

# THE MESSENGER

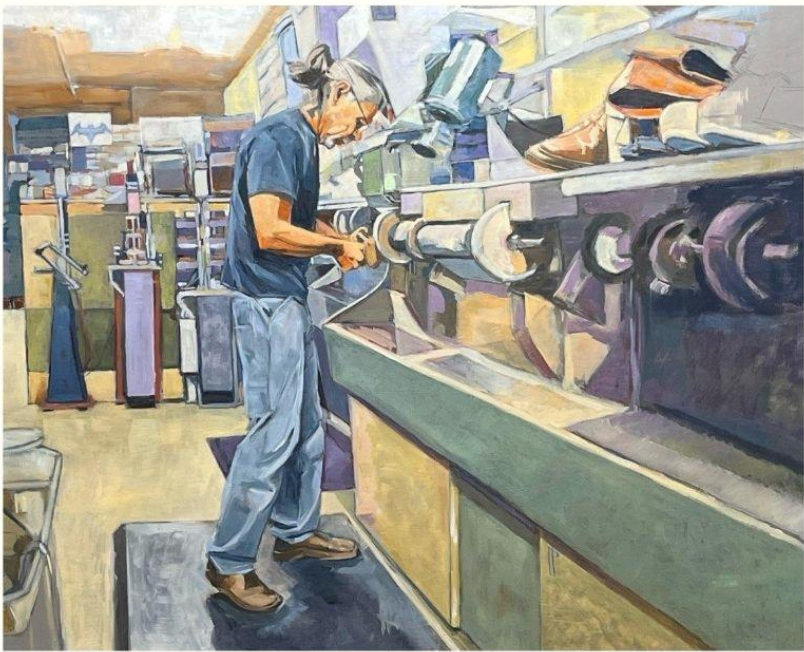
ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## HAPPY NEW YEAR! CHURCH RINGS IN 2026

December saw the church pack Spencer Hall for a brunch celebrating Suzi Drury, who has dutifully served the church as Deacon for 26 years. Proceeds from the brunch went to benefit Uplift.

More info inside the January Messenger about that plus other church events from recent weeks and offerings for the month of January.

On pages 2 and 3 we have a look at parishioner Marty Pyle’s latest art work. We all will strive to make this new year as good as it can be, so here’s to a great 2026!



### IN THIS ISSUE

ARTIST MARTY PYLE.....	2
FR. DAVID'S ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES.....	4
WHERE ARE THEY NOW? AN UPDATE ON OUR YOUNG ADULTS.....	5
MIQRA 2026 .....	6
26 YEARS WITH SUZI DRURY.....	7
OUTREACH MINISTRIES.....	8
UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR.....	10



## A LOOK AT MARTY PYLE'S NEWEST ARTWORK

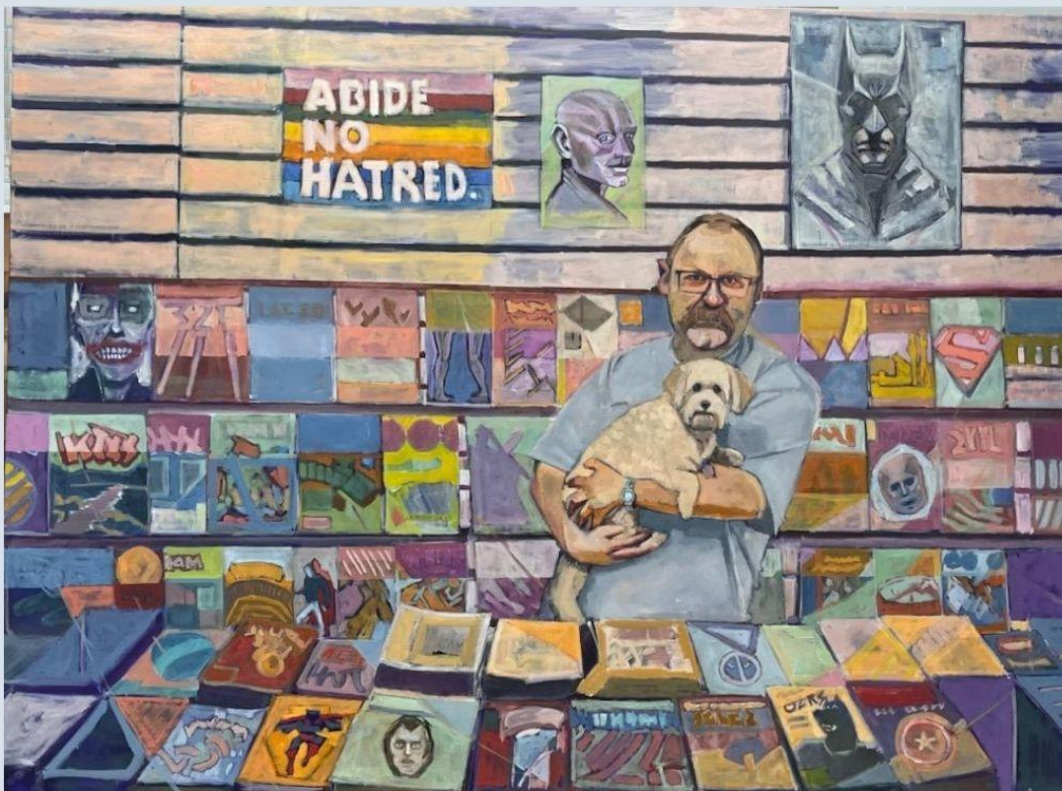
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*By Asher Bloete Menke*

