

# SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## THE MESSENGER

MAILED APRIL 7, 2017

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Dear Faithful Parishioners,

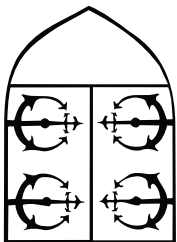
At our Annual Meeting this year, we commissioned a team of individuals that would facilitate a process to discern who we are as a congregation at this moment in our history and how we might be called to partner with God in the world. Each team member is committed to being open to what God is calling St. Michael's to be — to put time, energy, work, and prayer into our efforts, understand our strengths and weaknesses as a community, value open deliberation, be willing to learn new things and look at the big picture, take responsibility to keep our community engaged and informed, and be willing to change ourselves or our church to make room for God's wildest dreams for us. The team met at the beginning of March to start to lay out a path for us to walk together over the next year, and we are very excited that our holy conversations will begin in May.

While our team made particular commitments to this process, my hope is that our congregation would make similar commitments. Each of you will be invited and encouraged to participate at each step along the way. In May, we will be hosting a series of Forums to open up our journey together by talking about how St. Michael's uniquely expresses our Episcopal identity and temperament. We will lead discussions about our strengths, opportunities and hopes. We will ask what might our favorite hymns say about who we are as a community of faith. There will be art projects, small-group conversations, scripture reflections, neighborhood assessments and lots and lots of prayer.

There is no denying that our congregation is changing. Our Associate for Children and Families Ministry, Leslie Sackett, has approached me about the need to construct more space for our babies and toddlers. Our 1:00 service consistently welcomes over 100 people. Parents who raised their children at St. Michael's and are now adults are discerning what they seek in a faith community at this new place in their lives. We are not seeking to change because we are broken, but rather we are seeking to understand how we might more wildly see God at work. And my hope is that we are willing to bend toward the light that God sets before us along the way.

Faithfully,

Christopher Craun, Rector



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