration



Back row: Perley Grimes, Martha Olin, Rob Lacy (Clerk), George Ziembra (Assistant Treasurer), George Taylor, Ken Merz (Treasurer)

Middle row: Barbara Putnam, Jo Ann Jaacks, Agatha Dobbins, Sarah Melcher, Karl Kuegler

Front row: Mary Loyer (Senior Warden), Jenni Matheson (Rector), Peter Aziz (Junior Warden)

St. Michael's Parish, Litchfield, CT Vestry Meeting – November 13, 2011

Members Present: Peter Aziz, Agatha Dobbins, Perley Grimes, Jo Ann Jaacks, Karl Kuegler, Mary Loyer, Sarah Melcher, Ken Merz, Martha Olin, George Taylor, George Ziembra.

Absent: Rob Lacy, Barbara Putnam

Also Present: Kris Kuegler

The Rector called the meeting to order at approximately 11:40am and began the meeting with a prayer.

Agenda items included:

- **Stewardship Campaign.** Kris Kuegler reported that so far, 11 people have increased their pledge, 11 have stayed the same, and 3 people have decreased their pledge. The losses of the pledges for those three outweigh the gains from the 11 increased pledges.
- **Approval of Minutes**

- **Rector's Report**
- **Warden's Report**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Property Committee: Sale of the Rectory.** Mr. Merz reported that Ms. Putnam received two bids for the work on the Hall House, and her next step will be to reconcile them and report back to the Vestry.
- **Property Committee: Sale of Land to Paul Rosenberg.** Mr. Grimes informed us of a note he received from Mr. Rosenberg requesting the right to build a garage on the property he is intending to purchase. Mr. Merz, Mr. Grimes, and Mr. Aziz are meeting with Mr. Rosenberg to find a solution, since this is not allowed in the current agreement.
- **Property Committee: Driveway Repaving**
- **Capital Campaign: Feasibility Study**
- **Capital Campaign: Scope of Campaign.** Mr. Aziz informed us about feedback that the focus of the campaign seems to be on bricks and mortar only and not on mission work. The consultants say that the donations can be split and Mr. Aziz recommends that 20% of the total be allocated to outreach, Christian Education, music, etc., and that people should not have a choice about how much of their own donation goes to church activities – vs. – building renovation.
- **Minister of Invitation and Incorporation.** Ms. Jaacks reported.
- **Revitalization.** Ms. Melcher postponed her report until next month.
- **Outreach: Fete and Faire Proceeds.** Ms. Jaacks reported the income from the Fete and Faire to be \$7,063.27. Of that, she proposed \$500 go to the Animal Rescue Foundation of Terryville, leaving \$6,563.27 to be divided between the Torrington Soup Kitchen and St. Michael's. In October, 2010, the Vestry voted to split the income between the Soup Kitchen and St. Michael's but did not indicate how the money should be divided. Therefore, Ms. Jaacks made a motion that the \$6,563.27 be split 50/50. The motion passed, with three votes against.
- **Outreach: Christmas Offering Designation.** Motion was made to donate all the money to the Torrington Soup Kitchen. The motion passed, with two abstentions.
- **New Business:** Ms. Melcher proposed that we do as Mr. Aziz suggested early in the meeting and take 10 minutes identifying opportunities for additional food- or fund-raising for the Torrington Soup Kitchen. After discussion, Ms. Jaacks agreed to approach Dana Rohn to get the church youth involved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Melcher
Clerk Pro Tem



Dear St. Michaelians,

Advent means we begin again. We're always doing that so as we enter into the change of another liturgical cycle with a new calendar year just weeks away, it's a good time to beat the rush on New Year's resolutions.

Advent tends to be a solemn, reflective season shot through with excitement as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. (Check out Lessons & Carols on December 4 at 4pm for a sweeping and swift review and celebration of God's saving deeds through scripture and song.) Advent is a season that encourages us to give some thought to what we've done well and what brings us satisfaction, as well as to consider what we'd like to amend, do better or delete. All this taking stock requires making a life inventory which should never begin without the conviction of God's mercy and love as especially evident through Christ.

