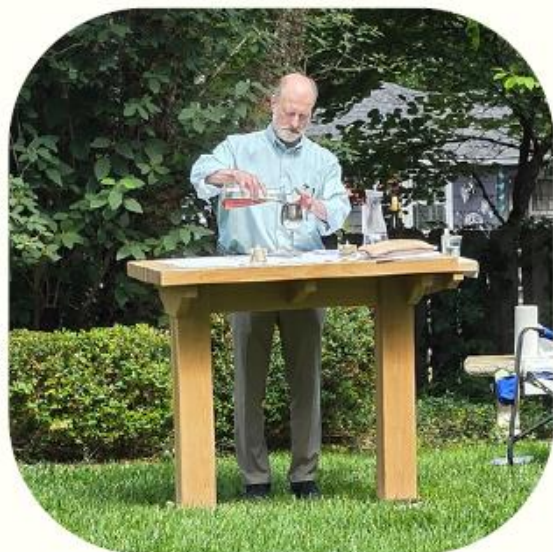

THE MESSENGER

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



OUR OUTDOOR ALTAR

We have a new outdoor altar! Look for a full article and more images in the August issue of *The Messenger*.



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HAITI UPDATE: TREASURES FROM THE PAST

By Lisa Welker

Last week an envelope arrived in the mail from St. Michael's parish member Bob Carlson. While cleaning his home office, he found a treasure from April 2011 and forwarded it to me. The treasure- a personal note from Don Downing and an old article about our partnership with Torbeck, Haiti.

Don, one of the founders of our 41-year-old partnership was a true gem. One trip with Don and a person was truly "hooked-on-Haiti". His humor, warmth, and generous nature was infectious.

Most of the STMAA parish members who had the honor of visiting Haiti in the past did so because of Don's enthusiasm.

THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF THE HAITIAN PEOPLE ARE WELL KNOWN. BUT TO THE PEOPLE OF RURAL HAITI, THESE PROBLEMS ARE SMALL COMPARED WITH THE DAILY STRUGGLE AGAINST MALNUTRITION AND POVERTY. LIKE ALL THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, HAITI'S PROBLEMS ARE COMPLEX AND SOLUTIONS ARE DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY.

BUT, THE PEOPLE OF ST. MICHAEL'S ARE REACHING OUT TO HELP FIND SOLUTIONS.

TWO YEARS AGO, ST. MICHAEL'S BEGAN ITS OUTREACH MINISTRY IN HAITI WITH A MEDICAL PROGRAM. EVEN THOUGH MEDICAL HELP WAS SORELY NEEDED, THE VISITING PHYSICIAN FOUND THAT THE NEED FOR BASIC, PRIMARY EDUCATION WAS EVEN MORE URGENT.

TODAY, FOUR OUT OF FIVE HAITIAN CHILDREN NEVER ATTEND SCHOOL.

BECAUSE OF THIS, ILLITERACY RUNS RAMPANT AND MALNUTRITION AND POVERTY ARE A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE HAITIAN PEOPLE.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE PEOPLE OF ST. MICHAEL'S HAS ENABLED HAITIAN PRIEST PERE LOZAMA TO BUILD AN EXPANDED EDUCATION FACILITY IN TORBECK. AT THE FACILITY, CHILDREN OF TORBECK LEARN HEALTH SKILLS, RECEIVE TECHNICAL TRAINING, AND TO IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNICATION ABILITY. BUT, FUNDS ARE SO LIMITED THAT THESE OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO ONLY A FEW CHILDREN.

YOU CAN HELP SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

ONLY \$25 CAN MAKE A FULL YEAR'S SCHOOLING AVAILABLE FOR A HAITIAN CHILD. AND A DONATION OF \$150 WILL PROVIDE THE TEACHER'S SALARIES, BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND UNIFORMS NEEDED TO PROVIDE A CHILD WITH SIX FULL YEARS OF PRIMARY EDUCATION.

WON'T YOU REACH OUT AND HELP THESE CHILDREN MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND THE ISLAND OF HAITI?



