



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

# Cross Currents

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

October 2020 Edition

My Sisters, Brothers and Others in Christ,

We are still in the first year of the coronavirus pandemic, and with each passing month find ourselves having to navigate what was routine in new ways. The regular predictable patterns of ritual and widespread participation are being reimagined with creativity, experimentation, imagination, and a lot of hard work.

Much of this reimagining takes place behind the scenes with Staff and Vestry performing yeoman service in bringing it to life. For this I am immensely grateful because such perpetual adjustment is exhausting and yet their persistent presence and counsel has not flagged. For this I am grateful, and I hope you will find the opportunity to share your appreciation with them as and when you can.

Speaking of reimagining, we have at least two opportunities in October to reimagine favorite holy days. The first is Sunday, October 4th, a day in which we remember Francis of Assisi with the blessing of the animals. Weather permitting, this will take place outside on the church lawn at 1:00 on Sunday. I encourage you to invite your friends to bring their pets too.

The second opportunity may be a new one for many of us. As Halloween (aka All Hallows' Eve) falls on Saturday this year, it's a great opportunity introduce a service of light, word and prayer into our ghoulish shenanigans. Get your costumes ready and stay tuned for more details.

In thanksgiving for the gift of reimagining, I am ...

Yours in Christ's love,



**Sunday, October 4**  
**1:00 pm**



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

## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The Vestry of St. Michaels has continued to work hard over the past several months, but since we have had very few opportunities in person to keep you updated, we thought we'd start including a 'Vestry Highlights' section in the monthly Cross Currents.

- Policy for the Protection of Children & Youth from Abuse: The Diocese recommends each parish have an official policy for this. Our vestry formed a sub-committee late spring chaired by Joe Myers, who evaluated a sample policy provided by the diocese. The committee researched questions, resources, and how to implement and execute the policy, and brought their recommendations to Vestry. Their recommendations and the policy were approved and adopted by vestry at our July meeting.
- Code of Regulations (CoR) Revisions: Fr. Foster spent some time in the past year reading our Code of Regulations and making notes to update them to align with our Diocesan Canons. Vestry combed through our CoR and discussed Fr. Foster's proposed changes as well as added and changed some items based on feedback from former vestry members and congregation members. These amended CoR (with a name change to Bylaws) will be presented at the Annual Meeting in January for ratification by the congregation.
- Emergency Preparedness & Threat Assessment: A sub-committee chaired by George Shirk has spent a few months evaluating our building and resources relating to security and safety. At our September meeting, George presented their recommendations to bring our building up to higher safety standards, including more comprehensive signs (AED, labeling doors so it is easier to describe to taxis or emergency responders which door to go to), handrails, tornado and shelter-in-place areas that are accessible to all people in the building, and more. The committee, which included staff who are in the building regularly, left no stone unturned this very thorough assessment and you will start seeing changes and improvements before too long!

I'm grateful to each vestry member for their thoughtful hard work and insights shared at our meetings. Thank you!

—*Julia Burtscher*, Sr. Warden

P.S. 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! 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 October 27 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.

## WINTER IS COMING...



Is it too early to start thinking about snow? No, it isn't! St. Michael's is so grateful to parishioner Dick Creekmore for all of his time and efforts over the years clearing our parking lots and walkways of snow. THANK YOU, DICK! We are so happy for him that he has made the decision to retire from this particular duty, and we are now searching for his successor. Do you know anyone with equipment who could clear our parking lot and walkways of snow? If so, please contact the office with any information. Thank you!

## WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?

A lot of time has passed since the choir has met in person and I for one miss seeing your faces, hearing your voices, and making music together. Music at St. Michael's in the Hills brings a lot of people together and I am eager to get the proverbial ball rolling again. So how are we going to do this in the time of Covid?

In the spring we experimented with the app called Acapella and it was very helpful but it did have its limitations. One limitation with the Acapella app is that it would only function for iPhone users, which eliminated more than half of the choir. With the app eliminating half of the choir, it put extra pressure on those who did have the app to record a lot of music in a short amount of time.

This time around I want to make the process easier and, hopefully, less stressful for everyone involved. I will be selecting weekly quartets to record one hymn or song. This will hopefully give people a longer break in between recording sessions and reduce the amount of music that a group will work on from 7-9 pieces a week to just 1 a week.



### ⇒ SO HOW DO YOU RECORD A VIDEO?

- ⇒ 1<sup>st</sup> —You will receive an email from me containing a track with your specific voice part and sheet music for that week's song selection. All voice parts will be sent in one email so be sure to find your appropriate voice part.
- ⇒ 2<sup>nd</sup> —You will need two devices. One to record the video of you singing and another device with headphones to play your voice part. For example, I would record myself singing on my iPhone and listen to the track from my iPad with my headphones. In the track you will hear a countdown before the music starts. Please count down with the recording! This is very important because it will make the editing process a lot easier.
- ⇒ 3<sup>rd</sup> —You will need to make yourselves familiar with the website <https://wetransfer.com/>. This site will take large video files and send it to my email address with zero hassle. You can practice by emailing me a video of you telling me about your summer! I would love to hear from you!

We will begin working on music for the middle of October. If you are interested in joining us for the virtual choir please email me at [justin@lovelearnserv.org](mailto:justin@lovelearnserv.org). These pieces will be posted on the St. Michael's in the Hills Facebook and Youtube page after Sunday's service. Additionally, I am looking into setting up a projector and sound system to play one work as a prelude, offertory, or postlude. I look forward to working with everyone again in these socially distant times.

