



THE TRUMPET

An instrument of good news



OCTOBER 1, 2023

Extravagant **GENEROSITY**

Stewardship 2024

“Go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage. Do good, be rich in helping, be extravagantly generous.”

1 Timothy 6:18, The Message



MEET CATHERINE BEDELL,

LAY STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Catherine, along with her husband, Stephen, and their daughters, CC (10), and Maddie (7), joined St. Michael's in the fall of 2021. Originally from Florida, Catherine moved to Austin in 2004 to attend UT law school and is currently the General Counsel of a local technology company. She is also a volunteer advocate for CASA of Travis County. The Bedells have two goldendoodles and enjoy attending UT sporting events, hiking in the greenbelt and watching their kids participate in various sports and activities. Catherine is also a voracious reader, aspiring writer, and loves to travel.

GENEROSITY SUNDAYS

Lay witnesses share what extravagant generosity at SMEC means to them.

- October 1** Catherine Bedell
- October 8** Michael Thompson
- October 15** Thomas Carstens
- October 22** Kristen LeClair

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY STEWARDSHIP 2024



FROM THE RECTOR

To My St. Michael's family

It is my great honor to invite you to participate in St. Michael's 2024 Annual Stewardship program, "Extravagant Generosity." Interestingly, "generosity" derives from the Latin word *generōsus*, which means "of noble birth." When "generous" was used prior to the 17th century, it was used to indicate that a person belonged to nobility. Over time, generosity morphed to refer to a broader nobility of spirit. Today, these two words typically points to specific qualities related to sacrifice and giving.

At St. Michael's, I want to reclaim and rehabilitate the original meaning of "generous." Generosity does in fact stem

from a noble birth. I don't mean to link generosity with class, race, or social status, but rather to our divine birthright as people created by God.

As we're told in scripture, "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness;' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them" (Gen 1:26-27).

I believe that to grow in a life of extravagant generosity is to become more of who we are; sons and daughters of the most High God, people of noble birth. Generosity is our birthright. God created us to be generous. Generosity makes us more alive, more of ourselves.

It is from this understanding that I count it a privilege to invite you to step deeper into your spiritual journey of self-discovery and a deeper knowledge of God by inviting you to make a generous commitment to St. Michael's for 2024 when pledge cards become available on Sunday, October 22.

St. Michael's will continue to grow in 2024, and I am hoping you will grow with us! If you have any questions or wish to visit more about making a financial commitment to St. Michael's in 2024, please reach out. I never tire of inviting people to invest in this community that has blessed us all beyond measure.

With tons of gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John+".

Fr. John+

RESOURCES

*Whole-Life Generosity Devotional
Extravagant Generosity 2024*

available at the Stewardship table
beginning Oct 1

Ingathering Sundays

A blessing of commitment cards
during the services.

October 29
November 5

OCTOBER 22

Commitment cards available
(online, mail, narthex)

Stories of Impact:

40 lunches packed each month
56 quilts given to foster children
250 El Buen families served

"Whether volunteering monthly at El Buen's food pantry, stuffing lunch sacks for Trinity Center, or collecting and distributing books for Del Valle Elementary School, St. Michael's is committed to mending God's world through Spirit-inspired acts of love and justice."

—Fr. Josh Kulak, curate

NOTES

Host a Trunk! Registration Now Open

Halloween is just around the corner and the Family Ministry team is planning our annual Trunk or Treat event. The more trunks, the merrier. If you'd like to dress up your trunk and hand out candy and treats, please register to be a Trunk Host. We had some great trunks last year—kids and parents had a blast.

Trunk Hosts need to arrive between 4:00-4:45 pm and will stay until the event ends at 7 pm. Trunks will be judged in three categories: “spookiest,” “kookiest,” and “biggest surprise,” with a separate contest for the best day school teacher's trunk. We expect 100-150 kids (but there could be more!), so please prepare accordingly.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/SMECHostATrunk>. Email Fr. Josh at jkulak@st-michaels.org with any questions.

