



A publication of St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Cross Currents

Worship: Sunday at 8:00 and 9:45 am

September 2019 Edition

Dear Loved Ones in Christ,

Before you read further, take a moment to reflect on the following paraphrase of the familiar Eucharistic invitation. The gifts of God are given for the people of God that you might feed on Christ in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The proof of God's abundant mercy and charity toward us is seldom obvious; it usually reveals itself in glimpses over time, when we are not looking. It is in the discovery of God's abundance where Jesus aims to take us all by surprise, to awaken us to the abundant and overlooked grace in which we abide: with the Giver who lives at the heart of all life. Each of us can only receive that particular gift with an open heart and empty hands, knowing who the real giver is behind all good gifts.

The natural response to receiving such a generous and unmerited gift is the spontaneous and freewill outpouring of thanksgiving to the Giver. This response finds clear expression in 1 Chronicles 29:14, "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill-offering? For all things come from you [O LORD], and of your own have we given you." Here there is recognition of our faults and our dependence upon God's extravagantly abundant grace; and the acknowledgement that what we enjoy in this life is the result of our use of God's abundance, and what we return is God's to begin with.

It is easy to take the familiar – what we are accustomed to – for granted and to focus our attention on whatever happens to be demanding our attention at the moment. What we often don't realize is that these demands distract us by drawing our attention away from the very things that sustain us and toward the things that drain us. Our relationship to "our" possessions, especially money, is often at the top of the list of things that distract us and cause us to turn inward to ourselves, which leads us to turn our backs to our Creator, the Giver and Source of our very lives and all that we value.

This is why David's observation in 1 Chronicles 29:14 is so compelling. He is reminding us of God's sovereignty and what our relationship with God, as the source of all we have, should look like. However, we still are confronted with the realities and practicalities of our lives that constrain us. It is unrealistic to think that we can flip a switch and become grateful givers just because I ask you to. The reality is this is usually a work in progress that will require effort and time. But what we can do immediately is to begin to pray. Begin by spending time with this verse from 1 Chronicles and praying about what the Holy Spirit may be telling you about sharing the gifts God has entrusted to you.



Then join me in praying about how our gifts will enable us not only to thrive but grow in our service to each other and those around us. Our giving does not repay a debt, is not a duty, nor is it a response to a need. Rather it flows forth from our knowledge and experience of the free and extravagant love of Christ. In this way, we begin to move from thinking about the perceived scarcity of our means to knowing the abundance of God's blessing.

Yours in God's abundance —

Building a People who Love, Learn & Serve in Christ's Name!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

We have such an exciting Fall planned for our children, youth and families!

September 8 — Rally Sunday! Come see us in the Sunday School Wing and learn about the spiritual formation opportunities we offer. We will also teach you about the Reverend Alexander Crummell, who was born in 1819!

September 29 — St. Michael's and All Angels Day and we'll learn about slaying dragons!

October 4-6 — Diocesan Youth Event at Bellwether Farm. This is open to all youth in grades 6th-12th. I'm doing a workshop on "Slicin' and Dicin' DNA." This is your opportunity to learn about gel electrophoresis!

October 27 — Trunk or Treat

November 3 — All Saints Day

Parents, this October, we are offering an **Early Communion class** to any baptized child(ren) in grades K-4th who need some additional formation about the Eucharist.

We are also offering a **Youth Confirmation Class** for teens in grades 9th-12th.

Please keep us in prayer and come volunteer with us!

Be Blessed,
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*May 2018
Confirmation*



Following the 9:45 service, all are invited to visit several different ministry tables set up around the church to learn about ways you can get involved at St. Michael's!

After visiting the tables, you can enjoy an ice cream sundae provided by Charlie's Homemade Ice Cream!

This is going to be a FUN event for ALL ages!

DON'T MISS OUT!



PARKING LOT PROJECT UPDATE

Please pardon our dust as the parking lot project is in full steam. As many of you may have noticed, the parking lot project has made some good progress. All of the old asphalt was removed, new catch basins and additional curbs were added for drainage, the gravel base was inspected and replaced as needed. The entire parking lot has been regraded to the new catch basin and two new gravel channels we added in the rear to allow water to drain to the ravine while reducing erosion. All of the old light poles were removed and new concrete bases have been poured. All of the gutter downspouts on the west side of the building have been tied into the storm sewers. The existing rear light poles have been taken down and the concrete bases replaced. The new poles will come with high efficiency LED light fixtures and the existing pole fixtures will be replaced with LED fixtures. During the project all of the wiring from the 1950's will be replaced with new wiring.

The following is scheduled to be complete by Rally Sunday: All base asphalt will be in place, all lights and poles will be installed, a new sidewalk from the front of the church to the memorial garden will be complete (will also provide access to new play ground), a new dumpster pad will be poured and the yard will be repaired. The final top coat of asphalt will not be in place by Rally Sunday, but the parking lot will be striped. The base asphalt is courser than the final layer which should be installed by the end of September. We again want to thank everyone for their patience during the replacement of the parking lot.

