



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

Cross Currents

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

December 2019 Edition



My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we enter this season of Advent I feel a palpable sense of anticipation in the air. I haven't yet decided if what I feel are the pressures of preparation, or the seemingly tranquil image of the holy family settled in a quaint stable in Bethlehem. Of course neither of these feelings are tangible; they are just different ends of a spectrum of feelings.

I wonder what this sense of advent anticipation feels like for you? Perhaps it's one of quiet reflection upon the wonder of God incarnate as one of us. Perhaps it's one of sadness because you are more acquainted with the suffering of loss, even as you are bombarded with messages that insist we are to be happy. Yet again, perhaps it's just one of distraction among a myriad of mixed messages.

As I reflect upon the possible range of senses of Advent anticipation, I recognize our feelings are malleable; they can and do shift with time and experience. In fact the malleability of our perception is one way in which bit-by-bit the long arc of God's witness and work in the world is revealed. You and I are the transitory and malleable pieces of this story, which resolutely remains the continuous draw of all humankind toward God's abiding presence.

Thus how we respond to our senses of anticipation will affect the telling of God's story. Therefore, may we all "lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." [Ephesians 4:1-3]

Yours in Christ's Abundant Love,

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Deontology and Thinking Theologically

I have quite a few apps on my phone but two of my favorites are "DuoLingo," and "WordGenius." DuoLingo helps me to maintain fluency in Spanish! WordGenius teaches me a new word everyday! Some of the words from the last few weeks were: spoonerism, chandler, ataraxy, trenchant, mephitic, protean and deontology. I won't make you go look up the definitions of these words. Protean means extremely changeable, easily assuming different forms, mephitic means offensive smelling, trenchant means being sharp, intense and forceful and ataraxy means a state of calmness or tranquility. Chandler is a noun which means candlemaker and spoonerism is a transposition of the initial letters of two words. Deontology is a theory of ethics that establishes rules of right and wrong actions and it is the only definition that I want you to remember. Some of the work that I do in Christian Formation deals with deontology. The Golden Rule is one of the most basic principles of deontology- treat others the way you wish to be treated. In the current confirmation class we're finding new ways of seeing. Our faith means that we see the world while in relationship with God. This relationship means that we welcome God's guidance, accept God's forgiveness and seek God's will for our lives. I am so excited that on December 8th, our youth confirmand will publicly affirm her baptismal vows.

God Bless, *Imani*

**References were taken from wordgenius and "MY Faith, My Life" by Jennifer Lee Gamber.*



**EPISCOPAL
YOUTH
EVENT 2020**

Every 3 years, the Episcopal Church holds the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE), a gathering of over a thousand youth from every diocese, including the Latin American and Caribbean dioceses as well as some international participants! In 2017, I attended EYE in Oklahoma. In 2020, EYE will be in Maryland! This event is open to all 9th-12graders. I would love to have 4-6 attend from St. Mike's!

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING



This Christmas Season, we will collect items to share with Leading Families Home Shelter. This nonprofit (the former FOCUS and Beach House combined) offers housing and economic stability for those in need. A list and reminder tags are on display in the hallway across from the restrooms. Select any item and return it to the Narthex no later than Sunday, Dec. 15th. Questions? Contact Ann: yoga2day@hotmail.com

Shelter Needs:

- ◊ Gift Cards from House of Meats, Kroger, Walmart, Gordon Food Service, Meijer, Dollar Tree, etc. (This will assist with purchasing food, household products, work clothes & supplies for program participants.)
- ◊ New General Household Supplies: Pot and pan sets, silverware sets, full-size bath towels, kitchen towels, face towels, shower curtains & liners, vacuums, storage totes, coffee makers, electric can openers and laundry baskets.
- ◊ New Bedding & Pillows: Twin size solid colored sheets, pillows, pillow cases & comforters.

Visit their website to learn more: www.lfhtoledo.org/mission.php



COMMON GROUNDS ADULT SEMINAR

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.*

December 1 Advent Event

See page 4 for details about this festive and fun event!

December 8 Welcome, Bishop Mark Hollingsworth!

Coffee Hour with Bishop Mark Hollingsworth and the confirmands.



