



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

Cross Currents

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

November 2020 Edition

My Sisters, Brothers and Others in Christ,

Amid the garden chores of pruning trees and shrubs, cutting back perennials, and raking leaves, each fall makes me mindful of my own rootedness, which reminds me of this bit of Scripture, "... who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you [O LORD], and of your own have we given you." [1 Chronicles 29:14]

You may have heard me recite this verse as an offertory sentence on occasion before beginning Holy Communion. These are the words of King David as he is offering his farewell prayer to God before an assembly gathered to coronate his son Solomon and to present their freewill offering for the construction of the Temple of Jerusalem. While the Temple will be the first fixed house of God, and the scale of the endeavor is spectacular, some might even say audacious. But the issue is not the audacity or grandeur of the undertaking; rather it's about the orientation of David's spirit that makes the undertaking possible.

The second half of the verse, "For all things come from you [O LORD], and of your own have we given you." reveals the orientation of David's spirit. This fundamental recognition that all that we possess comes from God is simple in its expression but challenging in its realization because it's foreign to our cultural orientation, which is grounded more in possession than origin.

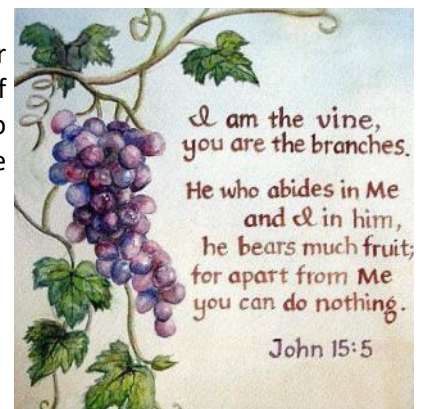
For David the issue is one of origin. Everything, natural or human-made, has its origin in God's creation, and we are blessed for a time with its utility before it and we return to our origin. I think David and his people are able identify with this origin narrative, in part, because it is culturally more prevalent in their time. But also, because they possess a tangible sense of the mystery of God's presence in their lives – a rootedness if you will.

One helpful way to think of this rootedness is the image Jesus offers as he describes himself as the true vine and God as the vinegrower. "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." [John 15:5] This sense of not just connectedness but dependence is ironic in our culture of independence, yet it is precisely what made David the king he was. When he was connected – rooted – he flourished, yet when he trusted his own council he stumbled and suffered the consequences.

This season of pruning and preparing our gardens for the winter align with our church season of pledging and reflection upon the challenges and opportunities of stewardship. In this shared season of preparing for new growth and seasons to come, may we each also be attentive to our rootedness in Christ Jesus and the irony that all we have comes from and returns to you O LORD. Amen.

Yours in Christ's abundant and rooted love,

Forst +



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. At our October 27th meeting, we covered several topics:

- 2021 Preliminary Budget Proposal
- Diocesan Convention (to be held virtually November 13-14) representatives from St. Michaels
- Vestry Nominating Committee Formation and Update
- Mutual Ministry Process Update and Next Steps
- Stewardship Drive (November 1 - 29, 2020)
- Advent, Lessons & Carols, Christmas Services planning, concerns, ideas, etc.

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 November 24 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

WEEKLY COMPLINE INVITATION

We offer Virtual Compline on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 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 FIRST EVER CHRISTMAS TREE SALE!

HOW IT WORKS:

Pick out a fresh Christmas tree this fall at the Walker Christmas Tree Farm!

PICK OUT YOUR TREE:

Visit the Walker Christmas Tree Farm either Nov. 7- 8 or Nov. 14-15 from Noon to 5pm. Pick out your favorite tree and reserve it with a \$25 deposit. People from St. Michael's will be there to help! (Half of the proceeds will be shared with Vision Ministries and Seagate Food Bank.)

PICK UP YOUR TREE:

On Saturday, December 5th from 9am to 3pm, come to St. Michael's to pick up your reserved tree! Trees are \$10 a foot, so a 5 ft. tree would be \$50 and at the time of pick up you would owe \$25 (\$50 - \$25 deposit).

