



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

# Cross Currents

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

January 2021 Edition

My Dear Sisters, Brothers and Others,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We are only halfway through the first, with Epiphany marking the end of the season of Christmas, and on the cusp of the second. My head swims with all the hopes, which I won't belabor, for this new year; some of which are full of optimism and others just plain necessary for the course of normal life, to which I suspect we all hope to return soon.

Many of you are already aware of how excited I am about the year ahead of us; but on a more mundane note, our Annual Parish Meeting may not be at the front of your mind, so I hope you will indulge me as I spend a bit of our time telling you about the uniqueness our Annual Meeting this year.

The Annual Meeting, which will be online via Zoom because it is still unsafe to gather in person, will occur on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. As our by-laws specify a quorum of 50 members in good standing in order to conduct the business of the Annual Meeting, and because of the change in venue, we need to begin preparing ourselves now, so we can transact the business of the Parish on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

As usual, the Annual Report will be delivered to you two weeks in advance of the meeting, but as we do not all have the same familiarity with Zoom, I encourage you to start experimenting with it as soon as you can, so you join us with confidence on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

There are three ways to participate in a Zoom meeting: 1) by computer or tablet that has a camera and microphone; 2) by cell phone; 3) and by landline. You may have a family member or friend that is able to coach you through how to do this; if not, we will be posting a "how to" Zoom meeting video.

In the meantime, I encourage you to practice or ask for assistance before Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> so you can get extra practice by joining us for our Common Grounds gathering with Vivian Bork on the topic of Epiphany.

Until then, with tidings of good cheer, I am ...

Yours in Christ's love for all humankind,



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

## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER

Happy New Year!

The Vestry of St. Michael's has continued to work hard and meet regularly in 2020, 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 December 15, 2020 meeting, we covered several topics including:

- ⇒ Approving the 2021 budget proposed by the finance committee. I would like to thank the members of the finance committee for their thoughtful work. We did a line-by-line review of the budget to ensure we addressed every detail, and had a meaningful discussion. Hard work, and important work. Thank you!
- ⇒ Enjoying a discussion with Rev. Aaron Gerlach regarding the Mutual Ministry survey results and next steps;
- ⇒ Approving the 2021 St. Michael's Medal Award;
- ⇒ Approving the Class of 2024 Vestry Slate

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 January 26th, 2021 from 7:00pm – 9:00pm via Zoom. Please contact the office at [office@lovelearnserve.org](mailto:office@lovelearnserve.org) if you'd like connection details or have any questions.

— Julia Burtscher, Sr. Warden

## UPDATE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

As we're not seeing and talking to each other as often as we did pre-pandemic, there is a lot that goes unreported. One such unreported thing has been the state of our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry; however, silence is not an indication of inactivity, in this case it is an indicator of reflection and conversation about the future.

The reflection and conversation that have taken place have revealed both challenges and opportunities for St. Michael's and have set a direction for moving forward. The principal learnings are that we need to reimagine this ministry and we need the objective perspective of an outside expert to facilitate our work. To this end, beginning this month, we will be working with the Rev. Canon Anna Sutterisch, the Diocesan Canon for Christian Formation to envision the future of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry for St. Michael's.

My hope is to pull together a small group of youth, parents, and interested parties to work as a team to do this visioning work so that we have a clear way forward and can begin a search for our next Youth Minister in February/March. If you believe you are called to this work, please contact me.

Foster+

## LAY VISITOR MINISTRY TEAM

Taking care of each other is always a priority, but perhaps especially during these strange times of anxiety and isolation. The Lay Visitors of St Michael's in the Hills invites, encourages and welcomes anyone who would like to join our small band of fellow parishioners who make monthly telephone calls to other members and who write words of encouragement to those we cannot speak with directly. This is one of those "jobs" that is much more rewarding than "taxing" every time.

We divide up a list of people and each make a few calls a month. We sign up for a specific month where we would normally visit those who are not able to make it to church. We look forward to being able to share Christ's love in person again with those who are unable to join us at church hopefully by the end of 2021.

Training, orientation and ongoing support are always available. We work closely with Fr. Foster. Current members of the team include: David and Diane Braun, Jamie Fontana, Joe and Kay Gerhardinger, Nancy Hughes, Carol Kanfield, Andrea Kanfield Kusz, Sue Merce, Anne Morris, Carol Nichols, Ruth Ann Sailstad and Sarah Schendel. Feel free to contact any of us with questions or concerns.

Our first 2021 organizational meeting will take place on Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6 at 1 pm via Zoom video or telephone link. Please let me know if you would like to become a member of the Lay Visitor Team. You won't be sorry! Promise!

Carol Nichols  
[carollenznichols@yahoo.com](mailto:carollenznichols@yahoo.com)  
 419346-4606



## COMMON GROUNDS VIA ZOOM!

Join us for Zoom Common Grounds on Sundays, January 10 and 24 at 10 am. Each program will be about 30 minutes long, with plenty of time following for discussion and sharing.

You will find the Zoom link for both programs in the Friday emails. It is also found on the church website, [lovelearnserve.org](http://lovelearnserve.org), under the Worship tab. Scroll down to the Wednesday Compline service information. The Zoom log in information for the Compline services is the same for Common Grounds!

