

THE MESSENGER

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

25 YEARS OF WORKING WITH ST. PAUL'S IN KCK

by Cathy Jackson and Trish Unruh

The number of hungry neighbors from the KCK community that come to be fed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church each Saturday has been steadily increasing. From about 200 patrons per week last year at this time to more than 400 persons fed on recent weekends, the documented head count is surprising, even to the hard-working regulars.



The crew of regulars is grateful to STMAA for the continued financial support, and we know our work supporting the underserved in that community is proving to be a lifeline for many families.

But we could use additional persons on the "regulars" list.

Turn to the next page to learn about what this ministry provides, and how you can help.

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ST. PAUL'S KCK, CONT.

The volunteers at the drive-thru hand out a hot breakfast with coffee and a take-away snack of fruit and bottled water for each family member. Each family unit is given a bag of non-perishables from Harvesters, plus frozen meat and cheese, produce and bakery items from Nourish KC, and sometimes, donated toiletries.

For STMAA members that recall a sit-down meal at St. Paul's, that has changed since the arrival of Covid-19. In good weather and bad, the 6:30 am volunteers prepare the hot breakfast, bag up the snack, set up the drive thru station. They then pack produce from the Nourish KC truck that pulls in around 8:15, carry the Harvesters canned goods and frozen supplies from the basement pallets (organized by St. Paul's and STMAA workers each week), and pack individual toiletries.

The later shift (9-11 am) volunteers greet arriving patrons in the alleyway of St. Paul's, handing out all of the great food, hot coffee, and bagged items. Cleanup is the last task, and many hands make light work.

Speaking of many hands: The many parishes and community partners that were sending weekend volunteers to St. Paul's breakfast and pantry pre-COVID have fallen away.

Despite the efforts of the leaders, commitment from other parishes is just not happening. So now, more than ever, support for this important ministry is needed. What was once an "every fourth Saturday of the month" STMAA assignment, is now "any Saturday you can get there." Please join us.

Use this link to add your name to an upcoming Saturday. We will be glad to see you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0948aba82ca7fa7-breakfast#/>



CARPENTER ANTS INSTALL A NEW SINK IN SACRISTY

Big news this Easter season for the sacristy. The old sink was in desperate need of replacement. Debbie Kremers and Dennis Trupka found a sink that would be suitable, and along with the Carpenter Ants, the team was able to replace it. The new one is working great!

The Altar Guild uses it each week to clean all vessels after the services. Special thanks to the Carpenter Ants and Greg Peterson. This is the type of work that most of us don't see but it touches everybody. The Carpenter Ants "asked a few questions and they did a great job and the next thing you know it's in there."

