



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

# Cross Currents

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

May 2020 Edition

## *Transition, Transformation and Formation*

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I pray this finds each of you and your families well in mind, body and spirit as we find ourselves in the midst of Easter and approaching six weeks of sheltering, homeschooling, and working from home.

During this time spent at home, one grace that has revealed itself is the ability to observe nature more closely, to notice the small things that I might otherwise overlook; such as the emergence of blooms, the run of walleye, the foraging of birds and small mammals, and the reappearance of a gaze of raccoons in their arboreal knothole. Despite our lockdown nature continues its transforming cycle whether we're aware or not.

Whether we are aware or not we too are in the midst of transition. Within the realm of the secular Governor DeWine has proposed a plan for a transition from lock down toward reopening the economy. Within the realm of the eternal Jesus is leading us through a transformation from fear in lockdown toward love and knowledge of his eternal presence and prayer. Specifically, Jesus' prayer is "... that they [that is you and I] may be one, as we [that is Jesus and God] are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. [John17:22b-23]

Perhaps the great dichotomy between these two realms is that the secular is transitory and may leave us feeling more stunned or stunted, whereas the eternal remains with us and reminds us we are loved; even as we question and wonder why.

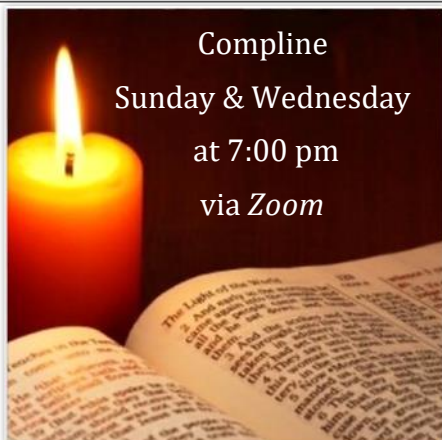
My prayer for myself and all of us is that as we move more deeply into this season of Resurrection, we may recognize this as a time of transformation and further formation as beloved people of the Resurrection, and claim for ourselves the mantel of the Holy Spirit, whose coming we will commemorate at the end of this month of May. In the meantime, let us continue to proclaim:

*Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

Yours in resurrected glory,

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

## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



Compline  
Sunday & Wednesday  
at 7:00 pm  
via Zoom

*The Church building may be closed, but that won't stop us from growing in our faith and connecting with one another.*

"I would like to thank those who have joined us for our online, virtual compline services. It has been a comfort to see your faces, hear your voices, and have the community connection. Please reach out to Julia Burtscher if you're unsure of Zoom and need a little help getting started, we would hate for technology to be a barrier. These services— with a little time before and after to say hello and ask how everyone is doing— have lasted about 30 minutes." — *Julia Burtscher*

We are offering Sunday and Wednesday evening Compline services via Zoom web conferencing. This allows us to see each other's faces and interact with each other online, real-time. Don't know how to use Zoom? We'll work through it together! You can join from a PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Android device, or even via telephone call!

- ◆ For connection information and order of service, please go to: [www.lovelearnserve.org/worship/worship](http://www.lovelearnserve.org/worship/worship)
- ◆ For the Sunday night service, we will be using the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer.
- ◆ For the Wednesday night service, we will be using the American Book of Common Prayer.

*Please join us! We would love to connect with you, share a simple service, and worship together.*

### Other Resources:

\* Father Foster's sermons are available at <https://lovelearnserve.org/news-events/links/>

\* Sunday, Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m., Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, <https://trinitycleveland.org/worship/>

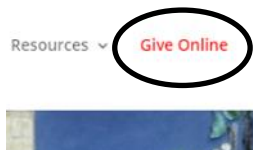
\* Daily Worship at the Washington National Cathedral, <https://cathedral.org/>

\* Bible readings from the Episcopal Lectionary at <http://lectionarypage.net/>

## ONLINE GIVING DETAILS

St. Michael's offers the option of electronic giving!

You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, smartphone or tablet.



← Give online by visiting our website at <https://lovelearnserve.org/> and clicking "Give Online" in the upper right corner of the homepage.

