

SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

MAILED DECEMBER 6, 2018

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Dear Ones of St. Michael's,

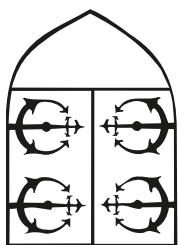
This past spring, I received an email from the chair of the Search Committee of the Diocese of Northern California that read, "Dear Rev. Craun, your name has come to our attention as someone who may be interested in our search for a diocesan bishop. Our profile is here: <https://norcalbishopsearch.org/welcome>. We invite you to read it and discern whether you may feel a call to the Diocese of Northern California." This began an unexpected discernment process that has carried with it a variety of emotions, prayers, and encouragement.

I am now one of four finalists, all of whom are incredibly gifted and inspiring. The way in which the Holy Spirit will move through and direct the hearts of the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Northern California is unknown. So I am holding on to the very present moment of feeling honored and humbled to have been selected as a finalist. My journey of discernment began with a lunch date I had with Bishop Ladehoff. I asked him for his counsel as to whether or not this was the time for me to be part of this kind of search. He responded, "How do you know what you are called to unless you go through the process?" I began the process and started noticing the places where I was feeling drawn into the work and ministry of the episcopate. I am eager to be part of the change I wish to see in the world. I am intrigued by the possibility of bringing the gifts of joy, resilience, love and justice that you have instilled in me into more corners of the Episcopal Church. I want to raise enthusiasm and awareness of what the Episcopal Church is capable of in this world.

I hope that my love for the community of St. Michael & All Angels is felt in each of you at all times. As we begin the Advent season, it seems rather appropriate that we hold the tension between the known and unknown, the 'already, not yet', the darkness and the breaking light. I ask for your prayers – for me, for the other finalists, for the Diocese of Northern California, and for St. Michael's. Amid all the unknowns, what is known is I love being your Rector. If by the grace of the God I am elected to be the Bishop of Northern California, I hope I will be going with the pride of the community that has formed me. If I am not elected, I hope we will be looking ahead together at how we will strengthen our presence of joy, resilience, love, and justice in our corner of the world.

Faithfully,

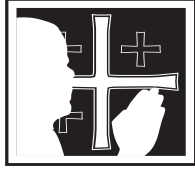
The Rev. Christopher Craun



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Gloria Orellana, Office Administrator	Ext. 317	David Donnell, Publications	Ext. 314
Jackie Van Anda, Bookkeeper	Ext. 320	Aldo Luna Montes, Facilities Assistant	

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED . . .

- + for healing and comfort for **Mickey Harnage, Scout Mauldin, Katie Reitel, Alice Scannell, Bob Tongue & Diane Walker.**
- + for the repose of the soul of former member **Jackie Schwab**, who died on October 5.
- + for the repose of the soul of **Ray Baker**, who died on October 23, and for his wife **Lynn** and their children and grandchildren.
- + in thanksgiving for the XV Años on November 17 of **Perla V. Olguín Moreno y Rosío E. Bacilio Ibañez.**
- + for comfort and healing of all those continuing to be impacted by the wildfires in Northern California.



A NOTE FROM EDITH ARRIAGA-FLORES

I am very grateful to the St. Michael's community for your prayers, hugs and kind words during the terrible process of my beloved Papito's illness and death. I never felt alone during this time, and I really appreciated the kindness and support I received, including from our priests, the Revs. Chris, Beto and James.

IN SORROW AND GRATITUDE

We all grieve the loss of the cherry trees in the courtyard and give thanks for the many years we enjoyed their beauty all year round. As most of you know, we needed to remove them because their roots were causing the sidewalk to crack and buckle, and we were concerned for the safety of our parishioners, visitors and neighbors.

We are very grateful to our Misa members — Beto, Imanuel, Joe and Nicolás — who volunteered to do the very hard work of removing the trees. They will be finishing up the job this weekend, and then fresh concrete will be poured for the sidewalk. And we will, of course, be replacing the trees with a more street-appropriate variety!

