



St. Michael's
Episcopal Church

Love God
Love Others
Serve the World

IMITATE GOD



**2025
ANNUAL PARISH
MEETING**

And walk in love, as Christ loved us
and gave himself up for us, a fragrant
offering and sacrifice to God.
– Eph. 5:2

A Year in Review at St. Michael's

122

Sermons Preached

616

Individual pastoral
counseling hours

32,300

People heard the Gospel

104

Zoom Faith-formation
services

\$150,431

Local, regional, national,
and global Episcopal Church
ministry & outreach support

23,400

Meals served through
The Gathering

13,012

Servant-volunteer hours

\$39,436

Given to housing
assistance, medical
assistance, and other
outreach-related ministries

3 TONS

Food & Supplies given
through Feed My Lambs



IMITATE GOD

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

You've heard it said: "**Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.**" It's another way to say that imitation is admiration. The way we show our appreciation and admiration for all God has done for us through Jesus Christ, **is to imitate him**. To imitate God, means to live in love, and the standard by which our love is shaped and energized is the self- giving love of Christ on the cross.

"**Imitating**" and "**walking**" require action on our part. It is not a mere sentiment but a real commitment to a way of life that is sacrificial and redemptive. This kind of love may express affection, but it is mainly an other-centered direction of the will. It is the way, truth, and life that we are called to by Jesus Christ.

On the following pages, you will capture a glimpse of how we show our admiration and appreciation for all God has done for us and how we attempt to imitate God.

I suspect we'll never reach the point of perfect love for others, but each day that we allow the Spirit to work in and through us we draw closer to the life and purpose that Jesus invites us into.

God is doing amazing things in and through St. Michael's and I am deeply grateful that we are on this journey together. Thank you for your willingness to imitate God.

In Christ's love,



St. Michael's Basic Principles

Actively Open to God

We are open to all opportunities as we discern where God is leading us and who God is calling us to be.

Outwardly Focused

We exist for those who are not yet a part of our community. We pursue fellowship and service opportunities to significantly connect with others.

Accepting

We accept you wherever you are in your faith journey and trust God to take you where God wants you on God's timetable.

Relational

People desire an evolving, fulfilling relationship with the living God. Christianity is a relationship, not religion.

Spiritual Renewal & Maturity

We seek spiritual inspiration and renewal to keenly experience God's presence and allow Him to heal, enrich and transform us from the inside out.

Relevant

The Good News of Jesus Christ is relevant to your life. It's not just what Jesus said, but how He lived. We seek to model Christ via the Holy Spirit and be formed in His likeness.

Unique

We focus on following God's lead for us. We learn from others and adapt it to our unique situation.

Adaptable

Just because we've always done it that way is not, in and of itself, a sufficient reason for continuing to do it that way. Mission and progression come from imagination and innovation, not memory.

AGENDA

- Opening Prayers
- Appointment of Clerk for the Meeting
- Rector's Welcome
- Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting
- Words of Thanks & Blessing for Transitioning Vestry Members
- Voting on New Members of Vestry
- Written Reports in packet
- Verbal Reports
 - Senior Warden
 - Junior Warden
 - Treasurer
- Budget Presentation and Adoption
- Closing Prayer and Blessing

Surely the Presence

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face.
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

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Minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

January 28, 2024

At 11:45 am the reports were distributed. Fr. Rick Luoni opened the meeting in prayer at 11: 50 PM.

The congregation appointed Andrea Howard as the clerk of the annual meeting.

Rector's Welcome

Fr. Rick welcomed everyone and thanked all those in attendance as well as reminding those in attendance all that God has done in and through St. Michael's in the previous year. Fr. Rick addressed the concept that it takes all of us: Stewardship Committee, Finance Committee, Staff, Church Family, etc. moving forward in service to God. Fr. Rick acknowledged and thanked his wife Katrena for her heart and partnership in this ministry, as well as the staff, Fr. Greg, and those in lay leadership for their continued work in service to God and the heart-growth of the St. Michael's community. Fr. Rick discussed the formation of a 9 am service in this 2024 year.

Fr. Rick discussed the theme of our Annual Meeting "Loving Like Jesus" and the symbolism behind the St. Michael's Towel. He shared that throughout the year that individuals will be presented with towels and then presented towels and recognized some of those individuals around St. Michael's who are faithful in service to God and the St. Michael's community.

Fr. highlighted St. Michael's Basic principles and invited the church to pray and step-in to what God is doing here at St. Michael's Church.

Fr. Rick reminded St. Michael's again of his first annual meeting here at St. Michael's and the question that he first asked, "*Would the neighborhood miss St. Michael's if it ceased to exist?*"



Fr. Rick recognized the outgoing Vestry members and highlighted their heart and service over the last 3 years.

Election of New Vestry Members

A motion was made to elect Danielle Belen, Brian Rush, Jordan Evans, Eric James and Courtney Hazouri. Motion seconded and Passed.

A motion was made to approve the 2023 minutes of the Annual Meeting. Motion was seconded and passed. Motion Passed.

Sr. Warden Report

Edye McNickle discussed the 2 goals that she placed for her time as the Sr. Warden and expanded on the concept of the St. Michael's Future Committee. Edye thanked Fr. Rick and the staff and encouraged the St. Michael's Family to be devoted to one another in love.

Jr. Warden Report

Greg Pope gave a Jr. Warden report and shared gratitude and thanks for those who participated and served in support of the facilities during the 2023 year (please see the written Jr. Warden report for more information).

Finance Report

Craig Maughan gave an overview of the financials from the 2023 budget-year. He began encouraging individuals to attend the finance meeting monthly and shared an update regarding the endowment and encouraged parishioners to support the endowment as a way of investing in the legacy of St. Michael's community. He discussed a budget short-fall from the year, and then thanked Tyler Piercy and Joan Myers. **Craig presented the 2024 budget for approval. A second was provided and the budget passed as presented.**

Fr. Rick presented a vision for the 75th year of St. Michael's as a place and space of becoming a spiritual center of renewal and healing. A place where people can encounter the grace and healing love of Christ.

Fr. Rick closed the meeting in prayer at 12:53 pm.

Submitted by: Andrea Howard

2024 VESTRY

Parks Bennett
Senior Warden

Rick Gierok
Junior Warden

Julie Motzel
Secretary

Greg Pope

Christian Leger

Freddy Clayton

Louis Gafford

Eric James

Jordan Evans

Danielle Belen

Courtney Hazouri

Brian Rush

THE PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

The Reverend Rick Luoni
Rector

The Reverend Greg Favazza
Assisting Priest

Andrew J. Walker
Director of Music

Ella Eagen
Assistant Director of Music

Tiffany Stieger
Director of Children's Ministry

Mark T. Cole
Director of Youth Ministries

Melanie Olivier
Director of Preschool

Mike Robertson
Director of Outreach

Felix Declet
Sexton

Joan Myers
Controller

Heather Niemas
Administrative Assistant

Ashleigh Gonzalez
Parish Administrator

2025 Vestry Nominees



ASHLEY BENNETT

Ashley and Parks Bennett began attending St. Michael's shortly after moving to Orlando in late 2017. They have two children, Maisie and David. Ashley's paternal grandparents have called Central Florida home since the 1970's and shortly after their daughter Maisie was born, they made the decision to move to be closer to family. Prior to living in Orlando, the Bennett's spent 9 years in Washington D.C., where Ashley worked at an educational non-profit, and Parks worked in politics.

Ashley and Parks met while attending Valdosta State University in their home state of Georgia and will celebrate their 16th wedding anniversary this

March. Parks is attending seminary at Reformed Theological Seminary in Oviedo, Maisie is a second grader at Lake Highland, David is in Pre-K at St Michael's, and Ashley is a stay-at-home mom and travel agent. This will be Ashley's second term on Vestry, and she is thrilled to serve this parish.



BASIA ANDRAKA - CHRISTOU

Barbara "Basia" Andraaka-Christou moved to Orlando in Fall 2017. She and her husband, Alex, were drawn to St. Michael's by its emphasis on God's love, reverent administration of the sacraments, welcoming community, excellent children's ministry, beautiful choir music, service to local and global neighbors, and thought-provoking sermons. Both of their children, Magda (7) and Nikos (5), attended St. Michael's preschool, where they thrived. When Basia attends St. Michael's, she often feels as if God is giving her a big invisible hug.

Basia was born in Gainesville, Florida, where she obtained her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Florida. She then obtained her JD and PhD at Indiana University – Bloomington and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Indiana University – Indianapolis. She is a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Central Florida, where she researches the effects of laws on addiction treatment access. Jesus' command to love one another is a key motivator for Basia's research, which she hopes will advance treatment access for a socially vulnerable and highly stigmatized population. She is also a licensed (non-practicing) attorney and teaches classes in health law. In her free time, Basia loves reading mystery novels, watching British detective shows, doing jigsaw puzzles, playing strategy boardgames, and spending time with her family.

2025 Vestry Nominees



ELEANOR ACKERMANN

As a cradle Episcopalian whose mother was the director of the Sunday School (now Christian Education) and my father sang in the choir, church has always been an important part of my life. We moved to Orlando in 1979 because of Keith's job. I got a job as a drafter for a land surveying company, which led to jobs in architectural firms and commercial interior design firms, which was where I wanted to be. We have a son, Clayton, and granddaughter, Raeya, who live in Palm Bay. Now, we are both retired and volunteering and traveling are our favorite things.

We bought a house in College Park in 1980 and started going to Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Audubon Park. We stayed there 30+ years and I was on the Altar Guild, Vestry twice, and Senior Warden once. It was the right place at the right time. I have continued with Altar Guild at St. Michael's and it seems like it is time to step up and do more.



MATT VANTURE

Matt Vanture was born and raised in Orlando, Florida, where he was nurtured in the Episcopal Church. He accepted Jesus as his Savior in third grade, and the Holy Spirit has reaffirmed this faith through the defining, challenging, and cherished moments of his journey. After high school, Matt followed his passion for construction, beginning his studies at Valencia College and completing his Bachelor's degree at the University of Florida. In 2011, he relocated to Tampa to launch his career and found a welcoming church community that enriched his relationship with God through fellowship, service, and worship.

Beyond his faith, Matt treasures traveling with his wife, Lauren, and their two children, Hadley, 4, and Calvin, 21 months. From venturing to new destinations to creating unforgettable memories on family getaways closer to home, Matt finds joy in shared experiences. An avid coffee enthusiast, he also has a deep love for sailing—whether it's racing in regattas and enjoying the waters at Davis Island Yacht Club or embracing the tranquility of gliding across the lakes in Orlando. Above all, Matt cherishes spending meaningful time with family and friends, strengthening the bonds that make life so fulfilling.

