



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

Cross Currents

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

February 2021 Edition

My Dear Sisters, Brothers and Others,

As of this writing, we find ourselves just weeks away from Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Some of you will recall, last year we were just two weeks into our Lenten program of Dinner Church and *Walk in Love*, when the pandemic brought all in-person worship to a halt. The unfinished bottle of communion wine still sits in my office, waiting for our Communion to resume.

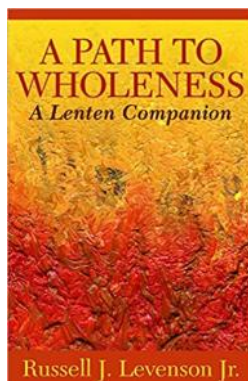
The pandemic has been disruptive, to say the least, to our worship community; yet we have reimagined and recreated ways to worship and gather as a community. Still, I think we can honestly say, we are not yet completely restored to wholeness either individually or as a community. Because this disruption began in this season a year ago, it seems appropriate we should, with intention, resume the journey toward wholeness that was interrupted last year.

Given the emotional and spiritual toll the pandemic has taken upon us, this Lent it seems appropriate to focus on the less tangible but very real voids or holes in our spirits. To this end, as a resource to guide our way, we are using *A Path to Wholeness: A Lenten Companion*.

When I think of wholeness, I can't help but associate it with the "Glory of God"; an association I attribute to Irenaeus, the 2nd Century Bishop of Lyon, who said, "the Glory of God is the human person fully alive." For me, wholeness or being fully alive is to be engaged in the heart-felt seeking of ourselves in the likeness of Christ. Assisting us in this seeking, *A Path to Wholeness* offers daily scriptural reflections on the stumbling blocks and disordered affections that keep us from the wholeness to which we aspire as creatures made in God's image. For our part, we will assist each other in prayer and in regular, albeit remote gathering to share our insights and learning. In the meantime, I remain ...

Yours in aspiring to Christ's wholeness,

Lenten Book Study



For those seeking inspiration and devotion for Lent and beyond, *A Path to Wholeness* is an invitation to Lenten observance through Biblical passages and reflections. Each Wednesday in Lent, beginning Feb. 24, join us online each week at 6:00 pm via Zoom for this study. To register, call or email the office and we will order a book for you.

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

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY

The Vestry of St. Michael's met at its first meeting for the year on Jan. 6th and elected its officers. As part of the incoming Vestry, Ms. Maureen Latigo was elected as Junior Warden and Mr. Alvin Stephens as Clerk. The Vestry also welcomed its new members: Ms. Donna Wipfli, Mr. Jim Boyer, and Ms. Nancy Lehmann.

Additionally, a discussion was held regarding reconstituting the church committees, with liaisons being assigned accordingly.

A plan for defining the youth ministry job description was put into action, and the committee will be meeting this weekend (Jan. 30/31). The hope is that recruitment starts early spring.

Parish engagement opportunities were explored, including the potential for a parish video for Easter as well as direct communication. If interested in participating, families will be asked to provide a short 10-second celebratory video collated into a longer video posted on the parish website. Additionally, a discussion was held regarding a diocese-wide choir performance opportunity. For those inclined to participate, please reach out to Justin Bays.

As a reminder, Vestry meetings are open to the parish for viewing. As we are meeting virtually, please email me to share the link with you (dzobgyn@gmail.com). You are welcome to attend the meeting but could be asked to disconnect if the Vestry has to go into an executive session. The meeting date for February is TBD.

— Dani Zoorob, Sr. Warden

COMMON GROUNDS VIA ZOOM: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Join us for Zoom Common Grounds on Sunday, February 21 at 10 am. The program will be about 30 minutes long, with plenty of time following for discussion and sharing.

