



THE TRUMPET

An instrument of good news for the community

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEET THE BENKO FAMILY

On most Sundays, you will see the Rev. Hope Benko celebrating one of the services, preaching, or helping out with Sunday School. She's been here for about four years, giving extravagantly of her time. Her children, and recently her husband, Andrew, come with her. We're so grateful for Hope and her family; and happy to introduce them more in depth to you here. Take a moment the next time you're here for worship and say hello!

Christine Havens, Assistant for Communications & Administration

Hope and Andrew met when they were both Master of Divinity students at Seabury-Western Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. They were married in the seminary chapel in 2005 and ordained priests at Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2006. They have two children, Harper, 13, and Grayson, 10, who attend Murchison Middle and Summitt Elementary. The household is also filled with a pair of pandemic kittens, Pickle and Peanut, and the family's labradoodle, Toby.

Hope works at Seminary of the Southwest as the Director of Enrollment Management and Admissions. She also oversees student housing, financial aid, and the seminary's work-study program. She's been there since 2016. "I love working with the students of the seminary. They bring so much energy and optimism for the church and for the world and hearing their stories fills me with confidence about the future of the church."



Of her time at St. Michael's, Hope says: "St. Michael's is one of the kindest congregations I've ever been connected to. I appreciate the love and charity you show each other and our family every week. Our children have been sitting alone in church since they were 6 and 9, perhaps too little to behave properly, but never once did I worry that they would be met with anything other than love and acceptance as they learned to worship among the people of St. Michael's."

Andrew completed his PhD in New Testament in 2018, and he has just been called as the new Dean of Formation at the Iona School for Ministry. At Iona, deacons, bivocational priests, and lay ministers undertake a three-year course of studies to prepare for their ministries. Iona students meet once a month at Camp Allen in Navasota, and are primarily drawn from the Diocese of Texas—although they have included students from neighboring dioceses as well.

"Teaching is one of my absolute passions, and so the chance to serve the diocese in this capacity is the perfect wedding of my love of learning and my love of the church," Andrew says of this wonderful opportunity.

NOTES

Refugee Services of Texas Donation Drive St. Michael's has supported the work of Refugee Services of Texas for many years. RST is assisting many refugees, and they have requested the consumables listed to the right. No clothes, please, and only the items listed are needed. *Please bring your donations to St. Michael's on Sunday, September 12.* There will be boxes at one of the tables in the narthex. If you need a home pick up, email Gail Reid at reid.gail@gmail.com or text 512-925-4220.



Hilltop Kids Sunday School Children 5th grade and younger are invited each Sunday at the 9:00 & 11:00 am services to learn Bible stories and do fun projects. The Family Ministry team will be outside to greet them and lead them into the education wing. They'll rejoin their parents in the sanctuary at the announcements. Youth are welcome to join, too!

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Rector's Bible Study: Paul's Letter to the Romans

Join Fr. John Newton this fall and take a deep dive into this literary and theological masterpiece!

100% ZOOM

Tuesdays at Noon August-December

Sundays at 12:45pm August-December

ZOOM INFO

Meeting ID: 842 9031 0446

Passcode: 582175

FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

Seekers Book Group The Seekers are currently reading *Mary Magdalene Revealed: The First Apostle, Her Feminist Gospel & the Christianity We Haven't Tried Yet* by Meggan Watterson, a WSJ bestseller about the gospel attributed to Mary and about her role in Christian tradition. The group meets at **11:45 am each Sunday** and all are welcome. *Interested in joining the group?* Contact Phyllis Bleebs at phyllis.bleeb@gmail.com for more info. Here's the book group Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/158321072?pwd=SE9Zc0hscE13REM1U1lWYjVU3YyZz09>, Passcode: 541706.

St. Michael's Women's Virtual Potluck The SMEC Women's Virtual Potluck group is now gathering at 6:00 pm on the first Monday of each month unless it falls on a holiday. All women of the parish are invited—bring a friend! *The next meeting is September 13 via Zoom.* Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84019837778?pwd=SGRmQXhoYlIXSUZCZEkrL0hMdFhldz09>; passcode is 242636.

St. Michael's Book Club Looking for fellowship and conversation? Love reading? Join the SMEC Book Club! The group will meet again at the end of September (the 29th), but have already chosen the book to read over the summer: *The Library Book*, by master nonfictionist, Susan Orlean. Please email Rhoda Silverberg at rmorrillsilverberg@icloud.com for more information and for the Zoom link.

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: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81346686555?pwd=MHFKdmlwWXRnZlZlZm2t1b04wUUVHUT09>. **Passcode:** prayer.

