



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

Cross Currents

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

June 2020 Edition

My Sisters, Brothers and Others in Christ,

Just as the first pentecostal witnesses of the rush of a violent wind and the divided tongues, as of fire, were amazed and perplexed by what they saw and heard; I am amazed and perplexed by the violence and fire I see sweeping through cities across this country.

One of these things is not like the other. For the witnesses of the first pentecostal experience the coming of the Holy Spirit had not been foretold them, it was a complete surprise and it was a divinely ordained act of love. In contrast, the rage and flames sweeping through communities across America and cities throughout the world are rife with mixed motives.

At their best they are acts of visceral empathy for 300-plus years of injustice and violence against black Americans. At their meanest they are calculated acts of exploitation to advance cynical agendas. Somewhere in the middle the rest of us are "amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" [Acts 2:12]

I cannot answer with absolute clarity the question "What does this mean?" but I believe this place of questioning is holy ground, a liminal space of discernment between distress and compassion. While I may prefer to flee, turn my back on, or deny the anxiety of this time in the hope that it will pass, history has taught us it will not pass. It will only linger, haunting our subconsciousness until another spark ignites the next conflagration. As a follower of the Way of Love, I am inexorably drawn to the remembrance of those who stood resolutely in place at the execution of Jesus Christ on Good Friday – the fulfillment and ultimate example of Jesus' command, "love one another as I have loved you." [John 15:12b]

I think the juxtaposition of violence and fire in the streets on Pentecost amid the pentecostal divided tongues, as of fire, is an invitation for us to listen to one another in love, to hear stories and language that are foreign to us, and to be perplexed and amazed by this divinely ordained act of sacrificial love.

Yours in Christ's love,

Love God. Love Your Neighbor.
Change the World.
The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.



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

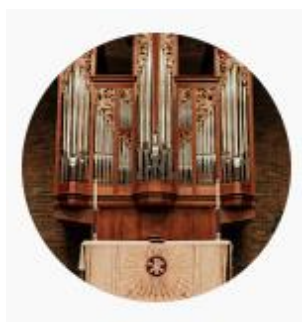
CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



Check out our new YouTube Channel!
Visit www.youtube.com
and search for "St. Michael's in the Hills"

When you see the organ graphic below,
you will know you've found the right channel!

Here you will find videos of sermons,
services and enjoy some anthems by our
Senior Choir section leaders.



ONLINE RESOURCES:

- Father Foster's Sermons
<https://lovelearnserve.org/news-events/links/>
- Weekly Compline Services via Zoom,
every Sunday & Wednesday at 7:00 pm
<https://lovelearnserve.org/worship/worship/>
- Every Sunday, Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am,
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/>

MUSIC NOTES

For the past few weeks, the staff has been creating online content for you to enjoy. This content has ranged from pop covers, prayers, and even full services, which has challenged the staff to learn about new technologies in a short period of time. One piece of technology that the choir has taken hold of is an app called Acapella. This mobile app allows musicians to collaborate creatively without being in the same room, which personally I never thought possible before now.



So how does it work? The first step in creating the choir videos is having the track (piano accompaniment) recorded through the app. This provides a steady tempo for everyone to work from and keeps everyone agreeing on one key. Once our accompanist, Rebecca, has recorded the video with the track, she then will send it to one of our singers. The singer then sings their designated vocal part (SATB) and forwards the video onto the next person until all vocal lines have been layered into the video.

After everyone has their parts recorded to their liking I add the final touches to the overall sound. I balance and blend the voices together for an even cohesive sound. The Acapella app makes the work of editing the video very easy. Everything I need to complete these tasks are right there in the app.

What I have enjoyed most about creating these choir videos for our beautiful church is how it has made everyone learn something outside of our comfort zone. I never thought when I went to school for vocal performance that I would learn about video editing and educate others on how to create a video, but here I am doing that very thing.

The only downside with this process is not everyone could participate because this app was only available for IOS systems (Apple products). I hope during our time in quarantine that the choir and staff were able to provide some relief from our everyday lives, and for those who couldn't sing with us I hope you found joy in seeing your friends on the screen.

—Justin Bays, Music Director

NEW FOR 2020: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT HOME!

Vacation Bible School is a summertime staple! The set, the skits, the music and the new friends always made for a good time! This year, out of an abundance of caution, the parishes in the West Mission Area are teaming up to provide an extended VBS At Home experience.

Over the past 3 years, we've worked with our sister parishes of St. Andrew's, All Saints, and Trinity Toledo. Now, we have an opportunity to work with all 13 of the parishes in our mission area. VBS at home will take place over 5 weeks - in late July through August (stay tuned for official dates). We will have a blog and video lessons. There is a component for the youth as well!