Download our free GivePlus mobile app from the App Store or Google Play Store. →

**GIVE  
PLUS+**

Get started today! Download our mobile app or visit our online donations page to set up your online contribution. Please reach out to Senior Warden, Julia Burtscher, if you have any questions.

If you prefer to mail your weekly / monthly / quarterly pledges, please feel free to do so. *Thank you!*

## EASTER OFFERING OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous Easter contributions during these hard times. As of April 30, we have received \$2,875. We would like to remind everyone that we can still accept gifts toward the Easter offering — gifts can be made online via St. Michael's website (see article on page 2 for details) or by sending a check in the mail. Your generosity will allow us to continue supporting Osman and Yojana in Guatemala. Like the United States, Guatemala is in lock down. Unlike the United States, there is no government support to help families who are struggling due to job loss and quarantine. And as you can imagine, if this infection were to take hold in a country with almost no medical resources, it would be even more devastating. So our supportive offering is so greatly appreciated! The remainder of the Easter offering will be donated to Episcopal Relief and Development, which we can rest assured will be allocated to cover significant needs. Finally, I have received several inquiries from individuals from St. Michael's as to what I might think the greatest need for assistance in our own community might be. Indeed there are many. One strong option is Seagate Food bank. A second, Vision Ministries, feeds the hungry 3 nights a week. They minister to everyone in our community. They are even now giving supplies to children who don't even have pens or pencils. They are a struggling church in a poor neighborhood (1630 Broadway, Toledo, Ohio 43609), serving the poor.

Feel free to email me with any Outreach concerns: [yoga2day@hotmail.com](mailto:yoga2day@hotmail.com)

-Ann Heckler



Just a reminder, if you picked up Easter flowers from St. Michael's and do not have plans for the bulbs, please leave them in the box outside of the Fellowship hall doors and they will be planted on St. Michael's property this Fall. Thank you!

- Linda Mays

## FLOWERING OF THE CROSS

Each year at St. Michael's Easter Sunday service, young people bring cut flowers to the front of the church to assemble a beautiful flowered cross to celebrate the glory of the resurrection. This year, in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, St. Michael's members responded virtually to create a flowered cross with their own digital images of flowers from gardens and Easter arrangements. Special thank you to parishioner Steve Wipfli for sharing his artistic abilities and his time in creating this work of art!



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!



*John Kight*

John is graduating from Ottawa Hills High School. He will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington, IN as an honor student and a direct admit to the Kelley School of Business. During high school, John enjoyed participating in varsity sports such as soccer and basketball, singing in the choraliars with choral director Donna Wipfli as well as volunteer activities such as raising money for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society and a Service Learning in Kenya experience.

*William Gerhardinger*

Aloysius begat William who begat Joseph who married Kathleen of clan Henderson and begat William Michael in the year 2002. William is graduating from St. John's Jesuit High School where he particularly enjoyed English, robotics, and tennis. He is excited to attend Kenyon College next year with his sister Mary.



*Charlotte DeRosa*

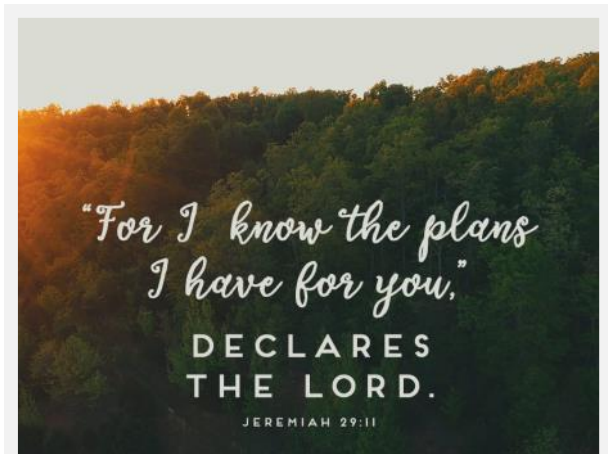


Charlotte DeRosa is graduating from Maumee Valley Country Day School. Throughout high school, she enjoyed playing field hockey and lacrosse and was involved in the Global Leadership Program and student council. She enjoyed growing up at St. Michaels and will treasure the memories that came from youth choir rehearsals, mission trips, community service outings, vacation bible school, and working in the nursery. Charlotte made many close friends at church and will never forget all the laughs they shared. Next year, she will attend the University of Toledo honors college and will major in the pharmaceutical sciences with a minor in marketing. She wants to thank everyone at Saint Michaels who supported her throughout her journey and hopes that everyone is safe and healthy.