**January 10: "Love of the Manger":** Vivian Bork shares photos of her collection of creches/Nativity scenes, long a staple of her family's advent season including her children and now her grandchildren. She has some added information about how deeply these iconic figures are etched into our minds.

**January 24: "Color!" by Steve Wipfli:** Discover why color is the artist's most powerful tool. Color impacts our lives daily with strong and sometimes emotional preferences in dress, decor, cars, gardens — almost everything! Learn how cultures utilize color in surprisingly different ways. Explore the church's use of color to define seasons and events. Join Steve Wipfli, artist and retired art teacher, to learn more about the world of COLOR!



## CHRISTMAS TREE SALE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported our first ever Christmas Tree Sale! From driving up to the Walker family's tree farm in Ottawa Lake, Michigan, to picking up your freshly cut tree in the St. Michael's parking lot, your support was amazing and for that we are thankful! Pick up day was a festive occasion with a blazing fire pit, Christmas Carols, candy canes and an eager crowd in St. Michael's parking lot. The total income from sales and donations was \$2,150. After expenses, the amount donated to charities was \$1,215. The committee decided to split the proceeds equally between the Seagate Foodbank and Vision Ministries.

We especially want to thank the Walker family, especially Natasza, for all of her help and dedication. And a big "shout out" to the talented Steve Wipfli for designing the graphics for Facebook and the flyer. Please keep St. Michael's in mind for your Christmas tree next year!



## 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.*



## IT TAKES A TEAM!



If you enjoyed any of the Christmas services online (or any Sunday service!), you know we wouldn't be able to do it without the staff and many members of St. Michael's. From musical offerings, to lay readers, and hours upon hours of behind the scenes compilations of videos... Each service we broadcast is put together with MUCH time and

effort from the staff and many volunteers! Not being able to worship in person is not anyone's first choice, but we are so thankful for all who have given of their time and talent to help make our virtual services not just possible, but beautiful! *\*If you were busy over the holiday and didn't get to watch a Christmas service, keep in mind you can still watch them on our YouTube channel!*

## VIRTUAL SMALL GROUPS

We launched a new small group ministry in December and we encourage you to join in if you haven't already! These virtual small group gatherings are offered each Tuesday at 10:00 am and each Thursday at 5:30 pm for conversation, prayer, and deeper acquaintance with one another. The groups meet via Zoom and if you need help figuring out how to connect in this way, we would love to help you! We are asking that people register for these meetings in advance, so we can keep them to small groups of 5.

The meeting dates for January will be Tuesdays, Jan. 12, 19, and 26, and Thursdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, and 28. Please register for the meeting date of your choice by emailing or calling the office.

## MUSIC NOTES



For the past few months, you might have noticed some 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 Andrew Payne!

Andrew hails from Waynesboro, Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Northwestern University where he earned a Master's degree in voice and opera studying with W. Stephen Smith. He graduated from Temple University with a B.M. in Voice Performance where he studied with Marcus DeLoach.

Past operatic roles include Howard (*Dog Days*), Sam (*Trouble in Tahiti*), Guglielmo (*Così Fan Tutte*), Benoît/Alcindoro (*La bohème*), Johann and Albert understudy (*Werther*), Nick Shadow (*The Rake's Progress*), Frank (*Die Fledermaus*), and the Gendarme (*Les Mamelles de Tirésias*). Mr. Payne has also been the baritone soloist in Stacey Garrop's *Terra Nostra*. Recently, he traveled to London and performed in a world premiere of a musical theatre production of *The Mad Hatter* in the West End. This summer Andrew will be attending the Milnes Voice Studio in Savannah, Georgia where he will be playing the role of Leporello (*Don Giovanni*). Andrew recently won first place in Opera Idol hosted by Sherrill Milnes, third place in the NATS Philadelphia Chapter in 2015, and was a recipient of the Middleburg Music Scholarship in 2017. He has performed in masterclasses with Sherrill Milnes, Warren Jones, Anthony Michaels-Moore, and Brenton Ryan. Andrew is very excited and honored to begin his post-grad life and career with a wonderful company that is Toledo Opera.



## 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.



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!*



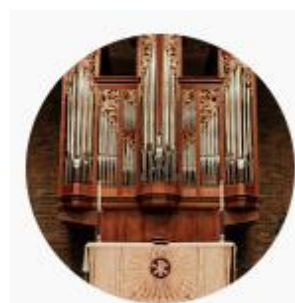
If you are on Instagram,  
we invite you to follow our church account:  
**@stmichaelsinthehills**

## 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/>

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2 Kaed Egan                     | 22 Barbara Bailey<br>Patty Wise<br>Alexandra Boesel |
| 4 Ruth Ann Sailstad             |   |
| 11 Christopher DeRosa           | 23 James DeRosa                                     |
| 14 Letty Haigh<br>Jordan Porter | 24 Craig Hatfield<br>Lucy Lambert                   |
| 17 Barb Malkoski<br>TJ Fontana  | 30 Hannah Jewell                                    |
| 18 Jack McBride                 |   |
| 21 Cindy Tuttle<br>George Estes |   |



## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

February Newsletter: Articles due January 18<sup>th</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.



## 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, Bill, Michele, and Monica.

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: Gloria Weller

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



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](mailto: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