Senior Warden Report

Dear St. Michael's Family,

As we reflect on 2024 and look forward to the year ahead, I am filled with gratitude for the blessings we have shared and the ways we have grown together as a church family. Under the spiritual leadership of Fr. Rick, the vestry dedicated itself to fostering a deeper connection with our mission through prayer, scripture, and active participation in the vibrant life of St. Michael's. This intentional focus has enriched not only our leadership but the entire congregation as we seek to live out God's call in College Park.

The 2024 vestry prioritized community engagement, and I am thrilled to highlight several accomplishments that reflect this commitment. This year, we launched the new 9:00 a.m. service, offering an additional opportunity for worship and fellowship. We had a major presence at Holiday on the Drive, connecting with our neighbors and sharing the love of Christ in meaningful ways. Our supper clubs enjoyed tremendous turnout, strengthening bonds within our parish family. Additionally, we had the joy of hosting events for the St. Michael's Preschool, deepening our connection with the young families in our community.

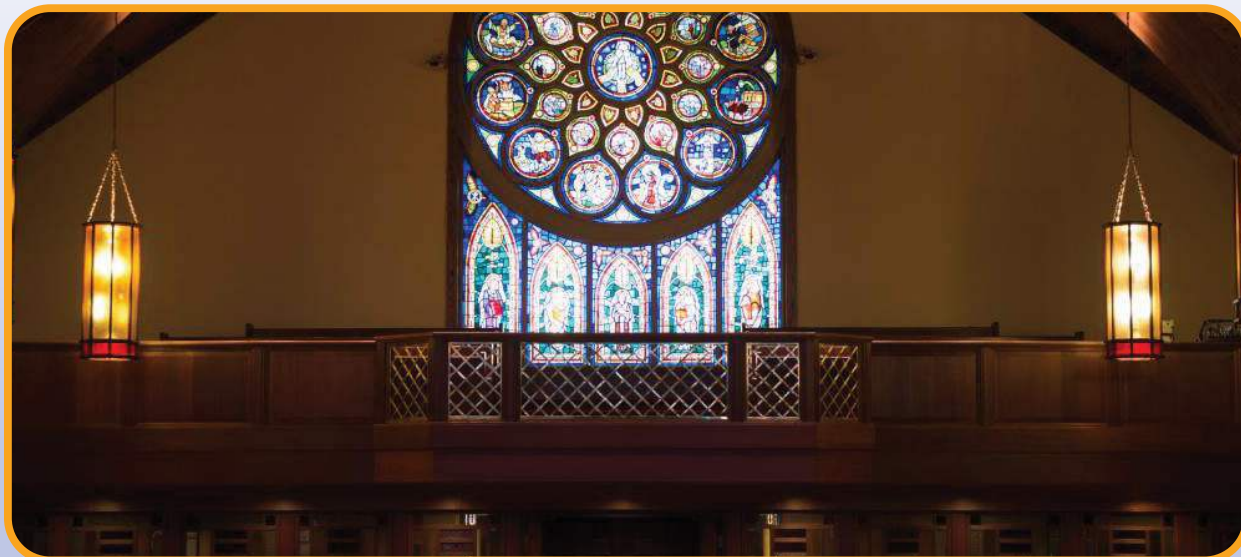
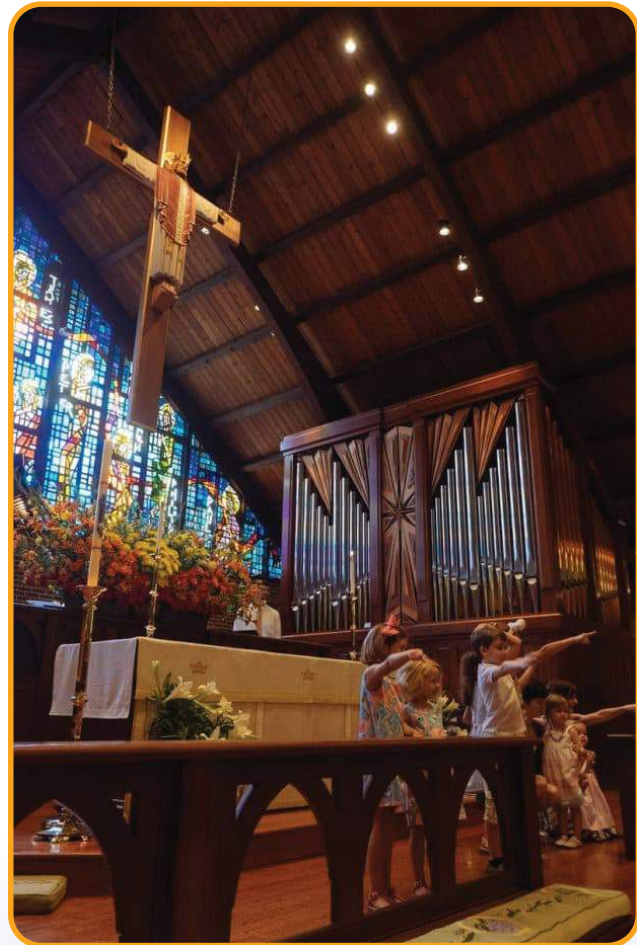
As our wonderful St. Michael's family continues to grow, the vestry is committed to keeping our focus on three key areas in 2025: stewardship, leadership development, and how we communicate God's word to the College Park community. Stewardship remains central to ensuring that we have the resources needed to support our mission.



Leadership development will help equip the next generation of parish leaders to carry forward our vision with energy and faith. And by sharing God's word with clarity and passion, we can invite even more people into the transformative love of Christ. Thank you for your prayers, your service, and your generosity, which have made this year so impactful. Together, we will continue to build on this foundation as we journey forward in faith, confident in God's presence and guidance.

With gratitude and hope,

Parks Bennett
Senior Warden,
St. Michael's Episcopal Church



Junior Warden Report

Many thanks for allowing me to serve as the Junior Warden for 2024.

The St. Michael's campus is a large complex with many moving parts. I truly appreciate all of the help that our St Michael's family provided to help maintain our church.

A team was formed to identify critical equipment items within our facility and a condition assessment was discussed for each item. This effort yielded a "capital equipment list" identifying critical equipment and a life expectancy and expected repair/replacement costs for each. This should prove very helpful for our budgeting of building maintenance items for the future. This year, St Michaels Church was blessed with a sizeable endowment, dedicated to the maintenance and operation of our facility equipment. Using the developed equipment list, we can predict repair/replacement costs and replace items prior to their failure.

A goal moving forward is the formation of a "Jr Warden Support Team". There is a desire to form a small committee to assist the Jr Warden with the facilities repair. This will allow parishioners with building maintenance experience, as well as those with historical knowledge of our facilities, to provide assistance to the Jr. Warden.

There were several noteworthy improvements completed throughout 2024 including:

- the replacement of Quigley ice maker and repair of our tankless heater
- the emergency replacement of the Fordham water heater
- the replacement of the Fordham light fixtures with LED elements
- the renovation of the Youth Room
- the installation of new playground equipment, fencing and turf
- the construction of the Ministry Director's office
- the repair of the walk in freezer condenser
- replacement of the washing machine
- and many, many other items.

I received support from many faithful and generous parishioners to sustain St. Michael's throughout the year and I am truly grateful for everyone's contributions!

A special "Thank You" to Erik Olson for his continued support on our AV systems, Tony DaSilva and Kristie Curran with Affordapro Air for their guidance and responsiveness, Roger Trubey for his infinite St Michaels knowledge, Briget Pope for her leadership of several projects, Felix Deplet for his continued daily maintenance of our complex and Greg Pope for helping with a smooth transition and continued support throughout the year to name a few who were instrumental to the success of this position.

Submitted by Rick Gierok, Junior Warden

Special Projects

This year we were so blessed, through the generosity of a significant anonymous donation along with an out pouring of financial support from both parishioners & preschool parents, to be able to invest in the next generation of St Michael's.

We are wrapping up the remodel of our EYC room where we were able to update the hard & soft finishes in this special room where our youth 6-12th grade can come to discover all God had in store for them & create friendships that they can find encouragement from throughout their journey.

We were also able to bring the church playground project to fruition. Through hours of research from Melanie & Ashley we were able to run with the project & provide an updated space for our kids to interact & friendships to start to grow.

As we pass on our faith to the next generation, with full intentionality & complete execution, thank you for your generosity & prayers enabling such wonderful spaces for our youth to be created allowing them to feel important, wanted, & loved both by the people of St Michael's & by our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.



Sexton's Maintenance Report

I want to first give glory to our God for allowing us to complete another year.

Thank you for the support and assistance to each of my coworkers. It was a year full of new projects and challenges, both professional and personal, and I thank God for allowing me to perform my duties to the best of my ability.

During this past year in 2024, we worked on countless projects in which I was able to develop both professionally and spiritually. In the position I hold at St. Michael's, I have the opportunity to share and assist in different ministries. Not only am I in charge of physical maintenance and restoration work on the facilities. But I can also assist, as necessary, in the Preschool Ministries, the Gathering, Feed My Lambs (help take food to specific locations), set up for different events, talk with vendors and companies, among others. Although you don't always see me around, I always try to keep myself busy and be available to help different people in whatever way I can.



Some of the projects completed this past year were: minor plumbing repairs, paint and restored doors, maintained areas clean and free of debris, installed: cabinets, new faucets (as needed), exit signs, door stoppers; cleaned gutters and down spouts at the Quigley courtyard, helped with safety measures in Preschool to pass DCF regulations, replaced some parts of the irrigation system, worked on flood emergency plan for hurricane season, demo and rehab in youth room and room 412 room, re-do playground (follow up progress of the project), new fence in playground, replace all lighting for led lighting (still working in this project) and lots of other small projects.

I also had the opportunity to help set up different events for the preschool. Events that motivated the growth of each child and their families. We had a difficult time during preparation for a very active hurricane season. I have grown and learned new skills in Electricity, A/C maintenance, Plumbing and others. Thanks to some good mentors that God has put in my path since I started at St. Mikes like Roger Trubey, Mark DiDea, Erik Olson, Tony DaSilva, Joe, and Father Rick.

Also, I have to thank God for the great opportunity to work one on one with 2 amazing women, Ashleigh and Joan. With their patience, perseverance and believing in my abilities, they have supported me in difficult times and encouraged me to keep going.

I feel very happy and satisfied with what God allowed us to accomplish in 2024, and I look forward to new things for this year 2025. With the help of God and all my co-workers we will be able to achieve it together. Thank you again for the great opportunity that you have given me to be part of this great St. Michael's family.

Blessings to all in this 2025,

Felix E. Declet

Sexton / Facility Maintenance



St. Michael's Preschool

Our preschool has been "Growing Little Hearts and Minds in God's Love" for almost 30 years. Our goal is to provide an environment in which to enrich the children's minds spiritually, mentally, and physically. We are blessed to have this ministry which serves not only the families of St. Michael's Church but also has an outreach to the families of College Park and beyond. We currently have 89 children enrolled in our preschool and serve a total of 82 families. We are blessed to have many loving and caring families who trust us year after year to care for their children.