December 15 Story Telling Sunday

Enjoy the tradition of listening to favorite Christmas stories. Vivian Bork will read Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales." Get something warm to drink and settle back for a transporting experience in poetic language, beautifully read. Lucky us!

December 22 Episcopal Relief and Development

Deacon Brian Gillooly, Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development, will speak about the program's outreach.



December 29 Coffee and Fellowship Hour

CHRISTMAS FLOWER AND MUSIC MEMORIALS



If you would like to remember a loved one this Christmas by making a gift for our Christmas music and flowers, special envelopes are on the hall and narthex tables. Please print your name legibly and indicate whether your gift is flowers or music. In order for your memorial to be published in the Christmas bulletins, please turn in your envelope by Sunday, December 15th.

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!

Advent and Christmas at St. Michael's

Sunday, December 15 — Lessons & Carols

8:00 am Holy Eucharist: Advent III
9:45 am Readings which help prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ child alternate with Advent hymns or anthems.

Sunday, December 22 — Advent I V

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
9:45 am Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, December 24 — Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Family Eucharist, with the Christmas Pageant
9:30 pm Musical Prelude
10:00 pm Festival Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25 — Christmas Day

11:00 am Holy Eucharist



*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****High school and college age daughters welcome too!**

(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 by December 4th.**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS

*Last call for 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, 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

GETTING TO KNOW YOU... THE SENIOR CHOIR!

We will be introducing you to our Senior Choir members and sharing about a new member each month. This month we would love to introduce you to Lindsay Smith!

Justin Bays, Music Director

* * *

Lindsay Smith (tenor) has been singing since his College days where an annual Gilbert and Sullivan opera was performed. His introduction to opera came with his College's production of the *The Mikado* where he played Pish Tush.

After joining Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs he was posted to a number of countries, where he made a point of joining local musical groups, partly to pick up on the language and also to enjoy meeting local singers. He sang with such groups and choirs in Holland including Den Haag's Kamer Chor (The Hague Chamber Choir), and in Sweden, New Zealand (Wellington Gilbert and Sullivan Society) and the USA when posted to New York as a member of the Australian delegation to the UN. While in New York for relaxation, and after an audition, he became a member of the world's oldest continuous G and S group, the Blue Hill Troupe in New York, getting some principal roles. During his time in the USA he married, Roxanne, whom he had earlier met while on posting to Scandinavia, and settled here (in Toledo) after retirement from the diplomatic service.



Lindsay joined St Michael's after looking for a church, and on hearing the choir, then under the baton of the late Paul Marion, turned up for a choir practice more than 20 years ago and has been there since. As far as he can recall, John and Irene Ehrmin were the only choir members at that time who are still in the present choir. His two sons both live in Australia and visit Toledo when possible and Lindsay usually travels to Australia at least once a year to "keep his accent!" So far as worship at St Michael's is concerned he says his inspiration comes from the music - which thanks to a succession of Choir masters, covers contemporary to the classic. He believes the tradition is being carried on with Justin Bays whom he likes to refer to in the School of Church Music tradition as "Master of the Choristers". One of the Anglican services that inspires and which he particularly likes, is the calm and quiet of Evensong- the very word imparting a sense of peace at the end of the day. Compline comes a close second.

One of his happiest St Michael's memories is directing a production of "Trial by Jury", the first collaboration of Gilbert and Sullivan, and featuring the members of St Michael's Choir as principals and chorus. With Paul Marion as musical director and Lindsay director, the production filled the main hall at St Michael's for a two-night season with all parts being filled by members of the choir.

As from favorite composers Mozart, Donizetti and of course Sullivan come to mind, plus a little bit of classical jazz.

Asked what most people don't know about him, Lindsay suggested perhaps the he was Commonwealth Media Liaison officer for state visits to Australia by Prince Charles and the Duke of Gloucester as well as for a number of heads of Government, including George W Bush and Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain when seconded to the Australian Government's Ceremonial and Hospitality Branch. Additionally, he was the Media Liaison for Pope John Paul when he made an official visit to Australia.

He now enjoys a quieter life in Toledo but to sleep fit enjoys tennis and riding his bike through many of Toledo's wonderful Metro Parks.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH EVENTS SERIES

Peace at Christmas

TOWER BRASS QUINTET

Sunday, December 15, 2019 4PM FREE!
St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church

"Off the Beaten Path" events series presents the Tower Brass Quintet in a concert of seasonal music for Christmas, Sunday, December 15th at 4 p.m. at St. Michael's in the Hills.