L'ARCHE PORTLAND CHRISTMAS TREES

L'Arche Portland is a longtime community partner of St. Michael's. Please consider buying your Christmas tree from L'Arche Portland and help transform the lives of people with and without intellectual disabilities. L'Arche's trees are locally grown and freshly cut, featuring a wide variety of Noble, Douglas, Grand, and Nordmann firs in sizes from tabletop to 10'. Volunteers are available to help you pick out the perfect tree.

There are two L'Arche Christmas tree lots, one in the Grocery Outlet parking lot at NE 44th and Hancock, and the other in the Hong Phat Food Center lot at SE 82nd and Burnside. Check the website at www.larche-portland.org/christmas-tree-sale for days and hours of operation, and for how to volunteer at one of the lots.

ASSOCIATE RECTOR

I'm sad about losing our flowering cherry trees out front. Their bright red leaves outside my office window in the fall have been a favorite sight of mine. In the spring, being showered with white blossoms while waiting to process into church had become as synonymous with Easter for me as the Vigil fire or Exultet. It's sad to me that these beautiful creations of God could not survive in the tiny man-made space in which they were placed, in between asphalt and concrete and city-sidewalk regulations. I had hoped there would be a way to keep them and meet our requirements for the sidewalk, but we didn't find one.



Hope can hurt like that sometimes. Daring to dream is risky. What if it doesn't work out? What if things change? Sometimes hope hurts because the thing we hope for seems so impossible to achieve that we feel scared of being bound for failure. Sometimes hope hurts because following it requires us to let go of something we have cherished. I hope that if it is God's will for Chris to be the next Bishop of Northern California, she'll have the consent of the people and everything she needs to move forward. I still feel sad about what it would mean for my own losses. I'm still a little afraid of change. Having hope does not negate grief or fear. It does help us discern from which place we will direct our movement.

God moves with hope. God is with us in our grief and fear, God shares in human sadness; but when God moves us to act, God moves us from a place of hope. Wherever there is pain, there is likely a hope for something more which has been hurt. Wherever there is fear, there is a shadow of uncertainty about where hope wants to lead us and what we stand to lose. The angel tells Mary, "Do not be afraid!" It is daunting and scary to hope for something which could turn our world upside down! But the alternative is far more more bleak. I live in hope that we will see civility in our political world again. If I give up that hope because it seems impossible or naïve, I will have lost much more than just an idea — I will have lost something of the humanity God has blessed in the creation and incarnation. This Advent, let yourself go with hope even when it seems outrageous or terrifying. Let yourself go with God.

— the Rev. James Joiner

VESTRY UPDATE

The last Vestry meeting of 2019 is being held on Thursday, December 13. I am amazed at how fast our time together this year flew by. First, I would like to thank all the vestry members for a wonderful year. With their help, it has made my last year as Senior Warden go by effortlessly. I want to also thank outgoing members Andrea Woodward, Gillian Butler and Meg Ruby, who are finishing four- and three-year terms, respectively.

We faced two big challenges this year with the lawsuit and the facilities projects. With the support of our loving community, the vestry and staff were able to navigate both of those challenges together. As a vestry, we are grateful for each and every member of our family. In December, we will continue to give thanks and prepare for the annual meeting and the new incoming candidates. We will also work on closing out the 2018 financial year and prepare the 2019 budget for vestry approval in January.

I would also like to hold up a special prayer for our vestry sister Scout Mauldin. We have missed her wisdom and smiling face at our meetings. My prayer is that she continues to fight her illness and recover so that she can grace us with her presence again soon. With peace,

— Tim Shields, Senior Warden

TAIZÉ PRAYERS ON DECEMBER 10

All are invited and welcome to join in the Taizé Prayers on Monday night, December 10. A warm and engaging time of prayer in the midst of Advent and Christmas preparation, the Prayers for this month will focus on *Advent: Expectation of God's Love*. A musical group of five players now further enlivens the worship and offering. In these days of challenge and brokenness, our Taizé Prayers together can be a sign of trust in God's never-failing care and love for God's whole creation. In anticipation and expectation of God's continuing presence in our lives, come join in this sign of hope and community.