We believe in developing the whole child not only through a set curriculum but also through a "play based" approach.

"Learning Without Tears"

sets the goals for our language, literacy, handwriting, reading and math components of our curriculum. We also incorporate science, which includes sensory and discovery experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Our spiritual curriculum, "Spark: Ignite Faith" is based on the lectionary. During the fall and spring, assessments are completed to monitor our learner's growth in achieving the desired developmental skills.





We are committed to not only providing a quality program, but ensuring the **SAFETY** of our **STAFF**, **CHILDREN**, and their **FAMILIES**.



Our devoted staff play a crucial role in the success of our program.

Their creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment to providing a loving environment shines daily! Our staff includes:

Melissa Burks
Djanira Cole
Michelle Conklin
Becca Entinger

Ali Gunn
Maddie Hiller
Megan Howcroft
Kim Jamieson

Karina Lopez
Teaniscia Martin
Briget Pope
Heather Ramsby

Emy Rivera
Ann Rodriguez
Cindy Sills
Jamie Varner





The preschool hosts several fundraisers throughout the year to provide scholarships, maintain resources, provide continuing education of our teachers, and add to the playground refurbishment fund. This year we participated in Egg My Yard, Scholastic book fair, and a Trike-A-Thon fundraiser.

We love hosting and providing family enrichment opportunities. This year they have included a Donuts for Dad event, Muffins For Mom event, an Open House, a Trunk-or-Treat, a Thanksgiving Basket Drive, Holiday On The Drive, Daddy Daughter Dance, Mother Son Game Night, Fall Family Festival, a Valentine's Program and a Christmas Program. We have also completed several kid made service projects including cards and cookies for our community helpers. In the summer we hosted a total of three weeks of camp in June.

The preschool is open **Monday through Friday** 9am - 1pm, with an optional **Early Care** (8 - 9am) and **Extended Day** (1 - 3pm), Monday through Friday. Our children range in age from 6 months until five years old.

We are thankful to be a part of this loving church community and appreciate the continued support and prayers from all the St. Michael's Church members.



This report has been prepared by: Mrs. Melanie Olivier, Preschool Director

Children's Ministry



St. Michael's Children's Ministry 

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Between the ages of 4 and 14, a person is most likely to accept Christ. We hope to help guide these children through their Christian journey by teaching them that God loves them and giving them knowledge of the Bible and how to use it to be servants of the Lord.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Kids loving, serving and growing in Christ

OUR VISION STATEMENT

We want our kids to...

- Know they are children of God and are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus.
- Love God and one another.
- Serve others with a joyful and willing heart.
- Grow in their faith by praying and studying the word of God.



St. Michael's Children's Ministry serves children from birth through 5th grade. The director of Children's Ministry is Tiffany Stieger. The director's primary job is to plan and administer programs, coordinate the parishioner volunteers who implement the programs, communicate to the parishioners and vestry, and support the rector as deemed necessary. The director also acts as supervisor to the nursery staff and directs the spending of the Children's Ministry budget.

In addition, Children's Ministry provides:

- Curriculum review, purchase and support for all educational programs.
- Sunday School support.
- Weekly newsletter to keep parents informed.

The programs and events Children's Ministry offered in 2024:

- Sunday School on Sunday's from 10:00am – 10:50 am for ages 3 through 5th grade. Children are broken up into 3 age groups.
- Nursery each Sunday from 9:30 am until 11:30am, staffed by two paid workers, for children ages birth through 3.
- Daddy Daughter Dance
- Mother Son Game Night
- Vacation Bible School, a week-long summertime Bible camp for ages 3 through 5th grade. The theme for the 2024 VBS was "Scuba: Diving into friendship with God." The theme for the 2025 VBS is "True North: Trusting Jesus in a wild world."
- First Communion Instruction
- Easter Egg hunt.
- Back to Sunday School breakfast
- Family Ministry Fall Family Fun Night
- Advent Art Festival
- Christmas Pageant: Children and youth participate in retelling the Christmas Story.

Our Church School teachers and Nursery Caregivers for the 2024 - 2025 year:

LITTLE LAMBS NURSERY
Birth - 3yrs Old

Megan Howcraft Djanira Cole
Elena Andreeva

3 YRS - KINDERGARTEN

Cindy Sills

CAMP R.O.C.K.

Ashley Bennett Briget Pope
Ashley Kelly Jan Tillman

CLUB 412
4th & 5th Grades

Lauren Vanture Alice Davidson
Briget Pope Todd Stieger

Our hope is that this ministry provides support to our parents raising their children in the Christian faith. That alongside of them we can bring these children closer to Christ today and for the rest of their lives.

Youth Ministry



What a whirlwind of a year it has been with the youth ministry and EYC! We've been on a mission, serving our community while growing together in Christ and having a blast! This Spring, we kicked off with a fab crew of 12 awesome youths, and guess what? As the new school year rolled in, we exploded to 26 and are still growing like wildflowers each week! We usually have about 10-12 show up for our weekly hangouts, but special events? Watch out, because we pack the place!

We're beyond grateful for our rockstar youth presence.

A massive shoutout to Briget Pope for giving our Youth room a fabulous makeover! Plus, we made some amazing friends with other Episcopal youth and leaders through fun events, thanks to our diocese and our own creativity. We dived into how St. Michael's has made an impact in our community through gatherings and outreach activities. Huge hugs to the Church of St. Michael's for all the love and support you've showered on us this past year! We could not have done any of this without all the love and support. We cannot thank St. Michael's Church enough for all you have giving us over the past year. **Let's keep the good vibes rolling!**



PURPOSE

An inviting, Fun, loving environment where Youth can learn and grow together in the love of God and Christ.

VALUES

Fun

We are all about having fun. This allows us to bond as a group, learn about each other and become open with each other.

Love

Everything we do is with love. Sure, we will make mistakes, but with love, we can learn the way of Christ and get closer to God.

Welcome

We send an open invitation to all youth between the grades of 6th and 12th. No matter where you are in the faith journey, we welcome you to experience God on his terms.

Giving Back

We believe that giving back is a foundation of our society with Jesus. We will take some opportunities to help others and give what we have (Time) to those in need of assistance.

Friendship

We are about making long lasting friends in Christ, because everything is better when you have friend with like minds doing all the things you do with you.

3 DIOCESAN EVENTS EVERY YEAR

Grounded

Soul in the City

Beginnings



SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMS INCLUDED

February 11th Superbowl Party

Hosted by the Olson's

March 1 - 2 "Grounded"

A 2-day retreat hosted by All Saints in Winter Park

March 23 Making Palm Crosses

for Palm Sunday

May 19 End of the year Party

Hosted by the Pope's

July 22 - 26 "Soul in the City"

A week long Mission Trip in Central Florida hosted by a different church in our Diocese each year. In 2024 it was hosted by the Cathedral downtown Orlando.

Terrific Thursdays

Every Thursday

FALL PROGRAMS INCLUDED

August 24-25 Annual Lock-in

and watching the sunrise at the beach

August 20 - 22 "New Beginnings"

A diocesan event for middle schoolers

October 27 Halloween Party at the Cathedral

with other EYC groups in the Diocese

November 26 Cooking with the Gathering

Making meals for the Coalition

December 6 Providing Desserts

for Advent Festival

December 8 Making cookies

for our shut-ins

December 14 Decorating Gingerbread houses

with the kids at Orlando Union Rescue

December 15 Hosted a joint Christmas Party

with other churches in our Diocese

VOLUNTEERS, LEADERS, AND CHAPERONES INCLUDE:

For Donuts and Discussions

David Harmon Kris Robinson

Briget Pope

EYC

Briget Pope

Kristi Currin

Kris Robinson

Djanira Cole

Angelica Cole

Adult Faith Formation

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:105

The Faith Formation class, led by either Father Rick or Father Greg, opened at the beginning of the 2024 Lenten season. We met to examine "The Way of Love" in preparation for Easter. As we completed the series, Father Rick proposed that we continue our weekly get togethers, and it was enthusiastically embraced by everyone. The gospel reading for each Sunday became the subject of our classes for the remainder of 2024.

Faith Formation class is about learning, understanding and sharing the Word. It is about deeper relationships with our Lord and Savior. It is about growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord. Faith Formation is about love.

If you are looking for a place to learn more about the Way that is casual, open and welcoming, tempered with warmth and good humor, you will find it in Faith Formation. We meet at 9 AM every Sunday in the Fordham Hall parlor.



Monday Morning Bible Study

Monday Morning Bible Study has been in full swing again this past year. We have enjoyed 2 different studies in 2024, with 12-15 people attending in the Spring and 6 of us in the Fall. All are welcome whether communicants of St. Michael's or not. We currently have at least a few regulars who aren't Episcopalian, and one who studies along with us who lives in North Carolina!

In early Spring we came together for a 6-week study diving into 30 significant moments of our Lord's life and ministry in our new study "**Good News: How the Four Gospels Point Us to One Person We Can Trust**".

After taking our Summer break, we came back together in **late September for our Fall study**, **In the Meantime - What To Do When There's Nothing You Can Do**, a 6-week sermon series by Andy Stanley that found us viewing our "in the meantime" seasons in new ways and finding peace as we connected with our Lord and Savior.

We look forward to coming back together in February 2025 to explore I & II Timothy, believed to be Paul's last letters written before his death. Knowing death was near, Paul told Timothy, and tells us, the importance of standing firm in faith regardless of what alternate voices crowded in around him, and crowd around us. The study book **I & II Timothy - The Clarity You Need When Life Feels Chaotic, Confusing and out of Control**, is available on the Proverbs 31 Ministries website.



Monday Night Bible Study

Bible Babes and Broads

As Christians we are to be maturing and growing in Christ.

To signify this, the **Bible Babes** elaborated on our name, as a reminder of that Spiritual growth that is to be taking place in our lives.

We are the **Bible Babes and Broads** (becoming beautiful in Him). So no matter how we come, we are maturing in Christ and becoming more like Him.

1 Cor. 3:1-2, Eph.4:13-15



2024 saw:

- **18 ladies participating in 3 Bible studies**
Elijah, Wonderstruck, Overcomer
- **At least 3,675 prayers were prayed**
with an untold # answered
- **1 Pizza and Prayer Party**
- **1 Advent Event**
- **2 Book Clubs**
Genius of Generosity
and I Corinthians 13
- **5 Fellowship / End of Bible Study
and Book Club Dinners**
- **1 Annual Christmas Party**

Grace and peace,
Karen Hartner

Men's Group

Every Wednesday morning at 8 AM in the Fordham Hall Parlor, the Men's Group meets. Beginning two or so years ago as an organic group of just a few individuals looking to get together weekly, grow with God, and share their faith journeys together, has deepened into an authentic and vibrant expression of God's grace and love here at St. Michael's.