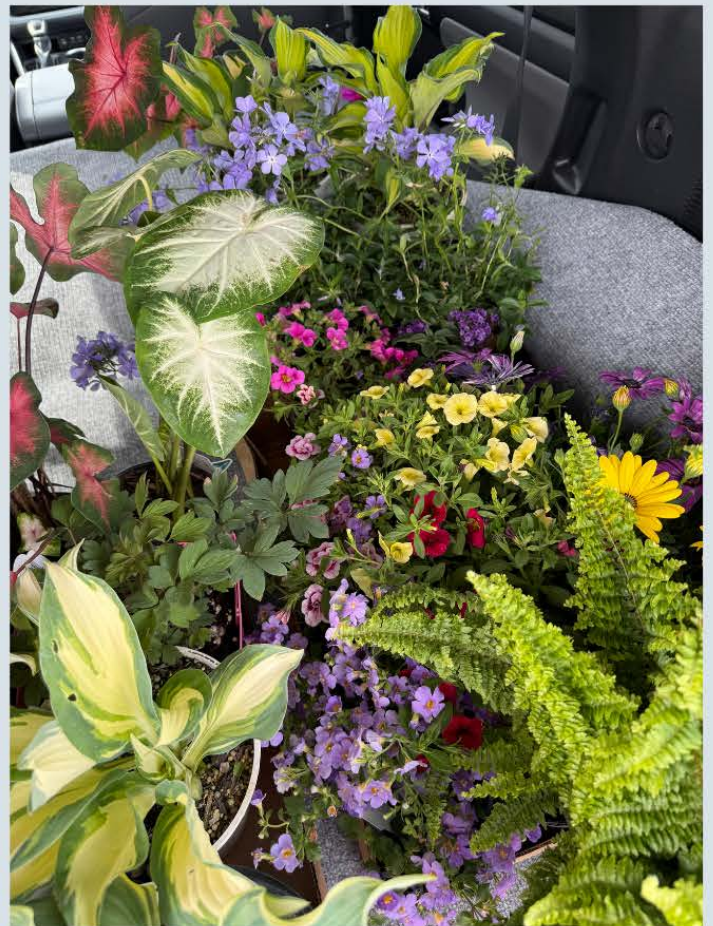


ALTAR GUILD AND GARDENING ANGELS TEAM UP

This year the Altar Guild and Gardening Angels partnered up for Easter and the garden. Carolyn Boyd and Debbie Kremers went shopping together at Suburban Lawn and Garden. They purchased plants that were used on Easter Sunday to fill the church with spring flowers. THEN . . . instead of throwing them away or having someone take them . . . the Gardening Angels planted them in our beautiful gardens.

This was such a win/win for everyone. Parishioners who donated Easter flowers will be happy to learn know that we put these flowers to good use, while making the most of the Gardening Angels' budget.

Due to Father David's allergy to lilies, we could just buy lots of lilies. We used beautiful spring flowers instead. We bought a small number of Easter lilies (hard not to include some!) and put them around the baptismal font with the yellow anthers removed to reduce the pollen in the air.



YOUTH: MEGA CAMP 2025



By Beth Lee

Young Episcopalians (and their friends) have been attending Camp Wood YMCA for over 80 years. You can ask some of the senior members of St. Michael's about their camp stories from years past. Even though some of the traditions have changed over time and the camp has been renovated over the last decade with new air-conditioned cabins, shower houses, and a large shaded pavilion, the essence of Episcopal Summer Camp has not changed.

Campers will participate in faith formation through worship, music, prayer, and small group discussions; develop lifelong friendships; have fun outdoors in God's creation (archery, climbing tower, swimming, arts/crafts, canoeing/kayaking, giant swing . . .); and be led by amazing camp staff that provide a caring, loving environment. At Mega Camp last year we had 16 campers and 8 adult Episcopal staff volunteers from St. Michael's. The theme in 2024 was "Linked by Love."

YOUTH: MEGA CAMP 2025, CONT.



If you have any questions about Mega Camp 2025 (June 1-7, 2025), please contact Beth Lee at 816-582-8707. The theme for 2025 is "Another Way." We are looking forward to reconnecting with God, this camp community, and to making new friends this summer at Mega Camp!

Check out our [Parent Handbook](#) for everything you need to know about being a camper at Episcopal Summer Mega Camp! (plus lots of photos!)

When: June 1-7, 2025

Where: Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS

Who: Students in grades 3-12 for 2024-25 school year (you must have finished third grade to attend); Camp is not restricted to Episcopalians or regular churchgoers. All are welcome, so feel free to invite friends and family.

Cost: \$525 through May 1, 2025; \$575 after May 1. There is a \$25 non-refundable deposit due at registration.

Registration: [online via UltraCamp](#) starting January 1; priority deadline is May 1. [Register by clicking here.](#)

Scholarships: You can apply for scholarships on the registration form.

MEET CHAPLAIN WAYNE MATTHEWS

A LOOK AT PASTORAL CARE WITH PARISHIONER WAYNE MATTHEWS

Parishioner Wayne Matthews has been a member of St. Michael's for only a few years, but he's already making a big impact as a member of the pastoral care team. Wayne brings a deep background of being a hospital chaplain to bear in this role.



In that role he has provided emotional support to patients, their families, and even to hospital staff. In addition to pastoral care, he has also worked in crisis intervention, bereavement support, and facilitating care for individuals and families facing illness, injury, or end-of-life issues.

