



THE TRUMPET

An instrument of good news



FEBRUARY 4, 2024

EXCITING NEWS! HILARY BELLM JOINING SMEC STAFF

Fr. John is excited to announce that Hilary Bellm has joined the St. Michael's staff in a new position, that of Community Engagement Coordinator as she continues in her role on the vestry. He and the staff look forward to working with Hilary as we grow deeper into our mission. —*Christine Havens, Communications Director*

Hilary Bellm and her family, husband Brent and children Aaron (17) and Scarlett (12) have been members of St. Michael's since 2010 when they moved to Austin and saw the "Preschool Now Enrolling" sign up on the hill. It was a gift to find both a church and a preschool at the same time.

Hilary served on the Board of the Day School for a number of years and at the church has been involved in various ministries and leadership positions, including serving as Senior Warden in 2019 and currently serving on the Finance Commission. She is excited to lead the vestry as Senior Warden this year and also begin a part-time position with the church as the new Community Engagement Coordinator. In this role, she will lead St. Michael's mission of strengthening our internal church community and expanding our presence in Westlake Hills.

She looks forward to getting to know even more parishioners in the months to come and welcomes parishioners' ideas about supporting our community. Hilary is also an active volunteer at St. Stephen's Episcopal School and enjoys walks with her dogs and friends and trying to grow things in her garden.



Mark Your Calendars! Lent Begins February 14!

Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year. Services are at noon and at 7:00 pm.



SAVE THE DATES!

GRACE UPON GRACE

SPEAKER SERIES

"where you invest your love, you invest your life"
--Mumford & Sons

SUNDAY EVENINGS IN LENT ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sanctuary
5:00 pm Eucharist
5:30 pm Speaker

Parish Hall
6:15 pm Dinner

5:00-6:45 pm
Children & Youth
Activities & Meal

Eucharist & speaker
livestreamed at
st-michaels.org/worship-online

February 18	Dr. Angela Reed	<i>Associate Professor, Practical Theology, Truett Seminary</i>
February 25	Dr. Jared E. Alcántara	<i>Professor, Preaching, Truett Seminary</i>
March 3	Dr. Gena St. David	<i>Director, Loise Henderson Wessendorff Center @SSW</i>
March 10	The Rev. Dr. David Wilhite	<i>Professor, Historical Theology, Truett Seminary</i>
March 17	Bishop Neil Alexander	<i>Custodian of the Book of Common Prayer</i>

NOTES

Confirmation, Membership, and Joining the Episcopal Church We are looking forward to having Bishop Kai Ryan join us at St. Michael's on Sunday, April 7, at which time she will confirm and receive youth and adults at our 11:00 am service as part of her visit.

Confirmation is a sacramental rite of the Church, in which the bishop lays hands on a person as they affirm their faith in Christ and their commitment to the Church. For those already confirmed in a different tradition (for instance, in the Roman Catholic Church), the bishop also "receives" new members into the Episcopal Church. Practically speaking, *this is how one officially joins the Episcopal Church.*

Confirmation classes for youth 7th grade and up will start this Sunday between services at 10:00 am, led by Hope Benko. We already have a great group signed up, but it is never too late to join. Just send Hope an email at hope@st-michaels.org.

Likewise, if you're an adult and have been attending St. Michael's for a while but were either never confirmed or received into the Episcopal church, well, it's time to make it official! Email Fr. John at jnewton@st-michaels.org, and he will let you know any prep required and add you to his list.



TACO SUNDAY!
10:00 AM
PARISH HALL

Sunday, February 11 is Scout Sunday During the 10:00 am hour, please join the Scouts of Troop 30 in the parish hall for a variety of scrumptious cobbles made by the Scouts themselves!



the sacrament of the Eucharist

connecting to Communion



a milestone in a child's life

FEBRUARY 4 - 25
Sundays at 10am | Gathering Room
for children entering 1st grade & up
RSVP: Fr. Josh (jkulak@st-michaels.org)



GET READY!

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

JUNE 3-6, 2024 9AM-NOON
FOR 4 YEAR OLDS - RISING 4TH GRADERS

REGISTRATION OPEN SOON!