The group definitely has helped me on my spiritual path. At first, I was a little weary and didn't know what to expect, but as time went on and hearing how honest and vulnerable everyone was being, with no judgement, I knew that was the place for me. A place where I can be around like-minded men looking to grow closer to God and to grow as a person. I love this meeting! – Austin S.

The men's group has been a meaningful space for me to grow in faith and navigate life's challenges through honest conversations with the men in our church. Meeting every Wednesday, we discuss thought-provoking books that encourage us to share openly, reflect deeply, and support one another. – Matt V.

Our group includes men from many walks of life, coming together weekly for prayer, reflection, and discussion. We share our experiences and support each other, learning from one another as we desire to center our lives in God. We're thankful for the ongoing encouragement from our parish leadership as we continue to live in response to God's love and look forward to this new year of fellowship and growth.



Noonday Prayer and Compline

Beginning in April of 2020, Fr. Rick and a group of St. Michael's staff and parishioners began gathering weekly for Noonday prayer and Compline over Zoom.

In a time when gathering in person was not possible due to the pandemic, this group became a place where individuals could come and engage in fellowship, prayer, and connect with the sacred and holy within ourselves and each other. Now almost five years later, this group has not only remained but grown together in love.

Open to all, our times of discussion around scripture, celebrating moments of joy as well as grieving loss, has all become a part of our life together as we lean into the services of Noonday Prayer and Compline. Truly it seems as if the Spirit of God has gifted us with this special time as a weekly anchor in seasons that can feel continually full with the "stuff" of life.

As we continue in 2025, we invite you to join us for Noonday Prayer at 12 pm on Wednesdays, and Compline at 8 pm on Wednesdays. You will find links to join via Zoom in the weekly E-messenger. All are welcome!

For more information or any questions, you may have, feel free to contact Ashleigh in the Parish Office.

Ashleigh Gonzalez

Ashleigh@stmichaelschurch.com
407-843-8448



Lenten Reflection Guide

In the early spring of 2023 work began on what would become "**Lenten Reflections 2024**," a fine booklet of meditations, daily spiritual exercises, and yes, reflections for each day of Lent and Holy Week written by members of our parish! **To say that this work was met with enthusiasm is an understatement!**

I use exclamation points liberally because the excitement generated by this endeavor added to the already palpable feeling around our beloved parish church, a feeling that is one of unity, hospitality, spirited and energizing.

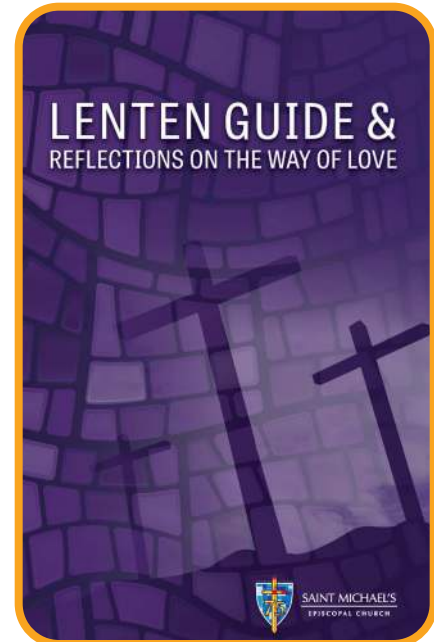
I absolutely applaud our writers – 45 to 50 of them – who each in their own way gave of themselves and enlightened us with a story or two of their daily walk with God. That daily walk is something we all have within us, and I am deeply grateful for their participation. Grace abounds.

I am also indebted to those who helped 'gently edit,' for consistency, those who worked so hard on the booklet's design (which is AWESOME), to Father Rick and Father Greg – positive, always loving supporters of the project, and to my friend in Christ, Ashleigh Gonzalez, without whose support, encouragement, organizational skills, prayers and love there could have been no darn booklet and to whom I owe this booklet's success. Again, Grace abounds.

As I write, plans are well underway for a 2025 edition of the St. Michael's Lenten booklet. The 2025 edition will no doubt be full of wisdom and love, written by that glorious group of the people of St Michael's – a wonderful CROSS-section of people who, like you and like me, strive daily to keep their hearts and minds focused on Jesus, his resurrection and following him toward the Light that surely enlightens us all. I am so thankful for SMC!

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Lionel Smith-McGehee

P.S. Good News! We will also publish a booklet of daily devotions for Advent 2025. Please let me know if you are interested in being a contributor! **(407) 247-9299**



Holding Hope

During the month of December, Holding Hope turned 1 year old.

Holding Hope is an ongoing peer support group for those 18 or older where all are welcome regardless of race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation. It offers a safe space that provides hope and light in moments of darkness and times of joy. It is a space to feel seen, heard, known, and loved. Holding Hope allows us to be in community with each other and share our path. It allows us to hold space for one another and provide support by being present. At our meetings, we start by centering ourselves, saying a prayer, and reading a short meditation. We then discuss how the passage connects to our lives or provide an update on how our week has been.

Holding Hope has some exciting news! We are exploring new ways of connecting. We are moving online to Zoom with hopes of providing a new form of support to our community.

As Holding Hope looks to the future, the values of Holding Hope are embedded in its core. There is the offer to hold hope and to provide compassion and acceptance to wherever a person is in their journey. There is a sense of community to know you are not alone on your journey as well as the connection with the divine, self, and others. If you think Holding Hope may be a place to explore, please contact

Heather at holdinghopegroup@gmail.com.



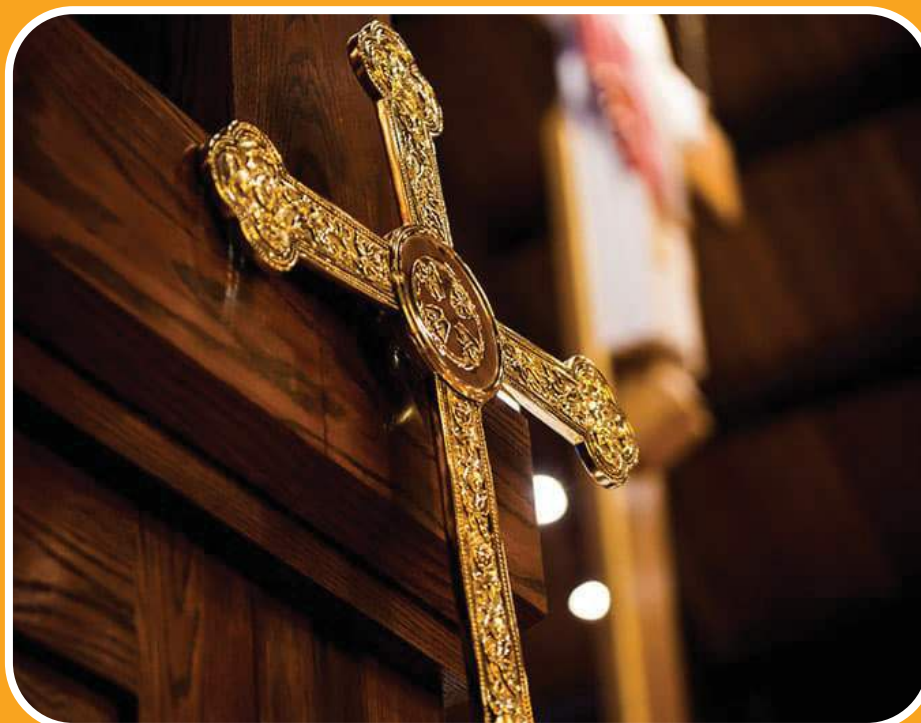
Daughters of the King

The Order of the Daughters of the King is for any laywomen who are members of the Episcopal Church and who feel called to our Order.

We take on a Rule of Life which includes the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. When we become Daughters of the King, we reaffirm our Confirmation promises as well as pledging ourselves to a life-long commitment to daily prayer, service, and evangelism. We are dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and strengthening of spiritual life at St. Michael's Episcopal Church.

We pray daily for St. Michael's Church staff, the programs of the church, the sick, and any other concerns. All prayer requests are strictly confidential.

For more information please contact
Liz Jaberg at ljaberg@yahoo.com



Music Ministry Report

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP 2024

- **Approx. 50-60 parishioners**
- **With new members in all groups:**
Adult Choir / Family Choir / St. Michaels Band

OUR MISSION

Show forth ALL aspects of the nature of the Lord God, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, thru the use of music, and to present this music to the best of our ability so that the hearts, minds, and souls of those who sing, play, and listen can potentially encounter the Living God.

HOW IS THAT ACHIEVED?

1. By selecting music from a broad range of styles and genres that relate to the scripture readings for a service and/or the Season of the Church Year in which that music will be used.
2. By utilizing the talents of as broad a range of parishioners in regards to age and abilities as possible - both vocal and instrumental.



Special Thanks in 2024 to

- **Ella Eagen** - Assistant Director of Music
- **Jevon Clarke and Matthew Brice** our Alice Newell Tenor Choral Scholars
- **Braidery Camacho** - our Mike Davidson Soprano Choral Scholar
- **DVonte Chapman and Eave Kruse** - our Bass Choral Scholars (needs a sponsor)
- **Adriana Dupont** - our Beth Rohrer Alto Choral Scholar
- **Meg Bjoring** - Music Librarian
- **The Music Dept. Members** - for assisting in planning and organizing extra-curricular activities - plus their unbounded enthusiasm for and commitment to this ministry!
- **All the parents and members of our on-line Zoom weekly session: GOOD NIGHT WITH MR. ANDREW** - which is currently on hiatus as we consider possible new formats moving forward.

2024 High Points

- Throughout the year we have **slowly increased our numbers in all groups.**
- **Family Choir Rehearsal** (children/youth, some singing with one or both parents) on Wednesdays, and singing with the Adults at the 10:15, continues to prosper.
- **The Adult Choir** continues to grow in vocal and musical skills - beautiful and powerful singing this year!
- **Fri/Sat, March 8/9 - Family & Adult Choir Workshop**
- **March 24-31, Holy Week Services, Palm Sunday thru Easter** - with the addition of a brass quartet at the Easter 7:45 and 10:15.
- **The Vacation Bible School Praise Team, June 10-14**, was again, COMPLETELY made up of children 2nd Grade and below - grand time had by all!
- **Sunday, June 16 thru Sunday, August 18** - the Summer Choir program of members robing and singing if in town was, again, very well attended as last year.
- **Sunday, Sep 29 - St. Michaels Day celebration**
- **A Grand Masquerade Ball** event was held on Saturday, Oct 5, a fund-raiser for our UK 2025 trip. Over \$3,000 raised - and a MARVELOUS time was had by all! Many folks in the choir worked very hard to pull this off - lead by Katie Gierok.
- **Andrew, Ella, the Choral Scholars**, and other voices topped off the evening with some wonderful musical entertainment.

