



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

Cross Currents

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

November 2019 Edition

Loved Ones in Christ,

Have you ever had the experience of looking at the same set of facts with another person, and marveled that you don't both come to the same conclusion? You may even come to diametrically opposed opinions, and find yourself marveling at how the other could possibly conclude that you are not correct!

There are a number of plausible explanations for such difference of opinions, but I suggest that the simplest explanation is one of perspective. The more similar or closer our perspectives are the more likely we are to be in agreement or share similar conclusions. Conversely, the farther apart our perspectives, the more opposed our conclusions are likely to be.

In the absence of a visual aid to illustrate my claim of perspective, I invite you to use your imagination to visualize a tree at the edge of a wood. Imagine if you will, yourself and one other person standing close to but on opposite sides of this tree. The two of you know enough about trees to agree the tree is a white oak, and you both observe that there is at least one fork in the bole of the tree. Yet your proximity – closeness – to the tree impedes your ability to see the whole of the tree; it obscures your view not only of the other side but also your view of all the branches.

So imagine from where you stand you observe above you what appears to be a crown with virtually no deadwood and full of orange-brown leaves beginning to fall to the ground. What's more, about half way up one of the forks in the bole of the tree you see a gaze of raccoons looking out of knothole in the tree. From this perspective I might form a conclusion that this tree is vibrant and full of life. In fact my conclusion may become more firmly set every time I look at this oak.

Now imagine you are on the other side of the same tree. From where you stand you see yet another fork emerging from one of the original two; yet the branches of this fork are completely devoid of foliage and you can see where the bark has been falling away from the branches. You can also see the telltale holes of the woodpecker that has been foraging for the insects that live beneath bark. What's more, before your very eyes you observe a steady procession of ants climbing up the tree and entering a hole bearing larvae and then reversing course down the trunk with empty mandibles. From this perspective I might conclude that this tree is dying rapidly and should be cut down and removed before it falls on my home.

Who is correct in their analysis? From their respective perspectives both can be correct about what they perceive, but if each takes a few steps back they may well perceive more than they could before and perhaps acknowledge that they see some of what the other sees as well. Such taking of a few steps back from perspectives we hold dear and acknowledging the perspective of the other is to glimpse the grace of God in our midst and our possible reconciliation.



Yours in God's grace,

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Liturgical Christians around the world celebrate "All Saints Day." This is a day when we remember the saints and martyrs who lived and worked and died. There is such a great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. Are there any saints you wish to name?
I have a small list to get you started:

Saint Cecelia
Blessed Absalom Jones
Saint Anna Alexander

Saint Martin de Porres
The Right Reverend James Alexander Holly
Saint Therese of Little Flower

Please feel free to come talk with me about these saints.

Be blessed,
Imani



FALL YOUTH SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17

Please save the date and join us as our youth lead the 9:45 service! Invite the children and youth in your life!

A special treat on Fall Youth Sunday will be the "Early Communion Class Recognition."

WE ENJOYED A FESTIVE TRUNK-OR-TREAT THIS YEAR!

It was a bit chilly outside but, thankfully, it did not rain! We even had a few local families attend!

Thank you to everyone who participated and all who decorated their trunks!





*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.*

November 3 "Feed Your Neighbor: Feeding Souls, Too"



Becky and Kevin Gay coordinate the Feed Your Neighbor site at Epiphany Lutheran Church. They will share the story of making an inviting, family-like environment to welcome visitors to the pantry. They, indeed, see their mission as "feeding souls" as well as bodies. You will love hearing where our donated items are taken (by Jano Nolette, Mike Ward, and George Shirk).

November 10 "Veterans Day Observance"



Today we celebrate all veterans by sharing stories. Our own Fr Foster Mays and Scott Hendricks will tell of their experiences, and for the final portion we invite all parishioners to reminisce about their family stories of service in the armed forces.

November 17 "Hidden Treasure in Plain Sight"



Today we appreciate and discuss the 250 uniquely-created St. Michael's kneelers. Learn about the Anglican kneeler tradition, the history of our finely-crafted kneelers, how we care for them, and how we make new ones. There is also a bonus opportunity to purchase new handmade cards showcasing this treasure just in time for Christmas giving! Please join Julia Burtscher, Kay Gerhardinger, and Carol Nichols for this colorful program.

November 24 "Pie Potluck! Sign-a-Card for our College Students!"



Join the fun and bring 2 pies to church: one to eat and one to share with St. Paul's Community Center for their Thanksgiving week meal. Bring any kind of pie for our meal: savory, sweet, pizza, quiche, round or square. And bring a dessert pie for us to take to St. Paul's. Nancy Elzinga will be in the kitchen to accept your pies before the 9:45 service with warming ovens ready. Can mac and cheese be called "pie?" Of course! Also, we will have cards of encouragement for our college students. Send them your love by signing a card in the Fellowship Hall. Please call the church office with addresses of any college students you know so we can include them.