In addition, mark you calendars for Taizé Prayers on Monday, January 14, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. With the joy of the Christmas Star, the Taizé Prayers on January 14th will focus on the mission before



us: *You are the light of the world*. The prayers this month will help us live out our mission to be signs of justice, hope and light in Christ. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

— David Perry & the Taizé team

MUSIC NEWS

A busy holiday season awaits our three choirs at St. Michael's. Besides rehearsing and singing for Evening Prayer each Wednesday at 6:30 pm, our Chorister youth choir will also participate in Lessons & Carols with our main adult choir on Saturday, December 22, at 7:00 pm. In addition, the Choristers will sing for the 4:00 pm family service on Christmas Eve, presenting an anthem they've learned in Italian.

The Saints & Singers Choir, our once-monthly gospel/folk choir, meanwhile, is looking forward to leading the 6:00 pm Christmas Eve service. With plenty of lively Christmas spirit and some surprising arrangements, this service is the one to go to if you enjoy less-traditional music and have no wish to stay up late for our 11:00 pm service.

Speaking of traditional, come at 10:30 pm on Christmas Eve to hear a half-hour prelude of choral music and carols led by the St. Michael's Singers before the liturgy begins at 11:00 pm. The entire Advent season leads up to this evening as we welcome the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Come worship and celebrate with us.



But first, come to Lessons & Carols on December 22. You can expect your favorite seasonal hymns, both biblical and poetic readings about the story of Christ's birth, and a wonderful variety of choral anthems in English, Latin, Italian, and Yoruba (Nigerian). This is a special collaborative service led by the St. Michael's Singers and our newest and youngest singers, the Choristers. A festive reception will follow the service. What a treat for all the senses!

The choirs are off on Christmas Day and Sunday, December 30, but there will still be plenty of Christmas carols to sing heartily from the pews. If you are interested in providing some instrumental or vocal solos on December 30, please get in touch! It's a great Sunday for alternative Christmas music. Contact hannahcbrewer@gmail.com

Finally, a non-Christmas-related plug/reminder that if you enjoy our music and choir programs at St. Michael's, please buy a ticket to our Broadway Night fundraiser in 2019, which will be on March 1 and 2. You really won't want to miss the most fun event of the year, especially with all choirs and clergy participating this year. Rehearsals are already in motion, for there really is no business like show business! Tickets go on sale in January.

— Hannah Brewer, Music Director/Organist

ADULT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ADVENT CAFÉ: SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 2, 9, 16 AND 23

During the season of Advent, we will continue our new tradition of offering an interactive prayer space in the Nativity Hall between the 9:00 and 11:00 am services, known as the *Advent Café*. This is a collaborative effort of many members of our community who set up different stations offering opportunities for engaging in prayer and meditation through various mediums. In the past, these mediums have included poetry, visual images, art-making and space for quiet reflection. These stations change and evolve in special ways as the season progresses. You can spend as much time in the space as you wish. Anyone with an interest in helping plan one of the stations can contact James for more information.

CATECHUMENATE: TUESDAY EVENINGS, JANUARY 8 THROUGH THE BISHOP'S VISIT, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

This year's Catechumenate process will begin in January instead of December, so there's still time to join our group if you feel called! Each year, a group of newcomers and old-timers form a special community that dives deep together to forge new relationships and community and strengthen our mutual commitment to God's way among us. All are welcome, wherever you are in your spiritual journey, to this experience of deep community. We'll begin on January 8. Please contact James for more information.



— James Joiner

SAVE THE DATE!

There is a committee planning a women's retreat for May 10-11, 2019. Using art, music, reflection techniques and quiet time, we will explore the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian woman?" and create community while making new friends. A female priest will be with us to officiate at a Eucharist and provide guidance and facilitation as we explore this question and find ways to express ourselves.

The retreat will be held at the Collins Center in Eagle Creek, Oregon. It begins on Friday evening and will end on Saturday after lunch. People are welcome to come on one day or stay the night. The cost will range from \$82 (triple room) to \$132 (private room), and there will be some scholarship funds available.

A sign-up sheet will be available soon to get an idea of how many women are interested in taking part in the retreat, and you can chat with Sheri O'Brien in the Gallery in January. There is no commitment until closer to the date. In the meantime if you have any questions, please contact a committee member: Paula Raines, Sheri O'Brien or Kathleen Park-Lindsay.