- **Fri/Sat, November 1/2, Adult & Family Choir Workshop**
- **Sunday, Nov 3 - All Saints Concert at 7 pm** celebrating those St. Michaels members who had passed over the previous year. The concert featured selections on the organ, and several vocal selections sung by our Chamber Singers. A reception followed in Quigley Hall.
- **Friday, Dec 13, and Saturday Dec 21: Carol Singing to our parishioners** who are in nursing homes, or shut-in. Great joy and the powerful presence of Christ both for those who sang, and those who listened. Special thanks to Fr. Greg for organizing this again.
- **Christmas Eve Services** - with brass quartet as is our custom.
- During the year, but especially in the Fall, it began to become clear that **Good Night with Mr. Andrew** may well have outlived the purpose for which it was started during the Pandemic: allowing our younger members to continue to gather and sing thru the use of Zoom. Gathering and singing is now back to normal. What any future version of this program may be remains under consideration.

Looking Ahead - 2025

- **BUILDING AND MAINTAINING** continues to be mission #1
- **Planning, fund-raising, organizing continues** for our trip to sing at St. Pauls Cathedral, London, UK, post-Christmas, 2025.



9am Family Service

In a world that often encourages us to focus on what we lack, it's easy to overlook the blessings we already have. For the past 19 weeks, this contemporary New Family Service has given birth and has been nothing but transformational in the lives of those who have engaged in person and or online. It's natural to focus on our unmet desires: the promotion that didn't come, the relationship that didn't work out, or the healing that hasn't yet arrived. But when we pause to reflect, we see God's faithfulness in our lives. The roof over our heads, the meal on the table, the friends who support us—these are all evidence of His goodness.

This community has expressed gratitude to God for allowing them to digest an environment of spiritual engagement with their families weekly and participate in **THE TALK** as they look forward to the treats, stories and listening to other kids and parents share in the knowledge and understanding of God's word in open and practical ways. The words **"engaging", "refreshing" and "life-giving"** are often used to describe the feelings experienced by persons, whether it is a first-time guest or a regular attendee.



Each week all families present exit with the lyrics of the closing song reminding them that they are not their own, but instead, they belong to the Lord and are reassured that there is nothing in their lives that is broken that God cannot repair.

St. Michael's New Family Service is focused on being a Spirit-filled community where you will find authentic fellowship with a mission to build strong families and impact this community for Christ.

No matter where you are in life, this service is ordained by God as a place where everyone can feel belonged and we can experience God's grace as we are deliberate about providing access to God's grace by responding practically and compassionately to human need in the name of Christ and become a redemptive influence in the College Park and surrounding areas and Central Florida area to the glory of God. We are blooming where we are planted.

This service is not self-existing from our regular services here at St. Michaels, but instead, this New Family service is an additional service geared towards younger families and their kids. So, we encourage you to spread the good news to your friends and families with kids and let's get excited about Jesus! Who's going tell them that Jesus loves them?

It is OUR responsibility to tell them.

It is YOUR responsibility to tell them.



Altar Guild Report of 2024

"Lord, Jesus Christ, who did accept the ministry of faithful people during your Earthly life, we pray you to accept and bless the work which this Altar Guild offers in the care of this your house."

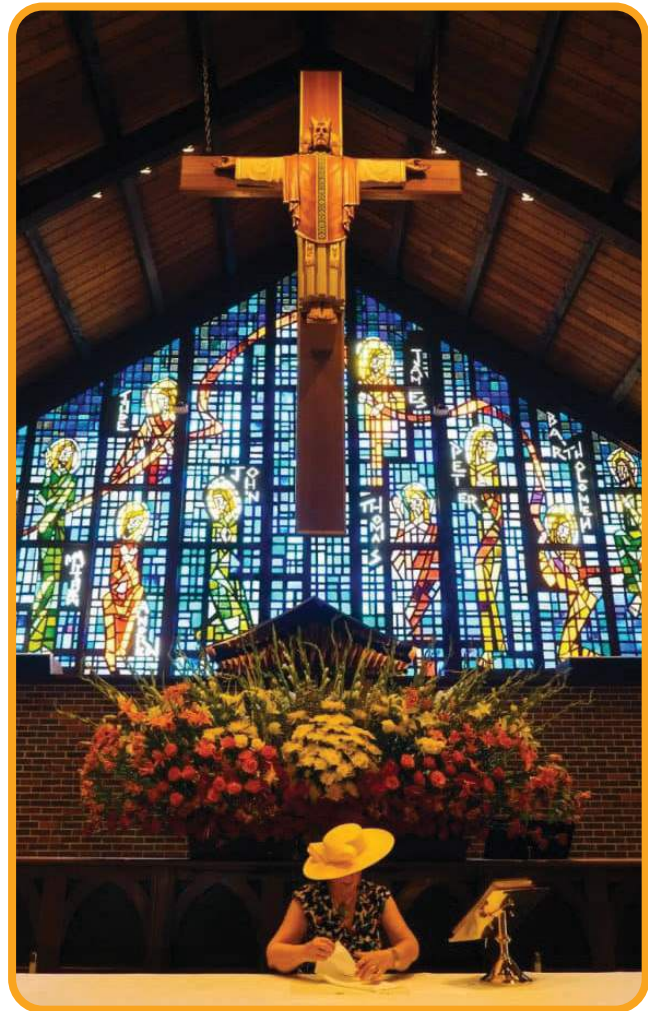
St. Anne's Altar Guild is a lay ministry of willing men, women and youth volunteers who dedicate their gifts of time and talent to the service of God and His house one week each month during the calendar year. We prepare the sanctuary for worship, care for and maintain the sacred vessels, altar linens and vestments and make all things ready for the celebration of worship at St. Michael's. The services for 2024 besides the Sunday and First Friday morning Eucharists included two (2) weddings, five (5) baptisms, four (4) funerals along with Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Eve, Blue Christmas, three (3) Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day.

The Altar Guild Directress is Suzanne Thomas with Assistants/Team

Captains: Linda Wendell, Therese Gentile, Marti Lisa, Eleanor Ackermann and Beatriz Colon. The 2024-2025

roster of team members are Sara Seater, Mary Lowry, Kathy Shearer,

Scott Shearer, Dottie Harris, Terri Collins, Chuck Collins, Deborah Cook, Janina Garner, Julie Motzel, Alison Brooks, Mary Lou Crowley, Lolly Murphy, Mike Cortese, Debbie Cortese, Megan Turner and RJ Turner. We welcomed newcomer Kris Robinson. Our alternates are: Peggy Trubey, Parks Bennett, and Eva Quinones. Our assistants are: Tom Cook, Larry Motzel, Jim Garner and Ted Seater. We honor Millicent Barbaro, Dick and Lavelle Basden, as Emeritus members.



The 2025 Central Florida Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 1st at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Melbourne, Florida.

Our needs for 2025 are additional albs for our clergy and servers, a purple frontal for the chapel altar for Lent and new deacon and assistant priest stoles along with the veil and burse to match the blue frontals used during Advent. If interested in making a memorial or thanksgiving gift, please contact **Suzanne Thomas at 407-579-9113** or **tropsoulsuzi@gmail.com** or call the church office.

We hope that our faithful service has not only assisted the ministry of our clergy but that we have also blessed the lives of our parishioners with our "behind the scenes" service to our Lord. The Altar Guild joyfully welcomes new members for training, mentoring, fellowship and service! If interested in joining our merry little troupe, please contact **Suzanne Thomas** or call the church office.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Thomas, 2024-2025 Directress



St. Michael's Flower Guild

We strive to elevate our corporate worship experience through God's beautiful creation.



Each week, the talented and creative members of St. Michael's Flower Guild bring the beauty of God's world into our worship space. The guild members are responsible for arranging altar flowers for the church altar and chapels for Sunday services, as well as: weddings, funerals, baptisms, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and all feast days!



There are currently 27 members on the Flower guild.

The members are divided into 5 teams which serve on a weekly rotation throughout the year. Each of our teams has an assigned week of responsibility. Team leaders manage the selection and purchase of flowers and other supplies. Time involved arranging is generally a half-day one Friday or Saturday per month. The 5th Sunday team has 3 times per year and joins other teams to arrange flowers for the Great Feast days, weddings, and Funerals. We also invite members who can do our photography, web postings, and let's not forget our wonderful "on call" members!



Baptism

NO experience is necessary, just a love of flowers and a servant heart. Training is provided.

We always welcome new members. If this is something that is calling you, and you would like to discuss becoming a member of the Flower Guild, please contact **Katrena Luoni - 415-225-2636**, or **Ashleigh at the church office** if you are interested.

Sprouting New Buds in 2025

We are starting a pastoral care wing of the flower guild.

Our intent is to bring arrangements made from the altar flowers to our SMEC family that may not be able to join us in worshipping together at church, or who are in the hospital, or to mark a special occasion. If you are feeling called to be a delivery person, or an organizer, or an arranger, please contact Katrena Luoni - 415-225-2636, or Ashleigh at the church office if you are interested.

Consider Sponsoring Altar Flowers!

The Flower Guild invites all parishioners to sponsor altar flowers for any given Sunday throughout the year.

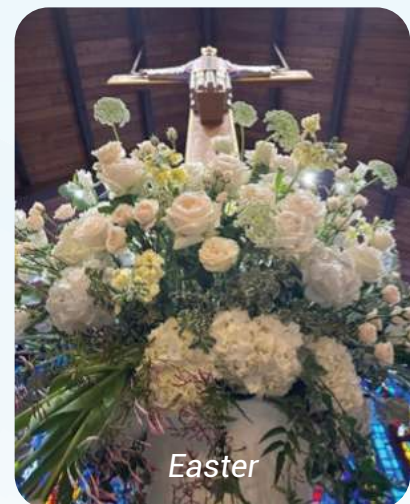
Sponsoring altar flowers is a beautiful way to honor loved ones, marking special life events such as: birthdays, wedding anniversaries, baptism, confirmations, a memory of a loved one, or a thanksgiving for life's blessings.

During Lent the altar remains bare, but you may still sponsor flowers and it will be acknowledged in the Sunday bulletin for your desired week and in the Easter Bulletin as well.

The Flower Guild is grateful for the support of the members of St. Michael's Church.

All our funds come directly from your gifts: Celebrating or memorializing special occasions and loved ones, and from our monthly or yearly sponsors. We have no other funding. For regular Sunday flowers the average cost is between \$100 to \$150.

However, all sponsorships are encouraged and very much appreciated. Please consider supporting this ministry today.



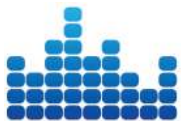
Audio / Video Ministry

The Audio/Video Ministry manages St. Michael's YouTube Channel; creates the weekly St. Michael's podcast; monitors the sound system, microphones and cameras and streams the 9am, 10:15am and other services throughout the year. During services, video is streamed to St Michael's own YouTube Channel, as well as internally to TVs in the choir area, Narthex and Quigley allowing choir members, ushers, and others to view and participate in the service.

