

ST. MICHAEL'S IN THE HILLS

PARISH PROFILE

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome! Thank you for looking at our parish profile. You, as our possible next rector, are in our prayers. Please hold us in prayer too. We are very honest in who we are, our strengths and our challenges. We are trusting in the Holy Spirit and God's love to guide us and care for us. Our goal is the same as our mission: "To Love, Learn and Serve in Christ's Name." We believe there are great things in our future and look forward to welcoming our next rector with open arms and hearts. Please enjoy the information provided here and don't hesitate to be in contact with the Rev. Percy Grant, Canon for Transition Ministry in the Diocese of Ohio at pgrant@dohio.org or (216) 774-0455.

We have learned a lot about ourselves since January 2014 when we said goodbye to our beloved rectors of 20-plus years. Their retirement was a natural event in our church life, one that we accepted with gratitude, sadness and excitement for the adventures ahead. We eagerly and earnestly took on the challenge and process of transition. We were confident and possibly naive. We have since learned some things about ourselves that we really wish we didn't have to learn, including some serious negativity and resistance to change. Our vestry responsibly, firmly and sensitively took the necessary action to deal with these unpleasant issues and we are simply better for it now. We have been humbled, disappointed and yet feel renewed. We have gone from two rectors to one, successfully completed a "projects campaign" addressing many facility needs, let go of a

beloved 5PM Saturday service and learned what change truly feels like. Our rector of one year, Jennifer Leider, taught us much and while we were sorry she chose to resign, we again accept with gratitude and trust that our future holds much promise. We have been blessed with Rev. John Hagan, a retired minister who came to us and asked to be our rector while we were searching for our new pastor. He has become a friend, counselor and teacher to our parish. We are continuing our commitment to Love, Learn and Serve in Christ's Name. We hope and promise to live our mission faithfully into the future.



II. WHO WE ARE

History

In May 1952, a small group of Episcopalians living in Ottawa Hills began meeting to discuss the need for a neighborhood Sunday School for children. Guided by the Holy Spirit and supported by nearby Trinity Church and St. Mark's Church, they persevered enthusiastically and by September had rented the Toledo Tennis Club for Sunday mornings. Each Sunday, the locker room was cleverly transformed into a worship space, including an altar that fit into one of the shower stalls. The tradition of having the children flower an Easter cross began in this location. One couple, Hugh



St. Michael's at the tennis club, 1950s

and Isabel Laughlin, played prominent roles in the first few years of this mission endeavor. By December, the parishioners petitioned the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio to be organized as a Mission named St. Michael's in the Hills. This was approved in January 1953. The name was selected because of the Gospel lesson from Matthew for St. Michael's Day (Sept. 29) which reads, in part, "...except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." "In the Hills" was added to differentiate and locate the parish. The first Vicar, the Rev.



At the altar, 1972

Timothy Pickering, was appointed in May 1953 and served 14 years, a time of much activity for St. Michael's. He returned to preach at the service celebrating the 50th Anniversary in 2002. A 10-acre wooded plot was acquired from the Canaday estate in November 1953 with an eye toward a future building. The purchase was financed by gifts from parish pioneers and a matching gift from the diocese. Six months later, as an interim step, a 15-room Georgian Colonial house on Bancroft Street was purchased, again made possible by generous donations and pledges.

The house was used as the parish hall, the bedrooms as classrooms, and the garage as the chapel. This served for four years, although doubling services and classes each Sunday became necessary. It was in the basement of "the house on the hill" that the Echo Shop, a clothing consignment and thrift store was born. When the Shop closed in 2003 due to competition from garage sales, it had made monetary donations to numerous local, national, and international service agencies and had provided almost \$443,000 for improvements to the church and rectory, as well as grants for clergy travel and education. Excess clothing was regularly donated to other churches and charitable agencies.

Planning for the new church building began in 1955 and the dream was realized when the first phase of St. Michael's in the Hills Church was dedicated on March 2, 1958. Additions and renovations in 1960, 1975, and 2002 provided a kitchen, classrooms, a Commons Room, an enclosed courtyard, a large Fellowship Hall, and a covered side entrance. In 1961 an adjoining plot was purchased for the rectory, which was completed in 1963. St. Michael's was made a full-fledged parish in 1959.

