



# THE TRUMPET

*An instrument of good news*



OCTOBER 15, 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*

### 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

### MEET THOMAS “TOM” CARSTENS, LAY STEWARDSHIP WITNESS

Tom was raised a passionate Green Bay Packers fan in Wisconsin and from there he attended the University of Pennsylvania. He spent most of his career with a wealth management firm Tom co-founded in New York City and now he consults family offices on tax-efficient investing.

In 2019, Tom and his then fiancée, Christie, moved to Austin. Shortly thereafter, they joined the St. Michael’s community where Tom sings in the chancel choir, and where the couple were married last November.

Tom and Christie have four wonderful children spread out across country who love visiting them in Austin, especially during music festivals.



**Host a Trunk on Saturday, October 28, for Trunk or Treat** Halloween is just around the corner and we’re in need of 18 more trunks for our annual Trunk or Treat event from 5:00-7:00 pm on Saturday, October 28. 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](mailto:jkulak@st-michaels.org) with any questions.

## 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 *generosus*, 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

### INGATHERING SUNDAYS

A blessing of commitment cards during the services.

October 29

November 5

### OCTOBER 22

Commitment cards available  
(*online, mail, narthex*)

### THEOLOGY OF GIVING 101 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 | 10:00 AM

On October 15, Fr. John is offering a mini class between our Sunday services in the church office, where he will explore both the theology of giving and also provide insights into SMEC's finances, to help folks understand how our pledge drive contributes to the larger process of budgeting. On the agenda:

- Theology of Giving
- Understanding Church Finances
- Q&A and Discussion

Register here:

[bit.ly/GivingMiniClass](https://bit.ly/GivingMiniClass)

## NOTES

**Enter Your Cake in the Annual Trunk or Treat Cake Auction** Any fall- or Halloween-themed baked goods or other treats—homemade or store-bought—should be *delivered to the parish hall on Saturday, October 28, between 3:00-4:30pm*. Please contact Kirstie Cowan ([kirstiekcowan@gmail.com](mailto:kirstiekcowan@gmail.com)) with the official name of your creation and whether there are any allergens in them (nuts, etc.) so it can be labeled. Thank you for sharing your time and talents!



### El Buen Samaritano Volunteer Opportunities

The SMEC El Buen Food Pantry team will volunteer every third Thursday on the early morning shift. The next volunteer day is October 19. Contact Father Josh at [jkulak@st-michaels.org](mailto:jkulak@st-michaels.org) to join the team! There are many other opportunities to volunteer with El Buen which can be found at [elbuen.org/volunteer](http://elbuen.org/volunteer).

**Ordination of John Fountain to the Priesthood** Our former seminarian, John Fountain, will be ordained to the priesthood at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, October 25, at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Pensacola, Florida. The service will be livestreamed at [www.facebook.com/StChristophersPensacola](https://www.facebook.com/StChristophersPensacola) and at [www.youtube.com/@scpen](https://www.youtube.com/@scpen). We are so proud of him!

**Interested in Learning more about Serving on the St. Michael's Vestry?** Each year, four new vestry members are elected. Contact Father John at [jnewton@st-michaels.org](mailto:jnewton@st-michaels.org) to discover more about the selection process for vestry members, the timeline, and the qualifications required for serving in this role.



ST MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
**TRUNK OR TREAT**

JOIN US FOR SOME SPOOKY TREATS, LOTS OF FUN, AND OUR ANNUAL CAKE AUCTION

OCTOBER 28, 2023  
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

TRUNK OR TREATING!

TACOS!

PHOTO BOOTH!

HOST A TRUNK

## 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](http://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](mailto:harriettchoffel@icloud.com); or Fr. Josh Kulak at [jkulak@st-michaels.org](mailto:jkulak@st-michaels.org).

### Faith in Action: Raise the Roof

Join Fr. Josh Kulak for a day of faith in action helping a lower-income person make needed repairs to his home. These are easy repairs; no experience is necessary. All ages welcome.