*Where:***At the home of Penny Cobau-Smith**

10684 Miller Rd, Swanton OH

(15 min from Church: straight out Bancroft by Secor Park)

Transportation may be provided from the church.

Valet parking is available at the home.

*Note: The home is accessible and without steps for those with mobility challenges!**Cost:***\$15.00/person**

(Checks payable to St. Michael's)

*Dinner:***Dinner lovingly prepared** by Jaymie Fontana,

Nancy Lehmann, Laura Randall,

Gretchen Thomas and Penny Cobau-Smith

*Vegetarian & gluten free options will also be served.**More Details:***All profits will go to** The Cocoon in Bowling Green:*The Cocoon provides support programs and shelter to victims of domestic violence.***Music provided by** the Ottawa Hills Choraliers,
directed by Donna Wipfli.**Donations requested** for Compassion Health Care:
They provide Christ-centered, integrated, affordable and quality health care to all men, women and children.
Please consider donating NEW, ESSENTIAL newborn basics such as: blankets, diapers, onesies, bath towels.**Please sign up at St. Michael's after November 3rd.**Small maps and lists of gift items will be
made available after Dec 1st.

Thank you

St. Michael's Rummage Sale Committee extends their gratitude to everyone who donated goods and spent many hours organizing and helping with our Rummage Sale in September!

We are delighted to report that we brought in \$4,359.82, after expenses, from the sale. \$2000 of these proceeds will be graciously donated to the Victory Center.

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR

Please donate nonperishable food items to support the local food bank. Drop off baskets are in the narthex and at the side entrance.

For October through December, suggested donations are corn bread mix, dressing, yams, hamburger helper and cranberry sauce.





Monday at Mike's is a Christian men's fellowship group that in past years has met the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm for dinner, followed by a speaker. We have had guest speakers which included historians, pastors, an Imam and many others with knowledge to enlighten us. Occasionally, the group would take a road trip to visit and tour another church to become acquainted with other denominations in the area, and they have also went on outings to sporting events such as Mud Hen's baseball and Walleye Hockey.

Their inaugural meeting for 2019 will be Monday, November 4th at 6:00 pm for a dinner and a short talk by parishioner Mike Booth, who has a storied career and many tales to share. This will be followed by a short discussion of **the Monday at Mike's program and the direction we would like to take.** Let's decide what our future meetings will look like and grow in Christ as we proceed down this path!

With questions or if you plan to attend, please contact Scott Hendricks at scott_and_sue@buckeye-express.et or 419-882-2978.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR TRAINING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Father Foster is offering a Eucharistic Visitor Training on Tuesday, November 5 from 2-4pm. So, after you have voted, you could come to church and learn how to share the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with those of our church family who are not able to physically join us in the Eucharist at church on Sunday.

You do not need to be a member of the Lay Visitation Team in order to serve in this way, although you are always welcome. It is our plan to send the Eucharistic Visitor off on Sunday, directly from church, to share communion in the community. Please prayerfully consider this important act of service. It is truly in giving that we receive. With questions, or if you plan to attend, please speak with Carol Nichols or Father Foster.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS

Calling all angels, sheep and weary travelers!

Children and youth (and their friends!) are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Pageant. For more details, contact Music Director, Justin Bays, at justin@lovelearnserv.org.

Saturday, Nov. 16	11:00 am—12:30 pm
Saturday, Nov. 23	11:00 am—12:30 pm
Saturday, Dec. 7	1:00 pm—2:00 pm
Saturday, Dec. 14	1:00 pm—2:00 pm
Saturday, Dec. 21	1:00 pm—2:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 22	Dress Rehearsal
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Pageant at 4:30 pm



OFF THE BEATEN PATH: SPHINX VIRTUOSI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



Dear St. Michael's,

Tuesday night, October 15, was a big night for St. Michael's. The Sphinx Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra performed in our sanctuary to a rapturous full house. *(See pictures on page 7!)* St. Michael's put its best foot forward to welcome our guest musicians and our enthusiastic audience. What a joy it was to witness the young musicians' magnificent music making, their compelling, important program and their obvious commitment, artistry and passion.

The Off the Beaten Path Creative Team, Lovi Aldinger, Sarah Schendel and Steve Wipfli, was so gratified by the contributions of every staff member and the small army of volunteers from the congregation.