REFLECTIONS ON "SACRED GROUND: A FILM-BASED DIALOGUE SERIES ON RACE AND FAITH"

In 2020, both Fr. Foster Mays and Sarah Schendel participated in a 10-session dialogue series offered through the West Michigan Area Council of Episcopal Churches. Fr. Foster volunteered to lead a group as there were so many people wanting to participate. Both found the "course" profound, challenging, and of great value. Please attend our Virtual Common Grounds on February 21st to hear about Sacred Ground and what each experienced. You will see a sample of the weekly documentary videos incorporated into the course which, along with articles, and two books, made the work challenging, but ultimately rewarding. WMAC formed 8-9 online groups which met every two weeks for discussion of the films and readings assigned. We would love to offer this course at St. Michael's, possibly in the late spring/early summer.

Please check your weekly Church email on February 19th for the Zoom link to join in. It is also found on the church website, 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!)



2020 FINANCIAL REPORT/2021 BUDGET

	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
Pledges (Including Prepaid)	322,702	311,629	315,900	290,900
Non Pledge Donations	17,816	10,271	15,000	7,500
Plate Offering	3,236	1,420	3,000	3,000
Interest Income	17,493	8,241	9,000	9,000
Fundraising	2,580	116	2,500	2,500
Building Use	1,665	340	1,200	1,200
Funds Transfer In	2,642	2,500	3,500	3,500
Other (Rectory/Misc)	4,613	(491)	2,000	17,000
Endowment Draw	32,985	35,622	33,000	37,000
Total Revenue	405,732	369,648	385,100	371,600
Ministry Expense	113,397	138,516	150,327	148,928
Clergy Wage and Benefits				
Stewardship				
Pastoral Care				
Worship/Alter				
Administrative Expense	79,379	82,428	89,333	86,322
Office Wages and Benefits				
Office Supplies				
Telephone and Publicity				
Postage, Printing, & Newsletter				
Office Equip. Rental & Repairs				
Facilities Expense	107,500	81,746	103,303	77,423
Sexton Wages				
Utilities--Church & Rectory				
Taxes and Insurance				
Grounds and Maintenance--Church and Rectory				
Furniture/Equipment & Supplies				
Christian Education Expense	24,229	20,648	22,582	15,250
Director Wages & Benefits				
Youth & Adult Education				
School Expenses				
Music Expense	46,706	49,713	60,676	53,041
Directors/Section Leaders Wages				
Music Supplies				
Instrumentalists				
Ecumenical Support Expense	56,845	61,265	54,480	60,480
Diocesan Support				
Other Outreach				
Total Expenses	428,056	434,316	480,701	441,444
Surplus/(Deficit)	(22,324)	(64,668)	(95,601)	(69,844)



THE VESTRY CLASS OF 2024

From the St. Michael's Code of Regulations:

The Vestry of St. Michael's shall consist of twelve (12) members who shall be divided into three (3) classes of four (4) members each, one class of which shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the members of the Parish. The term of each member of such class shall be three (3) years.

* * * * *

MAUREEN LATIGO: Maureen had lived in the Toledo area for 27 years with her only son Akena, before moving to Dundee in 2018. She has been a member of St. Michael's since 2012 and prior to St. Michael's she served as a vestry clerk for 2 years, served as a member of the Executive Committee and as a member of the Church Finance auditor Committee for two years. She has also served on the Altar Guild at her previous church and briefly served on the same ministry at St. Michaels. Maureen has volunteered on various children ministries including VBS at other churches and at St. Michaels. Currently she works as Senior Financial Analyst for Washtenaw County in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It is an honor and privilege for Maureen to serve on the vestry at St. Michael's.

NANCY LEHMANN: Nancy grew up attending St. Michael's and was married here. She has served as a Sunday School teacher, Youth Group advisor, Stewardship committee member, Co-Chair of Capital Fund Drive and is a former member of the Vestry. Nancy retired as Vice President of the Reichle/Klein Group, commercial realtors, in 2016 and is currently serving on two non-profit boards in the community. Nancy has a son who lives in Columbus with his wife, two sons and baby daughter.

