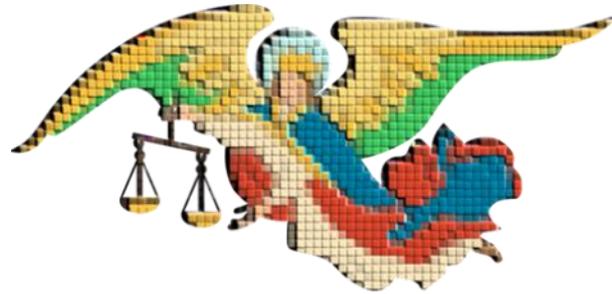




THE MESSENGER

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

INVITE
WELCOME
CONNECT



**St. Michael and All Angels
Episcopal Church**

Invitation, Welcome, and Connection are as Essential to Life as Food, Water, and Air

Fr. David

We are all created in the image of God, the almighty life-giving Spirit from which all things come. Our lives are more than the fascinating physical bodies—with all their powers, potential, and limitations—that we have been given. Our lives are spiritual, bound together in and through the Spirit that gives and sustains all life in a vast ecosystem that is itself physical, biological, and spiritual. It is within this ecosystem that we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). We are related to everything and everyone.

As self-aware beings in that web of relationship, we know that we must nurture those relationships because those relationships nourish us. That is simply the way we were made. This is what it means for God to be love. In a meaningful sense, we are each one of us nothing but one particular intersection of relationships in an infinitely vast web of relationships—of galaxies, stars, earth’s biosphere, human societies and families, bones and tissues, molecules, atoms, and on and on it goes. We are conscious participants within all of it; we have at least a capacity for freedom and creativity (which we too often refuse to use). We can actively embrace and participate in these relationships...or not.

The momentous question before every human being is this: “Will I embrace the relational nature of my existence, inviting and welcoming others into my life, connecting with them in meaningful and powerful ways that

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Focus on Ministry: Uplifting the Homeless

CYD ALLOWAY

While some of the ministries at STMAA have had to adapt to the pandemic, many have continued strong, including the assistance STMAA provides to Uplift.

Uplift, founded in 1990, is a Kansas City based organization providing meals, clothing and other services to the homeless in the metropolitan area. The people they serve are comprised of those often living in derelict cars, busses or under underpasses or in cardboard boxes. The organization receives no federal, state or local grants nor has sponsorship by other organizations or agencies. It is entirely dependent upon the work and donations of volunteers to accomplish their mission.

St. Michael's is actively involved in the meal preparation. The fourth Monday each month (as well as in those months with a fifth Monday) our volunteers prepare specifically prescribed casserole meals at home and bring them to the kitchen at STMAA where the meals are thoroughly heated, placed in thermal containers and driven to Uplift's offices for distribution by volunteer drivers. Uplift provides the recipes each month.

Debbie Kremers coordinates this project (Bev Wharton for the fifth Monday meals). There are currently numerous people that volunteer to cook and she can usually count on a minimum of seven or eight cooks per month. However, she stresses it is not required one must cook every month to be involved. "It's also proven to be an excellent family activity," Debbie states. "We have several families where the children help to prepare the meals, especially during the pandemic or by those being home-schooled."



In addition to the meal preparations, there is also a bin outside Spencer Hall for collecting old candles, milk jugs, clothing, blankets, bug spray and dog food. The candles are melted down, poured into cans to make new candles that can provide some warmth and light. Milk jugs hold clean water. Some people have dogs living with them so dog food is helpful.

To anyone interested in volunteering for this vital ministry, please contact Debbie at kremers6@aol.com or 913-631-2742.



Connecting With... Eugene Butler

Cyd Alloway

Mention the name Eugene Butler to any past or current choral singer and there will be instant recognition. Gene is the one of the most prolific and beloved American choral composers of the past 60+ years.