Commissioning of New Stephen Ministers on Sunday, February 11

Three new Stephen Ministers will be commissioned during the services on Sunday, February 11. Please join us in supporting and welcoming them.

iACT coming to SMEC On Sunday, March 3, friends from iACT (Interfaith Action of Central Texas) will join us at the 11:00 am service as part of iACT's Passport Program. This program gives participants the opportunity to travel to various houses of worship of many different faith traditions throughout the year with the aim of increasing understanding and friendship across difference. Questions? Contact Fr. Josh at jkulak@st-michaels.org.

SMEC at Austin FC Join St. Michael's for an afternoon of family fun on Saturday, April 27, at 12:30 pm as we watch Austin FC take on the LA Galaxy at Q2 Stadium. Tickets cost \$70 per person and scholarships are available. [Please register for the event here](#). We are also asking that attending families consider purchasing a soccer ball to donate to our friends at Casa Marianella. For more information or to sign up, please email Fr. Josh at jkulak@st-michaels.org.

OUTREACH IN ACTION

Cook Dinner for the Episcopal Student Center–Spring Semester Join the Episcopal Student Center for dinner! Every week after evening Eucharist the ESC shares dinner together, and a home-cooked meal is a simple but profound gift to the students. *All you need to do is bring food for 25 people and they'll provide the rest.* The ESC has a fully-equipped kitchen available for you to use and they can reimburse you for groceries. There are still open spots! [Sign up for a Sunday this semester here](#), or contact Fr. Josh (jkulak@st-michaels.org) for any questions.

Del Valle Book Drive St. Michael's will host the annual book drive for Del Valle elementary students' summer reading enrichment. It's time for you to begin collecting new or gently-used books (English or Spanish) for distribution in May. We need a coordinator to make this a successful project! For details, contact Harriett Choffel (harriettchoffel@icloud.com) or Fr. Josh (jkulak@st-michaels.org).

Drive a Senior & Chariot Volunteers Needed Looking for a way to plug into outreach? Get involved with Drive A Senior ATX (www.driveasenioratx.org) and Chariot (chariot.org), two local non-profit organizations that provide free rides to senior citizens, taking them to doctors, stores, and other essential destinations within the greater Austin-Travis County area. Drivers are greatly needed and scheduling is easy. If you are interested in volunteering as a driver or in another capacity OR if you or someone you know is over 60 and needs transportation assistance, please contact either of the organizations directly or contact Harriett Choffel at harriettchoffel@icloud.com or John Boehm at jboehmjr@utexas.edu.

A Great Cause: 2024 Texas Pauli Murray Scholarship Reception You are invited to attend the Texas Pauli Murray Scholarship Reception on February 29 at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston. This year's event honors the Very Rev. Cynthia Kittredge for her successful efforts to increase diversity at the Seminary of the Southwest. All funds raised support low-income African American students and other students of color as they train for the Episcopal priesthood, including those at the Seminary of the Southwest. Our seminarian, Scott Madison, is one such recipient of this scholarship.

To learn more and purchase tickets please visit: <https://www.texaspaulimurray.org> or contact Lee Crawford at lee.crawford04@gmail.com.

St. Michael's is actively engaged in community outreach efforts, supporting a variety of non-profit organizations through hands-on service and financial assistance. In addition to our Community Investment Partners (listed below), we support St. Michael's Episcopal Day School, the SMEC community garden, the Holy Spirit Episcopal School in Honduras, and Del Valle Elementary School. Volunteer opportunities with several local organizations are offered throughout the year. If you have a passion for spreading love and grace throughout the community, please connect with Harriett Choffel, Outreach Commission Chair, at harriettchoffel@icloud.com; or Fr. Josh Kulak at jkulak@st-michaels.org.

2024 Community Investment Partners

Seminary of the Southwest (*theological and pastoral education*)

The Texas Pauli Murray Scholarship (*scholarship for seminary students of color*)

Episcopal Relief and Development (*disaster relief & sustainable development*)

Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT) (*interfaith outreach*)

Trinity Center (*homelessness*)

Casa Marianella (*displaced immigrants*)

Saint Francis Ministries (*foster care*)

El Buen Samaritano (*family services*)

One Good Turn (*global health in underserved communities*)

The Outreach Commission is excited to support these organizations and seek to grow opportunities for purposeful connections with many of them. Click on the links to learn more about each organization or check out the new Outreach webpage at st-michaels.org/outreach.