—Justin Bays, Music Director

## A GOOD READ!

Our own Dee Becker has written an insightful article entitled "What I Learned Over Summer Vacation Being Tech Support for Classes on Social Media." Dee's article is full of great lessons

learned, suggestions as to best practices for wrangling presenters and audiences, and especially the need for compassion and a sense of humor in adapting to the burgeoning practice of remote gathering. If you, like many of us, are learning to navigate in this environment, I commend the article to you. Visit our website to read it: <https://lovelearnserv.org/news-events/links/>

—Foster+



## MUTUAL MINISTRY REVIEW

Your voice is important, and we hope you will take some time to fill out the survey which was sent to you last week. I know it's not a multiple-choice-zip-through thing, it's a bit chunkier than that! But it is a vital part of bringing our church family together and moving forward together. Some details to clarify:

- ◇ Anyone and everyone in your household is welcome to fill out a survey. The link in the letter can be used multiple times; alternatively you can print it out as many copies as you need and mail them to Fr. Gerlach
- ◇ Your survey responses will be compiled by an impartial 3rd party — Fr. Aaron Gerlach of Old Trinity in Tiffin. Neither Fr. Foster, Julia, nor the Vestry have access to individual responses.
- ◇ Deadlines for submissions is October 4<sup>th</sup>.

## CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

It is time to think of Christmas and helping a needy cause! St. Michael's is offering live trees from the Walker's Christmas Tree farm. The trees will be pre-ordered with a \$25 deposit paid at the time of ordering. The final cost of the tree will be the \$25 plus \$10/foot. The sale is open to parishioners, their friends and families as well as neighboring churches and the Ottawa Hills community. Buyers may tag their trees at the Walker's on October 17-18 and November 7-8 from 12:00 – 5:00 or indicate the height of the tree desired when preordering. Trees will be cut fresh just before the pickup date which is Saturday, December 5, at the church from 9:00 – 3:00. Half of the proceeds will be shared with Vision Ministries and Seagate Food Bank. Watch for more details in the weekly Friday emails and upcoming flyers.



## 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.*

## ST. MICHAEL'S MEDAL NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Each year St. Michael's offers the opportunity for parishioners to nominate individuals for the St. Michael's Medal. Nominations for 2021 are now being accepted until November 13.

By way of background, the awarding of the St. Michael's Medal is the highest honor that St. Michael's in the Hills can bestow. The St. Michael's Medal may be awarded to communicants who have provided years of dedicated and distinguished service to St. Michael's.

*The following are the medal candidate eligibility criteria:*

- Medal candidates must be communicants in good standing who have performed dedicated and distinguished service to St. Michael's. Examples of dedicated and distinguished service include:
  - ◊ Time: At least a decade of service attending to the various needs of the parish;
  - ◊ Talent: Outstanding leadership in the mission of St. Michael's; and
  - ◊ Treasure: Generous financial gifts.
- Medal candidates cannot be serving on Vestry during the year of nomination or the year in which the St. Michael's Medal is awarded.
- Medal candidates cannot have previously received a St. Michael's Medal. (For a list of some previous recipients, see below.)

Nomination forms will be available on a table on Sunday mornings, or you may contact the office and request a form be sent to you in the regular mail or via email. Nominations are due by Noon on November 13, 2020 in the Church Office.

The Vestry will vote on the Medal Committee's recommendation by the end of the year and medals will be awarded at the church's annual meeting in January, 2021.



1992	Isabelle Carter	2013	Annette Boice
	Nell Rudy	2014	Rev. Margaret Sammons
	Joan O'Connell		Rev. Gregory Sammons
1993	Joan Boyer	2015	Dan Lehmann
1994	Heyward Drummond		Nancy Lehmann
1996	Howard Hull		Shirley Hancock
2000	Joseph Stykemain	2016	Irene Ehrmin
	Benjamin Coe		Ben Dansard
2003	Paul Marion	2017	Maxine Christopher
2004	John Morrison		Jack Christopher
2007	Mary Anne Brown	2018	Joe Gerhardinger
	David Carter		Kay Gerhardinger
	Lorraine Coe	2019	Jim Boyer
2008	Bernadine Kimbrough		Marion Boyer
	Virginia Ryan		Marilyn Palermo
2010	Jeff Boyer	2020	Pam Cousino
2011	Ralph Cochran		Steve Wipfli
2012	Edwina Ledgard		
	John Ehrmin		

Please note this list when considering who you would like to nominate!  
For recipient list prior to 1992, contact the office.

## 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.lovelearnsolve.org](http://www.lovelearnsolve.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<sup>+</sup>**

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://lovelearnsolve.org/news-events/links/>
- Weekly Compline Services via Zoom (New time!) Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm  
<https://lovelearnsolve.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/>

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6 Gretchen Rohm                   | 14 Will Cousino                |
| 7 Andrew Boesel                   | 23 Nancy Dansard               |
| 8 Craig Van Horsten, Jr.          | 24 Eleanor Drummond            |
| 9 Daniel O'Connell                | 25 Edwina Ledgard              |
| 10 Laurel Volk<br>Marilyn Stuckey | 27 Darin Croy<br>William Estes |
| 11 Sheila Johnson<br>Ricky Becker | 31 Louis Stuckey               |
| 12 Sarah Schendel                 |                                |



## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

October Newsletter: *Articles due October 23<sup>rd</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.



## 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 .

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

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

For those who have died: Peter Handwork, Jack Griffin

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



If you are giving a donation of stock to the church, please ask your broker or financial advisor to issue a letter to the Church with your name on it so we can credit your gift appropriately. Otherwise, it is often not clear who the gift is from. Thank you!

## 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.



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@lovelearnserv.org](mailto:office@lovelearnserv.org)

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

#### 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