It is hard to believe, but the AV Ministry just celebrated our first decade! We began filming services in December 2014, to provide the choir a better worship experience. Three years later, in October 2017, we began streaming to our YouTube Channel. The goal was to allow those traveling or home sick to participate in worship with us. While this does indeed happen, we find that many who watch did not previously attend St. Michael's! We have people consistently watching from Chicago, Tampa, North Carolina, Tennessee, California and even England! The YouTube stream is also invaluable to our older parishioners who cannot physically come to church anymore. Most new members say that they checked out St Michael's services online prior to stepping through our doors!

You may find us at www.youtube.com/SaintMichaelsOrlando or by searching YouTube for "Saint Michaels Orlando."

Once you subscribe, you can opt to receive a notification of when a new event is being streamed.



You Tube .com/SaintMichaelsOrlando



We began producing St Michael's very own podcast during the pandemic in April 2020. Each service's sermon is uploaded so that it may be listened to offline at one's convenience. We would LOVE to have additional subscribers!

Search your favorite Podcast app for "Saint Michael's Orlando" and subscribe for new episodes to be automatically downloaded for you. This is a great way to listen to sermons on your own time right on your phone!

Our podcast home is:

<https://creators.spotify.com/pod/show/SaintMichaelsOrlando>

We continue to be incredibly grateful for our new Audio & Video system (installed 2021-2023) that enables us to much better communicate the gospel to those inside and outside the walls of St Michaels. The sound, both in the Sanctuary and online has improved tremendously. The multiple PTZ cameras allow a much smoother and more interesting viewing experience online. The flexibility of the system and number of wireless microphones has allowed us to easily produce the 9am Family Service. 2024 was a busy year. We began using our Digital Signage again to better communicate with parishioners with screens in both Fordham & Quigley, as well as before & after each stream. We filmed multiple funerals and began mixing and streaming the new 9am Family Service.

In 2025, we hope to begin streaming to Facebook to reach additional folks online.

Future AV wish-list projects include

- Adding additional cameras for streaming from the chapel and Quigley Hall.
- Replacing the Quigley Hall sound system to significantly improve sound quality and aesthetics and to better match our new video system.

Current YouTube Channel Stats

- **679 Subscribers** (So close to 700!)
- **561 Videos posted on the channel.**
- **123 avg views/service**, translating into approximately **246 people per service.** Down as more people return to in-person worship.
- **28 avg views / Family Service**, translating into approximately **56 people per service.**
- Our 2025 services were **viewed 7,513 times.** Assuming 2+ people were watching, that is **15,026 people** that connected with us online.
- In the last 28 days: **927 views and 239.6 watch hours**

Thank you to those on the A/V Team that made all this possible in 2024; John Boone, Doug Garrett, Erik Olson, Erik Olson II and Jackson Chrisman. We are excited to expand our AV Ministry team in 2025 with several new & returning volunteers that we hope to integrate into our team soon, Jessica Chandler, Peter Jaberg & Eric Chrisman.

Pastoral Care

What is Pastoral Care?

Pastoral care is a ministry of support and presence to any person in their pain, grief, loss, and difficulty so that they might feel the love, care, and compassion of Jesus Christ amid whatever circumstances they are experiencing. Pastoral Care happens in many places. It happens in people's homes, in hospitals rooms, in church offices, on the phone and even through a simple text message. It happens through a listening ear, a prayer, a singing voice, or a hot meal. Anything done to another that says, *"You matter to us and to the Good Shepherd."*



Lay Eucharistic Visitors

During the pandemic, exceptions were made to our traditional Communion practices by making the Eucharist available to take home. This was done so that God's people could continue receiving the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood remotely while participating in worship via our livestreamed services. We are delighted to return to the ministry of Lay Eucharistic Visitors. In 2024, LEVs were sent out to serve Holy Communion to those unable to attend regular services. We express our gratitude for their invaluable service.

Funeral Reception Committee

Our Chair of the Funeral Reception Committee, Wayne Mosher, has continued to do an outstanding job serving the families in their bereavement. The partnership between St. Michael's and George's Gourmet Cookies and Catering that Wayne initiated several years ago has continued to be extremely beneficial not only for funeral receptions, but for other St. Michael's sponsored events. Thank you to Wayne and all the wonderful people serving on this committee.

Pastoral Care Food Committee

Thank you to Patty Tew, our Chair of the Pastoral Care Food Committee, and all the other people who participated this past year in cooking and purchasing meals for those members who needed this service. Your time, sacrifice, and caring heart are greatly appreciated.

Pastoral Lunch

St. Michael's clergy met with several parishioners during our third annual "Pastoral Lunch." It is a time of fellowship and food at the nearby Olive Garden. Thank you to those who joined us clergy and graced us with your presence.

Christmas Caroling

Every year St. Michael's Choir and Pastoral Care team up to serve our shut-in members, singing hit carols on doorsteps and in assisted living facilities. It is always a gift to see the faces, voices and tears of our beloved members and their neighbors during this time. Thank you to the wonderful choir members who sacrificed their time to bring a little hope and joy to people this Christmas.



Hospitality

SUPPER CLUB REINTRODUCTION

In September, we were thrilled to reintroduce the Supper Club, with our first gathering hosted by the Hazouri Household. In October, Helen Bates graciously welcomed us into her home. We paused in November and December to accommodate the many holiday festivities but are excited to resume in January, hosted by Jordan Evans and her family. Supper Club continues to foster fellowship and deepen connections among our congregation.

HOLIDAY ON THE DRIVE

On Thursday, December 5th, our ministry participated in Holiday on the Drive along Edgewater Drive. We sold beautiful poinsettias and shared information about our family service and Christmas Eve services. The Preschool team contributed to the festivities with an engaging arts and crafts booth, which was a resounding success with attendees of all ages.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

This year, we highlighted the vibrancy of our ministry through regular social media updates. Photos from events like the Back-to-School celebration and Flower Guild activities have helped showcase the energy and community spirit of St. Michael's.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into the new year, we are committed to expanding the reach and impact of our ministry. We look forward to continuing to build community through fellowship, service, and meaningful engagement.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who hosted, volunteered, participated, or supported our ministry this year. Your dedication makes our work possible and impactful.



Outreach

"Service is what prayer looks like when it gets up off its knees and walks around in the world." - Michael J. Graham, S.J.

We are the Body of Christ, and we have work to do!

At St. Michael's, we believe that God is calling us to make a difference in the world. We are committed to being the hands and feet of Jesus to each other, Orlando and beyond.

In our Baptismal Covenant we proclaim that we will do the following with God's help:

- Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ
- Seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as yourself
- Strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being

Outreach is a word we use to summarize everything we do to help God's kingdom become a reality here on earth. It is food for the hungry. It is clean water for the thirsty. It is clothing for the naked. It is shelter for the homeless. It is freedom for the oppressed. It is dignity for the downtrodden. In other words, outreach is everything that Jesus is calling us to do.



Outreach is more than just a buzzword; it is a way of being Christian.

Outreach is more than a collection of service projects; it is an orientation to the world. Jesus told his followers to go out and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20), and we believe that he was speaking to us as well.

Everything we do as a church is about transforming lives.

"In-reach" is how we take care of those who call St. Michael's their church home. **"Out-reach"** is how we take care of everyone else. Ultimately, however, we believe that there should be **no distinction between the two**.

If you are an individual or family with a desire to serve, please read over our efforts in the last year and see what speaks to you. You can also contact **Mike Robertson** in the church office by emailing us for more information.

outreach@stmichaelschurch.com

I'm happy to sit down with you and together we can discover where the Lord may be leading you to serve.

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve.

You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

— Martin Luther King Jr.



2024 Recap

January

I kicked off the new year by meeting with all of our partners. This is a great opportunity to check in with our **OCPS** partner schools and see if there are any needs that we can address in addition to our "Feed my Lambs" food pantry program. I met with principals and parent liaisons at **Lake Silver Elementary, College Park Middle, Edgewater High School, OCPS Alternative Education.**

I also reached out to our nonprofit partners in the community and met with **One Heart for Women and Children, Christian Service Center, Samaritan Village, Harbor House,** as well as the Outreach Director at **College Park United Methodist Church.** In addition I attended the annual meeting of the **College Park Neighborhood Association.**

I was honored to be asked again to be a panelist for the **OCPS Faith-Based Partner Summit** where I was able to share with other faith organizations on effective partnerships with their local schools. I also worked to update the outreach section of our website to better reflect our efforts in the community.

February

February began with a record amount of food coming in for **Feed My Lambs** at 676 pounds.

We revised both our **Connection Cards** and our **Ministry Interest Cards.** The ministry card reflects our current ministries and partners, while the connection card was streamlined to include a statement of who we are as a congregation and basic contact information.



March

St. Michaels had a large group participate in the **Good Friday Meal and Foot Washing** at the **Orlando Union Rescue Mission.** A team of almost 30 were out to feed our neighbors, provide new sneakers and socks and offer a word of encouragement or prayer. This was a deeply special event for those who attended. We hope you can join us in 2025.

Continued Preparations for **Paws for Peace** in April to benefit the Harbor House Women's shelter (and their pet kennel).

I was invited to attend the **OCPS Crystal Awards** for School Partners as a member of the Superintendent's Faith-Based Advisory Council. This event is a valuable opportunity to connect with leadership in OCPS as well as school board members, especially our representative for District 6.

April

We provided a full breakfast buffet on Friday of **Teacher Appreciation Week** for all teachers and staff at **Lake Silver Elementary** from College Park Cafe.

OCPS Alternative Education held their Prom in Quigley Hall in April. It was attended by over 100 students and they had an amazing time. We hope to host this event again.

We had 15 team members join us at **Paws for Peace**. Another great showing of Christ's love for our community.

May

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month**. This year we recognized that with a series of posts on our social media accounts, offering to our congregation and inviting kids to paint rocks with positive messages to leave in area parks to give our neighbors a word of encouragement! We hope to do this again in 2025!

St. Michael's had a presence at **Lake Silver Elementary's End of Year Family Fun Night**. We provided over 300 bags of popcorn to LSE families!

I presented for the third year at the **Central Florida Homeless Education Summit**, speaking to attendees from Orange, Seminole and Osceola Counties on **Building Faith Based Partnerships to Support Students in Need**. The three sessions fostered great discussion and feedback. I was able to provide 18 attendees with information on how to begin their own **Feed My Lambs** programs at their houses of faith.

On May 16, the Diocese of Central Florida hosted an event entitled "**Shedding Light on Abuse: Prevention and Response**" at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke. This was a very informative training on recognizing signs of abuse in the church and how to respond with love and care.

June – July

A large portion of the summer months are spent preparing for back to school. As soon as school is out for the year, I set up meetings on campus of our partner schools with principals and Partners in Education coordinators to discuss what went well, what didn't and what we'd like to see happen in the next year. I met twice with our four partner OCPS schools over the summer months to plan for the 2024-2025 school year.



We also tend to receive a larger number of drop in visitors with some sort of need during the summer months. Families lose the support system of the school during this time and we work with them to find food, clothing and other essentials.