Gene began his passion of music while participating in high school band in Oklahoma. "My high school had a terrific band program but not such a good choral program," Gene explained. While attending a Methodist summer camp between his junior and senior years of high school he also developed another lifelong passion, this one for a certain young lady named Mary Ann. However, two weeks after their meeting, Mary Ann and her family moved from Oklahoma to California but that did not deter them. The next two summers Gene traveled to California to work and to be with her. They both attended the University of Oklahoma and were married at the age of 20. Gene graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education and Mary Ann with a degree in social work.

Gene knew he wanted to focus on church music so immediately after their graduation, they moved to New York where Mary Ann earned her master's degree at Columbia University and Gene completed a Master of Sacred Music degree at Union Theological Seminary. Upon their graduations at the age of 25, they moved to Wichita where Gene became Director of Music at First United Methodist Church, a church of 4000 members with a large and diverse music program including six choirs as well as an orchestra. He began regularly the complex and detailed process of composing music and lyrics during that time. Mary Ann's career flourished as well. "It was never hard for Mary Ann to find a job when we moved," Gene added. "Social work was still a relatively new field then. All she had to say was she had a masters in the field and she had a job!"

After 10 years in Wichita, Gene decided he wanted to pursue his doctorate in composing and they moved to Kansas City where he earned his D.M.A. in Composition from the Conservatory at University of Missouri-Kansas City. He then was named Director of Choral Activities and Music Theory at Johnson County

Community College, a position he held for 25 years. During that same period he was also director of music at Valley View Methodist Church in Overland Park, at that time a very large congregation with an expansive music program. He continued his busy composing career and was also a popular adjudicator and workshop leader for composition seminars, and choral and church music clinics during these years as well.

Upon his retirement, he and Mary Ann began looking for a new church home as they were not comfortable with how liturgy was evolving in the Methodist denomination. They tried another Episcopal church for a while and discovered the liturgy more to their liking with a "more serious approach to worship." However, they missed being in a larger church and in 2000 came to STMAA. They fell in love with the sanctuary, the organ and the music then "we heard Father Rob Lord preach and that made it a sold deal," Gene explained. They both joined the St. Gregory Choir where they continued to regularly sing until a few years ago.

Despite his "retirement" Gene continued his composition career, by this time having written over 1000 compositions. His most recent piece, written just before the Covid pandemic, was a commission for Village Presbyterian Church for orchestra and choirs. He has remained active in other STMAA activities including Dinner Group and the Senior Men's Lunch Group.



("Connecting With" continued on bottom of page 4)



[Register Here](#)

Connecting with... continued from page 3

A few more notes (pardon the pun):

Family: a daughter who, with her husband and two children, lives in KCMO. Their son is a journalist in Portland, OR.

Hobbies: Gene pronounced both he and Mary Ann being “voracious readers.” Until the pandemic, they also spent a lot of their time attending concerts and other performances in the area. While they neither are able to drive now, they are blessed to find transportation through their senior living community, family and friends.

Favorite Liturgical Season: “It would be a tie between Lent and Advent,” Gene answered, adding he finds both seasons always inspirational.

Family Corner

Don't Forget
YOUTH
GROUP IS
IN-PERSON

This Sunday 6:30-8
Let's see which Saints make the cut!
Don't forget your mask and a friend

2021 LENTMADNESS.ORG

Hermit & Healers

- Camillus de Lellis
- Matthias
- Hermione
- Melangell
- Evagrius the Solitary
- Euphrosyne
- Nino of Georgia
- Benedict the Abbot

Sundry Saints

- Jacopone da Todi
- Ives of Kermartin
- Dunstan
- Maryam of Qibran
- Arnulf of Metz
- Vincent of Saragossa
- Tarcisius
- Egeria

FAITHFUL 4

ELITE 8

SAINTLY 16

ROUND OF 32

- Albert the Great
- Leo the Great
- Theodora of Alexandria
- Theodora the Empress
- Isidora the Simple
- Simeon the Holy Fool
- Catherine of Bologna
- Catherine of Genoa
- Henriette Delille
- Absalom Jones
- Bartholomew de las Casas
- Marianne Cope
- Joan of Arc
- Catherine Booth
- Miguel Pro
- Constantine

THE GOLDEN HALO

WHO WILL WIN?