The life of Christ exemplifies God's mercy and love, through it we can come to recognize that God has already pronounced judgment on the world – and that judgment is forgiveness. It is a forgiveness born of mercy and love. Living life in imitation of that, by “putting it on,” or by accepting the passed baton, or by however you imagine living out Christ's life in the world, always comes back to its heart of reconciliation. To choose to live Christ's life in the world requires perseverance and patience, regular and honest self examination, companionship, encouragement and support. It's sometimes the most difficult thing you'll ever do and it always results in life eternal, the kingdom of heaven among us.

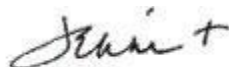
Despite the additional demands on everyone during Advent with the month of December arriving accompanied by constant opportunities to engage in behaviors neither merciful nor loving, for Christ's sake, *BEGIN AGAIN!*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

God be with us all this Advent. Join the parish in honoring Advent, in preparing for Christmas and in the practice of works of mercy and love.

Remembering neighbors in need, the Christmas offering has been designated for the Torrington Community Kitchen.

The peace of Christ be with you all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeanie", is centered on the page.

The **Music and Religion Lecture Series** continues in December with the **English Christmas Music through the Centuries**. Marguerite Mullée will trace the glorious development of English Holiday Music, starting with the earliest carols and continuing to the twentieth century. Two dates are available – Friday, December 9th at 10:30AM or Tuesday, December 13th at 7PM in the Parish Library. Cost: \$15 non members; \$10 church members. Please contact the parish office to reserve a space.

“Thank you to everyone who made the recent African Team Ministries sale a huge success. We were able to send them a check for \$523 which will help those in need in East Africa – helping orphans in 8 Anglican dioceses, providing jobs for unemployed women and providing resources for refugee relief, health education, clergy and lay education and building repair.” – Susie Pollock and Martha Babbitt

An African Crafts Fair was held on Sunday, November 20 and 27 during Fellowship Hour in the Community House. African Team Ministries is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches. With help from Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Anglican denominations, they provide funding for orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa. Each \$10 purchase provides 100 meals of oatmeal and 150 servings of soup to hungry people in the drought and famine areas of Kenya.



It has been several years since St. Michael's has hosted the African crafts fair and Susie Pollock and Martha Babbitt, co-chairs of this event, were excited about the diversity of lovely and unusual items offered for sale – items of interest to church members of all ages!

Have you “liked” us yet on Facebook?

Thanks to John Wyzkowski, St. Michael's is now on Facebook. Be sure to visit regularly and be sure you "Like" us. When you "Like" St. Michael's Facebook page, you will get prayers, information, great stories, and more in your regular Facebook Newsfeed. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Michaels-Parish/196307830384022>



News from the Undercroft

Greetings,

The fall has been busy and productive in our Church School! We began the year with two areas of focus. The first was a two week session on "Episcopalianism 101" and what it means to be of the Anglican tradition. What we believe and why we are different. The rest of the fall was focused on an in depth study of liturgy. Our new Tweens class has had fantastic discussions on all these issues, led by volunteer parents, using materials provided to guide the discussions. Our younger children learned about it from the perspective of the definition of Liturgy, which means, "the work of the people". The work of worship.

Our studies will culminate in a festive service on December 4th when everything from the collect to the prayers of the people will have been written by our "Tweens." The older kids will do the readings and the younger ones will usher. We will also participate in the entering procession, with a small gift to the parish from the children's class.

Another exciting event we enjoyed this fall was a Church School sponsored trip to New York City to see the recently revived Broadway show, Godspell. 15 of us headed down there on November 12! It was a great show and prompted a lot of interesting conversations amongst our kids!!!