The Memorial Garden, a secluded area of the grounds, was dedicated in 1976 and provides a hallowed place for the interment of ashes. Its entrance is a handsome lych gate and large stones provide the surface for the incised names of those resting there.

The nave at St. Michael's seats 250 and is adorned with stained glass windows that remind us of the symbols of our Christian faith: Saints Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Peter, John, Thomas, Andrew, Luke, and John the Baptist; also the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Sacraments. The Karl Wilhelm organ, dedicated in 1992 as part of the parish's 40th anniversary, is a glorious focal point behind the altar. The case stands 24 feet high in the center; the organ has 24 stops and more than 1500 pipes. It is widely thought of as a "gem of an instrument." Its acquisition was made possible with a substantial initial donation from Kay Marion in honor of her husband, Paul Marion (organist and choirmaster for over 30 years) and the generosity of the parish.

The nave seating consists of cathedral chairs which can be rearranged occasionally for special services, as on Maundy Thursday when the congregation shares a simple meal around a common table. Below each chair is a separate kneeler with an attached needlepointed cushion – a project completed by parishioners and friends in the 1950s and refreshed in 1984. Each cushion has a unique design and the symbolism is recorded (with photographs) in a book in the church's archives.

As with any congregation, St. Michael's in the Hills has experienced periods of joy and sorrow, decline and renewal. One such period came in the early 1970s, when the parish mourned the unexpected deaths of two rectors and a curate, two of them seven weeks apart. A much anticipated building completion was suspended for several years at that time. At other times, corporate downsizing and relocations have caused loyal and generous families to move out of the area. Goals which sometimes appeared to be unreachable became challenges that motivated the congregation and were attained. Rev. Paul Hannaford brought stable leadership beginning in 1979. Renewed vigor in the 1990s allowed for the 2002 addition to the building and, at the same, time brought energy to the vision of the mission of the parish.

The early years of this century were very comfortable. We were a large, healthy, well-cared-for congregation with lots of energy devoted to Sunday School Education, Adult Education, Music and Outreach. Many of "the old guard" have now passed, often leaving us generous legacies of funds and leadership. The number of parishioners has declined, as in many churches everywhere, but the Spirit is strong here. We have discovered unknown strengths in our resolve, dedication and love. We have a very strong Vestry, staff who are resilient, creative and caring, and a committee system that functions effectively to manage our daily activities and needs.



St. Michael's in the Hills, early 1960s

Throughout its history, St. Michael's has been blessed with clergy and laypeople who have provided guidance, leadership, and a strong faith to move the parish forward in our Mission Statement, to "Love, Learn, and Serve in Christ's Name."

St. Michael's Clergy

Rectors

1st – Timothy Pickering 05/1953-05/1967 (Began as Vicar)
2nd – Michael Nesbitt 10/1967–05/1971
3rd – Raymond Ferris 02/1972-11/1974
4th – Calhoun Wick 08/1975-12/1978
5th – Paul Hannaford 10/1979-12/1992
1st Interim – Sally Fox 10/92-11/1993
6th – Gregory Sammons 12/1993-01/2014
7th Margaret Sammons 12/1993-01/2014 (Began as part-time assistant)
2nd Interim – Caroline Hines 3/2014-7/2015
8th - Jennifer Leider 10/2015 - 11/2016

Curates

1st – Andrew Newman 07/1963-12/1965 2nd – Thomas Culbertson 07/1966-12/1968 3rd – Terry Hunt 01/1969-05/1972
4th – David Stoddart 09/1972-12/1974
5th – Daniel Warren 07/1977-07/1979
6th – Charles Packard 09/1982-07/1984
7th – Brian Wilbert 07/1985-12/1988
8th – Vickie Houk 07/1989-12/1990

Assistant rectors

1st Part-time Assistant – Canon Laurence Hall 02/1977-01/1985
2nd Part-time Assistant – Collins Asoyne 09/2001-?