Rector's Bible Study--Paul's Letter to the Romans: Tuesdays @noon; Sundays @12:45 pm Join Fr. John Newton this fall and take a deep dive into this literary and theological masterpiece. Zoom info: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84290310446?pwd=WG1iK0t6WFVITjdNVTYyTk41S29yZz09> Meeting ID: 842 9031 0446 Passcode: 582175

Centering Prayer: Tuesdays @6:30 pm This ministry is available every Tuesday night at 6:30 pm. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/158321072?pwd=SE9Zc0hscE13REM1U1lWYjIVU3YyZz09>; passcode: 541706. Please email Phyllis Blees with questions: phyllis.blees@gmail.com. For more about contemplative prayer, click this link: [Heart of Texas Contemplative Outreach](#).

Evening Prayer: Wednesdays @4:30 pm Each Wednesday at 4:30 pm. Use Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082768969> and passcode 826364.

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study @1:00 pm This informal group discusses the Daily Office readings—drop in anytime! Led by Mary Healy, mary.r.healy@gmail.com. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87035409217?pwd=b3RVWmJwOGFRTHgyK0dXMTB3UEM0Zz09>. Meeting ID: 870 3540 9217. Use this passcode: biblestudy.

FAMILIES & STUDENTS

Amanda Evans Lang, family minister, and Michael Wiggin, student minister, invite you to check out the [Family Ministry](#) and [Student Ministry](#) pages on the St. Michael's website for updates and activities to enrich your spiritual life. Please email with questions at amanda@st-michaels.org.

Family Ministry Volunteers Needed! Family Minister Amanda is looking for some volunteers to help with prep work. If you enjoy being crafty, helping with tasks like mailing postcards and organizing supplies, and are available during the week, please contact her at amanda@st-michaels.org.

MINISTRIES

Stephen Ministry Would you like a caring person to be with you steadfastly, in and through a hard time in your life? Consider asking for a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministry is a free, confidential program that provides Christian care to hurting people with our congregation and surrounding community. Learn more at www.st-michaels.org/stephen-ministry. If you'd like a Stephen Minister, please contact Jeff Robinson (jarobinson100@gmail.com), Julie de Wette (julie@losmadrone.com), or Fr. John Newton (jnewton@st-michaels.org).

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.

DAY SCHOOL PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

Music and fine motor skills being learned at the day school this week! Not as many tears at drop-off time, either!

Thanks to Ileana and Lilliana for sharing their photos.



THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

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

Parish Prayer List

For Amanda Evans Lang and her family as they recover from car accident-related injuries and are quarantined due to a Covid exposure.

COVID-19

For all children and teachers during this unexpected style of attending school.

For all who struggle with loneliness and isolation.

For all those living in eldercare facilities, and for the staff, and for their families.

For all those without employment at this time.

All of our hospital and healthcare workers, including Rosa, J'aime, and Patty, who are keeping healthcare services running.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. James the Apostle, Conroe; St. Luke's, Livingston; St. Mary's, Cypress

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Tanzania

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rector

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

Assistant for Pastoral Care

The Rev. Elizabeth Turner
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Assisting Priest

The Rev. Hope Benko
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Deacon

The Rev. Sherry Williams
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Senior Warden

Kristen LeClair
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Junior Warden

Clark Whitty
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Family Minister

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Student Minister

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Parish Administrator

Julie Hodges
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Admin & Communication Assistant

Christine Havens
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Choir Director

Dr. James Morrow
morrowj@austin.utexas.edu

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The altar flowers are dedicated to the glory of God. Sponsoring altar flowers is a wonderful way to honor loved ones or celebrate an occasion. Dedications can be emailed to: chavens@st-michaels.org. Your donation can be mailed to the church office or given via the "Give" page of our website: <https://www.st-michaels.org/take-action>.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Track 1

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

Track 2

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 116:1-8
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

FOLLOW ST. MICHAEL'S ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @St.Michaels.Austin

Instagram: stmichaels_atx

Twitter: StMichaelsEpiscopal @StMichaelsATX

CONNECT TO THE WIDER CHURCH

Episcopal Diocese of Texas (EDOT): www.epicenter.org

The Episcopal Church (TEC): www.episcopalchurch.org

THE TRUMPET SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Have a submission for the Trumpet? Please send your ideas, stories, or photos to Christine Havens, Communications Assistant, (chavens@st-michaels.org) by 12:00 pm on Wednesdays.

*Your extravagant generosity is appreciated.
Text SMEC1500 to 73256 and follow the prompts to make an e-offering.*