



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

Cross Currents

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

December 2020 Edition

My Sisters, Brothers and Others,

During the seasons of the present coronavirus pandemic, I have been grateful for your in-person presence, when it has been possible, as it strengthens our bond of connectedness. Yet it is neither safe nor practical for many of us to participate in in-person gatherings, which has led to a corresponding sense of disconnection within the parish where there is not an alternative.

This lack of an alternative led to some musing about what might be possible, which led to some reflection about past small group ministries such as foyer groups and compline. With respect to virtual compline over the last eight months, this gathering has created a convivial fellowship that has afforded participants the opportunity to get to know each other better and forge a greater sense of connectedness.

As a result of this experience, it occurs to me that an experiment with virtual small groups is in order. What I am proposing for the month of December is an informal gathering among five people and myself over Zoom twice a week for up to an hour.

I know some of us are not familiar with Zoom, but as it lets one participate by plain old telephone as well as computer and cell phone, Zoom is the most inclusive way to participate. If you need help figuring out how to connect, let the office know and we will help you sort it out.

Beginning Tuesday December 1st, we will gather on Tuesdays at 10:00 am and at 5:30 pm on Thursdays for conversation, prayer, and deeper acquaintance with one another over our preferred beverages.

In order to keep the groups small and give everyone an opportunity to participate during this trial, the groups will change from one gathering to the next with preference given to those who have not previously participated. To register, please email or call the office and tell us which day you would like to participate (Tuesday, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 29 or Thursday, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 31).

Looking forward to speaking with you, I am ...

Yours in Christ's everlasting love,

**FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE
GATHERED TOGETHER IN MY NAME
*I am there in the midst of them.***
MATTHEW 18:20

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

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER

The Vestry of St. Michael's has continued to work hard and meet regularly over the past several months, but since we have had very few opportunities in person to keep you updated, we continue to provide this 'Vestry Highlights' section in the monthly Cross Currents. At our November 24th meeting, we covered several topics including:

- 2nd round of 2021 budget proposal discussion, including Stewardship drive update. The Finance committee is meeting on December 8th and will have a final budget to present to Vestry at our December 15th meeting;
- Updates from the St. Michael's Medal committee and Vestry Nominating committee. Both groups have been doing thorough work and moving forward in their processes;
- Format for our Annual Meeting (January 17, 2021) to try to gather as many parishioners as possible, to have that connection with everyone as well as to have a quorum to conduct our business. *Please stay tuned for more information on this as we continue to work on our plan for this meeting!*

As a reminder, 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 December 15 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm via Zoom. Please contact Julia Burtscher at jeburtscher@gmail.com if you'd like connection details or have any questions.

—Julia Burtscher, Sr. Warden



Due to the suspension of in-person worship, our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be offered online.

Christmas Eve will be shared on Facebook at 6:00 pm, with a Musical Prelude at 5:30, and Christmas Day will be shared at 10:00 am.

You will also be able to access the videos of these services afterward on our YouTube channel.

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces
to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward
to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for
the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in
darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord
Jesus!" Amen.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen



A CHRISTMAS COLLABORATION

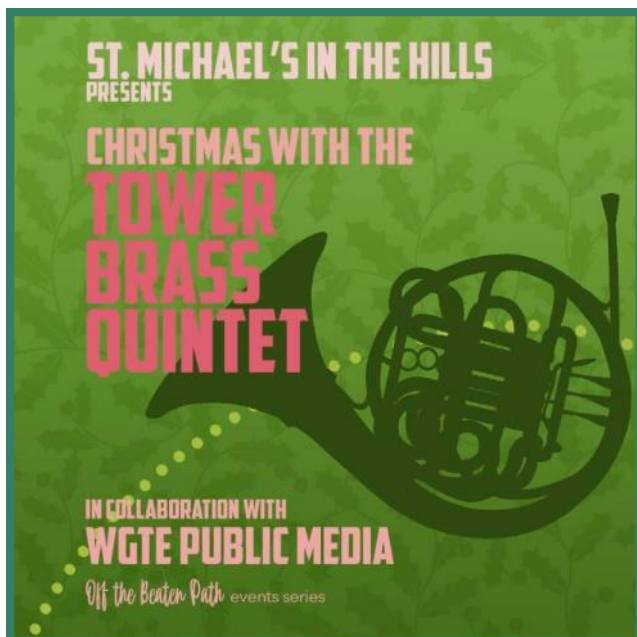
When a Christmas concert by the Tower Brass Quintet at St. Michael's had to be cancelled because of the pandemic, the stars quickly aligned in a different way. Off the Beaten Path Events Series, the Tower Brass Quintet and WGTE Public Media, agreed to collaborate to produce "WGTE Presents - Christmas with the Tower Brass Quintet," a 60-minute television concert. The program will be broadcast on Christmas Eve at 8pm on WGTE TV30.



In addition, on three Wednesdays in December, portions of the concert will be made available for viewing on St. Michael's Facebook page and subsequently on St. Michael's YouTube channel. **Tune in at 7pm on December 9, 16 and 23 on Facebook.** Then, enjoy the complete Tower Brass Quintet concert **Thursday, December 24 at 8pm on Public Television, WTGE, channel 30.** The program will be archived on St. Michael's YouTube channel, allowing you to view it anytime at your convenience.

The Tower Brass Quintet has a longstanding relationship with St. Michael's. They have provided music for St. Michael's summer outdoor Memorial Garden service for 13 years, except of course for this past year because of the pandemic. Last year's delightful Christmas concert played to a full house in our sanctuary.

The program was video-taped at the WGTE studios in mid-November. Christmas scenes, outdoor shots and interviews will be filmed at St. Michael's in December.