Staff

Our devoted and thoughtful staff keeps our church running smoothly. On a daily basis they make sure that St. Michael's is a welcoming, high-functioning and beautiful place. Especially during all our transition periods, we confidently rely on our competent, knowledgeable staff to maintain our church's day-to-day operations.

Vestry

The Vestry of St. Michael's in the Hills is made up of twelve volunteer members, including four nominated and appointed by the congregation each year, for a term of three years. These natural

leaders of our parish family represent various parish interests and demographics and act as liaisons to every parish committee. While we hold varying opinions and perspectives, we trust the democratic process. Our conversations are always respectful and each voice is valued. It is an honor to serve on vestry, the demands are shared and no one has ever said they were sorry to have served. We take our responsibilities seriously, trust in the Holy Spirit and enjoy ourselves along the way!

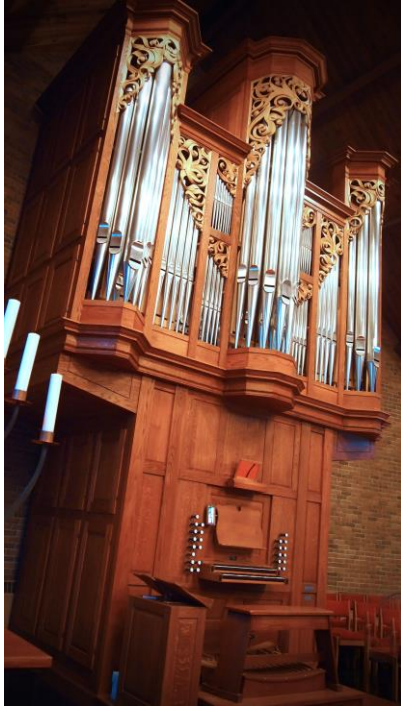
III. WHAT WE DO

Worship

We at St. Michael's feel that one of the most important ways to care for our spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being is to attend church services regularly. St. Michael's in the Hills offers two different Sunday services: a small, quiet, contemplative Eucharist service Sundays at 8:00 a.m., and a larger, family-oriented service of choral Eucharist at 9:45 a.m. Both services use the *Book of Common Prayer*, *Enriching Our Worship* and other resources. Addi-



tional weekly services have been offered during Lent. We consider ourselves to be in the middle of the high/low Episcopal liturgy spectrum.



Morning Prayer has been offered once each month at the 9:45 service. Morning Prayer adds freshness and variety to our worship experience. We appreciate the beauty of Morning Prayer's language and the opportunity for a more individualized spiritual involvement. We look forward to the different genres of choral and congregational singing and the adaptability of the prayers and scripture passages. Parishioners who prefer Eucharist each week always have the early Sunday services to attend. While some might view our Morning Prayer tradition as conventional and even archaic, we find it unique, relevant and uplifting. That said, we welcome a conversation about the appropriate use of Morning Prayer in the future.

We are fortunate to have a parishioner with seminary training to lead us occasionally in Morning Prayer. She offers insightful and thought-provoking sermons. Having her allows our minister a chance to take a Sunday off when necessary or desired.

Inspiring music offered by our choirs and organist has a strong and treasured presence in the weekly 9:45 service and at special events and liturgies. We have come to cherish thoughtful and scholarly weekly sermons.

Special additional services have enriched the church year:

The Christmas Pageant - A Christmas Eve afternoon family service is anchored by a traditional and beloved Christmas Pageant, enacting the Christmas story through the voices of children and youth

Maundy Thursday – The nave is completely reset to resemble a banqueting hall, as we reenact the Last Supper. Participants sit around long tables, share a simple meal and celebrate the Eucharist in a solemn, dramatic and prayerful service.

Mother's Day Youth Sunday - Members of the Youth Group plan the service and participate as celebrants, readers, ushers and musicians. Selected graduating seniors offer the sermon.

Memorial Garden Service – St. Michael's beautiful Memorial Garden is the setting for this late-summer, outdoor service of remembrance. Names are read of all those who are interred here, and special brass music provides an elevated atmosphere for worship in nature.

