



THE TRUMPET

An instrument of good news



DECEMBER 17, 2023

ST. MICHAEL'S: PLUGGING IN & REACHING OUT

Mega-successful Angel Tree Outreach Project

A heartfelt thank you from the Outreach Commission to all who participated in our first Angel Tree partnering with El Buen Samaritano. Thanks to you and the work of Harriett Choffel, Karen Moody, and Fr. Josh, we made a love-spreading difference in our local community. The gifts were delivered on Monday, December 11.

We had:

10 recipient families

41 individuals

65 total Angels (adults x1, kids x2)

with

51 participating parish families

6 individuals supported by the Outreach Commission

St. Michael's gave approximately \$3250 in support!


SMEYC Reaches Out to Foster Kids in Texas

On Sunday, December 10, the SMEYC spent the 10:00 am hour putting together gift bundles for the foster children who live at the St. Francis Ministries residential home in Lubbock, Texas. The bundles included a book, a journal, gel pens, a watercolor bookmark, and calm strips. The group wrote cards, too, and asked questions about the lives of the St. Francis youth.

Bonnie Walton, our SMEYC coordinator, and Harriett Choffel, Outreach Commission, chose this project in order to help our youth learn about the "different ways in which St. Michael's is already serving in Austin and in Texas. Plus, it's nice to take a moment to pray for those kids who don't."



NOTES



HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AT ST. MICHAEL'S
DECEMBER 17

10 AM
SANTA VISITS & GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING
Santa's coming to visit St. Michael's! Every ONE is welcome in the parish hall for fun, fellowship, and decorating gingerbread houses, too.

11 AM WORSHIP
ST. MICHAEL'S DAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS RECITAL
A beloved tradition! Our day school students brighten up the season with a short Christmas program during the service.

Greening of the Church | Sunday, December 17

Noon-ish The traditional Greening of the Church happens on Sunday, December 18, after the 11:00 service. Please stay and help us spruce up the church for Christmas. We'll be hanging the greens and sharing in fellowship. There will be lunch available and all ages are welcome to take part.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ONE SERVICE @9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE I
LIVESTREAMED AT
ST-MICHAELS.ORG/WORSHIP-ONLINE

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
GATHERING ROOM & WIGGLE BAGS AVAILABLE



St. Michael's
Episcopal Church

**CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICES**
**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 24**

5:00 pm
**CHILDREN'S PAGEANT
WITH EUCHARIST**
Calling all angels, sheep, shepherds,
and wise ones--join the pageant!
Gather at 4:45 pm

7:00 pm
FESTIVE EUCHARIST

9:30 pm
CHORAL PRELUDE

10:00 pm
SOLEMN EUCHARIST



**No children's programming this evening; the
Gathering Room & wiggle bags will be available*

Christmas Flower Memorials Sponsoring the poinsettias in the sanctuary at Christmastide is a wonderful way to celebrate your loved ones. Your commemoration will be printed in the 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm Christmas Eve bulletins.

Please call or email Christine (512-324-1474 / chavens@st-michaels.org) by Tuesday, December 19, in order to have your dedication included.

Donations toward the cost of the flowers are appreciated—you may mail a check to the church office or use the QR code on the back page of the Trumpet. You can also go to st-michaels.org/altar-flower-donations. Please make sure to indicate your donation is for Christmas flowers.

**CELEBRATING
CHRISTMAS
WITH
ST. MICHAEL'S**

**DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9 AM
EUCCHARIST**

**DECEMBER 31
1ST CHRISTMAS**

**8 AM & 10 AM
EUCCHARIST**

No Sunday School - wiggle bags available

Epiphany Eucharist on Saturday, January 6—Mark Your Calendars All are invited to a celebration of Epiphany, a date set aside to recall the Magi's visit to Jesus. Fr. Josh will be “chalking the SMEC door”—a blessing traditionally done at this time of year. We'll be giving out chalk & instructions for folks to bless their own homes for the coming year.