Want to reserve a tree without going to the Walker Tree Farm?
Just call (567) 694-6190 by November 28 and they'll help you reserve a tree.

**The Walker's are faithful members of St. Michael's and their tree farm is located at
5320 Samaria Road, Ottawa Lake, MI 49267.*



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.** The St. Michael's Medal may be awarded to communicants who have provided years of dedicated and distinguished service to St. Michael's. Please contact the office if you would like a copy of the guidelines, the list of past medal recipients, and the form to fill out to nominate someone. These packets of info. are also available for pick up on the narthex table on Sunday. *Thank you!*

COMMON GROUNDS RETURNS IN NOVEMBER

We are happily planning to present some Common Grounds events, in the Nave, following the 9 am service on Sundays. Plan to stay, after a short break, for 30-40 minutes of learning and sharing. Or continue to stream the service from our Facebook page if you are staying home. Here's what we have planned so far.

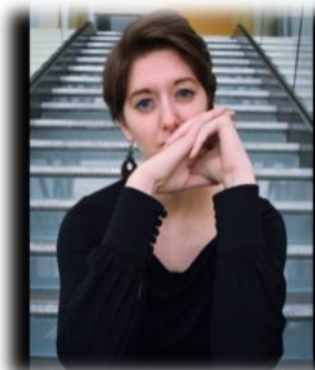
Mid-November (*date to be determined*): A virtual, home-movie Talent Show!

Please consider submitting a video of your talent or short tour of your collection/hobby. We will love being in contact this way. Here are some instructions:

1. Plan a video of 5 minutes or less. Practice and time yourself, please.
2. Shoot the video in "landscape," that is. hold your phone or tablet side-ways.
3. Introduce yourself and everyone in the video clearly at the beginning.
4. Make sure we can see your face (some light on your face, not "backlit.")
5. Listen to make sure we can understand you.
6. Let Sarah Schendel know you would like to participate: schensar@sbcglobal.net or 419-472-8779
7. Plan to submit your video via the website www.wetransfer.com. Sarah can walk you through using this website, which does require you to log-in via a password you will create. Sending your video this way is so important as it is very hard to send videos otherwise.
8. Await Sarah's instructions about when and where to send your video.
9. Plan to create your video by early November.
10. Families: please get your kids involved (cart wheels, cooking, etc., etc.)

— Sarah Schendel, for Common Grounds

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 Caitlin Borke! Conductor, German speaker and lover of fine cheese, Caitlin recently graduated from Western Michigan University with degrees in music education and German. She recently moved to Toledo to take the role of Choral Music Director at Woodward High School. She had performed the roles of Fiordiligi in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Conception in Ravel's *The Spanish Hour*, and Mary Magdalene in *Jesus Christ Super Star*. While she is happy to sing remotely, she is looking forward to the day she can sing live to more than just her upstairs neighbor.

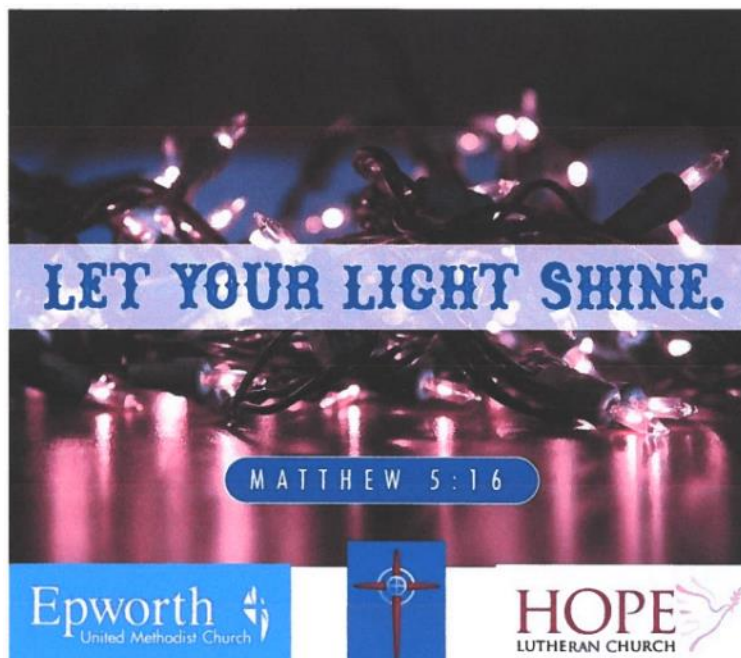
SHARING GOD'S LOVE, ONE CALL, ONE CARD AT A TIME...