Submitted by Sheri O'Brien

MONDAY BOOK GROUP

The Monday Book Group at St. Michael's meets on the second and fourth Mondays from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in the Raphael Room. In December, they'll be meeting on December 10 only and then resume on January 14 and 28. They will be reading and discussing Brian McLaren's *The Great Spiritual Migration*. A



review by Diana Butler Bass states, "This is Brian McLaren's finest book: a beautiful exploration of a hopeful, joyful, mystical, and just faith that invites Christians to move from fear to love." Please join us for lively and thoughtful discussions. All are welcome!

— Kathleen Park-Lindsey for the Monday Book Group

LAS POSADAS

This tradition reenacts the story told in Luke 2:1-7 but with a twist: a happy conclusion with the "innkeeper" welcoming Mary and Joseph into the home. We learn from the *Posadas* that by welcoming the poor and the needy, we are welcoming Jesus into our midst. (See Matthew 25:40.)

It was in the 16th century that the Spanish missionary Fray Diego de Soria found himself trying to explain the story and meaning of Christmas to the Aztecs of Acolman, México. He eventually decided to let the Aztecs recreate in a ceremony the searching of Mary and Joseph for lodging on their journey and the birth of Jesus in the stable. This was the beginning of *Las Posadas*, the custom of offering shelter to Mary and Joseph on each of the nine evenings before Christmas. The Spanish word *posada* means lodging, inn or shelter.

The first *posada* begins at St. Michael's on the evening of Saturday, December 15, at 6:00 pm, when the people gather to pray and meditate on the joyous season ahead. On the evenings of December 16 through 22, the *posadas* take place at different homes. The people assume their roles as Christian pilgrims searching for lodging as they make their way to the home of the innkeeper for that evening. Children, adults and musicians play the parts of Mary and Joseph, carry statues of Mary and Joseph, and sing special hymns. The singers gather around the front entrance while someone knocks at the door. Once in the house, the people pray in front of the *Nacimiento* or Nativity scene, which has been set up in a corner of the house. The hosts for the evening then serve refreshments, which usually consist of cookies, hot chocolate and *ponche*.

The final night of the *posadas* will take place at St. Michael's on Sunday, December 23, after the Misa ends, at approximately 2:30 pm. Look for a sign-up sheet for the home gatherings and other information on the Welcome Table.

— the Rev. Beto Arciniega

THE JOYFUL NEWS DECEMBER 2018

LET'S BUILD A MOUNTAIN OF LOVE WITH TEDDY BEARS!

The annual holiday party for local children in foster care is soon approaching, so it's time to talk Teddy bears! Please bring a new Teddy bear (or other cuddly creature) to church by Sunday, December 16, and place it on the steps to the left of the chancel (altar area). We will build a mountain of love for children who especially need hugs and support at this time of the year! The Teddy bears we collect are distributed to the children at the holiday party hosted by the mid-town branch of DHS. This event brings together families in the foster-care system so that children separated from their biological parents have the opportunity to celebrate the holidays together – even if only for a few hours.



You can also support older youth in foster care by purchasing a gift card for a young person to enjoy. Pick up a tag on the Giving Tree in the Gallery – it's fun and it's easy. Thank you, St. Michael's!

— Leslie Sackett, Associate for Ministry to Children & Families

LEARN TO SPEAK SPANISH!

Are you ready to learn to speak Spanish? Or, maybe you have studied Spanish previously but want to improve your conversation or grammar skills? Here is your chance!

Registrations are now being accepted for the two-week 2019 Diocesan Spanish-language immersion program in Cuernavaca, Mexico! The language program will be held on August 3-17, 2019, at the Diocesan Center in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and is a joint venture of the Diocese of Cuernavaca and the Diocese of Oregon. All levels are welcome, from those with very little or no Spanish to the more advanced student wanting to zero in on the subjunctive tense and reflexive verbs.

