

THE MESSENGER

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

The Sacred and the Mundane at the Annual Meeting

FR. DAVID COX

"Annual Meeting" is not an attractive turn of phrase. The phrase is blatantly unimaginative in its functional description of the gathering (i.e. meeting) that every Episcopal church has once per year (i.e. annually). Each Episcopal church is required by canon to gather yearly to discuss the business of the parish.

Thankfully, many Episcopal churches, including St. Michael's, take advantage of this meeting by making it a time of fellowship and an opportunity to celebrate God's active presence among us. We take a morning to let the Holy Spirit remind us that we are the body of Christ even in the most mundane operations of the parish. Our spiritual gifts are being knit together into a source of power in the world for the Kingdom of God—this includes building maintenance, utilities, lawn care, and finances as well as worship, formation, outreach, and pastoral care. If we let it happen, Christ is incarnate in all our activities.

At our annual meeting on the morning of January 26, we will begin at 8:30 with a shared meal. As in the Eucharist, we know that we are all guests at Jesus' table. Breakfast will be followed by the business meeting itself at 9 a.m. We will get an overview of the 2020 budget and elect faithful parishioners as members of vestry and delegates to the diocesan convention. We will also have a chance to reflect on our future together. In particular, I will expand on my own vision for the Invite-Welcome-Connect ministry at St. Michael's. We will conclude the morning with an experience of common worship. We will praise God together; we will engage the scriptures together; we will approach the Lord's table together; and through it all, we will pray together, opening our hearts and minds to the guidance of the Spirit moving among us.

When we understand the annual meeting in this way, the gathering becomes a religious experience and a moral exercise. We realize that discipleship is as mundane as it is sacred, as material as it is spiritual. Perhaps it is the weaving of it all together that allows our lives to become holy, sanctified for God's purposes. I invite you all to be a part of this holy, mundane gathering, that God might inspire us there.

Peace,
Fr. David

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Focus on Ministry: LTAT – A New Ministry

CYD ALLOWAY

Mental health issues: what are they? The National Institute for Mental Health defines mental health issues as “any mental, behavioral or emotional disorder” that can range in severity from mild to moderate to severe. Nearly one in five individuals is diagnosed with a mental health issue, which can impact up to 50% of families overall. This can be an overwhelming situation in learning how to cope with diagnosis, treatment and support. So, **Let’s Talk About That**.

This new ministry is designed to:

- provide an open forum for our community to discuss mental health topics
- offer resources and ideas
- otherwise support one another

“Psychology Today” states, “Mental illnesses are *not* choices.

The same way that physical illnesses are not choices.” The National Institute for Mental Health defines mental illnesses to include disorders defined as manifested by anxiety, depression, attention deficit, personality, eating, panic, phobias, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive behavior and post-traumatic stress.

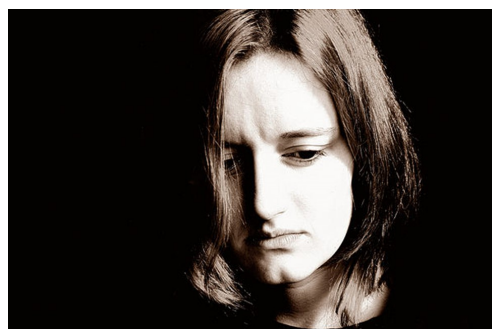


LTAT, launched by STMAA committee members David Dreher, Allie Marquis, Krissie Wiggins and Amy Cox, is for anyone who

- Is experiencing a current mental health problem or illness
- Is trying to help someone with a mental health challenge
- Has been or has professional experience with ideas or can offer reassurance to others
- Is curious about mental health issues

Meetings are held every Tuesday evening in the STMAA library from 6:30 to 7:30. Meetings are designed to offer a respectful, supportive and facilitated environment in which to discuss mental health challenges.

Let’s Talk About That.



Connecting With... Peg Schanze

Cyd Alloway

The Altar Guild is one of St. Michael's more quiet ministries but without whom our services would not have the beauty with which we are accustomed nor function as well (the clergy reiterates this regularly!) Peg Schanze, Directress of Altar Guild, is charged with leading this group of approximately 20 men and women to tend the Altar and all the accoutrements associated with that each week as well as ensuring the Eucharist is ready for worship at all times. Let's learn more about Peg.



OCCUPATION: After working for Sprint for many years in Local Division Sales, Peg retired and returned to school to complete her Certified Nursing Assistant designation. After taking a few years to help with her grandchildren, this past May she began work as a hospice C N A. "It is such a privilege to comfort patients and pray for their souls as they are passing from this world to the next and to see the peace they experience as they are set free."

FAMILY: Husband Jay Wiedenmeyer with whom she shares four children and three grandchildren.

HOBBIES: Gardening, reading (all genres) and lake activities

HOW LONG AT ST. MICHAELS: Since 1991.