FAMILY LIFE

Sunday School | 9:00 & 11:00 am | Room 8 The Family Ministry team welcomes children and their parents at the front of the church and guides them to Room 8 in the Education Wing. Parents are reunited with their children in the sanctuary at the announcements—in time for communion together as a family. We also have the Gathering Room and wiggle bags in the narthex for extra wiggly children. Contact the Rev. Hope Benko at hope@st-michaels.org for more info.

SMEYC Schedule

This Sunday

February 4

9:00 & 11:00 am Youth Devos — Parish Hall

10:00 am Taco Sunday — we'll save you a seat / Confirmation Class Begins

4:00-6:00 pm EYC

Upcoming...

February 11

9:00 & 11:00 am Youth Devos — Parish Hall

10:00 am Hang Out / Confirmation Class

1:00-3:00 pm Sr. High at Austin Bouldering Project Westgate

February 18

9:00 & 11:00 am Youth Devos — Parish Hall

10:00 am Hang Out / Confirmation Class / Parent Meeting

4:00-6:00 pm EYC + Lenten Series Dinner

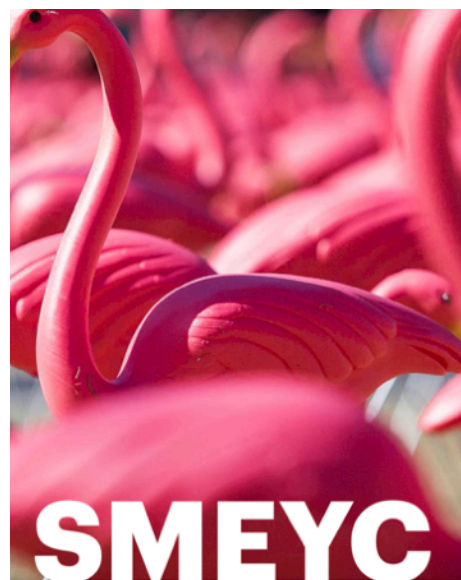
February 25

9:00 & 11:00 am Youth Devos — Parish Hall

10:00 am Service Project — Trinity Center Bags / Confirmation Class

4-6pm EYC + Lenten Series Dinner

St. Michael's Episcopal Youth Community welcomes youth 5th-12th grade to experience community and connection, to question and explore our relationships with the church, with each other, and with the world beyond Westlake. Questions? Email Bonnie Walton, Youth Coordinator, at youth@st-michaels.org



FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

Rector's Bible Study Update for 2024 | Sundays @12:45 pm and Tuesdays @noon Sunday Fr. John's Bible study resumes in 2024, with slightly different schedules for January.

The Sunday study will resume on February 4, due to the annual meeting and some other events.

The Tuesday noon study resumed on January 16; discussing the lectionary readings on January 16, 23, and 30.

In February, both groups will dive into a new book of the Bible—sections of First and Second Corinthians.

Zoom Info: bit.ly/BibleStudyZoomLink Meeting ID: 832 6049 2080; passcode: bible. Dial by location: +13462487799, ID 83260492080#; passcode 543331# US (Houston)

The Seekers Adult Formation Group | meets Sundays at 10:00 am in Rm 4 (Education Wing) and via Zoom

Looking for engaging discussion of theological and spiritual topics? Join the Seekers on Sunday mornings.

The group is currently discussing *The Universal Christ*, by Richard Rohr. Franciscan friar and ecumenical teacher, Rohr bears witness to the deep wisdom of Christian mysticism and traditions of action and contemplation.

Drop in anytime, regardless of whether you've read the book. Contact Harriett Choffel at harriettchoffel@me.com or Phyllis Bleebs at phyllis.blees@gmail.com for more info.

Here's the new Zoom link: bit.ly/SeekersBookGroup, Passcode: 541706.