This program was originally developed by the Diocese of Los Angeles in partnership with the *Instituto de Español de la Iglesia Anglicana de México* (IDIAM), which specializes in teaching Spanish to English-speakers. The course is open to up to 18 people from the Diocese of Oregon who will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. The group will stay at the Diocesan Center in Cuernavaca, which has been described as “a modest and friendly place.” In addition to language classes Monday through Friday, there will be visits to a variety of religious and cultural sites, including nearby villages. Daily Morning Prayer and Compline, said in

YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Calling all youth in grades 6 through 12! We will be holding our annual Christmas Party at St. Michael's House on Sunday, December 16, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We will have festive holiday snacks, share a meal and play some games. Please wear your Christmas hat and bring a wrapped gift (under \$10 value) for our gift exchange. Haven't come to Youth Group before? No worries – all youth are welcome! Please RSVP to stmaayouthgroup@gmail.com. We're looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you!

YOUTH GROUP REQUEST

Do you have a vacation home that is within a few hours' drive from Portland, maybe on the Oregon coast, at Mt. Hood or in Bend? If so, would you be willing to lend it to the youth group for one weekend? The youth leaders are planning a youth retreat this spring and are hoping to save a little money so they don't have to charge the youth to attend. If you would be willing to lend us your property, the leaders would be very grateful, make sure it is left spotless and even have a wonderful “thank you” from the youth! If there is a small project around the house that needs completing, consider it done! There would be at least four adults in attendance at the retreat. The leaders have not yet scheduled a weekend, so the dates can be set based on your schedule. If you are willing to let the group borrow your home for a weekend, please contact Christopher Craun at chrisc@stmaa.org or John Lidstrom at john.s.lidstrom@gmail.com. Thank you for considering!

— the Youth Leader Cohort: Chris Craun+, Laura Nichols, Jennifer McBratney & John Lidstrom

Spanish and in community, will provide additional opportunities for speaking, praying and singing with newly acquired language skills. Our group will also have an opportunity to meet the clergy of the Diocese of Cuernavaca and worship in local Anglican churches.

Cost for the course is \$2,000.00 per person which includes tuition for the language program, airport transfers in Mexico, shared lodging and most meals for the two weeks. It does not include airfare to and from Mexico City, entrance fees to museums, meals outside of the Diocesan Center, tips, trip insurance or personal purchases. A deposit of \$100 is required at registration to reserve your place in the program. The check for your deposit should be made out to the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon with a note, “Cuernavaca Language Program,” and mailed to Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, 11800 SW Military Ln., Portland, OR 97219, Attn.: Ms. Tracy Esguerra.

For more information, please contact Deacon Marla McGarry-Lawrence at mmcgarrylawrence@gmail.com or 503-803-0028. To register, please contact Tracy Esguerra at tracye@diocese-oregon.org or call 971-204-4101.

— Marla McGarry-Lawrence

“WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?”

The following is a lightly edited statement from the floor made by Hjalmer Lofstrom at the Diocesan convention in early November.

As a community of faith, I believe that we must stand up and say no to any initiative or action that promotes racism, division and fear. This is what we say with our Baptismal Covenant when we are asked, “Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your Neighbor as yourself? We respond, “I will, with God’s help.”

“Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being”? We respond, “I will, with God’s help.”

I would like to speak about immigration. Immigration is not just a political matter. Please let me carry that thought forward.

In the Gospel of Luke, 10:27, a lawyer asks, “Jesus, what is required to inherit eternal life?” (You all know of this encounter). Jesus replies by asking the legal expert what his own tradition requires. He replies by quoting from the Torah: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind: and, your neighbor as yourself.”

The lawyer then asks, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus answers this with the parable of the Good (merciful) Samaritan, who was a stranger, a foreigner profiled and walled off by political and societal prejudices. Jesus asks the lawyer which of these three men who came by does he think is a neighbor. He answers, “The merciful Samaritan.” Jesus responds, “Go and do likewise.”

This was hardly a radical theology, as the Hebrew Bible in Leviticus also speaks of welcoming the stranger, saying, “When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien who shall be to you as the citizen among you.”

Last Saturday, October 27, at the Tree Of Life Temple in Pittsburgh, those who had gathered were reading from the Torah, chapters of Genesis which open on Judaism’s founding father and mother: Abraham and Sarah. In that story, three men show up to their tent — strangers — and the couple welcomes them: feeding them, giving them shade and washing their feet. The strangers turn out to be angels.