Music

The music at Saint Michael's is rooted in the Anglican tradition adding variety with multiple resources and genres. Its purpose is to enrich our corporate worship by the performance of outstanding choral and organ music and to provide encouragement and leadership for the congregation's engagement in worship.

Ministries

The following list of ministries shows the depth and breadth of faith and service at St. Michael's. Click on the links below to learn more about individual initiatives.



Pastoral Care
Gardens
Knit and Pray
Altar Guild
Ushers and Greeters Readers
Eucharistic Ministers
Acolytes
Aesthetics Committee

Education

Education of all our members is a top priority at St. Michael's. A devoted staff and generous lay leaders present carefully considered programs for all ages. We believe that church can be a center of learning for all, as children of God and as citizens of the world. A part-time Director of Children's, Youth and Family Ministry drives spiritual and educational and recreational activities for our young family members.

Sunday School

Youth Groups

Confirmation Classes

Common Grounds Adult Seminar



Outreach

Dynamic and passionate lay leaders inspire our congregation to reach out to our own neighborhood and beyond in the service of Christ. Click on any of the outreach initiatives below for more detailed information.

Arts and Athletics for Refugee Kids

FOCUS

Habitat for Humanity

Feed Your Neighbor

St. Paul's Community Center

Community Rummage Sale



Communication

A newly-updated website, www.lovelearnserve.org serves as an information resource for the parish. The site includes copies of recent sermons, event calendars, detailed descriptions of parish groups, activities and initiatives in an easy-to-navigate, user-friendly format. Our vestry is investigating a new digital marketing plan with the goal of updating and enhancing our online social media presence.

Weekly Friday emails give parishioners previews of the weekend services, reminders of upcoming events and requests for help and donations for outreach projects. The weekly worship bulletin is packed with announcements, prayer lists, and calendars.

A monthly newsletter, Cross Currents, is emailed to each parish household with print copies available to those who prefer receiving it through the mail. The colorful newsletter highlights church activities and includes inspirational and informative messages from the clergy and wardens.

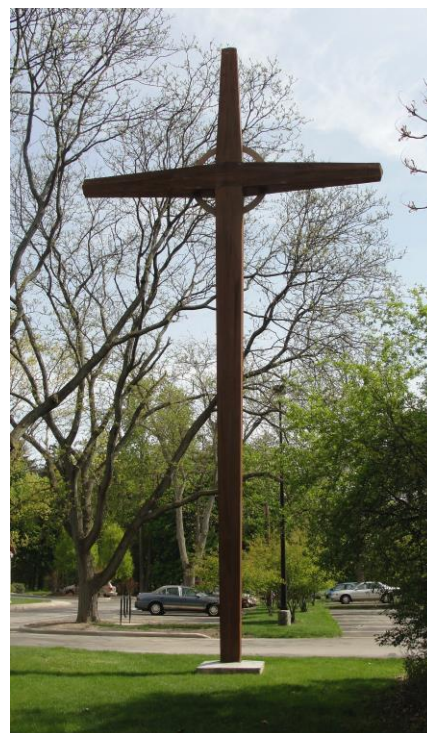
IV. WHERE WE ARE

Our location

St. Michael's in the Hills is located in Ottawa Hills, Ohio, an established, verdant, incorporated village on the western edge of the city of Toledo. Residents of Toledo's metropolitan area enjoy a small-town atmosphere with the resources of a mid-size urban environment.

The city of Toledo proper has a population of about 290,000, and the Toledo metropolitan area has a population of about 600,000. Toledo is located at the southwest corner of Lake Erie on the Maumee River, the largest feeder to the Great Lakes. Northwest Ohio is a prime farming area but Toledo is home to much manufacturing including automotive assembly plants and oil refineries.