The weekly themes are:

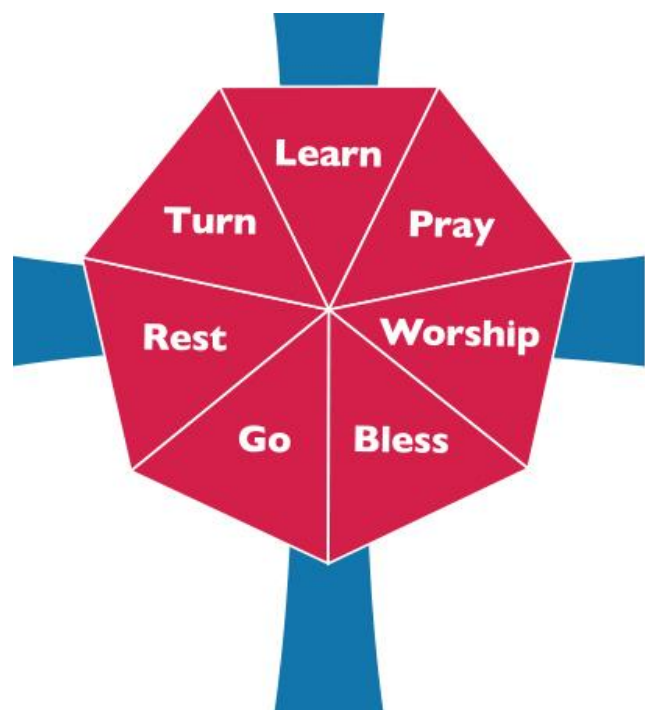
1. Learn
2. Worship and Rest
3. Pray
4. Go and Turn to Christ
5. Bless

There are many ways for you to get involved, first and foremost, pray for our children and youth, pray for the Children's minister, pray for an increase in camaraderie and togetherness amongst the parishes in the WMA, pray for everyone to boldly step into the call to evangelism, and pray that our actions show the love of Christ to all. Additionally, you can encourage your middle school and high school youth to participate in the youth component. Moreover, we will be giving out take home kits with lessons, games, and craft activities for each VBS family and we will need help to assemble the kits. Indeed, the harvest is plentiful!

Please contact me at imani@lovelearnserv.org with questions and/or suggestions and if you are excited and ready to help!

Holy Ghost Power to you all,
Imani

WALKING THE
WAY OF LOVE



ALL ABOUT OUR ST. FRANCIS AND ST. CLARE GARDENS

Expansion of the St. Michael's community spaces years ago provided the opportunity to create two interior courtyard gardens, the St. Francis and St. Clare Gardens. In 2002, St. Michael's completed a capital campaign that supported an expansion of the church building to include a new choir room, enlarged Sunday School and youth education classroom space and a Fellowship Hall. A good part of the expansion was adjacent to the north side of the nave. To maintain the integrity of the nave, including the light coming from four stained glass windows, a small courtyard was envisioned to connect the side of the nave with the new wing, while a larger courtyard brought light and air into the center of the church structure.



The St. Francis Garden is visible from several locations within St. Michael's. It includes a small statue of St. Francis and has always been tended to by parishioners. After its initial completion, it was redesigned and mostly replanted. Funds were raised by parishioners "sponsoring" a plant or a tree. At different seasons of the year, parishioners and groups that meet at the church can enjoy a variety of bloom, from daffodils, iris, azaleas and the native service berry trees to the fern leaf maple, boxwood and ever-present myrtle ground cover. St. Francis was known for glorifying God though

praising the diversity of nature, and an enchanting perspective of grandeur of God's Love.

The central walkway has teak benches for a relaxing break in the enclosed outdoor air. For many years the St. Francis Garden hosted special guests in the spring ... a series of mother ducks chose the protection of the garden in which to lay their eggs. It is always exciting when the eggs hatch and the ducklings need to be escorted down the hallway and out of the church. Sometimes they need human assistance for the journey! If you happen to visit during nesting season, please respect mama duck and leave her be.



Once the St. Francis garden was in place, parishioners turned to the assistance of a landscape designer to make the new garden a companion to the existing courtyard garden, dedicating it to St. Clare who worked alongside St. Francis and started the Poor Clare's order. The garden is simple in design and plantings, with stones set in a cross design, surrounded by anemone, clematis climbing on the brick wall of the nave, an ironwood tree, in fact, a number of plants from the medieval times and place where St. Clare lived. Traditionally flowers in a St. Clare garden are all white to symbolize simplicity, love for God, fidelity, and self-sacrifice.

The courtyard gardens are tended by parishioners whose efforts are currently coordinated by Ruth Ann Sailstad. If you would like to help with the gardens, please contact Ruth Ann or the church office.



—Dee Becker

ALL ABOUT ST. MICHAEL'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

Tucked along Hope Drive between Joy Cemetery and Underhill Road, adjoining the church property, is an acre of what was once untended scrub brush and wooded land. St. Michael's Memorial Garden is now a grassy clearing in the center of tall evergreens, deciduous bushes and trees, and a scattering of small perennial gardens. Although the gate is closed, it is not locked and the grounds are open for visitors. We simply ask that visitors close the gate when they leave.