Words may fail us, but actions cannot.

Thirty Portland-area priests, ministers and rabbis appeared in court on Friday, November 2, to hear of their sentencing. They were had been arrested outside of the Portland Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) jail for standing up and speaking out about the injustices of our legal system towards immigrants.

Daily, for now, for over 600 days, ministers, priests and laity have been gathering outside the NORCOR jail in The Dalles, standing up and speaking out for the imprisoned immigrants.

IMIJI (Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice) urges all people of faith to stand up and speak out, to reject hate and free our state from racial profiling, as we did by voting NO on 105.

Beginning September 30 and for six days, 30 people walked and traveled from the Federal Correctional Institution, Sheridan, to NORCOR in The Dalles, calling for an end to profiling and the jailing of immigrants seeking asylum. Stopping at courthouses and churches along the way, they were joined by hundreds. What they sang was “... put one foot in front of the other and lead with love.”

Asking “Who is my neighbor?” and “Won’t you be my neighbor?” are relevant faith-searching questions for all of us.

Jesus asked and then answered these questions, saying that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. And Mr. Rogers responded similarly, saying, “I like you just the way you are.” Every kid wanted to be Mr. Roger’s neighbor!

I have read through multiple resolutions passed by the General Episcopal Convention of The Episcopal Church. These were resolutions condemning the U.S. border policies on the treatment of women and children; calling for an end to the separation of children from their families; and encouraging local Episcopal Churches to become sanctuaries — places of welcome and refuge.

Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, in an interview in *The Guardian*, says that *moderate Christian voices are not being heard* (emphasis added). This interview can be found by Googling an excerpt from an interview Presiding Bishop Michael Curry gave to Harriet Sherwood of *The Guardian* and which included the following story:

A rabbi asked his students, “How do you know when the night has ended?” The students’ replies were, “When it’s daylight,” or “When you can no longer see stars,” or “When you can hear birds singing.” The answer, the rabbi said, was “When you can see your neighbor.”

— Hjalmer Lofstrom, November 2018

INGATHERINGS CONTINUE

The donation barrel in the Gallery continues to serve as an ingathering receptacle. What you place there will go to either our Hollywood East neighbors or to the Northeast Emergency Food Program. All clothing items, including coats, hats, shoes, etc., for men, women, children and infants go to NEFP. For Hollywood East, we continue to collect personal-hygiene items, kitchen and household items (nothing made of fabric), small appliances in working order, utensils and nonperishable food items.

— Hjalmer Lofstrom

OUTREACH & JUSTICE COUNCIL

THE ADVENT GIVING TREE

The tree is up and waiting for generous people to take tags for those in need. Tags are on the tree for the following recipients:

- Community Transitional School for those students without stable housing
- Parkrose School District's Clothing Closet, all sizes of school-appropriate clothing
- David Douglas School District's Celtic Heart Clothing Closet for high school and homeless teens
- Gift cards for teens in foster care so they can shop with friends. These need to be in by December 16.
- Janus House Transitional Housing: men's clothing needed



In addition tags are being added to help the community of Paradise, CA, devastated by fire. What they need most is underwear and also gift cards to Home Depot, Costco and Target. Look for a tag that moves you and respond with gratitude that we can help those less fortunate.

KNITTERS, START YOUR NEEDLES!

A call has gone out for those who knit to create some scarves for those living outside this winter. We will be glad to gather them in the box next to the Giving Tree and get them to the right folks. If you have any questions about this project, please email Darcy Lyon at darcyroar16@gmail.com.

— Susan Barnett & Lynn Baker, co-convenors

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The following is an offering from Janet Cowal. You may have noticed a brief blurb on Page 2 of your service bulletins on Sunday. She expands on that blurb here.

One of my very favorite parts of the liturgy is when Chris or James gives the blessing before the closing hymn. As an applied linguist, I study language and what it does in society: its relationships with culture and the environment; how it frames our realities; how it creates, perpetuates and disrupts power; how it actually changes the state of the world. So when our priests pronounce a blessing, I am certain something in the world has happened: we *are* blessed. Words do things.