Father André Lozama



St. Paul's Church - Torbeck



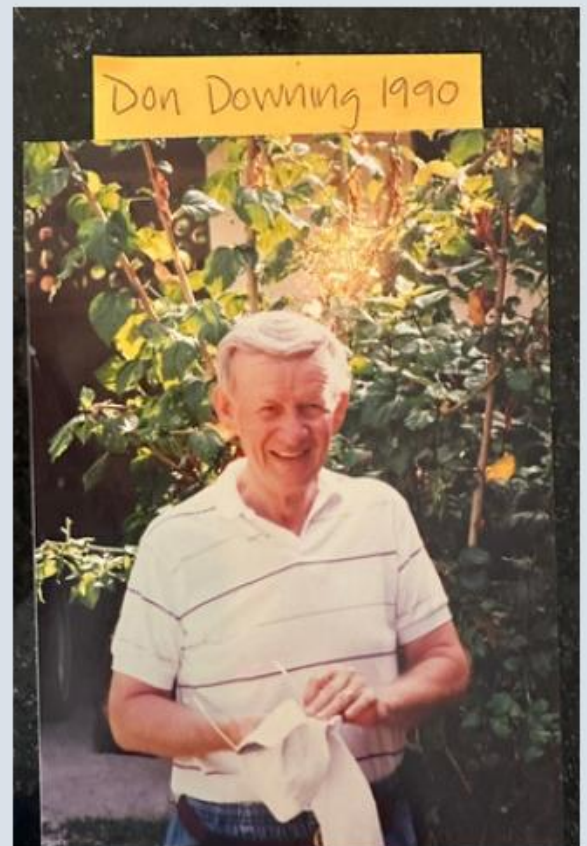
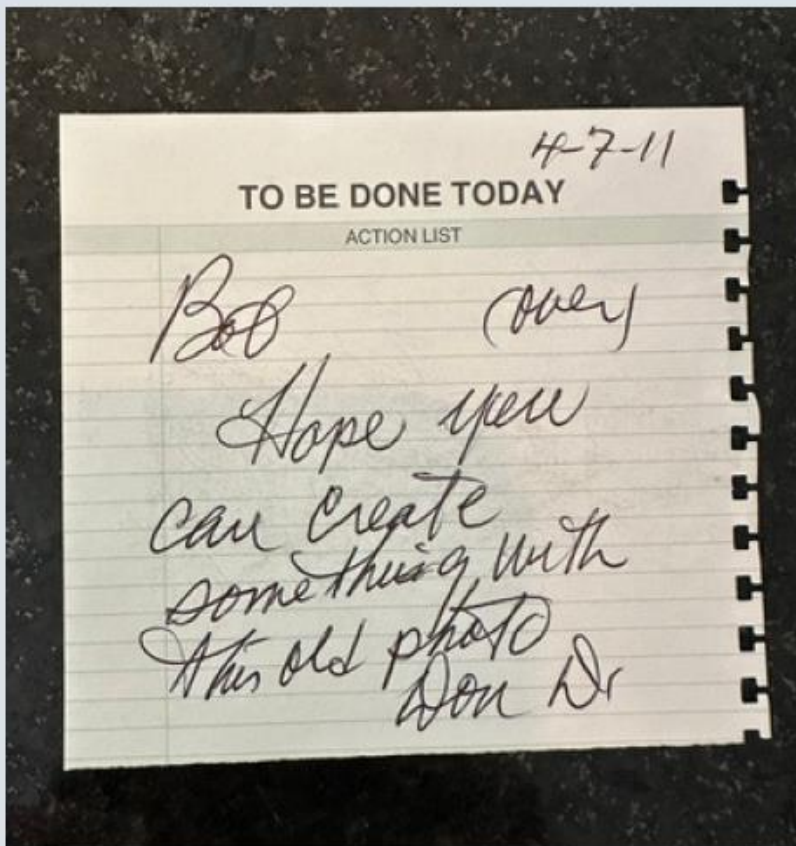
open schoolroom adjacent to church

HAITI UPDATE: TREASURES FROM THE PAST

Along with the note was an article which included 3 photos and a brief explanation of the switch of focus from medical to education. Although the cost is now inflated from 2011, the remainder of the article remains quite accurate. There remains malnutrition, poverty, and illiteracy. However, due to the partnership, our community has made improvements in health and literacy.

The Torbeck priest has changed numerous times, the original church building has been destroyed by hurricane, and the lean-to school structure is now a multi-building complex. Don Downing is no longer with us in person, yet his passion and legacy remains a treasure.

For further information about the Haiti Ministry, contact Gary Welker: gewelker@gmail.com.



PARISH YOUTH OUT IN THE WORLD

This month we received “youth alumni” updates from Will Hembree and Arden Bloete Menke, as we check in on where in the world our young people are now and what they’ve been up to.