The Tower Brass Quintet is a professional ensemble of brass musicians from the Toledo area. We are helping them celebrate their 40th Anniversary Season with this free family concert.

The Tower Brass has been a friend of St. Michael's for many years, providing

beautiful music for the annual Memorial Garden Service in late summer.

"Peace at Christmas" is a one-hour concert featuring Christmas music for all tastes, designed to offer a bit of respite and renewal during a busy and sometimes hectic season.

Congregation members are encouraged to sign up to reserve free tickets and to guarantee a seat close to the front of the church. Sign-up sheets are available in the church office and after services.

What a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to St. Michael's!

Learn more about the Tower Brass Quintet: <https://www.towerbrassquintet.com>



"From Conflict to Opportunity" Workshop

Saturday, February 1st

10 am to 3 pm - Lunch included

\$15 registration fee, \$5 for students

In the midst of a busy season of holidays take a few minutes to "save the date" for this workshop that will be held on Saturday, February 1st at St. Michael's in the Hills.

And, consider inviting your friends who may also be interested in this topic. Many of us are pondering this

question: is it possible in 2020 (or sooner) to have meaningful and respectful conversations when there is real disagreement? The topic of all that divides our country is on a lot of folks minds, perhaps even as we anticipate family gatherings. Might we have some guiding principles and tools that could help us be bridge builders?

Our workshop will be lead by Rev. Sarah Shofstall, Interim Rector of Christ Church, Oberlin, Ohio. Rev. Sarah has years of experience and training in peacemaking and has lead many workshops on this topic. She is a warm and inviting person with much to offer. In addition to "saving the date," please consider volunteering to assist in the workshop. We will need 8-10 volunteers (church members and others) who will receive one session of training from our workshop leader, to be scheduled in January, 2020. Let Sarah Schendel or Fr. Foster Mays know if you have questions or are interested in helping.

NUTS AND BOLTS

Sarah Schendel, Fr. Foster Mays, and Diane & David Braun attended the Diocesan Convention on Nov.8-9.



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

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 December 10th. 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 are 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.



Monday at Mike's will meet Monday, December 2nd at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be followed by our guest speaker, Al Stephens. Al is a parishioner of St. Michael's and has a background in education and currently is leading travel tours.

If you are not receiving e-mails about Monday at Mike's events, please share your email with Scott Hendricks to be put on the list. For the purpose of getting an ample amount of food, please see the sign-up sheets posted at church, or contact Scott Hendricks: scott_and_sue@buckeye-express.com.

ST. MICHAEL'S KNEELERS

Many thanks to Julia Burtscher, Kay Gerhardinger and Carol Nichols for their time and effort in presenting the November 17th Common Grounds program, *Hidden Treasures in Plain Sight*.

Learning about the Anglican kneeler tradition and about St. Michael's finely crafted kneelers was very interesting. We are fortunate that Mary Anne Brown has donated her personal copy of *Symbols of our Faith*, a history of St. Michael's needlepoint kneelers to the church library. This book details the symbolism of all the original kneelers in the Nave. Thank you, Mary Anne! *Symbols of our Faith* will be available to borrow once it has been cataloged and information has been added to the church website.



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



WANTED: WATER STOP CAPTAIN!

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, jeburtscher@gmail.com, for details. Thanks!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Nicole Dunwald	17 Margaret Hiett
2 Bernice Lambkin	Thomas Cobau
Olivia Summons	William Becker
3 Susan Pokorney	Sarah Jewell
	Sophie Jewell
5 Brooke Simonds	19 Emily Metzger
	Thomas Lloyd
6 Kelsie Gardam	20 Rose Heise
7 Joan Durgin	21 Charlotte Halloran
Berthold Rossnagel	Jillian Ward
8 Lisa Habib	22 Robert O'Connell
11 Scott Estes	24 Carol Nichols
14 Nick Hauck	28 Ashley Gilbert
15 Mark Keleher	29 Joan O'Connell
16 Drew Rohm-Ensing	30 James Becker
	31 Mary Gerhardinger

December birthday and anniversary blessings will be on December 15th.

Happy Birthday

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, Puffin Coe and Nancy Loughlin.