**The Messenger was able to sit down with parishioner Marty Pyle, and ask him: “What are you working on these days with your art work?”**

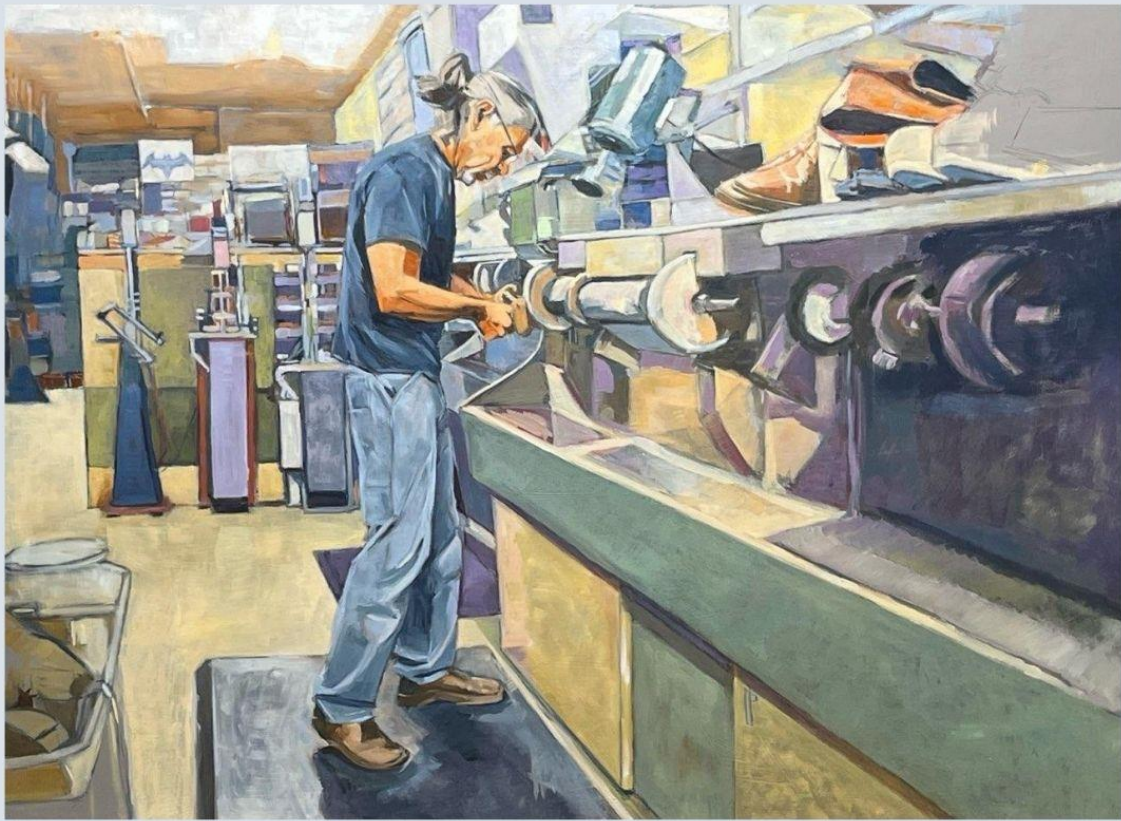
“My current studio work has centered on a painting series honoring the small businesses that help give Overland Park its character. These locally owned shops strengthen our community in countless ways—shaping our identity, enriching our culture, and reminding us what it means to support one another.

“Pictured here are three of those businesses: Overland Park Shoe Repair, Grant Mong Design and Landscaping, and Elite Comics. In each painting, I’ve focused on the people behind the counter or out in the field—the owners and employees whose daily work keeps these places thriving. Their dedication is what makes our city feel like home, and it’s been a joy to celebrate their stories through art.”





ARTWORK OF MARTY PYLE, cont'd.





## FR. DAVID'S ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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This December the parish was able to complete a walk through *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent* by Amy-Jill Levine. Fr. David lead us each Sunday morning as we looked at what was most important to keep in mind during this holiday season, and talking over what the true purpose of Advent should be.

Levine's book examines the birth narratives from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, offering fresh perspectives on familiar Christmas stories. It explores the Nativity stories looking at the historical contexts and literary connections in each story.

Our conversations took a look at trends of Christendom in society today, including how the holiday season has been affected or maybe even attacked by modernity.