Please register here:

[stmichaelsfamily.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1945183](http://stmichaelsfamily.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1945183). There is a volunteer waiver for you to complete.

### 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. If you are interested in participating, please contact Fr. Josh at [jkulak@st-michaels.org](mailto:jkulak@st-michaels.org) for more information. Thanks to those who have signed up.

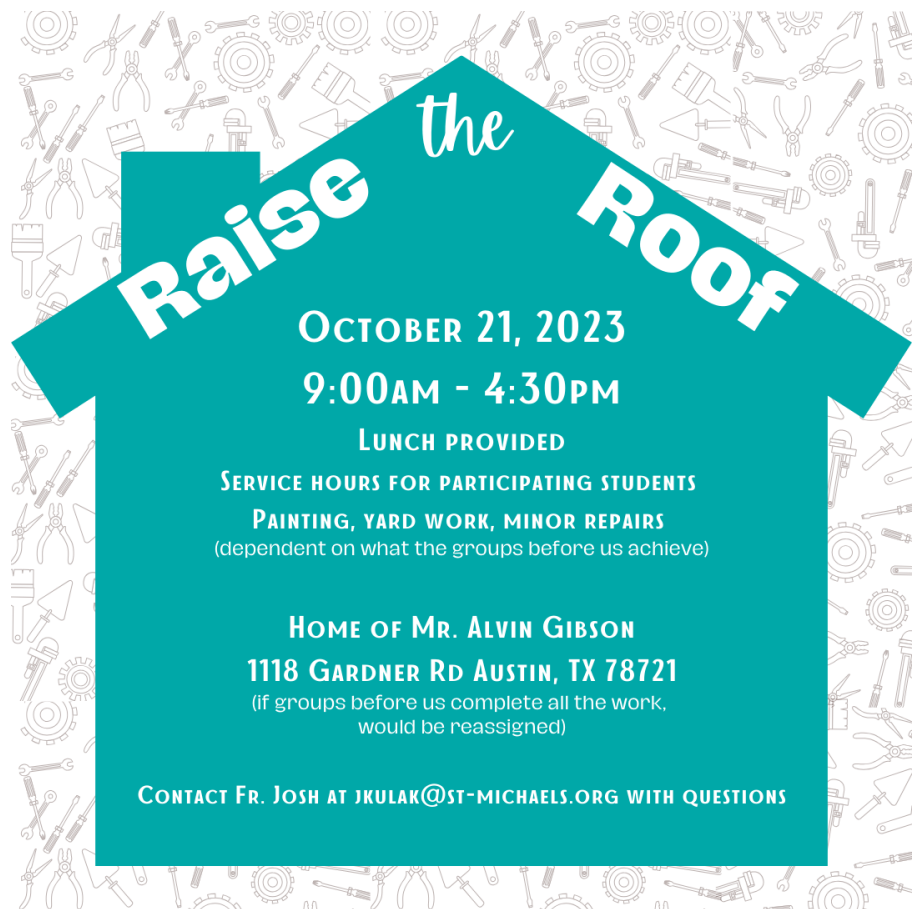
2:00pm – Volunteers arrive for setup

2:50pm – Doors open

3:00pm – Worship service

3:30pm – Lunch

4:30pm – Doors close



**the**  
**Raise the Roof**

**OCTOBER 21, 2023**  
**9:00AM - 4:30PM**

**LUNCH PROVIDED**

**SERVICE HOURS FOR PARTICIPATING STUDENTS**  
**PAINTING, YARD WORK, MINOR REPAIRS**  
(dependent on what the groups before us achieve)

**HOME OF MR. ALVIN GIBSON**  
**1118 GARDNER RD AUSTIN, TX 78721**  
(if groups before us complete all the work,  
would be reassigned)

**CONTACT FR. JOSH AT [JKULAK@ST-MICHAELS.ORG](mailto:JKULAK@ST-MICHAELS.ORG) WITH QUESTIONS**

**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 Morning Nursery Volunteers Needed

Our nursery ministry is blooming and we need your help. Chelsea, our lead nanny, has begun welcoming babies and toddlers into our beautiful nursery in the education wing. We need an additional adult to read stories, sing songs, and serve snacks at each service. Can you help once a month? Contact Family Minister Amanda at [amanda@st-michaels.org](mailto:amanda@st-michaels.org) to volunteer.