*Family & Friends: Ann, Dan, Brittany, Dick, Mary, Leland Ames, Didi Beckham, Dixie, Evelyn, Lee Gable, Joan, Jean, Karen, Lexi, Marguerite, Sandra, Salli and Dick Rohm, and Gloria Weller.

For those in harm's way: Meridith Heckler, 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.*



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

January Newsletter: *Articles due December 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.

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY!



All men are invited to Men's Bible Study which meets 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: thomaspvb@comcast.net

Women's Bible Study is held on Friday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Commons Room. They are taking the month of December off, but will meet up again on January 10th. With questions, contact Gretchen Thomas: gigipvb@comcast.net

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.

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

READINGS	DATE	SERVICE	ACOLYTES	ALTARGUILD	GREETERS	LECTORS & LEM	USHERS
Advent 1	Sun. 12/1	8 a.m. HE		Nancy Lehmann		Ben Dansard	
<i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i>		9:45 a.m. HE	Will Gerhardinger	Barb Malkoski	Pam Cousino	Ruth Ann Sailstad (L1)	Julie Graham
<i>Romans 13:11-14</i>			Nolan Walker	Sara Roberts	Jaymie & TJ Fontana	Al Stephens (L2)	Duncan Thomas
<i>Matthew 24:36-44</i>			Myles Waweru			Nate Keiper (P)	
<i>Psalm 122</i>							
Advent 2	Sun. 12/8	No 8 a.m. Service					
<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>		9:45 a.m. HE	John Kight	Terri Ward	Nancy Elzinga	Joan O'Connell (L1)	Scott Tuttle
<i>Romans 15:4-13</i>			Meredith Randall	Sara Roberts	Carol & Dennis Kanfield	Bill Jenks (L2)	Jeff Smith
<i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>			Grace Waweru			Ricky Becker (P)	
<i>Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19</i>							
Advent 3	Sun. 12/15	8 a.m. HE		Sue Merce		Vicki Creekmore	
		9:45 a.m.	Anna Becker	Gretchen Thomas	Larry & Carol Nichols		Joe Gerhardinger
		Lessons and Carols	Mikayla Gomulinski	Nancy Lehmann	Annette Boice		Al Stephens
			Lucy Porter				
	Wed. 12/18	4 p.m. Sunset		Edwina Ledgard			
Advent 4	Sun. 12/22	8 a.m. HE		Sue Merce		George Shirk	
<i>Isaiah 7:10-16</i>		9:45 a.m. HE	Sam Reszko	Jaymie Fontana	Tom & Becky Hauck	Lindsay Smith (L1)	Scott Hendricks
<i>Romans 1:1-7</i>			Charlotte DeRosa	Julia Burtcher		Joe Gerhardinger (L2)	Mark Keleher
<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>			Emily Porter			Julia Burtcher (P)	
<i>Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18</i>							
Christmas Eve	Tues. 12/24	4:30 p.m.	Mitchell Gomulinski	Penny Cobau-Smith		Laura Randall (LEM)	Mike Porter
		Pageant	Meredith Randall	Jano Nolette		Barb Reszko (LEM)	Kyle Randall
			Grace Waweru				Jeff Smith
		10:00 p.m. HE	Anna Becker	Dee Becker		Edwina Ledgard (L1)	James Carlisle
		Festival	William Becker			David Braun (L2)	Ron Volk
		Eucharist	Sam Reszko			Gretchen Rohm (P)	
Christmas Day	Wed. 12/25	11 a.m. HE	Will Gerhardinger	Kay Gerhardinger		TBD (L1)	
						Mary Gerhardinger (L2)	
						Joe Gerhardinger (P)	
1st Sun. After Christmas	Sun. 12/29	8 a.m. HE		Charlotte Halloran		Cam Smith	
<i>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</i>		9:45 a.m. HE	Will Gerhardinger	Jano Nolette	Duncan & Gretchen Thomas	Bill Jenks (L1)	Edwina Ledgard
<i>Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7</i>			Nolan Walker	Terri Ward		Jeff Boyer (L2)	Nancy Lehmann
<i>John 1:1-18</i>			Myles Waweru			Anne Morris (P)	
<i>Psalm 147 or 147:13-21</i>							



St. Michael's in the Hills Episcopal Church

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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