July also brought the first meeting of Pub Theology. Over 20 of us gathered in the back room of Digress Wine Bar for an hour and a half of discussion and sharing on how we came to the Episcopal Church and Evolving Faith.

August

As usual, August was a very busy month! There were opportunities on August 4th and 11th for folks to make signs for our **Welcome Back to School Cheer Squad** on the first day of school. We had some very creative signs to help set a tone of celebration on the first day back!

Our group welcomed back students at **Lake Silver Elementary** on the first day of school with music, dancing and lots of smiles! This is always a great time.

We were also able to provide a breakfast for Lake Silver teachers and staff during the planning week leading up to the opening of school.

On August 15, I attended the **Conference on Faith, Jurisdiction and Homelessness at the Christian Service Center**. We heard from State Attorney Andrew Bain regarding new legislation impacting the homeless in Orlando, Dr. Joel Hunter and Dr. David Swanson discussing managing safety, service and compassion at houses of faith and Kristen Anderson from the Southern Poverty Law Center on the implications of federal law in *Grants Pass v. Johnson* and how it will affect us locally. It was very informative and a great chance to connect with those doing similar work in Orlando.



August 23rd we hosted our first **Back to School Block Party Bash** right here on the grounds at St. Michaels. We had over 300 folks from the neighborhood and our partner schools attend and enjoy food trucks, face painting, a caricature artist, carnival games, and free popcorn, cotton candy and soda.

We had tables providing information about St. Michaels, our new Family Service, and representatives from OCPS signing people up as volunteers for **Read to Succeed**. Look for this event to return in 2025!

The **Blessing of the Backpacks and Backpack Tag Giveaway** was held on August 25. We invited attendees from the Block party back to church the following Sunday for this annual event. We said special prayers for the school year and received great feedback on a meaningful morning.

September – October

September and October of 2024 looked a little different for me personally. I received news that I would have to have a hip replacement in mid-October so a large part of the month was spent preparing for the Blessing of the Pets, our Thanksgiving Food Drive, checking in with our partners to let them know that I would be out of the office, and preparing for Angel Tree and other Christmas season activities.

November

Our partnership with Cornerstone Connections and Faith Lettman is now in its fifth year. I was out of the office recovering from my surgery, but our team of servant leaders did an absolutely amazing job! One of the things I truly love about this effort is how it brings together our preschool, church members and community volunteers to make things happen. We had hoped to provide meals for 35 families, and through your generosity we were able to serve 48 families in total!

December

With your support, we were able to serve 32 kids with multiple gifts from **St. Michael's Angel Tree** this year! In addition we were able to serve several other families in our community with food and gifts for Christmas and also give over 20 extra toys to **Lake Silver Elementary** to fill in spots on their Angel Tree. We were also able to provide juice boxes for the fifth grade holiday celebration!

All Year Activities

- Serve on the PTSA and School Advisory Committee at Lake Silver Elementary and College Park Middle School.
- Serve on the Superintendent's Faith Based Advisory Committee for OCPS.
- Oversee our New Mover Postcard Program sending targeted mailings to people moving into College Park and the Packing District. Since October we have mailed 1,119 postcards to our new neighbors.
- Regularly post to our St. Michaels main Facebook, Instagram and Threads pages

What does your support enable us to do?

I want to share a couple of stories from the last year that illustrate how your gifts allow us to take immediate action when someone comes to us in need of assistance.

Last December, as I was going through the requests for Angel Tree gifts, I noticed one from an eight year old boy that had requested a Dog Man Book and an orange. It seemed strange to me, so I reached out to the parent liaison at Lake Silver Elementary. When I asked about his request, I was told that he had filled out the form himself, and that he had been recently removed from his mother's care by DCF and placed with an aunt. The reason he asked for so little is that, as he is shuffled around, all of this things need to fit in his backpack. We asked what we could do to help and were able to provide several gifts, a new backpack, a duffle bag, some clothes, shoes and toiletries for him. There is no doubt that a gift dropped in the plate can make a substantial difference in a child's life!



This Christmas, a few days before the big day itself, I received a request from a family that we have helped with various items in the past. This mom of two teen girls called me and, working largely through Google Translate, she told me of her husband's continued illness and her wish to put something under the tree for the girls. I asked for some ideas and she emailed them to me. When I had done the shopping and contacted her about dropping them off the next day, she asked if I would mind coming to Advent Health in Altamonte Springs. She told me that she was suffering from swelling in the brain and would be in the hospital for at least the next two weeks. Thanks to some extra cash that had been donated for just such a situation, we were also able to get the parents a small gift each and provide a Door Dash card so they could have a little Christmas dinner delivered to the Hospital and spend the holiday together.

Because you support this ministry we are able to assist our neighbors with everything from food to emergency medication, from emergency shelter to a blanket or pots and pans when they finally have a place to call home.

I am so fortunate that this year I have been able to spend much more time meeting one on one with individuals in need and help them to come up with options for whatever situation they find themselves in. It might require a few dollars to get by, a referral to one of our amazing partners, or a quick call to just the right person to help, but whatever it is, your generosity allows me to spend time with them and let them feel seen and heard.

Please join me in praying for the goals of Outreach at St. Michaels:

1. Spread the Good News
2. Allow our members to live into their Baptismal Covenant
3. Be the hands and feet of Christ within our community, be present with them
4. Build or Rebuild bridges with community partners
5. Ability to respond to immediate/acute needs of walk ins

And for our Partner Organizations and projects:

1. OCPS – Lake Silver Elementary School, College Park Middle School, Edgewater High School, OCPS Alternative Education (The BETA Center, Devereaux Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP), The Village School, The Juvenile Offenders Program), and the Superintendent’s Faith Based Advisory Council
2. One Heart for Women and Children
3. Christian Service Center
4. Orlando Union Rescue Mission
5. Harbor House
6. Samaritan Village
7. The Community Center of Finca 6 with Gylla Matos Flores
8. Ukrainian Refugee Outreach



If you would like more information or have any questions on anything you've read, please do not hesitate to contact me at outreach@stmichaelschurch.com or give me a call at the church office.

“The greatest thing that we can do, is to let somebody know that they are loved, and that they are capable of loving.”

– Mr. Rogers

The Gathering

I am continually amazed at the dedication of this group of servants to make sure the residents and folks dropping in at the Coalition for the Homeless have a delicious, hot meal every Tuesday evening. 52 weeks of love shown to our community.



2025 marks 35 years of St. Michaels showing up for those in the margins.

Since 1990 a dedicated group of individuals have worked tirelessly, chopping, slicing, cooking and baking bread pudding! Anywhere from 200-400 men, women and children are nourished in body and spirit with these meals.

Every Friday, they visit **Second Harvest** for ingredients for the upcoming week. Monday morning is full of prep for the cooking that takes place on Tuesday, shortly after the food is delivered to our partners at the Coalition.

Week after week we come together with our time, our talent, and a heart to serve.

Without people willing to participate this outreach would be impossible to continue. If you would consider being a part of our Gathering team, please contact Mike Robertson at mike@stmichaelschurch.com, or by calling him at the church office.



Perhaps you are feeling a pull to dish up these delicious meals on Tuesdays, or maybe wielding a big spoon and dishing up bread pudding isn't your thing. There are many opportunities for you to serve at **The Coalition for the Homeless** at your own comfort level, ranging from donation sorting to assisting with kids programming.

They have instituted a new Volunteer Management System that allows you to see all opportunities and select ones that appeal to you. I would encourage you to check out their website at:

volunteer.samaritan.com/custom/518/volunteer_home

The Gathering would like to say thank you to our "seasoned" leaders. Their dedication to this ministry is truly a gift to our church. They spend countless hours making sure this outreach runs flawlessly. Thank you for sharing your time, your talent, and hearts for serving with us all these years.



SMC Future Committee

This past year the SMC Future team has focused on how we are responding to changes in our parish and in our community. We have paid close attention to the recent shift in the demographic profiles of new members, **particularly young families and recent retirees.**

A large percentage of new members within these two groups are coming to St. Michael's with minimal background in Episcopal traditions and practices. When discussing what attracted them to St. Michael's, common themes include that **they find St. Michael's to be a warm and caring environment and a church community that "feels like home".**

To welcome newcomers, we are working to make our campus more accessible and less intimidating. We've focused on helping visitors and new members—who may be unfamiliar with church buildings—easily find essential locations like bathrooms and Sunday School classrooms around our campus.

We have also encouraged the formation of the new 9 am family service. We see this service as an avenue for people with minimal background in the Episcopal tradition to connect with our community and with God.

Thank you all for making St Michael's an inviting place for new members. We appreciate your support as we welcome the new parishioners God is bringing to our church community.

Eric James

Boy Scouts of America at St. Michael's Church

Scouting has been a major focus for youth at St. Michael's since 1960, making this St Michael's longest running outreach program to the community! In 2019 the Boy Scouts of America program was renamed to Scouts BSA and girls were allowed to participate.

Scouts BSA Troop 200 Boy (200B) has been sponsored by St. Michael's since 1960, making 2025 our 65th Anniversary! We will be celebrating that accomplishment on Scout Sunday, February 9th, and hope you can join us! **Troop 200B has 223 Scouts that have reached Eagle Scout, the highest rank available.** Two of those were added in 2024 and we expect to add several more in 2025! Check out the plaques on the rear wall of Quigley Hall or the side of the Scout trailer to see how many you know! There are many Troop 200 Father/Son Eagle Scout pairs, who get a special star on our Scout trailer. Troop 200 meets weekly on Monday nights, usually camps once a month during the school year and attends a weeklong Summer Camp in the mountains each year. This year we will be venturing to Rainy Mountain in North Carolina. Peter Miller is the current Scoutmaster. There are 32 Scouts registered, ranging in age from 11 to 17, along with 12 adults on our charter, several of whom are Eagle Scouts. We will be adding to our ranks once AOL's cross over from Pack 200 & other local Packs.

Scouts BSA Troop 200 Girl (200G) was chartered by St. Michael's in July of 2020 as a linked Troop to 200B, making 2025 our 5th anniversary!



T200G currently has one Eagle Scout but the Troop is growing, and we plan to have more girls join the Eagle Ranks soon! T200G's first Eagle is a Troop 200 Father/Daughter pair. Troop 200G also meets weekly on Monday nights, usually camps once a month during the school year and attends Summer Camp in the mountains.

Erik Olson, a Troop 200 Eagle Scout, is the current Scoutmaster.



There are currently 12 Scouts registered, ranging in age from 11 to 17, along with 12 adults on our charter, several of whom are Eagle Scouts. We will be adding to our ranks once AOL's cross over from Pack 200 & other local Packs.

2024 saw Troop 200 become active in Order of the Arrow, Scouting's Honor Society. OA is composed of Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives as elected by their peers. In 2023 11 Scouts were elected. 4 Scouts & 3 Leaders completed their Ordeal weekend in January 2024.