St. Michael's commitments to being inclusive and to working for equity and social justice resonate with me deeply; I am encouraged by the efforts our community engages in to tangibly realize our faith in meaningful ways. Our country's narratives of "who belongs" and "who has a right to be here" often leave out indigenous peoples; St. Michael's mission statement asks us to work to change those narratives. Intentionally recognizing, acknowledging and honoring the peoples who were the original inhabitants of this place, who have been and continue to be oppressed and marginalized, and from whose forced sacrifices we have benefited are small but necessary steps we can take towards inclusion and social justice.

When we make a land acknowledgement statement, it isn't just words; something in the world is different: we *are becoming* more inclusive, we *are in the process* of making positive social change. May these words be catalysts for action beyond this place.

— Janet Cowal

ADVOCACY ACTION TEAM

The Advocacy Action team wants your voice to be heard! On the Second Sunday of most months, we give you that chance by hosting a table in the Gallery where you can voice your concerns about a featured current event by signing a petition or letter. Drop by our table on December 9 and January 13 to find out what's current. Team members will be there after the 9:00 and 11:00 services.

During November, we assisted the Immigrant Welcoming Congregation (IWC) by collecting signatures to submit in opposition to the proposed rule of "inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds" during the 60-day comment period. Immigrants are being threatened with a change to the "Public Charge" rules, which refer to someone likely to become dependent on the government to meet basic needs. The current administration's radical expansion of these rules to include certain health care, nutrition, and housing programs could generate fear of safety-net programs among immigrant households and send some of Oregon's most vulnerable children and communities of color deeper into poverty.

Also during November, we helped promote a film presentation by St. Michael's Green Team. The results were gratifying, as a capacity crowd packed the Nativity Hall for a Friday evening showing of *The Reluctant Radical*. Previously featured at the Hollywood Theatre, the film follows the story of Ken Ward, one of the "valve-turners" whose act of civil disobedience called attention to the urgent need to prevent dangerous climate change. Ken and the filmmaker, Lindsey Grayzel, were both on hand to lead a discussion following the showing.

Advocacy Action team meetings are always open to anyone in the St. Michael's community. Whether you'd like to get involved in planning our activities or simply want to share your concerns on an occasional basis, you are welcome at our meetings. We meet at 7:00 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Talk with co-chairs Cheryl Braginsky or Marili Reilly or drop by an upcoming Second Sunday tables to talk with our volunteers about our activities.

— Marili Reilly for the Advocacy Action team

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Monday-Thursday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Fridays, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- DEC. 9-23 **Advent Café, Rector's discussion**
- DEC. 10 **Taizé Prayer Service**
- DEC. 11 **Our Lady of Guadalupe event**
- DEC. 15-23 **Las Posadas begins (first and final gatherings at St. Michael's)**
- DEC. 16 **Youth Christmas party**
- DEC. 22 **Lessons & Carols**
- DEC. 24 **Christmas Eve services:**
4:00 pm Children & Families service with Nativity Play
6:00 pm Eucharist with Saints & Singers Choir
8:00 pm Vigilia de Navidad
11:00 pm Festive Eucharist with St. Michael's Singers (carols with choir & congregation at 10:30 pm)
- DEC. 25 **Christmas Day service at 10:00 am**

WALKING THE WAY OF ST. JAMES

Do you have a desire to walk the way of St. James? *El Camino de Santiago*, or *The Way of Saint James*, is a network of pilgrimages leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain. This is where tradition considers the remains of the saint to be buried. Many pilgrims follow its routes as a journey or retreat for their spiritual growth.

We are holding an interest group to gather with our brothers and sisters who have the same dream. Our hope with the first meeting is to share with each other our interests about the *Camino*.

Our plan is to meet and form a group to start the planning process for a *Camino* journey together in 2020. Please gather your thoughts and look for more news about the first gathering in early 2019. Peaceful trails,

— Tim Shields and Hans Carter

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE

Please note that the next Messenger will be mailed/emailed on Thursday, February 7. The deadline for articles is Monday, January 28. Articles may be emailed as attachments or in the body of an email to gloriao@stmaa.org. Please contact Gloria at that address or at 503/284-7141 if you have any questions.