**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](mailto: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—special guest, Scott Madison, seminarian
- 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](mailto:youth@st-michaels.org).



*Ellie Germann won the October SMEYC Taco Sunday Challenge and got to pie youth leader Bonnie Walton in the face.*

## 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](mailto:jnewton@st-michaels.org) with any questions. Zoom Info: [bit.ly/BibleStudyZoomLink](https://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 on October 22: *The Universal Christ*, by Richard Rohr. Drop in anytime, regardless of whether you've read the book. Contact Harriett Choffel at [harriettchoffel@me.com](mailto:harriettchoffel@me.com) or Phyllis Bles at [phyllis.blees@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.blees@gmail.com) for more info. Here's the Zoom link: [bit.ly/SeekersZoomLink](https://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](https://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 is currently studying Paul's letter to the Philippians through October 17 using *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](mailto: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](https://bit.ly/SMECCenteringPrayer); passcode: 541706. Please email Phyllis Bles with questions: [phyllis.blees@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:rmorrillsilverberg@icloud.com) or Sue Allen at [tom@northcoastbrewing.com](mailto: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 November 8 at the Waterloo Ice House on the corner of FM 2222 & 360*. Contact Andy Hines at [ahines@hinespool.com](mailto: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](mailto:mary.r.healy@gmail.com). Zoom Link: [bit.ly/SMECThursBibleStudy](https://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](mailto:home.thompon@gmail.com) if you're interested but have missed the first session.

## DAY SCHOOL PHOTOS OF THE WEEK

This week, the day school began a new project in the atelier focused on experimenting with light, shadow, and color. The students explored materials in a dimly-lit room, with a projection of Van Gogh's *Starry Night* as the background. *Thanks to Ms. Crystal for sharing these photos & 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 18: Queen Esther***

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## THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

*Please email Christine Havens at [chavens@st-michaels.org](mailto:chavens@st-michaels.org) with prayer requests or to receive the weekly Prayer Chain emails.*

For those recovering from cardiac-related surgeries.

For Kate, friend of Chris Whitty, as she recovers from a fall.

For Madeleine Hines Salge, her almost newborn daughter Eloise, her husband Forrest, and all their medical caretakers.

For Ruthanne Mulvihill, who died recently.

For Nitsan Joy Gordon, who lives in Israel and is worried for her safety.

For Dan & Sara Havens as they make their semi-annual trek from Iowa to Texas.

For young people who are struggling with severe anxiety.

For successful surgery on 10/13, peace, and comfort for Julie Chapman, cancer patient.

For the people of Israel and Palestine as they endure the violence of war.

For those in Afghanistan devastated by the recent earthquakes.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** St. Mark's, Beaumont; St. Paul's, Orange; St. Paul's, Woodville

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Anglican Church of Kenya

## ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### STAFF DIRECTORY

#### Rector

The Rev. John Newton  
[jnewton@st-michaels.org](mailto:jnewton@st-michaels.org)

#### Curate

The Rev. Dr. Josh Kulak  
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#### Assistant for Pastoral Care

The Rev. Elizabeth Turner  
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#### Assisting Priest

The Rev. Hope Benko  
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#### Senior Warden

David Gross  
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#### Junior Warden

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#### Youth Coordinator

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#### Director of Communications

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#### Media Tech & Sexton

Jeremy Aschenbach  
[jaschenbach@st-michaels.org](mailto:jaschenbach@st-michaels.org)

### ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God,  
and by the Baldwin family in remembrance of  
Randy.=*

*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](https://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"*

#### 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](mailto: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