Book Study: *The Heart of it All* by Samuel Wells January - April Join Fr. Josh for a book study in the New Year as we read Samuel Well's *The Heart of it All: The Bible's Big Picture*. There are two weekly meeting options beginning: Mondays from 12:00-1:00 pm in the parish hall (Zoom available) or Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom only. We will not meet the week of Spring Break (March 10 & 13). [Please sign up here](#) and email Fr. Josh at jkulak@st-michaels.org with any questions. Zoom links:

Monday Noon: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88240194667?pwd=ZHRWbEdSLzFkZkRST2R6MERwRG9lZz09>

Wednesday Night: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929635050?pwd=M096SGh5SWFhdKx6WkVvYzc0ZzN2UT09>

Morning Prayer | Tuesdays @9:00 am You're invited to Morning Prayer each Tuesday morning at 9:00 am.

Please note the Zoom link and passcode: bit.ly/SMECTuesMorningPrayer. **Passcode:** prayer.

Tuesday Women's 12-part Bible Study: First Corinthians | 6:00 pm | Church Office The Women's Bible Study meets at 6:00 pm in the church office; they're studying First Corinthians now to the beginning of April. Christianity calls us to sacrifice instead of living for oneself. In this 12-part series, author Jennie Allen walks into the messy lives of the Corinthians and takes us through Paul's words to the conflicted church. We'll see how the truth of the gospel and the Spirit of God can empower us to choose to follow Jesus every day of our lives. Contact Trish Thompson at home.thompson@gmail.com with questions or to RSVP.

Centering Prayer—Now In-person and via Zoom | Tuesdays @6:30 pm This ministry is available every Tuesday night at 6:30 pm. Join the group in-person on the SMEC campus (Gathering Room) or join via Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85765348257?pwd=dnlMUXh3dHdBOTBDeUROS2hMRXV6Zz09>; passcode: 541706. Please email Phyllis Bleebs with questions: phyllis.blees@gmail.com. For more about contemplative prayer, click this link: [Heart of Texas Contemplative Outreach](#).

New Wednesday Evening, Off-Campus Bible Study | January 10 - April 3 Michael and Trish Thompson are leading a twelve-week, co-ed evening Bible study beginning Wednesday, January 10, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. The group will meet in the Capital View Center conference room at 1301 S Capital of Texas Highway (office building next to Westlake fire house). The Gospel of Matthew is the topic, and the group will be using the John McArthur study guide. It is open to everyone. Childcare is not available. The book is available for purchase at [this link](#). Questions? Contact Trish Thompson at home.thompson@gmail.com.

St. Michael's Book Club | Last Wednesday of the Month @2:30 pm Looking for fellowship and conversation? Love reading? Join the SMEC Book Club! The group meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm unless there's a holiday. The group is now meeting *in person at St. Michael's*. *The next gathering is January 31*; the book chosen is *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham. Please email Rhoda Silverberg at rmorrillsilverberg@icloud.com or Sue Allen at tom@northcoastbrewing.com for more information.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study | Wednesdays at 1:00 pm The group meets by Zoom (using the same link) for one hour beginning at 1:00 pm CT. This is a perfect time to invite others to join our group. This informal group discusses the Daily Office readings—drop in anytime! Led by Mary Healy, mary.r.healy@gmail.com.
Zoom Link: bit.ly/SMECThursBibleStudy ID: 870 3540 9217. Use this passcode: biblestudy.

Evening Prayer | Wednesdays @4:30 pm All are welcome to join each Wednesday at 4:30 pm for prayer and conversation. Use Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88196769453> and passcode 945676.

Men's Pub Theology | Second Wednesdays @5:00 pm | County Line BBQ on Bee Caves Road Join the men of St. Michael's for Christian fellowship and theological conversation. *The next meeting is February 14*; the group meets at the County Line BBQ on Bee Caves Road. Contact Andy Hines at ahines@hinespool.com for more information.

