

THE TRUMPET

An instrument of good news for our community

DECEMBER 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE ALTAR GUILD, SUNDAY MORNING SUPERHEROES

Every Sunday morning, since the beginning of the COVID-19, three St. Michael's parishioners, Gail Reid, Britt Behrens, and Karen Haslund, have shown up to prepare the sanctuary, and since August, the courtyard, for worship. The clergy and staff are so appreciative of their work and their presence, largely behind the scenes. So here are these Sunday morning superheroes in their own words. Thank you for your extravagant generosity!

If you're not familiar with how the Altar Guild serves, Gail gives this background (and yes, they are recruiting): "The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to serve God in God's house by preparing the Sanctuary for worship. We care for the sacred vessels, altar linens, candles, the supply of hosts and wine. We serve the clergy. To be on the Altar Guild is a sacrifice of time and energy. The work is holy and special." If this work appeals to you, please contact Gail at reid.gail@gmail.com.

Christine Havens, Assistant for Communication and Admin



From Karen Haslund (right):
I was recruited to Altar Guild by Gail during a road trip about 2 years ago. It is a perfect fit for me. I enjoy the beauty of the service and the contemplative nature of set up for services. Perfect job for an introvert. I also enjoy being part of a long succession of women and men who have served God in this manner for generations and to connect with some really dynamic people who are just about doing good things quietly. My Grandmother was in the Altar Guild and I remember going to the church to help her, and to make palm crosses. It is a wonderful way to serve God and the church.

From Britt Behrens (center):

I first started in Altar Guild at my church in NY. Barbara Rusling recruited me at St Michael's on Bee Cave Rd the 2nd Sunday we visited so I have been in altar guild for 32 years. The most meaningful and spirit filled experience I have had during Altar Guild was when I was putting the fair linen on the altar and Gena was playing the organ and I felt like I was dressing the bride. I love being alone in the sanctuary and setting up.

From Gail Reid (left):

I can walk into the nave and a hush falls over me like a veil. That sacredness of silence is God's invitation to me to be present with God. Altar Guild offers moments of serving like Martha and Mary, and both are special. I have served on an altar guild for about 40 years. I cherish the work and the relationships. I never thought I would be searching for clothes pins to keep the fair linen from blowing off the altar. The last few months have brought humor, creativeness, and joy as we have set the table for the Eucharistic feast in the courtyard. We have made memories to last a lifetime. Shivering at sunrise, hearing the chirp of a cardinal, being thanked for serving by clergy and staff are all gifts from God.

NOTES

WORSHIP SERVICES *All our in-person services follow COVID-19 precautions as outlined by the Diocese of Texas and the City of Austin.*

CHECK-IN INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES Heading to campus for in-person worship? Please text “SMEC” to 312-487-3550 *each week and follow the text prompt; include your full name and the service you plan to attend. Check in at anytime, right up to the service.* This allows us to contact folks easily and rapidly if we have a COVID-19 exposure and in case of weather issues. We certainly won't turn anyone away. Stop by the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings if you need assistance. If you've checked in successfully using your phone, just grab a bulletin and you're all set!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COURTYARD EUCHARIST AND PICNIC CHURCH WILL BE IN THE PARISH HALL ON DECEMBER 13 due to the chilly weather. The doors will remain open for ventilation and options will be available for those who prefer to stay outdoors.

COURTYARD EUCHARIST A spoken Rite I Eucharist that begins at **8:00 am**. Seating is provided.

PICNIC CHURCH This completely outdoor service, complete with blankets and wiggle baskets for the kids, happens every Sunday at **9:15 am** in the courtyard. Bring your own chairs.

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II WITH MUSIC Join us in the sanctuary at **10:30 am** for this service, which is in-person and livestreamed on our website.

FR. JOHN'S ADVENT MEDITATIONS Our other Advent offering is a series of four video Advent meditations from Fr. John. Each week, a new one will be included in the Friday Trumpet email. These thoughtful yet provocative reflections provide a space in which to abide with scripture in stillness and peace.