Starting on January 11<sup>th</sup>, Fr. David will a discussion of *How the Bible Actually Works: In Which I Explain How An Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book Leads Us to Wisdom Rather Than Answers—and Why That's Great News* by Peter Enns. No preparation for the first class is needed. (Order a copy of the paperback where you like. )





## PARISH YOUTH OUT IN THE WORLD

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*By Asher Bloete Menke*

Another installment of, “What ever happened to so-and-so?” from our youth program. More updates to come next month. January’s alumni from our youth program are Ethan Tidwell and Sajon Seaberg.



### **ETHAN TIDWELL**

Ethan has been busy as a technical specialist working In GIS for global firm Benesch. Ethan lives in downtown Kansas City, MO with his wife, Julia. They enjoy traveling and have visited South Korea twice in the past three years. They are cat owners and, in addition to traveling, Ethan enjoys running.

### **SAJON SEABERG**

Sajon completed his studies at Purdue, where last year he received the student leadership award in the School of Mechanical Engineering. He was honored for “outstanding contributions to the development and expansion of Purdue’s ASME student section through the creation of five design teams ... and impactful leadership throughout the Purdue community.”



## MIQRA TAKING PLACE THIS MONTH IN TOPEKA

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MIQRA (meek-rah): a weekend retreat for youth that focuses on the Bible and allows teens to discover what's in it, why they should care, and how to read it.

**Saturday, January 17, 1 pm – Monday, January 19, 11 am, 2026**

Grace Cathedral, Topeka

Students may choose to stay overnight or come just during the day.

Grades 6-12. Scholarships available. Registration online [available here](#)

The youth will read the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation in 72 hours! The reading is voluntary and participants take turns reading in shifts around the clock. So many fun things happen at MIQRA! They play wacky games like Church Commandos and Nave Olympics. There is a movie night. They worship with the Mustard Seeds, our diocesan youth band. Participants attend engaging workshops on various biblical topics and hear clergy speak about the Bible. Those who attend also meet with a small group several times to make friends and talk about what they're discovering about the Bible through the event.

Participants sleep on the floor of the Sunday School rooms. Sleeping rooms are divided by gender and age, as well as a non-binary sleeping room option. Attendees bring sleeping bags and pillows, although some also bring camping mats or air mattresses.

More info: Karen Schlabach at [kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org).





## CELEBRATING SUZI DRURY'S CAREER



The church celebrated Suzi Drury's service as a deacon on December 14th, with a brunch and program showcasing stories and photos from Suzi's career. Thank you for your 26 years shepherding all of us!



# OUTREACH MINISTRIES

## Generosity

The generosity of our parish community truly shined before Christmas. Our **Men in Mission** group was able to generate funds to buy warm clothing items for the unhoused folks in Kansas City that rely on **UPLIFT** for basic needs.

Funds raised due to you were as follows:

Cash collected for Socks+ Sunday	\$ 996.71
Turkey Fry profit	\$ 619.70
St. Michael's Foundation	\$ 500.00
	\$ 2,116.41

Due to this bounty you provided, we were able to provide the items below to UPLIFT the week before Christmas:

216 pairs of thermal socks	
144 beanies	
100 women's underwear	
72 men's underwear	
262 insulated gloves	
300 mini flashlights	
TOTAL COST:	\$2,191.14

Men in Mission would like to thank Bob Henry, the Kitchen Angels, and Rochester Brewing & Roasting Company.

We would also like to thank all of you for your incredible kindness.  
--Monte Giddings



## OUTREACH MINISTRIES, cont'd.

### Still more generosity

From the Johnson County Christmas Bureau to T.A. Edison Elementary School, St. Paul's Food Pantry, and Ronald McDonald House, St. Michaelites responded continuously in December to the needs of those less fortunate. The need continues and so shall we! Thank you.

St. Paul's Food Pantry  
after an STMAA  
delivery



The Parish Office conference  
room just before Thanksgiving



Thank-you card from  
T.A. Edison staff



## UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

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**MIQRA YOUTH RETREAT** JAN 17-19

**ANNUAL MEETING** JAN 22

**EPIPHANY ADULT CLASS** (THURSDAY EVENINGS)  
JAN 29, FEB 5, 12

**CHILI COOK OFF & BINGO NIGHT** FEB 1

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER** FEB 17

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES** FEB 18

**LENT: POTLUCK SOUP DINNER & CLASS**  
FEB 25, MAR 4, 11, 18, 25

**HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

HOLY WEEK WALK THRU MAR 29

PALM SUNDAY MAR 29

MAUNDAY THURSDAY APR 2

GOOD FRIDAY APR 3

GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER & RECEPTION APR 4

EASTER SUNDAY APR 5

**WELCOME & CONNECT LUNCH** APR 19

**END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR CELEBRATION** MAY 3

**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH** MAY 10

**PENTECOST SERVICE WITH BAPTISMS** MAY 24

**MEGA CAMP (GRADES 3-12)** MAY 31- JUN 6

**ARTS CAMP (GRADES K-6)** JUL 6-10

**ALL PARISH ICE CREAM SOCIAL** JUL 19