Our sincere thanks go to our secretaries Michelle and Kim, for handling every detail of church office ticket sales, the printed program and so much more. Our sextons, Diane and Lisa, made the church sparkle and checked off every detail from a very lengthy to-do list. Music Director, Justin, collected music stands and **generously lent his choir room to be an orchestra dressing room.** And Fr. Foster's welcome to our guests was gracious and inviting - just right.

Congregation members stepped up to chair committees. Gretchen Thomas and her crew welcomed and guided each guest. Joe Gerhardinger and friends managed the will call and ticket sale tables. Irene Ehrmin and helpers served the Virtuosi a delicious Middle Eastern meal and quickly reset the Fellowship Hall for a beautiful post-concert reception.

Our new parking lot accommodated all our guests perfectly and the Ottawa Hills Police stayed on-site until everyone departed.

Special thanks to Becky Gannon, our Social Media Consultant, who made Facebook hum with information, photos and videos. When she came on board, 147 people had "liked" St. Michael's page. Last week, that had increased to 380! In July, 27 people had seen our FB posts. This week, 7882 people had seen posts from St. Michael's (a 343% increase) and "likes" were at 2,475. We are confident that our sellout was in large part due to her work. Brava Becky!

Our dream was to produce a high-quality, significant and meaningful event to share with our community, capitalizing on all the things that make St. Michael's such a beautiful place.

Dreams do come true!

We're so grateful,
The Off the Beaten Path Creative Team

SPHINX VIRTUOSI CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: OCTOBER 15



Off the Beaten Path

COMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 15, 2019 4pm

Peace at Christmas

Tower Brass Quintet

Saturday, February 1, 2020 10am-4pm

From Conflict to Opportunity

Rev. Sarah Shofstall, workshop leader

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 7:30pm

The Thistle Farm Story

Rev. Becca Stevens



SERMON ARCHIVE

Wishing you could hear a sermon one more time? Fr. Foster has made his sermons available online! Please go to www.lovelearnserve.org, click on 'Resources', then click on 'Links' and you'll find the first item is the clickable link to Fr. Foster's sermons.



Men's Group Study



All men are invited to a Men's Bible Study which is meeting on Friday's at 8 a.m. They gather in the large Youth Room from 8 to 9 a.m. for fellowship, a light breakfast and Bible study. For more information, please contact Duncan Thomas at 419-320-1782 or thomaspvb@comcast.net

Women's Group Study

Women's Bible Study at St. Michael's is held on Friday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Commons Room. All women are invited and guests are also welcome. Time is spent on fellowship and a better understanding of the upcoming Sunday Gospel. There is no required attendance or home study. Please join us! With questions, contact Gretchen Thomas at gigipvb@comcast.net or 419-320-1783.

ST. MICHAEL'S MEDAL NOMINEES

Each year St. Michael's offers the opportunity for parishioners to nominate individuals for the St. Michael's Medal. Nominations for 2020 are now being accepted until November 15. The Medal may be awarded to communicants who have provided years of dedicated and distinguished service to St. Michael's. For more information or to see a list of prior recipients, and to pick up a form, visit the table in the hall or narthex, or email us at: office@lovelearnserve.org.

BLESSING OF THE PETS



Saturday, October 5



PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 24



Pledge Packets are available on the hall table. (Feel free to help deliver a neighbor's as well!) So that Vestry can plan for next year, please mail or bring your pledge to church by Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov 24th. We will give thanks for our beloved parish by offering our pledges for 2020 to God during the services that weekend.

Then, to celebrate another season of gratitude, please join us for the Christmas Sing-along on Friday, December 6th! (See below for details.)

ADVENT EVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

following the 9:45 service

- * Make an Advent ornament for our tree
- * Make an Advent wreath to take home
- * Make an Advent chain & other children's crafts
- * Do alternative Christmas shopping
- * Pick up your previously ordered Christmas wreaths and greenery from grade 9-12 youth
- * Receive an Advent calendar, and prayer helps.
- * Enjoy warm cider, music and fellowship

Advent wreath forms (\$3)
and candle sets (\$3)
will be available for purchase,
or simply bring your own form.



YOU'RE INVITED

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

Friday, December 6
7:00 pm—9:30 pm



Celebrate the conclusion of our Stewardship drive and the coming Christmas season with singing, cookies and fellowship!

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 November 12th. If you have any questions, contact Anne Morris, 419-277-6449 or librarianne@bex.net.