Invitation, Welcome, and Connection are as Essential to Life as Food, Water, and Air

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draw me closer to God—or will I refuse to participate in these meaningful connections, preventing me from realizing the real purpose for which I was created?” Everything, absolutely everything, depends on our response to this question.

At its best, the church should be a spiritual engine of connection. That is what the metaphor of the Body of Christ means—to bind together spiritual beings into one great Being held together by love and acting with love in the world. Evangelism is nothing but the invitation to all people to be a part of this lovingly powerful, spiritual body.

The Invite Welcome Connect (IWC) ministry is a practical way for us to explore our response to the momentous question above. How can we embrace the interconnectedness with which we were created in loving and powerful ways that build up the body of Christ here at St. Michael's? What are practical, concrete actions that we can take to invite, welcome, and connect more effectively? How can we experience the joy of the image of God with which we were created?

If you would like to be a part of leading this exploration at St. Michael's, I invite you to any and all of a series of upcoming events. You do not need to be able to participate in all of them. The events, listed below, include two diocesan Zoom workshops led by Mary Parmer, the founder of the Invite Welcome Connect ministry. She is

wonderful! Following those two workshops, we will have an informational meeting here at St. Michael's where I will provide an overview of the ministry and how it might work at St. Michael's. Following that informational meeting, we will have our first IWC team meeting at St. Michael's and begin the brainstorming and strategizing necessary to begin this wonderful ministry of building up the body of Christ.

- Diocese of Kansas IWC Zoom Workshop with Mary Parmer 1 – **March 11th (7-8:30 pm)**
- Diocese of Kansas IWC Zoom Workshop with Mary Parmer 2 – **March 18th (7-8:30 pm)**
- To register for these two workshops, click here: [REGISTER](#)
- St. Michael's Informational IWC Meeting – **March 25th (7-8 p.m.)**
- Zoom link will be available to all closer to the meeting.
- St. Michael's Team Meeting – **Late April:** Specific Time and Date to be Determined.

Attend one or all of these gatherings to find out how God is calling you to be a part of this ministry that is so deeply rooted in God's purposes for all life—to invite, welcome, and connect.



Celebrating St. Michael's



Congratulations to Jennifer Allen on her ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests on Saturday, January 9, 2021



Upcoming Events

In-Person Sunday Worship Services—Registration Required

Every Sunday at 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM (all pandemic protocols apply: masks, etc.)

As long as local Covid-19 numbers remain below the limiting thresholds are currently having two in-person services per week in the nave on Sunday at the normal service times of 8:30 and 10:45 AM. These services will follow all pandemic related restrictions as detailed in earlier communications. We will livestream both of these services on the STMAA YouTube channel. Registration links can be found at www.stmaa.com

A Study of the Gospel of Mark—Mondays starting March 1st at 10:00 AM

Please join us for a lively series of eight discussions starting this Monday at 10 a.m. on Zoom of the liveliest Gospel: Mark. Our discussion will be facilitated by Fr. Shawn Streepy, who loves the Gospel of Mark best among all of the Gospels and promises videos and other visual aids all designed for the purpose of bringing this shortest but pithiest of the Gospels alive. [Register Here](#)

Save the Date

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday - March 28 - (Two in-person services as long as Covid-19 numbers allow)

Maundy Thursday - April 1 at 7 p.m. (One in-person service if Covid-19 numbers allow)

Good Friday - April 2, at noon and 7 p.m. (Veneration of the Cross; in-person if Covid-19 numbers allow)

Easter Vigil - April 3 (This may be an online diocesan event like last year; stay tuned)

Easter Sunday - April 4 (Details to be determined; we will have to wait and see what is possible)