



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

# Cross Currents

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

**September 2020 Edition**

My Sisters, Brothers and Others,

For as long as I can remember, September has felt like the beginning of the new year. Something about shopping for supplies and anticipating reunions with friends missed over the previous months was exciting. I can only imagine how it must feel for families with school-age children this year as what was normal up until six months ago is still turned on its head.

In the face of this upheaval, I imagine what administrators, teachers, staff and families are hoping for is a safe, serviceable, and effective likeness of what is familiar to them all. Yet it is not the same, it is changed, it is different; nonetheless the intent is still that the students get the educational experience they need. My hope is that despite the differences that everyone will be able to see what is possible and achievable in the unusual.

St. Michael's in the Hills has certainly dealt with its own upheaval and disruption over the past six months. At first it was the disruption and difference that dominated our thinking. However, with time, vision and imagination, we began exploring what may have appeared to be unorthodox alternatives, but in fact they were steppingstones leading us back to parish life that while reduced in scale was still complete in its holiness and worship.

Now that we have a few months of in-person worship - albeit restricted - under our belts, we are preparing to take another step toward a more familiar form of worship: the reception of the sacrament. As with all things impacted by the pandemic, communion will not be just as you are accustomed to it being; it will be modified in process and attendance in ways to safeguard the communicants. The most notable difference is that the sacrament will be received in one kind (bread only). If you are interested in the details, I invite you to read Bishop Hollingsworth's letter of August 18th, which is available by visiting: [www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org). (We can also send a copy in the mail to any who wish to receive it.)

My hope is that we will have completed our preparation for reception of the sacrament by Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, but please stay tuned for further details to come. Until that time and in anticipation I remain...

Yours in Christ's love,



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

# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

## September 13: Rally Sunday

September 13<sup>th</sup> is Rally Sunday where the Sunday School program year begins. We have some exciting things planned for Christian Formation this year and we need you to help carry out the vision. Share your gifts and talents with our children and youth!

This Rally Sunday will be a little bit different this year. Isn't everything a little bit different this year? We'll have a **Blessing of the Backpacks** as well as a **Blessing of the Devices**! If you and your children are coming to in person worship, don't forget to bring your tablets, laptops and backpacks. If you decide to watch the service from home, you can still participate in the prayer and blessing. We are sending our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade disciples tie-dyed masks! Be safe, be well and be blessed in this school year.

September 13<sup>th</sup> is also UBE Sunday and the Feast day of Alexander Crummell.

The Reverend Alexander Crummell organized the Conference of Church Workers Among the Colored People which is the forerunner organization to the Union of Black Episcopalians. The Conference formed due to racism, in 1883, the Southern Bishops proposed that all black congregations become separate missionary districts.

Let me back up and tell you more about Rev. Crummell's life. Alexander Crummell was born in New York City on March 3, 1819 to free Black parents. He was denied admittance to General Theological Seminary because of his race yet, he became a priest at the age of 25. Alexander Crummell advocated for Black people to emigrate to Liberia and he urged an educated black elite to aspire to the highest intellectual attainments as a refutation of the theory of black inferiority. You can learn more about Rev. Crummell at: [www.episcopalarchives.org](http://www.episcopalarchives.org)



—Imani

## Diocesan Youth Days

Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to gather for Diocesan Youth Days — three separate days in three separate locations. The days will be held on August 29, September 12, and September 26. Each one will be a little different, but each will give us a chance to unplug, relax, and enter a rhythm of prayer. We will remind each other that with God, we can survive, thrive and vibe — even in the wilderness. All Safeguarding and social distancing protocols will be strictly enforced, following Diocesan standards.

Masks covering nose and mouth are required at all times (except when actively eating). We will not be singing. All activities will be outside, and we will only enter buildings for restrooms. Health checks will be conducted day-of, and we will practice contact tracing. Each event will be capped at 15 youth. You may register for more than one. Each day will run roughly from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., but more details will come after you register. More info and registration can be found at: [www.dohio.org/DYE](http://www.dohio.org/DYE). Any questions can be directed to the Rev. Anna Sutterisch, Canon for Christian Formation at 216.774.0460, 513.582.8319, or [asutterisch@dohio.org](mailto:asutterisch@dohio.org)





THINK  
CHRISTMAS!

*There are just over 90 days until  
St. Michael's Christmas Tree Sale  
on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>!*

*If you missed hearing about this, here's what it's all about...*

Some members of the Rummage Sale committee have come up with a new sale idea to replace our typical sale this year! St. Michael's members, Dan and Natasza Walker, own a Christmas tree farm in Michigan and have offered to cut down trees and bring them to St. Michael's for a 1-day sale on December 5<sup>th</sup>. You can buy a tree that day, or if interested, your family can visit the farm in October and pre-pick your tree, which they will cut and bring down on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Pre-sale will be open to parishioners and the public. Like our Rummage Sale, a portion of the proceeds will go to a charitable organization and a portion to our general fund.

We are in the process of sorting through all the details,  
and we encourage you to contact Carol Nichols or  
Barb Malkoski to volunteer and help them plan!

More DETAILS to come in OCTOBER!



## LET'S TALK...

What a year we have had together. With everything going on in the world, I sometimes find myself becoming more and more anxious with whatever tragedy that makes it into our news feeds. But the virtual recital series "Nevertheless We Persist" helped motivate me, challenged me, and inspired me to get through my day and to look forward to the future. These episodes educated me on the history of women that I never was taught in schools. These episodes exposed me to voices and perspectives I might not have been able to listen to otherwise. These episodes exposed to me what exactly the human experience is, was, and will be going forward.