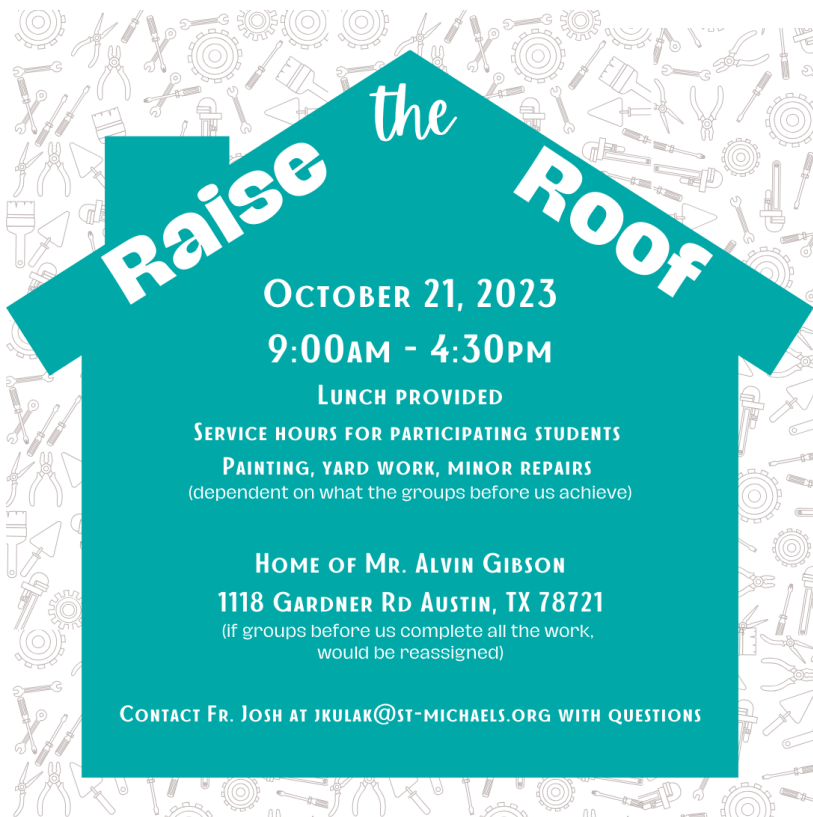


Plug into the Trinity Center on

October 15 On Sunday, October 15, SMEC will serve at the Trinity Center's Sunday worship service and meal. We would love volunteers from the parish to be present for all aspects of the event: helping with set-up/clean-up, participating in liturgy, serving the meal, dining with guests, etc. If you are interested in participating, please contact Fr. Josh at jkulak@st-michaels.org for more information.

About the Trinity Center worship service: On Sunday afternoon, the Trinity Center acts as a church for people experiencing homelessness with a service led by different area parishes, followed by a communal meal. Normally 30-40 people attend the service.

- 2:00pm – Volunteers arrive for setup
- 2:50pm – Doors open
- 3:00pm – Worship service
- 3:30pm – Lunch
- 4:30pm – Doors close



PLUG INTO OUTREACH

2023 Outreach Partners The Outreach Commission is excited to support these organizations in 2023 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.

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 program funds a variety of theological and social service organizations and also continues to support St. Michael's Day School, SMEC community garden, Honduras Mission project, and the Del Valle Elementary School book drive. We also provide volunteer opportunities with several local organizations during 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.

October Outreach Spotlight: Casa Marianella is one of St. Michael's Outreach partners; thanks to your extravagant generosity, we were able to help fund them in September as part of our annual outreach budget. Casa welcomes displaced immigrants and promotes self-sufficiency by providing shelter and support services. In addition to shelter, they offer access to legal and medical resources, food, clothing, English classes, and other resources. Casa Marianella started in 1986 as one home for men, women and children, but as Casa has grown, a nearby branch site was created in 2003 for women with children (many of whom are escaping domestic or cultural violence) and named Posada Esperanza. Casa Marianella currently consists of three neighboring houses for men and women without children, while Casa's Posada Esperanza branch has expanded to four neighboring houses. The agency as a whole shelters an average of 325 individuals annually as well as providing assistance and services to the community.

FAMILY LIFE

Sunday School | 9:00 & 11:00 am | Family Life Center (Rm 8) Ms. Amanda, our Family Minister, and the Family Ministry team welcome children and their parents at the front of the church and guide them to the Family Life Center in the Education Wing. Parents are reunited with their children in the sanctuary at the announcements—in time for communion together as a family. Contact Amanda at amanda@st-michaels.org for more info.



The St. Michael's Episcopal Youth Community (SMEYC) welcomes youth 5th-12th grade to experience community and connection, to question and explore our faith and ourselves through our relationships with the church, with each other, and with the world beyond Westlake. Here's what we've got on the calendar for the rest of the October 10am hours:

Oct. 1 Taco Sunday Challenge

Oct. 8 Service Project—Making sandwich lunches for [Street Youth Ministry](#)

Oct. 15 Spotlight Sunday—Guest TBA

Oct. 22 Clergy in the Hot Seat—Fr. Josh Kulak, curate

Oct. 29 Service Project—Making toiletry bags for Street Youth Ministry

Oct. 28 is Trunk or Treat and students can earn up to 3 service hours for volunteering

Questions? Email Bonnie Walton, Youth Coordinator, at youth@st-michaels.org.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY: WE'RE GROWING



St. Michael's Acolyte Team has grown in the last year, thanks to Fr. Josh, our curate, and to the extravagant generosity of our youth and their parents. We have 17 young people currently!