Looking forward, our Tweens will be running another protein drive to support the Torrington Community Kitchen food pantry. As well, we will be offering our Colossal Puppet Epiphany pageant again this year with rehearsal on Saturday January 7, 2012 from 9-11 with the performance during the 10:00 service on the 8th. We will also be taking the 3 kings to Trinity Torrington again for their 3 Kings Day celebration on the evening of January 7th at 7:30pm. The service offered there is an Hispanic program, usually with a steel band, followed by a pot luck dinner. Trinity provides gifts for underprivileged children who attend the event. It is a great evening out! Anyone interested in helping me with the puppets for that evening would be greatly appreciated!!!!



Peace, Love, Hope, & Joy – Dana Rohn, Youth Minister



Rev. Jenni Matheson and Jo Ann Jaacks recently visited Lisa Hageman at the Torrington Community Kitchen and presented her with a check for \$3,281.63 from the proceeds of the 10th Annual Fete & Faire. This year's split also gave \$500 to the Animal Rescue Foundation and \$3,281.63 to St. Michael's.

The Torrington Community Soup Kitchen serves a hot meal every day to anyone who is unable to cook for themselves for any reason. The Soup Kitchen has a full time staff person during the week, and is staffed by volunteers on the weekends. For many years, members of St Michael's have been preparing and serving a meal to 40 or 50 people on the fourth Saturday of the month. (The kitchen serves about 150 people, including children, each weekday.) This ministry is a way to live out our Baptismal Covenant, to seek and serve Christ in all persons. If you would like to join a team, please contact Barbara Putnam at 860.567.4465 or bdputnam@alum.mit.edu. You can also speak with any member listed in the monthly Rota to learn more about the Soup Kitchen.

Have you signed up to get St. Michael's Blog posts sent to your email?

If you notice the green "SML's Blog" button on the opening page of St. Michael's website, you know we have a blog. We invite you to be sure not to miss a single blog post, by signing up to get the posts delivered to your email when they are made available on the blog. To do that, click the green button to go to our blog, then scroll down until you see "Subscribe" in the right-hand column and enter your email address there. An email will be sent to you so that you can confirm your subscription. That is all you need to do!

Our posts range for musings on the Lesser Feasts and Fasts, to updates on events, to various community activities, to prayers, saints and bible passages, to information about the church and grounds that might be new to you.

GROUP NOTICES AND PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Meetings

- Property Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm in the parish library.
- The Vestry will be held on Sunday, December 11 at 11:30 am in the parish library.

Comfort My People

Tuesday, December 27, 4:00 pm, parish library.

A group for the bereaved meet monthly on the fourth Tuesday to address issues of bereavement and the loss of a loved one, this support group is for anyone of any age who is dealing with life after death. Josephine Jones, LCP and Jenni Matheson facilitate.

Lifeline Services

Lifeline Services offers 24 hour-a-day push button emergency response service for the elderly. Lifeline Services announces *Auto.Alert*, a service with a fall detector. In the event of a fall, if the subscriber does not get up within 30 seconds, a call is sent to Lifeline and help will be sent. Call Barbara Ferrucci at 203 709-6100 for more information.

ST. MICHAEL'S WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS IN THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:00 AM Adult Ed
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
10:00 AM Youth Group or Church School
11:30 AM The Vestry, Parish Library (second Sunday of month)

MONDAY

8:00 PM Non-smoking AA
Al-Anon / Alateen

TUESDAY

9:30 AM Dragon Ladies
4:00 PM Comfort My People, Parish Library (fourth Tuesday of month)
7:30 PM Property Committee Meeting, Parish Library (first Tuesday of month)

8:00 PM Non-smoking AA

WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM The Holy Eucharist & Bible Study, Parish Library
8:00 AM Men's Ecumenical Bible Study at The Gathering Room, lower level,
Parish House
11:00 AM Late Morning Bible Study, Parish Library
7:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
8:00 PM N.A.

THURSDAY

8:00 PM Non-smoking AA