WHY STMAA? A cradle Episcopalian, Peg says when she entered the church she immediately felt at home with the building and the style of worship.

MINISTRIES INVOLVED WITH: "I feel such great joy when serving on Altar Guild. The feeling of closeness to the Lord is incomparable, especially when I am alone. I consider it a privilege to work with such a dedicated and hard-working team. I have learned so much and the work has enriched my spiritual life." While her role as Directress takes a lot of her time, she also serves as a Eucharistic Minister, as well as cooking for Uplift and for the Pastoral Care meals ministry.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU AT STMAA? "The community and how we all work together in caring and loving ways and have concerns for the well-being of others. I am most grateful to be able to work with such Godly people." She adds she is also grateful for Father David's sermons – she feels they are speaking to her personally and she learns so much.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A VISITOR TO STMAA: "Get involved!" Peg says for many years she just attended Sunday services but, after her retirement from Sprint, decided to become more involved, which made her feel much more a member of the parish.

FAVORITE MEMORY OF ST. MICHAEL'S: "Midnight Mass, Easter morning, our daughter's wedding, our children's confirmations and grandchildren's baptisms. It all gives a sense of rootedness."

FAVORITE LITURGICAL SEASON: "Lent and Easter. Everything is always new each time. I feel humbled and closer to God as I walk through those seasons. The joy of the resurrection never grows old."

("Connecting With" continued on bottom of page 5)

Children's Corner



What is Children's Chapel?

All children, ages 5 years through 4th grade are invited to participate in Children's Chapel during the 8:30 Sunday worship service. Children follow the St. Michael's banner out of church during the Gospel procession and walk to Spencer Hall. A volunteer leads the children through a simplified Gospel lesson, activity, and prayer. Children are escorted back to church, to join their families during the passing of the Peace.

We are currently in need of volunteers for the Spring Semester. Would you consider volunteering one or two Sundays this spring? If you are interested in teaching Children's Chapel, contact Betsy Ordonez at betsy@stmaa.com.



Hey! I'm relatively new to this beautiful church. But through Carpenter Ants, I've learned of so many interesting and unique features to St. Michael's.

For example...

Why do we call our Sanctuary "the Nave"?

NAVE: the central part of our church all the way to the front where the altar is located. This term comes from the word 'naval' and refers to the shape of the ceiling like the inverted shape of a ship's bottom. Thanks, Ken Walker. You are a fount of church knowledge and lore.



DEACON'S DEN

Archdeacon: What's That?

MONTE GIDDINGS



There are currently 28 active deacons in the Diocese of Kansas and two archdeacons who support those deacons. In our Diocese, I am known as the Archdeacon of the East and Charles Pearce serves as Archdeacon of the West. This resonates with the Wizard of Oz, but actually it was

designed this way due to the geographic distances our archdeacons travel in support of the Bishop of Kansas Cathleen Bascom.

Archdeacons serve in a traditional role both in the Roman Catholic Church and in Anglican denominations such as the Episcopal Church in the United States. The traditional title of an archdeacon is *The Venerable*, a mildly amusing title stemming from the High Middle Ages. While the position of archdeacon in the Church of England can only be held by a priest, bishops in the Episcopal Church frequently appoint a deacon for this position.

Because archdeacons can have a significant impact on diocesan decisions, we are fortunate at St. Michael to have had two archdeacons in recent memory. Prior to my appointment 14 years ago by Bishop Wolfe, our own Deacon Suzi Drury served as archdeacon until she retired from that role at that time.

So what does an archdeacon do anyway?

- Serve in a traditional deacon's role in the parish to which he/she is assigned (In my case St. Michael & All Angels)
- Provide pastoral care and spiritual direction to the other 28 deacons in the Diocese of Kansas
- Assist the Bishop in deployment decisions regarding deacons
- Travel with the Bishop on visits to parish churches
- Serve as Deacon of the Mass or Gospeller in diocesan liturgies
- Serve as Chaplain to the Bishop in liturgies when needed
- Plan content for deacon's retreats
- Represent the diaconate at the quarterly Convocation Dean's meetings with the Bishop
- Select and present the Deacon's Cross award winner annually

It is truly an honor to serve God and Church in this way.

The Venerable Monte Giddings

("Connecting With" continued from page 3)

What is your favorite liturgical season?

Steve: "Easter. Jesus died for us. I find all of that very moving."