Undoubtedly the largest church memorial garden dedicated for interments in the Toledo area, the Memorial Garden was dedicated in 1976 as a sacred place for interment, has to date offered over 200 parishioners, family, and neighbors a peaceful last resting place. At the time of the dedication, the Vestry also created the Memorial Garden Committee to look after the area. Through the efforts of committee members over the years, the beauty and natural setting of the garden have been maintained to create a serene and peaceful location through the seasons.



The first interments in the Memorial Garden were around the granite stone in the center of the Garden, although these names appear on the first monument stone to the right as you enter through the lych gate. Other interments followed a pattern behind the stone where the name is found. Traditionally a lych gate is the roofed gateway to a churchyard for sheltering the bier until the clergy's arrival. With services now usually conducted inside the church, and our Memorial Garden only doing interments for cremated remains, our lych gate serves as a spot of shade for the visitor as well as an entryway to our cherished memorial space.

Currently, the Memorial Garden Committee, headed by parishioner Dee Becker, takes care of the garden throughout the year with the assistance of groundskeeper Dick Creekmore. After several years of rigorously pursuing a long-standing commitment to rid the garden of invasive plants and dying trees, the committee will continue to add screening bushes along Underhill Road while planning the future layout, which will include additional clusters of granite monument stones. From time to time you may see workers in the garden. Besides grounds keeping and the committee members tending the stones and perennial gardens, a few times a year contractors may be called in for special projects. Names are added to the stones periodically through a contract with Toledo Monument. Upgrades to the outdoor electric and sprinkler system at the church include the Memorial Garden. Recent outdoor construction added a winding walkway from the front of the church to the playground and Memorial Garden.

Many thanks are due to the church sextons and administrative staff for all they do to keep things running smoothly for the Memorial Garden. If you have any questions about reserving space in the Memorial Garden, would like to make a donation towards the maintenance of the Memorial Garden, or are interested in joining the committee, please contact the church office for more information.

—Dee Becker



THOUGHTS AND FEEDBACK SURVEY — WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



St. Michael's in the Hills
Episcopal Church

We continue in our efforts to find creative ways to minister in our parish, and are seeking your feedback to help us make decisions to provide as many meaningful and valuable options as possible. Please type in the link below to take our survey. Know that all of the questions are optional, including your name. A printed copy of this survey has also been mailed to our homebound members and those without digital capabilities. If you did NOT receive a paper copy in the mail, please call the office and we will be sure to send you one. We are asking that the survey be completed by June 12th if possible. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

<https://lovelearnserv.org/news-events/links/>

Pastoral CARE

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.

DON'T HAVE INTERNET ACCESS?

If you do not have internet access and would like a copy of a Sunday bulletin and sermon sent to your home each week, please call the office and leave us a message.



ONLINE GIVING DETAILS

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

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

Resources ▾

Give Online

← Give online by visiting our website at <https://lovelearnserv.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!*

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Doug Hileman
Kate O'Connell
Kay Marion
Maddie Hileman | 17 Charles Estes |
| 4 Walker Kight | 18 Leah Hileman
Cyd Iorio |
| 6 Preston Hendricks | 20 Ann Heckler
Anne Hutchinson |
| 9 Steve Wipfli | 23 Mike Booth
Sue Merce |
| 10 Walt MacDonald | 24 Anna Gerhardinger |
| 12 Nancy Burton
Penny Cobau-Smith | 25 Sandy Gardam |
| 13 Meridith Heckler | 26 Jennifer Jewell |
| 15 Caroline O'Connell | 30 Troy Greeley |
| 16 Kyle Randall
Julia Rohm-Ensing | |



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

July Newsletter: *Articles due June 22*

The Office remains closed at this time. If you should need to get in the building, please email or call the office to arrange this.

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



This year's Annual Rummage Sale was a topic at the May Vestry Meeting. After much discussion, it was decided to cancel the sale for this year, taking into consideration the health and safety of all who are involved in this large event. The committee will get together when they can safely meet to discuss possible other options in lieu of the Fall Sale. Thank you for your understanding.

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, Marilyn Palermo, Lindsay Smith, Lillian Spaulding, Peter Handwork, Puffin Coe

***Family & Friends:** Leland Ames, Didi Beckham, Dixie, Evelyn, Lee Gable, Jean, Karen, Lexi, Sandra, Keith and Nancy

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

For those who have died: Marion Boyer

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



MEMORIAL GARDEN WORKDAYS

We continue to have Memorial Garden work days the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9 am-11 am, weather permitting. Come prepared for the weather and to do some weeding. Gloves and a water bottle are usually a good idea, as well as a mask. Contact Dee Becker with any questions. Scheduled upcoming days: June 20, July 18, August 15, and Sept. 19.





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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

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