WILL HEMBREE



Will completed his film studies at Boston University, where he was able to start his media career via a number of jobs and internships. He was fortunate to be able to work with Sporting Kansas City at Children’s Mercy Park as a freelance game-day video operations worker, assisting in the production of the in-house video board shows, and today he works for the global video empire of Vimeo in NYC.

ARDEN BLOETE MENKE

Arden graduated this spring from KU, with a Bachelor of Science in Business. While a student there the last four years he attended regional ecumenical events for youth in various parts of the western U.S., and when home for holidays and breaks he attended STMAA. Nowadays he likes to golf and looks forward to beginning his Master’s in Accounting program this fall.

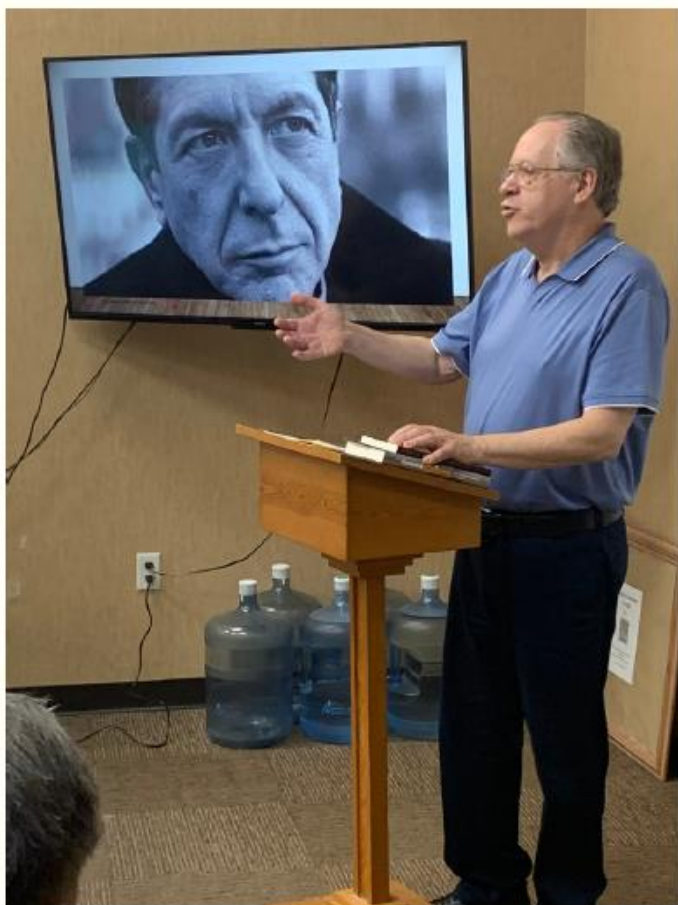


FR. DON COMPIER LEADS LEONARD COHEN PRESENTATION

In June as part of the summer programming for the Experiencing God ministry, Fr. Don Compier led a strong group in understanding how Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" and other songs can be viewed as a form of grace. They also served refreshments that highlighted Cohen's Jewish heritage. Because the song ultimately affirms praise and acceptance despite failure, loss, doubt, and human imperfection, Fr. Compier analyzed how Christians could look at this popular song.

Since "Hallelujah" literally means "Praise the Lord," and throughout the song the narrator describes heartbreak, disappointment, spiritual confusion, and flawed relationships, the singer continues to speak to a kind of grace that doesn't depend on life being perfect.

Or put another way, praise emerges from suffering rather than from triumph. The song is also known for its acceptance of human imperfection.



EXPERIENCING GOD: LEONARD COHEN



In his life Cohen often said the song was not strictly religious but explored the many kinds of hallelujahs people experience. Experiencing God will continue to look at various ways that culture and the arts are informed by the world of faith.

The next event in the series will take place on July 16th. At that event, Linda Brown will walk the group through a discussion of the role of beauty in times of war and other tragedies, using the work of James Lucas as a base.

For questions about this July 16 event or any other Experiencing God program, you can contact Linda Brown at lindabrown@lindabrown.us.