Wayne has worked with St. Luke's and other institutions where his experience as chaplain has him meeting with a wide array of diverse people who want to speak with a member of the clergy. St. Luke's is his primary home for his work as hospital chaplain at present, but he's visited STMAA parishioners in a wide range of places. He is looking forward to being more involved in STMAA, so the next time you see him, introduce yourself!

SILENT RETREAT WITH REV. LISA SENUTA

A RECAP OF A LENTEN QUIET DAY

by Rev. Lisa Senuta, Canon for Spiritual Life and Clergy Care

When I was young, I was taught that forgiveness was needed when I misbehaved, crossed a line, broke a rule or divine code. Forgiveness was more of a transaction. Now I appreciate that forgiveness is an invitation to spiritually live. Like a flowing river, forgiveness is a perpetual invitation to join a divine flow of love.

St Michael's hosted a delicious and spiritually rich Lenten Quiet Day on April 12th. It was a wonderful surprise to find over 20 people willing to spend five hours reflecting on God's gift of forgiveness. Most of us shy away from going at the particular challenges we face with giving and receiving forgiveness in our lives.

Over the day we looked at forgiveness from many sides. I facilitated several prayer practices to support the participants' discovery of God's invitation to them right now for peace and reconciliation. Overall, we practiced letting go of retribution and sought fresh discovery of God's endless mercy and forgiveness for ourselves and all humankind. Like water, we remembered God refreshes and sustains his children to be at peace and for peace in the world.

I am grateful to Bob and Tracy Henry for delicious food, for Deacon Monte for hospitality, and to those who attended the quiet day whose faith compels my own.



PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

THANKS FOR STANKS

By Archdeacon Emeritus Monte Giddings

Sometimes on a good day you meet someone at the farmer's market or at church and after a brief introductory conversation, you depart thinking "I would really like getting to know that person better." If you believe that God brings good people together, keep reading.

Walking down the side aisle on the lectern side (what we church nerds call the "Epistle side"), about a third down on Sunday you will see a couple sitting in a pew right on the aisle. She is beautiful, tall with reddish hair, and he is a handsome octogenarian chap with a cane.

Now, you have encountered the Stanks (short for Stankiewicz, which even I cannot spell). Jim and Nancy have been members of St. Michael for 63 years. Yes, you heard right. They have been here longer than many of our community have been alive.

Their St. Michael pedigree is impressive. Nancy's father was a cousin of Fr. Spencer, for whom our parish hall is named. Both of these wonderful people held numerous leadership positions in our parish and in the diocese. Over the years each of them have become an important part of our history and have grown to be pillars of our community.

The Stanks came to St. Michael & All Angels when when Fr. Rhaesa was the rector. Entering the nave, they remember thinking "This is our place."

Over the years, Nancy and Jim have served on the Vestry, with Jim being Senior Warden once and Junior Warden twice. In 1995, Jim held the position of



PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT, CON'T.

Administrator and Controller for the diocese, where he advised the Bishop and the Diocesan Council of Trustees on financial matters. Jim was also a founding member of the Colorado Prayer Group.

On a personal note, Jim was an important and supportive person on my road to ordination.

In my experience, I have often thought of Nancy as the heart and soul of our parish, offering her talents whenever those gifts were needed. Most folks reading this would not know that she served as our organist at one time and later became the driving force of the group that raised money to refurbish our impressive organ.