Toledoans value easy access to places, services, events and materials. "Everything is within a 20-minute drive." Culturally, Toledo is proud of its fine symphony, opera company,



several community choirs, ethnic fairs, the Toledo Zoo (recently voted #1 zoo in the nation), the Toledo Botanical Garden, and the world-renowned Toledo Museum of Art. The Toledo/Lucas County Public Library system has the largest per-capita circulation in the country. Two large state universities are close-by: the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University.



Sports are big in Toledo with the Mud Hens Triple-A baseball team, boating on Lake Erie and the Maumee River and the Toledo Walleye hockey team. The extensive Metroparks Toledo system puts beautiful greenspaces and outdoor activity opportunities close to every neighborhood.

The Ottawa Hills Local Schools are consistently ranked in the top tier of Ohio public schools. With the Ohio Department of Education's issuing of the Local Report Card for 2016, Ottawa Hills stood alone as the only school district in the state of Ohio to earn A's in all categories on the district report card. With its college preparatory curriculum, comprehensive AP programs and value placed on the fine arts and athletics, the schools are the center of the community.

We are 45 minutes south of Ann Arbor, Michigan, the home of the University of Michigan, an hour from Detroit and its modern international airport, and an easy four-hour drive to Chicago.

St. Michael's draws its members from Ottawa Hills, Toledo, and from dozens of surrounding communities and rural areas.

The Church Buildings

Our original church building was constructed in 1957 and has been added onto three times since. The original building was designed by architect John N. Richards, a prominent Toledo architect of the firm Bellman, Gillette, and Richards. The original building consisted of the Nave, an office area, a Fellowship Hall/ Sunday School area, and a basement with a meeting room and boiler room. Classrooms, a kitchen, and a nursery were added and the basement was expanded in 1959. This project added a Narthex with steeple, a new Fellowship Hall and kitchen, a new choir room, new offices, ADA restrooms, and converted the old Fellowship Hall into a youth education area. The total area of the church building is now just under 28,000 sq. ft., including the basement.

The Nave

The Nave is 100 ft. long and 41 ft. wide. The Nave is of brick construction, has a high-pitched roof with exposed wood bents and wood decking, and stained glass windows in dormers along each



side. Moveable cathedral chairs provide seating for 220. Choir seating adds 30 seats, also moveable, and there are about 20 seats available along the sides of the Altar for service participants. For large events, 14 seats can be added in the main aisle and 30 more can be added in the Narthex. The Nave sound system extends to the Fellowship Hall where services could be heard if necessary. There is a raised pulpit and a raised lectern. Ancillary rooms include a vesting room with toilet, a Sacristy and a frontal storage room.

The Nave has recently been enhanced by a new sound system and a new lighting system. The sound system has a high-mounted main speaker and supplemental speakers for the choir and Narthex. There are 4 wireless receivers, 6 wired mike locations, hearing impaired receivers, CD and MP4 players, and an SD card based

recorder. The lighting system has LED lights arranged in 9 zones with a solid state programmable dimming system.

Fellowship Hall

The Fellowship Hall is a 63 x 42 ft. space with a high-pitched ceiling. An audio-visual system with automatic screen and ceiling-mounted projector was recently installed. The adjoining kitchen is 27ft. x 20 ft. and includes a cook top with exhaust hood, a double oven, two warming ovens, a large work island, numerous cupboards, 3 sinks, a small commercial refrigerator, and a small commercial dishwasher.

The Commons Room

The Commons Area is 41ft. x 30 ft. and includes the church library, meeting tables, and a garden courtyard view. This large meeting room, was added in 1974 designed by parishioner architect

Daryl Blanchard. A major \$1,800,000 project was completed in 2002 designed by Stough and Stough architects.

The Joan Boyer Church School Wing

The youth education area has 5 classrooms, a youth choir room, a large high school room, a nursery, a common space, and an office. The area is about 5000 sq. ft.

Offices

The office area includes two Rector offices, a conference room, a treasurer's room, and a general office area. The area is about 1500 sq. ft. There is a WI-FI computer router system which serves the entire building.

Choir Room

The choir room is 30 ft. x 29 ft. There is an associated large corridor/gallery along the front of the church, and a small garden courtyard in that area.