COMPLINE SERVICE
EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 7PM

Compline meets every Wednesday at 7 pm for a Lay led service, usually using the New Zealand office of Compline. All our welcome. Please give it a try & attend as your schedule permits. Questions? Contact Scott or Susan Hendricks, David or Diane Braun, or George or Carol Shirk.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Kevin Egan	17 Donald McIntyre
3 Nancy Hatfield	18 Arthur Morgan Patsy Suter
6 Margaret Sagan Carolyn Lloyd	19 Janet Metzger
12 Joanne Youngen	20 Joy Kight
14 Andrzej Gomulinski Bryce Loy	23 Carleen McIntyre
15 Thomas Kropp Josie Iorio	24 Brian Bailey
	25 Debbie Carlisle
16 Lauren Walker Nathan Walker	27 Mark Burton
	28 James Boyer Herm Kurrelmeier
	30 Ron Volk



*November birthday and
anniversary blessings
will be on November 10.*

WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

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

*Family & Friends: Dan, Brittany, Dick, Mary, Leland Ames, Didi Beckham, Dixie, Evelyn, Lee Gable, Joan, Jean, Karen, Lexi, Susan Murray, Karen Knemeyer, Sandra, Theresa, and Gloria Weller.

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

For those who have died: Betsy Bailey, Dan Lehmann, Lois Shelly, Jean Schaefer (parishioners) and Janet Fehlen (former Administrative Assistant at St. Michael's)

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

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

December Newsletter: *Articles due November 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.

GLASS CITY MARATHON 2020

The Glass City Marathon will be held Sunday, **April 26, 2020!** St. Michael's is once again hosting a water stop, and we are looking for our Water Stop Captain. The job entails picking up supplies before the event at the University of Toledo, rounding up volunteers to help, and coordinating our stop the day of. If you are interested in helping in this role, please contact Julia Burtscher for details. Thanks!



Pastoral CARE

When you are sick, hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please notify the church office or Fr. Foster. Privacy laws prevent institutions from sharing such information. Also, the church office is happy to keep a record of your emergency contact info. should someone need to be contacted. In the event of a pastoral emergency after office hours, Fr. Foster Mays can be reached at: (419) 482-8383.

READINGS	DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD	GREETERS	LECTORS & LEM	USHERS
All Saints Sunday	Sun. 11/3	8 a.m. HE		Kay Gerhardinger		Carole Shirk	
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18		9:45 a.m. HE	John Kight	Barb Malkoski	Jano Nolette	Anna Becker (L1)	Scott Hendricks
Psalms 149			Meredith Randall	Dee Becker	Joan O'Connell	Scott Hendricks (L2)	Kyle Randall
Ephesians 1:11-23			Grace Waweru			Barb Reszko (P)	
Luke 6:20-31							
22nd Sunday after Pentecost	Sun. 11/10	8 a.m. HE		Sue Merce		Vicki Creekmore	
Haggai 1:15b-2:9		9:45 a.m. HE	Anna Becker	Sara Roberts	Marilyn Palermo	Rachel Schneider (L1)	Edwina Ledgard
Psalms 145:1-5, 18-22 or Psalm 98			Mikayla Gomulinski	Kay Gerhardinger	Ann Verner	Duncan Thomas (L2)	Nancy Lehmann
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17			Lucy Porter			Susan Hendricks (P)	
Luke 20:27-38							
23rd Sunday after Pentecost	Sun. 11/17	8 a.m. HE		Penny Cobau-Smith		George Shirk	
Isaiah 65:17-25		9:45 a.m. HE	William Becker	Gretchen Thomas	Brent & Pam Cousino	Sam Reszko (L1)	Henry Merce
Canticle 9			Mitchell Gomulinski	Terri Ward		Anne Morris (L2)	Mike Porter
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13			Walker Kight			Laura Randall (P)	
Luke 21:5-19							
	Wed. 11/20	4 p.m. Sunset		Edwina Ledgard			
Last Sunday after Pentecost	Sun. 11/24	8 a.m. HE		Nancy Lehmann		Cam Smith	
Jeremiah 23:1-6		9:45 a.m. HE	Sam Reszko	Jano Nolette	Cheryl & Laurel Volk	Dani Zoorob (L1)	Kyle Randall
Canticle 16			Charlotte DeRosa	Julia Burtcher	Nancy Hughes	Julia Burtcher (L2)	Ron Volk
Colossians 1:11-20			Emily Porter			Mike Ward (P)	
Luke 23:33-43							

NOVEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE



St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church

4718 Brittany Road
Toledo, Ohio 43615-2314

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

E-mail: office@lovelearnserve.org

Visit us on the web: www.lovelearnserve.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 Burtcher, *Junior Warden*

Class of 2020

Jaymie Fontana
Julie Hagenbuch
David O'Connell
Jeff Smith

Class of 2021

David Braun
Julia Burtcher
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 Burtcher – Junior Warden

John Graham – Treasurer

David Braun – Clerk