Siblings Guche and Omka Ikwu-Okuli, along with Teddy LeClair, are pictured here from recent Sundays, serving as torchbearers.

Photo credit: Stephannie & Ike Ikwu-Okuli

FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

Prophetic Insights from the Book of Jeremiah: Rector's Bible Study | Sundays @12:45pm and

Tuesdays @noon Jeremiah's journey is one of faithfulness, sorrow, exile, and redemption. Join us this fall as we examine Jeremiah's life and prophetic proclamations, as well as how the various themes of the book are ultimately answered and clarified in the life and ministry of Jesus. Contact Fr. John at jnewton@st-michaels.org with any questions. Zoom Info: bit.ly/BibleStudyZoomLink Meeting ID: 832 6049 2080; passcode: bible.

The Seekers: Sunday Adult Book Study | 10:00 am | Rm 4 (Education Wing) and via Zoom The group will be starting a new book in mid-October. Stay tuned for details to come. Drop in anytime, even if you've not read the book! Contact Harriett Choffel at harriettchoffel@me.com or Phyllis Blees at phyllis.blees@gmail.com for more info. Here's the Zoom link: bit.ly/SeekersZoomLink, Passcode: 541706.

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.

SMEC Tuesday Night Women's Fall Bible Study | Tuesdays at 6:00 pm | Church Office The Women's Bible Study has chosen a new book to discuss for fall. Beginning on August 29 and finishing up on October 17, the group will use *The Book of Philippians*, a video study guide by Jo Saxton. Through Paul's words and example, learn how joy and sacrifice can go hand-in-hand. All women are welcome—the group meets on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm in the church office. Contact Trish Thompson at home.thompson@gmail.com for more info.

Centering Prayer | Tuesdays @6:30 pm This ministry is available every Tuesday night at 6:30 pm. Zoom link: bit.ly/SMECCenteringPrayer; 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](#).

St. Michael's Book Club | Fourth Wednesdays @2:30pm Looking for fellowship and conversation? Love reading? Join the SMEC Book Club! The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm. The group is now meeting *in person at St. Michael's*. October's read, for discussion on October 25, is *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, by Shelby Van Pelt. Please email Rhoda Silverberg at rmorrillsilverberg@icloud.com or Sue Allen at tom@northcoastbrewing.com for more information.

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/88082768969> and passcode 826364.

Men's Pub Theology | Second Wednesdays @5:00pm Join the men of St. Michael's for fellowship and theological conversation. *The next meeting is October 11; stay tuned for location information.* Contact Andy Hines at ahines@hinespool.com for more information.

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: bit.ly/SMECThursBibleStudy ID: 870 3540 9217. Use this passcode: biblestudy.

Small Group Leader Training This fall, we will provide Small Group Leader Training to empower SMEC lay people to facilitate small groups. Our goal is to equip people with the necessary tools, skills, and guidance to successfully facilitate meaningful and transformative group experiences. *Meeting dates: 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/12.* Meet in the church office at 12:15pm; lunch will be provided. Contact Trish Thompson at home.thompon@gmail.com if you're interested but have missed the first session.

DAY SCHOOL PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

The Dolphins focused on the very important topic of BIG emotions. They practiced taking deep breaths—this particular one was called “balloon breathing.” *Thanks to Ms. Kayla for sharing this photo & story.*



SMEDS Chapel takes place every Wednesday at 12:30 pm. Fr. Josh and Ms. Amanda gather with the students, parents, and teachers in the sanctuary for worship & Bible-based lessons. ***Lesson for October 4: St. Francis Day***

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 James Wells, friend of Julie McConnell, as he deals with colon cancer.

For Phyllis Foote, who is undergoing a stent procedure soon.

For Mary Riedlin, who died on Sept. 27; for her niece, Mary Healy, and for all her family & friends as they grieve.

For Lou Dage, Gena Tabery's mother, and Gena, as they navigate Lou's geriatric issues.

For Julie & Jacob Proske, and brother Evan Brantley, as they await the birth of Baby Millie on November 1, 2023.

For all those who may be affected by the government shutdown.

For all those affected by gun violence.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Mary's, Cypress; St. Stephen's, Huntsville; Trinity, The Woodlands

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

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

Assisting Priest

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

Senior Warden

David Gross
dgross@grossandnelson.com

Junior Warden

Hilary Bellm
hilarybellm@gmail.com

Family Minister

Amanda Evans
amanda@st-michaels.org

Youth Coordinator

Bonnie Walton
youth@st-michaels.org

Parish Administrator

Julie Hodges
parishadmin@st-michaels.org

Director of Communications

Christine Havens
chavens@st-michaels.org

Media Tech & Sexton

Jeremy Aschenbach
jaschenbach@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 11am 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