AL STEPHENS: Al joined St. Michael's in 1983 with his wife Lillian. He is a graduate of both Bowling Green State University and University of Toledo. After working for Toledo Public Schools for over 30 years, he has now retired to his home in Monclova, Oh. In retirement he continues to work with students as well as leading travel opportunities throughout the world. In his time at St. Michael's, he has had the opportunity to serve as a Sunday School teacher, worked 12 years with the St. Michael's Youth Group, as well as Lay Reader and Usher.

DONNA TOZER-WIPFLI: Mother to Grace, life partner to Steven, choral and music educator for 39 years, newly retired, performer with choirs in Carnegie Hall, Taipei, London, Wales, California, and the south of France, conductor of Toledo's own Masterworks Chorale for 23 years, and member of St. Michael's in the Hills for 20 years, is ready to love, learn and serve on the Vestry of our wonderful church.

WEEKLY COMPLINE INVITATION

Every Wednesday at 6:00 PM

We offer Virtual Compline on Wednesday evenings at 6 pm. We offer this service via Zoom web conferencing. To access Zoom, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4493892523>. 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'd like to join by phone, dial +1 (312) 626-6799, and when prompted enter the Meeting ID: 449 389 2523.



VIDEO EDITORS NEEDED!!

Do you have any experience in editing videos or have a burning desire to learn how to edit videos for our weekly services?



All you need in order to help edit service videos is editing software on your home computer. Most Apple products come with iMovie pre-installed, or on your PC you might have Adobe Premiere Pro. If video editing is something you know how to do or would like to learn, please reach out to Justin Bays via email at justin@lovelearnserv.org. THANK YOU!

ABSALOM JONES SERVICE: FEBRUARY 7

The Wilma Combs Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and the Diocese of Ohio invite you to the Virtual Absalom Jones Service of Evening Prayer on Sunday, February 7 at 4:00 p.m., hosted by St. Luke's, Cleveland. The service is based on the 1789 Book of Common Prayer, a constant in the life of Absalom Jones, our first African American Episcopal priest.

The Officiant for the service is the Rev. Debra Bennett, Church of Our Saviour, Akron; and the preacher is the Rev. Christopher M. Decatur, St. Luke's, Cleveland. The service will be livestreamed on the Diocesan Facebook page and the St. Luke's, Cleveland YouTube channel. The offering for this service will be given to the Presiding Bishop's Absalom Jones Fund for the Historically Black Episcopal Colleges.



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 February will be Tuesdays, Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23, and Thursdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25. Please register for the meeting date of your choice by emailing or calling the office.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 17

A service of Holy Eucharist will be offered online beginning at 7 am on St. Michael's Facebook page and YouTube channel. This service can be viewed anytime during the day.



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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 John Williams | 18 Zach Hauck
Enna McBride
Emily Porter |
| 3 John Waweru | |
| 5 Susan Gilbert | 19 John Malkoski |
| 15 Bob Butler
Dennis Kanfield
Leigh Rorick | 21 John Kight
Myles Waweru |
| 16 Oliver Rorick | 22 Andrew Boesel |
| | 23 Joe Myers |
| | 27 Nancy Loughlin |
| | 29 Jonathan Day
Mackenzie Francisco |



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, Ginger, Mark, 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.

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



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

March Newsletter: *Articles due February 19th*

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.



**HOW TO:
Donate
Stock**



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 for your consideration!



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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Visit us on the web: www.lovelearnserve.org

THE VESTRY

Dani Zoorob, *Senior Warden*
Maureen Latigo, *Junior Warden*

Class of 2022

Nancy Elzinga
Kay Gerhardinger
Eboné Waweru
Dani Zoorob

Class of 2023

Jen DeBacker
Joe Myers
Carol Nichols
George Shirk

Class of 2024

Maureen Latigo
Al Stephens
Nancy Lehmann
Donna Tozer-Wipfli

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
Dani Zoorob – Senior Warden
Maureen Latigo – Junior Warden
John Graham – Treasurer
Al Stephens – Clerk