*Two of our nursery caregivers are also heading off to college!*

*Tessa Baker* is heading to Hobart and William Smith College.

*Alana Papocchia* is graduating from Maumee Valley and will be attending Wittenberg University.





## Reflections on our High School Seniors

*Charlotte*, also known as Char-char Binks (I'm a Star wars nerd)

It really is a small world, after all. I met Alex DeRosa early in the interview process of becoming Children's, Youth, and Family minister and as it turns out, James DeRosa and I are from the same part of Brooklyn, New York. I thought that this would give me an "in" with Sister Charlotte. I was wrong! I had to earn my way into relationship with Charlotte. I love the relationship that Charlotte has with her golden retriever, Dash. Dash is a pretty big dog but, Char carries him around her house like a baby. I love her gentleness while working with animals and with our smallest disciples in the church nursery.

*William*

St. Michael's is made up of many wonderful families and one of those families is the Gerhardingers. Brother William is more reserved than his sister, Mary. I've always admired Will's quiet strength and serious manner. Will has kept me on my toes, especially during Confirmation Class. We delved into the epiclesis and asked deep questions. I will miss Will but, I'm glad that he is off to Kenyon College!

*John*

Sometimes I feel like working in ministry is like being hazed by the Holy Ghost. I had a difficult time telling a few siblings apart, for example, Will and James Becker and John and Walker Kight. I still mix up Alex and Max Braun! Pray for me, y'all! John has not held it against me that I sometimes call him by his brothers name. I will miss John's steady presence in the role of acolyte.

God bless our Seniors!

*Imani*



VIRTUAL YOUTH SUNDAY  
AND ST. MICHAEL'S ON YOUTUBE!



Please join us on Mother's Day, May 10th, as we celebrate our high school seniors. We will have a Virtual Youth Sunday worship experience. Our children and youth have worked diligently to help usher us into God's presence, as well as our Senior Choir and St. Michael's Staff.

A bulletin for this service will be emailed and shared on our website. We are also creating a YouTube channel for St. Michael's to share video of this service as well as other videos!

We are thankful for our Music Director, Justin Bays, for his organizational skills, as he has been working overtime putting all the pieces together to make this Virtual Youth Sunday service happen. We are quite sure it's going to be awesome and we can't wait for all to experience it on May 10th!

**DON'T HAVE INTERNET ACCESS??**

If you do not have internet access and would like a copy of the Youth Sunday bulletin and sermon sent to your home, please call the office and leave us a message. On this note, if you would like to receive a printed copy of any of Fr. Foster's sermons, we can do that too! Simply let us know. *Thank you!*

# FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL UPDATE

Welcome to our first quarterly financial update. You may recall our commitment at the Annual Meeting to provide quarterly updates in the interest of greater transparency. The following table illustrates our financial results for the first quarter of 2020:

	Year To Date	Year To Date	
	Mar-20	Mar-19	Change
Income	\$ 74,719	\$ 69,344	\$ 5,375
Expense	\$ 130,219	\$ 90,208	\$ 40,011
Deficit	\$ (55,500)	\$ (20,864)	\$(34,636)

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

A deficit means that we are spending more than our income. Also note that compared to last year our spending has increased faster than our income and therefore the deficit year to date has more than doubled. This is not unexpected, and was budgeted, because this is the first year that we have resumed full time clergy staffing. The accumulation of surpluses from prior years has provided a “rainy day fund” of over \$200,000 that we are using to finance our deficit. Also, our giving history indicates that most of our income is received during the last three months of the year so a first quarter deficit is not uncommon. However, tougher choices confront us if we deplete our rainy day fund.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT THIS?

Last month our rectory was sold for \$320,000. This will save us at least \$20,000 in property tax, utilities, maintenance and repair each year. In addition, we will be able to invest the proceeds to generate some income for our parish. We have filed for a loan/grant through the government’s recent Paycheck Protection Program. There is no guarantee that we will be approved and funds are limited.