The concert features a performance of "Emma's Christmas," a whimsical, kid-friendly takeoff on the Twelve Days of Christmas, narrated by St. Michael's own Donna Tozer Wipfli.

During the pandemic, Off the Beaten Path is experimenting with new ways of presenting events and the possibility of reaching out to much bigger audiences through virtual media. We are delighted by our collaboration with one of the region's most renowned institutions, WGTE Public Media.

Off the Beaten Path Events Series aspires to offer high-quality programming to the region, reflecting St. Michael's enduring value of spiritual growth, education, and the fine arts. We invite our community to discover St. Michael's as a center for enduring spiritual and cultural experiences and a welcoming place for all.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH:



With so many in need during the challenge of 2020, it can be overwhelming to know how to reach out to others. Aside from being an instrument of His peace, financial donations will be offered this year to the Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank. Following a long tradition of St. Michael's, our Christmas Eve "plate" offering will be given in its entirety to this food bank. For detailed information, including direct donation opportunities, visit this website: toledonwohiofoodbank.networkforgood.com. However, we would prefer that you write a check and mail it to St. Michael's with "Food Bank Donation" on the memo line so we can gather our donations and then send one check to the food bank.

For safety reasons, the Outreach committee has chosen to forgo the gift collection and focus on the plate/financial offering. However, if you shop on Amazon this Christmas, please consider taking 2 minutes to set up Amazon Smiles. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases directly to a charity of your choice. To support Toledo NW Ohio Food Bank, Inc., simply shop at smile.amazon.com

Knowing these times are causing so much financial strain on so many people, we would also like to offer outreach to any of the St. Michael's family. If you are in need of financial/ food assistance at this time, please contact Outreach chair, Ann Heckler, at yoga2day@hotmail.com to share your needs. Your connection will be guaranteed private.



One-in-six adults and one-in-four children face hunger in our community. Every \$1 donation provides 5 meals through our network of approximately 250 food pantries across 8 counties. The Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank depends upon donations from the community to aid us in our continuing fight to end hunger in Northwest Ohio.

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.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY

Epworth, Hope Lutheran and St. Michael's are teaming up together to sponsor a holiday lights contest. If you have chosen to not participate by decorating your home, you can still participate by driving by the homes Dec. 4-6 or Dec. 11-13 from 5 to 9 pm (maps will be provided) and casting a vote for \$5 for your favorite home. At the end of the contest, all proceeds from ballot donations will be divided between the churches for their chosen charity. Let's celebrate Christmas in a new way! Speak to Irene Ehrmin if you have any questions.



CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

If you pre-tagged a tree at the Walker Christmas Tree Farm, don't forget to come pick it up Saturday, December 5th from 9am to 3pm at St. Michael's.

If you didn't tag a tree, don't worry, there will be some trees for sale that day, as well as wreaths from our greenery sale! Trees will be sold at \$10 a foot.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of trees will go to Vision Ministries and the Seagate Food Bank.



MUSIC NOTES



For the past couple of weeks, you might have noticed a few new faces in the choir videos. We might not be able to see our singer's face to face anymore, but we can still learn a little about them. This month, we introduce you to Grace Wipfli!

Grace is from Toledo and has proven to be an impressive, charming, and promising young soprano. Her performance highlights include Sa femme in Milhaud's *Le Pauvre Matelot*, Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), The Governess (The Turn of the Screw), Ann Truelove (The Rake's Progress), The Beggar

Woman (Sweeney Todd), and the Baker's Wife (Into the Woods). Most recently, she performed at Carnegie Hall as the Soprano Soloist for Ralph Vaughan William's *Dona Nobis Pacem*, conducted by Dr. Lynda Hasseler. In 2019, she received an Encouragement Award from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in the Wisconsin District and was also a finalist for the Northwestern University Concerto/Aria Competition. Ms. Wipfli has completed the Summer Concert Residency with Florentine Opera, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and performed with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. She earned her Master of Music at Northwestern University where she studied with Sunny Joy Langton. She completed her undergraduate studies at Capital University while studying with Jacqueline Barlow-Ware. While at Capital, Ms. Wipfli won the 2017 Concerto Competition in Performance and the Richard Miller Award for Fine Singing from the Ohio chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. She is overjoyed to be returning to her hometown as the Soprano Resident Artist for Toledo Opera's 2020-21 season.



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. 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!*



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
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/>

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Nicole Dunwald | 17 William Becker |
| 2 Bernice Lambkin | Sarah Jewell |
| Olivia Summons | Sophie Jewell |
| 3 Susan Pokorney | 20 Rose Heise |
| 5 Brooke Simonds | 21 Charlotte Halloran |
| 7 Joan Durgin | 24 Carol Nichols |
| Berthold Rossnagel | 29 Joan O'Connell |
| 9 Lisa Habib | 30 James Becker |
| 11 Scott Estes | 31 Mary Gerhardinger |
| 15 Mark Keleher | |



WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS...

Homebound: 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 and Rod and Joan Durgin.

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

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

For those who have died: Isabelle Carter

**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 21st*

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.



HOW TO:
Donate
Stock



We are looking for a mystery donor who contributed shares of Apple and Intel to the church in June of this year.

Please contact the office or email Gretchen at: gretchen@lovelearnserve.org. We want to be sure you are credited for your contribution!

REMEMBER, 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!



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. 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

Michelle Knecht & Kim Schrinel – Administrative Assistants

Gretchen Rohm – Financial Administrator

Justin Bays – Director of Music

Rebecca Park – Organist

Diane Reeves & Lisa Watson – Sextons

PARISH LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Foster Mays – Priest-in-Charge

Julia Burtscher – Senior Warden

Dani Zoorob – Junior Warden

John Graham – Treasurer

David Braun – Clerk