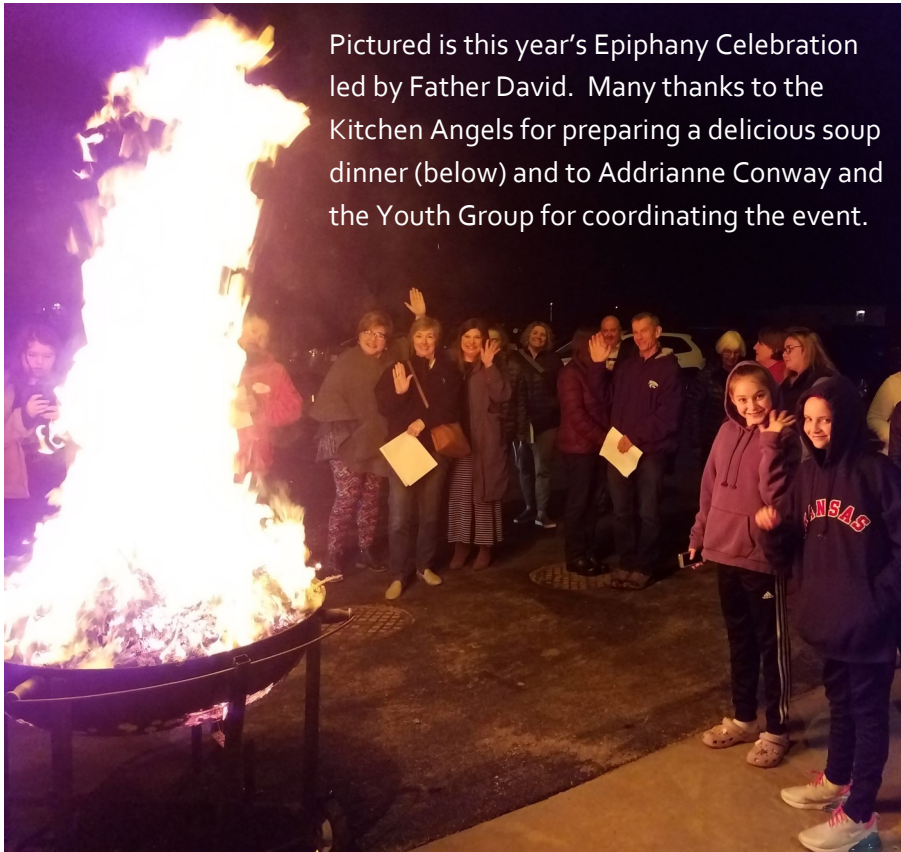
Laurie: "Maundy Thursday, especially the foot-washing."

What is your favorite STMAA memory?

Laurie: "Getting married here!" Steve: "I'm not done - I'm still creating them!" A cancer survivor he added, "I am so grateful for all God has put in my life. It's time to pay it back."

Celebrating St. Michael's

The Burning of the Greens Epiphany Celebration, 01/06/20
Epiphany Diaper Drive Benefiting Happy Bottoms, 12/24/19-01/06/20



Pictured is this year's Epiphany Celebration led by Father David. Many thanks to the Kitchen Angels for preparing a delicious soup dinner (below) and to Addrianne Conway and the Youth Group for coordinating the event.



On a fun note, Star Wars fans will appreciate the lightsaber Advent wreath designed and constructed by Nathan Keltner, a young St. Michael's padawan.



A huge thank you to Elle Hollrah for organizing our Epiphany Diaper Drive and to all who donated diapers. Pictured at right are the diapers collected for Happy Bottoms, a local charity based in the Waldo neighborhood of KCMO that provides diapers to families who cannot afford them as often as are needed.



Celebrating St. Michael's Looking Back at December 2019



Ministry At Work...

Thanks to the generosity of our parish, the *Men in Mission* were able to purchase 2,400 pairs of socks for those in need with the funds collected on Sock Sunday.



Pictured are Gingerbread House "Works of Art" made by St. Michael's children at the December Parish Brunch on 12/15/19. Thank you to Jane Wilson for coordinating the fun activity.

Many thanks to Diana Mullin and her leadership with our Children's Choir. Our children gave a beautiful performance at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.



Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26 in Spencer Hall

8:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Annual Meeting

11:00 a.m. Common Worship Service

Chili Cook Off & Bingo Night

Sunday, January 26, at 5 p.m. in Spencer Hall

All contestants are asked to bring their chili in a crockpot. Be environmentally-friendly and bring your muffin tins for tasting.

Celebration of the Presentation of Jesus - “Candlemas”

Sunday morning, February 2, at all worship services.

Bring your candle(s) to be blessed.

Green Team “Meatless Mondays”

Monday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Spencer Hall

Bring a meatless dish to share—and your recipe!

Café Concert Series: Fools Gold Country & Western Review

Saturday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. in Spencer Hall

Tickets available at the door

Bishop Cathleen Visit & Confirmation Service

Sunday, February 23 at 10 a.m. in the Nave

Cake & Coffee Reception following in Spencer Hall

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 25 in Spencer Hall

Hosted by the Youth Group & all proceeds will benefit Australian Wildfire Relief

Ash Wednesday

February 26

Services at 7 a.m., noon, and 7 p.m.

Save the Date

Lenten Program & Supper

Wednesday, March, 4, 11, 18, 25, & April 1