SAVE THE DATES

The Experiencing God study group invites everyone to their remaining summer programs

- July 16** **Can Beauty Exist in a World at War?**
Linda Brown
- August 6** **The Art of Happiness**
Dr. Sue Pingleton

*Look for details in the weekly newsletter.
Both programs in the Bingham Room
at 10 a.m. Social time prior to the program
begins at 9:45.*

NEEDLEWORK & FELLOWSHIP

HOOKS + NEEDLES + YARN = A COMMUNITY OF FUN

By Kate Capps

It started with a pastoral care concern: we were running low on prayer shawls.



Prayer shawls? What are they? Our pastoral care ministry includes visiting parishioners who are ill and/or in hospital. Those visitors bring a prayer shawl that has been lovingly knitted or crocheted by another parishioner. Prayer shawls are a tangible symbol of the love and prayers of our congregation.

But what to do about the dwindling supply? They say necessity is the mother of invention. In this case, desperation was the mother of invention—the source of ideas, anyway! What if our prayer shawl creators taught others to knit and crochet? Perhaps such an effort would yield a few more who would like to make prayer shawls.

We ran a notice in the weekly newsletter, asking for interested people to contact the office and had a good response. We set a date for our first gathering, and our four experts—Beth Bancroft, Debbie Kremers, Naomi McCurdy, and Elaine Rhodes—taught over a dozen of us to knit or crochet. It was an intergenerational gathering, and we learned a good bit while having a lot of fun!

Our prayer shawl supply has been replenished. A few of us gathered a couple more times for tips and assistance with our respecting stitches.

We are planning to gather during coffee hour periodically for more tips and advice. Look for announcements in the newsletter and Sunday announcement sheet.

Anyone interested is welcome to join us!

JUSTICE NETWORK NEWS

By Kate Capps

On June 14th, a great crowd gathered at the beautiful Islamic Center of Johnson County to celebrate all of this year's strides for justice made by the Good Faith Network.

The celebration also marked the fifth anniversary of the Good Faith Network. Highlights included awards for attendance at the Nehemiah Action in May and recognition of team leaders from founding congregations who have served from the beginning. St. Michael's shown in both categories! In the photos below, Joe Adkins accepted our certificate for Nehemiah participation and Kate Capps was one of the founding team leaders recognized.



THE ALL IN AWARD

Awarded to a congregation that met their Nehemiah turnout goal, had their Best Year Ever for turnout, or, in many cases, did both.

Met their goal, increased turnout by 40%, and had their BEST YEAR EVER!

St. Michael and All Angels

We are **honored** to do justice with you.

GOOD FAITH NETWORK

Aileen Ball
Aileen Ball
Lead Organizer

Brett Eisenhauer-Carter
Brett Eisenhauer-Carter
Associate Organizer

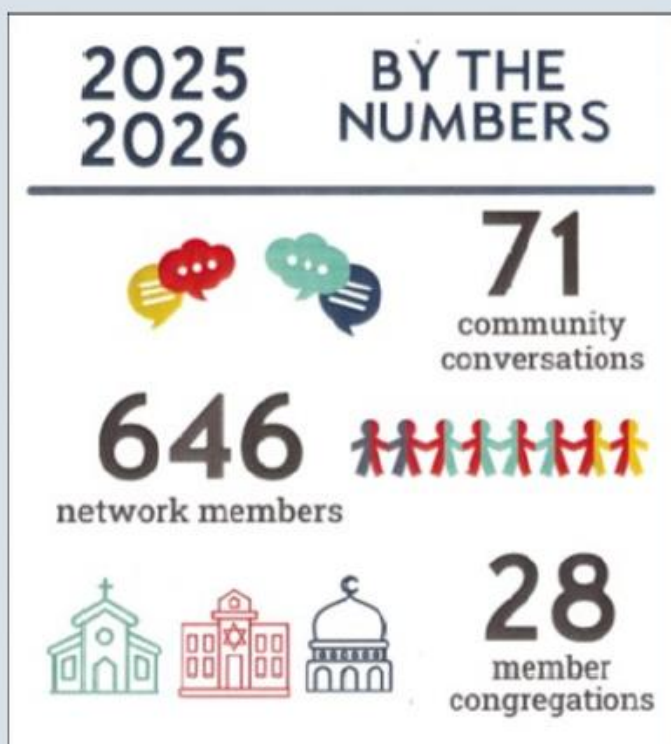
2026





Joe Adkins and Kate Capps in our section at the Nehemiah Action.

More about GFN's activities



Many of us became accidental activists. Not out of rage, but out of heartbreak. Because somewhere along the way, we realized silence helps no one. Not the earth, not our children, not each other. --Paul Avellino