How can we best share God's Love during the time of COVID? This is what the Lay Visitors of St. Michael's have been asking ourselves since March. Initially we thought, well, since we can't visit folks in person and we can't even gather for worship — let's call everyone — and we did! (Or we tried! We found lots of needed directory updates!) We continued to give particular attention, phone calls and cards, to our original "home bound" or those who live in nursing care facilities. We did this from March through early summer when we realized that we had all somewhat adapted to the "new normal" and perhaps calls to everyone was no longer needed or comfortable. We decided to focus our efforts on those who live alone, have ongoing health issues, or who may be particularly stressed by this crazy pandemic world. We continue to make these "friendly calls".

Right now it feels like we are again at a point of change, as some are able to worship in person, as the pandemic continues and as the days get shorter, colder and the opportunities to be outside diminish. So, perhaps once again it is time to reach out to everyone! But rather than just the Lay Visitation Team members making the calls, I am asking EVERYONE to make the calls. Reach out to those who you would normally —remember that!? — offer the sign of the peace, or those who you would choose to sit with during Common Grounds. Reach out in the spirit of fellowship to your fellow St. Michael's in the Hills friends and family. If EVERYONE made just one call a week it would most definitely HELP! A current copy of our Directory is available on the table in the Narthex or a digital copy can easily be sent to you via email. Please, promise to reach out! Make a list, challenge yourself, make a call or send a card. Nothing is more healing than someone showing they care.

Meanwhile, the Lay Visitation Team will continue to make friendly calls and care for our homebound. If you find that you too are called to share God's Love by joining the Lay Visitation Team, please let me know! God Bless and stay safe.

Peace and Thank you,
Carol Nichols



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE.

MATTHEW 5:16

Epworth
United Methodist Church

HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ in lighting up our neighborhoods for a friendly competition! Epworth, Hope Lutheran and St. Michael's are teaming up together to sponsor a holiday lights contest. You can participate by decorating and registering your house in the contest. To do so, simply send an email to: ChurchLites@gmail.com by Nov. 22. They suggest a \$10 donation to register your home, which can be sent to St. Michael's with "Let your light shine" on the memo line. Decorations should be completed by Dec. 4. Or you can participate by driving by the homes Dec. 4-6 or Dec. 11-13 (maps will be provided) and casting a vote for \$5 for your favorite home. At the end of the contest, all donated money will go to charities and the winners will get to decide which to donate to.

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. 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.



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!*

STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

Pledge packets for our Stewardship Drive will be available for pick up on Sunday, November 1st. Any left after Sunday will be sent in the mail. Please be on the lookout for your packet and join your fellow parishioners in continuing to support St. Michael's!

We hope to receive all pledge cards at the church by November 29th.

THANK YOU!

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://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/>

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2 Julie Hagenbuch
Kevin Egan | 17 Donald McIntyre |
| 3 Nancy Hatfield | 19 Janet Metzger |
| 4 Carole Shirk | 20 Joy Kight |
| 6 Margaret Sagan
Carolyn Lloyd | 23 Carleen McIntyre |
| 12 Joanne Youngen | 25 Debbie Carlisle |
| 14 Andrzej Gomulinski | 28 James Boyer
Herm Kurrelmeier |
| 15 Thomas Kropp | 30 Ron Volk |
| 16 Lauren Walker
Nathan Walker | |



Happy
Birthday

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

December Newsletter: *Articles due November 23rd*

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 and Bill.

For those in harm's way: David, 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.*



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@lovelearnserve.org

Visit us on the web: www.lovelearnserve.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

Justin Bays – Director of Music

Rebecca Park – Organist

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