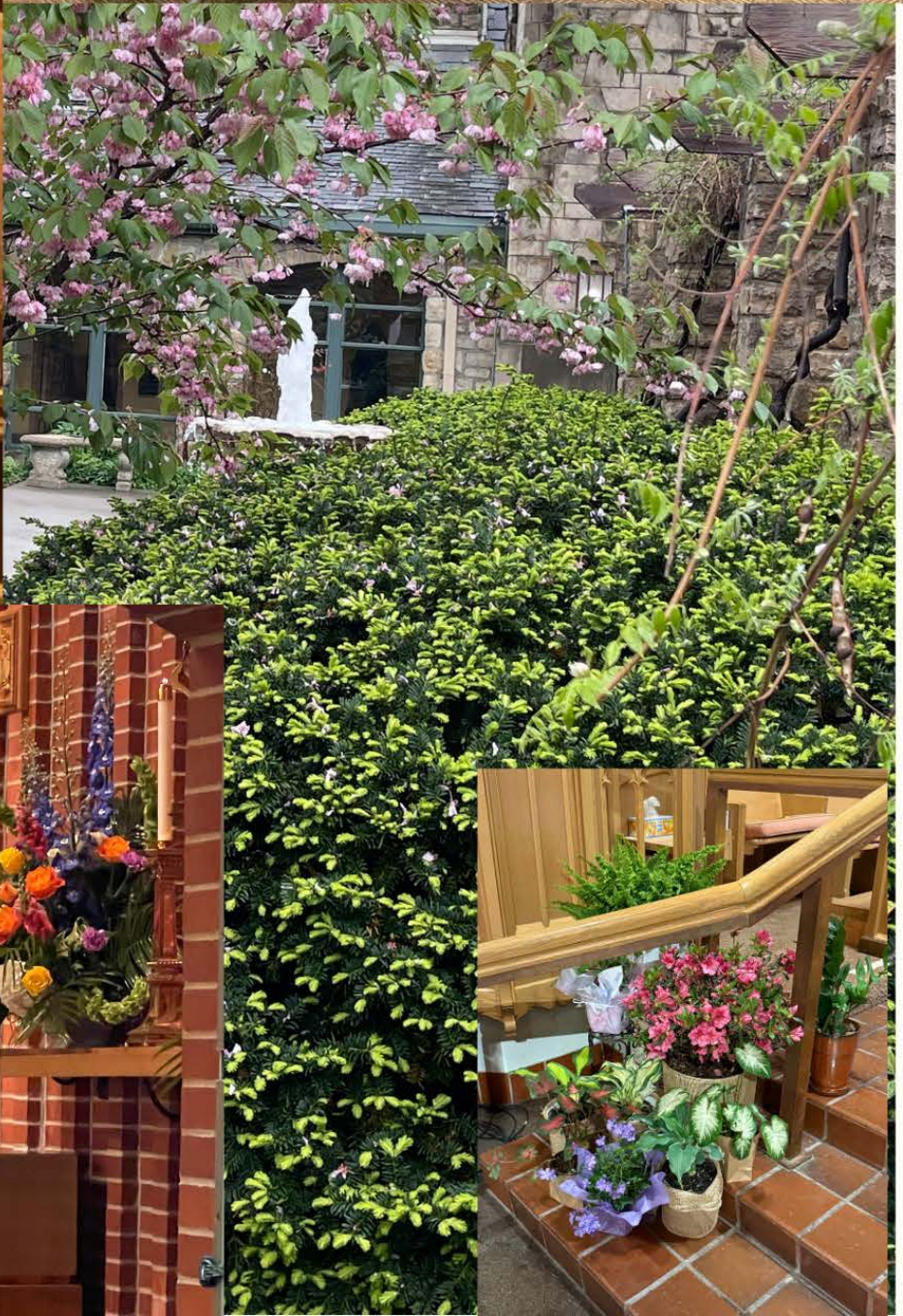
I remember her standing at the lectern with a cheeky grin and imploring us to become “organ donors.” She, like Jim, also participated on the diocesan level by serving as President of the Northeast Convocation.

Nancy, you may recall, was the writer and editor of our 75th anniversary publication that is a comprehensive history of the parish. She also lent her writing talents in many a creative script for church events in the past.

Nancy and Jim met at KU on the 2nd day of a class and the rest is history. Over the years they raised two sons and a daughter in our parish. It would not surprise you to learn that Nancy, when asked what is most important about St. Michael & All Angels to her responds, “community.” The Stanks truly enjoy meeting new people so please seek them out and introduce yourself. You will find them to be inspirational.



HAPPY EASTER 2025



Youth Arts Camp

July 7-11



Save the date for one of our most fun youth activities of the year. STMAA's Youth Arts Camp will include visual arts, music, and drama for children entering grades 1-6.

Camp runs from 9AM-3PM with lunch and supplies are included. Space is limited and registration is required. Check the weekly newsletter or STMAA.com for details.

