



Parish Historians Society

Volume XII, Issue I

Spring 2014

Reminder

PHS Annual Meeting

Register Now!
See page 3 - 4.

Everyone is invited!

PHS Annual Meeting

**St. Michael's Church
Marblehead**

Saturday, May 10, 2014

9:30 am – 3:00 pm

**Registration begins at 8:30 am
26 Pleasant St., Marblehead**

Registration Fee \$20, includes lunch.

Please register by April 25.

On the Program:

This year's annual meeting of Parish Historians Society will review three centuries of change in architecture, liturgy and music, century by century, as seen in Massachusetts' oldest Episcopal Church building, erected in 1714, with an afternoon workshop and "documents roadshow" led by Frances Harrell of the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC).

The Rev. Andrew Stoessel, Rector, Architect Edward Nilsson and internationally-known organist/composer Douglas Major, Music Director, will present the overview with demonstrations of the C. B. Fisk Organ, Opus 69. Parish Historian Emeritus Robert L. Howie, Jr. will provide us a tour of St. Michael's Archives Room, built in 1983 with its early 18th century records conserved by the NEDCC using various special techniques.

"Antiques Document Roadshow"—Frances Harrell of the Northeast Document Conservation Center will present an overview of preserving parish records and professional conservation techniques. There will be time for questions, and participants are encouraged to bring items—stable enough for travel—for discussion of care and handling.

All are invited to attend—

Parish historians, parish administrators, music directors & choir members and others interested in the history of Massachusetts Episcopal churches and their preservation.

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Parish Historians Meeting & C.B. Fisk Tour, 2013

By Elaine K. M. Denniston, PHS Clerk, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Cambridge

On April 29, 2013, the Parish Historians' Society (PHS) of the Diocese of Massachusetts, held its annual meeting in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The host church was St. John's Episcopal Church. Prior to the meeting, there was a tour of the C. B. Fisk Organ Company, (Fisk) also located in Gloucester.

Greg Bover, Fisk Vice President, conducted the tour. Mr. Bover explained how an organ is built – from the original request to the final product. He showed us Computer Aided Drawings (CAD), and informed us that many conferences occur between Fisk employees and the company buying the new organs. The process of creating a new organ can take more than a year.

Among the interesting things he explained was that Fisk organs are all over the world. He showed us the scale models of organs that the company built for clients in Scandinavia, Japan, several places in the United States – including two that were built for Harvard University. The latest Harvard Memorial Church organ was dedicated fairly recently. He also explained how an organ built for a school would be different from one built for a church, and each organ has a different Opus number.

We also learned that an organ pipes can be as small as 3/16th of an inch long and as large as 12" square and as long as 32 feet. Some of the organ pipes are metal tubes, some are metal cones and some are made from wood. All fabricating is done in the factory. We saw the room where buckets of lead and other metals were melted and how this lead, along with other materials, were rolled out to make the pipes – both cones and tubes - the proper thickness.

There were a couple of rooms that contained stacks of wood planks. These planks would be made into wooden pipes. In fact, the room where these planks were stored looked like a section of

Home Depot or Lowes, but included at different times, a great variety of fine woods, as well as custom made plywood.

At the end of the tour there was a demonstration on a completed organ about to be shipped to Japan. Bover explained that once an organ is completed and shipped, it may take a year to complete installation and tuning as the instrument acclimatizes to its new conditions.

After the tour, St. Johns hosted the PHS attendees for lunch and the business meeting. At the meeting, Allison Andrews was elected president, Patricia Dunbar was elected Treasurer and Elaine Denniston was elected Clerk. Allison Andrews and Frances Nilsson were re-elected to the Board for three year terms, with our newest member Cleo Messinger, also elected for a three-year term. Continuing on the Board are Mary Chitty, Mary Rhinelander McCarl and Richard Curtis.*

After lunch and the business meeting, St. John's Parish Historian, Mary Rhinelander McCarl, described the Stained Glass Windows – most of which had a nautical theme. St. John's organist Mark Nelson showed historic parish documents.

It was a very interesting and informative meeting for all who attended.

Editor's Note: After the meeting, participants were invited for a tour of the Sargent House Museum, the 1782 home of Judith Sargent Stevens Murray, an early proponent of women's equality and an early supporter of Universalism.

**We are sad to report that Richard Curtis of Church of the Good Shepherd, Reading, died suddenly September 2013. In May, 2013, we also lost Ruth Marshall, long-time Parish Historian at St. Peter's, Cambridge, shown in the beret in the 4th photo on page 5.*

Continued on page 5



**Parish Historians Society Annual Meeting
St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Marblehead
Saturday, May 10, 2014**

Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. **Registration** - Coffee and Pastries
- 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. **Greeting and Invocation** - The Rev. Andrew Stoessel, Rector
- 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. **300 Years of Architecture, Liturgy & Music**—The Rev. Andrew Stoessel, Edward Nilsson, Architect, and Dr. Douglas Major, Music Director
- 11:30 – 12:15 p.m. **St. Michael's Archives** - Robert L. Howie, Jr., Parish Historian Emeritus
- 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch, Sharing & Business Meeting**
- 1:30 – 3:00p.m. **Preserving Parish Records & Document Roadshow** - Frances Harrell, NEDCC
- 3:00 p.m. **Optional Tour of St. Michael's Crypt & Cemetery and Attic & Belfry**
We encourage participants to walk about Marblehead with its harbor and 18th C. houses.