Thanks,

Jeff Smith



SPHINX VIRTUOSI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

As part of our “Off the Beaten Path” series on peace and justice, we are offering a concert by the Sphinx Virtuosi, a top group of Black and Latinx musicians. Their music program includes Jessie Montgomery’s Source Code, which pays tribute to African American artists prominent during the peak of the Civil Rights era in the United States.



More details...

- ◆ Tickets can be purchased online with a credit card (see web address above) or in the Church Office with cash during regular Office hours.
- ◆ Tickets will also be sold after the 9:45 service on September 22, September 29, and October 6. Payment can be cash or checks made out to “St. Michael’s in the Hills.”
- ◆ No paper tickets will be issued. There will be a list of ticket purchasers and check in will take place at the door.



COMMON GROUNDS A D U L T S E M I N A R

Join us Sundays in the Fellowship Hall following the 9:45 service for this adult education hour.

Grab a cup of coffee, and enjoy stimulating programs and discussion!

Each program ends between 11:45-11:50 am.

Sept. 8 Rally Sunday: Ministry Fair & Ice Cream! (See page 2 for details!)

Sept 15 Rummage Sale Set-up

Sept 22 Rummage Sale Clean-up

Sept 29 “Meet the Mays”

We are still welcoming and getting to know Fr. Foster and Linda Mays. Come to learn more, and greet our new Priest-in-Charge. Linda has graciously agreed to field a few questions, too. Joe Gerhardinger will host this session and start the ball rolling.

COME SING WITH US!

The Senior Choir has resumed their weekly rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:00. Contact Music Director Justin Bays at justin@lovelearnserv.org if you are interested in joining the choir!

MEMORIAL GARDEN SERVICE

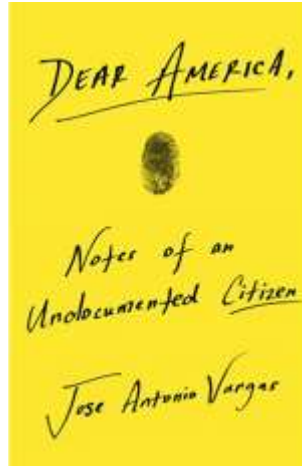
We were blessed with a beautiful morning for our annual Morning Prayer Service in the Memorial Garden on August 25th!



Beautiful music was shared by the Tower Brass Quintet. We are thankful for all the parishioners who took part in the service and those who came early to help our Sexton, Lisa Watson, set up the chairs in the Garden.



NEW IN THE LIBRARY



Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen by Jose Antonio Vargas: This book is a recent addition to the church library. Dear America, written by and about the author is not about immigration per se. Rather, it is about homelessness, in an unsettled, unmoored psychological state in which undocumented immigrants find themselves today.



Annual Rummage Sale! Saturday, September 21 9 am—2 pm

Donations will be collected from Sept. 15-19:
 Sunday, 9 am—1 pm
 Monday-Tuesday, 9 am—4 pm
 Wednesday-Thursday, 9 am—8 pm
 *NO donations accepted Friday, Sept 20.

Special Note: Antiques and collectibles are difficult to price. If you are donating something of particular value, please let us know what you feel it is worth and a little history of the item.

Early Bird sale for parishioners only will be on Thursday, September 19, from 5:00-8:00 pm.

Cashiers will be ready to accept payments for all items. No discounts, as we feel that the prices are fair. Revised price lists for the 2019 sale will be published to all parishioners.

If you can help with set-up or the day of the sale, please sign up on the hall bulletin board.

Volunteers who set aside "finds" during the week, are asked to keep a bag in the kitchen with their name on it to secure your items. PLEASE...pay for these items on Thursday night or Saturday to one of our cashiers. This insures a smooth cash security.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Heidi Glosser	13	JoAnn Booth Nate Keiper
2	Larry Nichols Jill Porter	16	Ella Rohm-Ensing
6	Kevin Hileman	18	Diane Braun Natasza Walker
7	Laura Antoszewski	20	Jack Griffin
8	Mike Ward Lauren Boesel Lucy Porter	23	Benjamin Dansard
9	Beth Stewart	24	David Braun
10	Gillian Heckler	27	Madeline Kottke
11	Mallory Kottke Tanya Sailstad	29	Sherman Hawley Margaret Nichols
		30	Mark Trankina



September birthday and anniversary blessings will be on September 8th.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

October Newsletter: *Articles due September 15.*

Please check in at the office when entering the building. It is helpful for the staff to know who is coming and going — so we do not lock anyone in or set the alarm on them.

Please schedule meetings at the church through the church office. All meetings should be written on the church office calendar. Just send us an e-mail or call! *Thank you!*

Updated Parish Directories are always available. Contact the office to request one.

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS...

Homebound: Betsy Bailey, Isabelle Carter, Carolyn Cousino, Kay Marion, Al Reiser, and Jo Youngen.

Parishioners: Dick Aldinger, Dan, Elmer and Letty Haigh, Nancy Hughes, Carol and Dennis Kanfield, Gayle Kurrelmeier, Jackie Moore, John, Jim Lindeen, Marion Boyer, Marilyn Palermo, Jean Schaefer, John Shelly, Vivian, Lillian Spaulding, Peter Handwork, and Nancy Loughlin.