Basement

There are two rooms in the basement and a bathroom. The larger room is 48ft. x 37 ft. The smaller room is in good condition and is currently in use as a music library for a local choral group. The larger room is currently not in use and needs some renovation.

Access

All building entrances are on grade with long easy ramps integral to the site. The basement access is by stairs only. The oldest bathrooms in the originally building were remodeled for ADA compliance this past summer. The Commons Room has a single ADA bathroom. The Fellowship Hall has ADA bathrooms. Directional signage has been added recently with Braille features. Various corridors provide good circulation routes.

Parking

Parking lots are on three sides of the building with a combined total of 110 spots. The Fellowship Hall entrance has a covering roof out to the curb. Handicapped parking is available in 3 locations.

Heating and Cooling

The Fellowship Hall, offices, and Choir room have rooftop heating and cooling units added in the 2002 expansion. The older areas of the church building are heated by a hot water system with newer condensing boilers. The Nave and Narthex are not cooled but have a summer ventilating

fan system. Services are sometimes held in the air-conditioned Fellowship Hall in hot and humid weather. The Youth Area is not cooled.

Safety

The church building and rectory have monitored fire alarm and intrusion alarm systems. The fire alarm system includes smoke detectors and strobe warning lights.

Facility Condition

In general the facility is in good condition. We are always working on maintenance and minor upgrades. The Nave roof is slate. New roof areas are pitched roofs with long term asphalt shingles. Flat roof areas have rubber roofing. The Commons Room has a roll asphalt roof in good condition.

All windows are new and double-glazed. Stained glass windows have exterior covers.

A new three phase electrical service was added with the 2002 addition capable of handling possible air conditioning loads. All but one minor electrical panels have been upgraded. All new wiring in the Nave was included in the recent lighting project. Almost all lighting has higher-efficiency fixtures.

Water and gas services and alarm systems were upgraded in 2002.

In the past two years a significant facility upgrade has been accomplished including the ADA toilet renovation, replacing the last single glass, refinishing of some interior doors, replacement of the oldest flat roofing, replacing the oldest light fixtures with LED fixtures, rewiring of some outlets for coffee pot loads, a rectory upgrade, and replacement of all carpet in the entire building. The cost of the upgrades was around \$400,000 including the coming parking lot redo.

Rectory

The rectory, a 3,000 square foot, two-story brick house, is adjacent to the church. A short walk across the parking lot and through a wooded yard brings you “home.” The first floor includes a welcoming two-story entry area, recently remodeled kitchen with eating area, dining room, living room, library (or den or office) and a half bath. French doors lead from both the dining and living rooms onto a large screened-in porch. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, two full bathrooms, and ample closet space. All floors except bathrooms are hardwood. The roof and windows are in good condition and there is a condensing hot air furnace with cooling central air and heat. There is an

attached two-car garage, a full basement with one finished room, and an accessible attic. Some upgrading was done for the last rector.



V. WHERE WE ARE GOING

Building on our Strengths

St. Michael's in the Hills has so much going for it! We are a healthy, happy and vibrant group of talented, smart, devout, fun people with a proud history. We are looking for a rector who will join in, inspire and lead us to a greater goodness in the glory of God.

Our greatest strength is our people

Our congregation includes well-educated and accomplished individuals who are natural leaders in our church, community, and in the professional and business world.

There is incredible talent in our midst. At church we find eager volunteers, a “can do” attitude and a confident modesty. We are not too formal, although most of us wear our “Sunday best” to church and we lean toward “traditional” rather than “contemporary” in our current worship style. Our community is friendly, welcoming and caring. During the Peace you see people crossing the aisles, embracing, reaching out and the volume goes way up for a few minutes!



When praying for our sick or homebound, these are our friends and family, and our prayers are heartfelt. The amount of talent, kindness and generosity of spirit among us are truly gifts from God and we give thanks and praise His Holy Name.

More strengths:

Our excellent staff

Our music programs

Our youth mission trips

Our children’s ministry

Our beautiful grounds and facilities

Our outreach programs

Our adult education series

Our financial security and endowment

Our Projects Campaign

Working on our Challenges

Challenges and progress seem to go hand in hand. We continue to work on our challenges while recognizing we have made significant progress in many areas.