Spring Book Study Survey Fr. Josh plans to lead a book study this spring and would love your feedback. Complete [this survey](#) to let him know which book seems most interesting and when you would prefer to meet. Please let Fr. Josh know if you have any questions (jkulak@st-michaels.org).

MLK Day March | Monday, January 15 @9am Please join Fr. Josh on Monday, January 15, at 9:00 am to participate in Austin's annual MLK Community March. The march begins at the MLK statue on the UT campus before proceeding to the Capitol steps. After a short rally, the march continues on to Huston-Tillotson for a community festival. For additional information please visit <https://mlkcelebration.com/> or email Fr. Josh (jkulak@st-michaels.org).

Ready to make your pledge?
Commitment cards can be found online
at st-michaels.org/giving-at-smec
and in the narthex.

**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

End-of-Year Giving See below about how to make a year-end gift to St. Michael's. If you have questions about your pledge balance for 2023, please email Lisa Killough, chair of our finance commission, at lkillough@austin.rr.com and she will gladly provide that information.

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OFFICE HOURS DECEMBER 25-29

MONDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY: CLOSED

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY: 9:00AM-4:00 PM

THURSDAY: 9:00AM - NOON

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY: CLOSED

YEAR-END GIVING

Make a Special Year-End Gift

- Please consider making a one-time gift to St. Michael's; it would make a big difference as we head into 2024.
- Give to honor a loved one or in thanksgiving for a ministry that has made a difference in your life.
- Scan the QR code or visit donorbox.org/online-giving-129



Giving Details

To declare a contribution on your 2023 tax return, gifts must be:

- POSTMARKED by Dec. 31, 2023; or,
- Donated online by midnight Dec. 31; or,
- Delivered to the church office (1500 N. Capital of Texas Hwy) by midnight Dec. 31 (we have a locked mailbox in which you can place a check in an envelope).

The church office will be open Tuesday & Wednesday, Dec 26-27, from 9 AM to 4 PM and on Thursday, December 28, 9am-noon.

IRA Required Minimum Distribution?

Consider giving stock!

It's easy to give stock and realize a tax contribution benefit. You will be credited with the full value of the stock at the time of the gift for the tax deduction; however, neither you nor the church will pay capital gains or other tax on the proceeds.

For stock gifts and all giving inquiries, please contact:

Fr. John Newton, Rector

jnewton@st-michaels.org

Lisa Killough, Finance Chair

lkillough@austin.rr.com

St. Michael's Episcopal Church
1500 N. Capital of Texas Highway, Austin, TX 78746
Church office: 512-504-4504

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

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. *No Sunday School will be available from Christmas Eve through December 31; programming will resume on January 7.* 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 the remainder of December looks like.

December 17

10:00 am Gingerbread Houses in Parish Hall

1:00-3:00 pm SR HIGH ONLY Photo Scavenger Hunt at Laguna Gloria. Join us for lunch beforehand around 12:30.

No 5pm EYC

December 24

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service—youth reading for the pageant.

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

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. 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.

The group take a break on December 24 & 31, and resume on January 7.

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

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

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. *The group take a break on December 26 & January 2, and will resume on January 9.* Please email Phyllis Blee 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 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*. **There is no meeting in December.** *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 @5:00pm Join the men of St. Michael's for fellowship and theological conversation. *The next meeting is January 10, location to be determined.* 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.



On Sunday, December 10, during the 11am service, the Daughters of the King welcomed three new members into their order.

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).

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 Mason Tapp, who has the flu.

For Jim Clark, who is in ICU.

For comfort and peace for Nannette and her family--she has received a difficult cancer diagnosis and prognosis.

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

For all those affected by gun violence.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Santa Maria Virgen, Houston; St. Andrew's, Houston; St. Christopher's, Houston

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

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
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Assisting Priest

The Rev. Hope Benko
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Junior Warden

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Director of Communications

Christine Havens
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Media Tech & Sexton

Jeremy Aschenbach
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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