*Family & Friends: Buck, David, Dick Hanson, Leland Ames, Didi Beckham, Dixie, Evelyn, Lee Gable, Linda, Jamie Jones, Jennifer, Joan, Jean, Karen, Kit, Lexi, Lyle, Sandra, Scott, and Gloria Weller.

For those in harm's way: Michael, Ian Reinheimer, John P. Smith, Scott Sykes, and Russell.

**Family and Friends remain on the prayer list for one month unless the Church Office is otherwise notified.*

KNIT AND PRAY SHAWL MINISTRY



The Knit and Pray Shawl Ministry would like to welcome any other knitters or crocheters out there! They meet the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am in the Office Conference room. Join them August 13th. If you have any questions, contact Anne Morris, 419-277-6449 or librarianne@bex.net.

PASTORAL CARE

If you need to contact Fr. Foster after office hours in the event of a pastoral emergency, he can be reached at (419) 482-8383.



READINGS	DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTES	ALTARGUILD	GREETERS	LECTORS & LEM	USHERS
12th Sunday after Pentecost	Sun. 9/1	8 a.m. HE		Jano Nolette		Ben Darsard	
Jeremiah 2:4-13		9:45 a.m. HE	William Becker	Dee Becker	Ann Verner	Carol Nichols (L1)	Joe Gerhardinger
Psalms 81:1, 10-16			Mikayla Gomulinski	Sara Roberts		Jeff Boyer (L2)	Mark Keleher
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16			Meredith Randall			Ricky Becker (P)	
Luke 14:1, 7-14							
13th Sunday after Pentecost	Sun. 9/8	8 a.m. HE		Kay Gerhardinger		Carole Shirk	
Jeremiah 18:1-11		9:45 a.m. HE	Charlotte DeRosa	Penny Cobau-Smith	Nancy Hughes	Duncan Thomas (L1)	Scott Hendricks
Psalms 139:1-5, 12-17			Sophie Jewell		Mark Trankina	Laura Randall (L2)	Mark Keleher
Philemon 1-21			Walker Kight			Joe Gerhardinger (P)	
Luke 14:25-33							
	Wed. 9/11	4 p.m. Sunset		Edwina Leggard			
14th Sunday after Pentecost	Sun. 9/15	8 a.m. HE		Nancy Lehmann		Vicki Creekmore	
Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28		9:45 a.m. HE	William Gerhardinger	Nancy Lehmann	Jaymie & TJ Fontana	Marilyn Palermo (L1)	Edwina Leggard
Psalms 14			Mikayla Gomulinski	Carol Kanfield	Marilyn Palermo	Anne Morris (L2)	Nancy Lehmann
1 Timothy 1:12-17			Mitchell Gomulinski			David Braun (P)	
Luke 15:1-10							
15th Sunday after Pentecost	Sun. 9/22	8 a.m. HE		Sue Merce		George Shirk	
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1		9:45 a.m. HE	William Becker	Barb Malkoski	Cheryl & Laurel Volk	Bill Jenks (L1)	Henry Merce
Psalms 79:1-9			John Kight	Sue Merce	Nancy Hughes	Vivian Bork (L2)	Mike Porter
1 Timothy 2:1-7			Emily Porter			Mike Ward (P)	
Luke 16:1-13							
Saint Michael and All Angels	Sun. 9/29	8 a.m. HE		Terri Ward		Cam Smith	
Genesis 28:10-17		9:45 a.m. HE	Sam Reszko	Jano Nolette	Puffin Coe	Al Stephens (L1)	Kyle Randall
Revelation 12:7-12			Sarah Jewell	Kay Gerhardinger	Pam Cousino	Barb Reszko (L2)	Jeff Smith
John 1:47-51			Meredith Randall			Susan Hendricks (P)	
Psalms 103 or 103:19-22							

SEPTEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE



St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church

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Phone: (419) 531-1616 Fax: (419) 531-9332

E-mail: office@lovelearnserv.org

Visit us on the web: www.lovelearnserv.org

Church Office Hours

Monday–Tuesday, 9 am to 2 pm

Wednesday–Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

*Closed for Lunch from 12-12:30pm

THE VESTRY

David O'Connell, *Senior Warden*

Julia Burtscher, *Junior Warden*

Class of 2020

Jaymie Fontana
Julie Hagenbuch
David O'Connell
Jeff Smith

Class of 2021

David Braun
Julia Burtscher
James Carlisle
Barb Malkoski

Class of 2022

Nancy Elzinga
Kay Gerhardinger
Eboné Waweru
Dani Zoorob

PARISH STAFF

Imani Driskell – Director of Children's, Youth and Family Ministry

Rebecca Park – Organist

Justin Bays – Director of Music

Michelle Knecht & Kim Schrinel – Administrative Assistants

Diane Reeves & Lisa Watson – Sextons

Gretchen Rohm – Financial Administrator

PARISH LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Foster Mays – Priest-in-Charge

David O'Connell – Senior Warden

Julia Burtscher – Junior Warden

John Graham – Treasurer

David Braun – Clerk