## WILL THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AFFECT OUR FINANCES?

It is too early to tell, but it seems likely that some parishioners will suffer economically and pledge receipts may decline. In addition, plate offerings are not received when church is closed. We do have on-line giving options that are highlighted in each issue of Cross Currents. If you prefer to mail your pledges to the office, the address is: 4718 Brittany Road, Ottawa Hills, Ohio 43615.

There is much to be thankful for. We have retained our staff during the shut-down and will close with this thank you that we received via Facebook from Carli Miller, one of our section leaders:

*“Thank you to Justin Bays and St. Michael’s in the Hills for being one of the very few churches to continue to pay all their staff, including part-time contract workers like me, throughout the crisis! This is the church I work at while in Toledo for the Toledo Opera Resident Artist Program. This morning I noticed an auto deposit, and got in touch because I assumed it was a mistake. I was informed that I could expect to be paid through June, the regular session. I legit cried at my phone while looking at the text message. This is what it looks like to support artists, and all the contract workers who so easily fall through the cracks. And all this without ceremony. No publicity about them doing the right thing, or emails back and forth. They just paid us. You have no idea how much this means to all of us. Thank you.”*



When you are sick, hospitalized or in need of pastoral care, please notify Fr. Foster at (419) 482-8383. Any messages left on the church voicemail will also be passed along to Fr. Foster.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                              |    |                                |
|----|------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 2  | Ginger Ryan<br>Annette Boice | 15 | Mitchell Gomulinski            |
| 3  | William Gerhardinger         | 16 | Bob Nolette                    |
| 4  | Jim Lindeen                  | 17 | John Graham                    |
| 6  | Olivia Tuttle                | 18 | Joe Gerhardinger               |
| 8  | Dick Creekmore               | 21 | Cheryl Volk                    |
| 9  | Dan Walker<br>Jeff Smith     | 25 | Lindsay Smith<br>Irene Ehrmin  |
| 14 | Anna Becker                  | 30 | Tom Crawford<br>James Carlisle |



## WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

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

**\*Family & Friends:** Elda Rae, Rowen, Ron, Bernadette, Nancy, Hunter, Julie, Leland Ames, Didi Beckham, Dixie, Evelyn, Lee Gable, Joan, Jean, Karen, Lexi, Sandra, and Gloria Weller.

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

**For those who have died:** Jeffrey Jenks, son of Bill and Mary Clare

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



## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

**June Newsletter:** *Articles due May 18.*

**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.



This year's Annual Rummage Sale is tentatively scheduled for September 12. Due to the current pandemic and what the future may look like, if the sale can take place is yet to be determined. If you find yourself cleaning and re-organizing at home, we invite you to set your unwanted items aside and save them for our Sale!

From last year's sale, the following items were popular: all shoes, children's clothes, jewelry, bedding (sheets), baby items, and video games. Sports items did not sell well unless it was "common" items like baseballs, bats, footballs, bicycles...kids stuff. No golf shoes or golf items, please!

## MEMORIAL GARDEN WORKDAYS

There will be Memorial Garden work days the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9-11 a.m. weather permitting. Come prepared for the weather and to do some weeding. Gloves and a water bottle are usually a good idea. Contact Dee Becker with any questions. Scheduled days for 2020: May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, and Sept. 19.



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E-mail: [office@lovelearnserv.org](mailto:office@lovelearnserv.org)

Visit us on the web: [www.lovelearnserv.org](http://www.lovelearnserv.org)

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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**

Julia Burtscher, *Senior Warden*

Dani Zoorob, *Junior Warden*

*Class of 2021*

David Braun  
Julia Burtscher  
James Carlisle  
Barb Malkoski

*Class of 2022*

Nancy Elzinga  
Kay Gerhardinger  
Eboné Waweru  
Dani Zoorob

*Class of 2023*

Jen DeBacker  
Joe Myers  
Carol Nichols  
George Shirk

**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

Julia Burtscher – Senior Warden

Dani Zoorob – Junior Warden

John Graham – Treasurer

David Braun – Clerk