So I want to hear from you. The viewers, friends and neighbors, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers. I would like to host a Common Grounds type of event to discuss your thoughts on the virtual recital. How did you feel? What did you learn? What are your questions? If this is something that would interest you please send an email to [justin@lovelearnserve.org](mailto:justin@lovelearnserve.org). I will schedule a date to host a zoom conversation about the recital with the performers. I look forward to our future.

—Justin Bays,  
Music Director



## The Return of....



Common Grounds adult seminar has been a vital part of Christian Education at St. Michael's in the Hills, where we have traditionally presented spiritual, cultural, and social topics. Some of the most well-loved sessions have been led by congregation members, sharing their knowledge and talents. Among those favorites have been art/talent fairs highlighting amazing, sometimes hidden gems among us.

So.....let's have a "virtual" talent show! Anyone, everyone is invited to make a short video of their talent or hobby. What are you passionate about? Gives us a tour of your collection: miniature figurines, shot glasses, beer steins, antique washing machines? Your garden? Can you sing, play an instrument, stand on your head, write and recite poetry? Do you have a family kazoo band? Are your kids eager to do cartwheels or swan dives for the camera? Think short: introduce yourself and give us a few minutes to glimpse what you have been busy with in COVID or for a lifetime. Think serious or silly. Connection is the aim.

We can give some hints/directions on making videos at home (most cell phones are great movie cameras) and step-by-step instructions on how/where to send your videos. We will compile them into one (or two) "movies". Then we will schedule a proper Common Grounds — via Zoom—where we can come together, watch the video, applaud and discuss!

Please email or call Sarah Schendel to volunteer yourself or suggest someone whose talent you would love to see at Common Grounds. schensar@sbcglobal.net. (419) 472-8779 or (419) 270-4780 (C.)

## WEEKLY COMPLINE INVITATION

Please join us for Virtual Compline!

Every Wednesday at 6:00 PM



We offer Virtual Compline on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. We offer this service 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 can work through it together! You can join from a PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Android device, or even via an old-fashioned telephone call!

To access Zoom, visit <https://zoom.us/j/3266613552>. The first time you use this, you will need to download a software program, but it is very fast. When prompted, click "Join Audio Conference by Computer."

If you want voice only, please dial (929) 205-6099 and enter meeting ID: 326 661 3552

When asked for a participant ID, click "#"

The Order of Service for each Wednesday is posted on our website when available.

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



## THANK YOU, LORD!



*The Lord  
has surely  
blessed us  
with many  
beautiful  
Sunday's  
this summer  
to enjoy  
in-person  
worship  
outdoors!*



## DID YOU KNOW?

You are always welcome to attend Vestry meetings! If you're curious about what the Vestry does, how decisions are made and how the process works, please join us! Our Vestry typically meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month except when we rearrange the schedule around holidays.

There are just a few protocols which we observe: Vestry meetings are open to members of the congregation to be present, but without voice. Also, should the Vestry agree to hold an 'executive session', non-vestry members must excuse themselves for this portion of the meeting until the vestry moves out of the executive session.

Our next meeting is September 22 from 7:00pm—9:00pm via Zoom. Please contact Julia Burtscher at [jeburtscher@gmail.com](mailto:jeburtscher@gmail.com) if you'd like connection details or have any questions.

—Julia Burtscher, Sr. Warden



## ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

Supporting our summer ministries and mission is only a click away! We offer convenient online giving, available anywhere, anytime, right from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts – a great option for members who are out of town or traveling frequently. Get started by visiting our website: [www.lovelearnserv.org](http://www.lovelearnserv.org). See the “Give Online” option in the upper right hand corner.

Resources ▾

Give Online

To give through our mobile app, download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play and search for our church by name or ZIP code.

**GIVE  
PLUS+**

We appreciate your generosity and we hope that you will consider giving a gift to support our congregation!

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!*



Instagram

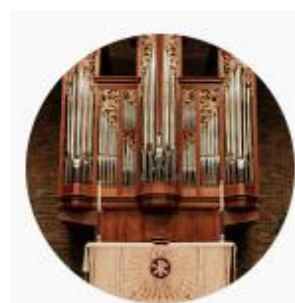
If you are on Instagram,  
we invite you to follow our new church account  
**@stmichaelsinthehills**

## CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!



Check out our YouTube Channel!  
Visit [www.youtube.com](http://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.



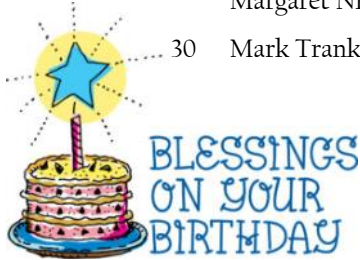
### ONLINE RESOURCES:

- Father Foster’s Sermons  
<https://lovelearnserv.org/news-events/links/>
- Weekly Compline Services via Zoom  
(New time!) Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm  
<https://lovelearnserv.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/>



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



## 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.

\*Family & Friends: Leland Ames, Didi Beckham, Dixie, Evelyn, Lee Gable, Jean, Karen, Lexi, Sandra, Nancy, Monique, Ed and Dan.

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

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



## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

**October Newsletter:** *Articles due September 21<sup>st</sup>*

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

**Updated Parish Directories** are always available. Contact the office to request one. Digital or printed copies are available.



## 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 a good idea, as well as a mask. Contact Dee Becker with any questions. Our next scheduled work day is September 19.



## 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.



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#### 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