In 2024, 11 Scouts were elected.

5 Scouts & 1 Leader just completed their Ordeal weekend this January.

OA Arrowmen may participate in additional Scouting events and training and host the annual TNAW weekend at Camp La No Che.



Congratulations to all our Arrowmen! Troop 200 is also attending BSA's High Adventure camps again. These 4 National camps focus on weeklong+ adventures for older Scouts and allow these Scouts to experience truly unique settings.

Troop 200B, Troop 200G & Pack 207 participate in the annual Scouting for Food drive and contribute at Jr. Warden Workdays. This year we were able to collect over 4 tons of food for Second Harvest Food Bank! We appreciate the contributions these Scouts make to St Michael's and to the community.

Past Eagle Scout Projects at St. Michael's include: The Gathering Garden; the St. Francis Garden near the Bowman courtyard; the bell; the flagpole; the lighting in the front of the Sanctuary; the toddler play area; the crosses in the Pre-School classrooms; two rain barrels for water collection; the cabinets in the Scout Room/Camp Rock room (First – Third grade Sunday School); and shelving in the storage area of the chapel / bell tower.

We encourage suggestions for other Eagle Scout projects at St. Michael's!

While leadership has always been an important part of the Scouting program (Scouts are required to have a minimum of 16 months of leadership positions for Eagle Scout), Troop 200 is stepping up our game! All new youth leadership positions have participated in ILST, Introduction to Leadership for Troops, the last several years. ILST is a daylong leadership training course administered by an Assistant Scoutmaster twice a year. This December 26th to 31st, four of our older Scouts attended NYLT, National Youth Leadership Training, a six-day intensive leadership camp based on Wood Badge, the BSA program for adult leadership training. These 4 Scouts now bring that leadership back to the Troop.

Speaking of Wood Badge, 2 of our adult leaders completed this intensive leadership training course in 2024. The course entails 2 weekends of camping in Patrols, as the Scouts do, along with leadership training.

St. Michael's parishioners are represented in Scouting leadership by Joan Zink, Troop 200B, Troop 200G and Pack 207's Chartered Organization Representative; Len Williams, Central Florida Council Executive Board member; and Erik Olson, T200G Scoutmaster.



Past Scouts and Leaders from St Michael's, including Dave Hedrick, Jack Jennings and the Williams Family are recognized with facilities at Camp La No Che, our Council's camp just South of the Ocala National Forest. Last year Len Williams received BSA's Silver Buffalo award for noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth on a national basis. He is one of only 850 recipients of the award since it began in 1926, which is quite an honor!

Troop 200 has been searching for a fundraiser after Charity Challenge ended, 3 years ago. This year we were asked to run the gates at Jazz Fest and augmented that with parking cars at St Michael's. (Thank you to St Michael's for that opportunity!) These funds will go to replace Troop capital items. The largest item on that wish list is a new tow vehicle for our trailer.

Pack 207, Troop 200B & Troop 200G appreciate St. Michael's providing meeting & storage space, allowing us to develop the character and leadership of these young men and women through the Scout Oath & Scout Law.

In 2025, you will see Boy Scouts of America rebranded to Scouting America. While the name is changing, the programs known as Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA remain the same.



New faces are always welcome! If you know any boys or girls who might be interested in joining Scouts BSA, please reach out to the leaders below. Thank you.

Troop 200B

PETER MILLER

Troop200Scouts@gmail.com
(6th - 12th Grade)

Troop 200G

ERIK OLSON

GTroop200Scouts@gmail.com
(6th - 12th Grade)

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW

A Scout is
Trustworthy • Loyal • Helpful • Friendly
Courteous • Kind • Obedient • Cheerful
Thrifty • Brave • Clean • and Reverent.

OUTDOOR CODE

As an American, I will do my best to –

- Be clean in my outdoor manners.
- Be careful with fire.
- Be considerate in the outdoors.
- Be conservation minded.



Cub Scouts

at St. Michael's Church



Cub Scout Pack 207 has been sponsored by St. Michael's since the 1960s and currently claims more than 55 registered Scouts (K-5th grade) on its roster.

The Pack meets on Tuesday evenings during the school year. The first meeting of each month is the Pack Meeting, where Cub Scouts participate in a large group activity aligned to a themed adventure or a point in the Scout Law. They also receive their awards and rank advancements to recognize their hard (and fun!) work from the previous months.

The second and third Tuesdays are reserved for Den Meetings, where grade-based Dens work together on adventures and activities that reinforce the aims of Scouting. Leaders meet as a Committee on the fourth Tuesdays to ensure all preparations are secured for the months ahead.

And new in 2024 is the addition of fifth Tuesday meetings, which occur twice per year and feature fun fellowship like fall games and snacks and the Raingutter Regatta for racing wind-blown miniature boats. Meetings are typically in Quigley Hall as well as 5 other rooms around the church campus, but sometimes at local parks or locations as needed.

Pack 207 functions as a Family Pack, which is open to all elementary school-aged children - boys, girls, and - importantly - **their families**. The program focuses on outdoor activities, citizenship, and service through structured, safe, and educational activities all done in a fun and engaging way.

Pack 207 camps with their families three to four times a year with an attendance of 50-125 at each campout. Locations typically include Camp La-No-Che (our BSA Council camp in Paisley, FL), Trimble Park, Kelly Park/Rock Springs, Moss Park, Magnolia Park, and others within a short driving distance. 2024 also featured a "camp-in" at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa. Cub Scouts learn outdoor skills while camping, but they also participate in group cooking and other community activities.





Special programming during the year includes **Campfire & Skit nights** in the church parking lot, where Cub Scouts demonstrate their bravery by acting out short plays in front of the Pack (and enjoy s'mores and hot cocoa). Other highlights are the **Blue and Gold Banquet** celebrating Scouting's birthday in Quigley Hall and visits with first responders and civic leaders. But perhaps every Cub Scout's favorite annual tradition is the **Pinewood Derby**, in which children work with their families and adult leaders to turn a simple block of pinewood into the gravity-powered racecar of their dreams. The Cub Scouts compete not only for the fastest track times among their Dens and the Pack overall, but in recognition of "**Doing their Best,**" receive notable awards like Most Futuristic, Shiniest Car, Most Colorful, and Most Creative.

During the summer, the Pack meets at least three times for additional fun and adventures, like the annual Bike Rodeo in June, which now takes place around Lake Baldwin.





Jason Holic, an Eagle Scout from Troop 77 in Venice, FL, and father to a Tiger (1st grade) and a Webelos (4th grade), is the current Cubmaster. Several other Pack leaders are also Eagle Scouts, including some from our own Troop 200. The Pack leadership is entirely volunteer based, with men and women from the community working together with their children and other Cub Scout families on developing future leaders of character and service.



We are proud of the growth and character development our Cub Scouts demonstrate every year. The enrichment of the Pack's youth wouldn't be possible without the generous support and welcoming members and facilities of the church. We're incredibly grateful for St. Michael's continued commitment to Scouting, and we look forward to many more years of strengthening the future of our community together!



If you know of a family with Elementary grade children interested in Cub Scouts, please encourage them to contact:

Jason Holic

Cubmaster for Pack 207

Pack207Scouts@gmail.com



Finance Committee Report

It is the responsibility of the Finance Committee of the Vestry to provide financial oversight of the Church's assets in support of its Mission.

The Finance Committee meets at 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month, just prior to the monthly Vestry meetings. All members of the Church are welcome to attend. The Committee develops an annual budget, and analyzes the revenues and expenses, the restricted accounts, the balance sheet and the Endowment Fund for St. Michael's Church. The Church ended 2024 with a balanced budget. This was due to the generous support of the Parish as well as to the newly established Manly Capital Improvement Account.

Significant actions of the Finance Committee in 2024 include:

- 1. The successful completion** of an independent audit by the accounting firm of Schafer, Tschopp, Whitcomb, Mitchell, and Sheridan.
- 2. The review and oversight of the Endowment Fund** which was established in 2018 to enable the Parish to develop ministries beyond what is possible through the annual operating budget. It also provides long-term financial security for the Church. Money in the Endowment Fund can be designated by the donor for support of specific aspects of the St. Michael's Mission: Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World.
- 3. The establishment of the Robert and Felicia Manly Capital Improvement Account**, given to the Church from the estate of Robert Manly. The account has been designated to fund capital repair and replacement's necessary for the upkeep and enhancement of the facilities at St. Michael's. This generous gift provides the Church with a lasting legacy as well as demonstrating the positive impacts of estate planning that will benefit generations to come.

Special thanks to Tyler Piercy for preparation of the annual budget, the monthly review of the financial accounts and for his accounting expertise; to Joan Myers for her continuing service to the Church; and to members of the Vestry and past Vestry who routinely attend Finance meetings and provide valuable insight into the finances of the Church.

Craig Maughan,
Treasurer

The St. Michael's Sabbatical Fund



What is Sabbath?

Sabbath is God's beautiful idea. It appears that God imbued a rhythmic cycle of work and rest into the fabric of the world. This principle is established and modeled by God in the creation narrative. We see it expressed in the life of God's people, Israel, who not only observed the sabbath weekly but at other intervals (i.e., monthly, seasonally, yearly, etc.). Even their domesticated animals and agricultural farmland observed this rhythmic cycle of work and rest. One can simply observe that nearly every living thing moves according to a sabbath rhythm.

What is Sabbatical?

It has been custom in the Church that priests, due to the unique challenges of ministry and the sheer volume of physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual energy they exert, not only observe sabbath weekly, but take a sabbatical. This is typically observed every five to seven years.

Sabbatical is not a long paid vacation to simply get away from it all. It is an extended period of time where a priest intentionally removes themselves from their regular ministry duties to engage in activities that promote rest, renewal, personal development, spiritual growth, intimacy with God, and, for some, intellectual study.

The sabbatical allows priests to recharge and return to their parish with renewed energy and perspective. It helps prevent burnout and allows priests to better serve their congregation by addressing potential physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs that may have accumulated over time.

After many, many years of faithful service, it is time for St. Michael's to honor Fr. Rick, his family, and his ministry by creating the opportunity, encouraging and supporting him to embark on a sabbatical.

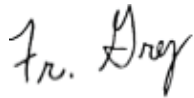
2 On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. (Gen. 1:2-3)

Fr. Rick and his beloved wife Katrena will be on sabbatical from April 21st to July 15.

If you desire to express your love and support to Fr. Rick and Katrena in this endeavor, they request your daily prayers. Additionally, you may make a gift in any amount to the St. Michael's Sabbatical Fund and we will distribute the funds appropriately. To give a gift of support, use the QR code below, or you can do so by check, indicating "SMC Sabbatical Fund" in the memo line.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ as we learn, grow, and respond to God's love together.

In Christ's Love,



Fr. Greg



Scan the QR code with your phone camera to contribute to the

St. Michael's
Sabbatical Fund