Cost: \$20 per person includes coffee, lunch, and speakers.

To help our hosts at St. Michael's Church, please register by April 25.

Questions or late registration?

Call St. Michael's, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm, 781-631-0657 OR
email Frances Nilsson at info@stmichaels1714.org

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REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

I am (check which applies) Parish Historian Parish Administrator Other: _____

From Church Name/City/Deanery: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number [day] _____ [evening] _____

Email _____

Other Attendees: _____

Dietary restrictions for lunch? _____

Please complete both sides of Registration Form and send with payment of \$20 per person attending.

Check or money order payable to "Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts – PHS"

Mailing Address: Attn: Frances Nilsson, Senior Warden
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
26 Pleasant St.
Marblehead, MA 01945

DIRECTIONS BY CAR TO PLEASANT ST., MARBLEHEAD

From Route 128 and points north (Route 1 or 1A), take Route 114 east through Salem into Marblehead watching for turns. Continue on Route 114 which becomes Pleasant St. at the 3rd traffic light.

From Boston follow 1A north through Lynn and Swampscott and past shopping centers with Whole Foods and Marshall's on the right. At the Exxon station turn right onto Tedesco Road. Follow Tedesco which becomes Humphrey St. and then Pleasant St.

The church will be on the right (26 Pleasant St.) just before the street ends just before Grace Community Church (white steeple) on the left. You will be at the back of St. Michael's. If you have a GPS put in 11 Summer Street which will take you to the front.

Parking is available on surrounding streets: Pleasant, Washington, Summer and Rockaway. Maps showing available parking areas are at our web site—www.stmichaels1714.org

BY PUBLIC TRANSIT

Take the 442 bus from Wonderland Blue Line station to Marblehead. The 8:15 a.m. bus at Wonderland arrives near St. Michael's about 8:50 a.m. St. Michael's is just before the intersection of Pleasant and Washington Streets.

Take the Rockport train 1101 leaving North Station, Boston at 8:30 am and arriving Salem at 8:59 am. With advanced notice, PHS will provide transportation from Salem to St. Michael's and back. See schedule for returning times.

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Transportation:

How many in your group will be taking the train to Salem? _____

Transportation will be provided to St. Michael's if notified in advance.

Please provide a cell-phone contact of someone in your group: _____

Do you require a handicap parking space? _____

St. Michael's is wheelchair-accessible from Pleasant St. and has an accessible restroom. There is one single handicapped parking space, but we can reserve additional spaces nearby if needed.

Would you like to carpool to St. Michael's Church, Marblehead?

If you would either like a ride OR can offer to pick up people from your geographical area/deanery please respond below. We will do our best to arrange rides.

Would you offer to be a driver in a carpool? Yes No

Would you like a ride? Yes No

What geographical area are you starting from? _____

C. B. Fisk Tour in Photos

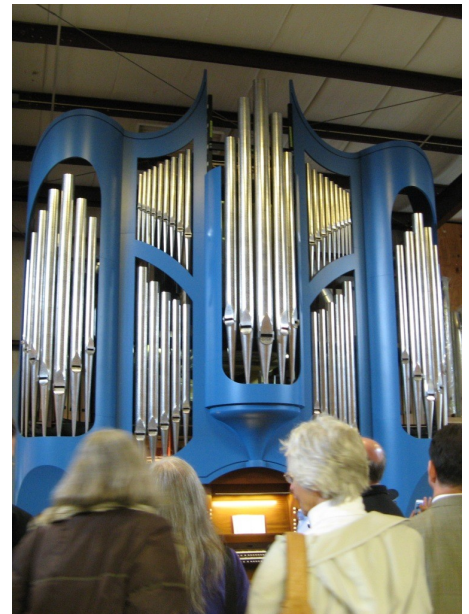
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Greg Bover points out different models of organs C. B. Fisk & Co. has built. Pipes of all sizes are built



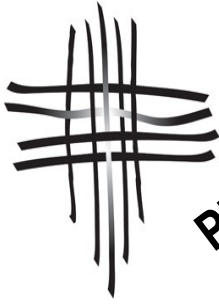
at the factory: large (behind Bover), medium, to very small. Below lead is heated to make metal sheets



that are cut and rolled into pipes. All are assembled & tested before shipping.—Photos by Frances Nilsson.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Parish Historians Society
138 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02111



PHS Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 10, 2014
St. Michael's, Marblehead



St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Marblehead, Massachusetts. Erected 1714, extended 1728, renovated 1833.

PHS Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 10, 2014
9:30 AM—3 PM

St. Michael's Church
26 Pleasant St.,
Marblehead, MA 01945
www.stmichaels1714.org

Register by April 27.

See inside for more
information and
registration form.

Information will also
be available at
St. Michael's
Tercentenary
Celebration site
www.stmichaels2014.org

Parish Historians Society
Diocese of Massachusetts

PHS Executive Board

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Frances Nilsson,
St. Michael's Church, Marblehead

For more information on the Parish
Historians' Society contact:

Lynn Smith: (617) 482-4826 ext. 488
Email: PHS_Exec@hotmail.com
Web site: www.diomass.org/parish-historians-society