MINISTRIES

Daughters of the King The Daughters of the King® is an order for women who are members of the Episcopal Church. The DOK's mission is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism. St. Michael's chapter was established in 2014 and they are meeting regularly again. If you're interested in learning more about the group, they meet in the Gathering Room (next to the sanctuary) the third Saturday of each month at 10:30am. Contact Jonea Raney at jcsrrech@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Altar Guild The Altar Guild is always looking for women and men to join this ministry. This group makes sure that the sanctuary is clean and readied for services and other liturgical events that happen at St. Michael's. If you are interested in serving or for more information, please contact Gail Reid at reid.gail@gmail.com.

Feeling Overwhelmed? Stephen Ministers Care Sometimes, I tremble under the weight of life. I'm being stretched too thinly by a shredding relationship, others' ceaseless needs, or my exhaustion. Imagine what it might be like to have someone hold, with you, the sources of that heavy pressure that tightens and presses on you. To know and understand. A Stephen Minister will listen for an hour, week after week, and not grow weary or frustrated or try to fix you. Stephen Ministers are trained to provide safe, confidential Christian care.

Contact the Rev. John Newton (jnewton@st-michaels.org) or Stephen Ministers Julie de Wette (julie@losmadrone.com) or Jeff Robinson (jarobinson100@gmail.com).

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

On Thursday, the Koalas spent most of their morning outside enjoying this beautiful weather!
Thanks to Miss Anamaria for the photos.



join us for a

FUNDRAISING PARTY FOR SMEDS

thursday, february 22nd
7 pm
hotel viata
320 s. capital of texas highway

featuring drinks, lite bites,
and a live art auction of
original pieces by students
- all to support the st.
michael's community!

reserve your tickets today!
\$50/person

SMEDS Chapel takes place with Fr. Josh and Miss Karen every Wednesday at 9:30 am in our bright and beautiful sanctuary.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

Please email Christine Havens at chavens@st-michaels.org with prayer requests or to receive the weekly Prayer Chain emails.

For healing for Bunny Cowan.

For Lauren, who is suffering from an upper respiratory infection.

For the family of Trent Wilson, mourning his sudden death at the age of 33: his mother, Lauren Wilson Kerr; his twin brother, Grant; his wife, Kristy Cole; his stepson, Oscar; and his daughter, Mary-Sterling.

For Danielle, who lost her apartment and many of her possessions in a fire, and for all the residents of the complex affected.

For all those in the path of the strong storms approaching California and other areas of the United States.

For Palestinians, Israelis, and all victims of violence in the Middle East.

For all those affected by gun violence.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Alban's (Manchaca), Austin; St. Christopher's, Austin; St. David's, Austin

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rector

The Rev. John Newton
jnewton@st-michaels.org

Curate

The Rev. Dr. Josh Kulak
jkulak@st-michaels.org

Assistant for Pastoral Care

The Rev. Elizabeth Turner
eturner@st-michaels.org

Priest for Children

The Rev. Hope Benko
hope.benko@ssw.edu

Senior Warden & Community Engagement

Hilary Bellm
hbllm@st-michaels.org

Junior Warden

To Be Announced

Youth Coordinator

Bonnie Walton
youth@st-michaels.org

Parish Administrator

Julie Hodges
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Director of Communications

Christine Havens
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Choir Director

Dr. Suzanne Pence
drpence2009@gmail.com

Media Tech & Sexton

Jeremy Aschenbach
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Bookkeeper

Frank Haby
bookkeeper@st-michaels.org

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Altar flower dedications are a wonderful way to celebrate the special people in your life or honor an important event or memory. They are printed here and in the 11:00 am service bulletin.

You can use this link to send your dedication and make a donation: st-michaels.org/altar-flower-donations. You may also donate using the QR code below or send a check to the church office at 1500 N. Capital of Texas Highway, 78746; put "altar flowers" as the memo.

GIVE TO SMEC



THE TRUMPET SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Have a submission for the Trumpet?
Please send your ideas, stories, or photos to Christine Havens, Director of Communications (chavens@st-michaels.org) by 12:00 pm on Wednesdays. We recommend running stories beginning two weeks prior to your event.

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1500 N. CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY. AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

512-327-1474

OFFICE HOURS: M-TH 9:00AM-4:00PM