SIMPLE GIFTS: ADVENT 2020 As many know, Lake Charles, Louisiana, was hit by two major hurricanes this past summer. With that in mind, the Outreach Commission has designated St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Lake Charles as the beneficiary of the parish's Advent Simple Gifts program, which offers an opportunity to honor a loved one by making a gift in their name. A Simple Gifts table will be in the courtyard each Sunday between December 6 and December 21 for those interested in learning more or in honoring a loved one. Please email Karen Haslund with questions: drhaslund@gmail.com

COCOA AND CAROLS [IN CARS] SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19,

5:45-7:45 PM Marshmallow roasting! Carol singing! Cocoa drinking! Join us on the SMEC campus for a warm-glow evening drive-in style. You can stay in your cars or sit tailgate fashion. Pop out to roast marshmallows and get refreshments, using pandemic practices. Stay after the carols for a showing of the Christmas classic, Elf! Great event for all generations! Thanks to Family Minister Amanda and Student Minister Luis for this chance to gather as a church community.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS We will have some poinsettias brightening up the sanctuary this year. Dedicate your poinsettias in memory or in honor of a loved one, or in thanksgiving or in celebration of an event, group, or individual. Please email your dedication(s) to Christine at chavens@st-michaels.org, by **Thursday, December 17**, if you want the recognition to appear in the Christmastide .

TRUMPET DOUBLE ISSUE DEADLINE Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays and vacation time for Christine, the Trumpet will be a double issue covering December 27-January 3. If you have a blurb that you'd like to have in that issue, please email your information to Christine at chavens@st-michaels.org by **noon on Monday, December 21**. The first new Trumpet of the new year will be for Sunday, January 10.

ADULT FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP

RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CONCLUDES DEC. 13 This Sunday is the last session of Fr. John's fall Bible Study. Sessions were recorded and will be available on YouTube. Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84133373380>. Adult formation is on hiatus until the new year—stay tuned for info about spring offerings.

SEEKERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP The Seekers are reading the internationally-renowned novel about the life and death of Jesus—*The Last Temptation of Christ* by Nikos Kazantzakis, a book that has generated controversy and conversation since its publication. The group meets at **11:45 am each Sunday** and all are welcome. Join anytime, as they will be reading this title through July 2021. Here's the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/158321072?pwd=SE9Zc0hscE13REM1U1lWYjVU3YyZz09>. Passcode: 541706. Please email Phyllis Blees at phyllis.blees@gmail.com with any questions.

ST. MICHAEL'S BOOK CLUB All are invited! The next meeting will be in the new year, on January 27, 2021, at 2:30 pm. The book is *Britt-Marie was Here*, by Fredrik Backman. Please email Rhoda Silverberg at rmorrillsilverberg@icloud.com for more information and for the Zoom link.

ST. MICHAEL'S WOMEN'S VIRTUAL POTLUCK Table fellowship with friends via Zoom—women of all ages are welcome to join. Alternate **Monday evenings at 6:00 pm** every other week. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84019837778?pwd=SGRmQXhoYlIXSUZCZEkrL0hMdFhldz09>; passcode is 242636.

MORNING PRAYER, TUESDAYS @9:00 AM You're invited to Morning Prayer each Tuesday morning at 9:00 am. Please note the new Zoom link and passcode: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81346686555?pwd=MHFKdmlwWXRnZlVZM2tlb04wUFVhUT09>. **New Passcode:** prayer.

CENTERING PRAYER ON TUESDAY EVENINGS This ministry is available every Tuesday night at 6:30 pm. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/158321072?pwd=SE9Zc0hscE13REM1U1lWYjVU3YyZz09>; 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 Led by Fr. John each Wednesday at 4:30 pm. **NEW** Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88082768969>. **Passcode now required:** 826364. The information is also in Fr. John's weekly Tuesday e-news.

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. **PLEASE NOTE** that you should use this passcode: biblestudy.