Growth has long been a goal. Like many parish families, we are aging and would love to have more young families in our midst. Our children have grown, first getting taller and then off to

college (there are currently more than 20 of our youth in college). Our little ones are few but cherished. Our Sunday School programs are well led and meaningful. Recent baptisms bring us great joy!

In our fourth year of this “transition journey” attendance has declined somewhat. New visitors, while relatively few, have led to some new members. We have lost loyal members due to natural causes; death and moves. Still we are a warm, engaging and welcoming group with systems in place to help “Invite, Welcome and Connect” new folks in our midst. Our work is ongoing, building a culture of name tag wearers, greeters and smiling faces.

We have begun to re-conceptualize growth as more than hoping to increase attendance and pledges. We hope to grow in Spirit; to stretch beyond ourselves. The more we can bring God’s Love to His people - wherever they are - not just on our beautiful Ottawa Hills campus, the more we will truly “grow”. Our Outreach efforts are purposeful, feasible and good. Yet, we know we could do more, should do more and generally wish to do more.

Our stewardship campaign has focused on building relationships with small group gatherings enjoying fellowship and brainstorming and dreaming about St. Michael’s future. We have financial security and financial worries. We seek to establish sustainable, repeatable and successful fund raisers. Our annual rummage sale is financially successful but requires, perhaps, a disproportionate amount of work. It is successful in building community! We try to keep our financial concerns in perspective and recognize our blessings.

Our Pastoral Care Committee regularly brings love to our homebound, hospitalized or needy parishioners via visits, phone calls and eucharistic ministry. We have learned how to care for each other and recently six new eucharistic ministers were trained and certified. Yet, we are aging and our infirmities increase.

Our various committees function well, even though, every committee would like to have more members and some committees lack a clear chairperson. Getting more people involved in meaningful ways is always a goal. Our parishioners are accomplished, busy people, current and retired community leaders.

We recently completed a successful projects campaign and our facilities are in great shape with new ADA restrooms close to the nave, new carpeting, lighting, and a renovated rectory. In the summer of 2018 the parking lot will be resurfaced and get new lighting. Our buildings and grounds, like any home, will always need something. We have been and are determined to be good stewards of our physical blessings.

Our nave is not air conditioned. There are those in our parish family who feel strongly that it should be and those that feel equally strongly that it is fine the way it is. We are currently exploring the possibility of air conditioning for the nave given a recent bequest received by the church.

Our campus location is in a beautiful, wooded area, in an affluent suburban setting. It is private, peaceful and safe. Yet, being on a residential street, it is rather “out of the way” and we do not want to be a “hidden gem”. Ottawa Hills is the historical “estate” section of Toledo with many elegant homes and it sometimes has an undeserved reputation of being exclusive. St. Michael’s membership reaches across the Greater Toledo Area. It is the westernmost Episcopal Church in the metropolitan area. We need to try harder to be known, accessible and welcoming to all.

Gathering together in worship and prayer is at the heart of everything we do at St. Michael’s. Morning Prayer, our St. Michael’s unique hybrid version, has certainly been helpful during these times of needing to find supply clergy. When welcoming our next rector we will want to again look at our liturgy as a community and explore our options.

Quality choral and sacred music remains a very high priority. We are in need of a permanent organist. That search process continues.

Change is tough, but these last four years we have learned much about ourselves. We have learned that we can come together and work very hard to keep our parish functioning smoothly. We’ve learned that change happens even when you’re not ready or particularly willing. It brings some sadness and excitement, lots of opportunity and surprises. We know that change is necessary; “a good and joyful thing”. Join us! God is leading each of us in wonderful ways.

In Conclusion

St. Michael's in the Hills is an eager, faithful community. Realistic. Optimistic. Trusting. We aspire to inspire the Greater Toledo area to: Love, Learn and Serve in Christ's Name! We are looking for a rector who will guide us, love us and bring us closer to God in all ways. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