FAMILY MINISTRY

ADVENT KITS STILL AVAILABLE We are celebrating Advent at home this year with a take-home kit curated by our own very creative Family Minister Amanda—it's perfect for all generations! You can still get a kit. Please email Amanda at amanda@st-michaels.org. Each kit is filled with devotionals, hands-on activities, conversation starters, and more great ideas to make this Advent a celebration of hope right in your own living space. There's even an online complementary video to watch!

Stay tuned for updates about spring family formation opportunities.

STUDENT MINISTRY

EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY

We will be taking a break from EYC for the holidays. Our outdoor hikes will return in 2021, but stay tuned for some exciting events coming up in December, including an EYC bonfire evening and another special event involving carols, cocoa, and cars! You'll find out soon :) Check out <https://www.st-michaels.org/students> to stay up-to-date with all the happenings with SMEC Student Ministry.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYERS

NEW PRAYERS

For Lillian Risien, mother of Cody Risien, who passed away recently; for Cody, Amy, and the Risien family as they grieve.

For Jill, aunt of Barbara Rusling, who died recently.

Continued prayers for St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Lake Charles, LA, as they recover from hurricane damage.

For all postal workers, delivery workers, and all retail workers at this busy time of the year that is overshadowed by the pandemic.

ONGOING PRAYERS

COVID-19

For Laura Cowan, wife of Mike, who is hospitalized with COVID-19-related pneumonia.

For Peggy DeBerry Bell, who died of COVID-19; for Donna Hulsey and the rest of the family as they grieve.

For Lily Odle, great-niece of Britt Behrens, who has COVID-19.

For Jim McConaughy, brother-in-law of Karen Haslund, who is gravely ill with COVID-19, and for his family.

For Rick & Dianna Lang, in-laws of Amanda Evans Lang, who have been diagnosed with COVID-19.

For the Jacob and Abramo families.

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

For Suzanne, who is struggling with loneliness and isolation during this time, and for all who struggle with these issues.

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 Stuart Wiggin, Rosa, J'aime, and Patty, who are keeping healthcare services running.

Miriam Carrillo, and Alfred Carrillo, sister and brother of José, whose livelihoods have been affected by the public emergency.

For Hannah M.

For Ed Erdman.



Mother Minerva giving the blessing as she celebrates the 8:00 am Courtyard Eucharist. Thank you to Gail Reid for this evocative photo.

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH STAFF

Rector

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

Assistant to Pastoral Care

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

Assisting Priest

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

Deacon

The Rev. Sherry Williams
sherry.v.williams@mac.com

Senior Warden

Hilary Bellm
hilarybellm@gmail.com

Junior Warden

Kathy Wiggin
kbwiggin@gmail.com

Student Ministry

Luis Rivas
lrvivas@st-michaels.org

Family Ministry

Amanda Evans Lang
amanda@st-michaels.org

Parish Administrator

Julie Hodges
parishadmin@st-michaels.org

Admin & Communication Assistant

Christine Havens
chavens@st-michaels.org

Choir Director

Dr. James Morrow
morrowj@austin.utexas.edu

Seminarian

Joel McAlister
joel.mcalister@ssw.edu

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

*The altar flowers this week are given
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 the office: 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>.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Are you celebrating a birthday or anniversary? We'd love to pray for you during the Sunday service and print your name(s) in the bulletin. The submission deadline is noon of the Wednesday prior to when you'd like to receive a blessing; email to Christine Havens at chavens@st-michaels.org.

DECEMBER 13, 2020 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28
Psalm 126
or Canticle 15 (or 3)

SHARE YOUR STAY-AT-HOME PHOTOS!

Worshipping with your family, friends, pets? Have something else you'd like to share? We'd would still love to see your photos and share them on Facebook and/or in the Trumpet! Please send in as high a resolution as possible to Christine at chavens@st-michaels.org. Thank you!

THE TRUMPET SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Have a submission for the Trumpet? Please send it to Christine (chavens@st-michaels.org) by 12:00 pm on the Wednesday prior to the date you would like your announcement to appear in the Trumpet. Running it two weeks prior to your event is recommended for most church announcements.

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